



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

Valley Fever: A Silent, Unpredictable Menace

By Jeff Garberson

When a Livermore retiree's cough turned to pneumonia in late 2013, a standard course of antibiotics didn't help. The retiree was fit for his age, but he soon became so weak he couldn't get out of a chair. His wife took him to an emergency room, where X-rays showed worsening pneumonia. Medical tests failed to reveal the

cause of his illness, so doctors gave him a more massive dose of antibiotics. These didn't help either. The doctors put him in intensive care on a respirator, but he continued to decline. They told his wife to prepare for the worst. At the last minute, the results of a sophisticated test from UC-Davis arrived, showing what simpler tests had failed to do: the Livermore man had Valley Fever, a fungal

disease endemic to California and the entire southwest. Quickly treated with one of the standard anti-fungal medications, fluconazole, he began to improve. Today, the retiree, who asked not to be named in order to protect his family's privacy, is on his feet, easily tired but no longer in imminent danger. He stopped taking fluconazole for a time, but returned to it when his condition

worsened. He continues to take it today and puts up with side effects like hair loss. His experience illustrates the challenge of dealing with what has been called a "silent epidemic" -- Valley Fever, an illness that is difficult to diagnose for which there is no cure and which cannot be prevented except by not breathing dust, a nearly impossible challenge.

(See VALLEY FEVER, page 4)

Pleasanton To Start School Year Earlier

By Ron McNicoll

Pleasanton Unified School District Trustees approved an instructional calendar for 2016-17 that accomplishes their stated goal of completing high school final exams before the winter break.

The board voted 4-0, with trustee Chris Grant absent on business travel, for a calendar with its first instructional day on Aug. 15, 2016, and final day on June 2, 2017.

Although the calendar is published one year at a time, the board also asked staff to come back with the same instructional day calendar for the next three years for discussion at a future meeting. Several trustees said that projecting ahead would provide a guarantee of stability for family vacation planning and student community sports participation.

The board looked at shifting the timing of finals to relieve stress on students. The new calendar would relieve tension over the holiday break, because finals will be out of the way. The stress of finals will simply be transferred to the period before the holiday break, said trustee Valerie Arkin.

An alternative staff proposal that would have adopted the starts, stops and breaks of a traditional school-year calendar was rejected. The traditional calendar would have started the school year on Aug. 22 and ended on June 9. Finals would have been held Jan.

(See SCHOOL YEAR, page 3)

Talk In Livermore Will Consider Nuclear Power After Fukushima

A nuclear expert next week will discuss the future of nuclear power in the wake of the Japanese Fukushima disaster.

The expert, Dr. Allison Macfarlane, was former head of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She will speak Thursday, February 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Livermore's Bankhead Theater. Her talk continues the Rae Dorough Speaker Series.

The Fukushima disaster began (See TALK, page 6)

Downtown Development Should Feature a Walkable Plan That Includes Art and Culture

Members of the public provided input on what they would like to see developed on two sites in downtown Livermore.

The two sites, when developed would complete the Downtown Specific Plan. They encompass the former "Lucky Shopping Center," as well as property adjacent to the Bankhead Theater. The city issued requests for proposals (RFP) last September seeking ideas for a variety of uses including housing, retail, a hotel-conference center, and a parking structure.

The Livermore City Council heard presentations from the seven



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Holding up portraits they created are art students at Granada High School who participated in the Memory Project.

Creating Memories by Providing Portraits

By Carol Graham

When Ella DeCosta looked into the face of the boy she would likely never meet, she knew she would choose him.

"I really liked his expression. He looked both happy and sad at the same time," said the Granada High School freshman. "I was immediately drawn to his picture, and felt like I needed to draw him." Ella is one of 15 art club stu-

dents at Granada participating in the Memory Project, a nonprofit founded in 2004 that invites art teachers and their students to create portraits for youth who have faced substantial challenges, such as neglect, abuse, loss of parents, and extreme poverty. Using photographs provided by the foundation, artists choose a medium, such as painting or drawing, to create a keepsake portrait for the child.

"This is our 3rd year participating in the Memory Project," said teacher and club leader Laura Thournir. "This year's subjects, aged ten to 15, are from a single village in Ethiopia."

Once completed, portraits are delivered to the children as gifts. Photos of them holding their portraits are shared with the artists.

"I've done this project from (See MEMORY, page 2)

Charter Prep Turns to Private Academy for Help to Build Parking Lot

By Ron McNicoll

The Tri-Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC) began negotiating with California Preparatory Academies (CPA) for help with meeting the \$1 million cost of building a parking lot and making certain left-turn lane improvements near its new building at 3090 Independence Drive in Livermore.

John Zukoski, interim CEO for TVLC, and Bill Batchelor, manager of CPA, confirmed the negotiations last week.

Because TVLC failed to meet the city-imposed conditions for the parking and traffic improvements,

the city did not issue a building occupancy permit to TVLC. That has delayed the Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory (LVCP) moving into the site. The school currently leases the former Portola School campus from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD).

CPA is also depending on occupying a portion of the building, which is modern, but not brand new. The two-story concrete and glass edifice formerly housed offices.

CPA has much at stake in getting an early resolution to the im-

passee. The sooner that the building can be occupied, the sooner tuition revenue will be rolling in to the academy.

That also helps LVCP, because the two schools are co-tenants of the building. Both are jointly liable for the \$2 million in annual lease payments. However, that does not mean that they will split the rent 50-50.

Zukoski said, "TVLC could need to pay \$0, \$2 million, or something in between. Our informal agreement is that TVLC will only pay what we would have paid for our current Portola site." (See PARKING LOT, page 5)

Both schools are non-profits. However, CPA is a private academy; LVCP receives state education money. The rent paid by LVCP at the former Portola School is \$15,000 per month for a total of \$180,000 per year.

Batchelor said in an interview this week that CPA would look to financing the traffic and parking improvements from its construction budget.

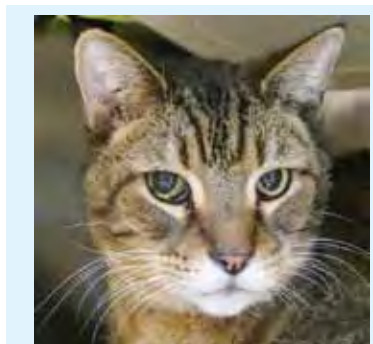
As for the CPA revenue stream, Batchelor said that details concerning the cost of tuition, room and board are in flux. Information (See PARKING LOT, page 5)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Boot Hill, also known as Daffodil Hill, is ablaze with color. Located on Stanley Blvd. next to Granada High School in Livermore, the hill has been planted with thousands of the colorful spring bloom by members of the Amador Valley Garden Club.

(See DOWNTOWN, page 6)



PET OF THE WEEK

Super-size your life with Maximus, a gorgeous four-year-old feline. Maximus loves to go exploring up cat towers and through fun tunnels, enjoys games, and is an all-around delightful and lively adult cat. His streak of independence may make him seem reserved when meeting new people, but given time he is happiest in company. Treat yourself to a cat with a huge personality! Maximus is living large at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, Tuesday through Saturday from 10am - 4pm. For more information, visit valleyhumane.org or call 426-8656.

Photo - Valley Humane Society/G. Subramonian

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MEMORY

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the first year we started," said senior Emilie Johal, the art club president. "I see a similarity in each child I have drawn. I can tell each is filled with gratitude, which I lose sight of in myself. I selected a photo of a boy who is around 12 because he looks confident. From studying and drawing his face, his confidence rubbed off on me! I believe that art is universal and has an impact on everyone, whether they live in a town like Livermore or in a village in a third world country."

Given that the underprivileged children have few personal keepsakes, the

Memory Project strives to provide them with special mementos that capture a time in childhoods, and to help the kids see themselves as works of art.

Senior Veronica is a first-time participant who chose a 13-year-old boy because of his smile.

"I hope the portrait helps him learn that he is beautiful," she said, "and that he has a wonderful smile."

A processing fee of \$15 per photo was funded by Granada's Interact Club. Along with covering the costs of photos, postage and delivery, a portion of the fee goes to the orphanage or

toward helping the children.

However, it's not just the subjects who benefit from the project.

"There are many things I like about art," said Ella. "It gets your emotions onto paper to help you with what you're feeling. If you feel happy, art makes you more happy; and if you're sad, art helps you know why and makes you feel better. Art can make you and others feel well. Like with this project - it makes the kid you are drawing happy, and it makes you happy that they are happy. Art makes everyone feel something when they see it, and it's really fun to do."

"Art relaxes my mind as I start to create, allowing me to put ideas that are in my brain onto paper in pictures," added freshman Angela. "The Memory Project taught me I should cherish my things rather than taking them for granted."

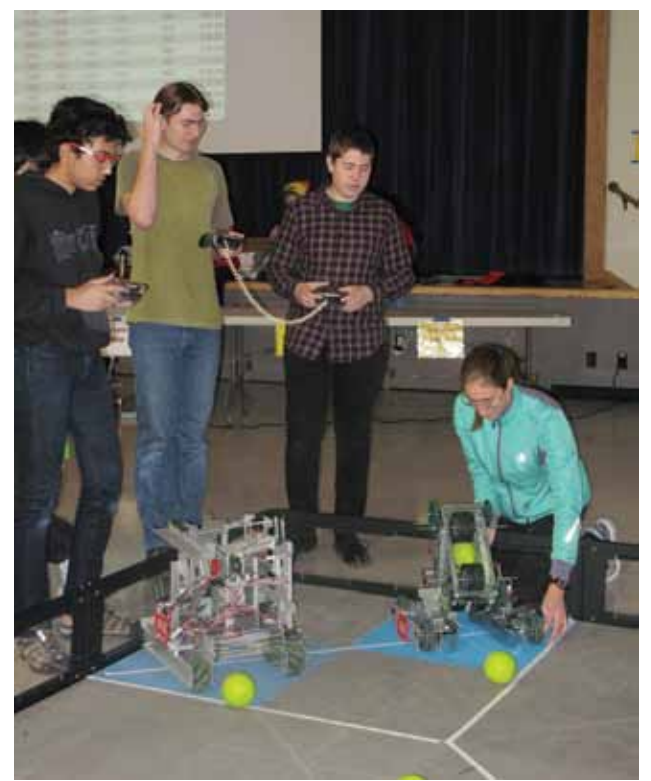
It was a realization stated by each of the young artists.

"The Memory Project taught me to feel grateful for what I have," said Ella. "There are a lot of kids who can't even afford to go to school, and this project opened my eyes. It was really different to see the kids that are the same age as me are living so differently."

The students created the portraits during lunchtime or at home, not as part of an art class, said Thournir.

"I love the idea of students connecting to both local and global communities by sharing a gift of such quality," she added. "I am very proud of all of them."

As for the teen whose expression held both happiness and sadness, Ella said, "I hope that when he sees the picture he feels super important, and happy that someone spent so much time on something just for him. I hope it makes him feel special whenever he sees it." To learn more, visit www.memoryproject.org.



Granada High School Robotics Club was one of many schools throughout Northern California competing in a VEX Robotics Competition on February 6 held at Clayton Valley Charter High School in Concord. Schools were presented an engineering challenge. Using the VEX Robotic Design System students had to build a robot designed to score the most points possible in a game setting. Granada High School's Robotic team built a robotic, participated and through teamwork, they made it into the semi-final round of the competition. Pictured are Granada High School students participating in the Vex Robotic competition held at Clayton Valley Charter High School in Concord on February 6.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

i-GATE in downtown Livermore opened its doors to the public last Sunday as part of Science and Engineering Month in Livermore. Among the displays inside this innovation hub were a 3D printer, in photo, and Robot Garden.

Alameda County Fair to Offer Reserved Seating for Concerts

The Alameda County Fair is now offering advance Premium Reserved seating for its Big O Tires Concert Series during the 2016 fair.

Premium Reserved seats are located in the front sections of the Fair's amphitheater. They can be purchased in advance for \$19.95, including Fair admission, through the Fair's website.

"This is great news for concert fans," said Fairgrounds CEO, Jerome Hoban. "Many have been requesting the option to buy reserved seats for some time and we are happy to now be able to offer it to them. The Big O Tires Concert Series is working on a great lineup this year and fans will be able to get the seats they want to see their favorite performers. Even better news is that the ticket price includes Fair admission."

Concerts have always been free with admission at the Fair, but fans would often wait in line all day to get a good seat. With a Premium Reserved seat ticket, fans will be able to enjoy more of the Fair and still have a great seat at the show of their choice.

Five hundred of the amphitheater's 2800 seats will be available for purchase for select shows. All non-reserved seats will remain free with regular admission.

Tickets for four of the first concerts - Cinderella's Tom Kiefer (6/15) Tony! Toni! Tone! (6/16), Con Funk Shun (6/18) and Joe Nichols (6/22) - are available for purchase now. Additional shows will be announced each week for the next several weeks. Visit www.alamedacountyfair.com for more information.

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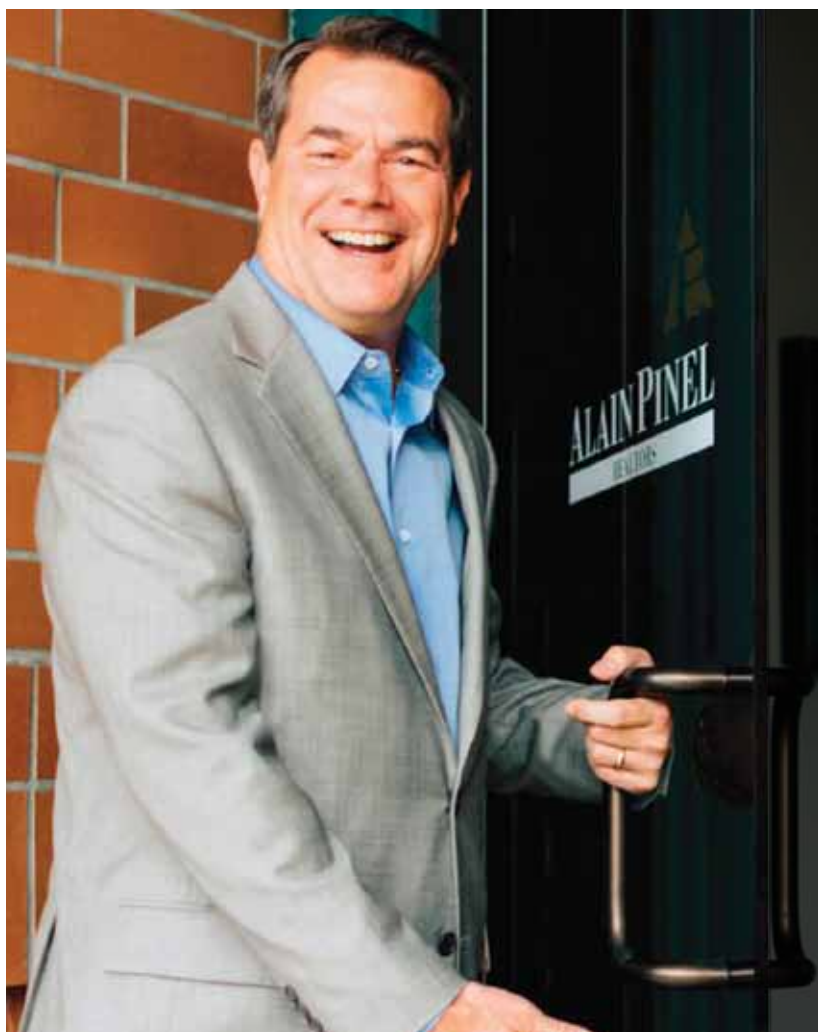
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SCHOOL YEAR

(continued from page one)

18-20, three weeks after the holiday break.

The board voted in June 2014 to adopt a new instructional calendar, which was called "Modified Lite," and tried again in the fall to rescind it, on a motion by Jamie Hintzke, with a second by Arkin. However, trustees Christ Grant, Jeff Bowser and Joan Laursen voted against rescinding it. That calendar would have started the school year on Aug. 11. After Mark Miller took his seat on the board in December 2014, the board voted to reconsider again. Miller had campaigned in favor of a more considered look at the calendar, including more stakeholder involvement.

This time, a broad range of students were included with teachers, parents, administrators and support staff taking part in a survey. Students were members of a calendar review committee. The panel worked with Human Resources Assistant Superintendent Dianne Howell to shape the final recommendation.

Miller said that the process was better this year, proving a good result. However, he would have felt more comfortable with waiting a year before implementation, because people already have vacation plans geared to the traditional calendar.

Miller also noted that with the earlier start in Au-

gust, the climate is hotter than in June, so he hopes that Pleasanton voters will approve a bond measure to upgrade cooling systems, if a bond were on the ballot.

On a separate item, the board voted unanimously to hire EMC Research to conduct a community survey to gauge the level of support for a bond election, possibly in November 2016.

The survey will sample 400 voters via telephone, including cell phones. The callers will be giving some background concerning different items on a facilities needs list. The list would likely include such things as new classrooms, refurbishing old buildings, installing tech improvements and upgrading heating and cooling systems.

The poll results are expected to be helpful to board members in deciding what can be done with capital improvements, if a bond were to pass.

The board is aiming for the November 2016 ballot. Trustee Joan Laursen asked EMC representative Ruth Bernstein if issues on the state ballot would affect the local vote on a bond. She said that people tend to vote on the issues. However, sometimes, if the economy cracks, you get a negative on everything.

"If you value and support public education, you will vote for a bond measure," stated Bernstein.

Students Told Not to Play Assassin Game

The Pleasanton Police Department and Pleasanton Unified School District caution students and parents about the Assassin Game.

This year students from Foothill High School and Amador Valley High School are once again playing the game "Assassin." This game is not sanctioned, supported, or approved by the Pleasanton Unified School District. The Pleasanton Police Department and the school district are collectively concerned about the safety of our youth.

For those who are unaware of the game, teams of seniors are assigned "targets" whom they have to "assassinate" using toy Nerf type guns that fire foam darts. Each participant pays an entry fee. After several rounds and several months of play, the winner is the last person standing. The winner collects a large pot of cash, the collection and custody of which can create liability for the game organizer as participants often make accusations of mishandling or gouging of funds.

There are specific rules concerning the type of weapon used. The weapon cannot be altered or painted in any fashion. There are also rules regarding times and locations the subjects may be "assassinated," and so on.

A major concern for parents, school staff, and Pleasanton police is that the thrill of the game overrides common sense in many instances. Participants do not think about how their behavior is being viewed or interpreted by community members who see people with potentially dangerous weapons, often chasing others on foot or in vehicles, and surprising their "targets" in convenience stores. According to the police, non-participants are frightened or feel threatened because only participants are aware at the time that the behavior is not real but rather a game being played.

According to the police, "Due to the time in which we live, our students and your children are engaging in behavior that has possible dire consequences. To date, we have been fortunate to have avoided a serious injury or situation, but there is significant concern that day is coming. We want you as parents, students, and participants to be aware of the pitfalls, dangers, and consequences of taking part in the game."

Some examples of dangerous behavior among partici-

pants include: painting or disguising weapons to make them look more realistic; reaching for concealed weapons in public places; lying in wait behind bushes, trash cans, vehicles or fences; accessing or hiding on the property of another, often late at night; waiting for a target while dressed in all black or camouflaged clothing; reckless driving to avoid being targeted; car loads of teens driving around "stalking" or "hunting" their targets; jumping out of moving vehicles to attack or flee from other participants; and conducting a "drive by" shooting of a target in a parking lot or public street.

These actions often prompt multiple calls to the police who respond to what they believe is a violent incident in progress. Police note, not only does this consume significant time and resources of emergency personnel, it also jeopardizes the safety of the community when actual threats cannot be responded to in a timely manner. In the eyes of a startled homeowner protecting his or her family or property, a violent response to a player is quite possible."

The Pleasanton Police Department and the Pleasanton Unified School District urge students to consider the potential ramifications of their behavior and to avoid playing this game.

Students will face suspension if any weapons, even imitation guns, are brought to school. If evidence is discovered of the game being played on campus, students will face disciplinary action.

Parents are asked to have a serious and candid conversation with their children about the very real dangers of this behavior. To juniors and underclassmen, consider the dangers and problems with this game and do not participate when you become a senior.

Strong Year for Hacienda

Hacienda Business Park in Pleasanton saw another year of continued growth in 2015. Over 735,000 sf of tenant activity occurred in Hacienda last year along with new project approvals, the completion of a residential project, and construction activity on a new office building as well as three additional residential communities. Net space absorption totaled nearly 250,000 square feet. The park is the largest mixed-use development of its kind in Northern California.

"2015 was another great year for Hacienda; the fifth in a row where we saw positive growth, year over year. By every measure, including new entitlement, investment, construction and occupancy, 2015 was a resounding success. Hacienda continues to be a place where business activity wants to occur" said James Paxson, Hacienda's general manager.

Major transactions in 2015 were seen by companies in a variety of business segments, including The Gap (retail), Roche Molecular Systems (expansion) (biomedical), Cisco (networking), Chicago Title (real estate), and Acosta (food).



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EDITORIAL

Charter Management

Both the Livermore Valley Charter School and Livermore Valley Charter Prep are providing solid education for the students who attend them. However, the future of the schools could be jeopardized if the Tri-Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC), which manages them, cannot get its act together.

The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District oversees both charter schools.

Recently, the district sent TVLC notice of violations on a variety of issues. They include charging tuition for foreign exchange students; failure to submit an audit by deadline; failure to repay a debt to Las Positas College; and failure to achieve racial and ethnic balance at the K-8 school.

Another issue relates to the city's requirement that TVLC finish its elementary school parking lot before the city will issue an occupancy permit for the charter prep school to move into its new building. Although there was a signed agreement with the city to meet the condition, Charter Prep parents were urged to send e-mails to the city that asked for the building occupation to go ahead, and leave the parking lot to its own time. The TVLC CEO has since apologized for failing to provide accurate information on the situation.

Even though TVLC has a contractor ready to go, it does not have the \$1 million needed to proceed with the construction.

There have been issues over the years regarding transparency in TVLC's operations when it comes to meetings and providing timely information on decisions. The school district points out in its oversight report that the lack of transparency has created discord, both with the district and with the local charter school community.

The Livermore School District staff has been directed to begin to look at what would be the district's role if the corporation were to fail.

TVLC has made some progress, such as reaching an agreement on paying the debt owed the college. The audit is expected to be completed by the end of February.

There needs to be a greater effort. The TVLC board has a long way to go in order to gain the trust of both the district and the charter school community that it can effectively manage the schools without jeopardizing the education of students.

VALLEY FEVER

(continued from page one)

lenge. Valley Fever is caused by inhaling tiny spores of a fungus called *coccidioides* that lodge in the lung.

Valley Fever has been known since the late 1800s, but remains a medical puzzle. Research scientists at the University of California at Merced, the University of Arizona and elsewhere are working to understand the body's response to the spores, so far without consistent success.

Sometimes the inhaled spores remain localized and seem not to trouble the body. Sometimes they generate a respiratory illness that lasts a few weeks. Other times, the body develops a chronic response like painful joints, skin lesions and fluid in the lungs. In the most severe cases, they spread to other organs like the brain and skeleton, and a life or death struggle begins.

"Some people breathe in mouthfuls of the fungus and it doesn't affect them at all," said Erin Gaab, a psychologist from UC-Merced who works with Valley Fever patients and their families. "Others inhale one breath and can develop the serious form of the disease that turns into meningitis."

Gaab and UC-Merced immunologist Katrina Hoyer spoke last week at a meeting of the Valley Study Group in Pleasanton.

Hoyer is examining the details of immune system response in disease victims. Numbers of patients are small, in part because medical diagnoses are imperfect. Her basic question relates to whether the presence or absence of particular immune cells might correlate with success or failure. So far, no clear pattern has emerged.

The standard literature about Valley Fever, including advice from the California Department of Public Health, suggests that 60 percent of those who are exposed have no symptoms at all. Most of the rest, the literature says, get cold or flu symptoms that go away in a few weeks.

The implication seems to be that there is little to worry about, but reality is far more ominous, according to a Washington State couple that founded a website, called Valley Fever Survivor. The website aims at promoting much greater understanding of the dangers of Valley Fever.

Sharon and David Filip point out that people get over colds and flu, but Valley Fever never truly goes away. It may go dormant, but it is a "ticking time bomb" that can come back years later, perhaps when people are older and have weakened immune systems.

Sharon Filip herself contracted a near-fatal case of Valley Fever after taking her son to the University of Arizona in 2001. "I had heard about the rattlesnakes, about scorpions, about monsoon weather, but nowhere was there a word about Valley Fever," she said in an interview last week.

David Filip believes that downplaying the seriousness of the disease is intentional. Organizations ranging from local governments to university administrations don't want to frighten people away.

The Filipis are not alone in their complaint about minimizing the danger. That was also the theme put forth by UC-Berkeley professor John Taylor earlier this

month at a hearing in Tracy to consider whether the California Parks Department could expand motorized off-road recreation into a new site on the Alameda-San Joaquin County border.

The site is located in a hotspot for Valley Fever, Taylor noted. More cases of the disease can be anticipated when visitors breathe in more dirt thrown up by more spinning tires. He cited a \$12 million legal judgment rendered against CalTrans in Kern County after contract workers came down with Valley Fever, and warned that the state Parks Department will face the same liability if it opens the new park.

Valley Fever is a disease of the Americas, with rare diagnoses in Europe and Asia after travelers arrive from the western hemisphere. The Filipis say they know a woman who got Valley Fever in Germany after importing shipped cactus from Arizona, apparently from inhaling spores on the plant or in its potting soil.

There are an estimated 150,000 new cases of Valley Fever per year in the U.S., 25,000 of which show medical symptoms. California's Central Valley is a hotspot, but most U.S. cases occur in Arizona.

Medical authorities stress that the disease cannot be transmitted from person to person the way, say, a cold can be. On the other hand, people can carry the *coccidioides* spores in their hair and on their clothing, possible routes to infection in others.

Animals get Valley Fever as well: dogs, cats, cattle, sheep — even snakes and bats, according to information from the University of

Arizona.

The disease can be caught at any time of year, although incidence increases from June through November in California. The assumption is that the rainy season encourages strands of the fungus to grow underground, after which they dry up and break apart into spore clusters that can become airborne during the warmer weather that will follow.

In her remarks to the Valley Study Group, Merced immunologist Katrina Hoyer repeatedly stressed how little is understood about Valley Fever or the fungus that causes it.

The fungal variety found in California, called *coccidioides immitis*, is different from the variety found everywhere else, she said. "Nobody really understands the differences" although it is clear that the disease that the two varieties cause is the same.

Wherever the fungus is found, wind storms can spread its spores much farther. Medical literature refers to 1977 hurricane force winds in the Bakersfield area that caused a fourfold increase in Valley Fever cases, with a surge in incidence as far north as Sacramento.

A sharp increase in California cases also occurred from 1991 through 1994 after a rainy winter ended a 5-year period of drought. The warm, dry summers that followed are thought to have dried fungal spores to be carried aloft by strong winds.

Valley Fever seems to be spreading with a changing climate. "There have been a lot of cases identified in Washington State recently" through animal research, Hoyer 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.)

Referendum Volunteers Kelly Cousins Allen Roberts Greg O'Connor Michele Plunge Bill Lincoln Pleasanton

We would like to congratulate the over 70 Pleasanton citizens who volunteered to collect signatures for the referendum campaign regarding our city council's recent approval of the Lund Ranch II project. Keeping our remaining hills and ridges natural and free of all grading and construction resonated with Pleasanton residents and non-residents alike. The time, effort, and commitment of these volunteers from many different parts of the city enabled us to gather over 6,000 signatures in a short period of time to support the referendum.

Common themes we heard over the past 30 days are that we have far too much traffic that cannot be supported by Pleasanton neighborhoods; there is too much construction going on all over town; the city would be unwise to ap-

prove water usage during this 4-year drought; we don't need further impact on local schools; and that Measure PP must be supported to the fullest extent. We would ask that the city rejects the Lund Ranch II ordinance, saving the cost of a referendum election, and allowing time for the builder to work with the community to craft a PP-compliant solution that protects our hillsides against this project and others like it in the future.

This referendum is a strong message to our Council that our citizens do not want a continuation of unbalanced growth, especially when our precious ridges and hillsides are affected. It is time for Pleasanton to realize that our values are transforming as a community. The will of the people—not just the builder du jour—must take top priority in the council's decision making process.

Service Animals Patricia Falcey

I did not read Mr. Noel's letter to the Mailbox on January 28, but am concerned about Joanne Duncan's follow-up letter.

My hope is that Ms. Duncan would not consider requiring a blind person to prove that they need or benefit from the use of their guide dog to every restaurant manager or shop owner.

The American Disabilities Act of 1990 provides that all Americans with disabilities be afforded the same rights. As such a person with a peanut allergy or seizures can bring their service dog with them. A

Veteran with PTSD or other disability can bring their service dog with them.

In the last 30 years we have discovered that dogs can be trained to support many types of disabilities. The wonderful Labradors and Retrievers that we see as Guide Dogs for the Blind have been joined by many other breeds that support people with a multitude of disabilities. Not all disabilities are visible. Nor should the disabled be forced to prove their disability to every person whom inquiries. The disabled have a right to their privacy. And should not have to forego the benefits of a Service Animal to maintain their privacy.

I have been blessed with the care and support of two different Service Animals over the last 13 years. Both are Cocker Spaniels. My first Service Dog is retired now and continues to live with me. My current Service Dog has been supporting me the last 5 years. I have documentation from my doctor that enables my girl to fly with me in the cabin which has been a TSA requirement in the last 15 years.

I can be asked to leave any public space if I or my animal is out of control; if I or my animal is threatening the health or safety of others. I make it a point to ask people around me if my Service Dog will bother them and have immediately moved if they respond that she will.

My experience is that most people welcome us both. That my Service Dog goes unnoticed by most people until we get ready to leave because she has been sitting quietly under the table or my chair.

Having a Service Dog allows me to safely navigate in the world. I have freedom to go out on my own with her at my side. It gives my family and friends peace of mind knowing that I will be safe.

Businesses are allowed to ask:

Is this a Service Dog?
What task(s) does the Service Dog perform?
When we fly I am re-

quired to disclose that I have a Service Dog with me when I book the flight. When passengers book their flights they can inquire if there are Service Dogs on board if they have allergies. As a passenger with a Service Dog we are boarded first. My experience has been that the flight crew is very willing to move passengers if they do not want to sit with us. And we have always found many wonderful volunteers willing to exchange their seat so a person afraid of dogs or allergic to them can sit somewhere else.

All breeds can be trained to be a service dog. Service Dogs have extensive training in basic manners and in performing the specific task they are trained to do.

The disabled person benefits greatly from the care and support of their Service Animal. Not all disabilities are visible. Most of us work hard to look and act "normal".

The next time you see a misbehaving Service Animal or child, speak to the Manager of the establishment. If the Service Dog or Child is behaving themselves appropriately, then learn to share the space with them.

Too Much Growth? Renee L. Adams Livermore

Didn't the Tri-Valley just experience years of drought? We all had to cut back and several people put in new yards to help conserve, remember? Yet, new homes are springing up all over the Tri-Valley. Yes, I've heard about the permits and low-flow shower heads, but we will still need extra water to supply new residents and where will that come from, if we face another drought? Will we have to cut back even further?

There are so many problems with more homes being built. Traffic is one, a nightmare all of us face already. More growth means more traffic, which increases our "spare the air" days in summer and diminishes overall air quality.

No one seems to do anything about the fact that

Livermore still doesn't have a hospital. I find it difficult to believe that a city our size does not consider that a priority, while smaller cities certainly do. A lot of good the facility located near the intersection of 580/680 will do for the residents east of the airport. Can you believe Livermore doesn't even have a full-fledged emergency room? I don't want to hear that money is an issue. Many years ago Valley Memorial was built here with contributions from some of the residents. The town was small then, but residents saw a pressing need for a hospital. I still see that need.

How will the police and fire departments fare with added growth? They already do an outstanding job for us now. Are more residents going to make their jobs easier? With Livermore spreading out as far as it is, emergency response time might be a bit slower and getting to the hospital difficult indeed.

Before permits are issued

for more homes, a logical plan should be to make sure that the needs of those already here are met.

I love Livermore. My family has resided here since 1917. I'm sure it was pristine then. Luckily they are not living to see it now. It is sad to see all those little boxes along the corridor cluttering up what was once beautiful countryside. Personally, I'd rather see cows and horses.

I have tried to cover several issues because I truly worry about the valley in the future. I believe my concerns are valid ones and concerns of others, as well.

If you are also concerned about anything I have mentioned, please let the city know your feelings.

Discussing the problems of too much growth at Starbucks and McDonald's just doesn't do it. Your voice and speaking out for the well being of future generations does. Someone has to think of them.

Board Wants Second Look at Pricing Policy

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board continued a proposed pricing policy for further review.

The goal would be to provide more transparency to the public as to why the district charges fees and the philosophy used to determine the fees.

The district charges most individuals and groups a fee to use an owned or managed facility; participate in district programs and activities; and purchase equipment, supplies and other items related to the activities of the district. Over the years, the district has operated under various guidelines and practices.

Board Chairman Steve Goodman said that the board sets the priorities. He wanted to make sure that the board and staff were on the same page when it comes to determining service levels and fees charge for various levels.

The issue was referred to the Program Committee and Facilities Committee for review and will come back to the Board at a future meeting.

In other action, the board honored the retirement of Jerry Griffith with a Resolution of Commendation. He served the District for 35 years in Park Maintenance.

The LARPD Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan and environmental impact declaration are currently available for public review online www.larpd.org/board/larpd_mp.html and in person at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. or the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. The public review period ends March 9. The plan, along with comments and responses, will be brought to the Board for final approval before the end of April.

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RO STUDY

(continued from page one)

tor Dick Quigley summed that up when he said, "Direct scares me. It would put too much burden on us (for getting state approval)."

The roundtable members also were enthusiastic about another jointly financed project -- a public information campaign explaining RO water. It is something that would have to be brought back to their councils and agencies for full discussion, since it involves funding.

The group's decisions followed presentations about future options for a Valley water portfolio. The officials also heard the results of a one-week survey conducted in November that sounded

out 400 registered voters on attitudes concerning cost and acceptance of using recycled water as part of the Valley's water supply portfolio.

Consultant Curt Below of FM3 said the poll found that there are concerns about injecting treated wastewater directly into the drinking water, but that indirect injection of the water, perhaps into the underground basin, would be acceptable.

Some 63 percent were comfortable with indirect injection in replenishing ground water; 32 per were not. Injecting RO into reservoirs showed 57 percent accepting it and 40 percent rejecting it.

Putting the RO water directly into water treatment facilities found 62 percent uncomfortable with the idea; 37 percent were comfortable.

Poll respondents clearly were okay with using RO water for irrigation, with 92 percent indicating they were comfortable with that use; 7 percent were uncomfortable.

After a long question describing RO water, some 63 percent gave their support, and 29 percent were against it.

The drought has been the biggest motivator leading people to say more needs to be done to diversify water supply sources. Some 82 percent were willing to pay \$5 per month more to bring about RO-treated water with 56 percent willing to pay \$20 per month. Support increased for each \$5 increment going down to \$5.

The "support and oppose" numbers were distributed fairly equally across the Valley's three cities.

The support was a contrast to an attempt about 15 years ago by DSRSD to run their wastewater through RO filters and inject the treated water into the ground basin. Only 50 percent supported the process in a poll. Further, many opposed the move on health grounds, after an expert spoke about endocrine receptors and their impacts on changing sex in fish downstream from wastewater treatment plants.

Scientists have talked about a link between treated wastewater and birth defects, as well as reproductive cancer developing later in women. However, the Valley survey did not include any information about endocrine receptors, which enter the waste stream by birth control pills and pesticides.

A page on the Internet quoted Brenda Adelman, a lay person who has followed

wastewater issues along the Russian River for 37 years. The recycled water industry has pointed to much more efficient modern RO filters as filtering out virtually ev-

erything, but Adelman cited a research paper that said even low dosages of some substances can cause harm.

At the Water Policy Roundtable, only one citizen

spoke. Alfred Exner, who ran for the Zone 7 board two years ago, said that it would be better to put money into things that are easier to accomplish, and less controversial.

PARKING

(continued from page one)

on a web page about San Francisco Bay Charter Preparatory, the first iteration of the school's name, is out of date, including the tuition, room and board of \$29,500, said Batchelor. The amount is yet to be determined.

Parents of LVCP students asked Livermore Mayor John Marchand at the City Council's Dec. 14 meeting to let the school out of what they called an unreasonable requirement imposed at the last minute.

Marchand responded by reading a September agreement that clearly stated the TVLC agreed to install the grade school parking lot before the city could grant an occupancy permit for LVCP.

That set off parents to demand accountability about why Zukoski did not tell LVCP principal Eric Dillie or the board about the agreement. Dillie had urged parents to protest the parking lot/move-in linkage at the city council meeting. Marchand had over 200 e-mails on the topic.

This drive for accountability led LVCP parents at the Jan. 28 TVLC meeting to call for more transparency, and more parent involvement at board meetings and at the site council.

The number of views of

the archived meeting was above 300 on Jan. 31, just three days after the meeting. Normally, the site gets 25 or 30 views per meeting.

At a later site council meeting, parents urged principal Eric Dillie to issue a call to all parents to consider

running for a site council seat. The site council has 10 slots. LVCP has a spot on the TVLC board that could be filled only by a site council candidate. Members of the TVLC board are the sole voters in the selection of directors.



A 400-year-old Valley Oak, the largest in the area, fell on the morning of Feb. 9, the day after construction took place at the Sunset Cabana Club Pool building. The ancient tree had been healthy; it fully leafed in each year, and cross-sections taken while removing the fallen trunk showed that it was sound.

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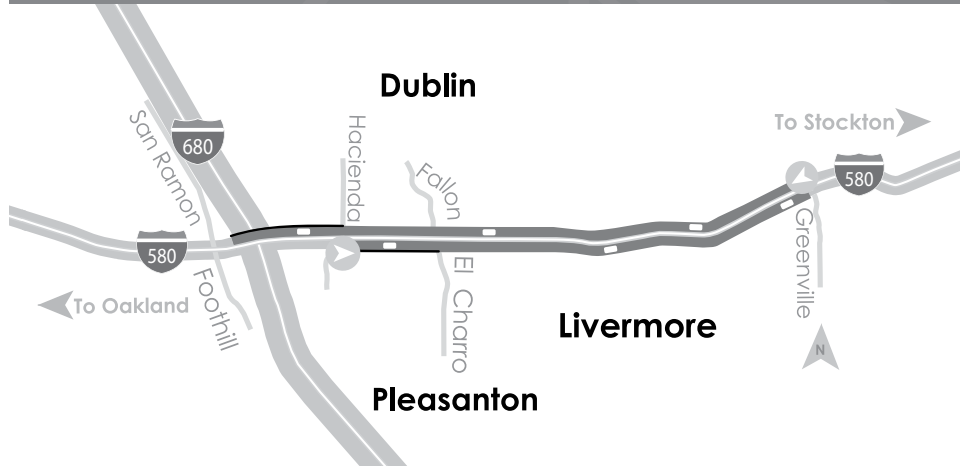
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A Look at What It Took to Become a Tuskegee Airman

By Carol Graham

It is the question he's asked most often, and this night was no different.

"How did he endure the unfairness of society, and the personal slights of the American military system?" Dr. James Armstead is asked regularly after portraying Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., commander of the Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama. Davis was assigned to the first training class, earning his wings in 1942.

The following year, he was named commander of the Tuskegee Army Airfield, a group that would grow to include 14,600 pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, and instructors.

Speaking as himself, Armstead said, "Davis' father had instilled in him that there were opportunities that soldiers had - over the repressed, civilian black populations - to demonstrate how preposterous the racist notions of black inferiority were. Davis, Jr., saw the war as an opportunity to demonstrate that Negro soldiers were the equal of any other Americans when allowed to demonstrate skills."

The Tuskegee Army Airfield was not as good as other fighter squadrons; they were better. They had to be. They were battling enemies in the air while fighting racial stereotypes on the ground. Armstead, a retired lawyer and Naval War College Professor, possesses an authority and charisma that benefit Davis and electrified the Firehouse audience. His wealth of knowledge comes from portraying Davis for more than 25 years.

"I was 42 when I started. He was a 35-year-old fighter pilot in 1947 who had recently returned from WWII," said Armstead. "I'm now 70 and he's still 35. That gets harder and harder to sell on stage every year



Historic photo of Benjamin O. Davis Jr.

that Davis never had an easy time of it, but ease would not have suited the young man's fierce intellect and steely tenacity. He was born in 1912, the middle child and only son of Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., the first African-American general officer in the United States Army. The child would become motherless in 1916, when his mother died from complications during childbirth.

In the summer of 1926, the 13-year-old went for a flight with a barnstorming pilot - an experience that fu-

eled his determination, and inspired him to become the first officer to get his wings from the Tuskegee (Tuskey'-ghee) Army Air Field some 16 years later.

"I bring you greetings from Washington," said Armstead, taking the stage as Davis on the date of September 18, 1947. "Secretary Symington this morning signed the official bill creating the United States Air Force, so you have a new arm of service. The Army Air Corps did well in the last war, but it was the concept

of strategic bombing that won the war for the United States. It was necessary to destroy the infrastructure of the enemy."

In many ways, Davis was the right man at the right time. After attending the University of Chicago, Davis entered the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1932, sponsored by Representative Oscar De Priest, the only African-American member of Congress at the time.

"The first month at West Point you spend in Beast Barracks, which is not only a building but a way of life," said Armstead. "The beast part, you will always remember."

Notoriously tough, the first year at West Point was worse for Davis. It set the tone for his entire time there.

"I had no roommate, nor bunkmate when we travelled on trains," said Armstead. "I ate alone, I slept alone, I travelled alone - all four years at the academy. My fellow cadets decided that I should not be there, and the way to make me go away was through 'silencing.' No one talked to me, except for on duty."

Yet Davis persevered and graduated 35th in his class of 278 - a triumph that should have ensured he could go into any branch of the Armed Services he chose. Yet instead of being accepted into the Army Air Corps, he was assigned to an all-black infantry regiment in Georgia.

While across the Atlantic Ocean a madman acted on concepts of racial superiority and inferiority, uneasy U.S. citizens pressured the Roosevelt administration for

greater African-American participation in the military, which resulted in the War Department creating a black flying unit at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. Davis was assigned to the first training class, earning his wings in 1942.

Each year, Museum on Main's speaker series offers ten talks, featuring historical figures such as Babe Ruth, Golda Meir, Nikita Khrushchev and Edgar Allan Poe. Attendees are advised to purchase tickets at least two months in advance, as the 227-seat Firehouse theater regularly sells out.

Tickets cost \$10 for general admission, \$7 for seniors (65+), and \$5 for museum members. "Chevron, the presenting sponsor, made a significant contribution which has allowed us to keep ticket prices reasonable this year. They've made a great commitment to education and cultural activities in the Bay Area," said museum Executive Director Jim DeMersman. "Marriott Pleasanton provides free or reduced-rate rooms for our presenters, who are coming from farther away. It's wonderful for them stay in a quality hotel and leave with a good experience of Pleasanton."

Armstead, who lives in Pioneer, CA, gives a dozen performances each year with 13 different figures including Booker T. Washington, founder of the Tuskegee Institute, and Benjamin O. Davis, Sr.

As for portraying the younger Davis, who would become the first African-American general in the United States Air Force, Armstead said, "I hope the audience takes away how far we have come as a society in accepting people for who we are and what we may be able to contribute, and how much further we have to go."

To learn more, visit www.museumonmain.org.

DOWNTOWN

(continued from page one)

education, community and cultural events with space for a museum, exhibit space and an art gallery. There should be a fine hotel nearby. Specialty artisan boutique and retail could be tied together with a winding path interspersed with mini parks that could include benches, and water features.

David Marchand told the council that young people are economic engines. "Most of my friends are working class. If housing were built elsewhere, that is where they would live and spend their money. We need affordable housing to be able to live, work and play here and one day grow families in Livermore."

Paul Brown suggested building offices where high tech spin-offs could locate. Housing, he said, would be more appropriate on the other side of Railroad Avenue.

Dale Kaye, Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce CEO and CEO of Innovation Tri-Valley, pointed out that housing is the number one need identified by businesses. "It is essential to build housing for our young workers. There are problems recruiting and retaining workers because they cannot find housing." She said of a hotel, it needs to speak to a destination with amenities that tourists and executives would like to go to.

Crystal Burke said that downtown is the perfect place for infill density and housing. "The more rooftops, the more customers for the downtown."

Sherry Souza, a member of the Chamber of Commerce board, said the need for workforce housing is immediate, not just for millennials, but for gen-Xers who can't afford to live in Livermore.

Drew Felker stated there is no place for people in their twenties to live that was affordable. "I support the maximum number of apartments. We will move in."

Sally Dunlop said there were other places for housing. She would like to see an upscale hotel and conference center that could accommodate weddings and other special occasions, business conferences and entertainment. Open space areas for people to congregate would provide a sense of place.

Chris Chandler, executive director of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers commented that residential and retail development and a hotel are key elements that should be in any plan.

Jean King declared that

the development should be an expression of the community, not the developer. The arts and science and wineries should be included along with a high end, full service destination hotel. There should be a flexible multiuse facility that can handle conferences and community art, education, science and winery related events. Open space for walking, sitting and congregating, murals, sculptures and other art is important. Parking is an issue. She said, "Don't build for the 20th century," referring to a parking garage. Consider how people in the future will travel. King suggested that community workshops should be held to determine uses.

Tom Concannon noted that trends change. "It is important to take the long view." Twenty years down the road, we shouldn't look back and consider what we have left on the table. Look for such things as a conference center, and open space in making a decision.

Bill Dunlop described proposals to build the hotel next to the Bankhead Theater as constraining, limiting the number of amenities that could be included. He suggested the larger site would be more appropriate for a hotel allowing flexibility in the overall amenities.

Jean Shuler, a Lab scientist, liked the idea of a farmers market, an education and cultural center, hotel and conference center. She provided an example of the need for hotel space. Recently, defense ministers and senior delegates from 37 countries, including Iran and Pakistan, the international atomic energy commission, Interpol and the European Union gathered at the Lab for a 2-day conference. They discussed national and international response to the nuclear threat involving terrorists. "They did not stay anywhere in Livermore. These conferences are still going to happen. It would have been great to have them be able to stay in the downtown."

Bob Carling read a letter from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Director Bill Goldstein. He wrote that the Lab relies on being able to attract and retain a world class workforce and the ability to reach out to and to convene scientists from around the world. Having the Tri-Valley region as our home and being able to offer its exceptional amenities are key ingredients to our success. "In the past, we

have advocated proposals for the development of a hotel and conference center in Livermore and reiterate that support here. The addition of such a center would enhance our ability to host visitors and events, and subject to consideration of cost and scale, open we would be open to discussing the establishment of a Laboratory presence there that could enhance our ability to educate the community about our exciting work and contributions to the nation."

Lynn Seppala, Livermore Cultural Arts Council president, asked for consideration by the council to create an iconic and creative downtown development that supports the needs of the Livermore arts and cultural community. He felt that the process was proceeding at a very rapid pace. He urged the council not to emphasize speed over quality.

Milo Nordyke supported a hotel conference center within the downtown for use by the science community and wine industry. He wanted to limit the number of apartments on the site.

Barbara Steinfeld asked that the council incorporate the largest hotel possible, even if that means moving the hotel across the street to the Lucky Center site.

CITY COUNCIL
The council voted 4 to 1 to select two finalists for the hotel and for the residential components. Chosen were Lennar Multifamily and its hotel partner, The Compass Project, and Trumark Homes for residential and RSVP Investments as the hotel developer.

Stewart Gary voted "no." He wanted to include Summerhill Homes as a third option for both a hotel and residential.

However Lauren Turner said that she did not see why a proposal, Summerhill, that drew support from only one councilmember should move forward.

In offering input, Steven Spedowski said, "I don't believe I've seen any proposal that strikes me as that's it." When it comes to the hotel, the number of rooms, meeting space and branding are all aspects that should be taken into consideration. He wanted to see more walkable areas and maximized open space. Spedowski advised developers to make sure that residential development was not an entity unto itself, but incorporated into the community. In addition to apartments, he asked that stacked flats be part of any

development. He saw parking as a critical element.

He stated, "All of the concepts need more work. I am excited about the potential."

Turner wanted to see housing that police, nurses, teachers and others could afford. A paseo where people could walk from the Bankhead Theater to the other side of the project would be good. There should be pocket parks with features for children, focus on the arts. Places are needed for public art, to display art. She wanted to see green building, urging innovations such as rooftop gardens. Like Spedowski, Turner wanted to see a project that includes flats.

Turner asked that the hotel be as large as possible with meeting space to accommodate the labs, winegrowers and wedding business. She said of Trumark, "They understood our vision." She urged the finalists to work with the Labs, winegrowers, the community, and the Ad Hoc Community Group in creating final proposals.

Bob Woerner wanted a place where people could walk. The walkable space should include features that attract people such as fountains and little places where people can gather. He did not like the idea of one massive parking garage, preferring that parking be more dispersed. He supported housing. However, he noted, "Lack of housing is not just a Livermore problem. It is not solvable by Livermore."

Gary said he wasn't really disagreeing with his fellow councilmember on what the vision should be. "Everyone wants workforce mixed housing, additional retail, and a hotel. There is no reason why we can't blend arts and sciences, some open exhibit space and a farmers market to create a destination." He wanted to make sure that whoever was selected would be able to bring the project to fruition. He did not want to see a tunnel effect of buildings along So. Livermore, which could happen if massing weren't treated correctly. He said Trumark had lost big points with him in proposing a 1000 space parking structure. Gary was also concerned that RSVP would not have the ability to provide the hotel the city desires in a timely, because the company had other projects in the pipeline that needed to be finished.

Marchand agreed with much of what other coun-

cilmembers stated, such as a need for a hotel, walkable open space and the inclusion of the arts and culture in any design. He wanted to see a mix of housing types.

FINALISTS
Lennar Multifamily/The Compass Project proposed 300 residential units consisting of 45 townhomes, 250 apartments and five flats over retail, and 11,000 to 16,500 sq. ft. of retail. A boutique hotel consisting of 125 to 150 rooms would be located on the land adjacent to the Bankhead Theater. It could include retail plus meeting space of 2500 to 5000 square feet, both located at street level. Retail would be located along South Livermore Ave and within the interior of the site. Two garages are proposed for parking, one for the public, the other for residents. All of the housing would be built on the Lucky site.

RSVP Investments pre-

sented a hotel only project that would be located adjacent to the Bankhead Theater. The plan calls for an 80 room boutique hotel with 2,000 sq. ft. of meeting/conference space, a rooftop pool, and a full service bar with a limited food menu.

Trumark Homes proposes 238 residential units consisting of 60 townhomes and 178 apartments all on the Lucky site. A 12,000 square foot public market, similar to the Ferry Building in San Francisco, would house specialty retail, food vendors and an iconic restaurant. It could act as an incubator for home grown creative businesses that could graduate to full spaces on First Street. Art and cultural amenities would be woven throughout the development. A parking garage with 550 public spaces and 425 for residential would offer separate entrances for the public and residents.

TALK

(continued from page one)

in March 2011 when a huge, earthquake-generated tsunami overwhelmed a section of the eastern coast of Japan's Fukushima Prefecture where two nuclear power complexes are located.

Equipment failures led to nuclear meltdowns, the release of radiation and massive population evacuations in the world's most serious nuclear accident since the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe.

Macfarlane's talk will be "neither pro- nor anti- nuclear," she said in a telephone interview early this week. It will discuss the sequence of events that led to equipment failures and the release of radioactivity and "what the U.S. and other countries have done (with their nuclear power programs) in response."

She believes nuclear belongs in the mix of U.S. energy sources, but with a caveat. "We depend on nuclear power, but going forward we have a lot of challenges" related to safety, she said.

An accident like Fukushima gives you pause, she added, noting that 160,000 people lost their livelihoods and their homes in the aftermath of the accident.

A geologist by training, Macfarlane led the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

(NRC) from 2012 through 2014. NRC is the federal agency responsible for the safety of U.S. nuclear reactors as well as the regulation of nuclear waste and medical radiation.

Today, she heads the Center for International Science and Technology Policy at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Among the Center's current efforts is a program to train the next generation of PhDs on nuclear security policy - in particular, how to deal with fissile materials in a world facing the proliferation of nuclear weapon technology.

The program is based at UC-Berkeley and supported by the National Nuclear Security Administration.

Macfarlane has personal ties to Livermore. She was married in Livermore in 2001. Her husband is Hugh Gusterson, an anthropologist who has written extensively about Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the U.S. nuclear weapons program.

Her talk will start at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 25, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets may be purchased at the box office, 2400 First Street, online at www.bankheadtheater.org or by contacting the box office at (925) 373-6800.

SPORTS NOTES



Spring Training continues at Granada Little League. Shown is a AAA team practicing. The throw from center field sails several feet over the 2nd baseman's head. One of the coaches (not shown) was playing center field, showing that spring training practices are necessary for the coaches also. Photo - Bill Nale



Livermore's Cyclone wrestling team competed at last Saturday's TOC qualifying tournament in Livingston. Pictured are (from top left) Chris Bepple, Nick Tran, Owen Hopkins, Jordan Bets, Kyle Ericksen, and Jessica Bepple; (bottom left) Ximena Pulido, Ty Goseingfiao, Mike Bepple, Ian Ericksen, and Jalen Bets.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Amador Valley High School's alumni game, held last Saturday, included a ceremony during which Stephen Piscotty's jersey, number 11, was retired. After graduating from Amador, he earned a degree at Stanford, entered the MLB draft, and was chosen in the first round by the Saint Louis Cardinals. In his rookie season, playing left field, he led the team with a .305 batting average, .359 on base percentage and was third with a .494 slugging percentage. In addition to Piscotty, Chris Keck of the Colorado Rockies, also an Amador graduate, was on hand. Stephen is shown with his parents, Michael and Gretchen Piscotty.

Cyclone Wrestling

Livermore's Cyclone wrestling season ended its winter season at Livingston High School last Saturday. Team members continued their success with 9 out of 11 wrestlers medaling. Cruising to first place and at no point being contested, team captain Jordan Bets (8th grade) won all four of his matches and had 2 pins. He also recorded 1 tech fall. His fellow team captain Nick Tran, (8th) made the finals for the 4th tournament in a row after winning his first 2 matches. He finished with a record of 2-1 and came in 2nd place.

8th grader Kyle Ericksen recorded 2 pins on the day and finished with a record of 3-1 and came in 3rd place. Heavyweight Owen Hopkins, (8th) who is also a team captain, competed in his first tournament of the season and finished in 3rd place.

The girls team had another dominating performance. 8th grade team captain Jessica Bepple was undefeated for the second week in a row and came in first place. She had 1 pin. 6th grader Jalen Bets finished in first place for the 3rd tournament in a row. She had 2 pins on the day. Ximena Pulido (7th) finished in 2nd place. She was 2-1 and had 1 pin.

In the novice division, Mike Bepple earned his first championship by finishing with a perfect record of 3-0. All of his wins were by pin. 6th grader Ian Ericksen competed in his first tournament ever. In the novice division, he finished in 3rd place. Other wrestlers competing on Saturday were Chris Bepple and Ty Goseingfiao.

The team's next competition will be on April 2nd, at the Middle School Girls State Championships in Albany.

Youth Track Club

FTC Track Club, a USATF (USA Track and Field) certified club that specializes in youth athletes from ages 7 to 18, is building a team to compete this winter/spring in USATF track meets including a meet at the national level in July. The organizers are looking for athletes of all ages and different events, especially relays. Visit www.ftctrackclub.com or contact Coach Jorge Quero, jquero@ftctrackclub.com or (925) 209 7520.

Run for Education

Registration for the 2016 Pleasanton Run for Education is now open. This classic road race is an annual tradition that runs through the heart of Pleasanton. The 2016 race will be held on Sunday, April 17.

Participants have a choice of a 5K, 10K or 15K distances starting and finishing at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

For the younger runners, there are two Kids' Challenge courses: 1/2K and 1K. Runners who register for the race before March 14 will receive 20% discount off their entry. Runners can register online at www.ppierun.org

The run welcomes participants of all ages and ability levels, from runners participating in their first road race to those experienced marathoners looking for a great training run. The race celebrates running and fitness while raising money and awareness for the Pleasanton Partnership in Education (PPIE).

The event concludes with an Awards Ceremony and Family Fitness Expo that features activities for kids and vendors from the surrounding community.

To find out more about the foundation, go to www.ppie.org.

High School Basketball

The sixth and final high school basketball game to be broadcast this season on TV30 takes place on Friday, February 19th as the Amador Dons play host to the Foothill Falcons.

The game will be tape delayed and start airing the following day on Saturday, February 20th at 7 p.m. on Comcast Cable channel 30, AT&T U-verse via channel 99.

Play by play and color announcing will include TV30 sports personalities Ian Bartholomew, George "Dr. B" Baljevich, and Tim Sbranti.

For complete air dates and times, visit the TV30 website at www.tv30.org.

DVDs of the games may also be purchased by going to the website.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Granada High School girls varsity soccer team tied rival Livermore High 1 to 1 in EBAL action.



Pleasanton U11 Rage Orange 2 defeated Mustang Soccer Chics 3 to 1 in the San Ramon Futsal League to take the championship. The team's effort, focus and dedication paid off with the 3-1 victory in the finals. The girls showed great resolve throughout the entire season with a 7-0-1 overall record. Team's top goal scorers were Sharanika, Paige, Zareena, Kaitlyn and Brooke. Team members are Kaitlyn Lemus, Zareena Mann, Alexis Morando, Paige Morgan, Nishita Pinninty, Sharanika Rajsekar, Alyssa Villarde, and Brooke Walker.



The Livermore High Varsity Girls basketball team had a special guest in the crowd during their game against Amador Valley High. Livermore pulled away for a 52-29 win, but the win was not as important as the moment shared with the special guest.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen
The photo to the left pictures some of the action in a match between Foothill High School men's varsity soccer team and crosstown rival Amador Valley. Foothill won the conference match-up 5 to 1.



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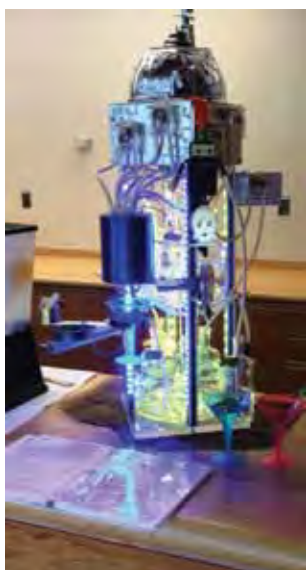
We are very excited to announce that Earthquakes Hall of Famer and WCS DOC, Troy Dayak, will be taking on the girls head coaching roll for all NPL level teams. This is a VERY important age in a young players career, are you ready to take your game to the next level? Do you want to play in the NPL, Surf Cup & the top college showcases? WCS leads Northern California for the second year in a row, having the most players signing college Scholarships & was announced the #1 NPL Club on the girls side in NorCal. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

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Sunday Feb 21st, 10:30-12pm
Callbacks Tuesday Feb 23rd, 5-6:30

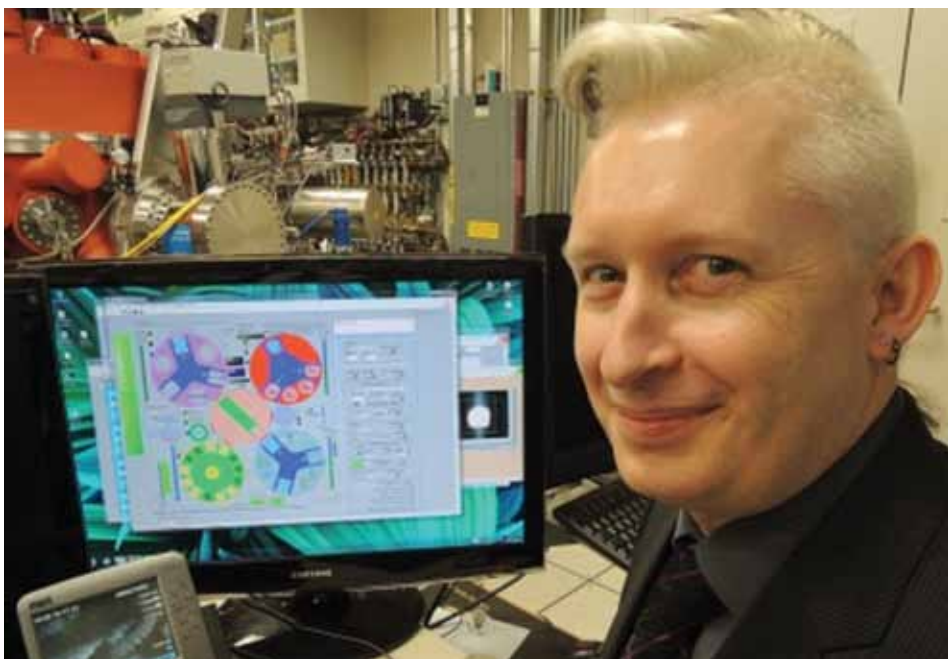
1998-2001 Tryouts will be in April, check website for details.



westcoastsoccerclub.com



Kevin Roche (right) will talk about his robots, including ThinBot (above).



Donor Network Partnering with Medical Center

Donor Network West, the organ procurement organization that heals lives through organ and tissue donation in northern California and Nevada, announced a partnership with San Ramon Regional Medical Center. Under the collaboration, the first of its kind, specific organ donors will be transferred to the hospital's facilities as a way to accommodate a more certain timeframe for donor families for the recovery of organs.

Organ recovery has traditionally been performed at community hospitals, utilizing the hospital's resources. Many times, the requested timeframe from donor families is difficult to accommodate. This agreement allows for the transplant team to complete recoveries at San Ramon Regional's on-campus Ambulatory Surgery Center, located across the street from Donor Network West's headquarters.

"Honoring and respecting the donors and families that we serve is at the core of our mission. This change in practice will help relieve some of the organ recovery timing stress for these families and allow them for better planning during a very difficult time," says Cindy Siljstrom, CEO of Donor Network West.

Donor Network West partners with 175 hospitals in 40 counties. Along with a more certain timeframe for donor families, transferring specific organ donors to San Ramon Regional Medical Center will improve the logistical challenges of transporting staff and surgeons across the region.

"We are excited to partner with the Donor Network to perform this important work, and look forward to continuing to serve the citizens of the tri-valley and beyond," said Gary Sloan, CEO of San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

In celebration of this new partnership, and as a symbol of San Ramon Regional Medical Center's commitment to saving lives, the Donate Life flag will be raised at the hospital. The flag pays tribute to donors and recipients whose lives have been touched by organ, eye and tissue donation.

There are 10,600 people waiting for an organ transplant in northern California and Nevada, of which 900 reside in Contra Costa County. One organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people and a tissue donor can heal more than 50 others. Anyone can register as a donor at DonorNetworkWest.org or at the DMV.

Meet ThinBot at the Livermore Library

IBM research scientist and roboticist Kevin Roche will present a program featuring his award-winning bartending robot, ThinBot, along with other cool machines on Saturday, February 27, 2016, 2 pm, at the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue.

This event is free and open to all. No alcoholic drinks will be used and served during this family-friendly program.

In addition to ThinBot, Roche will present his iPhone-controlled rover, Arthur-9, and his many wearable illumination projects. He will also show a video of some of his robot tools at the IBM lab.

Roche says, "If all goes well, I hope to leave plenty of time for the audience to play with ThinBot and Arthur-9 a bit themselves at the event!"

This program is part of Livermore Reads Together 2016, a community-wide reading program featuring

Isaac Asimov's I, Robot. 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.



A ribbon cutting was held recently for the new algae raceway testing facility at Sandia National Laboratories. The new raceway testing facility paves a direct path between laboratory research and solving the demand for clean energy. Pictured from left are Daniel Fishman, DOE Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Bioenergy Technologies Office, advanced algal systems; Allison Goss Eng, DOE Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Bioenergy Technologies Office, program manager for feedstock supply & logistics and advanced algal systems; Livermore Mayor John Marchand; Marianne Walck, Vice President of Sandia's California Laboratory and Energy & Climate business unit; Catharine Baker, Assemblywoman, State of California; and Blake Simmons, Chief Scientific and Technology Officer and Vice President of the Deconstruction Division at the Joint BioEnergy Institute. Photo - Dino Vourmas, Sandia National Laboratories

Pleasanton Chamber To Present Awards

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will recognize individuals, groups and businesses who have demonstrated excellence and community leadership in business, volunteer activities and achievement within the Pleasanton community on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at the Firehouse Arts Center. The Community Service Awards began in 1963 to recognize good people doing great things in the community and since then hundreds of recipients have been honored.

The honorees for the 53rd Annual Community Service Awards are:

Business Philanthropy: Fratellone Family Chiropractic. This award goes to businesses that have provided philanthropic service beyond the scope of normal business activity.

Excellence in Business: Wealth Management Associates. This award is for businesses that have made a positive impact in the Pleasanton community through their achievement within the scope of normal business activity.

Excellence in Service: Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation; for organizations that have contributed to Pleasanton.

Distinguished Individual Service: Eleanor Flatley. This goes to individuals who have contributed to Pleasanton through exceptional service to the community or philanthropic efforts.

Lifetime Achievement: Frank Capilla. Goes to in-

dividuals who have contributed to Pleasanton through exceptional service to the community or philanthropic efforts over the whole of a career.

Green Business: Pleasanton Corporate Commons / Hines. This award is for businesses that promote sustainable environmental business practices throughout their organization for the benefit of employees, customers or the community.

This event, sponsored by Chevron and Marriott Pleasanton, will celebrate amazing people who go the extra mile to make Pleasanton a fabulous place to live and do business. The public is invited to attend this fun-filled evening beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a hosted bar and heavy hors' d'oeuvres as well as a silent auction followed by the awards presentation. Cost to attend is \$35 per person and tickets are on sale now on the Chamber's website www.pleasanton.org

A limited number of sponsorship opportunities are available; contact the Chamber at 925.846.5858.

Pleasanton Program Looks at 'Real Friends'

The City of Pleasanton's free Community Education Series continues on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 with two special events. "Real Friends vs. The Other Kind" is a student workshop geared towards middle schoolers and will be held from

4:00pm to 5:00pm. "Connecting for Family Time in the Digital Age" is a parent workshop held from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Both events will take place in the large meeting room of the Pleasanton Public Library at 400 Old Bernal Avenue.

Real Friends vs. The Other Kind 4:00pm to 5:00pm: Students are invited to spend an hour with Annie Fox, M.Ed. the author of the Middle School Confidential Book series. Fox will guide students through the ups and downs of friendships. Students will learn everyday ways to de-stress and gather tools to figure out if someone is a real friend. This event is free and registration is recommended at pleasantonfun.com, course number 61603 (students only please).

Connecting for Family Time in the Digital Age 7:00pm to 8:30pm: Parents will discover practical tools for establishing "unplugged" family time and gather valu-

able ideas for what to do when you have your children's undivided attention. Fox will help you gain appreciation for the pressure your kids face to use social media and explore the benefits of being online. This event is also free and registration is recommended at pleasantonfun.com, course number 61604.

The Community Education Series was developed by the Community Services staff in conjunction with the Pleasanton Youth Commission to meet the goals of the Youth Master Plan. For more information, please email info@ptownlife.org, or call (925) 931-5359.

Camp Parks to Host Job Fair for Veterans

Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area will host a job fair for veterans and their families on Saturday, February 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Veterans from all branches of the military, in addition to civil service employees, are invited to attend.

Local employers looking to hire veterans include Oracle, Chevron, PG&E, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Comcast, Safeway, FBI, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, and the County of Alameda.

"We have created a career opportunity through our community partners that recognize the value our veterans bring to the marketplace," said Command Sgt. Major Richard Kreiberg, Camp

Parks Garrison CSM. The event will be held in building 677 on Camp Parks. Because space is limited, registration is required. For additional information, call (925) 875-4411.

Camp Parks is located at 620 6th Street in Dublin.

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DEADPOOL (R)	1:10	4:10	7:10	10:00	
DEADPOOL (R)-DBOX	12:10	3:10	6:10	9:10	
KUNG FU PANDA 3 (PG)	1:10	3:50	6:45	9:10	
ZOOLANDER 2 (PG13)	1:10	3:55	6:40	9:25	
HOW TO BE SINGLE (R)	12:50	3:50	6:50	9:50	
HAIL CAESAR (PG13)	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:50	
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS (PG13)	12:15	3:45	7:00	10:00	
THE REVENANT (R)		11:55	3:40	7:20	
PREVIEW FEB 18TH:					
GODS OF EGYPT (PG13)			7:10	9:40	
TRIPLE 9 (R)			7:00	9:50	

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SHORT NOTES

Dublin Police Academy

Adults who reside or work in Dublin may now apply for the Dublin Police Services 2016 Citizens' Police Academy. The ten-week program will be held on Wednesdays, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, beginning on April 6. The Academy will culminate with a graduation on June 8.

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 staff. Participants will have an opportunity to tour the Alameda County Crime Lab, Coroner's Office, Juvenile Hall, Santa Rita Jail (the fifth 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 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Potential participants must be at least 18 years old and must successfully complete a background investigations check, sign waiver forms, and be approved by the Chief of Police. Felony convictions or serious criminal arrests are cause for dismissing an applicant.

Applicants may complete an online application at www.dublin.ca.gov/citizensacademy2016 or obtain a hard copy application by e-mail, fax, or in person at Dublin Police Services, 100 Civic Plaza.

To request that an application be sent to you by e-mail or fax, please contact Officer Channing Rhodes at (925) 833-6622/channing.rhodes@dublin.ca.gov or Officer Christina Blaylock at (925) 833-6690/christina.blaylock@dublin.ca.gov. Once completed, ap-

plications may be submitted by e-mail, fax, mail, or in person. The application deadline is March 18, 2016.

Nature Programs

Livermore's Alkali Sink: An Introduction to a Complex Ecosystem will be the topic of a Sat., Feb. 20 presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff. Meet Ranger Patti Cole at 9 a.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue.

There is a special, highly misunderstood ecosystem that can be found on the northside of I-580. Words like "Birds Beak," "alkali sink" and even "wasteland" are sometimes used when talking about this area. The presentation will provide an introduction to the saline-alkali ecosystem, with a focus on what makes this area a unique gem for Livermore. Please e-mail pcole@larpd.org in advance if you plan on coming so there is enough seating for everyone.

First Flowers will be the subject of a Sun., Feb. 21 program. Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 10 a.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

Spring begins early in California. Join Ranger Amy for a 5-mile round-trip hike to see what's blooming. Participants are likely to find blue dicks, buttercups, Johnny jump-ups and more. Learn how to identify these as well as the new growth of other plants that have yet to bloom.

The daily parking fee has increased to \$7 per vehicle at either entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. There is an annual parking pass available that provides significant savings over the daily fee for regular park visitors. A \$3 donation is requested to help support the programs unless other fees are specified. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Family Hike

Pine Canyon Family Hike on Sat., Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. This nature walk will include information about the plant and animal life in beautiful Castle Rock Park.

See where owls and bluebirds nest, and where there is a sulphur spring that was once used to cure ailments.

It will be an easy paced hike with a lot of stop, see, and learn along the way. Good for families with children and those interested in learning about the area. Bring sunscreen, a hat, plenty of water, and a snack.

Register on Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/save-mount-diablos-pine-canyon-family-hike>.

Hospice Education

To help family caregivers know what to expect in the final days, including transitioning to palliative (comfort) care, hospice services, and making funeral arrangements, Hope Hospice is offering a community education program. The Last Chapter: Facing End-of-Life Issues and Handling Grief and Loss, on February 20, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

During this program, the complexities of grief and loss will be examined, and participants will be provided with coping strategies for themselves and their families, with the ultimate goal of looking towards a future renewed with hopes and dreams.

Any community member engaged in the role of family caregiver or expecting to soon become a caregiver is invited to participate. Class size limited to 30. Light refreshments will be served.

This class will be held at Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Avenue, Suite 100, Dublin (2nd floor conference room).

Register online at HopeHospice.com.

price.com or call (925) 829-8770. This program is available at no cost to all community members, however donations to Hope Hospice are greatly appreciated.

Water Instruction

The City of Pleasanton's Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center is offering a variety of American Red Cross courses for those interested in gaining certification as a Lifeguard and/or Water Safety Instructor.

Upon successful completion of the Lifeguarding or Water Safety Instructor course, candidates may apply for employment with the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center.

Lifeguarding - open to ages 15 and up: You do not need to be on a swim team nor be a competitive swimmer to take this class; you just need to have basic swimming skills. This course combines online learning sessions with hands-on practice of first aid, CPR/AED and lifeguarding skills. Class times do not reflect online learning sessions. An additional \$35 non-refundable fee, payable to the American Red Cross will be due following the first class session.

Sa 3/12, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. and M - F 4/4-4/8, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; 6 classes; \$195.00R/\$215.00N

Water safety instructor (swim lesson teacher) - open to ages 16 and up: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be qualified to teach American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim courses. This course is a blended learning opportunity, which will allow students in-person water training paired with online learning sessions. Class times do not reflect required online learning sessions. An additional \$35 non-refundable fee, payable to the American Red Cross will be due following the first class session.

Sa 4/2 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. and Sa/Su 4/30-5/8 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; 5 classes; \$180.00R/\$198.00N

For course prerequisites and more information on blended learning courses, contact the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center at 931-3420. Register at www.pleasantonfun.com.

Current City of Pleasanton job postings, including Lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor positions can be found by visiting: <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/depts/hr/jobs/default.asp>.

Bright Kids Program

Solar power contractor Rayco Energy has launched "Bright Kids," a fundraising campaign to benefit the Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF). For each solar system purchased by Livermore homeowners and businesses between March 1, 2016 and July 1, 2016, Rayco will donate up to \$1,000 to LVEF.

"We do a lot of business in Livermore, and it's extremely important to me that we give back to the communities that support us," notes Rayco founder Ricky Chu. "Many of our employees have kids, and we feel very strongly about the value of a good education."

LVEF President David Jonas states, "Rayco has been a good friend to LVEF, and we're extremely grateful for this latest show of support. 'Bright Kids' is truly a win-win: Generate clean energy for your home or business, and generate funding for Livermore schools."

For more information contact Ricky Chu at ricky@raycoenergy.com.

New Translation Program

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that it has

launched a new language translation feature on its consumer website, ColdwellBankerHomes.com, in response to the growing interest in U.S. real estate by international buyers.

In addition to English, visitors to ColdwellBankerHomes.com are now able to view information on homes for sale in 12 other languages including Bengali, Chinese (simplified and traditional), French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese. The language feature is easily accessible through a drop down box at the top of each page.

Launched in December 2015, ColdwellBankerHomes.com is a new consumer website that unifies 27 brokerage websites that serve 50 of the largest 100 metropolitan areas in the U.S. The site features all of NRT's Coldwell Banker branded and MLS property listings in the regions the company serves. NRT is the parent company of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

According to the National Association of REALTORS®, 2015 was another very strong year for foreign investment in U.S. real estate. The dollar volume of all foreign investment in the U.S. reached \$104 billion for the 12 months ended March 2015, up 13 percent from the same period a year ago.

A recent NAR study found Chinese buyers were the number-one international investors in U.S. real estate over the past year with \$28.6 billion in sales volume, nearly three times the number-two country, Canada. As recently as six years ago, Canadian investment in the U.S. market was more than double China's, which also ranked behind India and the U.K. and was at the same level as Mexico.

OBITUARIES

Herbert William Street Oct 29, 1918 ~ Jan 24, 2016 In Loving Memory

Long time Livermore resident, Herb Street, was taken to be with our Heavenly Father on January 24, 2016. He was born in Oakland, California on October 29, 1918, the fourth of four children.

Herb is predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Virginia.

Herb is survived by his son, John Street, of Livermore; daughter Susan (Mike) Hamilton of Bakersfield, California; grandchildren Kimberly (Mark) Guerard, Gregory, and Timothy Hamilton, and great grandchild Luke Guerard, all of southern California. He also leaves many dear nieces and nephews.

Herb was a long time member of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod and a 50 year member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livermore. He was the Chief Building Official for the City of Livermore in the 60's and 70's. In retirement, he and Virginia traveled all around America and spent much time helping and visiting friends and church members.

Family and friends are invited to attend the memorial service, Saturday, February 20, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1385 S. Livermore Ave, Livermore. Inurnment will be at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery at a later date.

Flowers or memorial donations in Herb's name may be sent to Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Ruth Caroline Easton March 6, 1928 - Feb. 8, 2016

Ruth Caroline Selton was born in Oakland on March 6, 1928. An only child to Martin and Flora Selton, her childhood was spent with her parents in Oregon, Ohio, and Washington before they settled down in Santa Ana for her high school years. There Ruth met her first husband, John Harold Powers II. After they married in 1947, Ruth worked as a secretary and raised their four daughters while John attended college and medical school in the Bay Area. In 1958, the family moved to Livermore while John was based at Camp Parks.



After a few years of retirement there, Ruth once again returned to Livermore to be close to her daughters and grandchildren, and she spent her last years here in the Tri-Valley.

Ruth was a lover of adventure and believed that the best life was one that ended with a passport full of stamps. One of her goals was to be able to say she set foot in every single state of the United States. She eventually made it to 48. Over her life she visited at least 33 national parks and historic sites. Up until just a few years ago she was still going on auto trips with friends to New Orleans and the South. But of all the places she had visited, her favorite place on earth was Yosemite National Park. She visited the park countless times, sometimes taking her grandchildren for a treat, other times showing

the park to friends visiting from out of town.

She was a huge fan of NASCAR racing and loved to follow her favorite drivers. Much to the consternation of her children, she sometimes drove like one, too. She loved to sew and knit and her love of needlework has been passed down to her daughters. She was an avid reader; she read every single Louis L'Amour western and was a huge fan of biographies and mysteries as well.

Ruth worked hard as a secretary her entire life. She was never wealthy in the material sense, but she was enormously rich in the number of friends she had and the adventures she experienced. She passed on to "her girls" a sense of goodness, the importance of always telling the truth and treating others fairly, and a belief that life should be lived to the fullest. Ruth was preceded in death by her daughter, Patricia Sue Powers, and she is survived by her daughters Linda Marie Powers Souza, Becky Powers Miles, and Laurie Lee Powers, her sons-in-law Robert Souza and Billy Miles, 6 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great grandchild, and many friends. She will be missed by all. At her request, no services will be held, and her ashes will be scattered at the place that she loved so much: Yosemite National Park.

Larry Raymond Farnam Loving husband, father, son, brother, grandfather and friend.

Larry passed away on January 12, 2016 at San Ramon Regional Hospital with his family at his side. He was born on August 4, 1939 to parents, Kenneth R. and Gayle (Sneed) Farnam in Turlock, Ca.

Larry began life in Turlock, Ca., the youngest of 3 by 10

min to twin sister Lenore Whalen.

From an early age he loved the outdoors, becoming an expert hunter, fly fisherman extraordinaire.

As a young boy, Larry was very adventurous and loved animals, especially wild ones he could tame. He was always bringing them home, i.e., snakes, squirrels, birds, whatever he could catch.

Growing up he was an all around athlete in basketball, football.

He was also a terrific diver on the Aqua Cowboys swim team.

The family moved to Livermore in 1947 where he attended Fifth Street Elementary and Junction

Ave Elementary then on to Livermore High, graduating in 1957.

In 1960 he married Rose Marie Weiss and had 2 sons, Kenny and Kirk Farnam.

During those early years he worked at Coast Manufacturing. In 1968 he went to work for Steiny & Co Electric, becoming a member of IBEW, San Francisco local #6.

He operated their big crane, setting traffic signals and street lights all over Northern California. In 1990 he went to work for Columbia Electric until his retirement on January 1, 1999.

Larry remarried in 1970 to the love of his life of 46 years, Maxine (Self) Fearon. Between them, they had six sons, always hunting and fishing together at N3, enjoying the Farnam cabin and Golden Ram Hunting club going after ducks, pheasants, doves and quail, always putting delicious wild caught fish and game on the table.

They also enjoyed many excursions to the casinos, movies, and family events, always having fun.

Larry was preceded in death by parents, Gayle and Kenneth Farnam, sister, Nancy Lomax, granddaughters Alicia Marie Farnam and Angela Fearon, and brother in law, Jack Whalen.

He leaves to grieve his loss, beloved wife, Maxine Farnam; twin sis, Lenore Whalen; sons, Kenny (Janice); Kirk (Maria) Farnam; Ken French; Leroy, Tucker

and Danny Fearon; grandchildren, Kayla and Hannah French; Dougie, Donny and Michael Fearon; Amy & Lloyd Rochon, Kimberly and Marc Menezes; and Luana Silva; and 18 great grandchildren, Aaron, Alex, Zachary and Issabella Fearon; Anthony, Anissa, Alani, Alonzo, Anissa, and Alessio (Rochon); Breanna, Brittany and Tyler (Menezes); Alejandro, Izavel, Elizabeth, Gabriela, and Paula (Menezes); brother in law Peter Lomax; cousins, nieces and nephews, and so many dear friends.

He was so loved and cherished by so many and will be greatly missed.

Per Larry's wishes there will be no service.

He will be laid to rest in Memory Gardens in Livermore. Burial will be private.

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There is a small charge for photographs in the obituaries.

Memoriam ads can also be placed in The Independent when families want to honor the memories of their loved ones.

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Pictured are (from left) Rose Pham, Regent Sharon Garrison, Henry Gleason, Erin Pickett, Barbara Wills DAR American History Essay Chairman.

Students Share Their Knowledge in DAR Events

By Carol Graham

An award ceremony hosted by the Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) took place on February 6th, honoring two winners of the Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest, and three winners of the American History Essay Contest.

The Good Citizens Award, open only to high school seniors, involves student statements, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and a two-hour timed essay.

The prompt for this year's essay was: "Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility to Preserve It: Of our American rights and freedoms, which one would you choose to celebrate and why?"

"The freedom of the press is a freedom to be celebrated due to its contribution to literacy rates and its ability to inform the public of relevant, defining issues," wrote first-place winner, Malvika Singhal. "The freedom of the press is one of the most effective ways to address injustice and incite action for causes that may affect people across the nation. Through the press, the truth is endorsed."

Singhal, of Granada High School, earned a scholarship of \$1,000.

"The fact that the essay was timed made it possible for me to produce a very genuine response to the prompt," said Singhal. "I felt honored not only to have won, but to have been given the opportunity to participate. This is the first scholarship I have ever received, and I am so thankful for all the support I was given to pursue this opportunity. I feel a greater sense of confidence in my writing ability and my ability to share a relatable opinion with others."

Second-place winner Ryan McCool, also of Granada, earned a \$500 scholarship.

"If it were not for the freedom of speech, the Bill of Rights could easily have been suppressed, which in turn would have revoked all basic American freedoms,"



Pictured are Ryan McCool, and Malvika Singhal.

wrote McCool in his essay. "While our right to speak freely is no longer unique, it is indisputably the source of our growth from a grouping of minor colonies to a great nation whose beacon shines on the faces of the lost and weary, a great nation where Lady Liberty whispers of opportunity and safety, a great nation where everyone's cry for protection and for rights was, is, and will be heard forevermore."

Both students read their essays before an audience of 60 at the award ceremony, which took place at Livermore's Asbury United Methodist Church.

"I was excited," said McCool. "I didn't expect to win so it definitely was a confidence boost for my writing skills. My favorite moment was meeting the members of DAR at the award ceremony. They are all really friendly and love talking about the things I'm involved in."

McCool hopes to study biochemistry or molecular biology, and eventually to pursue patent law, while Singhal plans to study Biochemical Engineering.

"I am particularly interested in research and a career in medicine," she said. "My goal in life is to help as many people as I can, and by being a researcher and physician, I can do that on both a community and individual scale."

Students in 5th through 8th grades participated in the

DAR American History Essay Contest, titled this year: "A Colonial Family's Reaction to the Stamp Act." Essays are judged for historical accuracy, adherence to topic, organization of materials, interest, originality, spelling, grammar, punctuation and neatness.

The three winners are: Henry Gleason, 5th grade, Arroyo Seco Elementary School; and Rose Pham, 6th grade, and Erin Pickett, 8th grade, of East Avenue Middle School. Each student earned \$100, while their sponsoring teachers received \$50.

"These students are being well prepared by their teachers for future education," said American History Essay Contest Chairman Barbara Wills.

Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a lineage-based, non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and ensuring the nation's strong future by supporting education. Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter DAR was organized in 2000 and takes its name from Josefa Higuera Livermore, wife of Robert Livermore, for whom the town and valley were named.

To learn more, visit www.californiadar.org/chapters/jhlivermore.

Spectrum Community Services To Take Part in "March for Meals"

Meals on Wheels of Alameda County has announced that all five (5) providers in the county will be participating in the 14th annual March for Meals – a month-long nationwide celebration of the Meals on Wheels organization, as well as an event to call attention to, and request support for, the homebound seniors they serve.

While Alameda County Meals on Wheels providers have more than 2,100 senior clients, who without their services would likely go hungry, recent data shows that the county has approximately 40,400 seniors that have uncertain access to food. In order to bridge the gap, Alameda County Meals on Wheels is asking for your support for the current and ever growing needs of seniors in our county.

Alameda County March for Meals celebrations will take place on Thursday, March 10th. Hosting one event will be Spectrum Community Services, serving Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol: Congressman Eric Swalwell and Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley at 9:30 am at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Register to ride along and deliver meals at 510-881-0300 x 238 or VNaiker@spectrumcs.org.

"The service that we provide seniors is critical," says Art Hoffman, President of the Meals on Wheels of Alameda County Board of Directors. "Together, we enable homebound seniors to live independently, have healthier lives at home with nutritious meals and wellness checks, and feel more connected to their community with the human interaction drivers provide."

March for Meals is a Meals on Wheels America event was created in 2002 to increase awareness of the gap between the seniors served and those in need that seek assistance due to their declining income, declining public and private resources, and rising food, transportation and operational costs.

To donate or volunteer, go to www.feedingseniors.org. For more general information on March for Meals visit www.marchformeals.com.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 513626

The following person(s) doing business as: L & R Trucking LLC, 1158 Catalina Drive Apt. 8, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

L & R Trucking LLC, 1158 Catalina Drive Apt. 8, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by a Limited liability company
The registrant has not yet begun to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above.

Signature of Registrants :s/ Luis A. Nieves Fuentes, Manager
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 19, 2016. Expires January 19, 2021.

The Independent Legal No. 3902. Published January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 2016.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 513814

The following person(s) doing business as: D&B Handyman and Home Repair Service, LLC, 3931 Fernwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

D&B Handyman and Home Repair Service, LLC, 3931 Fernwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94588
This business is conducted by a Limited liability company
The registrant began to transact business using the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 1, 2016.

Signature of Registrants

:s/ Richard Duffy, President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 25, 2016. Expires January 25, 2021.

The Independent Legal No. 3903. Published February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2016.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 513289

The following person(s) doing business as: The Red Hen House - Farm & Kitchen, 12461 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

(1) Nancy Jane Mueller (2) Robert James Mueller, 12461 Mines Road, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by a Married couple
The registrant has not yet begun to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above.

Signature of Registrants :s/ Nancy Jane Mueller
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 8, 2016. Expires January 8, 2021.

The Independent Legal No. 3904. Published February 4, 11, 18, 25, 2016.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 514156

The following person(s) doing business as: Valley Premier

Locations, 2487 Bay Meadows Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Susan Ann Valley, 2487 Bay Meadows Circle, Pleasanton, CA 94566
This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant has not yet begun to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above.

Signature of Registrants :s/ Susan Ann Valley
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2016. Expires February 2, 2021.

The Independent Legal No. 3905. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 2016.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 514224

The following person(s) doing business as: DMK & Company, 469 Kensington Common, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Dena M. Falkenstein, 469 Kensington Common, Livermore, CA 94551
This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant has not yet begun to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above.

Signature of Registrants :s/ Dena M. Falkenstein

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 3, 2016. Expires February 3, 2021.

The Independent Legal No. 3906. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 2016.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 513358

The following person(s) doing business as: Barb Wired Designs, 1421 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Barbara Santos, 1421 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566
This business is conducted by an Individual
The registrant began to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above on October 1, 2008.

Signature of Registrants :s/ Barbara Santos, Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 11, 2016. Expires January 11, 2021.

The Independent Legal No. 3907. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 2016.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 513852

The following person(s) doing business as: Pampered Tail Waggerz Pet Care, 3136 Bridle Ct., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered

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by the following owner(s): Tracy L. Schmidt, 3136 Bridle Ct., Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above. Signature of Registrants :s/ Tracy L. Schmidt This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 26, 2016. Expires January 26, 2021. The Independent Legal No. 3908. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 2016.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 514314-16

The following person(s) doing business as: Home Loan Funding, The Home Mart, Trupro Real Estate Services, 5820 Stoneridge Mall Road, #110-28, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gary Stange, 4103 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above on August 8, 1993. Signature of Registrants :s/ Gary Stange This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2016. Expires February 5, 2021. The Independent Legal No. 3909. Published February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 2016.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD Urban Water Management Plan

Zone 7 Water Agency is a water wholesaler serving over 220,000 people in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin in Alameda County, and the Dougherty Valley area of San Ramon in Contra Costa County. It sells treated water to four retailers: the City of Pleasanton, City of Livermore, Dublin San Ramon Services District and California Water Service Company.

As an urban water provider, Zone 7 prepares an Urban Water Management Plan aimed at analyzing and planning for a reliable water supply over a 20-year planning horizon considering normal, dry and multiple dry years.

As required under Section 10642 et seq. of the California Water Code, this is to notify the public that at its meeting to begin at 7 p.m. on March 16, 2016, the Zone 7 Water Agency Board of Directors plans to conduct a public hearing on, and consider adoption of, the Agency's Draft 2015 Urban Water Management Plan. The hearing will be held at Zone 7 Administrative Offices, 100 North Canyons Parkway, Livermore.

A copy of the Draft 2015 Urban Water Management Plan is available for public review at the Zone 7 Water Agency office at 100 North Canyons Parkway in Livermore, on the website, www.zone7water.com, and at the following local libraries:

Alameda County Public Library in Dublin
200 Civic Plaza, Dublin

Livermore Public Library
1188 South Livermore Ave., Livermore

Pleasanton Public Library
400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton

Public comment will be welcome at the hearing and you are encouraged to comment before then, if possible, by contacting Amparo Flores at aflores@zone7water.com. If you have any questions regarding this notice, contact Boni Brewer, Communication Specialist, at (925) 454-5015.

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2) CATS/ DOGS

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

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

FERAL CAT FOUNDATION Cat & kitten adoptions now at the new Livermore Petco on Saturdays from 10:00AM to 2:30PM. We have many adorable, tame kittens that have been tested for FIV & FELV, altered & vaccinated. We also have adult cats & ranch cats for adoption.

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REAL ESTATE NEWS & NOTICES

Deduct This, Not That: Tax Tips for Homeowners

By Cher Wollard
Homeownership brings with it significant tax benefits, and a few potential pitfalls.

Every homeowner's financial situation is different, of course, so you'll want to consult with a tax professional regarding which tax breaks you are – or are not – entitled to.

1. Deduct this: Interest paid on up to \$1 million of the first mortgage on your primary residence or second home, such as vacation property. If you are married but filing separate returns, you may each deduct interest on up to \$500,000 in mortgage debt. Not this: Interest on mortgage debt beyond \$1 million. Interest on debt that is not secured by the home. Interest on mortgage debt for real estate other than your legal primary residence or second home. Interest on mortgage debt paid by someone else, even if it's on your home.

2. Deduct this: Interest paid on up to \$100,000 of a refinance loan, home equity loan or home equity line of credit on your primary or second home. Again, for married persons who file separate returns, you can only deduct interest on \$50,000. Not this: There are restrictions if your mortgage debt exceeds the property's fair market value.

3. Deduct this: Mortgage insurance, sometimes called MI or PMI, which protect the lender, and is usually required on loans for more than 80 percent of the value of the home. If you purchased your home with less than a 20 percent downpayment, chances are you were required to carry mortgage insurance. This insurance can be pricey – hundreds of dollars each month. Being able to write it off against your income at least saves a bit on federal and state taxes.

The deduction is phased out by 10 percent for each \$1,000 by which your adjusted gross income tops \$100,000 for married couples or \$50,000 for single people or married people filing separately. So you can't use the deduction if your adjusted gross income exceeds \$110,000 for married people or \$55,000 for singles and married people filing separately.

Not this: Mortgage insurance is not the same as homeowner's insurance, which is a policy you take out to cover your home in case of fire, flood or other disaster.

4. Deduct this: Property taxes, which you pay to the county either directly or through an impound account with your mortgage payment.

Not this: Property taxes that you owe but either haven't paid yet or paid in a previous year. The IRS operates on a Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 calendar. The county assessor's office uses July 1 through June 30 as its fiscal year. To add to the confusion, impound accounts are usually padded by a few extra months' worth of property taxes so it never runs short.

You may deduct property taxes you actually paid in the calendar year, if you paid them directly; or that the impound account paid on your behalf for that year.

So, for example, for fiscal year 2015-16, you probably paid one installment in November or December with the second one due before April 1. So you can deduct the first installment – because you made that payment in 2015, but not the second one.

If you owned your home during the 2014-15 fiscal year, you can also deduct the payment you made last Spring.

5. Deduct this: Discount points. If you took out a mortgage in 2015 to purchase property or refinance your mortgage, you probably paid discount points, sometimes just called "points," to lower your rate.

When you purchase property, discount points may be deducted in full in the year in which they were paid.

Not this: When you refinance, the discount points usually must be amortized over the life of the loan. So, for example, if you paid \$1,500 in discount points on a 15-year home equity loan, you could likely deduct \$100 per year for the life of the loan.

The deduction for points is subject to certain criteria, so consult with your tax advisor as to whether or not you can claim this advantage.

6. Deduct this: Certain home improvements. If you renovate your home to accommodate the needs of a chronically ill or disabled person, and the renovations do not add to the overall value of the home, the cost of that project may be tax deductible.

Installing qualifying alternative energy improvements may allow you to claim a deduction or even a modest energy tax credit.

Not this: Paint, flooring, roofing, room additions, kitchen remodels and most other costs of maintaining and improving your home are not tax deductible.

If you met the lifetime cap on energy-efficiency credits in a previous year, you may not claim another one.

7. Deduct this: Home offices. Some people who work from home may be able to deduct the expenses of creating and maintaining a home office. Regulations regarding home office deductions are very specific, so be sure to consult your tax advisor.

Not this: If you turn a profit when you sell your home, you may have recapture the deduction on a future return.

8. Deduct this: First-time homebuyers who earned a mortgage credit certificate or MCC before purchasing their home are entitled to an MCC credit.

Not this: If you used the original homebuyer tax credit of 2008, you must repay 1/15th of that credit each year through 2023.

Those who sold a home last year have other tax issues to consider.

Profits made on the sale of real estate are generally considered to be capital gains, rather than income. But if the property was your primary residence, you are likely entitled to a hefty exemption in your capital gains tax.

If you bought or sold a home in 2015, you'll need a copy of the end-of-year statement from your mortgage company as well as the escrow statement.

Your real estate agent or escrow officer should be able to provide you with a copy of the statement if you do not have yours handy.

For information and advice on which deductions and credits you may be eligible to claim, consult a tax professional. Or see details at www.irs.gov and www.ftb.ca.gov

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, Drysdale Properties, in Livermore.

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Family Feud - A Fun Experience for Local Family

By Carol Graham

For the five women making up the Family Feud team, competition comes naturally. "We're fans of games and competition," said Gloria Ramil Omania. "Our family reunion is actually an Olympics-style competition, complete with opening and closing ceremonies, competing teams, and games - including obstacle courses and speed tournaments."

The Family Feud episode featuring Livermore's Ramil family aired on January 18th.

"Family Feud has been a favorite of our family for 20 years. We became even greater fans when Steve Harvey started hosting," said Gloria, whose niece Leslee Ramil posted on Facebook last spring that auditions were taking place in San Francisco.

"The post was met with great enthusiasm," said Gloria. "Leslee submitted a video of the fun-loving cousins playing games. The family was invited to audition.



The Ramil family poses with Family Feud host Steve Harvey.

The cousins invited me to come as an alternate. I called myself their 'alternut' but was ultimately chosen to be among the five because, we believe, Family Feud wanted an oldie on the team."

Gloria lived in Livermore

from 1960-69 and graduated from Granada High School. Leslee, a Livermore High School graduate, is a core teacher at Mendenhall Middle School. The other team members are: Jennifer Clapp, Gloria's daughter;

and Roxanne Kopka and Melanie Ramil, Gloria's nieces.

"About a week after we auditioned, Leslee, as the initiator of our participation, received a call from the producers to inform us our family had been chosen," said Gloria. "Family Feud arranged for us to travel to Atlanta. The taping for the episode took two days, July 9-10. But after winning our first game, our stay was extended through the weekend, allowing us extra time to enjoy Atlanta."

Airfare and hotel costs were paid by Family Feud; dining expenses were paid by the Ramils.

"Our favorite memory was winning our first game! We won all four rounds and cheered our heads off each time," said Gloria. "It was interesting to experience the behind-the-scenes activities for the production

of a nationally-televised TV show - from the auditions to observing the producers. It was also surreal and exciting to see our name RAMIL on the Family Feud stage after watching the game all these years."

Premiering in 1976, Family Feud is a television game show in which two families compete to name the most popular responses to survey questions. Examples of questions are: Name a reason someone might make fun of your car; or, name something people cut. For the Ramils, the most memorable question was: Name something that your dream man has that, sadly, your husband does not. Jennifer's answer made YouTube under the heading, "Dream man is the total package."

It was the kind of response relished by Steve Harvey, and encouraged by

the producers who tell participants to be enthusiastic and have fun.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Gloria. "We had the time of our lives and enjoyed being tourists in Atlanta. For me, as the mom and auntie in the group, I will always cherish the bonding time with my wonderful daughter and nieces."

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American Swim Academy (ASA) has partnered with the Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF) in presenting the Walk for Education since the inception of W4E 8 years ago. Last year's Walk marks the end of ASA's involvement in this wonderful community event and LVEF fundraiser. To show LVEF's appreciation for ASA, LVEF Board Member David Darlington recruited student artists from Granada High School to hand paint a clay pot, which David presented to ASA Marketing Director Jennifer Oliveira at the February 2 Livermore School Board meeting. The students created the "Wave of Thanks" theme which now adorns the pot. Pictured are (from left) LVEF Board Member Ellen Goold, LVEF Co-Founder Bill Dunlop, student artist Mary Carmona, student artist Kemi Awosanya, LVEF Board Member David Darlington, and ASA Marketing Director Jennifer Oliveira. Photo - Sam Tobis

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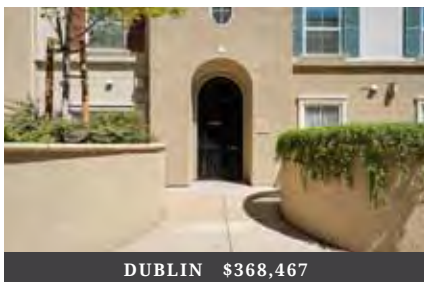
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Story of two murderesses - Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly

Chicago - The Musical on LPC Stage

"Chicago-The Musical" will be staged at Las Positas College in Livermore on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from March 4 through 13.

All performances will be held at the Mertes Center for the Arts Black Box Theater on the LPC campus at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore. Friday and Saturday performances are at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday performances are at 2:00 p.m.

With a cast and crew primarily comprised of LPC theater students and directed by faculty member Titian Lish, "Chicago-The Musical" perform this vibrant musical set in the roaring twenties with choreography by Morgan Mulholand, vocal direction by Diana Cefalo, and music direction by Jo Anne Fos-selman.

"Chicago-The Musical"

features show-stopping songs in the toe-tapping tale of Roxie Hart, who murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband Amos to take the rap--until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another "Merry Murderess," Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the American Dream: fame, fortune and all that jazz.

"Chicago-The Musical" is based on a book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse, with a script adaptation by David Thompson. The play's music was by John Kander, with lyrics by Fred Ebb.

"Las Positas College is pleased to bring the spectacular energy of Chicago-The Musical to the Tri-Valley this season,"

(continued on page 5)

Opera Provides Preview of Upcoming Production of 'The Italian Girl in Algiers'

Livermore Valley Opera will showcase talented opera singers who will appear in the upcoming production of Rossini's "The Italian Girl in Algiers" in two free OperaLIVE! events in the Tri-Valley.

The presentations will take place on Sunday, February 28, 2:00 p.m. at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue and on Sunday, March 6, 2 p.m. at the Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. The Pleasanton is sponsored by Friends of Pleasanton Library; the Livermore event by Friends of the Livermore Library "OperaLIVE! events are free, public events that



Marco Stefani

present opera to the community so that people who might not otherwise have the opportunity can experience this beautiful music and drama," says LVO President Jim Schmidt. "We hope that the experience will encourage people to seek out opera and other live performing arts."



Kristen Choi

The library performances occur prior to each opera production, and over the years attendance expands. It's one of many outreach programs LVO offers that include visits by singers to schools in Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin.

The one-hour per-

(continued on page 4)



A Program of 'Delightful Strings and Joyful Songs' Planned

Lawrence Kohl and the Pacific Chamber Symphony are bringing music lovers this February another creative program combining the music of compos-

ers from the Baroque area to the 20th century. The programs of the Chamber Symphony are designed by Kohl to both enlighten and delight its audience. On

February 28 in Livermore at 2 p.m., Scarlatti, Respighi and Dvorák will come to life with the professional musicians and Bay Area

(continued on page 6)



Pictured above left is the Pacific Chamber Symphony.



Nicolas Bearde

The Music of Lou Rawls

Recording artist Nicolas Bearde brings his trio to the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton with a special tribute to the legendary, Grammy-winning vocalist Lou Rawls. Nicolas conjures up Lou's spirit in song, from the early blues and jazz years to the hugely popular R&B hits that helped make Lou Rawls world-famous.

Included on the set list are Tobacco Road, Natural Man, Lady Love, You'll Never Find (Another Love Like Mine), and I'd Rather Drink Muddy Water, and many more of Lou's timeless hits.

Nicolas Bearde: A Salute to Lou Rawls. Sunday, February 28, at 2:00 p.m. Reserved seating tickets are \$15.00 - \$25.00, and can be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org, by calling 925-931-4848, and in person at the Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday - Friday 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and two hours prior to performances.

Bearde is familiar to audiences for his recordings and live performances around the world, and as a singer of depth, range and technique with his famous 'buttery baritone.' Bearde is also frequently lauded as a versatile and highly respected showman. With Nashville roots, and San Francisco heart, Nicolas' unique approach and electrifying delivery is soulful, swinging, improvisational and always memorable.

For the past 20 years, Nicolas has entertained audiences with his vocal stylings as a member of Bobby McFerrin's wildly innovative a cappella ensemble, "Voicestra," while carving out his own distinctive solo career.

"He's sung with McFerrin and acted with Eastwood - Bearde taps into music's deeper currents, where love, desire and heartache freely intermingle," notes reviewer Andrew Gilbert, San Jose Mercury News. Brent Black in Critical Jazz writes, "Nicolas Bearde is the embodiment of taking that old school sound and making it new cool."



Known as the "Cirque du Soleil of Song," m-Pact to perform in Pleasanton.

m-Pact Brings Only the Human Voice to Pop-Jazz Vocals

Hailed as "one of the best pop-jazz vocal groups in the world" by the San Francisco Chronicle, m-pact hits the Firehouse Arts Center main stage on Saturday, February 27, at 8:00 p.m. Known as an acapella powerhouse, m-pact is respected worldwide as a cutting edge trailblazer in the realm of vocal music.

This six-man ensemble has cultivated a new generation of fans of the fresh, raw power of nature's "first instrument" - the human voice.

Reserved seating tickets are \$32 - \$42. Tickets can be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org, by calling 925-931-4848, and in person at the Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday - Friday 12:00 noon-6:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm, and two hours prior to the performance. Free lot parking is available at all times.

One reviewer writes, "Imagine the smooth soul of Stevie Wonder, the percussive power of Stomp, the funk and drive of Earth, Wind, & Fire, the hip licks of Take 6, and the brass bite of the Harry Connick Jr. Big Band...All

created by the human voice alone!"

Known as the "Cirque du Soleil of Song," m-pact has racked up plenty of awards, including Vocal Group of the Year (Los Angeles Music Awards), Best Jazz Album, Best Pop/R&B Song, Best Male Vocalist, and Best Vocal Arrangement (the CARA Awards), Best Seasonal Album ("Indie" awards), and Best Unsigned Band (Billboard Magazine).

Now based in Los Angeles, the six vocalists of m-pact lend their voices to 20 or 30 films per year, from Spider-man 3 to High School Musical. Over the last dozen years, their signature sound has been used in both TV themes and animated Disney feature films, and is enjoyed on jazz and pop radio worldwide.

Performing regularly in concert halls and jazz venues across four continents, m-pact has performed with such pop superstars as Sheryl Crowe, Natasha Bedingfield, and Boys II Men. And their jazz credits include performances with Ray Charles, Natalie Cole, Bobbie McFerrin, the Maynard Ferguson Big Band, and many others.

Attack the Block Next in 'Thrill Rides' Film Series

The February installment in the Firehouse Arts Center's "Thrill Rides" Movie Night Series is a goodie. Attack the Block (rated R, 88 minutes) screens Wednesday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. This indie sci-fi thriller with a funny-bone follows a crazy mix of tough street kids in South London as they defend their block from an alien invasion, turning a housing project into a sci-fi battleground... Inner City vs. Outer Space.

Arrive a few minutes early to learn some fun trivia about the film. Free popcorn. Soda and snacks are available to purchase at

the lobby concessions bay, and can be taken inside the theater. (No outside food or beverages are permitted.)

General admission tick-

ets are \$10.00 at the door. Tickets can also be purchased in advance online at www.firehousearts.org, by calling 925-931-4848, and

in person at the Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

This Republic of Ireland

(continued on page 5)





GuGu Drum Group, Broadway's Next H!t Musical (Photo - James Shubinski) and The Triplets of Belleville (from left) offer unique entertainment experiences at the Bankhead Theater.



Trio of Unique Shows on Calendar

Over the first weekend in March, the Bankhead Theater will showcase a trio of unique and very different shows featuring entertainment from France, China and the United States.

Starting on Thursday, March 3, the comic French film masterpiece "Triplets of Belleville" will be presented with live orchestral music on stage, conducted by the composer Benoît Charest. On Friday, "Broadway's Next H!T Musical" offers audiences a chance to participate in the creation of a completely new and totally improvised musical comedy show, watching it as it unfolds on stage. Then on Saturday, March 5, China's GuGu Drum Group will tell timeless and traditional Chinese proverbs, fables and fairy tales in an engaging show filled with authentic rhythm and movement.

The animated French film, "Triplets of Belleville," debuted in 2003 and has been described by The New York Times as "Bizarre and wonderful curious and captivating." Kidnapped by mysterious, square-shouldered henchmen, a Tour de France cyclist is spirited across the ocean to the teeming metropolis of Belleville. In hot pursuit, his near-sighted grandmother and faithful dog

are taken in by a trio of eccentric jazz-era divas, who lead them on a hilarious chase through an underground speakeasy. The score, composed and directed by Benoît Charest and performed live on stage by Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville, evokes Le Hot Jazz musical style of 1920's Paris. A native of Montreal, Canada, Charest is also an accomplished jazz guitarist and has written over 20 film scores, of which the award-winning "Triplets of Belleville" is the best known.

Bringing ideas straight from the audience onto the stage means every song is fresh and every scene is new in "Broadway's Next H!T Musical." Improv is one of the most challenging styles of comedy and this team from New York relies on their fine-tuned skills to make it look easy. They not only work together seamlessly, they ensure the audience becomes a part of the proceedings. Before the show, suggestions are solicited from the audience and used to create hit songs for an unscripted awards show. The audience votes for their favorite song and then watches as the cast builds it into a full-blown improvised musical, complete with characters, witty dialogue, and

(continued on page 7)



Scene from "dough"

Three International Films Come to the Vine

The International Film Series at Livermore's Vine Cinema & Alehouse returns March 3 and 6 after a successful screening last November by Steven Spielberg sib Nancy.

The British comedy "Dough" will run Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 PM. It stars Jonathan Pryce of Games of Thrones and Pirates of the Caribbean fame as the owner of a struggling bakery whose sales pick up after he hires a young man with an interesting side business.

On Sunday, March 6, the series will feature a family-friendly Israeli film at 4:30 PM that is suitable for children grades 4 and up. At 7:30 PM, the powerful French drama "Once in a Lifetime" will screen. Based on a true incident, it is a moving story about an inner-city Parisian high school whose students' lives change after they enter a national writing contest.

Tickets can be purchased online at eastbayjewishfilm.org or at the door. For more information, call 240-3053.

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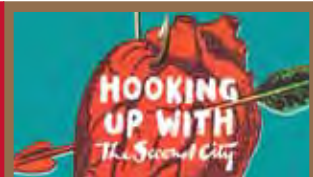
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The Second City, Scientist Turned Comic on Bankhead Stage

This season's comedy series at the Bankhead Theater continues with two very different events on consecutive nights.

On Friday, February 26, 2016, LVPAC Presents Chicago's famed improv comedy powerhouse arrives for its third visit to Livermore in "Hooking Up with the Second City," a fresh and funny mix of romance, rancor and everything in between.

The following night, February 27th, comedian Tim Lee applies his blend of cerebral stand-up and scientific expertise to such everyday phenomenon as the popularity of cat videos and the effect of alcohol on the rules of attraction.

The Second City's legendary comic style has struck gold across the country with hilarious sketches, songs and improv for more than 50 years. In "Hooking Up with the Second City" they prove they know a few things about love, from missed connections to girl's nights out and other crazy adventures. Now considered a Chicago landmark and a national treasure, when



Pictured are (above) members of The Second City group and (right) former scientist Tim Lee.



The Second City opened its doors in December 1959, it was impossible to foresee the impact it would have as one of the most influential and prolific comedy venues in the world. The group's spontaneous, interactive style appealed to a younger generation of both performers and audiences, and took traditional stand-up comedy in an entirely new direction,

establishing a foundation for the comic performances of today.

The members of The Second City have served as some of comedy's greatest ambassadors. Alumnus populated NBC's "Saturday Night Live" for decades, launching superstars such as John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd and Gilda Radner, and their brightest stars now hit

the road with The Second City Touring Company following in the footsteps of Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Amy Poehler, Steve Carell, and Bill Murray.

Tim Lee never set out to be a comedian. After graduating magna cum laude from UC San Diego in biology and receiving his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution from UC Davis,

he spent years modeling population dynamics before discovering that his real talent is making people laugh. Lee was programming computers during the day and writing jokes at night, when he walked into an open mike night at a San Francisco laundromat. Eventually he scored a paying gig in a comedy club in Santa Cruz and has since found himself on the road as a full time comic, playing venues from New York to Sidney, Australia and entertaining millions on YouTube. While science may not be an obvious source of comic material, Lee is gifted at deriving the humor in molecular bonding, linear regression, ocean acidification, and nuclear fission. His cerebral blend of stand-up comedy and science has been described by The Boston Phoenix as, "what would happen if you crossed your high-school chem teacher with George Carlin."

In addition to The Sec-

ond City and Tim Lee, the LVPAC Presents 2015-2016 season includes a number of other comedy events. "Broadway's Next H!T Musical," which arrives the following weekend, puts on stage a fully-improvised musical inspired by audience input and filled with memorable characters, witty dialogue and wild plot twists. "Defending the Caveman," Broadway's longest running solo play, opens at the Bankhead April 28th for four performances of this hilarious and insightful exploration of the ways men and women fight, laugh and love. In May, The Capitol Steps returns with their political satire for their eighth annual visit to Livermore.

Tickets are available now through the Bankhead Theater ticket office, 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore, at (925) 373-6800, online at www.bankheadtheater.org, or via the new LVPAC mobile app.

OPERA

(continued from front page)

formances will feature professional opera singers who will appear in "The Italian Girl in Algiers" featuring various selections from this comedic opera. Both programs will feature the heroine, Isabella, sung by mezzo-soprano Kristen Choi and her lover, Lindoro, sung by tenor Marco Stefani, a Pleasanton native and Amador Valley High

School alum. Bruce Olstad will accompany on piano.

The Stage Director, Bruce Donnell, who has directed operas all over the world, including the Metropolitan Opera in New York and Santa Fe Opera, will speak about his vision for the upcoming opera.

"The singers will perform selections from Rossini's famous opera

providing listeners a taste of the wonderful talent that they will hear at the Bankhead Theater when "The Italian Girl in Algiers" opens on March 12," adds Schmidt.

A question and answer period follows immediately after the performance. "We have presented these popular preview programs in local libraries for many

years," says Gary Sears, LVO's Community Outreach Manager who manages OperaLIVE. "Audiences have been thrilled to hear professional opera singers perform up close in these intimate venues."

For more details on the full production of "The Italian Girl in Algiers" and the library preview programs, please visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Large and Small: Ryan Reynolds Installations Open February 18

In a special double exhibit, the Harrington Gallery and Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton present two new installations by the same artist in the public exhibition spaces. On display from February 18 through March 26 are two separate groups of paintings by Santa Clara artist Ryan Reynolds.

A series of small watercolors, including seascapes, will be installed in the hallway galleries. The Grand Atrium Lobby will house a number of very large-format landscapes.

Reynolds is a 2003 University of California, Berkeley M.F.A. (Master of Fine Arts) recipient, having earned his B.A. in Art from UC Santa Cruz

in 1997. Ryan has shown in New York, London, and across California, including quite a number of solo and two-person shows.

Most recently, he completed what he notes was an "enriching residency at the Ballinglen Center for the Arts in County May, Ireland." The series of beautiful smaller paintings on display at the Firehouse Arts Center are from this time spent in the blustery North Atlantic. Victoria Dalkey, Arts reviewer for the Sacramento Bee, describes these works as "a series of vigorous watercolors that capture the changing weather and light of a strip of Atlantic coast in Western Ireland."

Regarding the large

scale landscapes to be hung in the atrium, Harrington Gallery Director Julie Finegan suggests, "They might lead the viewer through passages of time as well as space."

The public is invited to explore and enjoy the exhibits during Firehouse open hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 12:00-5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The Firehouse Arts Center is located in beautiful downtown Pleasanton at 4444 Railroad Avenue. Admission is free, and donations always appreciated.

For more information, contact Gallery Director: JFinegan@cityofpleasantonca.gov, or call the gallery at 925-931-4849.



North Atlantic (above) and 4-Mile Beach are among the works.



FILM SERIES

(continued from page 2)

production premiered in May 2011, and features a super U.K. cast starring John Boyega, Jodie Whittaker, Alex Esmail, among others.

First-time writer/director Joe Cornish was inspired to make this film after being actually mugged in real-life one night (much in the same way the character Sam is, as portrayed in the film). Cornish noticed his five young assailants were as scared as he was, and started researching their lives.

The film even fetched some nice award season "wins:" New York Film Critics "Best Debut Director" (Joe Cornish), Toronto Film Critics Association "Best First Feature" (Joe Cornish), Black Reel

Awards "Best Actor" (John Boyega) and "Outstanding Foreign Film."

The Black Film Critics Circle notably awarded the film a "Special Mention," stating that it is a genre film that defies a number of conventions, not only by having a primarily black cast, but portraying each character with a dignity seldom seen on screen and even more rarely in a Science-Fiction film."

IMDB (Internet Movie Database, www.imdb.com) tags this film as "action, comedy, sci-fi"... take your pick. It's definitely got something for everybody.

Note: For R-Rated Films, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian (age 21 or older) and 25 years and under must show ID.

CHICAGO

(continued from front page)

says LPC President Russell Barry. "This year's expanded theater season addresses a growing interest in high quality performing arts at local venues such as the Mertes Center."

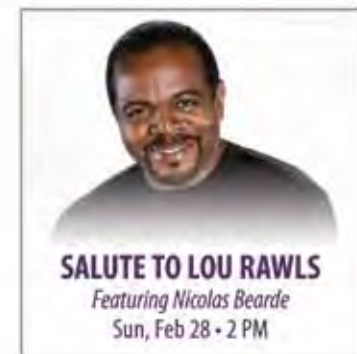
Also on the LPC theater marquee this season is "A Raisin in the Sun" by Lorraine Hansbury in May.

Tickets to all performances are \$15 general admission and \$10 for students/staff/seniors/military. Tickets to all shows can be purchased in advance by visiting www.laspositascollege.edu/performingarts.

For more information, please visit www.laspositascollege.edu. Las Positas College is located at 3033 Collier Canyon Road in Livermore.

FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER

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Coretta and Winks

Special Rates at valley Humane Society's Cat Adoption Affaire

Cat lovers looking for the purrfect playmate now have extra time to find that special someone. Valley Humane Society's cat adoption affaire, Adults Only, has been extended through Saturday, February 27. During the event, the adoption fee for cats 9 months and older is just \$14 to qualified adopters.

Just as playful, snuggly, or coy as kittens, adult cats make loyal and affectionate pets. Swing by and take a peek at Winks, or cuddle up to Coretta for a little catnip pillow talk.

All adoptable cats have been spayed or neutered, microchipped, and given current vaccinations; take-home goodie bags include a fleece bed, catnip pillow, playthings, pet coupons, and—for humans—a certificate for one complimentary truffle at Gourmet Works in Pleasanton.

Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Adoption hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. Call (925) 426-8656 for more information or visit valleyhumane.org to view available animals.

Valley Humane Society (VHS) creates a brighter future for cats and dogs by encouraging and strengthening the bond between people and pets. VHS rescues and rehabilitates companion animals, champions responsible caretaking, shares pets' soothing affections with people in need of comfort, and supports and preserves existing pet-guardian relationships.

Light a Candle for an Animal Friend

Pets illuminate our lives with their special brand of unconditional love and companionship. Light a candle for the animal friends who live in your heart or home at Valley Humane Society's Tails at Twilight gala on March 4.

Celebration candles are just \$25 each, and each jar will bear the name of a beloved pet, past or present. Candles will be used to create a sparkling atmosphere at the sold-out event, and will be available for pickup at Valley Humane Society starting March 8.

Proceeds benefit the organization's lifesaving animal welfare programs and life-enriching community services, such as Canine Comfort pet therapy, which offers therapeutic pet visitation to grieving children, veterans, Alzheimer's patients, and more.

This is the second year for Tails at Twilight, which sold out within a month of opening ticket sales.

Visit valleyhumane.org to order a Celebration Candles. Limit 10 per person.

Music Inspired by Science Fiction Films and Video Games



Cantina Band

Bay Area's Cantina Band will play music inspired by classic science fiction films and video games at the Livermore Library.

The performance takes place on Sunday, February 28, 2016, 2 pm, at the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue. This event is free and open to all. Costumes are heartily encouraged.

Cantina Band is a musical act founded by Travis W. Hendrix with the intention of bringing classic music from movies, video games, and television into a live setting. Like many people of his generation, Travis grew up being inspired by the iconic music from Star Wars, The Legend of Zelda, Mario Bros, and other games and films. This young group is made up of clarinetist Travis Hendrix, violinist and occasional vocalist Annie Cilley, accordionist Kalei Yamanoha, and bass player Juliana Frick.

This program is part of Livermore Reads Together 2016, a community-wide reading program featuring Isaac Asimov's I, Robot. 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.

SYMPHONY

(continued from front page)

soprano Shawnette Sulker.

The performance will take place at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

"We have created a wonderful and joyful program that features a brilliant soprano, our talented principal trumpet and our string players," says Kohl, "Each of the composers, Scarlatti, Respighi and Dvorák express the soul of their own country. The three artists are evocative, they take us on three different voyages that offer a nice contrast as well as continuity."

The concert will open with Ottorino Respighi's Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 3. "Respighi is an early 20th century musician who composed music inspired by the renaissance and early baroque music. Using today's instruments, his music gives the sense of the material world of

Italy in the 1600," says Kohl. "The Respighi pieces chosen here are very cheerful and will be a wonderful opening for our concert." The 3 suites, written between 1917 and 1932, are arrangements of music from the Renaissance. The original composers are Molinaro, Galilei, Caroso, Besard, Gianoncelli and Roncalli, who composed their music between 1575 and 1625.

Alessandro Scarlatti was the founder of the Naples school of opera, at the beginning of the 18th century. He wrote himself the story and the text of the piece presented at the concert, *Su le Sponde del Tevere*. "It is about grieving, but it is not a sad piece," adds Kohl. "It is a universal piece that fits very well Shawnette Sulker's voice color and temperament." Ms. Sulker is a very well known Bay

Area Opera singer who has been a featured artist in three San Francisco Opera productions: *Porgy and Bess*, *The Mother of Us All*, and *Louise*. She was also a part of the joint production of *Dido and Aeneas* between San Francisco Opera and the Crucible. She has been described by the San Francisco Chronicle as a singer "...displaying a bright, superbly controlled soprano with perfectly placed coloratura."

The concert will end with Antonin Dvorák *Serenade for Strings*. Kohl states, "This music is so effervescent and cheery. It is filled with pure goodness." The Czech composer of the second part of the 19th century was inspired by Czech, Moravian, and other Slavic traditional music. The *Serenade for Strings*

was composed in 1875 for a small orchestra. The five movements starts with a cantabile style followed by a slow waltz, the humorous high spirits of the third movement, lyrical beauty in the fourth, finishing with exuberance in the fifth movement.

The Pacific Chamber Symphony is composed only of professional musicians who come together under the direction of Maestro Lawrence Kohl. They play in Livermore and Lafayette. More information and tickets at www.pacificchambersymphony.org/

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets may be purchased at the box office, online at www.bankheadtheater.org or by calling 373-6800.

Yesterday into Today

By Sarah Bobson

THE BALLPOINT PEN

Technology creates paradigm shifts. Such was the case with the ballpoint pen, which around the late 1950s/early 1960s when it popped into popular use made the lives of school kids, not to mention adults I suppose, a lot easier.

In school, we had to use either the standard black ink or the slightly more risqué blue-black. Then one day one of my trendsetter classmates handed in an assignment written in what we soon learned was peacock blue. The color caused a stir. Like meerkats standing at attention scanning the horizon for trouble, we waited to see the teacher's reaction. She made an amused comment about the color not being standard issue, but that was all. This unexpected turn of events opened Pandora's Box. After that, peacock blue became the new black. It appeared on everything from assignments to surreptitiously passed notes.

If using peacock blue ink made writing fun, filling the pen was another matter. To do this, we had to dip the pen into an ink bottle, open a clip on the pen to a 45-degree angle, and, through some sort of hydraulic system, the ink would be sucked up. The trick was to know just how long to allow the pen to suck up ink. I had a tendency to overfill mine, which resulted in it dripping back onto my papers, desk, books, and clothes.

There was a hole for the ink bottle in the upper right corner of our wooden desks. At the beginning of the school day, I would pull the ink bottle from the small storage shelf underneath my desk, where I also kept my books and papers, and deposit it in the ink hole. At the end of the school day, I would tuck the bottle back into the storage compartment. There was always some kid, it seemed, who either would spill his ink bottle on top of his desk or place it too close to the edge of his storage shelf where it could easily tip over.

When we reached the upper elementary grades, we didn't have this problem because we sat at large bowl-shaped desks with lids. We kept our school supplies inside the roomy bowls. However, there was a drawback. To get the supplies out, we had to lift the lid. If we had papers and books lying on the desktop, we had to hold them in place with one arm while we opened the lid so they wouldn't slide onto the floor. If there happened to be an ink bottle on top that we had forgotten about ... well ... you guessed it, we either had to have faster reflexes than Oliver Sacks' seemingly catatonic patients in the film "Awakenings," or we ended up with broken glass and a big mess on the floor.

There were plenty of other opportunities as well to make inky messes. Boys who absentmindedly

had placed their fountain pens upside down in their shirt pockets were rudely awakened to the fact when they saw other students snickering at the ink stain rippling out in concentric circles at the bottom of their shirt pockets. Girls would sometimes find their hands sloshing around in unwelcomed wetness at the bottom of their purses where their pens had been leaking. Such was the joy of using fountain pens.

The cartridge pen, which had a pre-filled reservoir that could be inserted into the hollow of the fountain pen, made refillings so much easier. All we had to do was unscrew the top from the bottom, slip out the used ink cartridge, insert the refill, re-screw the pen back together, and toss the old cartridge into the wastepaper basket. No fuss, no muss.

We didn't think it could get much better than that until the disposable ballpoint pen came along. When our pen ran out of ink, we simply tossed it. It was American ingenuity at the best. The ballpoint, originally created way back in 1888, evolved over time from pens where the ink from a ball at the tip overflowed or didn't flow evenly to ink that clogged into clumps on paper, creating mini-Rorschach designs.

Then a Hungarian newspaper man named László Bíró, frustrated with dealing with the

mess, worked with his chemist brother to create a pen that used quick-drying printer's ink. In 1941, they fled World War II and moved to Argentina, where they began selling their creation. Following the war, many companies began manufacturing the new product. In 1945, Gimbel's Department Store sold something called the Reynolds Rocket, the first commercially successful ballpoint pen, for \$9.75. In the early 1950s, the Paper Mate Company joined the fray, along with Eversharp, Parker, and Bich, which shortened its name to Bic and went on to become the most widely sold ballpoint in the world. An assortment of writing implements followed, including Rollerball pens, using water-based ink rather than the oil-based ink of ballpoints, space pens reportedly capable of writing under water and in outer space, and ballpoints with erasable inks.

There are now so many variations of ballpoints it boggles the imagination. It's difficult to walk into an office supply store and buy just one pen. In this day and age where so many of us write so much on the computer, packages of 12 and 20 seem to hold at least a year's supply. The last time I reached for a pen, still in its wrapper (who knows when I had bought them), I found the ink had dried up. I ended up disposing of the disposable pens. It was all because of another paradigm shift in technology: the computer.

UNIQUE SHOWS

(continued from page 3)

wild plot twists. Under the direction of improv veterans Rob Schiffman and Deb Rabbai, BNHM has been seen at The Triad, Tribeca Film Festival, and at the New York Musical Theater Festival, among many others.

The award-winning GuGu Drum Group from Shanghai, China, arrives in Livermore as part of its first United States tour. Their work offers a mesmerizing experience for the eyes and ears that combines athletic talent, traditional music, and dramatic drum work. Timeless and traditional Chinese proverbs, fables and fairy tales are told in theatrical vignettes using instruments from small finger cymbals to large standing drums. With ancient rhythms and stylized movements, the GuGu Drum Group represents an art form that dates back to early Chinese Dynasties, but takes a contemporary

approach to engage modern audiences. The historical drum compositions offer insights into cultural unity, human evolution, wisdom, social commitment, and the power of communication. Popular with audiences of all ages, the GuGu Drum Group has been featured at many outdoor festivals and art centers throughout China.

Performances are "Triplets of Belleville" – Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.; "Broadway's Next H!T Musical" – Friday, March 4, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.; and, GuGu Drum Group – Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets are available now through the Bankhead Theater ticket office, by calling (925) 373-6800, online at www.bankheadtheater.org, or via the new LVPAC mobile app.

Whistlestop Writers Session Set

Whistlestop Writers will host an open mic for writers of all genres on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Swirl on the Square, 21 South Livermore Avenue, in downtown Livermore.

All are invited to take part in an evening of food, wine, and writing. Cynthia Patton, the event's host, says, "Even if you don't have something to read, show up and support talented local writers."

The Whistlestop Writers Open Mic will continue on the fourth Wednesday of each month. For more information go to <http://facebook.com/WhistlestopWriters> or call 925-890-6045.



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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Exhibit Opens

The Alamo Danville Artists' Society presents Art Extraordinaire, a new exhibit, on display Feb. 19 through May 1 at the Blackhawk Gallery, 3416 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville.

A reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Feb. 20.

The exhibit features sculptures by guest artist Dan Woodard and works by forty-five member artists.

Member artists' work include oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, photography, sculpture, ceramic, glass, fiber art and jewelry.

Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday 10 am to 8 pm and Sunday 11 am to 6 pm

Exhibiting member artists are: Akio Aochi, Beki Bennun, Loralee Chapleau, Don Cresswell, Barbara Davies, Peter DeFao, Don DeRoek, Patricia Devitt, Elena Doronkina, Herbert Estes, Kathy Flint, Bobbi Garrop, David Gates, Linda Geniesse, Lynn Glenn, Gene Gracey, Greg Gutbezahl, Kathie Hackler, Debby Koonce, Roseann Krane, Walter Krane, Tom Lemmer, Andrea Markus, Claudette McDermott, Linda McSweeney, Gayle Muehring, Julia O'Reilly, Lin Padden, Harika Piccone, George Ram-mell, Dan Riley, Joanne Robinson, Stanley Satchell, Goldie Schnitzer, Pat Smith, Greg Starnes, Mary Claire Stotler, Kerima Swain, Beverly Turner, Ranjini Venkatachari, Jim Vlantis, Norma Webb, Charles White, Richard Woods, Mahdi Yahyavi.

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.

Members of the Pleasanton Art League Public Art Circuit are currently exhibiting art at six businesses in the Pleasanton - Dublin Area. Viewing locations are: Bank of America at 337 Main Street, Pleasanton; Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce at 777 Peters Street, Pleasanton; Sallman, Yang, &

Alameda CPA's at 4900 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton; US Bank at 749 Main Street, Pleasanton; Edward Jones at 6601 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin; and The Bagel Street Café at 6762 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. If interested in becoming a member of the Pleasanton Art League or for information regarding the Public Art Circuit, call John Trimmingham at (510) 877-8154.

Pleasanton Art League members show, Imagination Expressed 2016, Jan. 13 to Feb. 28 at the Pleasanton Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton.

"Raw/Cooked" Art Exhibit Features Art Students and Their Instructors, Bankhead Theater Visitors Center and Gallery now through February 29, 2016. The exhibit is free of charge and open to the public. 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. The lobby is open to the public seven days a week from noon to 6:00 p.m. For more information about Raw/Cooked, call 925-447-ARTS or visit <http://www.lvpac.org>.

Allied Artists West: California Dreaming, New installation featuring 21 professional South Bay artists. Exhibition at the Harrington Gallery on display through February 20. Each painter interprets the theme in as many different ways as there are artists. Urban and rural landscapes, figures and still life are just a few of the subjects. Styles range broadly from abstract to realism, conceptual to fantasy, and various approaches in between. Exhibiting artists will conduct painting demonstrations for the public on most Saturdays during the run of the exhibition: February 20 - Michael Rogan and Gary Coleman - Acrylic. Regular gallery hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, 4444 Railroad Avenue. Donations always appreciated.

Special Exhibit: On view from February 18 through March 26. The Harrington Gallery and Firehouse Arts Center present works by Santa Clara artist Ryan Reynolds. Two distinct installations: a series of small watercolors in the hallway galleries, and large-format landscapes in the Grand Atrium Lobby. Reynolds is a 2003 UC Berkeley MFA recipient, and has shown in New York, London, and across California. Most recently, he completed a residency at the Ballington Center for the Arts in County May, Ireland. Firehouse Arts Center open hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Donations always appreciated. For more information, contact Gallery Director: J.Finegan@cityofpleasantonca.gov, or call the gallery: 925-931-4849.

Exhibit, fine art photography by Jonathan Miller and oil paintings of local subjects by Norma Webb are on display at Espresso Rosetta, 206 S. J Street, Livermore through the month of March. Both are members of the Livermore Art Association.

Pleasanton Art League Alviso Adobe Show, March 3-6, reception March 6, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. 3465 Old Foothill Rd., Pleasanton. www-pal-art.com

The Figure in Place, Harrington Gallery's next exhibition opens March 3, and

features 5 prominent Bay Area figurative painters. Colorful, dynamic, and diverse, the installation explores "the figure" as the subject, with a variety of media and approaches. Exhibition will be open to the public Thursday, March 3 through Saturday, April 9. The artists: William Rushton (San Jose), Brook Temple (San Rafael), John Goodman (San Francisco), Kim Frohsin (San Francisco), Linda Christensen (Aptos). Free opening reception with artists, will be held on Thursday, March 3, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Regular gallery hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, 4444 Railroad Avenue. Donations always appreciated.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

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

ACC/Art Critique & Coffee, Discuss and share work with Professional Artists in sketching, painting, exhibiting and marketing your work. ACC members currently working on exhibiting theme works, under the Inspiration of "The Artist's Edge /The Edge of Art & Chosen Pathways." Meets and Critiques Friday mornings in Pleasanton. PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com

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

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

WINE & SPIRITS

Las Positas Vineyards, Sat., Feb. 20 S new Chocolate Truffle & Chocolate Port Cup paired with wines. Tasting Room is open 1130am-430pm. Sun., Feb. 21, "Sunday Funday," newest featured food pairing flight, Cheesecake Cupcake and wines. Tasting Room is open 11:30am-4:30pm. For more information, email curt@laspositasvineyards.com

Barrel Tasting Weekend, March 19 and 20, noon to 4:30 p.m. Taste wines right

out of the barrel, meet winemakers and more. Each winery will host a unique experience during barrel tasting weekend including at least 1 barrel sample for each ticket holder. Tickets \$40 Advance/ \$45 Day of Event. Tickets and more information: https://www.lvwine.org/event/2053/Barrel_Tasting_Weekend.html

MUSIC/CONCERTS

The McCartney Years, Feb. 19, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore-Amador Symphony, Feb. 20, pre-concert talk, 7 p.m., concert, 8 p.m., Color and Romance, featuring solos by winners of Competition for Young Musicians. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Vince Guaraldi Tribute Quintet, featuring Larry Vuckovich. Critically-acclaimed San Francisco-based jazz pianist, composer, bandleader and recording artist Larry Vuckovich brings his hugely popular Vince Guaraldi Tribute to the Firehouse stage. Vince Guaraldi is probably best known for his music for the Peanuts cartoons, which continues to be recorded by many of the great jazz pianists. Joining Vuckovich: Josh Workman, guitar; John Santos, Latin percussion; Jeff Chambers, bass; Leon Joyce, drums. Sunday, February 21, 2:00 p.m. at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton. Reserved seating tickets \$15-\$25. Tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

Live in Central Park [Revisited]: Simon and Garfunkel, Feb. 21, 3 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Tribute to Glenn Miller and the Vocalists, Feb. 24, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

m-pact: Vocal Group of the Year - Los Angeles Music Awards. The 6-man acapella powerhouse in concert at the Firehouse Arts Center on Saturday, February 27, 8:00 p.m. Touring regularly across four continents, recording soundtracks for 20-30 films per year, and often performing with greats Sheryl Crowe, Natasha Bedingfield, Bobby McFerrin among many others. Tickets \$32-\$42; available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

Pacific Chamber Symphony, Feb. 28, 2 p.m. Delightful Strings and Joyful Songs. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Nicolas Bearde: A Salute to Lou Rawls traces the life and music of legendary, Grammy-winning vocalist Lou Rawls. Bearde will be joined by his trio for this performance. Hits will include Tobacco Road, Natural Man, Lady Love, You'll Never Find (Another Love Like Mine) and I'd Rather Drink Muddy Water, plus many more. Sunday, February 28, at 2:00 p.m. Reserved seating tickets are \$15.00 - \$25.00; available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or

at the center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

GuGu Drum Group, dramatic retelling of traditional Chinese proverbs, fables and fairy tales through athletic and theatrical drum vignettes. March 5, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Voices In Harmony Presents: "Lies in the Attic: A Beatles A Cappella Musical," March 6, 2016, 2 to 4 p.m. Dublin High School Center for the Performing Arts, 8151 Village Parkway, Dublin. Tickets brownpaperickets.com

Green Floyd, Bothwell Arts Center, March 17, 7:30 p.m. music of Floyd with a Celtic/Appalachian twist! Tickets www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Amjad Ali Khan, Amaan Ali Khan, and Ayaan Ali Khan, March 22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Youth Music Festival Y2K, 2 and 7:30 p.m., March 26, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

The Smithereens Play Songs From The Who, March 25, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

Face-Off 2016: Creatures of Impulse at Firehouse Arts Center. The Bay Area's award-winning teen improv troupe in three different performances, all at 7:30pm: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday February 18, 19, and 20. Creatures of Impulse will take the stage for three nights of scenes, games, and improv high-jinks. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. General Admission tickets: \$5 students, \$10 general. Tickets available at the door, online at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the Box Office at the center, 4444 Railroad Avenue in Pleasanton.

The Triplets of Belleville, March 3, 7:30 p.m. Le Terrible Orchestre de Belleville with composer Benoît Charest Performed live, a Parisian Hot Jazz-inspired score. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Spring Musical - Chicago, March 3-13, 8 p.m. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. <http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts/index.php>

Broadway's Next HIT Musical, March 4, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Civic Arts Stage Co. Presents A Midsummer Night's Dream, 2 and 8 p.m. March 11-20, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

Student One Acts, March 23, 1 p.m. and March 25, 8 p.m. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. <http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts/index.php>

COMEDY

Las Positas Vineyards, Livermore, Comedy Nights continue Feb. 20, featuring comedian Bryan Kellen. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online [\[positasvineyards.com/happenings.html\]\(http://laspositasvineyards.com/happenings.html\) or directly in person in the tasting room. Tickets include appetizers and cocktail hour 6:30pm-7:45pm with the show starting at 8pm. For more information, email \[curt@laspositasvineyards.com\]\(mailto:curt@laspositasvineyards.com\)](http://www.las-</p>
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The Second City, Feb. 26, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Tim Lee: Scientist Turned Comedian, Feb. 27, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

An Evening of Magic & Comedy featuring Ryan Kane, 8 p.m. March 5, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org, 931-4850.

MOVIES

Attack the Block, "Thrill Rides" Movie Night Series at the Firehouse. Wednesday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Firehouse Arts Center Theater, 4444 Railroad Avenue in Pleasanton. General admission tickets are \$10.00 at the door. Free popcorn. Soda and snacks available to purchase. No outside food or beverages are permitted. Advance purchase tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the center Box Office. (Rated R, 88 minutes) A sci-fi thriller with a funny-bone. Inner City vs. Outer Space. A crazy mix of tough street kids in South London defend their block from an alien invasion, turning a housing project into a sci-fi battleground. All films in the "Thrill Rides" series are rated R, so I.D. will be checked.

UDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

Auditions, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production, "Mary Poppins The Musical." Original Music and Lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman. Book by Julian Fellowes. New Songs and Additional Music and Lyrics by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. Co-Created by Cameron Mackintosh. Auditions will be held at the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre rehearsal space, 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 101, Pleasanton. No appointments necessary. Adults and children, Mon., Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 24, 6:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 27, 11 a.m. Callbacks: dance - Feb. 27, 3-6 p.m., 7-10 p.m.; final: Feb. 28, 7-8 p.m. and 8-10 p.m. For all roles except Mary and Bert, please prepare 16-32 bars of a musical theater song. If auditioning only for the roles of Mary or Bert, please prepare 32 bars of music from the Mary Poppins musical. Please bring a current headshot and current resume. Come dressed comfortably to move for a dance audition and please list all rehearsal conflicts on the back of the audition form starting on May 23rd.

Auditions. Las Positas College announces auditions for its summer 2016 outdoor musical, "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying." Auditions will be held March 21 and 22 from 7-10 in the Black Box Theater of the Mertes Center for the Arts on campus. Bring a prepared 32 measures or one verse of a musical theater or pop song. Accompanist provided. If interested in a speaking role, bring a prepared 1 to 2 minutes

comic monologue, memorized or read. Be prepared to move. Best to come at 7 and plan to stay for the evening. Call backs on March 24. 11 principal roles plus large singing/dancing/acting chorus. All roles open. Performances dates: July 28-31. For more information, contact director Ken Ross at kross@laspositascollege.edu.

CHORAL

Valley Concert Chorale, Hope, Faith, Life, Love: John Rutter's Requiem and Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms with instrumental ensemble. 7:30 p.m. March 12 performance will be announced. On March 13, the Chorale performs at 3 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or 866-4003.

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

Storied Nights: An Evening of Spoken Word. 2nd Thursday of each month. Features local authors reading their work 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Peet's Coffee and Tea, 152 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Sponsored by LVPAC and Peet's. Information go to <http://facebook.com/StoriedNights>

Allison McFarlane, Fukushima nuclear crisis: lessons learned. Rae Dorough Speaker Series, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 25. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore Reads Together (LRT) community-wide reading program: Isaac Asimov's "I, Robot." Copies of books and LRT event schedules available at all Livermore Public Library locations. Livermore Reads Together 2016 events will include the following. Unless noted, events are held at the Civic Center Library and are free to the public. • Saturday, February 20, 1pm: Maker Program for Kids: Make a Recycled Robot • Sunday, February 21, 1:30pm: Free movie screening at the library, followed by a presentation and discussion on artificial intelligence by Chris Riley from i-GATE. For information about the movie and Chris Riley's presentation, contact the library or visit www.livermorelibrary.net • Friday, February 26, 3:30pm: Family movie day at the library featuring a Disney-Pixar movie about an adorable little waste collecting robot. For information about the movie, contact the library or visit www.livermorelibrary.net • Saturday, February 27, 2pm: Roboticist Kevin Roche presents ThinBot, the bartending robot, and other cool machines • Sunday, February 28, 2pm: Cantina Band plays acoustic music inspired by Star Wars and classic video games like Legend of Zelda and Super Mario Brothers • Monday, February 29, 6:30pm: Family movie night at Rincon Library featuring a Disney-Pixar

movie about an adorable little waste collecting robot. For information about the movie, contact the library or visit www.livermorelibrary.net. Sponsored by The Friends of the Livermore Library. For more information about this library event, call 925-373-5500 or visit www.livermorelibrary.net.

California Association of Porcelain Artists, 38th annual Convention and Show, March 10, 11, 12, Marriott Fremont-Silicon Valley, 16100 Landing Parkway, Fremont. Open to the public. March 10: 1 to 3 p.m.; March 11: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; March 12: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fine art, porcelain painting demonstrations, drawing, banquets, painted porcelain prizes and more. www.capacina.com. \$10 fee at the door.

Tails at Twilight, a gala benefit for the Valley Humane Society, at the Ruby Hill Golf Club in Pleasanton from 6-11 pm. Friday, March 4, 2016. Celebrate the lives of those beloved pets who have touched your heart the most as we raise funds to support Valley Humane Society's lifesaving and life-enriching programs. \$100 per person includes reception, hors d'oeuvres, sit-down dinner, full no-host bar, dancing, live and silent auctions. www.valleyhumane.org

53rd annual Coin Show, Livermore Valley Coin Club, March 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Displays, bourse, prizes, free wooden nickels, hourly drawings. Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore (Springtown).

33rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration, City of Dublin, March 12 and 13: Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Green and White Gala, 6 p.m. March 11, Shannon Community Center; Pancake Breakfast, 7 to 10 a.m. March 12, Fire Station #16; Parade, 9:30 a.m. Amador Plaza to Dublin Boulevard to Village Parkway to Amador Village Boulevard; Shamrock 5K, 8:30 a.m. March 13. dublinca.gov www.dublinstpat.com

St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl, March 19, 2016, 5 to 8 p.m. Downtown Pleasanton. Sample craft beers from San Francisco Bay Area breweries at more than 25 downtown locations. Tasty bites will also be served. Pleasanton Downtown Association, www.pleasantondowntown.net

An Evening With... Ulysses S. Grant Tuesday, March 22, 7pm. Museum on Main Ed Kinney Speakers Series, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors (65+) / students (with valid ID), \$5 members. Tickets may be purchased online at www.museumonmain.org, at Museum on Main during regular operating hours or by phoning the museum at (925) 462-2766. For more information on the Ed Kinney Speakers Series visit www.museumonmain.org or phone Museum on Main at (925) 462-2766.

Livermore Half Marathon, March 26, glass of wine from one of the 13 winners at the finish line. New in 2016, 24 Hour Fitness 5K event. Start and finish First and S. Livermore Ave., downtown Livermore, half marathon 8 a.m., 5K start 8:15 a.m., wine and music festival 9 a.m. Information and registration at <http://runliv.com/>



Works by Brook Temple (left) and Linda Christensen are part of the exhibition.

'The Figure in Place' Opens at the Harrington Gallery

The Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton will host its next major exhibition of 2016. "The Figure in Place" explores figurative painting through the eyes of five prominent Bay Area artists. The installation will be open to the public Thursday, March 3 through Saturday, April 9, and feature a variety of media and approaches.

Co-curator and Harrington Gallery Director Julie Finegan describes the event. "Each artist depicts the figure within a special context as dynamic as the subject matter." She elaborates, along with co-curator, Bill Rushton, that the work hearkens back to the Bay Area Figurative Movement started by artists such as Richard Diebenkorn, Elmer Bischoff, and Wayne Thiebaud. "These exhibiting artists could be considered the 3rd generation of that fascinating movement," Finegan notes.

A free opening reception with the artists in attendance will be held on Thursday, March 3, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Harrington Gallery. Guests are welcome to come explore the exhibit, and ask questions and chat with the artists. Light refreshments will be served.

The artists are William Rushton (San Jose), Brook Temple (San Rafael), John Goodman (San Francisco), Kim Frohsin (San Francisco), Linda Christensen (Aptos).

Co-curator William Rushton (www.williamrushton.com) taught art at Cupertino High School for 37 years, and his work has been shown all over the Bay Area. Art critic Mark Van Proyen: "Clearly, (Bill's) world is one where color reigns supreme... Whether or not we can make out their faces, it is always clear that they are frequently cloaked in brilliant, polychromatic fabrics... in Rushton's lavish surfaces of thick oil pigment."

Brook Temple (www.brooktemple.com) received his BFA at Yale 1960, studied with Joseph Albers, Vincent Sculley, and is represented by Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco. Brook's drawings and paintings have been

shown in more than 50 exhibitions and are now in over 100 public and private collections, including notably the prestigious Achenbach Collection of the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, and the Oakland Museum of California.

John Goodman (www.esgallery.com) is represented by Elins Eagles-Smith Gallery, San Francisco, and Perimeter Gallery in Chicago. A native Californian, John earned a degree in Dramatic Arts from the University of California and began painting while working as a professional playwright...and he notes that his theater experiences continue to inform his painting. Goodman's work is widely collected, and his paintings reside in private collections in North America, Europe, and Asia.

The award-winning artwork of Kim Frohsin (www.kimfrohsin.com) is eclectic and highly autobiographical. She is known as a "versatile, multi-disciplinary visual artist, continuously pushing boundaries," who exhibits extensively in the Bay Area and beyond. Frohsin received her art degree at the Academy of Art College, San Francisco, in 1988.

Linda Christensen (www.lindachristensen.net) has exhibited across North America, with paintings in a number of museum collections. "There's something magical in seeing the humanness in others as they turn inwards, reflectively but uncritically. The figures in my work are involved in familiar daily tasks... fluidly navigating one's inner realm, one's true self."

The Harrington Gallery is located inside the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton, Calif. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 12:00-5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and also one hour before most performances and during intermissions. Admission for this exhibit is free, and donations are gratefully accepted.

American Legion Selects Winners in Oratorical Contest

The Tenth District of The American Legion, which covers Alameda County and the East Bay as far north as Albany, held its Oratorical Contest on Saturday, February 6th, 2016 at the Veterans Memorial Building in San Leandro. Four students competed in the district contest, which was the second step in the competition, with a top prize of an \$18,000 scholarship.

The prepared oration had to be on some aspect of the United States Constitution, to include Amendments, giving emphasis to the duties and obligations of a citizen. The assigned topic was Article 1 Section 9 Paragraph 2 of the Constitution.

The winners of the contest were: 1st Place, Meha Ahluwalia, Dublin, Quarry Lane School, who received \$200, 2nd Place, Angela Rich-



Pictured are (from left) Justin Nilsen, Angela Richards, Meha Ahluwalia and Isaac Tong. Photo - Bill Bergmann

ards, Livermore, CC Academy, who received \$100, 3rd Place, Justin Nilsen, Livermore, Granada High

School, who received \$75. For competing Isaac Tong, Union City, James Logan High School, received \$25.

The winner will next go to the Area 2 completion in Pacifica on February 20th, 2016.

EDUCATION

Grace Masingale, a student at a local high school has been selected to represent Livermore, California as a National Youth Correspondent to the 2016 Washington Journalism and Media Conference at George Mason University. Masingale was chosen based on academic accomplishments and a demonstrated interest and excellence in journalism and media studies. National Youth Correspondents participate in hands-on, experiential learning through decision-making simulations that challenge them to solve problems and explore the creative, practical, and ethical tensions inherent in journalism and media.

The University of Jamestown Athletic Department has announced that Robert McLeod of Livermore, along with 156 other Jimmie student-athletes, have been named to the UJ Athletic Director's Honor Roll. To achieve this status, student-athletes must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 or have achieved a 3.4 grade point average during the 2015 fall semester.

Shona B. McCarthy of Pleasanton, was named to the Dean's List at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, for her outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2015-16 year. McCarthy, a member of the Class of 2018, attended Foothill High School and is the daughter of Donald and Beth McCarthy of Pleasanton, Calif. The Dean's List at Colby is highly selective, this fall reserved for students with a semester grade point average of 3.70 or higher.

Rachel Elizabeth Becker of Pleasanton has been named to the Deans' List/Explore Center List of Distinguished Students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall semester of the 2015-16 academic year.

Becker, a freshman advertising and public relations major, was

named to the Dean's List for the College of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Justin Edward Gibson of Pleasanton, Calif., a junior majoring in civil engineering, was named a Presidential Scholar for the fall 2015 semester at Clarkson University. Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Tatianna Mercurio of Pleasanton, a graduate of Foothill High School majoring in film studies, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall Semester 2015 at Baldwin Wallace University, according to Stephen D. Stahl, Provost. Students who receive at least a 3.6 GPA for seven or more graded hours in a single semester are named to the Dean's List.

The following local students were named to the Dean's List at Simpson University for the fall 2015 semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have a semester grade-point average of 3.50 or higher. They are Ryan Holmes of Livermore and Aleia Villanueva of Dublin.

Livermore resident Ariana M. Mancieri was named to the Rhodes College Honor Roll for the 2015 fall semester. To qualify for the honor roll, a student must be enrolled in at least 16 credit hours of academic work and must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better. Mancieri is a graduate of Livermore High School.

Paige Lommerin of Pleasanton was named to the dean's list at Bucknell University during the fall semester of the 2015-16 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition. Lommerin is in the Class of 2016.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Livermore Community Blood Drive: Friday, February 19, 1-7 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue.

Every single day, Bay Area hospitals need over 300 units of blood to keep sick and injured patients alive. Please come donate, and bring a friend or family member to the drive and help save a life. Register at www.redcrossblood.org and use ASBURY925 as the Sponsor Code, or call Thomas Petty at 925-980-8164 for more information.

Guidelines and Application for Scholarships for graduating seniors from Foothill, Village and Amador High Schools can be downloaded at www.amadorvalleyscholarshipsinc.org Fill out one application to be considered for 9 scholarships—deadline to apply is March 18, 2016

Livermore's Complex Ecosystem; Saturday, February 20, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue. Northern Livermore is home to an ecological gem, the Springtown Wetlands Preserve. This ecosystem is home to rare plants, animals, birds, and unique soils. Find out more in this presentation by Ranger Patti Cole. Free and open to public. Please RSVP by email to pcole@larpd.org.

Team KC Blood Drive, Wed., Feb. 24, noon to 6 p.m. Mendenhall Middle School library, 1710 El Padro Dr., Livermore. Donate blood in honor of Korrine Croghan. To schedule an appointment or for more information, contact 1-800-733-2767 or log on to redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code TeamKC. For information regarding eligibility to donate blood, call 1-866-236-3276.

Recycling and Composting: What Goes Where and Why it Matters; program 11 a.m. to non Feb. 20 at FertileGround Works Garden of Grace, Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Free to the public. StopWaste's Tommy Fenster will explain and answer questions about curbside food scrap recycling and its benefits.

Bingo Bash, Italian Catholic Federation Branch #285 fund-raiser. Sat., Feb. 27, 6 p.m. doors open, 6:30 p.m. bingo. St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. \$10 per bingo packet (10 games). Pizza, snacks and beverages available. Dancing to DJ Joe Buonsante. Reservations due Feb. 22: Helen 462-3798. Limited seating. Proceeds go to Children's Hospital treatment of Cooley's Anemia plus other ICF charities. If unable to attend, donations appreciated: Mail to E. Meier, 6597 Lansing Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94566

Tri-Valley Health Fair, Sat., April 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. The Health Fair will include vendors, dental and vision screenings, physical examinations, entertainment and other health related resources. Those interested in participating in the event as a vendor, please contact Maria Dykzeul at (925) 426-4290 or by email at mdykzeul@pleasantonusd.net. Deadline to participate as a vendor is Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Those interested in volunteering for the event, contact Valerie Pavlakis at (925) 931-5353 or by email at [\[cityofpleasantonca.gov\]\(http://cityofpleasantonca.gov\). The Tri-Valley Health Initiative is a collaboration with Alameda County Supervisors Nate Miley and Scott Haggerty, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Center for Healthy Schools and Communities, Alameda County Social Services Agency, Stanford Health Care - ValleyCare, John Muir Health, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, City of Dublin, Dublin Unified School District, City of Livermore, and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.](mailto:vpavlakis@</p>
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Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA, Friendly bridge, 1 p.m. Feb. 20, RSVP by Feb. 13 to Barbara, 426-8876. Brunch in Castro Valley, 12:30 p.m. Feb. 28, RSVP by Feb. 25 to Ruby, 462-9636.

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. All are welcome at monthly meeting at the Livermore Civic Center Library Thursday, February 18th from 7:30pm to 9pm. For more information call Tri-Valley CAREs at (925) 443-7148 or visit our website at <http://trivalleycares.org>

GNON (Girls Night Out Networking), Mon., March 7 meeting 5 to 7 p.m. at Museum on Main, Pleasanton. RSVP by Feb. 26: www.gnon.org/rsvp.html. \$10 members, \$15 nonmembers. Open to all women. Evening of history, food, networking and fun.

Celebrate Downton Abbey, after six seasons the show is in its final year, the Daughters of the British Empire will hold a special event to celebrate the show. Dress the Part for a Demise of Downton Abbey fund-raising will take place Feb. 20 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Castlewood Country Club, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$35 (includes lunch). Vintage/period dress suggested. Contact Edith Caponigro at 925-998-3500 or president4dbe@yahoo.com Proceeds will benefit Axis Community Health in Pleasanton, Contra Costa Hope Hospice, and The British Home for Senior Citizens (Lic. #191501668 / COA#064).

Up to five scholarships, each worth \$2,500.00, are offered by the Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Foundation. The awards are offered to high-school graduating seniors and college/university students. All applicants must be planning a career in education. Questions about the scholarship should be sent to greegno@comcast.net or call 925-443-6097. Application packets for the scholarships can be downloaded at: div85.ca/rta.org. Go to Scholarships and Grants, and select 2016 Application Forms. Application deadline is March 26, 2016.

Lindsay Wildlife Experience, tickets are now available for the Sixth Annual Faces of Wildlife Gala, scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2016 at Diablo Country Club (1700 Clubhouse Road, Diablo). This wild evening event will raise money for Lindsay Wildlife, which treats more than 5,500 injured and orphaned animals each year. 2015 was a record year for Lindsay, with the drought causing a flood of more, and worse-off, animals than in recent history.

Livermore Lions Crab Feed Friday, February 26, 2016; The Rock House Restaurant 443-3240, 1840 Portola Ave, Livermore, 5:30 p.m. doors open, crab feed 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact Lion Ben Barrientos at 449-9974 or tickets to the Crab Feed tickets will also will be available at The

BULLETIN BOARD

Rock House Restaurant 1840 Portola Ave, Livermore.

Livermore Valley Coin Club 53rd annual coin show and sale on Sunday March 6, 2016, from 10 am to 5 pm. at the Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Drive Springtown in Livermore. More than 20 dealers from all over Northern California will offer gold, silver, and base metal coins from the United States and foreign countries. Dealers will make appraisals and purchase coins from the public. Admission is free. wooden "nicks" commemorating the event will be given away while supplies last. An hourly drawing will be held for a U.S. silver eagle dollars. Members of the Livermore Valley Coin Club will set up numismatic displays, information table and will be available to discuss the club's activities. Limited lunch service will be available. For further information please call Stephen Kramer at (925) 980-9307.

Crab Feed, Feb. 27, 2016. The Livermore High School Alumni Assoc. is producing its 4th Annual Crab Feed to benefit the students, faculty & administrators of LHS. Each year the LHSAA funds numerous request from LHS to provide items/programs that are no longer in their budget. LHSAA invites all to take part in the Crab Feed and both Live and Silent Auctions Fundraiser. Go to www.livermorehighalummi.com for additional information, email lhalummiassoc@gmail.com or call Ray 925-606-5518.

ClutterLess Self Help Support Group, nonprofit, peer-based, self-help, support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not an organizing issue. New meeting location: Parkview, 100 Valley Avenue (main entrance), 2nd Floor Activity Room, Pleasanton. Mondays except some holidays 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Come or call a volunteer at 925/289-5356 or 925-922-1467. More information at: www.clutterlessbay.org

Writing club for young adults, Whether a seasoned writer or just starting out, join published Young Adult author J.L. Powers at Livermore Public Library for the Writing Club for Young Adults, ages 13 through 21 will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month: February 18, March 17, April 21, and May 19. The meetings will be held at the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. The club is free and no registration is required. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermorelibrary.net, or contact Jennifer at 925-373-5576.

Tri-Valley Stargazers Astronomy Club. Feed your wonder about the Night Sky and the Cosmos by joining us on the 3rd Friday of the Month for our club meeting. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. talk starts at 7:30 pm. For more info visit us @ <http://www.trivalleystargazers.org/>

Sons in Retirement (SIR) is a social group of retired men who join together to better enjoy their leisure time. Activities include golf, bridge, photography, travel, fishing, biking, wine tasting, and technology. The Tri-Valley Branch serves men living in Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, and San Ramon. The group meets for lunch on the first Thursday of each month at the San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Lane, San Ramon. Please read more about the Tri-Valley SIR at <http://sirs34.org/> and the Statewide SIR at www.sirinc.org/. For information

or to attend a meeting, call Rich Osborne 925-785-3549.

NAMI Tri-Valley Parent Resource & Support Group meets monthly for parents/caretakers of children ages 5-17 years with (or suspected of having) emotional/psychiatric disorders. It meets the third Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm at Pathways to Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Suite 114, Pleasanton. The group is drop-in and free. Contact person is Marsha McInnis at 925-980-5331.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) is a group for retired men who seek activities to enhance their retirement. Monthly meetings feature lunch and an interesting speaker. Men have the opportunity to learn about and join activities such as hiking, bridge, investment, bowling, bocce ball and wood carving. There is also a neat group of guys to get to know. SIR Branch #121 meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the DoubleTree Hotel, Las Flores Road (near Bluebell Drive), Livermore, at 11:30. Any retired man is welcome to drop by to learn about your opportunities. For more information check our website: branch121.sirinc2.org or email Neal Cavanaugh at nealcavanaugh@att.net (put "SIR" in the subject line).

Eric's Corner is a free support group for people who are dealing with a diagnosis of Epilepsy. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings. Meetings are held at 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., second floor, Pleasanton. We meet from 6:30-8:00 on the third Thursday of each month. For more information please visit us at ericcorner.org

Pleasanton Lions Club welcomes visitors to come experience a great time while making a difference in our community & beyond. Dinner meetings every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. The Regalia House, 4133 Regalia Ct., Pleasanton. www.pleasantonlionsclub.org

Assistance League® of Amador Valley invites all visitors to join this dedicated group of volunteers, reaching out to those in need in the Tri-Valley and having fun doing it. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Parkview, 100 Valley Ave., Pleasanton. For more information, see our website, www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org, e-mail assistanceleagueamadorvalley@yahoo.com, or call (925) 461-6401.

Operation: SAM "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 morale support of deployed troops. For information or donations, visit www.operationsam.org, email operationsam@comcast.net or call 925-443-7620.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) Pleasanton, meets Wednesdays 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton (not affiliated with the church. Information at www.dbsalliance.org/pleasanton or contact chapter leader, Al Pereira, 462-6415.

Pleasanton Newcomers Club, open to new and established residents of the Tri-Valley. Activities include a coffee the first Wednesday of the month, a luncheon on the second Wednesday of the month, Bunco, Mah Jongg, walking/hiking groups, family activities, and monthly adult socials. Information, call 925-215-8405 or visit www.PleasantonNewcomers.com

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), self-help weight loss support group meets

in Livermore in the Clubhouse at Hillcrest Gardens, 550 Hillcrest Ave., on Mondays, 6:-6:30 p.m., Weigh-in (private); meeting begins 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Information, contact Phyllis at 443-5943.

Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL) offers services to help people with disabilities and supports them to live independently and participate in their community for as long as they are willing and able to do so. CRIL maintains offices in Hayward, Fremont and Livermore to provide information and referrals and provide community education at senior centers and affordable housing complexes to residents of Southern Alameda County. The Tri-Valley office is located at 3311 Pacific Avenue, Livermore 94550 and can be reached by phone at (925) 371-1531, by FAX at (925) 373-5034 or by e-mail at abril.tamayo@cril-online.org. All services are free.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the third floor movie 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.

RELIGION

First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. 8:30 a.m. Contemplative Service in the Chapel and 10:00 a.m. Traditional Service in the Sanctuary and children's program For more information www.fpcl.us or 925-447-2078.

Tri-Valley Bible Church, 2346 Walnut St., Livermore, holds Sunday worship at 10 a.m. with Sunday school for all ages at 9 a.m. Children's classes during adult worship service. AWANA children's program Wednesdays at 6 p.m. 449-4403 or www.Tri-ValleyBibleChurch.com.

Unitarian Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Information 447-8747 or www.uucil.org

Congregation Beth Emek, Center for Reform, Jewish Learning, Prayer and Community in the Tri-Valley. 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Information 931-1055. Rabbi Dr. Lawrence Milder, www.bethemek.org.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (csjo.org). Information, Rabbi Judith Seid, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, 485-1049 or EastBaySecularJews.org.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Livermore, services 10 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday School for students (ages 3-20) is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. The church and reading room are located at Third and N Streets. The Reading Room, which is open to the public, features books, CDs and magazines for sale. For information, call (925) 447-2946.

Sunset Community Church, 2200 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m. Hispanic service starts at 2 p.m. Nursery and children's church provided. A "Night of Worship" first Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. Wednesday night program for all ages at 7 p.m. Information, call 447-6282.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. 1020 Mochó St., Livermore. Information, 447-8840.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. worship (semi-formal); 10:30 a.m. adult Bible study/Sunday school. For information, call 925-447-1246.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Information 447-1950.

Calvary Chapel Livermore, meetings Sundays at 10 a.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvarylivermore.org.

United Christian Church, www.uccilv.org, a gay-welcoming congregation offering community and spiritual encouragement for questioners, seekers and risk-takers. Worship on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; call 449-6820 for more information.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Concannon Boulevard, Livermore. Services: Sunday school - 9:45 a.m.; worship service - 11 a.m. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462, services on Saturday: Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.livermoresda.org/ All are welcome.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Senior adult ministries meet every other month. Call the office at 846-8650 for more information.

Trinity Church, 557 Olivina Ave. Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., and Sunday School and Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday night there is adult Bible study, youth activities and children's choir at 6:30 p.m. 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.

St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 5860 Las Positas Rd., Livermore. Sunday Liturgy at 10 a.m. For details, go to www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. John Karcher at (831) 278-1916.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Services on Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School & Chapel at 10:15 a.m. All are most welcome to come and worship with us and to enjoy our hospitality. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore, (925) 447-3289. www.saintbartslivermore.com. Service Schedule: 8:00 a.m. Contemplative Eucharist; 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study (check web-site); 10:20 Sunday School (Godly Play); 10:30: Sung Eucharist with choir, child care provided.

Little Brown Church, United Church of Christ 141 Kilkare Road, Sunol. 10:30 a.m. worship. All are welcome here. www.littlebrownchurchofsunol.org 925-862-2580

Pathway Community Church, 6533 Sierra Lane, Dublin. Contemporary Worship Service, Sunday 10:30 a.m. Children, youth, adult programs. Biblically based practical messages, nondenominational. All are welcomed. www.pathwaycommunitychurch.org (925) 829-4793.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 486 S. J Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. worship service. Bible Study/Sunday School

10:20. Bible Basics Class, which explores the main teachings of the Bible, meets at 7:00 Sunday night. Call 371-6200 or email pmjrmueller@gmail.com for more info.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ, 4481 East Avenue, Livermore; worship service 10:15 a.m. Sundays. www.trivalleychurch.org.

Bethel Family Christian Center, 501 North P Street, Livermore, Pastors are Don & Debra Qualls. Weekly ministries: Sunday 10 a.m. - Teaching Sessions; Sunday 10:25 a.m. - Holy Grounds Fellowship; Sunday Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Elementary aged children go to Kid's Church following worship, nursery available; Wednesday 7 p.m. - Back to the Point Bible Study; all ages; Friday 7 p.m. - Celebrate Recovery; in the dining hall, 925-449-4848.

Valley Bible Church, Pleasanton, 7106 Johnson Drive, Services at 9:00 and 11:00. Interpretation for the deaf at 9:00. 925-227-1301. www.thecrossing.org

Valley Bible Church, Livermore, Meeting at Altamont Creek Elementary School, 6500 Garaventa Ranch Road, Livermore. Services at 10:00 a.m.

Cedar Grove Community Church, 2021 College Ave., Livermore. Worship Services 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. www.cedargrove.org or call 447-2351.

Chabad of the Tri-Valley, 784 Palomino Dr., Pleasanton. 846-0700. www.jewishtrivalley.com. Rabbi Raleigh Resnick.

Well Community Outreach Center ministry provides meats, canned and dry goods, toiletries, and school supplies (only available prior to the start of the school year). Those with an immediate need or who would like to donate nonperishable food items, call the office at (925) 479-1414 to begin the process. Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Thursday 4 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Pick up by appointment only. The Outreach Center will be open every 4th Saturday to distribute bags from Fresh and Easy Market and Sprouts. This will be on a first come first serve basis between 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 2333 Nissen Drive, Livermore.

Lynnwood United Methodist Church at 4444 Black Ave. a friendly congregation welcomes all. Worship at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school for youth and adults at 10:30 a.m. and childcare at both services. Also, on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m., newest offering "Come As You Are," is an informal, contemporary worship experience. Contact Rev. Heather Hammer at 846-0221, send an email to office@lynnwood.org or visit www.lynnwood.org.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: 9050 Mochó St., Livermore. 3rd ward 2:20 p.m., 2nd ward 9 a.m., Mochó branch (Spanish) 12 noon. 1501 Hillcrest Ave., Livermore: 1st ward, 1 p.m.; 4th ward 9 a.m., Springtown ward, 11 a.m. Young single adult ware, 1:30 p.m., 8203 Village Parkway, Dublin.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Pleasanton 1st Ward: Sunday at 1 p.m., 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz. Pleasanton 2nd Ward: Sunday 1 p.m. at 3574 Vineyard Ave. Pleasanton 3rd Ward: Sunday 9:30 a.m., 3574 Vineyard Ave. Pleasanton 4th Ward: Sunday 9:30 a.m., 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz. Dublin 1st Ward: Sunday 9:30 a.m., 8203 Village Parkway.

John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Rd., Dublin. Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school for ages 3-18 during worship. Adult education Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Jr. High youth group

Sundays 4:00-6:10 p.m. High school youth group Sundays 5:50-8:00 p.m. www.jkpcdublin.org (925)828-1846.

Livermore Quakers: Unprogrammed worship, Mondays at 7pm, 1886 College Ave. (United Christian Church). More information: LivermoreQuakers@gmail.com or (925) 315-7170.

St. Francis of Assisi, 193 Contractors St., Livermore. Sunday School (all ages) - 8:30 AM. Communion - 9:30 AM. 925-906-9561 francisanglican.church.

Center for Spiritual Living Livermore Valley - People from all faith traditions, cultures, races and sexual orientations welcome. Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. Youth and teen programs offered as well. All are welcome. Meeting place 1617 2nd St., 2nd Floor, Livermore. For more information contact revharriet1@yahoo.com or visit us at <http://cslvllighthouse.org>.

St. Matthews Baptist Church, 851 Rincon Ave., Livermore. www.smbclive.com or 443.3686. Dr. Allen S. Turner. Worship services 8 and 11 a.m., Sunday family Bible school, 9:30 p.m., Bible study and youth ministry, Wednesday 7 p.m. Feed the homeless, Saturday 11 a.m. Prayer, 6 p.m. weekdays.

"1 & 2 Corinthians" will be the featured study of Community Bible Study Women's class of Pleasanton this fall. A Children's Program is available for infants to 5 years old. Class starts on continues each week on Thursdays at 9:30-11:30am until May 12, 2015. Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton. Contact Sherri at 925-399-5074 or email sherri.cbs@gmail.com for more information or to register.

WINGS (Women in God's Spirit) for women of all ages and life stages, Meets Thursday mornings 9:30-11:30am through May 15, St. Charles Parish - Borromeo Hall, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Questions: Donna Leah (925-443-6815)[deach45@gmail.com] or Kristen Barton (925-449-8002)[adele_obrien@hotmail.com]

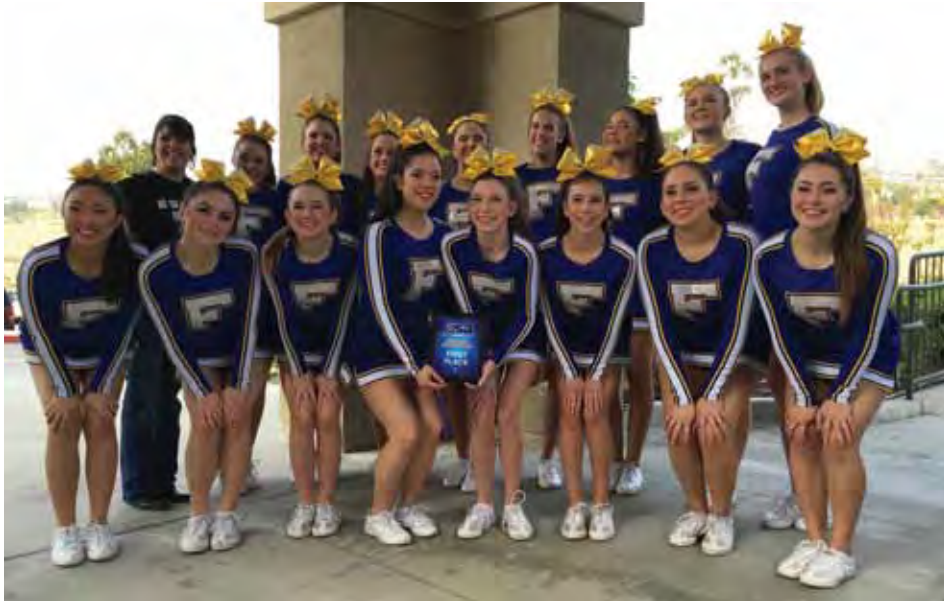
Tri-Valley Church of Christ, gives away clothing and other items every Monday 10-12. Donations are also accepted on Mondays between 10-12. 4418 E. Avenue, Livermore.

Christ Church (a nondenominational evangelical church formerly meeting in Pleasanton), Now meeting at Arroyo Mochó Elementary School, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Worship service at 9:00 a.m.; Educational Classes for all ages at 11:00 a.m. Fall adult education course: "Human Sexuality: Biblical and Theological Perspectives," taught by Robert W. Evans (Ph.D. in clinical psychology and Ph.D. in systematic theology). visit: www.christchurch-trivalley.org or call 925.846.0665.

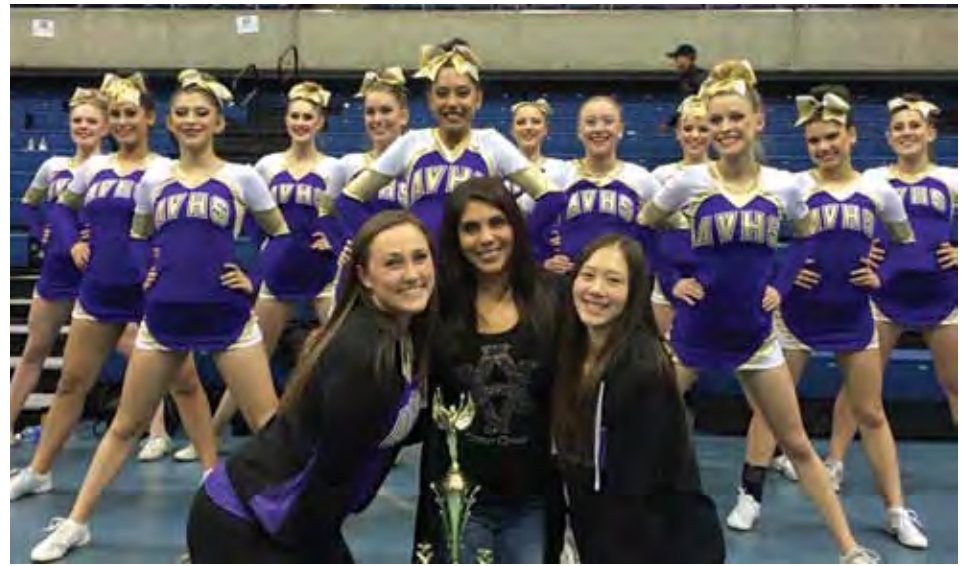
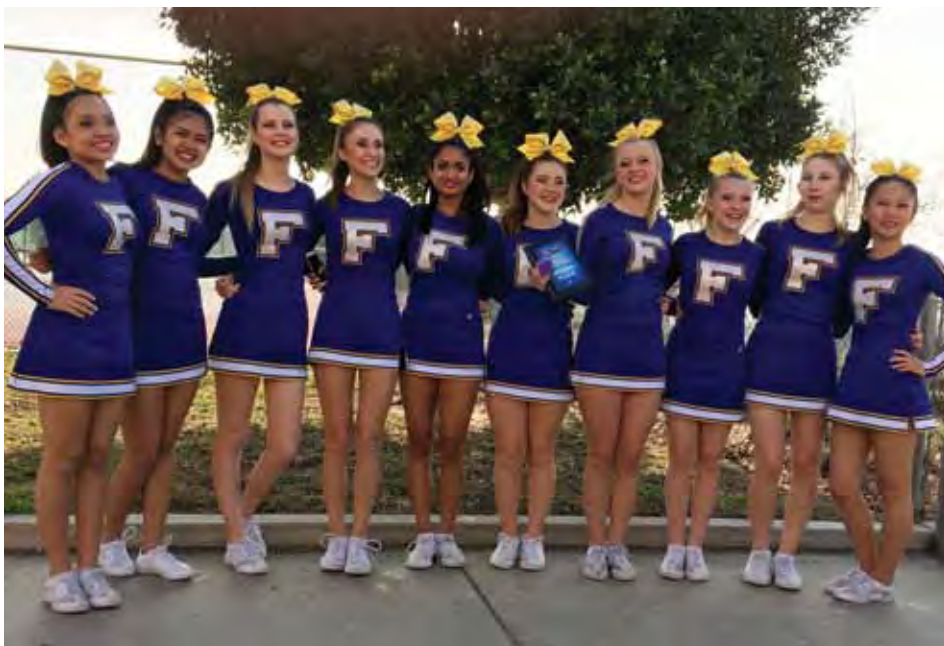
Grief Workshop, bi-monthly to help people with the healing journey. St. Elizabeth Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Pleasanton. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 25th. March 10th. 2016. No per-registration is necessary, but if it is your first night attending, arrive a little early to check in. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Nancy at 925-846-9543 for more information.

Unity of Tri-Valley - 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Suite 108, Dublin. 10:00 am Sunday service. Rev. Micah Murdock, interim minister. All are welcome. Ongoing groups and activities. www.unityoftrivalley.org/ 829-2733.

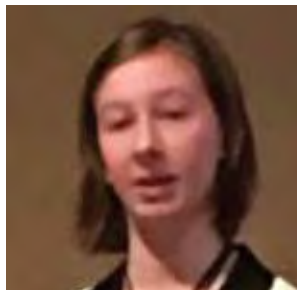
Milestones



Foothill High School Competition Cheer Team girls participated in the USA Cheer Regional Competition in American Canyon on Sunday, November 15. All three teams (Varsity, Group Stunt, and JV) took first place in their divisions and qualified for Nationals in March of 2016. Varsity faced 5 other teams to win, Group Stunt and JV faced 1 each. Group Stunt did win against hometown rivals from Amador Valley High School. The Varsity team members are (top photo) Emma Loll, Kenzie Curran, Kelly Jefferies, Lizzie Beer, Valeria Blanco, Jessica Cole, Annie Fenton, Emily LaDue, Claire Larsen, Tori Maes, Sophia Ondi, Rachel Sanchez, Julia Tolari, Kimberly Wang, Sophia Barletta, and Sara Ling. Coaches are Kim DeJoy and Cheryl Holy. Group Stunt team members are Kenzie Curran, Kelly Jefferies, Sophia Ondi, Sara Ling, and Sophia Barletta. JV team members are Swathi Saseedhar, Anna Sullivan, Lydia Chamberland, Julia Castenada, Chloe Chai, Kailey Conrad, Gali Hoffman, Jolie Rodriguez, Hannah Toe, and Amanda Zagar.



On Superbowl Sunday, the competition cheer team from Amador Valley High School competed at a USA Open at UC Davis. They took 2nd place in the small Intermediate cheer division. They are headed to USA National's March 17th down in Anaheim. Pictured are (back to front) Ashely Boxberger, Katherine Jackson, Kaitlyn McGarrity, Krista Lewis, Emily Mercer, McKenna Shaffer, Mary Hinik, Lindzee Alacade, Maci Manos, Kaitlyn Letourneau, Melia Storey, Kayla Fulmer, Lauren Shohfi, Coach Danielle Butler and Jessica Halligrimson.



BUSINESS

Handcraft Tile Showroom Opens in Livermore

Handcraft Tile, the oldest tile manufacturer in California, has opened a beautiful new showroom in Livermore, located at 61-A Rickenbacker Circle. For ninety years, the company has been known for its timeless, rustic, Craftsman products. The showroom features display boards and sample tiles to demonstrate design ideas and colors. Tiles are made to order with a lead time of about 8 weeks.

Shirley Dinkins is the Showroom Manager and will meet with customers on an appointment basis.

Handcraft Tile began operations in 1926 in San Jose, California. Early on, the business was moved to Milpitas. Handcraft Tile manufactured handmade tile there for the next seventy-five years. In 2007, the company was moved to Southern California and the showroom in Milpitas was closed. Handcraft's tiles continue to be manufactured in Long Beach from the finest California clays.

The showroom phone number is (925) 606-1014 and the email address is shirley@HandcraftTile.com.

Two Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory (LVCP) students took the top prizes in the 2016 competition at the Rotary Club of the Livermore Valley. Lamisa Ahmed won the top prize of \$100, and will move on to the Regional Rotary contest. Shannon Meyer won \$50 in her second place finish. Three LVCP students and three from Granada High School competed. Pictured are (top) Lamisa Ahmed and Shannon Meyer.