

**VOLUME XLIX, NUMBER 8** 

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

Art. Community, & Education



### **Find Out What's** Happening Check out the

#### second section

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

#### Meeting Set to **Discuss Solar Power Policies**

The Alameda County planning department has scheduled a meeting for Feb. 28 to discuss solar power policies.

It will be held starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Alameda County Public Works Building, 4825 Gleason Dr., Dublin.

The county has already approved on solar power plant.

The Eastern Alameda County Board of Zoning Adjustments approved Cool Earth's application to build a plant on 140 rural acres in the eastern area of the county. The decision was appealed by the Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC).

TVC asked that the county first develop a policy for the use and location of solar energy projects.

A second, much larger, project is in the works. Pegasus Energy Partners is proposing a project that would cover 2,000 acres in eastern Alameda County with solar panels.

### i-GATE to Work **On Futuristic** Transit System

i-GATE has signed an agreement with CyberTran International to support technology development and implementation of its high-speed rail technology CyberTran's technology is the result of research from the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and promises to deliver futuristic transit systems with significant cost savings and sustainable financing. The technology provides a passenger rail system that allows passengers to plan their destinations around their personal schedules. The computer-controlled and lightweight rail cars run on a fixed track and can be powered by solar panels. Stations are aligned as off-track sidings to allow the system to continue to move cars through the systems while unloading and loading. The system's small vehicle size creates significantly lower material and construction costs. 'This agreement represents an important milestone for i-GATE by providing additional opportunities for ground-breaking researchers to connect and grow innovative companies,' said Bruce Balfour, President and Chief Operating Officer of the i-GATE National Energy Systems Technology (NEST) Commercialization Center. Neil Sinclair, CyberTran's Chairman, stated, "We are excited to be joining i-GATE. CyberTran's technology development will be accelerated by joining i-GATE's ecosystem of two national research labs, universities, and venture community. We believe i-GATE can add a great deal of value to our technology development and implementation program.' i-GATE is a public-private regional partnership of ten cities, two national laboratories, universities, research institutions, and over thirty additional venture capital, angel investor, economic development, and industry partners. i-GATE supports the growth of new technology companies and creation of jobs in clean energy, green transportation, and high performance computing. CyberTran operates in a \$100B market in the US with a larger global market potential. The prototype system is being developed in Richmond, CA in partnership with the city and industrial partners.

## **Congressional Testimony Reinforces Picture Of Damage To Labs from Federal Micromanagement**

#### **By Jeff Garberson**

Critical Congressional testimony last week strongly reinforced concerns expressed only two days earlier in a national report about the damage that federal micromanagement is inflicting on the nation's three national security laboratories, including Lawrence Livermore.

The testimony was delivered to a subcommittee of the House

Armed Services Committee by several former laboratory directors, including Livermore's George Miller and Michael Anastasio.

The national report, from a unit of the National Academy of Science, said that the scientific capabilities of the Labs are being seriously undermined by overly prescriptive federal management practices.

In testimony, the former directors made the point even more forcefully.

Nearly all the criticism was directed at the National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA), a semi-autonomous branch of the U.S. Department of Energy created in 2000 in order to provide more specific management attention to DOE's national security responsibilities.

Whether the criticisms will be heeded and Federal management practices modified to be more supportive of science is unclear to observers. Previous reports have outlined the same problems.

Last week, in the Congressional testimony, the consensus among senior Lab managers was that the problems are becoming worse, not better.

Miller, the former Livermore Lab director, told the House Armed Services Committee that despite the laboratories' many scientific successes, "we could do much more were it not for existing red tape and bureaucratic inefficiencies in federal management and oversight.'

It was one of the milder statements of the day. Sig Hecker, (See MANAGEMENT, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

### Exploring the Tri-Valley by Trail

Sunol Regional Wilderness is a popular hiking spot.

#### By Patricia Koning

The most common reaction to Tri-Valley Trails: Hiking adventures in the greater Livermore, Amador, and San Ramon Valleys, the 2010 book by Nancy Rodrigue and Jacky Poulsen, is surprise at the number and variety of hikes in the Tri-Valley area. "Our objective was to get people hiking," says Jacky. "It's such a wonderful activity - it's social, inexpensive, and a great

The idea for the book came about, says Nancy, because there was nothing like it when she began hiking. "Twenty years ago, my brand new hiking group picked Rocky Ridge for our first outing. That is not a trail for beginners. We started with three members and by the next week we were down to two," she explains.

Tri-Valley Trails covers 67 hikes in nine parks – Brushy Las Trampas Wilderness, Los Vaqueros, Macedo Ranch, Morgan Territory, Pleasanton Ridge. Sunol, and Sycamore Grove. Sycamore Grove is operated by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District: the rest are operated by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD).

The book contains an overview of each park and two pages are devoted to each hike with information on length, eleva-

## Pleasanton OK with Single Use Bag Ban; Opts Out of Recycling

Pleasanton will take part in the single use bag ban ordinance, but opted out of the mandatory recycling ordinance.

The ordinances were approved by the Alameda County StopWaste.org. Cities were allowed to opt out, with a decision to do so to be made by March 2, 2012.

Staff had recommended that Pleasanton not participate in the mandatory recycling because the financial impacts are not known. The city is currently undergoing a rate review with Pleasanton Garbage Service. Once that is completed there would be a better picture of the costs associated with the ordinance.

The vote was unanimous. The motion included direction to staff to bring the mandatory recycling ordinance back to the council once the financial impacts are known. The city could then opt in.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan noted that Pleasanton is the only city in Alameda County that will not be participating.

Although the city decided not to take part in the recycling program, local self-haulers are required to do so. They must separate their refuse or pay a 10% surcharge at landfills.

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

The single use bag ordinance bans the use of free single-use carry-out bags and imposes a minimum 10 cent per bag charge for recycled content paper bags and reusable bags. The ordinance takes effect on Jan. 1, 2013. It applies mainly to stores that sell food. Restaurants and nonprofits are exempt, as are such businesses as Macy's and Home Depot.

State law under AB341 requires commercial businesses to begin mandatory recycling. However, there are no guidelines in place. The StopWaste. org ordinance would be used to provide the guidelines in Alameda County.

Councilmember Cindy Mc-Govern wondered about potential legal challenges to the county's ban of single use bags. She (See RECYCLING, page 8)

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

way to stay healthy.'

Peak, Del Valle, Finley Road,

(See TRAILS, page 8)

The new mandatory recycling

### **Pleasanton Parents Speak Against Any Cuts to Reading**

#### By Ron McNicoll

The importance of school programs and their lifelong impacts on the lives of students is being underscored in the Pleasanton Unified School District.

School board members at their meeting Feb. 14 heard pleas by parents and students for the board to refrain from cutting the Barton Reading Program (BRP) by 50 percent \$53,000.

Some 150 students are served by BRP. They receive tutoring three times a week from volunteers, who are trained by the coordinator

Parents described the program as crucial to teaching reading to students who can't be reached by any other method. Supporters have said that cutting the program any further could eliminate it entirely, because it already is

being run on a shoestring after a previous 50 percent reduction.

Long-term effects of failure by students to learn to read include increased likelihood of poverty, drug use, and serving a prison sentence, said several backers of BRP.

BRP is on a list of 15 potential cuts totaling \$3.1 million, which the board apparently will have to (See SCHOOLS, page 9)

### Safety Top Priority for Livermore

Safety is the top category that should receive funding in Livermore's general fund budget. That was the consensus of the 50 to 60 people who took part in a budget workshop last Thursday.

The workshop was a prelude to upcoming discussions regarding the city budget for the years 2012-2014.

Those attending were asked to rank a variety of options for spending within five categories. One category was "managing how the city looks." It included such programs as graffiti removal, planning for new development, greenbelt around the city, and public art. Under "support for business community," residents

were asked to rank such ideas as business attraction, i-GATE, job training programs, mass transit and freeway access, and special events and cultural activities among others.

A third category, "creating a safe community," included such things as 911 police, fire and (See WORKSHOP, page 8)

### Shadow Cliffs Water Slides May Disappear

The water slides at Shadow Cliffs Park will not be open this summer. It's possible they may never be open again.

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) assistant general manager Jim O'Connor said that at least \$500,000 of work will be needed to fix problems with the slides. So much work is needed

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that it is too late now to green light the water slides this year.

"What I said at a January meeting (of the board's operations committee) is that the slides are 30 years old. In my opinion, they are at the end of their useful service life. (For example,) all of the supporting infrastructure is rusted out," said O'Connor.

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The future of the water slides will be the subject of discussion for the EBRPD operations committee at a meeting at 12:45 p.m. March 15 in Oakland.

The district owns the facility and will have to make a judgment as to whether it will be worth putting money into the slides in the (See WATER SLLIDES, page 5)



in the opening round.

Puuurrrr! Are you looking for a sweet kitty who loves to cuddle? Josie is just right for you. At only nine months, Josie is a precious, adorable, and beautiful kitten who is anxious for her forever home. Having been at the shelter for about six months now, she is so deserving of a good home. Come on down and meet her and her best friend, Kona (not pictured). Interested in learning more? Call 925-426-8656 or go online to www.valleyhumane.org or www. facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety to see other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton.

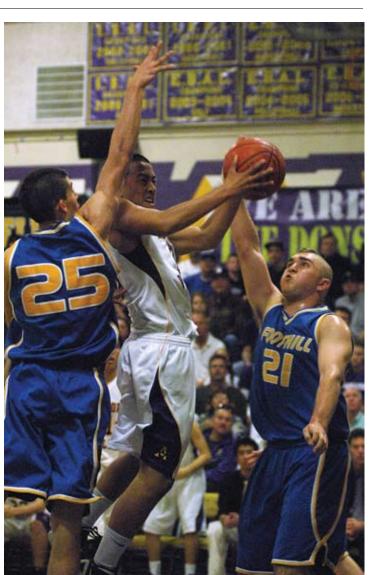
Amador Valley High School ended the EBAL boys basketball

season with a 47 to 44 win over crosstown rival Foothill High.

The Dons took on Liberty High School in the first round of the

North Coast Section playoffs on Tuesday. The other valley team

in the playoffs is Granada High School, who played San Leandro





#### PAGE 2 - The Independent, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

#### SPACE DUST

A reflection off a gas cloud is giving astronomers a remarkable second chance to see and study the spectacular eruption that created a double star system, Eta Carinae, one of the brightest stars in the sky in the mid-1800s.

The heart of Eta Carinae is a rare Luminous Blue Variable star. It is some 4 million times more luminous than the sun but

burns at cooler temperatures than most erupting stars, challenging astrophysicists to explain its internal processes.

The system is 7,500-8000 light years from Earth. With a mass greater than 100 times that of the sun's, it was once thought to be the most massive star in the heavens. A second, orbiting star was recognized in 2005. Some think there may be still more stars bound to it gravitationally.

Eta Carinae is known today for violent eruptions as it nears the end of its life. It is thought to have blown off some 20 solar masses during the 20-year Great Eruption of the 1800s. Astronomers today believe it generated nearly as much visible light as a supernova, or exploding star. It survived, and the eruption left two bright lobes of material that are difficult or impossible to penetrate optically but make for an iconic photo by the Hubble Space Telescope.

The second chance to see and now study the Great Eruption comes about because some of its bright light traveled away from Earth and chanced to reach a gas cloud that bounced it back to Earth some 170 years later. This phenomenon is called a light echo. A graduate student at UC-Santa Barbara has confirmed that the light now arriving is from Eta Carinae by comparing historical reports from the 1800s with the readings from a telescope in Siding Springs, Australia.

The event creates the first opportunity to study repeated stellar eruptions using spectroscopes and other modern astronomical instruments. They literally show Eta Carinae from a new perspective both because of the time delay and because the viewing angle is not the same as observation along a direct path.

Knowing the history of the 19th Century Great Eruption allows astronomers to prepare for upcoming changes. Armin Rest of the Space Science Telescope Institute in Baltimore expects "brightening again in six months from another increase in light that was seen in 1844. We hope to capture light from the outburst coming from different directions so that we can get a complete picture of the eruption."

Rest is lead researcher and author of an article published last week in Nature magazine.

#### **OCEAN ACIDITY AND MARINE LIFE**

Changes in ocean acidity caused by increasing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere will soon start affecting marine ecosystems, according to studies conducted on several continents. Fewer species thrive or are healthy near regions of higher natural acidity such as natural carbon dioxide seeps at the ocean bottom, scientists reported from the University of Plymouth in England. They spoke last week at the Vancouver meeting of the world's biggest scientific organization, the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



Oceans absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, acidifying very slowly through the formation of carbonic acid. By the end of this century, ocean pH is generally expected to reach the study level of 7.8 if current CO2 rise continues.

The researchers studied sites

near Papua New Guinea, Baja

California and Italy, where car-

bon dioxide from seeps has low-

ered pH, the standard measure of

acidity, to 7.8 — more acidic than

the oceans' normal 8.1. In these

areas, "coral and algae are gone

.... sea urchins are gone" and

fish won't lay eggs, according to

Plymouth's Jason Hall-Spencer.

In related experiments in the laboratory, researchers from the University of Miami raised groups of coral larvae in ocean water at normal acidity and at the elevated acidity expected by mid-century and by 2100. According to research leader Chris Langdon, the coral in the highest acid tanks experienced a metabolic slowdown of 65 percent. The result was that they were less able to make use of nutrients.

The elevated acidity is "a ball and chain attached to the leg of every coral larva," Langdon said. "It's not killing it outright, but each will have to go through life dragging this ball and chain behind." Langdon also found that the larvae's ability to make energy from nutrients in the water suffered in the reduced pH. "So it's like they're starving at the same time."

#### **RECONCILING TWO CLIMATE STUDIES**

A British study concluded that the killer heat wave suffered during the Russian summer of 2010 may have had both natural and human origins. The heat wave took 55,000 lives and cost an estimated \$15 billion in damages.

The study appears to reconcile the findings of two previous studies, one in the U.S. that suggested natural causes for the heat wave and the other in Germany that pointed to human factors. The new study was carried out by a research team at Oxford, which ran thousands of simulations using the idle computers of volunteers in the weatherathome.net project to increase computing power.

One set of simulations considered the likelihood that the climate of the 1960s could have produced the heat wave, the other that the present climate could have. The simulations showed that the extreme conditions were possible under either case.

However, the cooler climate of the 1960s should have produced such a heat wave once in a century, while the climate of 2010 could do so about every 33 years - a threefold increase in probability in 40 years.

"These results show that the same weather event can be both 'mostly natural' in terms of magnitude and 'mostly human-induced' in terms of probability," explained Neil Massey, an author of an article that will appear in in the the journal Geophysical Research Letters. "Thinking in these terms makes it possible to calculate, for instance, how much human-induced climate change cost the Russian economy in the summer of 2010.'

### **Dublin Featured in Strong Cities Campaign**

The city of Dublin was profiled as part of the ongoing "Strong Cities | Strong State" campaign highlighting local government success stories across California. "Strong Cities | Strong State" is a project of the League of California Cities and the California City Management Foundation (CCMF).

"We are very excited to be part of the campaign because of its focus on local government's impact on the residents it serves,' said Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti. "Dublin was recently awarded the 'All-America City' designation because of the dedicated people in our community making Dublin's vision a reality.'

The city of Dublin's profile is accessible at: www.strongcitiesstrongstate.com/city/dublin.

Highlights of city of Dublin's profile include:

• Redevelopment of Arroyo Vista Public Housing Project - Creating Community Unification

• Sustainability through History: Construction of the Dublin Heritage Parks and Museums

· Construction of the School of Imagination (Happy Talkers) · Parks and Community Ser-

#### vices Strategic Plan 2008-2018 • Dublin 101 Leadership Academy

"Dublin is extremely proud of the five success stories highlighted in this campaign," said Dublin City Manager Joni Pattillo. "Dublin's residents exemplify a true sense of community and unity which leads to the achievement of great things."

The overarching goal of the 'Strong Cities" campaign is to promote the innovation and experience of local officials in delivering vital services at a time when this expertise is vitally needed by state leaders struggling with fundamental issues of governance. "Strong Cities | Strong State" seeks to position cities as vital, necessary and equal partners in building a better California.

The Strong Cities | Strong State campaign will continue profiling individual cities each day, with a goal of highlighting all California cities over the coming year-and-a-half. Profiles include photos, video and other media articulating how each individual city has been working to both provide essential services, as well as elevate the quality of life of its residents.

#### 'Idol' Contestant to Help **Raise Funds for Big Dawgs**

American Idol contestant, Jason 'Wolf' Hamlin will perform at a fundraiser for Big Dawgs Rescue on Sunday, Feb. 26. Two shows are planned, 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The evening of wine, music and food will be held at The Winemaker's Pour House in downtown Livermore.

Seating is reserved, with only

24 seats available each show. Tickets are \$20 will call only at (925) 215-2656.

The Winemaker's Pour House is located at 2241 First Street, Livermore. For more information call 925 215-2656, www. winemakerspourhouse.com.

For information about Big Dawgs Rescue go to www.bigdawgrescue.org.

### ValleyCare Acknowledged for Achievements in Cardiology

ValleyCare Health System is only one of 167 hospitals nationwide to receive the American College of Cardiology Foundation's NCDR ACTION Registry® GWTG<sup>TM</sup> Gold Performance Achievement Award for 2011.

The award recognizes Valley-Care's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients, and signifies that ValleyCare has reached an aggressive goal in treating these patients per clinical guidelines and recommendations outlined by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association.

To receive the Gold Performance Achievement Award, ValleyCare consistently followed treatment guidelines in ACTION

said Gregg Fonarow, MD, FACC, FAHA, ACTION Registry® GWTG<sup>TM</sup> Steering Committee Chair. "Full implementation of acute and secondary prevention guideline-recommended therapy is critical in saving the lives and improving outcomes of heart attack patients.'

'The time is right for Valley-Care to be focused on improving quality of cardiac care by implementing these guidelines. The number of acute heart attack patients is expected to grow over the next decade due to increasing incidence of heart disease along with an aging population," said ValleyCare CEO Marcy Feit.

ACTION Registry® GWTG<sup>TM</sup> is a partnership between the American College of Cardiology a national standard for improving the quality, safety and outcomes

based guidelines and establishes of care for patients with coronary artery disease.





Preschool Starting 2 years + 8 mos. age Kindergarten Entry

Registry® GWTG<sup>™</sup> for eight consecutive quarters and met a performance standard of 85% for specific performance measures. "The American College of

Cardiology and the American Heart Association commends ValleyCare Health System for its success in implementing these protocols and standards of care,"

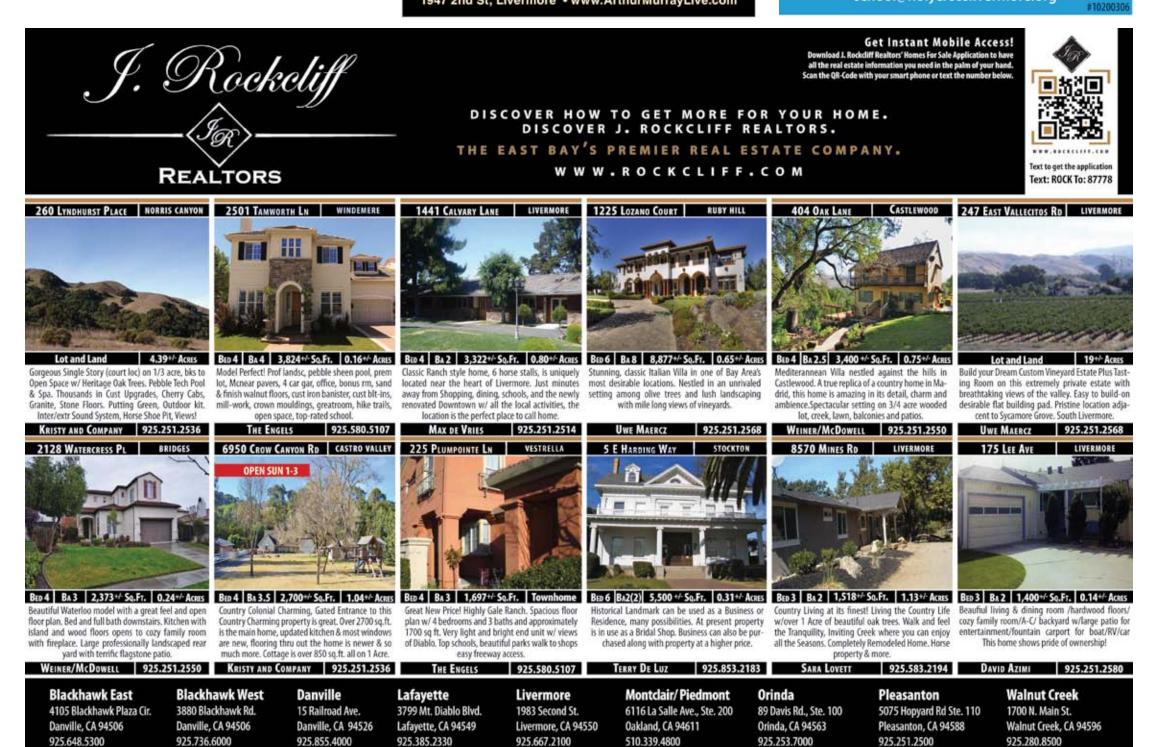
Foundation and the American Heart Association with partnering support from the American College of Emergency Physicians, Society of Chest Pain Center and the Society of Hospital Medicine. ACTION Registry<sup>®</sup> GWTG<sup>™</sup> enables health care providers to consistently treat heart attack patients with the latest, science-





reedom to explore

1020 Mocho St, Livermore, CA • (925) 447-1864 school@holycrosslivermore.org



### VALLEY ROUNDUP

#### Below Market Rate Housing

Eden Housing is holding three community meetings for those interested in Below Market Rate (BMR) units located at Emerald Vista (the former Arroyo Vista development located off Dougherty Road) in Dublin. Applications can be obtained starting March 1, 2012 and must be submitted no later than March 30, 2012.

For information regarding the community meetings and how to obtain an application, visit www.edenhousing.org or contact Dalene Harrison with Eden Housing at (925) 556-9424.

#### **On-line Property Auction**

Alameda County Treasurer Tax Collector Donald R. White has announced that the online auction to sell tax delinquent parcels of property will take place at www.bid4assets.com March 16 through March 19, 2012.

The properties are being sold using Bid4Assets, Inc. Interested persons may preview the properties on the website at www.bid4assets. com through March 15. If a potential bidder does not have Internet access, an Offline Bid Form is available from the Tax Collector's Office, which is located at 1221 Oak Street, 1st floor, in Oakland.

The properties for sale are located primarily in Oakland. To be eligible to participate in the auction, a bidder must pre-qualify with a \$5,000.00 deposit. More information regarding the online auction can be obtained from the Treasurer Tax Collector's website at www.acgov.org/treasurer/ index.shtml.

#### Pleasanton Road Work

Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton between West Las Positas and Stoneridge Drive will undergo roadway construction in late February and early March that likely will alter regular traffic patterns. The work is scheduled on February 28, 29, and March 1. Lanes 2 and 3 (the two left lanes) heading southbound (toward downtown Pleasanton) will be closed from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on each of those dates.

The scheduled work includes transition im-

provements on the roadway leading to the Arroyo Mocho Bridge, which will enhance the roadway surface on that section of Santa Rita Road. The City of Pleasanton's Operations Services Department is working in conjunction with the Traffic Engineering Department on this project and will monitor traffic closely to minimize any disruptions during this period.

For more information, please call (925) 931-5555.

#### Another Officer Attacked

For the second time this month, a Livermore police officer was attacked and injured while on duty.

The attack took place Saturday on the 900 block of Lambaren Avenue. Police went to the scene after receiving multiple 91 calls about individuals screaming, breaking bottles and a possible fight. Among the 100 subjects at the scene, an officer saw a male juvenile who was extremely intoxicated and was having difficulty walking. He attempted to check the welfare of the juvenile, when a group of individuals became confrontational.

A seventeen year old make incited others to challenge the officer. When an attempt was made to handcuff the second juvenile, he physically attacked the officer, punching him in the face and torso multiple times. An adult male, Adrian Manzano, attacked the officer from behind, jumping on his back and choking him. The officer, juvenile and Manzano fell to the ground, where the attack continued.

Once the attack was stopped, the officer was transported to ValleyCare Medical Center, where he was treated and released with a broken leg.

Manzano and the juvenile were arrested and charged with battery on a police officer with injury, resisting or deterring an officer with force, and willful resistance to a peace officer causing serious bodily injury.

The Livermore Police Department is encouraging any individual who witnessed the incident to contact Livermore Police Officer Steve Goard at (925) 294-7531.

## Your HEALTH is Important

ValleyCare Medical Foundation will be offering WELLNESS SCREENINGS at The Clinic

at Walmart.

#### Services offered:

- Flu shots
- Weight/BMI
- Blood pressure
- Blood glucose
- Cholesterol

#### Saturday, March 10 10am – 2pm

2700 Las Positas Rd Livermore, CA 94551 925-243-1551

Meet a ValleyCare Medical Foundation Sleep Expert and a Pediatrician! Have your questions

VALLEYCARE MEDICAL FOUNDATION Affiliated with ValleyCare Physicians Associates

www.myvcmf.com

#### Rocks Launched At Homes Causes Damage The Livermore Police Depart-

The Livermore Police Department is investigating nine vandalisms that occurred on February 18, 2012, between the hours of 1:00 am and 2:00 am. in the areas of Arlene Way, Charlotte Way, Felicia Way, and Almond Avenue.

During the vandalisms, large river rocks were launched resulting in significant property damage to mailboxes, vehicles, and residences. There were no injuries.

Investigators believe the suspects used a device to hurl the river rocks. In some instances, the river rocks traveled through



residential windows at dangerous speeds. In one case, a large river rock went through the front window of a residence and continued across a living room. The rock implanted into the sheetrock of a wall, next to a child's day crib.

The Livermore Police Department is seeking the community's assistance in locating and identifying the suspects in this case. If anyone has information or recognizes the vehicle from the surveillance footage, they are encouraged to call the Livermore Police Department at (925) 371-4900.

#### Chevron Grant To Innovation Tri-Valley

Innovation Tri-Valley recently received a grant from Chevron Energy Solutions (CES).

The CES grant was awarded because of what is described as Innovation Tri-Valley's unique approach to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) programs across the Tri-Valley, k-12 and the community colleges. An umbrella organization was created that identifies all ongoing needs and connects the educators with the business community. Innovation Tri-Valley goal is to help educators produce a career ready workforce while stressing collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

Innovation Tri-Valley is a business led regional initiative that aligns the vision of the private sector, the national labs, the community and civic leaders to create a business ecosystem to spur growth. It is designed to bring in new business and help existing businesses scale up.

Innovation Tri-Valley programs also include a business move-in package along with a program to streamline policies and permits for businesses that are expanding or moving in as well as a branding program. Steering committee members work closely with key personnel in both the Livermore Valley Open Campus and i-GATE.

## No horn blowing ... but a company worth knowing

Curtis Instruments, located in Livermore in the Tri-Valley for 25 years, designs highly specialized motor speed controllers used by electric vehicle manufacturers worldwide. Although we are an international leader in green technology, we don't sell our products directly to the public, so we don't blow our company horn around town. You might not know us, but we are a world-class design-engineering company. Curtis PMC brand motor controllers are used by major electric vehicle OEMs globally in all types of electric vehicles from forklifts to wheelchairs, from golf carts to industrial & utility vehicles. We set the standards in the industry for innovation, quality and reliability. For example, we were the first to introduce MOSFET controllers in the industrial power range. Curtis was "green" before the term became a buzzword. Locally and internationally, we're working to make the world a better place.

We are currently seeking to expand our world-class team by hiring top-level engineers. Check us out. See why Curtis is a company worth knowing.







www.curtisinstruments.com

## **EDITORIAL**

#### **Solar Policy**

It is a mistake on Alameda County's part to consider a rural solar policy separately from an urban solar policy.

Urban and rural solar options can work together to achieve the greatest impact in meeting state mandated greenhouse gas reductions as well as the requirement that one-third of the state's energy come from renewable sources.

Discussions are currently underway regarding a solar policy for the County, with a meeting scheduled for Feb. 28 in Dublin.

There are a variety of options for solar policies that could reduce the need for large solar installations that cover hundreds and even thousands of acres of agriculture land.

The County should consider incorporating passive solar design strategies, energy efficiency, conservation and other active solar heating strategies in the construction of buildings - both urban and rural. According to reports, these polices, with the addition of building-integrated photovoltaics (PV), can turn buildings into net energy producers.

For sites where new construction isn't likely, solar panels should be restricted to rooftops and paved areas.

Large areas of land suitable for agriculture should be maintained for that purpose. Experience has been that, once land has been industrialized, it will either stay industrial or be developed for residential. It will never produce food again.

The County's goal should be to provide direct source solar power, rather than allowing the construction of large solar projects that require energy to be transported many miles to users. There should be no conversion of farmland to industrial solar power.

### McNeney, Garamendi **Critical of Water Bill**

Two Tri-Valley Congressional representatives have attacked a water bill that they said is based on bad science, and would destroy Central Valley jobs.

The bill, HR 1837, was written by Devin Nunes, a Central Valley Republican. Nunes says that the bill would improve Delta ecology and remove any need to build a peripheral canal around the Delta.

The bill essentially would grant west Valley farmers first priority over water from the federal water project, which operates from the Friant Dam northeast of Fresno. Eventually water from there flows into the San Joaquin River and the Delta.

Because of that priority-setting, Democratic Reps. Jerry McNerney of Pleasanton and John Garamendi, whose district includes Livermore, oppose the bill. Both have large segments of their districts in the Delta, which serves as a conduit for the federal water project, as well as for the State Water Project, from which

one common table to try to work out a mutually satisfactory solution for the Delta's health, while meeting agricultural and urban water needs.

Duerig said that the plan is reaching a critical junction now, with a one-year period about to begin in which there will be scientific review and public comment. It's important for that process to clear up any misunderstandings about the Delta and also to address the real concerns that it raises, said Duerig.

Duerig stressed the importance of science-based views of the problem, and its potential solutions

MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters

published in Mailbox are those

of the author and do not neces-

sarily reflect the opinion of The

#### MANAGEMENT (continued from page one)

former director at Los Alamos, referred to "stifling" management practices that make it impossible to pursue "creative science" or "attract the (scientific) talent required for the demanding missions.'

To Paul Robinson, former director of Sandia, the present situation is so dire that NNSA should be disbanded. "The multiple steps and difficulties that must be overcome to accomplish even simple tasks within technical programs or projects have reached the point that they have become 'unworkable' for the scientists and engineers still dedicating their lives to the nuclear weapons missions," he wrote in submitted testimony.

Almost as if to reinforce the micromanagement complaints by the former directors, 19 pages of testimony from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) made only passing reference to the quality of science at the laboratories. Instead, it focused on criticisms of NNSA for failing to live up to federal regulations and accounting standards.

Last week's Congressional committee hearing was in response to concerns that have been expressed in the scientific and political worlds that the three national security laboratories - Livermore, Los Alamos and Sandia - are in decline because of management changes imposed by Congress in 2004.

The hearing was scheduled to follow release of a report by the National Research Council, which is part of the National Academy of Sciences (see the Independent, February 16, "National Report: Broken Relationship Threatens Research Quality At LLNL.")

That study was co-chaired by Charles Shank, former director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and Charles Curtis, former Deputy Secretary of Energy and co-founder of the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

Shank and Curtis submitted their own testimony to the House Armed Services panel, reiterating the belief set forth in the study that the management relationship is "broken" and "dysfunctional."

No current directors of the laboratories testified. The former directors emphasized that their comments were personal and did not represent institutional views. However, it is no secret that criticism of overregulation is universal and strong from the lowest to the highest ranks of the laboratories.

Even those who acknowledge the importance of strict regulation in some circumstances insist on the freedom to pursue science. For example, both Miller and Anastasio, who was director at Los Alamos as well as at Livermore, argued for a "balance" in which safety and security are assured without inhibiting scientific creativity.

The tension between rules and freedom was famously resolved during World War II at Los Alamos, whose most notable success with the first atom bomb still argues powerfully for the kinds of scientific freedom that were safeguarded even under the intense pressures of wartime security.

All of the former directors reminded the committee that their complaints were not new.

Robinson took the prize for historical depth by describing "bureaucratic bloat" that was prevalent in Athens to the inefficiencies of the Ottoman Empire

Applying history more closely to the labs management issue, he explained how James Conant, president of Harvard and a senior Manhattan Project advisor. answered when asked how to "support the scientists who are working to protect our nation's security?

Conant replied, "The best thing that can be done is to choose men (and women) of brilliance, back them heavily, then leave them alone to do their work.'

Hecker brought up the 1995 study, Alternative Futures for the Department of Energy Laboratories, sometimes called the Galvin report. One of its criticisms about micromanagement was that "The laboratories must staff up or reallocate the resources of its people" to respond to "thousands of people . . . on the government

payroll . . . (who) oversee and prescribe tens of thousands of how-to functions.'

In a very different context, another report reached a comparable conclusion in 2000, Hecker reminded the committee. During a period of extremely intense publicity over alleged Chinese espionage at Los Alamos, a commission headed by former Deputy Secretary of Defense John Hamre concluded that DOE micromanagement policy was making both good science and good security impossible.

For his part, Miller cited the 2009 report, America's Strategic Posture, issued by a congressional Commission chaired by former defense secretaries William Perry and James Schlesinger. That report concluded, "NNSA has failed to meet the hopes of its founders. Indeed, it may have become part of the problem, adopting the same micromanagement and unnecessary and obtrusive oversight that it was created to eliminate.'

Like James Conant, Miller believes it is vital to return to a scientific partnership in which the federal government decides what needs to be done and provides the funding, while the laboratories maintain "the highest quality staff" and decide "how to best accomplish those tasks.'

It is ironic that Sandia's Robinson should recommend moving the nuclear weapons laboratories to the Defense Department. Past studies, conducted while Livermore and Los Alamos were under University of California management, concluded that such a move would weaken the labs by creating an intellectually restricted environment of narrow, top-down assignments - just what the Labs now complain about under the Department of Energy's NNSA.

To contrast Livermore's situation with a very different federal laboratory, Miller cited the case of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. While JPL has a larger budget than Lawrence Livermore, he said, it has only about 30 federal employees on site. Livermore has 130.

Miller estimated that it takes one to two Laboratory employees to carry out the tasks created by the on-site federal employees. So if NNSA reduced its on-site staff to the NASA/JPL level of 30, about 100-200 Lawrence Livermore staff could be freed to work productively on science and technology.

The former directors expressed concern about recruiting and maintaining top scientific talent in a micromanaged environment.

Anastasio said, "It is very difficult to convince top quality technical staff to join an organization where they are told how to do conduct work and left wondering if there is going to be an opportunity to discover and innovate. This has already resulted in the loss of some of the best mid-career scientists from the Laboratories.

Hecker and Miller reflected similar views. Hecker himself left Los Alamos for Stanford because of the 2004 Congressmandated decision to move the weapons design laboratories to a for-profit management arrangement, he said in his testimony.

More generally, he said, "The loss of trust between the government and its contractors and the stifling operating environment resulting from the imbalance of mission and regulatory requirements has seriously eroded the morale at the laboratories and threatened the very intellectual vitality that is imperative for effective nuclear stewardship.'

Miller told the congressional committee that "excessive 'red tape' can be expected to have long-tem ramifications on the health of the laboratories and their ability to attract and retain quality personnel."

Near the end of his submitted testimony, he wrote, "If the government continues down the path of treating the NNSA laboratories as contractors rather than trusted partners, engaging in excessive oversight and treating the workforce as replaceable employees rather than exceptional people dedicated to public service, I wonder how much longer the national security laboratories will be able to sustain their greatness.'

### ambitious solar facility is loom-

ing on the horizon. The other welcome change from USDA's project is from Pegasus Energy Partners and is thought to be the

the next school year. The new guidelines offer a

element that is dangerous in microscopic quantities. Soil testing done in the 1990s found elevated levels of plutonium in the top few inches of soil along the route and in Big Trees Park, where the new pipeline will connect with the off-site toxic groundwater pumping station. The construction of the pipeline is likely to result in additional public health impacts from the disturbance of plutonium-contaminated soils unless additional precautions are taken. Specifically, I urge the Lab to include continuous radiation air monitors during the pipeline construction project

the host posed the question to the lady if she expected to have the right to marry a man and a woman in a ménage a trois or a

the Valley obtains its water.

McNerney commented in a joint press release from area Congressional members who wrote to the House Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 16 opposing passage of the bill out of committee. After the letter went off to the committee, a bipartisan vote moved the bill along on a 27-17 vote.

The bill is a "brazen move by the water contractors and their allies who want to steal water from the Delta. The farmers, families and business owners in our region rely upon a healthy Delta for the livelihoods," said McNerney.

After the vote, McNerney issued a separate press release that called the committee's decision "unconscionable" because it "steals water from one community to benefit another."

Garamendi, a former deputy Secretary of the Interior, said in the joint letter to the committee that the bill would alter the entirety of California's water laws. We have had only one day to understand its implications. This could be disastrous for California's water interests. I strongly urge we step on the brakes before running roughshod over state law, threatening jobs, the environment and our public health," he said.

Although the Valley receives its water from the State Water Project, not the federal project, Zone 7 Water Agency is keeping a close eye on the bill, but not taking a position, said general manager Jill Duerig.

Zone 7 has been an active leader in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, which has brought together farmers, environmentalists, and water agencies as stakeholders at

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#### Need Innovative Solutions **Katherine Harvey** Pleasanton

The debate about climate change demonstrates that unanimous agreement is impossible. If we waited for complete consensus, necessary transformation would never occur. The salience of the global energy crisis and worldwide acceptance of climate change gives a sense of urgency for using sustainably sourced "green" energy. Federal and State governments are encouraging clean energy and green jobs. Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill that mandates private utilities to produce 33% of their energy from renewable sources by 2020. The clock is ticking.

On Feb. 28, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors will hear the appeal for a state of the art solar power plant on 140 rural acres, from a local company called Cool Earth Solar. The Eastern Alameda County Board of Zoning Adjustments recently approved Cool Earth's application, but the Tri-Valley Conservancy, with support from other conservation groups including Sierra Club, appealed this project; they requested a county solar energy policy first be developed and added to the general plan before allowing any more solar installations. The public review process is currently ongoing while another considerably more

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largest solar plant in the nation, expecting to cover over 2,000 acres with conventional photovoltaic systems. No wonder there is concern over not having a policy in place!

Hopefully county staff using input from the various stakeholders can craft much-needed guidelines that will be in the best interest of all. This is not the time for knee-jerk reactions. Best practices for low impact and high efficiency in solar facilities is known and should be incorporated into the policy. We live in a particularly enlightened part of the country known for its innovations; it is time to use some of that resourcefulness to solve our county's solar energy dilemma.

Livermore's own Cool Earth Solar pioneered a creative solar collector using inexpensive and plentiful materials that minimize impact on landscape and habitat while being extremely effective. All of Cool Earth's manufacturing will be localized creating jobs near home. Cool Earth is exactly the type of green business that should be encouraged. Their project is precisely the type of venture that needs implementation. They embody the best of the modern American spirit using ingenuity, long-term vision and a strong stewardship ethic to propel its enterprise for the greater good. The political, economic, and social climate is ripe for entrepreneurial solutions to the global energy crisis. It is my hope that the new county solar policy will allow projects such as the Cool Earth Altamont Solar Energy Center to be developed.

#### School Foods Lex Manwill Livermore

I was delighted to read the new USDA guidelines requiring schools to serve meals with twice as many fruits and vegetables, more whole grains, less sodium and fat, and no meat for breakfast. The guidelines were mandated by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act signed by President Obama in December of 2010 and will go into effect with

tradition of using the National School Lunch Program as a dumping ground for meat and dairy surpluses. Not surprisingly, 90% of American children are consuming excess fat, only 15% eat recommended servings of fruits and vegetables, and onethird have become overweight or obese. These early dietary flaws become lifelong addictions, raising their risk of diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

In recent years, Hawaii, California, New York, and Florida legislatures asked their schools to offer daily vegetarian options, and most school districts now do. The Baltimore public school system offers its 80,000 students a complete weekly break from meat.

Parents should continue to insist on healthful plant-based school meals, snacks, and vending machine items. They can consult www.fns.usda.gov/cnd, www.healthyschoollunches.org, and www.vrg.org/family.

#### Safety Concerns Janis Kate Turner Livermore

Some of my neighbors and I are concerned the Department of Energy and Livermore Lab will not undertake the safety measures necessary to ensure that the cleanup of off-site contaminated groundwater emanating from Livermore Lab does not result in additional public health impacts to our neighborhoods. I understand that nuclear weapons activities at the Livermore Lab main site have polluted our groundwater and soil. In 1987, the EPA placed the Livermore Lab main site on its 'Superfund' List of most contaminated areas in the nation.

In general, I support the effort to build a pipeline to the outer edge of the off-site groundwater contamination, pump the toxic water into the pipeline and bring it back to the Lab site in order to clean it in an existing groundwater treatment facility.

However, the pipeline extension will go through soils known to be contaminated with plutonium, a long lived radioactive

#### Gay Marriage **Tony Favero**

**Livermore Business Owner** 

I submit my praise to Rev. Lucas Hergert, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church for being so avant-garde and progressive concerning gay marriage and his displeasure of Proposition 8. To be clear from the outset, let me say that I have several members of my extended family and friends who are gay and I love them all, and would surely wish no ill to ever befall on any gay person for being gay, ever!

Only several decades past were gays regarded as 'abnormal' by the American Psychiatric Association, but fortunately that taint has been removed. I don't believe that any of us have a choice in these complexities of biology and I am, as many others are, thankful that such proclivities of same-sex attraction were not my lot in life, thus sparing my family, and myself unbearable anguish.

With all that said, I ask the honorable Reverend, how wide is he willing to open the door now that this camel has fully entered the tent? For acceptance of gay marriage is not the end, but merely the commencement of more to come. As I have witnessed personally, many drug-abuse experts regard marijuana as the gateway drug, can homosexual marriage be the gateway relationship to new liaisons acceptable to the populace in the future?

Let us research the potential. Just last week, while listening toa radio talk show host interview a bisexual woman caller, 3 way relational marriage, with the proposed legalization of gay marriage. The caller responded to the affirmative, that it would be her right to do so.

Legal polygamy in abundant forms would necessarily follow from such legal expansions of 'marriage', to perhaps include first cousins, sister-brother, mother-son, father-daughter, etc. to enter under the standard of legally, if not societal, approved sanctifications of 'marriage'.

Consider next the organization NAMBLA, which is the North American Man-Boy Love Association. This organization supports intimate liaisons between men and young boys. You may visit the web site http://nambla.org/whatis.html if you are beset with any doubts of such efforts. In the future the American Psychiatric Association probably will condone such relationships as 'normal', as the American Psychological Association appears on the precipice of doing now. For a peek into that brave new world for children, visit the web site http://www.prevent-abusenow.com/rebuttal.htm#APA to satisfy any disbelief.

I now return to the reverend and query again, how wide the door? Should the question permit any uneasiness to settle in, suffer no despair, for a successor standing in his place years from now may recall the avant-garde courage displayed and honor him with mention of his current endeavor that facilitated in getting society so far with his 'progressive' wisdom. For in the end, they will come for the children with the sanction and blessings of the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association and the acquiescence of the courts; will future Unitarians again follow suit in this advanced universalism and expansion of the First Amendment rights?

Gay marriage may or may not disembark as a new standard in our times, I possess no crystal ball, but the big question remains, will there ever come a moment that we draw a line in the sand, and say "no farther?"



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A celebration was held last Friday to welcome home First Lieutenant lan Morris, U.S., who has returned from a deployment in Afghanistan. He returned stateside last August, but is finally returning home to Pleasanton. The Pleasanton Military Families Support Group organized the welcome. Ian graduated from California High School in 2003 and then attended Ohio State University graduating in 2007 on an ROTC scholarship. He graduated Army Ranger School in 2009 and has been stationed at Ft. Hood in Texas assigned to 4th Brigade Combat Team, B Company, 3rd Platoon. Besides escorting Ian from his arriving flight in the morning, the Warrior's Watch Ride picked Ian up from Gay 90s restaurant where he was hanging out with friends. From there, lan was escorted to his home for the celebration.

### Zone 7 to Work on Chain of Lakes

Zone 7 Water Agency directors have approved the EIR for pipeline construction and slope repair at Cope Lake, and two other lakes in its chain of lakes.

The vote at the board meeting Feb. 15 was unanimous. Work on the \$2.1 million project is expected to start in September.

The document was written on Cope Lake and also Lake H and Lake I, because Zone 7 is not sure yet how it will engineer the kind of project that it wants.

All three lakes were studied in the EIR so that Zone 7 can be flexible when it comes to the future configuration of its water recharge project. Zone 7 wants to capture 2000 acre feet annually that Vulcan Materials discharges into the Arroyo Mocho, where it eventually flows to San Francisco Bay.

The water would be percolated from one of the lakes, ideally Lake I, the western-most in the future chain of lakes. Lake I has a gravel bottom, which is the best kind for percolation.

Cope Lake is closest to the spot where Vulcan Materials is mining gravel, and discharging water into the Arroyo Mocho. However, Cope Lake has silt on the bottom, and is not a good candidate for the percolation.

Zone 7 owns Cope Lake and Lake I, while Lake H is still owned by the Jamieson family. Zone 7 has no control over it. To obtain control, Zone 7 would have to negotiate successfully with Jamieson.

The chain of lakes is a series of gravel pits, all of which are due to be vacated by 2030. The chain will be used for storage of flood waters, as well as for percolating water into the underground water basin.

Gravel companies signed an agreement a few years ago, in which they promised they would turn over the abandoned quarries in good shape. However, Cope Lake was not a part of that agreement, so Zone 7 has the responsibility to undertake the work on the lake.

Work must be completed soon to stabilize one of the quarry walls, because of the danger of a landslide close to the old Jamieson residence. The house is occupied.

Cost of bringing the slope into shape is estimated to be from \$1.2 million to \$1.6 million.

The other part of the project will involve the construction of a discharge pipeline to carry water from the Vulcan operations. Cost estimate for the pipeline is \$500,000.

On another item, the board recognized the retirement of John Yue, who was assistant general manager in charge of finance. Yue worked for the district for

the problems. Since he built the

slides, he feels he could work

out a good plan for completing

all of the needed work, but at a

lower cost than EBRPD might

owned the lease until Dec. 15,

and should be aware of what

needs to be done. He said that

it would be unfair to other bid-

ders to allow Kierstead a longer

O'Connor said that Kierstead

estimate.

period.

four years, after employment with Alameda County. Replacing Yue will be Tom

Hughes, who will retain his assistant general manager post in charge of human relations and safety.

By not hiring a new person, the agency saves money on that position. The agency staff at one time included four assistant general managers, but with Vince Wong retiring last year and Yue this year, the agency is down to two assistant general managers -- Hughes and Kurt Arends, who heads the water division.

General manager Jill Duerig said that the change is a pilot plan not a permanent one.

#### Paws to Read Program Available at Rincon Branch Library

The Paws to Read program, sponsored by the Livermore Public Library and the Valley Humane Society, matches elementary-aged beginner readers with trained and certified dogs in a non-judgmental environment. For 25 minutes, your child will read to their furry friend with the dog's owner quietly looking on to help with any tricky words. Programs of this type have been successful across the country, and testimonials from Livermore parents have been extremely positive.

The spring 2012 program for the Rincon Branch Library is scheduled on Fridays, March 2 through March 30, at 3 p.m. (two sessions, 3-3:25 and 3:35-4 p.m.). Registration for this series is underway.

Children may register for up to three sessions during this series, as space allows. Drop-ins may be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Participating children should not be fearful of dogs or have allergies to pets.

For more information about the Rincon series or to register, please call the Rincon Branch Library at 925-373-5540.

#### WATER SLIDES (continued from page one)

long run. Some of it could hinge on how much a concessionaire could pay back to the district from its operations.

O'Connor said that the committee will decide whether to recommend that the water slides go out for an RFP for a new operator, or not.

If there were no RFP, it would likely mean that the committee and board would eliminate the slides. The district's 20 year plan for the park was approved by the board last year, after hearings that included a meeting in Pleasanton.

The plan shows that eventually, perhaps during the 20-year projection of the plan, the water slide area instead would have some other kind of water activity, likely a splash pad. There also would be development of a picnic area there. Some residents have lobbied for an interpretive center in that vicinity.

The water slide issue at the public meeting last year in Pleasanton had very clear sides. Some people said they never liked the slides, thought that they marred the view, and would be glad to see them go.

Others said the slides were one of the few attractions for young people in the area. Although some slide opponents said that an interpretive center would be a better use for young people there, Pleasanton resident Julie Testa pointed out at a meeting Feb. 23 last year, "Kids would not ask for an interpretive center. They'd ask for an aggressive activity, not passive.'

Some 26,000 tickets have been been attracted, said Glenn Kierstead, who has been the slides' operator.

splash pad may be fine for young kids, but middle school and high school kids don't care about that. They would rather have water slides, Testa told The Independent this week.

Ideally, the park district could combine a splash pad with the slides to attract all ages of youths, said Testa. Building a picnic area would add to the attraction for the family.

If the water slides were not continued, it will be a genuine disappointment for our community, said Testa. There is high interest on a local blog in saving the slides. Testa said that she has been sending out e-mails on the topic.

The slides have been "one of the few assets for that regional park that has been appealing to the local community. It really is a loss if they let it go," said Testa. Kierstead, who built the slides

30 years ago and has been operat-

ing them, saw his permit expire Dec. 15. He wants to continue operation, but he needs a lease for 10 or 12 years to put in the needed improvements, he said.

Kierstead said he had a longterm lease a few years ago, and financing to improve the facility, but personal illness interfered. By the time he was well, he had lost the financing, because of the decline in the national economy. Since then he has operated on leases with one or two years of life.

If the district decides to go out for a lease proposal, it will occur before March 15, for a bidding period of one week, when all potential contractors can inspect the facilities, and learn from EBRPD staff what needs to be done.

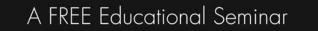
Kierstead said that he should have more notice than that.



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because he wants to conduct research about how there could be cost savings in dealing with

The slides have been popular. sold annually. With promotions, more than 75,000 people have

The long-range plan for a



In, 2011 the two Rotary Clubs of Livermore (and the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore) collectively donated over \$121k to support community projects for kids, schools, scholarships, food and clothing for those in need. In addition, the Clubs donated \$48,000 toward international humanitarian service projects which included the eradication of Polio worldwide.

Weekly meetings are held as follows:

7:00 am Tuesday **Rotary Club of Livermore Valley Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill** 915 Club House Drive, Livermore www.livermorevalleyrotary.org

12:00 pm Wednesday Livermore Rotary Club **DoubleTree Hotel** 720 Las Flores Road, Livermore www.livermore-rotary.org

#### Rotary International will celebrate 107 years of service on February 23rd, 2012

Rotary International, is a worldwide non-profit organization with 1.2 million members.

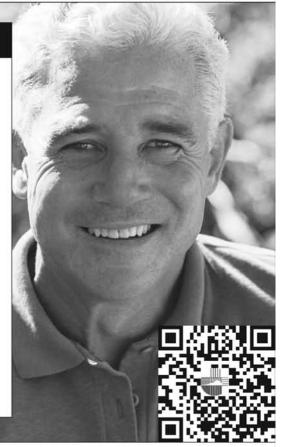
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### SPORTS NOTES



Pictured are Speedy on his new dirt bike; Mark Ohlmstead, Over The Hill Gang; Todd Arias, Over The Hill Gang (family dirt bike riding group); Rich Hill, Livermore Police Officer; Shane Bernal, Bernal Racing; and Tim Carrillo, Over The Hill Gang.

## Community Makes Sure 'Speedy' Has a Dirt Bike

#### By Carol Graham

Ed Johnson calls it a story that must be shared.

When he got up on the morn-ing of January 25, he went to the garage to let out Dexter, the family's golden retriever. He noticed the garage's side door was open, which was unusual. Closing it, he noticed the yard gate was also open.

Even more curious, near the sidewalk lay a machete - still packaged.

It became clear that someone had been in the garage while the family of four slept upstairs; his youngest son's dirt bike and his older son's helmet were gone.

Although the Johnson family didn't know it yet, their tale of violation and anger was about to turn into one of hope and kindness

"We'd just told Speedy (six-

Gang, an organization dedicated to motocross enthusiasts, Hill posted on the group's website and within 24 hours had raised enough money to purchase a similar bike.

"We wanted to surprise Speedy, but we also wanted to have the bike customized for him," said Hill. "Ed had told me that Chad Reed (multi-time motocross and supercross champion) was Speedy's favorite professional racer. Chris Conley at Rub It Enterprises donated a complete set of custom graphics that looked like Reed's with the name 'Speedy' added. Then Shane Bernal, owner of Bernal Racing, donated his time and money to give the bike a complete tune-up and make sure it was safe before Speedy received it."

On February 12, Speedy's par-

"It was truly one of the best feelings I've ever had. It was such a flood of emotions," Hill added. "Tears of happiness were prevalent among many grown men. The generosity and willingness to help from so many people was a great thing to experience

keep the bikes locked inside the garage.'

Although no suspects have been caught, a neighbor's surveillance tape showed two teenagers walking in the direction of Johnson's house around 3 a.m., and then walking back again ten minutes later - one pushing the small dirt bike while the other checked car doors

Katz goal 5 minutes later to bring the score to 2-1 at the half. The second half started with the Katz attacking the Davis defense with outstanding midfield play by Sydni Lunt, playing up from the U14 West Coast team. Defensively the Katz played with great ball possession and organized team shape to keep the Davis attack at bay. Late in the second half the Katz evened the score with a shot from the outside the box. Outstanding play by the Katz goalkeeper, Haley Crook, kept

the game at a 2-2 draw. The following Saturday found the Katz in Kentfield to take on Marin FC Blue. The Katz quickly took the lead with a cross from Sydni Lunt to Abby Dyer for the goal. The game was quickly tied on a breakaway goal game was quickly tied on a breakaway goal by Marin. The Katz reorganized and had outstanding midfield and defensive play by Taylah Nusser, Vic Garza and Autumn Smithers to keep the game tied at half. Shortly into the second half, Sydni Lunt was fouled in the penalty area giving the Katz the op-portunity to move ahead with a penalty kick that was converted by Dyer to make it 2-1. The Katz dominated the second half with The Katz dominated the second half with swift athletic offensive and defensive play to give the Katz a 2-1 win over Marin FC Blue. Abby Dyer earning player of the week honors by club DOC for her 3 goals and 1 asst in the two RAL games.

#### WCOGA Gymnastics

Members of the West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy optional and compulsory gymnasts competed at the Mardi Gras Invitational at North Bay Athletics in Vallejo, CA on February 11, 2012.

The Optional Team (Levels 7-9) finished in 3rd place. The Level 5/6 Team finished in 1st place. The Level 4 Team finished in 1st place. Individual results:

Optional Gymnasts: Level 9: Isabella Orecchia finished in 3rd place on vault and floor and 2nd place all-around, with 34.200. Level 8: Anna Siebel finished in 1st place on bars, 2nd place on floor, 3rd place on vault and 3rd place all-around. Level 7: Jessica Yen finished in 2nd place on bars with 9,000.

Compulsory Gymnasts: Level 6: Jasmine Saucelo finished in first place on beam, 3rd place on valit and 2nd place on obalit, 3rd 35,950. Sara Ling finished in 2nd place on vault, beam and floor and 3rd place all around with 35,475. In her first meet at level 6, Corrine Jackson finished in 3rd place on floor with 9.050. Level 5 Older: Julia Arnold finished in 2nd place on vault with 8.725 and 3rd place on beam with 8.675. Level 5 Younger: Lauren Swenson-Lennox finished in 1st place on vault, 2nd place on beam and floor, and 1st place all around with 35.775. Lydia Muentz finished in 2nd place on vault. bars and floor, and 2nd place all around with, 55.325. Level 4 Younger: McKenzie Meyn finished in 1st place on beam and floor, 3rd place on vault, and 2nd place all around with 37.150. Juliette Gosselin finished in 2nd place on bars, third place on beam and floor and 3rd place all around with 36.625. Level 4 Middle: Shelby Bates finished in 1st place on beam and floor, 2nd place vault, 3rd place bars and 1st place all around with 37.650. Mariah Murphy finished in 1st place on vault and bars, 3rd place on beam and floor and 2nd place all around with 37.225. Amelia Liao finished in 2nd place on bars and floor, 3rd place vault and 3rd place all around with 37.100. Level 4 Older: Claire Volkman finished in 1st place on beam, 2nd on bars and 1st place all around with 37.425. Audrey Ong finished in 1st place on bars, 3rd place on beam and 2nd place all around with 37.400. Kamryn O'Reilly finished in 2nd place on floor with a 9.225 and 3rd place on beam with a 9.150. Phoenix Cabuay finished in 1st place on vault with a 9.600.

#### Edge Gymnastics

EDGE Gymnastics competed in three meets in February. The Gold Country Classic was hosted Classic Gymnastics in Oakland, Feb.

12 The Level 7 team finished first as did the

Mixed Levels Team. 9-11: Brianna Londeree, 3rd tie floor (9.25)

(9.25) 12 yr olds: Julia Pfluger, 1st all-around (37.125), 1st beam (9.325), 1st floor (9.6), 3rd vault (9.2), 3rd bars (9.0); Serena Chan, 2nd all-around (36.875), 1st bars (9.2), 2nd floor (9.275), 3rd tie beam (9.225); Rhianne Khweled, 3rd tie beam (9.225), 2nd 9.07 (9.25), 3rd floor (9.25) 13+: Shannon Bagot, 3rd all-around

1st beam (9.375). Junior: Julia Pfluger, 2nd tie floor (9.5). Senior: Kimberly Smelley, 1st or (9.4/5), 2nd beam (9.4), 3rd bars (8.9); Shannon Bagot, 2nd all-around (36.425), 1st bars (9.425), 3rd floor (9.275); Rhianne Khweled, 3rd all-around (36.35), 1st beam (9.5) Level 8: Child: Samantha Durante. 1st

floor (9.275).

ary 18 - 19

all-around (36.35), 2nd floor (9.45), 3rd beam

(9.175); Yasmine Yektaparast, 1st beam (9.4)

1st floor (9.525), 2nd tie vault (9.2). 16 &

over: Kendall Green, 1st all-around (36.55), 1st tie floor (9.45), 2nd bars (9.075), 2nd tie

beam (9); Nicole Corkill, 2nd all-around

(36.3), 1st vault (9.4), 3rd bars (8.825), 3rd

held at Edge Gymnastics in Dublic, Febru-

The Black Tie Invitational 2012 was

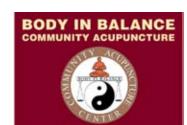
Level 7: Child: Samantha Fredrickson



Victoria Garza battles for position against a physical defender. Victoria won the ball and was able to keep possession for her team. the West Coast Soccer Katz U15 girls.



The Pleasanton Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) 6th Grade Girls took home the 2nd place trophy in the 2012 Tri-Valley CYO Basketball League. Coached by Chris Baxter and Steve Lombardi, the CCOP "A" team girls, played a fierce game against St. Isidore in the Championship game in Livermore this past weekend. Pictured is the team (from left) Coach Steve Lombardi, Quinn Lombardi, Nicole Riordan, Taylor Sowers, Julia Wood, Harper Cook, Madison Baxter, Jenilee Chen, and Coach Chris Baxter.



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and be a part of. The Johnsons, who have a home alarm that was not turned on the night of the break in, said the thieves came in through the doggie door in the garage's side door. "We never felt like we needed to have the alarm on while we were at home," said Johnson. "We turn it on now. We

year-old Justin) last week that he could compete in his first dirt bike race in March," said Johnson. "He was very excited, talking about the race every day leading up to the burglary."

Livermore police Officer Richie Hill took the report. "You could see that Speedy was really upset that his bike had been stolen. At the same time he truly thought the police were going to find it for him," said Hill. "He had a faith and genuine belief that I was the good guy and was there to save the day.

Being a motocross racer himself, as well as a soon-to-be firsttime father of twins, Hill said, "I had to do something to solidify his beliefs."

As a member of the Bay Area Chapter of the Over the Hill

Swim Meet in Pleasanton

The City of Pleasanton's Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center will be the host site for a swim meet in the coming weeks. The Pleasanton Seahawks Swim team will host the two-day Short Course Senior I meet that begins on Saturday, March 3 and continues through Sunday, March 4. The meet is expected to draw about 500 swimmers who will begin to arrive each morning by 7:00 a.m., with competition beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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

ents, who knew of the gift ahead of time, told Speedy they were going to motocross park Club Moto in Livermore to distribute fliers with a photo of the stolen bike in the hopes someone would have seen it.

"It's a family-oriented sport," said Jill Johnson, Speedy's mother. "Everyone watches out for one another." Once at the track, she added, "Everyone was standing in a horse shoe shape around the new bike, but Speedy kept intently passing out fliers.'

'Speedy was completely shocked," said Hill. "So shocked, in fact, that he genuinely did not know how to react. I don't think he realized the bike was his at first, but when he did, he got super excited to ride. He threw on his gear and away he went.

Michelle Stearns, Recreation Supervisor, at (925) 931-3423.

#### West Coast Katz

The West Coast Katz U15 girls went on the road for NorCal Soccer RAL (Regional Academy League) to face two tough oppo-nents in February. West Coast Soccer is the only club in their region to participate in the Winter RAL League. The club is directed by former professional and San Jose Earthquake hall of fame player Troy Dayak. The Katz finished 2nd in the division 2RALFall league and were promoted to play in the 1st division

for winter league play. On Saturday February 4th, the Katz traveled to Davis for an evening game against Davis Legacy Heat. The Katz took a 1-0 lead in the first 10 minutes with a goal by Madi-son Bowen assisted by Abby Dyer. Davis Legacy responded with a goal on a strike yards out to even the game. Davis took the lead on a loose ball in front of the

While Speedy originally felt very angry at the thieves, Jill told him, "You need to pray for them. They're missing something in their lives; that's why they're doing this."

Now Speedy is all set to race competitively for the first time on March 11. "Who would have known that such a horrid event that happened to us would turn out to be something so special?" said Johnson. "My wife and I are very humbled by their generosity and blessed to have met such special people."

Hill simply remarked, "Really, I was just a small piece to a big puzzle. I just happened to be the officer sent out that day."

Kimberly Smelley, 1st floor (9.525)

The Chicago Style 2012 took place at the Illinois Gymnastics Institute in Chicago, IL on February 10-12.

Level 8: 13 yrolds: Marcela Matheus, 1st all-around (37.625), 2nd vault (9.4), 2nd bars (9.45), 2nd beam (9.375), 3rd floor (9.4); Kellev Hebert 2nd all-around (37 325) 1st vault (9.675), 1st floor (9.5), 3rd beam (9.35). 14 & over: Angelica Leporati, 1st vault (9.275), 1st floor (9.275), 2nd beam (9.2); Kelsey Ferranti, 2nd tie floor (9.25), 3rd vault (9.25); mantha Jower, 3rd bars (9.325) Level 9: 14–15 yr: Stephanie Relova, 3rd



Kristine M. Buckley, MS, L.Ac 133 Mohr Ave., #E, Pleasanton (925) 417-



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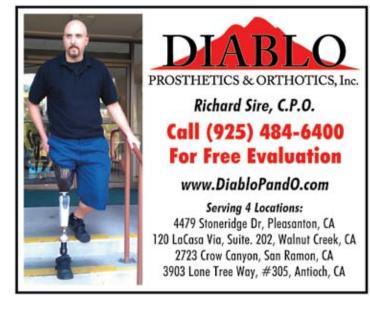
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### SPORTS NOTES

### Women's Skating Team is Rolling Ahead

The Tri-Valley has a women's roller skating team competing in an association that puts the emphasis on the athletic workout, not the hard banging that some roller leagues feature.

Livermore resident Yolanda Fisher said that the group, the Golden State Roller Girls, has more than 1400 fans liking them on Facebook. So far they don't have a home for their league games.

They have to travel to other cities, such as Antioch and Merced to compete. They hope to have a home soon, now that they have reorganized the group, and are becoming skilled at fundraisers. They raised \$1500 for a cancer charity last year.

The group is called a league, not a team. The word "team" is reserved for groups of five women that have four skaters and a jammer. The jammer is the skater that tries to pass through the opposing league's line of skaters, gaining one point for every skater that she passes.

The jammer determines each game's length. At the end of one hour of play, the scores are totaled, and the winner of the entire "bout" is declared.

Fisher likes the sport for the self-confidence that she says it instills in its participants. "It's all about empowering ourselves. There is no hatred. We all go out afterwards to meet our fans," said Fisher.

Roller derby provides a practical health advantage, too. Fisher lost 30 pounds in three months

all-around (37.025), 1st bars (9.575), 3rd beam (9.325), 3rd floor (9.325); Kelley Hebert, 3rd all-around (36.775), 1st vault (9.525), 1st floor (9.475). Junior: Marcela Matheus, 2nd all-around (37.375), 1st bars

(9.55), 1st floor (9.35), 2nd tie vault (9.375). Older: Samantha Jower, 1st bars (9.175), 2nd

floor (9.35), 3rd tie beam (9.0); Angelica Lep-orati, 2nd vault (8.925), 2nd beam (9.175); Kelsey Ferranti, 3rd tie floor (9.3) Level 9: Junior:Naomi Albertson, 3rd

bars (9.175). Senior: Yasmine Yektaparast, 1st all-around (36.5), 1st floor (9.4), 2nd vault (9.1), 3rd beam (9.175); Nicole Corkill, 1st beam (9.5); Kendall Green, 3rd

bars (8.875) Level 10: Team 1st: All Ages: Kara Jones, 3rd all-around (36.65), 2nd vault (9.4), 2nd bars (8.8), 3rd floor (9.45); Serena

Leong, 2nd beam (9.4), 2nd floor (9.5), 3rd vault (9.25)

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

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

A lunch will be held after the game. Contact Coach Perotti at dperotti@lvjusd.

k12.ca.us or call him at 925-586-2811 or

check the baseball website www.pokesbase-

to play, just show up on the 25th of February and play and/or watch.

Jr. Football Expands

ball.com for more info. No need to contact

Alumni Game

#### Roller Girls pose for a photo.

because of the conditioning and competition.

Fisher was a roller skater from early sidewalk days. She then skated at a commercial recreational roller rink in her hometown of Danville.

When she was skating with her 7-year-old daughter at a rink one day, someone told her about the roller girls. It looked good to her.

Fisher also likes the costuming on the Roller Girls. Once a skater is inducted into the team, she can pick her own nickname and create some costuming effects and decorate her helmet.

Among the nicknames have been Yo Juana Kiss Me and Mae K. Haste. Flyin' G is the coach.

Fisher said that the big push is to find a home for bouts.

Fisher said a building has been vacant for years in San Leandro, where she works as a nurse in a surgery center. "I've called, and told them we just need a big space on concrete, so we can practice when it's raining. They

Online registration is open at www.

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

For those interested in coaching, ap-plications are available at www.LJFL.org.

LJFL provides training for all coaches. No

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

parents should visit: www.LJFL.org. Presi-dent and Vice-President of LJFL are Rico Richardson and Matt Archer.

(continued on page 8)



always talk about liability," said Fisher.

The lack of a practice facility keeps them in a park in Pleasanton. That is a big step up from the cul-de-sac they were using between Thanksgiving and Christmas, said Fisher.

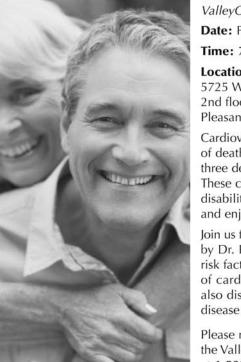


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ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS February 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2012 Show Hours: Fri 10-6; Sat 9-5:30; Sun 9-4:30 www.flyfishingshow.com/Pleasanton The West Coast's Largest Show For Fly Fishing!





Presented by: Ramford Ng, MD ValleyCare Medical Foundation Cardiologist Date: February 29, 2012 Time: 7:00 PM

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

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

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

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



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### SPORTS NOTES



#### Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Dublin High School Gaels lost to Acalanes High School, 60 to 47, in boys' varsity basketball league action. In Divsion 1 of the North Coast Section first round of playoffs, Dublin played Rancho Cotate on Tuesday night.



West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy Level 4 team members include McKenzie Meyn, Mariah Murphy, Audrey Ong, Phoenix Cabuav, Amelia Liao, Juliette Gosselin, Kamryn O'Reilly, Mia Reeve, Shelby Bates, Claire Volkman, Deanna Chang and Naomi Evans.



#### WORKSHOP (continued from page one)

emergency medical response, fire prevention, gang prevention, narcotics investigation, and parking and traffic enforcement. Among the "creating sense of community" options were childcare and senior services, health services, homeless services, hunger prevention, libraries, golf courses, and neighborhood meetings. The final category, "caring for the backbone of the city," dealt with such areas as street maintenance, garbage, landscape maintenance, and code inspections.

After ranking their choices, participants were given 30 pennies and five cups representing the five categories. They were told to divide the pennies among the cups, focusing on which areas they would most like to see funded. The second step, required residents to remove 6 pennies from the 30, then redistribute the 24 pennies.

A spokesperson for each of the seven tables reported on the outcome. All listed "a safe community" as the most important area to fund. Sense of community and business were also high on the list.

One table wanted to protect safety, child care, youth services and libraries. Less critical were public art, golf courses and neighborhood meetings. New revenues could be found through stimulating business. Another table supported providing decent, affordable housing. Less impor-

#### TRAILS (continued from page one)

tion gain, approximate time, and highlights along with a handdrawn map. The hikes are also grouped by attraction, such as views, shade, wildflowers, waterfalls, history, family friendly, and short.

When they first published the book, Nancy and Jacky had no idea how it would be received. "We felt very daring ordering an initial print order of 120 copies," says Jacky.

Those books flew off the shelf, so they ordered another 120 and then began increasing the print orders. To date, the book has sold nearly 3,000 copies.

While they have no plans to create a follow-on book or second edition, the two women say there is no shortage of material. "The hikes in our book cover those parks very well," says Jacky. "But you can combine trails in different ways to make entirely new hikes.'

Dublin Hills is Donlon Point, about a half-mile walk from the Donlon Point Staging Area. Located in the southwest corner of the park, Donlon Point has a peak elevation of 1,138 feet above sea level and offers a nice view. The park includes a segment of the Calaveras Ridge Regional Trail. Nancy offers another sugges-

tant were business development,

that the city budget should fund

safety, provide maintenance and

explained, "The budget is a re-

flection of community values in a

difficult fiscal climate." He noted

that over the past four years,

the city has seen a \$12 million

dip in revenues. Assessments of

property have dipped. Sales tax

revenues are down. On a more

positive note. Horner said that

revenues seem to be inching up.

However, expenses are also up.

enue, the city cut library hours,

deleted its contribution to the

4th of July celebration, laid off

24 employees and eliminated

30 positions. "We down-sized

government," he declared. The

reserves were tapped for \$12

million to fund core services.

"We spent more than we took

in. That is not sustainable. There

are finite resources and a great

million annually. Safety com-

prises 51% of the budget expen-

Brown pointed out that the recov-

ery will be slow and elongated.

"We may never see the same

resources available to the city at

The current budget is \$72.5

Assistant City Manager Troy

number of needs."

ditures.

its peak."

To deal with the drop in rev-

Councilmember Doug Horner

Yet another table reported

the greenbelt, and public art.

protect property rights.

tion - downhill hiking. "Some people like to walk but they don't necessarily want to climb," she explains. "And sometimes you just feel like taking it easy.

Many hikes can be turned into downhill hikes by leaving one car at the start and another at the end or a waypoint. Nancy suggests Del Valle and Los Vaqueros as good places for downhill hikes.

One of the most overlooked parks in the Tri-Valley, say the authors, is Brushy Peak. The staging area is on Laughlin Road, about three miles from the Vasco Road I-580 freeway exit.

City Manager Marc Roberts added, "Government is the last in and last out of recessions. The city won't have a lot of extra money. To help balance the budget, employee groups gave something back, saving the city money. Without the employee contributions, cuts would have been deeper. Currently, the city is working with employee groups to develop sustainable compensation and retirement benefits. We are asking folks to end up with less."

Roberts said in an effort to gain more revenues, the city will continue its emphasis on job creation and sales tax generation. Paragon Outlets will pump a noticeable amount of sales tax into the city. It will open in time for Christmas this year, said Roberts.

Those who were unable to attend the workshop can go to the city's website at www. cityoflivermore.net to complete a ten to fifteen minute online survey. Access Penny for Your Thoughts under news, where a link is provided to the survey. It will be posted through February 24. Livermore Mayor John Marchand encourages residents to "take advantage of this opportunity to be part of the City's budget development process. Share ideas about what makes Livermore a great place to live,

the trails aren't strenuous," says

Nancy. "It's a great place in the

fall, winter, and spring. In the

summer, it can be hot as there

words of advice: bring plenty of

food and water, dress in layers,

wear a hat and sunscreen, and always bring an official trail map,

available at most trailheads or

at Sunrise Mountain Sports,

Dom's Outdoor Outfitters, Alden

Lane Nursery, Livermore Valley

Tennis Club, Rodrigue Moly-

neaux Winery, and El Sol Winery

in Livermore; Towne Center

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and Noble in Dublin and Tracy;

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ers in Danville; and Bookshop

East Bay Regional Park District

Livermore Area Recreation and

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Tri-Valley Trails - http://trival-

For more information:

Benicia in Benicia.

www.ebparks.org

levtrails.weebly.com/

ca.us/

Tri-Valley Trails can be found

The authors have a few more

isn't much shade."

available online.

work and play."

#### RECYCLING continued from page one)

pointed out that a group calling itself the Save the Plastic Bag Coalition has organized, and will attempt to overturn such bans.

Steve Bocian, assistant city manager, explained that Stop-Waste.org had prepared environmental impact reports on both ordinances prior to adopting them. "The county is on pretty solid legal ground."

Matt Sullivan, the council's representative on StopWaste. org, said one of the issues raised early on in writing the ordinances was the loss of local control. Enforcement and potential penalties were among the concerns. However, Sullivan said, county staff worked through the issues with cities and for the most part satisfied their concerns. Sullivan noted that cities who implemented mandatory recycling, such as Seattle, reported using enforcement through education rather than penalties. Enforcement is deferred to the cities. In addition, cities must approve any penalties or fees associated with the mandatory recycling ordinance.

Councilmember Jerry Thorne stated, "I am very sensitive to local control. There are too many regional groups attempting power grabs over local entities.'

#### **Freeze Frame Winning Photos On Display**

Freeze Frame, the top 25 photos from Tri-Valley Conservancy contest, will be exhibited through the end of March.

The Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) is the local Land Trust holding over 4,300 acres in either agriculture or open space, which is being preserved through easements on private land. The TVC mission is to permanently protect the fertile soils, rangelands, open space and biological resources, and to support a viable agricultural economy, in the Tri Valley area.

The photo entries fall into one of three categories: agriculture; scenic locales; or recreational uses and activities.

The winners were: 1st place Marc Davis, "Livermore Farm;" 2nd place, Eric Ahrendt, "Zinfandel Grape Clusters;" 3rd place, Lawrence Piggins, "North Livermore Sunset.'

The top 25 photos are currently on display at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. They will be on display until Feb 29th and will then be moved to the Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., for display the entire month of March. The next photo contest will begin on August 27. Aall entries need to be submittedby September 17. Rules and entry forms will be available this summer on the TVC website www.trivalleyconservancy.org.

West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy Level 5/6 team members pictured are Allison Reilly, Lauren Swenson-Lennox, Corrine Jackson, Julia Arnold, Capri Gavino, Lydia Muentz, Jasmine Saucelo, Sara Ling, and Abigail McKeag.



West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy Level 7/8/9 team members include Megan Quinton, Rebecca Yen, Isabella Orecchia, Jessica Yen, and Anna Siebel.

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

#### Water Polo Registration

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

The LAZERS team practices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4-5:30pm at the Robert Livermore Community Center pool from February 27 through May 18 and costs \$250. Parents are encouraged to attend an informative parents' meeting 2/27 at 4pm. All experience levels are welcome. To register, call 925-373-5751, or visit

www.larpd.dst.ca.us.



#### Garré Bridal Faire SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2012 • 11AM TO 4PM

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And, in the time since the The book details the three trails book was published, new hikes Laughlin Ranch Loop, Brushy Peak Loop, and West Side Loop have been created and new wil-– which range from 1.9 to 6.3derness areas are being opened. The Dublin Hills Regional Park miles opened less than two years ago

"Brushy Peak is so close for Livermore residents, it has a wonderful restored wetlands area, and

Amgen Bicycle Race Includes Art Projects

Artists and photographers are invited to participate in the Livermore Stage 3 Finish Amgen Tour of California arts projects. They include the street pole art banner project, bike race photo contest, and art on wheels program.

and Pleasanton Ridge is set to

double in size in the near future.

EBRPD says the highlight of

For the first time, street pole banners to promote the Amgen Tour of California in Livermore will be displayed in the downtown area from April 23 to May 20. One side of each banner will carry the official Amgen Tour logo, while the other side will feature artwork created by local artists. There are fourteen 30"x14" banners available to be painted. All Livermore artists are invited to participate. Registration to be one the selected artists

is underway now.

The bike race photo contest encourages photographers, both professional and amateur, to take photos on race day, May 15. After the race, all those registered for the contest will submit their photos. There are two separate divisions - adults and youth. The youth division has no cost to participate. For those in the adult division, the registration fee is \$25 per person with an entry fee of \$10 photo submission. The registration deadline is May 9.

The art on wheels project is open to all artists who are interested in decorating bicycle wheels donated by the Livermore Cyclery and First Street Wine Company. The decorated wheels

participating businesses in the downtown and auctioned off the during race day festivities. Artists interested in decorating a wheel or businesses in the downtown interested in hosting a wheel can now register.

More information will soon be available on the Arts Pages of the Livermore website at www. cityoflivermore.net. Businesses or individuals interested in participating or sponsoring any of the projects may contact or sign up with Theresa De La Vega at 960-4049 or tbdelavega@ ci.livermore.ca.us



					440-0	SHOW
be one the selected artists	will be displayed at several	ACT OF VALOR D-BOX (R) DLP	1:05	3:50	6:30	9:00
		WANDERLUST (R) DLP	1:15	4:05	6:50	9:15
CHOLULA'S MEXICAN CUISINE	Get a Entrée for ½ OFF with purchase of any entrée	TYLER PERRY'S GOOD DEEDS (PG13) DLP	1:30	4:10	7:05	9:45
		HUGO 3D (PG) DLP THX	1:00	4:00	6:40	9:20
		JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTEROUS ISLAND 3D (PG) DLP THX	12:45	3:30	6:05	8:30
		JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTEROUS ISLAND (PG) DLP 11	50 2:15	4:35	7:15	9:40
		THIS MEANS WAR(PG13) DLP 12	05 2:20	4:40	7:10	9:35
FREE DELIVERY M-F 4PM-8PM		THE VOW (PG13) DLP	1:20	4:15	6:55	9:30
Hours: M-F 11am-8pm		SAFE HOUSE (R) DLP	12:55	4:25	7:20	10:00
Sat 11am-6pm		GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE 3D (PG13) DLP 12	20 2:40	5:00	7:20	9:55
2852 Kitty Hawk Rd, Livermore		GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE (PG13) DLP	1:10	4:00	6:45	9:10
(925) 294-9005		THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY (G) DLP 11	55 2:10	4:30	7:00	9:25
		GONE (PG13) DLP 12	00 2:30	4:45	7:15	9:40
	Sector Se	L				



### SHORT NOTES

#### Visit Cattail Pond

Hike to the Cattail Pond during a Sun., Feb. 26 program offered by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff. Meet Ranger Patti Cole at 1 p.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

A lot of work has been going on in upper Sycamore Grove Park over the past several months. A wetlands area has been restored, a new section of trail has been completed, hundreds of native plant seeds have been planted and the previously cattail-choked pond has been rebuilt. The hike to the Cattail Pond is approximately three miles round-trip with a couple of moderately strenuous, but short, hills. Bring drinking water, binoculars and dress for the weather. Canceled if raining.

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

#### Explore Livermore

There is much to discover in Livermore's own backyard, and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District makes it easy to explore.

With a number of upcoming offerings, local citizens have a variety of programs at their fingertips - or hiking

### READING

(continued from page one)

make at its meeting Feb. 28. The cuts are necessary because of the current unknown level of school revenue that the state budget can deliver for the next school year.

The district must meet a March 15 deadline to issue layoff warning notices to teachers. Final notices go out in May. More will be known then about the state budget, but right now the district must prepare for the worst. If things become better at the state level, the district can bring back programs.

Local donations, potential staff concessions, and use of the district's \$3 million reserve will help soften the blow of the currently expected \$5.5 million revenue shortfall.

That shortfall could be reduced to \$150,000, if proposed state tax revenue measures pass in November, but the outcome is unknown and distant.

The biggest proposed cut on the Pleasanton list is class size reduction in K-3 from a 25 to 1 ratio to 30 to 1, which would save the district \$1.3 million. Other proposed reductions include counseling services, reading specialists, additional sections at the high schools, district administrative staff assistance, elementary site technology specialists, elementary and middle school library assistants, and elementary band/strings teachers. Some were threatened in previous years, but brought back by community funding support.

boots - available for outdoor fun.

 Brushy Peak Adventures allow visitors to explore a nature area normally closed to the general public. This preserve is steeped in Native American lore, pioneer history and natural beauty. The adventures include a four-mile hike to explore sandstone rock formations and a moderately strenuous trek to the top. Two upcoming hikes will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18, and Sunday, April 15. \$30 each. Register at least 10 days in advance reserve a spot.

• A special Brushy Peak Sunset Adventure is planned that allows exploration of the regional preserve during evening and night. After exploring unique rock formations and natural features, hike to the top of the peak to discuss ancient legends and sacred stories of the Native Americans while watching the sun set from this beautiful place. This opportunity is offered from 4:30 to p.m. Saturday, May 5. \$30.

For those looking to become more outdoorsy but aren't sure how to get started, Beginning Backpacking Ohlone Wilderness is just the ticket. Ages 18 and older are invited to give backpacking a try with experienced LARPD park rangers in the Ohlone Wilderness – only a short distance from Livermore. The group will take its time hiking the four-and-a-half miles to camp, enjoy dinner and sleep under the stars. Transportation, permits, dinner and breakfast

for the children. The last thing you want to cut is direct services that help the children."

Board president Joan Laursen held out hope for the Barton parents. She noted that past programs that were slated for cuts were saved by a combination of employee concessions and donations to community groups, such as CORE, PSEE and PPIE, PPIE has shifted its efforts to broader SCODE

#### **ARKIN SUGGESTS CUTS** OUTSIDE OF CLASSROOM

In the trustees' discussion, all agreed that Barton is important, as well as other items on the proposed cut list.

Valerie Arkin said that she would like the staff to identify more possible reductions for the Feb. 28 meeting, when the board will vote on cuts. "I know you tried hard, but we need to try harder," she said.

Arkin suggested deferring the facility master plan until after the November election, when the fate of statewide measures that would support education would be known.

If all goes well in November and tax measures are approved, the district would face only about a \$150,000 revenue shortfall, instead of \$5.5 million.

Arkin also suggested that the staff look at vendors and contracts to see if the district could renegotiate rates or put anything on hold.

Laursen said that she has heard

are included. Participants need to bring lunch, their own pack, sleeping bag and mat. Information about equipment rental will be provided at a pre-trip meeting. This adventure is set to start at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 5, and run to Sunday, May 6. \$99.

For more information about these or other LARPD Open Space happenings, visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us or call 925-960-2400.

#### Science for Girls

The 33rd annual Tri-Valley Expanding Your Horizons Conference returns on Saturday, Feb. 25, to Diablo Valley College, San Ramon Campus at 1690 Watermill Road, San Ramon. The conference begins at 8:30 a.m.

The daylong event is held for girls, grades 6-9, from Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Sunol school districts to increase interest and foster awareness of careers in math and science. This year's theme, Your Future Is Within Your Grasp' will feature keynote speaker Dr. Alexandra M. Burgar, an orthopedic surgeon with Tri-Valley Orthopedic Specialists. Burgar treats conditions affecting the bones, muscles, nerves and tendons of the hand, wrist and arm up to and including the elbow. She will discuss her background and what led her to her career.

At the conference, girls will participate in hands-on workshops, a special group activity and a career

agement assistant/technology coordinator Nicole Steward.

The data is available for all students of all ethnic backgrounds, but federal standards hold districts in violation of No Child Left Behind, if they slip below proficiency in any minority group.

Trustee Chris Grant cited the statistics from various subject areas showing the lag for Hispanics and African Americans, he said. 'All of us feel passionately that we have to change the outcome. We need a better methodology for identifying those kids.

Grant also would like to see the district start undertaking a gender analysis especially in high school science. "If you look at chemistry and science in college, they are not represented enough by the female population." He was referring to students that the tests show are proficient or above, but may not be enrolling in advanced science classes.

Grant also urged the district to look into its staff human relations policies to make sure that there are "teachers who are role models for the ethnic blend of the community.'

Steward said that the achievement gap is narrowing between genders, but the economic gap is widening. "We could look at data by income," she said. "I would love that," replied Grant.

Trustee Jamie Hintzke said that there are many points to look at in a socioeconomic analysis. Studies snow that there is more poverty now than in earlier years. "What really matters is whether students are achieving,' she said.

fair. The conference also provides young women opportunities to meet and interact with positive role models who are actively engaged in math- and science-related careers. For parents, there is a two and

one-half hour workshop led by Diablo Valley College on college planning, academic requirements and financial aid.

More information on the conference can be found on the Web or by emailing the EYH Hotline or by calling 925-422-2453. Local organizations or businesses interested in donating or participating can send e-mail.

The conference is coordinated by Diablo Valley College San Ramon. Lawrence Livermore National Security, Sandia National Laboratories, and the American Association of University Women.

#### Scholarships Available

For over 20 years, the ValleyCare Auxiliary has been awarding scholarships, totaling more than \$100,000, to local high school students. This year, along with four \$4,000 and two \$1,000 scholarships, the Auxiliary will award one additional \$4,000 scholarship donated by the Valley-Care Medical Staff.

These scholarships are available to graduating high school seniors who reside in the Tri-Valley and are planning to enter a medical related field.

Application forms are available at the local high schools. They are also available at the Information desks at both Valley Memorial Center, 1111 E. Stanley Boulevard in Livermore and ValleyCare Medical Center, 555 W. Las Positas Boulevard in Pleasanton; and at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton.

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2012 and mailed to Scholarship Chair Gwen Matsu, 5760 Gateway Ct., Discovery Bay, CA 94505

Funds for these scholarships have been raised through gifts to the Auxiliary, proceeds from sales at the Auxiliary's Livermore Thrift Shop, and the Gift Shop at ValleyCare Medical Center, Pleasanton.

Scholarships will be awarded at the Auxiliary Appreciation Luncheon in May. For more information, please call Scholarship Chair Gwen Matsu,

#### **Ranchers and Farmers**

(925) 634-0804.

Business planning and collaborative marketing workshops for ranchers and farmers will be held Mon., March 12 at the Martinelli Event Center in Livermore.

The center is located at 3585 Greenville Road.

The workshops are aimed at farmers and ranchers with ten years or less of agricultural income, or who are starting a new ag enterprise

From 9 a.m. to noon during the collaborative marketing workshop participants will learn how to select relevant collaborative marketing strategies; initiate planning for a collaborative marketing strategy; and locate resources to get started

Presenters are Bill Fujimoto, Produce Marketing Consultant. Marketing Decisions Shape Production Decisions; Ariane Michas, Local Food Systems Manager, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF). Connecting to Local Food Marketing; Local Food Distribution Networks and the Buy Fresh Buy Local Campaign; Kathryn Lyddan, Executive Director, Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust. Diversified Marketing in Brentwood; and Thomas Nelson, Director, Capay Valley Farm Shop. Capay Valley Farm Shop: an Aggregated CSA Model. Small Farm Business Planning for Financial Sustainability Workshop, is from 12:30-3:30 pm. Participants will learn to track farm financial data to assess profitability of production and marketing choices; improve financial management systems; build people capacity to address business gaps and complement strengths; locate resources, and improve long-term economic viability. Presenters are Anthony Chang and Eric Winders, California FarmLink. Workshops are hosted by partner organization SAGE, in collaboration with the ACRCD. To register, visit: www.sagecenter.org . For further information please email: bfrworkshops@sagecenter.org . Space is limited, please register by March 1. These workshops are part of a planned series funded by a "Beginning Farmer and Rancher" grant from USDANational Institute of Food and Agriculture. The workshop series will include a variety of topics relevant to beginning and established farmers and ranchers, as well as opportunities for collaboration and mentorship.

p.m. in the Granada High's parking lot. Each test drive will last about 7-10 minutes, answer a few questions and you're on your way.

Participants must be 18 or older and have a valid driver's license. Limit one test drive per household.

#### Task Force

City of Dublin is seeking applicants for a Human Services Task Force.

The Task Force will meet at the Dublin Civic Center, located at 100 Civic Plaza on dates and times to be determined. This 10-15 member Task Force will review the Eastern Alameda County 2011 Human Services Needs Assessment Findings Report and prepare a Task Force Report in the form of a Priority List for the City Council's consideration.

It is estimated that the Task Force will meet for a total of four, two-hour meetings over a four-month period. Additional meetings may be added if necessary to complete the work within the defined timeframe.

The Task Force appointees would serve for the entire four month period. It is anticipated that the appointments will be made at the March 20, 2012 City Council meeting with the first meeting convening in April 2012.

Individuals interested in serving on the Human Service Task Force must complete an application form. Forms may be obtained by contacting the City Clerk's Office at 833-6650, or by clicking the "Announcement and Application" link below. mail the application to - City of Dublin, Attn: City Clerk, 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin, CA 94568. Or email the application to caroline.soto@dublin.ca.gov or patricia.parks@dublin.ca.gov.

All applications must be received by the City Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 2, 2012. Fax or postmarks will not be accepted.

#### Book Sale

Friends of the Dublin Library spring used book sale will be held March 9 to 11 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza.

Fri., March 9, 6 to 8:30 p.m., is members only night. Memberships will be available starting at 5:30 p.m.

The sale continues Sat., March 10 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sun., March 11, 1 to 4:30 p.m. is Bag Day. Fill a paper bag (provided) for \$4, or fill a special edition Friends of the Library canvas tote bag for \$8. Totes are also available for \$5, including sales tax.

The semi-annual sale will include bargain books and audiovisual materials. Most prices are \$1 or less. Funds from sales go towards purchasing the Library's materials and supporting its programs. There will be specially priced books that are new or of extra value. A section of teacher materials will be included.

More information is available on the Library's website at www. aclibrary.org, the Friends' website at www.dublinfriends.org, or call the Library at 925-828-1315. The Library is wheelchair accessible.

#### Gifted and Talented

The National Society for the Gifted and Talented (NSGT) is offering \$10,000 in scholarships for Livermore area students to apply towards summer pro

of their choice. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2012.

Students can download and complete the scholarship application at www.nsgt.org/scholarships.asp. A team of educators in the field of gifted education will review the applications and choose the scholarship winners. Applications must be received by April 1, 2012. Winners will be noti-fied on April 15, 2012.

The Summer Institute for the  $Gifted (SIG), a \, not-for-profit \, program$ of NSGT and renowned gifted summer program, has welcomed several recipients of the Board of Trustees Scholarships in the past. Interested students, parents and educators can apply online at www.nsgt.org/scholarships.asp. Contact NSGT at (800) 572-6748 or by e-mail at info@ nsgt.org.

#### Reading Storytimes

"Pajama-Time" Family Storytimes at the Civic Center Library on Monday nights, continuing through May 7, 2012 at 7 p.m. The themes for the March through May Family Storytimes are as follows:

• Monday, March 5: "March" of the Penguins -long before they became movie stars, penguins were waddling through your local library in book form. Tuxedos are optional for this informal evening storytime event.

• Monday, March 12: A Great, ving experience at Family Storytime, as we gather the herd for stories about silly cows-and we plan to milk them for all they are worth.

• Monday, March 19: Sunset Beach Party -Daylight Savings Time is back, and storytime is celebrating. Grab your beach mat or chair, sun glasses and flip-flops-pajamas, too-and join us inside the library for fun stories about sunny days on the beach.

• Monday, March 26: Dragon Dreams-storytime celebrates the Year of the Dragon with a tribute to scaly fire-breathers of all kinds.

• Monday, April 2: A Bunny Family Storytime-hop on over to the library for a bouncy bedtime storytime full of silly rabbits.

• Monday, April 9: An Ocean of Stories —this evening we'll enjoy a wave of fun related to things found in the sea, from the biggest thing in the ocean to whatever the surf brought in.

• Monday, April 16: Trickster Night—bring your little pajama-clad tricksters to the library for an evening of stories about characters who may need to be taught a lesson in the end, but make us laugh along the way.

 Monday, April 23: Ogres and fee-fi-fo-fun time are on order, as we hear about the big guys and their misadventures. Bring your friends, big or small.

• Monday, April 30: Teddy Bear Night —wear pajamas and bring a teddy if you like, and a few friends, and enjoy fun stories about teddy bears

• Monday, May 7: Mothers, Fathers, Cousins and Others-it's a "family" Family Storytime, so bring yours. We'll be rounding up some books about the relative joys of relatives young and old.

These programs will be held in the Storytime Room of the Civic Center Library, at 1188 S. Livermore All ages are

The Barton speakers were the only people to comment on the district's proposed cuts list. There were more than a dozen backers, including some of the students who have been helped by the program. All praised BRP as the only program that works for some children who have severe reading handicaps.

The district pays a coordinator for Barton. However, much of the work is accomplished by trained volunteers. One volunteer, retired pediatrician Ed McGovern, said that he has a mild form of dyslexia. He was able to succeed in his studies, with the help of the hard work encouraged by his father.

However, many students have more severe dyslexia. "As a pediatrician, I repeatedly heard that they can't find help at school, that they are too smart (for help), that they are not qualified for resource classes," said McGovern

"Those students didn't have something like Barton to teach them to read. They got frustrated and angry and acted out," said McGovern. The result of such failure can be a high rate of drug use, he said. "If you can't read, you can't succeed.'

Nancy denBroeder, the Barton facilitator at Foothill High School, said her son was a Barton student from second to fourth grade, and now loves to read.

'I have to ask why anything to do with reading is on a cut list. It's a fundamental right of each and every student. If you can learn as normally in a classroom, that's great. However, if a large percentage can't, it should be taken into account to provide intervention," said denBroeder.

Parent Lynn Krimili told trustees, "I know you have big hearts

comments in the community that the list of proposed cuts "were not a big deal. 'They always find the money somewhere.' We don't find the money. People give it. Employees gave us furlough days and concessions to save money to keep programs." Residents make their donations.

#### **MINORITIES ARE FOCUS ON COMPETENCY LEVEL**

Another presentation to the board underscored the importance of ensuring children are proficient, so they don't fail later in life.

Proficiency levels in subjects are mandated by the No Child Left Behind law. Overall, the district does well in students achieving at the proficient level or above.

For example, in 8th grade English Language Arts (ELA), some 929 of the 1106 students tested were proficient or above. However, the district is concerned about the remaining 177 students

Of special concern, because the federal mandates take minority groups into consideration, are the African-American and Hispanic students.

Their population in the eighth grade is relatively low compared to whites and Asians. However, the percentage of students not up to proficient in each group is significant.

Some 41 percent of 98 Hispanic students are below proficient, and 30 percent of 32 African-American students are below proficient, as measured by various standardized tests.

District staff takes test data learned about each student, and is able to provide it to teachers who can customize their teaching to the individual students, said man-

#### POLICY SET ON **DRUG CANINES**

The board also unanimously approved the first reading of a policy that spells out the procedures for using drug-detecting dogs on campus at student lockers and in the high school parking lots. The second reading, which would officially establish the policy, is due at the Feb. 28 meeting.

The board approved the use of dogs at its Jan. 24 meeting by a 4-1 vote. At the time, four trustees wanted to establish a specific policy before bringing dogs to campus, which will be done on an occasional basis.

Trustee Jeff Bowser voted "no" on Jan. 24, saying that he he felt that existing policy already covered the use of the dogs. The subject is so important, there should be no delay in allowing the dog unit.

#### **SPECIFIC BENEFIT PHASE-OUT URGED**

The board also approved contract openers for the district in negotiations for the coming year with the teachers union.

Parent Sandy Piderit said that she would like to see the board phase out the current policy of paying medical benefits to retirees who leave the district before they are 65.

'Hopefully, now that we have a better federal health care policy, it will be unnecessary over time to provide the benefit. I"m concerned about it from a cost containment perspective," said Piderit.

Personal Training

#### Drive and Raise Funds

Livermore Ford Lincoln and the Granada High School Music Boosters are partnering to raise up to \$6,000 through the newly launched Drive Smart For Your School program. Members of the Livermore area community will have the opportunity to raise money for the Music Boosters by test driving a Lincoln vehicle. For every person (1 per household) who test drives a Lincoln at this one-day event, Lincoln and Livermore Ford Lincoln will donate \$20 to the Granada High School Music Boosters. All funds raised will be used to help fund special events for the band.

The Drive Smart event takes place Saturday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to 3

Ten scholarships are being offered by the NSGT Board of Trustees - six at \$1,000 each, six at \$500 each and four at \$250 each - and will be used by the deserving student to help pay tuition for gifted summer program

these free library programs. Contact Youth Services at (925) 373-5504 for more information, pick up a storytime schedule at any one of the Livermore Public Libraries, or visit the website at www.livermorelibrary.net .

A Celebration of Life Service

will be held on Friday, Feb. 24, 1

p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833

East Ave., Livermore, CA. Burial

will follow at Memory Gardens

Cemetery in Livermore.

### BTUA

joined her

daughter

Hailey,

mother

Charlene,

#### Suzanne Michele Crowe

Resident of Livermore After four courageous years

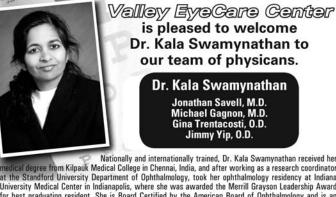
fighting cancer, Suzanne Michele Crowe

2012. She will always be remembered as a beautiful person inside and out.

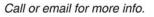
Suzanne touched the lives of everyone she knew; her kindness, sass, and compassion were infectious. Her passion in life was being a devoted mother, wife, and friend. Those who knew her were blessed by a rare and genuine gift. We are all better for having known her.

Suzanne is survived by her husband Wayne, daughters Nicole, Cierra, and Kaitlyn Crowe and her siblings Marty, Charles, and Erin Warr.





University Medical Center in Indianapolis, where she was awarded the Merrill Grayson Leadership Award for best graduating resident. She is Board Certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and is an active member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. As a comprehensive ophthalmologist, she will be available to see patients in the Pleasanton and Livermore offices beginning January 17th.



Is it time for some healthy

changes in your lifestyle?

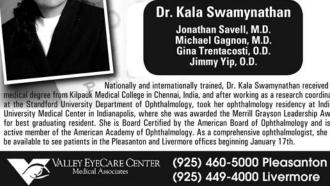
I can help!

Don't know where to start?

(925) 200-3491 | www.fit2gopt.com | fit2gopt@yahoo.com

**Personal Training In** Your Home!





www.ValleyEyeCareCenter.com



in Heaven on February 17.

## A Long Journey from the Killing Fields to Livermore

#### By Carol Graham

It's an unlikely evolution to go from homelessness to selling homes

Or, maybe it's not. Perhaps it's his compassion and drive that ensures Mony Nop's continued success as he shifts careers from having served as a 16-year Livermore police officer to helping people buy their home – the place "where memories are created, where life's passages are marked, and where we share in the warmth and love of our family."

Nop's early years were not quite so picturesque. Born in 1972 in Battambang, Cambodia, Nop arrived just in time to survive one of the most gruesome episodes in modern history. Communist leader Pol Pot overtook the government in 1975 launching a three-year reign of terror by the black-clad Khmer Rouge who enslaved, imprisoned and murdered the well-educated members of society as well as anyone who dared to disagree with the new regime.

During Pol Pot's time in power, he imposed agrarian socialism, forcing millions of urban dwellers to relocate to the countryside to work in collective farms and forced-labor camps.

"My earliest memory is sitting on the dirt floor of the mass tent, said Nop. "The kids sat with the kids. Adults sat with adults. We were given rice porridge and maybe some dried fish to eat. When food was put down, you had to eat it as fast as you could or else it would run out. I poured some food into my bowl and a kid jumped up and bit me. I've still got the three-inch scar that bears that memory.

"Going back to those days, I remember stealing everything I could. I would sit under the

table where the communist leaders would eat. Whatever bones they threw down, I would eat,' said Nop.

The combined effects of malnutrition, starvation, hard labor, disease, torture and executions resulted in the deaths of an estimated two to four million people. Weak and ill, victims often were forced to dig their own graves. Those, along with myriad mass graves, are collectively known as "The Killing Fields."

In 1978, the Vietnamese invasion caused enough turmoil and chaos to allow Nop and his family to escape - as well as eventually forcing Pol Pot to flee into the jungle and the Khmer Rouge regime to collapse. The Nops set out on a five-day treacherous journey to Thailand. "I remember bombs going off and seeing people get shot," said Nop. "We had to step over dead bodies in the river that had gotten stuck in some branches. The grass was so high, all I could think of was land mines.

'We stayed at a United Nations refugee camp across the border," said Nop, remembering the crowded and unhygienic conditions. "The U.N. was trying to clean up the camp, so for every five dead rats we brought them, they'd give us a dollar. I remember going through this dilapidated village in my slippers, watching out for rusty nails, looking for rats. Then we lined up in a long line; it was so hot and I was holding five rats by the tail. That's how I earned my first American dollar.'

The Nop family relocated from camp to camp over several years, but life did improve. Nop recalled a particularly idyllic period when the family stayed at a refugee camp in the Philippines in 1982. "We lived in a little bun-



#### Mony Nop

ker in a tropical forest," said Nop. "Within a 15-minute walk, we'd be at a stream. We made our own gun with wood and a rubber band and we'd shoot fish, shrimp and eel. The water was so clear; you'd go down as long as you could hold your breath. Then we'd lie in the sun on boulders.

"There was tropical fruit everywhere; when you got hungry you could always pick fruit. If the birds could eat it, we knew we could eat it.' The next year, with a sponsor

in Arizona, Nop and his family were able to immigrate to the United States. "We set out in a bus to Manila (Philippine's capital)," Nop remembered. "Most of us had never ridden in a car before. It was July, and really, really hot. The road was winding with cliffs dropping a thousand feet. We all got sick. As the bus twisted and turned, so did the vomit – like a snake crawling through. It was disgusting, but it's the most vivid thing I remember.'

From then on, it was one surprising discovery after another. 'I was awestruck. We'd never seen an escalator. People were walking into mirrors; we'd never seen a mirror before," said Nop. "We stayed in a hotel and had

running water for the first time. When the phone rang, we all ran and hid.

Arriving in Tempe, Arizona, the culture shock continued. "We stayed with friends who had carpet and a front door," he added. They cooked a whole chicken that we didn't have to ration for the week. When we went to the grocery store for the first time, I was overwhelmed. I thought, 'Where was all this food when I was growing up?' For the first 11 years of my life I went to bed hungry."

By the time school started in the fall, Nop had learned a little English. "I'd already gotten hooked on watching 'Eight is Enough' on my neighbor's black and white TV," said Nop. "I loved little Nicholas."

Throughout his school years, Nop was driven and industrious, earning money by dumpsterdiving for recyclables to picking cucumbers, strawberries, tomatoes and onions when the family moved to Stockton (Battambang's Sister City). During high school at Lodi's Tokay High School, Nop worked at McDonald's, followed by Domino's - where he still holds the record for most deliveries in one night. "Sixtynine deliveries in one night; I drove like a bat out of hell," said Nop laughing. "It was precursor training to being a police officer and having high speed chases."

After a high school civics class piqued Nop's interest in police work, he served as a bilingual aid for Cambodian students while studying for the California police exam. "I'm weakest in sentence structure and vocabulary," he said. "So I would be the last one to turn in my test. I'd be studying and memorizing all the questions, then I'd run out to my car and write down everything I could remember to study."

His resourcefulness paid off; at 22 he passed the test - ranking 17<sup>th</sup> academically in his class of 47, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in physical training - before being hired by the Livermore Police Department. "First and foremost, the training and the professionalism is exceptional in Livermore," said Nop. "The community support is great; when there are functions or community events, people come over and say hello and tell us that they appreciate our work," said Nop.

"I also worked as a D.A.R.E. officer for three years."

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), founded in 1983, is an officer-led series of classroom lessons that gives kids the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs and violence. "I've always loved kids," said Nop. "They're spunky, smart and sophisticated; I love their energy."

Nop has two sons of his own who attend Granada High School. As a single father, he wants to spend as much time as possible with them, which is one of the main reasons he decided on a career change.

"I'm giving up police work for many reasons; freedom is one of the biggest," said Nop. "I get to be with my boys. I get to go to their basketball games. No more nights and holidays. I'll be able to do a lot of charity work.'

"I love people. I strive to be places where they are," he said, noting he will remain a reserve officer in order to serve the community. "When I see people in pain, I feel it. I understand where they're coming from."

Going to night school, he'd earned his bachelor's degree in Business Management from Saint Mary's College in 2004 followed by earning his real estate license in 2006. He has been selling an average of ten properties a year for the last two years.

"I'm doing what I love and I believe I'm good at it. I've got great communication skills and I'm excellent in negotiation. Once, I took a two-week police interrogation and interview course. I learned how to read body language, how to talk to people, and how to ask questions," said Nop.

"His level of integrity is solid," said administrative assistant Nicole Sweeney, who began working with Nop last August at Livermore's Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate. "People can put their trust in him knowing he's in their corner and looking out for their interests.'

Nop said of his life, "I appreciate the last 16 years on the police force," he said. "I feel so blessed to be here. I love this community; I appreciate the heck out of people here. I'm just going to be helping people in a new spectrum now.

### LARPD Launches Interactive Registration System

Taking advantage of every- look forward to providing an thing the Livermore Area Rec- easier-to-use Internet registration reation and Park District has to process for our customers." offer just got easier.

Winter/spring classes

www.independentnews.com

Using the browser-based eTrak system the new registra-

questing facility reservations will be added soon. New and existing customers will need to create an account in the new system that must be processed before registering online for programs. Customers are urged to create an account in advance to avoid any delay signing up for classes. Summer registration opens in late March, and online users must have an account setup prior to registering.



Livermore Mayor John Marchand reads to students at the Livermore Valley Charter School's annual read-in day, which kicked off the read-a-thon fundraiser. He was one of over 50 special guest readers at the school that day, including Livermore's Poet Laureate Cher Wollard, Holocaust survivor Ruth Gasten, miniaturist artist Barbara Stanton, and Marine Sergeant Rommel Henriquez. Read-a-thon organizers hope to raise over \$10,000 to benefit school programs.

full swing, with many other sessions beginning soon. LARPD recently launched a new registration software system that will allow customers to interact with the District in new ways and with a streamlined process - simple, secure and speedy.

"This new cutting-edge software will make it easier for citizens to sign up for the myriad of activities and rentals available to them through LARPD," said General Manager Tim Barry. "I

tion process enhances security and increases the speed of each transaction. The new online system will allow residents to register and pay for classes, retrieve an individual's LARPD activity history, view available programs, classes and more in real time. receive receipts via email, accept LARPD waivers and save time filling out and signing forms. Registration can be completed 24 hours a day.

Other features including re-

Check out the new system through the "Register Online" button on the LARPD website at www.larpd.dst.ca.us. For registration questions, call 925-373-5700.

DISCOVER

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 460108

tious business name(s) listed

Signature of Registrants:s/:

This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda

on January 11, 2012. Expires

The Independent Legal No.

3179. Published February 9,

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** 

NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 460854

Leading Stars, Inc., 10221

Meyer Ct., Stockton, CA

This business is conducted by

The registrant began to trans-

act business under the ficti-

tious business name(s) listed

Signature of Registrants:s/:

Hamid Sultan Baloch, CEO

This statement was filed with

16, 23, March 1, 2012.

following owner(s):

95209

a Corporation

above on N/A

above on 12/28/2011.

Michele Juliana Burkett

January 11, 2017.

#### **NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS** EGA

#### LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES Call 925-243-8000

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 460501 The following person(s) doing business as: Ultra Property Development, 2662 Decke Lane, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chris Patterson, 2662 Decker Lane, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants:s/: Christopher Patterson This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 20, 2012, Expires January 20, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3171. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012. ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 12613770 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1.Petitioner: Paul Seungyop Kwak filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows Present Name: Paul Seungyop Kwak Proposed Name: Paul Seungyop Kwauk 2.THE COURT ORDERS all persons interested in this

that matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated beto show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name

changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely the court may grant the petition without a hearing NOTICE OF HEARING a. Date: 03/23/2012 Time: 8:45 AM Dept: 504 b. The address of the court is: 24405 Amador Street, Hayward, CA 94544 Hayward Hall of Justice 3.a. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county. The Independent Dated: January 23, 2012 /s/: Winifred Y. Smith Judge of the Superior Court The Independent Legal No. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012 3172. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 459236 The following person(s) doing business as: North First BR

4323 N. 1st St., Livermore, CA

94551, is hereby registered by

the following owner(s): Ramanjit Singh Kailey, 201 E. Grant Line Rd. #46, Tracy, CA 95376 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants:s/: Ramanjit Singh Kailey This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

on December 13, 2011. Expires December 13, 2016 The Independent Legal No. 3174. Published February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2012.

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

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

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460836

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Ford, 2266 Kitty Hawk Rd, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

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

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460693 The following person(s) doing business as: Flvnn Road Ranches, 11995 So, Flynn

Rd, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Paul James Fagliano, 4435 First Street #341, Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by an Individual

The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/25/12. Signature of Registrants:s/: Paul Fagliano This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 25, 2012. Expires January 25, 2017 The Independent Legal No. 3177. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

> SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NO. RG11587151

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDO): KWAKU A. DANSO, and DOES 1 to 10 INCLUSIVE

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY

(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO \_ DEMANDANTE) INVESTMENT RÉTRIEV-**ERS. INC. A CALIFORNIA** CORPORATION

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below

You have 30 CALENDAR en su contra sin escuchar su DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in a proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Selfhelp Center (www.courtinfo. ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. I you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further varning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an at torney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia. org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www. courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court

or county bar association

NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case, as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify). !AVÍŚO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir

> version. Lea la informacion a continuacion. Tien 30 DIAS DE CAL-ENDARIO despues de aue le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta caso por escrito tiene que esta en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en lacorte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte v mas informacion en el Centro de Avuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte. ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leves de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagai la cuota de presentacion.

pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento v la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpia con los requisitos para obtener sevicios legales J. DE JESUS gratuitos de un programa de By /s/: Deputy (Adjunto) servicios legales sin fines J. DE JESÚS de lucro. Puede encontral estos grupos sin fines de The Independent Legal No. lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www. 3178. Published February 9, lawhelpcalifornia.org), en 16, 23, March 1, 2012. el Centro de Avuda de las **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** Cortes de California, (www. sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el The following person(s) doing colegio de abogados locales. business as: Rock Candy AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene Cakes, 16 Fawn Dr, Liverderecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por more, CA 94550, is hereby imponer un gravamen sobre registered by the following cualquier recuperacion de owner(s): \$10,000 o mas de valor re-Michele Juliana Burkett, 16 cibida mediante un acuerdo Fawn Dr, Livermore, CA o una concesion de arbitraie 94550 en un caso de derecho civil This business is conducted by Tiene que pagar el gravaan Individual men de la corte antes de que The registrant began to transla corte pueda desechar el act business under the ficti-

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

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion v el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): JEFFREY FLETTERICK SBN 270847 LAW OFFICES OF JEFFREY FLETTERICK 4354 TOWN CENTER BLVD, EL DORADO HILLS, CA 95762

(916)933-8641 (916)941-3913 fax

DATE: (Fecha): JUL 22, 2011 Clerk (Secretario)

the County Clerk of Alameda on January 27, 2012. Expires January 27, 2017 The Independent Legal No 3180. Published February 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2012.

VISA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460105

The following person(s) doing business as: XO Pandora Online Broadcasting, 3107 Independence Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Jacob Stansky, 5177 Peony Drive, Livermore, CA 94551 (2)Jarrod Anders, 6960 Reno Drive, Arvada, CO 80002 This business is conducted by Co-partners The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/1/2011. Signature of Registrants:s/ Jacob Stansky / Co-owner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 11, 2012. Expires January 11, 2017 The Independent Legal No. 3181. Published February 16. 23. March 1. 8. 2012. NOTICE OF APPLICATION

#### TO SELL ALCOHOLIC The following person(s) doing BEVERAGES business as: REALTYWORLD Date of Filing Application STARS, 11501 Dublin Blvd January 13, 2012 Ste. 200. Dublin. CA 94568 To Whom It May Concern: is hereby registered by the The Names(s) of the

Applicant(s) is/are: Fat Chance Entertainment, Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Depart-ment of Alcoholic Beverage

Control to sell alcoholic bev erages at 2300 FIRST STREET STE 120

LIVERMORE, CA 94550-3153 Type of license(s) Applied

VISA

### **LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS**

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 461540 The following person(s) doing

business as: Automax, 3765 First Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fazli Auto Sales Inc. 1006 Natwick Way, Brentwood, CA 94513 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants:s/: Farhad Fazli, CEO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 14, 2012. Expires February 14, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3183. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 2012. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460312 The following person(s) doing business as: Rockstar Audio. 3111 Independence Drive

Unit A, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Scott Wood, 1046 Sunrise Ridge Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/17/2012. Signature of Registrants:s/: Scott Wood This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 17, 2012. Expires

The Independent Legal No. 3184. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 2012. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

January 17, 2017.

#### NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 460352

The following person(s) doing business as: Vapor Warehouse, 7697 Hawthorn Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Interlated Ventures, LLC, 7697 Hawthorn Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a Limited liability company The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/27/2002. Signature of Registrants:s/: Jason Larson - Managing Member This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 18, 2012. Expires January 18, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3185. Published February 16. 23. March 1. 8. 2012. 2/23/12 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 461078 The following person(s) doing business as: D and D Fabrication, 592 Sonoma Ave. Livermore, CA 94550. is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David Abbley, 592 Sonoma Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2004 Signature of Registrants:s/: David Abblev This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 2, 2012. Expires February 2, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3186. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 2012. STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 454509 The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: Cal State Smogs, 3985 First Street, # F, Livermore, CA 94551. The Fictitious business Name Statement for the Partnership was filed on 7/29/11 in the County of Alameda. The full name of Registrant Hariit Deo. 595 Bourne Lane. Danville, CA, 94506 This business was conducted by: Harjit S. Deo Signature of Registrant /s/: Harjit S. Deo This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2012. Expires February 10, 2017 The Independent Legal No. 3187. Published February 16, 23. March 1. 8. 2012. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 461095-96 The following person(s) doing business as: (1)All Pro Fire Protection (2)All Pro Pumping Services, 1020 Ventura Ave, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Edward Gonsalves, 1020 Ventura Ave, Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by low an Individual The registrant began to transthe act business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A Signature of Registrants:s/: Ed Gonsalves This statement was filed with that includes the reasons for the County Clerk of Alameda the objection at least two on February 2, 2012. Expires court February 2, 2017 The Independent Legal No. days before the matter is

3188. Published February scheduled to be heard and 16. 23. March 1. 8. 2012. ing to FICTITIOUS BUSINESS show cause why the petition NAME STATEMENT should not be granted. If no FILE NO. 461497 written objection is timely The following person(s) dofiled ing business as: Cal State the court may grant the peti-Smogs, 3985 First Street. tion without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING Suite F. Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered

95206

a. Date: 04/20/2012 by the following owner(s): Time: 8:45 AM Dept: Hardeep S. Sanghera, 4998 b. The address of the Moorcroft Cir, Stockton, CA court is: 24405 Amador Street This business is conducted by

an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 2/10/2012. week Signature of Registrants:s/: Hardeep Singh Sanghera This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2012. Expires February 10, 2017. The Independent Legal No 3189. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 2012. **FICTITIOUS BUSINESS** NAME STATEMENT 3193. FILE NO. 460725

The following person(s) doing business as: East Bay Rabbit Rescue, 1945 Fifth Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is

lowing owner(s):

hereby registered by the fol-Joan Wegner, 1945 Fifth Street, Livermore, CA 94550

an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/2009. Signature of Registrants:s/: Joan Wegner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 25, 2012. Expires January 25, 2017. The Independent Legal No 3190. Published February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 2012. NOTICE of INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will

Hayward, CA 94544 Hayward Hall of Justice 3.a. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each for four successive weeks to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county. The Independent Dated: February 15, 2012 /s/: Winifred Y. Smith Judge of the Superior Court

504

The Independent Legal No. Published February 23, March 1, 8, 15, 2012. ANIMALS

> 2) CATS/ DOGS ADOPT A DOG OR CAT, for adoption information contact Valley Humane Society at

This business is conducted by



CNS-2262381# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3191 NOTICE of INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department. County of Alameda. 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612 NETWORKING/NORTH COUNTY BIDDERS CON-FERENCE RFP #900946 Pre-Employment Physical Exams and Occupational Services, Thursday, March 1, 2012, 10:00 a.m. - General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1105, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA NET-WORKING/SOUTH COUNTY **BIDDERS CONFERENCE** RFP #900946, Pre-Employment Physical Exams and Occupational Services, Friday, March 2, 2012, 2:00 p.m. - Public Works Agency, 951 Turner Court, Room 230C, Hayward, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on March 30, 2012 County Contact: Michael Lu (510) 208-9649 or via email: Michael.lu@ acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 2/23/12 CNS-2263411# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3192 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. HG12617224 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA. COUNTY OF ALAMEDA TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: 1.Petitioner: Amy Burchett filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Molly Rose Wilson roposed Name: Molly Rose Burchett 2.THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated be to show cause, if any, why petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection

925 426-8656 must appear at the hear-Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Vallev Ani-

mal 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.tvar.org EMPLOYMENT 65) HELP WANTED JANITOR / FLOOR TECH Evening Shift. Must have own transportation and clean driving record. (925)245-0595 56) ADULT CARE

CNA CAREGIVER Honest, responsible, experienced CNA Caregiver seeking work with people who need help. References available. Please call Marie (925)525-4348.



**DIRECTORY, CALL 243-8000** 

www.independentnews.com

status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board."

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perience. Senior Solutions.

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fees. Read and understand

any contracts before you sign.

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Lost downtown Liver

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**NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

"NOTICE TO READERS:

California law requires that

contractors taking jobs that to-

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materials) be licensed by the

Contractors State License

Board, State law also requires

that contractors include their

license numbers on all adver-

tising. Check your contractor's

155) NOTICES

Shop around for rates.

MERCHANDISE

127) LOST/ FOUND

Inc 925-443-310

REAL ESTATE CARE HOME Seeking to rent or lease Care Home Pleasanton/Livermore

area. Please call Marie

(925)525-4348 **Inland Valley** Publishing Co. Client Code:04126-00001 Re: Legal Notice for

Classified Ads The Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and state law prohibit advertisements for housing and employment that contain any preference, limitation or discrimination based on protected classes, including race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin. IVPC does not knowingly accept any advertisements that are in

> TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD call 925-243-8000

violation of the law.

buyers for nearly 60 years. You will receive the best rates and most favorable terms with a down payment of 20 percent or more, which allows you to obtain "conventional" financing. But many financing programs exist that allow you to buy a home

with a smaller down payment, or even no down payment at all.

By Cher Wollard

or you are looking for a new home to

1. Am I ready to purchase a home?

Some of these programs have income limits and/or require borrowers to complete a homebuyer educational workshop.

3. I have a down payment but need help with closing costs. Closing costs typically run about 3 percent of the purchase price for buyers in California, depending on the type of loan and whether or

not they will pay taxes and insurance through impound accounts. The California Homebuver's Down Payment Assistance Program (CHDAP) offers first-time homebuyers a second loan that can be used to help cover closing costs.

Sometimes sellers help with buyer closing costs. Banks and federal programs sometimes cover all or part of the buyer's closing costs when selling foreclosed homes.

Your Realtor can help you figure out which sellers are most likely to agree to pay some or all of these fees, negotiate on your behalf, or structure your offer to include enough credits from the seller to cover your closing costs.

4. How do I find a mortgage specialist?

If you already have a trusted Realtor, he or she can give you names of experienced mortgage professionals. Or get referrals from friends or family members who have recently purchased or refinanced homes. The bank or credit union where you do business likely also offers mortgages.

5. What should I buy?

Once you have been pre-approved by a mortgage specialist, you'll have a good idea how much you can afford to spend. What and where you purchase is based on a lot of factors:

• Lifestyle - Do you want the convenience of condo living or the flexibility of a single-family home?

• Consider proximity to work, school, family, amenities. How much time are you willing to spend commuting? If the trade-off is a larger home further from your job, what is most important to you?

• New or resale? New homes are appealing, but they generally do not include window coverings, backyard patios and landscaping, or other items that can add to the cost.

6. Do I need my own Realtor? Won't I get a better deal if I use the listing agent?

Your agent does more than show you houses and write the offer. Your agent is your best advocate. He or she is a professional negotiator who represents your interests, and then guides you through the ups and downs of the home buying process.

You can use the same agent the seller is using – this is called dual agency, it is perfectly legal and often works well. But that agent is balancing your best interests and the best interests of the seller. He or she has legal and ethical obligations to both. A successful dual agency arrangement requires a great amount of trust on all sides.

As for getting "a better deal" it's possible the listing agent has



Purchasing a home is a big decision. Whether it's your first home

suit your family's changing needs, buying a home requires invest-

Why do you want to purchase a home? When you have a clear goal

If you are not sure whether you are in a financial position to pur-

A 20 percent down payment has been the standard for U.S. home-

chase a home, consult with your financial advisor or a mortgage spe-

cialist. The Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center in Livermore also

offers classes and counseling services for first-time homebuyers.

2. Do I need 20 percent for a down payment?

in mind, you are more likely to be successful in making a move.

ments of money, time and energy. Buyers are bound to have lots of

concerns. Here are a few of the more common questions:

agreed to accept a reduced fee if he or she represents both sides. Technically, this benefits the sellers. The sellers could accept a slightly lower offer in this situation, since their costs are reduced. The difference is likely small and the seller may or may not pass those savings on to you.

7. How do I find a buyer's agent?

Again, ask for referrals from friends, relatives or trusted professionals such as your banker, loan officer or insurance agent. Some agents are members of the Chamber of Commerce or Downtown Association. If you know a Realtor in another city or state, he or she may be able to refer you to an agent in the community where you wish to buy.

Or, stop by open houses where you can observe agents in action. Check out websites such as Trulia or Zillow, where agents answer questions from the public.

Just remember, all agents are licensed by the state, but not all licensees are Realtors. Realtors belong to the National Association of Realtors, the California Association of Realtors and their local board, which hold them to high ethical standards.

8. How will my agent be paid?

Real estate agents are paid strictly on commission. Buyers' agents are usually paid by the broker representing the seller. The listing agreement spells out how much the seller's broker will be paid and how that fee will be shared with cooperating brokers.

If you have a buyer-broker agreement with your agent, and you select a home in which the selling side is not compensating your agent (such as a For Sale by Owner) you will have to pay him or her separately.

9. What happens when I find my home?

When you find the home you want, your agent will prepare an offer, which you will sign, to be presented to the seller.

Once your offer is accepted, you will be expected to put an earnest deposit, usually of 1-3 percent of purchase price, into an escrow account to show good faith. During the contract period, you will work with your loan officer to obtain a mortgage, and with your Realtor to inspect the property thoroughly and ensure everyone meets the time frames required by the contract.

10. How long will it take?

Most transactions take 30-60 days, depending on your lender's requirements. Delays can occur when buyers and sellers negotiate over repairs, when title issues arise, if the property is appraised for less than the contract price, or when there are problems with the buyer's loan.

Short sales take longer because after the sellers agree to your terms, they have to get approval from their lender. Cash deals can close in less than two weeks.

Regardless of what type of transaction you are entering into, your Realtor will guide you through the process.

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

### Head of Bay East to Address Realtors Tricia Thomas, CEO of the Bay East Association of Realtors, will

be guest speaker at the March 1 meeting of the Real Estate Alliance of Livermore.

R.E.A.L. is a networking group open to Realtors and those in affiliated professions who serve the Livermore community.

The group meets Thursdays mornings at the First Street Alehouse, 2106 First Street, Livermore. Doors open at 8 a.m. for networking. The meeting runs 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Admission is \$4. Coffee and light refreshments are served. For information, see the website at www.realestateallianceoflivermore. com.



Fiona the Cow is now on display at the Alviso Adobe Community Park. She provides visitors with the opportunity to learn how a real cow is milked.

### Fiona's Friends: The **Cows Who Make Your** Milk Now at Alviso Park

Museum on Main is currently on display at Alviso Adobe Community Park in Pleasanton. It will be open for viewing through April 1. Entitled Fiona's Friends: The Cows Who Make Your Milk, the exhibit describes the different types of milking cow breeds that once were part of the working Meadowlark Dairy in the 1920's on the park site.

A panel display describes the unique characteristics of Fiona the Holstein and her pals Lily the Jersey cow, Moira the Ayrshire cow, Heidi the Brown Swiss, Claire the Guernsey cow, and Rosie the Milking Shorthorn, as well as some insight into their milk producing secrets. The exhibit was designed for all ages and can be viewed during regular operating hours of the Alviso Adobe Community Park.

Fiona is a fiberglass educational milking cow created to help educate the public about the activities surrounding milk production and dairy history of the City of Pleasanton's Alviso

A new exhibit curated by the Adobe Community Park. Visitors can now try their hand at milking Fiona, on Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Each participant will earn an "I milked Fiona!" sticker.

> The public is welcome to take photos with Fiona and d to post pictures and 'Friend' Fiona Pleasanton, and then tag her on Facebook.

> The Alviso Adobe is located at 3465 Foothill Road, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Hours of operation: The park is open daily from dawn to dusk.

The park buildings are open for self-guided tours Wednesday through Sunday, 10am to 4pm. The park buildings (including restrooms) are closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and City of Pleasanton holidays.

There is no admission fee to visit the Alviso Adobe Community Park. However, there may be fees associated with programs or workshops provided either on or off site. For more information: (925) 931-3479 or email enicholas@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

### **Research to Help Support Marshallese Resettlement**

Researchers from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and a team of American mendations on remediation of Indian scientists and engineers radiocesium uptake into tree-crop have partnered to study the pos- products such as coconut, this sible use of Black Earth technology, or Cpryo, to help mitigate the uptake of radiocesium in locally grown foods in the Marshall Islands. After WWII, the United States conducted 66 nuclear detonations between 1946 and 1958, on once-pristine inhabited atolls of Bikini and Enewetak in the northern Marshall Islands. The detonations contaminated the islands with radioactive fallout. Long-lived radionuclides such as radiocesium remain at different levels in indigenous terrestrial plants that may be used as food. To help reduce levels of radiation exposure and support ongoing efforts by Marshall Islanders to resettle their ancestral homelands, the contaminated coral soils need to be remediated as a best practice under the general principles of ALARA-As Low As Reasonably Achievable. "Terra Mulata, an ancient indigenous Amazon Black Earth technology, will be investigated at Lawrence Livermore and on the atolls this year," said Dan Hawk, a climate change expert, and lead researcher within the American Indian team. "Our team expects carbon, the main ingredient of Terra Mulata, to significantly improve plant productivity as well as water/nutrient retention of coral soils, and potentially help decrease radio-

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cesium uptake in plants." Together with existing recom-

### Spay/Neuter Clinic Offered for Pit Bulls and Chihuahuas

#### **By Carol Graham**

Owning pets as status symbols is one of pop-culture's saddest missteps. Animal shelters across the state carry the burden for the craze of trying to appear more tough by owning a pit bull, or more chic by owning a Chihuahua.

"More than half of all dogs entering many Bay Area shelters are these breeds and their mixes," said Allison Lindquist, East Bay's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' executive director. "Spaying and neutering is the only way to prevent more of these unwanted animals from entering shelters."

To commemorate World Spay Day, held the last Tuesday of February, the EBSPCA is scheduled to perform 100 free spay and neuter surgeries for these breeds belonging to low-income families living in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Cats are also included. "We get 25% more cats and kittens in our shelter than dogs and puppies," said Director of Marketing and Development Laura Fulda. "Spaying more cats will help reduce the number of unwanted young and unweaned kittens coming into shelters."

Spay Day was established in 1995 by the Doris Day Animal Foundation. Veterinarians and their staff, animal welfare advocates, business owners and citizens combine forces nationwide and around the world to promote spaying/neutering as a means of decreasing the suffering and euthanasia of unwanted, homeless animals.

Considering that participants have spayed or neutered about 1.5 million animals over the past 15 years, and that cats and dogs can give birth to a dozen kittens and puppies each year, the program has potentially prevented many millions of surplus births - and saved many millions of taxpayers' dollars.

"We will basically have a spay/neuter marathon assembly

Casbah Café Presents

line going," said Fulda of the two EBSPCA centers. "It's very efficient and quite a production to see. We'll have two veterinarians in Dublin, and three in Oakland, plus dozens of veterinary assistants and technicians."

Spaying and neutering is not only considered safe, it's also known to have significant health benefits for the animals, including reducing the risk, or eliminating the possibility, of many cancers as well as complications associated with pregnancy and birth. Neutered pets are also less likely to spray their territory or roam away from home.

According to the SPCA, the most compelling reason to spay and neuter pets is the very evident reality that there are just not enough homes available for all the animals that need them.

The pit bull population in California has increased so rapidly that shelters are now struggling to deal with an overflow of the image-plagued, hard-to-place dogs. The social status attached to owning a 'mean dog' often attracts undesirable potential adopters who are interested in them only for protection or fighting. Yet the breed is extremely loyal, fun-loving and intelligent when placed in the appropriate setting.

As for Chihuahuas, they make up 30% or more of the dog populations at many California shelters. Experts say Hollywood is to blame, with fans imitating fashionable Chihuahua-toting celebrities.

On World Spay Day, all spay and neuter surgeries will include free vaccinations. Pet owners can opt to have an identification chip implanted in their pet for 10 (regular cost is 30).

The EBSPCA regularly offers low-priced spaying and neutering for all breeds of dogs and cats, as well as providing vaccinations, microchipping and many other veterinary services. The organization is committed to eliminating animal cruelty, neglect and

overpopulation by providing education and programs that support responsible, loving ownership.

For more information, visit www.eastbayspca.org.



work may provide an alternative method to using large amounts of chemical fertilizers as opposed to a one-time application of Cpryo, especially for use in home vegetable gardens, said Terry Hamilton, head of LLNL's Marshall Island Program.

"We envision that this work will ultimately support food security and economic development of island communities, and provide added assurances on radiation safety and health," Hawk said. "We hope these efforts will help bring about dietary change to combat rampant indigenous diabetes; as the Marshall Islands has one of the highest rates of diabetes in the world."

#### Persian Classical Music Sunday, February 26, 2012 • 5 p.m.

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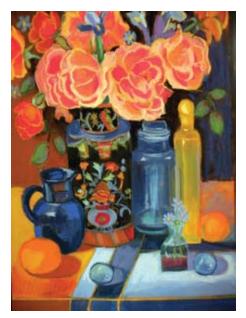
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## Art, Community, & Education

## Gallery to Host Passion for Pastels



**Roses and Glasses by Pat Suggs** 

The Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery will host Passion for Pastels, an exhibit of works by five prominent San Francisco Bay Area artists, March 14-April 14, 2012.

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

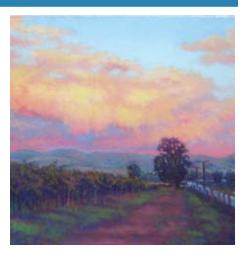
An artists' reception will take place on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Admission to both the reception and exhibit is free. Donations are appreciated.

The exhibit features the works of pastelists Linda Beach, Ruth Hussey, Mark Mertens, Pat Suggs and well-known Pleasanton artist Debbie Wardrope, all of whom have exhibited extensively and been recognized widely for their work.

Linda Beach of Livermore, is an art educator who has taught from Maine to California. She is an active board member of the Livermore and Pleasanton Art Leagues and an associate member of the Pastel Society of the West Coast and the Sierra Pastel Society. Her award-winning work has been exhibited in group and juried shows in the San Francisco Bay Area and Pennsylvania.

Ruth Hussey is a signature member in the Society of Western Artists, Pastel Society of America and is a Distinguished Pastelist with the Pastel Society of the West Coast. Her work has been published in American Artist, Pastel Journal, and International Artists magazines. She teaches privately and in adult education programs, and has recently retired as President of the Oakland Museum of California Art Guild.

Mark Mertens is inspired by the changing light of the California landscape. He strives for a painterly quality in his work, and enjoys the vibrant colors of his medium, which allow him greater expressiveness. Over the past six years, he has shown in group exhibitions and juried competitions, receiving sev-



Sun Kissed Clouds on Tesla Road by Debbie Wardrope

eral awards for pastel landscapes. Mertens is an associate member of the Pastel Society of the West Coast, and member of Group 95, California Art Club, Hayward Arts Council and ART Inc.

Pat Suggs of San Jose, received formal (continued on page 2)

### Guests Will Receive 'Royal Treatment' During Valley Concert Chorale's Benefit Event

Not invited to Prince William and Kate's royal wedding last year? Can't make the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration this year? A taste of these regal events will be provided at Valley Concert Chorale's March 10 benefit event titled "Of Coronations and Weddings."

The performance will be 7 p.m. Sat., March 10 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore.

"This event is no ordinary choral concert," says Bobby Jensen, chorale member and event chairperson. "Since we are singing music from royal weddings, including Hubert Parry's I Was Glad, the processional that Prince William and Kate chose for their wedding, we wanted to give our audience, rather our 'wedding guests', the experience of being at a real wedding."

The first half of the program will be held in the church, which will be decorated to suggest a wedding. Guests will be ushered to their seats. Once guests are seated, the "wedding party" will process and sing with the rest of the chorale.

The wedding portion of the program will also feature a new commission by John Rutter This is the Day, and Parry's Jerusalem, a long-time British favorite. "Since Parry is one of Prince Charles' favorite composers, we thought it fitting that we sing his music," explains John Emory Bush, VCC's Artistic Director and Conductor.

In recognition of the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's coronation celebration this June, Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, the coronation portion of the choral program will feature Handel's Zadok the Priest, a piece that has been sung at every royal coronation since that of King George II in 1727.

All guests are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the conclusion of first half of the choral program.

"The reception will feature tasty treats that are normally found at a wedding reception including wedding cake, finger sandwiches and other goodies," explains Jensen. "Guests will be seated at tables and entertained by the chorale with music by The Beatles and Elton John, also performed at royal weddings and coronations."

During the reception, guests will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for various prizes, some of which will be available for bidding as well. "We have some wonderful items including weekend getaways, dinners, art, and a basket of authentic coronation jubilee items imported from Great Britain," says Jensen. "One very

(continued on page 2)



Pam Grove and Marsha Sweeney wearing fascinators. (Photo Karine Weiller)

#### CONCERT (continued from front page)

## Red Molly Performs Bluegrass

special item is a hand-crafted wedding bouquet made from 17 flower brooches of pearl, rhinestones and silver."

Many of the women of the chorale will be donning wedding hats or "fascinators," the type of elaborate hats worn at the recent royal wedding. Female guests are encouraged to join in the fun and wear hats for which there will be a Best Hat prize awarded during the reception.

Tickets are \$35. Seating is limited so advance purchase is strongly suggested. Advance tickets may be ordered by visiting the Chorale's website at www. valleyconcertchorale.org, or by calling the Chorale's information number at (925) 866-4003 to order tickets. Tickets may also be purchased through Brown Paper Tickets online at www.brownpapertickets.com.

For more information about the Valley Concert Chorale performances, ticket purchases and auditions, visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org or call the general information line at (925) 866-4003.

#### PASTELS (continued from front page)

art education at the Leighton Fine Art Academy in San Francisco, Calif. and has worked almost exclusively in pastels for 25 years. She is known for her expressive floral and landscape paintings, and has published in "Best of Pastel" and "Floral Inspiration" by Rockport publishers. She is represented in public and private collections throughout the United States and France.

Debbie Wardrope is a Pleasanton resident whose pastel paintings of the local environs have won broad acclaim. She has exhibited in many shows, such as the Art Expo in New York City. Her work is included in private and corporate art collections and, locally, Alameda County and the City of Pleasanton own her paintings. Wardrope currently exhibits at Studio 7 Gallery in Pleasanton, and is an art instructor for the City of Pleasanton at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Harrington Gallery hours are Wednesday-Friday 12:00 noon-5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., for one hour prior to each Firehouse Arts Center performance and during intermission.

Call (925) 931-4849 for more information or visit the Firehouse Arts Center website, www.firehousearts.org.

The first weekend of March at the Bankhead Theater will open with the acoustic harmonies of bluegrass trio Red Molly in a single performance on Friday evening, March 2, 2012.

Red Molly's sound springs from the dynamic sisterhood of Laurie MacAllister, Abbie Gardner and Molly Venter, whose vocals overlay their guitar, dobro, banjo and bass. Their music has been described as both modern and timeless with the ability to make old songs sparkle with new life and new ones sound as if they were "seasoned through generations."

Nearly a decade ago, MacAllister, Gardner, and Carolann Solebello met at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival. As they sat around the campfire one evening, singing together and talking about their favorite songwriters, they realized they had stumbled into something extraordinary. Matched on both a musical and personal level, they formed Red Molly and spent the next seven years on the road. Their distinctive blend of bluegrass, folk, gospel, country, blues and swing jazz, together with their stage pres-

ence, quickly launched them from New York City coffeehouses to sought-after places on the festival circuit.

After the years of intense touring, Solebello decided to step



**RED MOLLY** 

down. MacAllister and Gardner asked Austin-based singer/songwriter Molly Venter to join the group. Venter had previously opened for Red Molly a number of times on tour. With her unique, upbeat and modern style, Venter fit perfectly into the group, maintaining their sound while adding a new tone. Red Molly's recently released fourth album, Light in the Sky, soared into the Americana Music Association's Top 10 radio chart. A collection of songs that range from yearning for love and falling in love, to separation and the loss of love, Light in the Sky includes several original songs, as well as traditional and contemporary tunes.

Tickets to see Red Molly at the Bankhead Theater on March 2nd at 8:00 p.m. range from \$25 to \$40 for adults and \$14 for students.

Traditional American music will return to Livermore three weeks later on Friday, March 23, when LVPAC Presents welcomes The Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Family Band for a single evening concert at the Bankhead Theater. One of the most celebrated duos on the American acoustic music scene, Ungar and Mason are perhaps best known for their performance of Ungar's evocative and memorable tune "Ashokan Farewell," which was used throughout Ken Burns' PBS series The Civil War. With traditional instruments and beautiful vocals, their timeless renditions of Appalachian melodies, Cajun and Celtic fiddle tunes, beloved American music and their own original songs delight audiences wherever they go.

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

### Films Focus on "Facing Challenges" at This Year's Film Series at the Vine

"Facing Challenges" will be the focus of the films at this year's Jewish Cultural Film Series at the Vine Cinema in Livermore. Opening Sunday, March 11 at 3:30 p.m., this mini-festival will screen films from Germany, the US and Israel.

The series opens on March 11 with An Article of Faith, a powerfully moving documentary about the ill-fated Space Shuttle Challenger which went down over Texas in 2003. The film showcases the life of Ilan Ramon, one of the astronauts onboard, and the impact of his life and death on the world community.

At 7:15 p.m. on March 11, the tense German drama, Kaddisch Fur Einen Freund (Kaddish for a Friend) will screen. This film builds from a story of two lonely, displaced characters to a tale of respect between two unlikely friends -- a Palestinian teenager and an elderly Russian Jewish man, both of whom have recently moved to Berlin.

The film series will conclude on March 15 at 7:30 p.m. with Mabul (The Flood), a passionate and finely crafted feature film that brings us into the lives of a family whose 13 year-old son becomes a caregiver when his older autistic brother returns home.

The Vine Cinema is located at 1722 First Street in Livermore. For a complete line-up of Festival offerings or to purchase tickets online, go to www.eastbayjewishfilm. org or call 510.318.6456.

The series is part of the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival, and presented by The Jewish Federation of the East Bay, Peet's Coffee & Tea, City National Bank, Aaron's Metals, Revelli Construction, Diablo Magazine, Congregation Beth Emek, Temple Beth Torah, Tri-Valley/Tri-Cities Midrasha and Tri-Valley Cultural Jews.

### Puccini's Fiery 'Tosca' Opens March 10 at Bankhead Theater

A story of love, murder, suicide, a rebellion and a fiery diva is in store for audiences when Livermore Valley Opera presents Giacomo Puccini's operatic masterpiece Tosca, opening March 10 at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore.

Performances are March 10 and 17 at 8 p.m., March 11 and 18 at 2 p.m. with Ice Cream and Opera, and opening night gala celebration dinner, 4:30 p.m., at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard.

The March production of Tosca is the second opera of LVO's 20th anniversary season. Tosca is one of the most frequently performed operas throughout the world. With its true historical references of a time when Roman citizens were rebelling against the occupation by Nepalese royals, and its characters based on real people, its scenes reflective of true Roman locales, it is presented through the dramatic and powerful arias and music of Puccini.

"There is some truth to the story of Tosca," explains Elizabeth Wells, LVO Executive Director. "The opera takes place during a real time in history in real locations with many of the sets depicting real locations. These elements of the opera make the story that much more real for the audience."

However, it is not only the historical realism of the story that makes this Puccini opera so wellloved, it is Floria Tosca herself. "She's a hot-headed diva consumed with jealousy and pride, whose illfated love for Mario Cavaradossi, considered a traitor, she must defend against a corrupt and brutal police chief Scarpia," says Wells. "Scarpia is a hideous monster of a character. Puccini's music portrays him with edgier and darker music than the romantic music usually expected of opera."

Stage Director Olivia Stapp, LVO's first female director, and former diva who has sung the part of Tosca more than once during her opera career, knows full well of the power of Puccini's music.

"Tosca is a great musical masterpiece which requires heroic singing from three central characters. It is also a theatrical masterpiece, so carefully constructed that there is not a wasted second," explains Stapp. "I love the way Puccini writes for Scarpia, the brutal police chief. The text, written by French playwright Victorien





Marie Plette sings the title role. Tosca's lover Cavaradossi will be sung by tenor David Gustafson.



Sardou, is brilliant, creating an evil man cloaked in gentility and nobility, with gestures of an aristocrat but underneath is the foulness of perversity. Puccini renders this duality, and paints this intense psychological contrast with grandiloquent music."

Based on Stapp's own experience singing the role of Tosca, she understands the demands placed on the singers, and their excitement for performing the arias. "Puccini understood the almost electric force that a wonderful singer has to communicate and was able to write brilliantly for the human voice."

Singing the title role of Tosca for LVO is soprano and Metropolitan Opera artist Marie Plette who has always favored Puccini arias. "When I was in college, singing as a mezzo –soprano, I used to sneak away to a room to sing Puccini's soprano arias," explains Plette. "When I was told I was truly a soprano, I was so excited because it's every soprano's dream to sing the role of Tosca." Plette performed the Tosca aria "Vissi d'Arte" (I Live for Art") at LVO's recent 20th Anniversary Celebration event at Ruby Hill Country Club.

The role of Tosca's lover Cavaradossi will be sung by tenor David Gustafson (Die Fledermaus, 2010). The evil Scarpia will be sung by bass baritone Phillip Skinner, a veteran singer with the San Francisco Opera.

Also joining LVO for this production are members of Livermore's own award-winning Cantabella Children's Chorus, performing as a chorus of altar boys in Act I.

"This opera has been such a favorite for LVO audiences that we could not wait another season to bring it back so it seemed appropriate for our 20th anniversary season," says Wells. "Puccini's masterpiece is steeped in drama and will surely touch the hearts of our audiences."

Opera Week Special Events

Gala opening night ticket includes dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard, followed by a dessert reception in the Bankhead Theater. The welcome reception begins at 4:30 with seating at 5:00 p.m. at Uncle Yu's, conveniently located one-half block from the theater. Guests will have a chance to meet the Stage Director Olivia Stapp and Alexander Katsman, LVO's Artistic Director and Music Director and Conductor. Gala Tickets are \$75, and are available through Bankhead Theater box office.

Sunday matinees of Livermore Valley Opera productions offer an extra tasty treat with ice cream for all at intermission.

Included in the ticket price are pre-opera talks held one hour prior to curtain. LVO's traditional artist's reception is held in the lobby immediately following each performance. Noted opera scholar Dr. John Prescott will deliver the pre-opera talk.

Tickets are \$39-\$74 for adults, students 18 years and younger receive \$10 off on all days, all seating sections; student ID required. Tickets may be purchased at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore, at 925-373-6800 or. www.livermoreperformingarts. org.

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#### BUY TICKETS **925.373.6800 www.bankheadtheater.org** 2400 FIRST STREET | **Downtown Livermore**

### McNerney Opens Art Competition

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) announced the launch of the 2012 Congressional Art Competition. The competition is part of the nationwide annual Congressional Art Competition intended to showcase the artistic talents and abilities of students all across the country.

"I look forward to this competition every year. I am always surprised by the talent and passion of the young artists from our region. I encourage high school students from our community to participate in this year's competition."

Every year, Members of Congress are welcome to hold their own competition in their home districts. Then, the winning artwork from each district is then displayed in a busy corridor that leads to the U.S. Capitol, used daily by Members of Congress and visitors to Washington, D.C. In addition, the grand prize winner from the 11th District will be flown with a guest to Washington, D.C. to attend an awards ceremony in June.

The second, third and fourth place winners will also have their work displayed in one of Congressman McNerney's three offices, located in Washington, D.C., Stockton and Pleasanton. A panel of judges will select the winning entries and their decision will be announced at a special ceremony and exhibit.

The contest is open to all high school-aged students who reside in the 11th District. Artwork is due by April 27, 2012 and can be submitted at either of Congressman McNerney's district offices. The address for the Stockton office is 2222 Grand Canal Blvd., Suite 7, Stockton, CA 95207 and the address for the Pleasanton office is 5776 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Suite 175, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

Students and teachers interested in the Congressional Art Competition should contact Cheri Clasen in Rep. McNerney's Pleasanton office at 925-737-0727 for further guidelines and information.



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The Aurora Mandolin Orchestra (show above) will perform a free concert at 2 p.m. on Sun., March 4 at the Pleasanton Library. The Aurora Mandolin Orchestra consists of up to thirty professional musicians (mandolin, mandola, mandocello, guitar, string bass, accordion, flute and percussion) from various parts of the Bay Area. The uniqueness of this group is its varied repertoire including traditional and semi-classical Italian, Spanish, Russian, specialty ethnic and contemporary orchestral compositions. This free concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Pleasanton Library and will be held in the Pleasanton Library's meeting room. Doors open at 1:30pm. Come early to find parking and ensure a seat. For more info regarding the program call the Reference Desk at 931-3400, ext. 7. The program is free and open to all. No registration required.

#### BBQ and Bluegrass at Asbury

Asbury Live Presents a combination of fabulous Carolina style Barbecue beginning at 6:15 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 24 in the Fellowship Hall of Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, and one of America's premiere Bluegrass bands, Russell Moore and IIIrd Tyme Out, in concert at 8 p.m.

Wes Spain's Carolina BBQ includes a pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, hush puppies, potatoes, and a drink for just \$9. (Proceeds go to help defray costs for a youth service trip to Los Angeles this coming summer). Meals begin to be served at 6:15 p.m. until just before show time or the food runs out! A free Jam Session is open to interested instrumentalists at 6:30 p.m.

Concert tickets are \$15 in advance, for students and seniors and \$20 at the door. They may be purchased at the church during the week from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. or by going online at www.asburylivepresents. com. Russell Moore's award winning vocals and the musicianship of this group make this a concert not to miss. For more information call 925-447-1950.

### Poetry and Prose Entries Sought for 'Poetry in Place' Exhibit

Poetry and prose are being sought for a "Poetry in Place" exhibition.

Selected entries will be framed and hung alongside art and photographs of Livermore in a special exhibit that will be open in April 2012 in celebration of National Poetry Month. All entries will be included in a presentation folder available for public viewing.

Entries should be poetry or short prose written about anything connected to Livermore: people, buildings, parks, history, cowboys, wine, olive trees, vineyards, golden hills, sister cities, almost anything to do with science. If it relates to Livermore, it is eligible.

You do not have to be a resident of Livermore to enter

A reception to honor all participants will be held at 1790 First Street on Sunday, April 1.

Purpose of "Poetry in Place" is to bring the literary arts to the public and to bring the public downtown. Poetry – If you call it poetry, we'll call it poetry. Any length, although very long pieces may not be suitable for framing. Rated PG, as these works will be displayed where everyone – including precocious children – can read them.

Prose – If you call it prose, we'll call it prose. Same rules apply as for poetry.

Submission fee is \$5 for up to three entries. Make checks payable to the City of Livermore, and mail them to Cher Wollard, % Prudential California Realty, 1790 First Street, Livermore CA 94550.

Entries may be submitted electronically to cherw@livermorelit. com. Entry deadline is March 10, 2012.

For questions, contact Cher Wollard at cherw@livermorelit. com or 925 824-4824.

This project is sponsored by the City of Livermore and Poet Laureate Cher Wollard, with the help and cooperation of Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) and Prudential California Realty.

### Poetry Competition at Livermore Library Open to Teens

The Livermore Public Library will present "Livermore's Top Teen Poet Contest" on Sat., May 12.

Charan Sue Wollard, Livermore's Poet Laureate, and Connie Post, Livermore's Poet Laureate Emeritus, will host this event. The contest will take place from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Community Room of the Livermore Public Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. All Livermore teens, ages 12 to 18, are invited to submit poems to perform.

Poetry submissions will be accepted at each Livermore Public Library branch from April 1, 2012 through May 10, 2012. Approved poems will be performed before an audience and judged based on the age of the poet. A select panel of judges will determine the winners of each age division. Winners will be chosen based on poem content and performance. Contest winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the conclusion of the program. Family

For more information, or to download the rules and entry form, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermorelibrary.net, or contact Sandy at 925-373-5500, extension 5583.

### Opportunity to Sample 'Best of Class' Wines at Special Dinner

A special Winemakers Dinner featuring Livermore Valley "Best of Class" winners from the 2012 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition is scheduled for Friday, February 24 at Wente Vineyards Event Center.

Four "Best of Class" awardwinning wines will be paired with a gourmet five course dinner prepared by Wente Vineyards Executive Catering Chef, Jeff Farlow. The wines include the 2009 Cuda Ridge Wines Merlot, 2009 Bent Creek Cabernet Sauvignon, 2008 Wente Vineyards Nth degree Syrah, and 2008 McGrail Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, all of which took top honors in their class.

The 2008 McGrail Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve received the

"Red Sweepstake" prize as the highest rated red wine in the competition.

The evening will begin with a wine and hors d'oeuvre Welcome Reception, followed by a gournet wine and food pairing dinner featuring winemakers and proprietors from each winery. The evening will finish with a decadent dessert

reception paired with specially selected wines from each winery, designed for mingling amongst guests, winemakers and proprietors.

The dinner will be held at Wente Vineyards Event Center, located at 5050 Arroyo Road in Livermore, California. The Welcome Reception begins at 6:30 PM, followed by the Winemakers Dinner and Dessert Reception from 7:00 – 10:00 PM. Cost is \$125.00 per person, which includes tax and gratuities. For reservations and more information, including the menu, please visit the Events page at shop.wentevineyards.com. Reservations are required and are limited.



### The Beatles Hit the U.S. by Sarah Bobson

The Beatles' first appearance in the U.S. on the Ed Sullivan Show was a major event. Watching the weekly Sunday night television show had already become a family ritual, but this Sunday evening, February 9, 1964, proved to be different.

Days before the Beatles arrived, the nightly news began covering what they called the "British Invasion" of the hottest British rock group to play in America. We watched as the mop heads, as the commentators called them, waved to thousands of fans at Heathrow Airport in London before departing for America, and again waved to throngs of screaming teenage girls amid thousands of adoring fans as they descended the airplane stairs at John F. Kennedy Airport.

Personally, I didn't understand the hoopla. I had never heard any of their songs, which had only begun to be played on U.S. radios in December of 1963, three months before their visit. Perhaps I was just a loyal Elvis fan. Or perhaps I wasn't paying attention to Walter Cronkite on the CBS News when he ran a story about Beatlemania in the United Kingdom, proclaiming the Beatles as international rock stars. Weeks later I would learn that one of their biggest hits at the time, "I Want to Hold Your Hand," had sold more than 2.5 million copies in the weeks prior to their appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show and had hit number 1 on the Billboard charts.

My family gathered in front of our 12-inch Stromberg-Carlson, a stand-alone console made of Mahogany that my mother had won in a puzzle contest run in our local newspaper, *The Miami Herald*. My parents sat on the couch. My younger brother and I sat cross-legged on the floor, staring at the set with great anticipation.

Ed Sullivan, a New York entertainment columnist, gave many rising stars their first break. His variety show appeared on television from 1949 until its cancellation in 1971. It ran every type of entertainment imaginable: opera singers, ballet dancers, popular artists, songwriters, standup comedians, circus acts, jugglers trying to keep plates spinning on sticks, and odd-ball acts like ventriloquist Senor Wences, with his talking hand named Johnny.

At 8 o'clock on that Sunday evening, Ed Sullivan walked onto stage in his usual stiff, solid gait. Then, with his characteristic long face and deadpan expression said, "The city has never witnessed the excitement stirred by these youngsters from Liverpool who call themselves the Beatles

...." Sullivan then mouthed, "Let's bring them on," but that was drowned out by screams from the audience.

The curtain opened to Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and John Lennon holding guitars, standing inside a circle of huge arrows on the floor that pointed at them. Ringo Starr sat behind them atop a set of drums.

I thought the four "youngsters," who were older than me, looked rather square, dressed as proper young English gentlemen in Edwardian suits, sporting mop-top haircuts (so-called because the boys looked like they were wearing mops on top of their heads). They didn't appear anywhere near as cool as Elvis, nicknamed Elvis the Pelvis because of his gyrating hips, with his slicked-back black hair and sideburns, and his sexy voice and looks that oozed with dark sensuality. He had debuted eight years before, in 1956, on the same show.

But then the Beatles began to sing: Close your eyes and I'll kiss you Tomorrow I'll miss you Remember I'll always be true And while I'm away, I'll write home every day, And I'll send all my loving to you."

The audience shrieked. During the song, the camera panned to close-ups of the Fab Four. There was Ringo in the background banging away on the drums. He had a bulbous nose and angular features. I didn't think he was very good looking, but there was something loveable and teddy bearish about him. There was John, who was a bit too toothy for my tastes. He always seemed to be smirking at the audience, enjoying his own private putdown. There was good-looking George, the serious, uptight one. Last, there was Paul, the handsome heart-throb who sang the words "all my love I'll send to y-ooooooo-u" and drove the already hysterical girls in the audience into ever greater paroxysms, making them pant with every shake of his adorable mop and every seductive, teasing glance he cast to capture their hearts. I

know he certainly captured mine. After "All My Loving," the Fab Four sang "Till There Was You." When they followed that with "She Loves You" and "I Saw Her standing There," the screams reached the stratosphere.

After the first set, Sullivan announced that the boys had just received a wire from Elvis Presley and Colonel Tom Parker (Presley's manager) wishing them a tremendous success. Later in the show, the Beatles returned for a second set to sing "I Want to Hold Your Hand."

I recently watched a YouTube video of that performance. As the camera panned the audience, it was hard to tell whether some girls, near tears, were screaming out of delight or pain. The boys, meanwhile, sat relatively unmoved with expressionless faces that seemed to say: "They (the Beatles) are not so special. What do they have that I don't?" If the boys didn't know the answer, the girls certainly did.

That was the beginning of the British Invasion in the U.S. It was the beginning of the Beatles challenging the well-established king of rock 'n roll, Elvis, and rivaling folk singer Bob Dylan, who was emerging at the time as another major force in the music world. It was the beginning of a new era in pop music that would evolve from simple, earthy rock 'n roll lyrics of the 50s about boys and girls wanting to hold hands to metaphysical Eastern religious precepts laced with psychedelic notions of expanded consciousness about peace, brotherhood, oneness, and love.

### Health Forum Hosted by League of Women Voters

The public is invited to attend "Healthy Californians-Stronger California," a free health care forum presented by the League of Women Voters Livermore-Amador Valley. The forum will be held at the Livermore Library Civic Center, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 29. Bay Area health care experts will not only discuss the California Universal Health Care Act (SB 810) that is now in the California legislature, they will also answer your health care questions.

Randolph Clarke, M.D. is a family practice specialist in Antioch, CA. He is affiliated with the Diablo Division Community Provider Network and is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Family Medicine at U.C. Davis. He is particularly interested in preventative medicine, ADHD treatment, sports medicine, and total family care.

Andrew McGuire is Executive Director of California One Care and former Executive Director of Health Care for All--California. He served as Executive Director of the Trauma Foundation at San Francisco General Hospital for thirty-five years. As Director of Action Against Burns, he lobbied for fire-resistant sleepwear and fire-safe cigarettes. He is a MacArthur Fellow and a Kellogg National Leadership Fellow.

Senator Loni Hancock will also send a representative who will share the Senator's concerns about the state of health care in California today.

The evening's program will include a showing of the film "Health, Money and Fear" in which professionals discuss the shocking facts about health care in the United States. For further information, contact Joe Ely at (925) 426-2412.

#### Amador Valley to Hold Bone Marrow Registration Event

Amador Valley High School will be holding a Bone Marrow Donor Registration drive to benefit 2005 graduate Janet Liang. It Saturday, February 25 from noon to 4 p.m. in the main office, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton.

In 2009, while she was a student at UCLA, Janet was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.She went through aggressive chemotherapy and the cancer went into full remission. In December 2011 during a routine follow up visit Janet learned that the cancer was back. Janet's best chance for beating the cancer is a bone marrow transplant. This transplant can only happen if a match can be identified by April.

This drive will also benefit Mohr Elementary science teacher Mikki Conley who was diagnosed with lymphocyctic lymphoma very recently. Mikki's best chance is a bone marrow transplant as well.

Those who register need to be in good general health and between the ages of 18 and 60. Registration is easy and painless. A simple cheek swab is all it takes to save a life.

Visit DonorsChoose site http:// www.donorschoose.org/amadorpereira for information.



2133A Las Positas Ct, Livermore (located off of N. Livermore Ave.)

### Furniture, Jewelry & Household Items

Monday thru Friday 9am-4pm 925.454.3449 www.futures-explored.org

#### Community

### Livermore Third Grade Students Are Given Dictionaries

Representatives of the Livermore Rotary and Hindu Community and Cultural Center are in the process of distributing dictionaries for young scholars in Livermore schools.

The MacMillan Dictionary is presented to third grade students for home and school use. The dictionary contains 35,000 words and includes a history of many words as well as sections on the US states and presidents, nations of the world, maps, geometric shapes, solar system, and a thesaurus. This is the ninth year of the program in Livermore. The dictionary project is funded by the Rotarians of Livermore, the Hindu Community and Cultural Center, and The Rotarian Foundation of Livermore. Teams of local volunteers from these groups are visiting the third grade classrooms in each school for personal presentations to the children.

The long-term goal is to continue to give this book to all third grade students every year, until eventually all Livermore children will have this gift of words for learning and expression. Many of our children speak more than one language. This dictionary will help them master English, which is becoming an international language.

To support this dictionary project for future years, any donation would be most appreciated, but please feel no obligation. Contact the Livermore Community Dictionaries for Young Scholars Project at Carol Howell, Dictionary Chairperson, 1252 De Paul Way, Livermore, CA 94550.

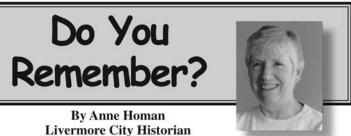


Bruce Shore presented dictionaries to Mrs. Costello's third grade class at Altamont Creek Elementary School.

The discovery of gold in 1848 encouraged many U.S. citizens to come to California. Mexicans came, most from the state of Sonora, just south of the California border. Chinese immigrants also headed for the gold country. In the intense competition for riches, an increasingly xenophobic atmosphere arose. With passage of the Foreign Miners' Tax law in 1850, Sonorans and Chinese were prevented from filing new claims. They were charged an exorbitant \$20 per month tax on existing claims. Thus, most of the "foreigners" were forced out of the diggings. Mexican bandits, among them perhaps former miners seeking revenge, began attacking people in the gold country.

One of these bandits was the legendary Joaquín Murieta. Livermore Valley lore describes his hiding in caves in the hill country near Brushy Peak, the last hills before the San Joaquin Valley. From here, Murieta, the stories go, could see lawmen on the Stockton Road long before they came near his hiding place, and he could signal *compadres* with mirrors.

Herb Hagemann is the source for legends describing Murieta as an unwelcome visitor to the Kottinger home in Pleasanton, where he would drop in looking for supplies and food. According to *A Pictorial History of Pleas*-



### JOAQUÍN MURIETA

anton, published in 1976, "On one occasion his attention had to be diverted long enough for Kottinger and [his father-in-law] Juan Pablo Bernal to make a trip to deposit a large amount of gold in a San Francisco bank." The two men left in the morning for the bank, their saddlebags filled with gold from miners who had paid them for a delivery of beef cattle. Rafaela, Juan Pablo's wife, was sitting near a window sewing.

Not long after her husband had left, Murieta arrived at their adobe. "He fired a shot, which hit a silver thimble on the window sill and lodged in the wall beyond," Hagemann said in his book, Juan Pablo Bernal. Kottinger's wife, Refugia, was also at home. The two women invited Murieta and his men into the house for a meal. They served a large meal that took time to prepare, thus allowing their menfolk time to be safely on their way. Many times on Saturdays, which was baking day, Murieta and his gang would appear at the Kottinger adobe to demand a share of the fresh-baked bread prepared by Refugia and an Indian servant. He would pound on the door and shout, "Pan o la Vida!" (Bread or your life!) Supposedly, Murieta was familiar with the Kottinger/ Bernal family because he had been a laborer for them.

The California Rangers, precursors of the California State Police, were formed in 1848 to put an end to the attacks of the bandits. In June of 1853, rangers captured and beheaded a man said to be Murieta. A \$1,000 reward offered by the governor was paid. The legislature added another \$5,000 to the reward.

The bandit's head was preserved in a jar of alcohol and exhibited in Stockton and many other cities along with another jar containing the hand of a bandit named Three-fingered Jack. But that was not the end to the Murieta myth. Some said the head was definitely not Murieta's; others claimed that he had fled to Mexico. The truth is probably that a fictionalized image created an outlaw hero.

In 1854 John Rollin Ridge, a Cherokee whose Native American name was Yellow Bird, wrote a 90-page book, The Life and Adventures of Joaquín Murieta, in which he told the story of a man who turned to a life of crime only after he was beaten, his half-brother hanged, and his wife raped and murdered. Ridge romanticized Murieta's criminal acts into Robin Hoodtype adventures. According to From Rancho to Reservoir, "The book was immediately pirated, serialized, republished in Spain, Mexico, South America, and France, and rewritten numerous times over the next 75 years in the form of dime novels, newspaper series, and 'biographies.'

A 1936 film perpetuated the myth. Even early California historian Hugh Bancroft was convinced by Ridge's fiction that Joaquín Murieta was an historical figure. Joseph Henry Jackson, author of *Bad Company*, wrote, "Ridge, in his... little book actually created both the man, Murieta, and the Murieta legend as these stand today." In his introduction to the 1955 reprint of Ridge's story, Jackson said, "Tracings of the facts will not damage the Murieta Myth. His eyes flashing, his knife ever ready for a gringo's ribs, his gallantry beyond doubt, his horsemanship superb. . . . Murieta will ride down the years as California's great gold-rush legend, his cattle thievery forgotten, his brutal murders (if, in fact, he ever committed them) conveniently ignored."

Don Scullion, whose family owned property up in the Altamont hills adjoining the caves near Brushy Peak, told me a story recently. When Don was in grade school, he met a man up in the Altamont at the foot of a large rock wall. He said that he was related to Murieta, who wasn't killed by the California Rangers but returned to Mexico. The man had a map and said that Murieta had buried loot at the foot of the rock. So far, when Don saw him, he had dug a hole about ten feet deep and had discovered Indian artifacts, but no loot. A week later, he was gone. However, he had left behind his tools and a small shack he had built. Don smiled, "We never knew if he had actually found Murieta's gold.'

(Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)

### Veterans Helping Veterans Sharpen Job Search Skills



Bill Oliver of the Lab talks to one of the veterans attending a workshop at Las Positas College. Photo by Jacqueline McBride/LLNL



Information about the Tulancingo student exchange program is being provided for parents and students on Tues., Feb. 28, Room C-6, at Foothill High School in Pleasanton. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. Parents and students from both Amador Valley and Foothill high schools are welcome. An Ice Cream Social for students only will be held on March 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Alice Pryor. Exchange students from former years will be there to answer any questions. Further information about the applications and selection process will be explained and interviews will be held on March 18 at The Exchange Director, Rita Galvin's home. Complete information can be found on Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City's web site, ptsca.org. Additional questions or to recommend a student, please call Rita Galvin at 925-413-8863. Pictured are exchange students in front of the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco.

Bill Oliver, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, is reminded daily of the time he spent in the U.S. Navy. All he has to do is look at the screen saver he installed on his Lab computer monitor -- a photo of the USS Swordfish, the submarine he served on some forty years ago.

Today, Oliver thinks about those who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. military. But, his thoughts have since turned into actions. Oliver volunteers his personal time helping veterans sharpen their skills in searching for jobs either at the Lab or elsewhere.

Oliver believes he is one of the fortunate veterans. He graduated from the University of Utah in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in math. Through the ROTC program, he was commissioned in the U.S. Navy for five years, during the Vietnam War.

The skills he learned in the service, coupled with his college degree, led him to secure several jobs after his discharge. "And, a lot had to do with the economy which was better back then," he added.

In 1996, he submitted an application after seeing a newspaper ad for an experienced control systems worker at LLNL. Today, Oliver works in the Lab's Computation Directorate as a software quality engineer.

Last year, he saw a brochure about joining the American Legion. "I realized that I was not doing any kind of community service," he said. "That was the catalyst for me to start thinking about what I could to do to help our veterans."

Oliver learned that despite the fact that veterans have many skills, and the experience that makes them excellent hires, their unemployment rate is 12 percent.

To find out more about the

Laboratory's involvement in hiring veterans, he wrote a letter to 'Ask the Director' in Newsline. "I share your commitment," then Lab Director George Miller answered, encouraging Oliver to work with Strategic Human Resources Management (SHRM) and explore ways to recruit veterans to the Lab.

"The response I received was very positive," Oliver said about Miller's answer. "It made me proud to work here."

Oliver created a PowerPoint presentation that highlights jobseeking tips. He is in touch with several organizations, as well as Las Positas College where many local veterans are currently enrolled.

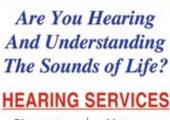
He also is partnering with Bethany McCormick, Michele Michael, and U.S. Air Force veteran Lee Bennett, all members of the SHRM staff who together volunteer their time to present a series of workshops on resume writing, interviewing and social networking. These sessions have been conducted off-site, on Saturdays, in collaboration with the Pleasanton VFW Post 6298 and American Legion Post 237, and held at the Pleasanton Veterans Memorial Building with the help of Patrick Leary. Additional sessions have been conducted at Las Positas College on weekday evenings.

So far, five veterans have attended the Pleasanton workshops and subsequently have applied for positions at the Lab.

"We don't give veterans enough credit for the assets they bring when they come home," Oliver said. When he returned from his service in the U. S. Navy in the 1970s, Oliver remembers that many Vietnam veterans were not accepted or well respected. "I want to show today's veterans they are valued," he said.



Kenneth Billheimer, Au.D Audiologist/Hearing Ald Specialist Jacque Pedraza Hearing Ald Specialist



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### **ART & ENTERTAINMENT**

#### **ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS**

Livermore Art Association Gallery, located in the Carnegie Building, offers art classes, unusual gifts, painting rentals, art exhibits and information pertaining to the art field, 2155 Third St., Livermore. The gallery has been open since 1974 and is run as a co-op by local artists. Hours are Wed.-Sun. 11:30-4 p.m. For information call 449-9927.

- Expressionist painter Marco Rosales Shaw works are on display at Prudential California Realty through March 15. Prudential California Realty is located at 1790 First Street, Livermore. The show is openforviewingduring regular business hours or by appointment. Contact Cher Wollard at 925 824-4824 or cherw@ cherw.com for information.
- Judy Rice Exhibit, January and February 2012, Garre Winery Restaurant, 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Watercolor landscape and flower paintings at this exhibit. The restaurant is open Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and for some dinners. 925-371-8200.
- February's Art Exhibition at the Bankhead Theater, Haiku and HiChroma, features the color-charged vineyard and landscape works of Nova Starling with poetic response by Haiku Poet and Denver Art Consultant Hilary DePolo.The Founder's Room Exhibit, Totally Textile, continues until February 29 with works by Emilee Dunlop, Caryne Mount and Carolyn Ramsey. The theater is located at 2400 First Street, Livermore.See www. livermoreperformingarts.org for more information.
- Freeze Frame, top 25 photos from Tri-Valley Conservancy contest on exhibit Feb. 16-28 at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Hours are W-F 12 to 5 and Sat. 11 to 3 or by appointment (contact Julie Finegan, 931-4849). Exhibit moves to the Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., March 1-31.0n view during regular library ours
- view during regular library ours. **Passion for Pastels**, Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.,Pleasanton.March 14-April 4,2012. Opening reception,Wed.,March 14,6:30 to 8:30 p.m.Free and open to the public. Group of pastelists reside in the bay area. www.firehousearts.org.
- Livermore Art Association, Spring Art Show, March 31 and April 1, The Barn, Pacific Avenue, Livermore. Awards event Saturday night. www.livermoreartassociation.org

#### MEETINGS/CLASSES

**Carolyn Lord**, nationally recognized artist, will teach Preparation for Drawing & Painting the Figure Model, designed to guide the novice, and inspire the experienced artist. No prerequisite required. Morning and evening classes will be offered on 6 consecutive Mondays: February 2–March 26, 2012, 9–11 a.m. and 7–9 p.m.The class fee is \$120, which includes drawing materials.Contact The Figurehead Gallery to sign up: ball@ figureheadgallery.com.

- Goran Konjevod, a mathematician, is teaching Introduction to Paper Folding: Pleating and Simple Folds. This 4-session course covers basic paperfolding techniques, gives an overview of traditional and modern approaches to origami design, and leads the student through a sequence of projects. Diagrams, instructions, and paper will be provided. No prior paperfolding experience necessary. Classes will be offered 4 consecutive Sundays:February 26-March 18, 2012, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Cost is \$80 plus \$15 for paper and materials. Contact The Figurehead Gallery to sign up: ball@figureheadgallery.com.
- up: ball@figureheadgallery.com. Everything Poetry (in two parts), Second Saturday Soup-workshops 2nd Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-12 noon Fire-

house Arts Center,4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton;Third Tuesday Trope-poetry critiques 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. Contact Cynthia Bryant at PleasantonPoetry@ ci pleasanton ca us

- ci.pleasanton.ca.us. Figure Drawing Workshop, every Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists bring their own materials and easels. Open to all artists. Professional artist models (nude). No instructor. Students under 18 need written parental permission to attend. Cost \$20 per session. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Coffee, tea and refreshments are available. Call or email Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@earthlink.net.
- Art in Public Places, join a local group of artists and paint on selected Friday morningsaround town.ACC/ArtCritique and Coffee invites artists to express themselves in watercolor, acrylic, oil For more details check out the website for Poetry On Canvas Pleasanton or contact Claudette at PoetryOnCanvas@Mac. Com ~ ACC Meets each Friday at various locations.
- Girls Night Out Classes, Make family memories by attending a class together. Painting, jewelry making and paper art are now available to experience locally. Classes led by artist Claudette McDermott. For more information e-mail or call to sign up for classes 510 543-4776 PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com~Individual and group classes available.
- Make It & Take It, 2nd Thursday of each month, with guest artists and demos. March is "Fuse Flower Holder" only \$15 Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. Contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglassstudio. weebly.com
- Beginning Stained Glass, start and finish a small stained glass window (14" x 14") using cutting and manufacturing skills. Learn how to use basic glass tools.Limited to 8 students.Additional studio hours are available at a daily, weekly or monthly rate. Tools and supplies are \$174. Does not include glass.5 week class, 2.5 hours each.Your choice of:Weds 10-7,Thurs-Sat 10-9, Sun 10-4. Classes are ongoing. Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. Contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglassstudio.weebly.com

#### WINERY EVENTS

- Grand Opening 3 Steves Winery is opening a tasting room in downtown Livermore. 3 Steves Winery has combined forces with Swirl on the Square and will be pouring wines every Friday, Saturday and Sunday beginning Friday, February 24 at 1 p.m. Tours/tastings are also available at wine making facility in Livermore by appointment. Swirl is located at 21 South Livermore Ave. 3steveswinery.com
- Ruby Friday at Ruby Hill Winery, Feb. 24 and the last Friday of each month, 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the tasting room. Cost is \$10.00 for Gem Society members & \$15.00 for non-members; \$10 for anyone under 21 years of age. Price includes a glass of wine, 2 barrel tastings, 1 complimentary slice of pizza, light snacks and 'Smores by a fire pit- (weather permitting). Additional wine and pizza will be available for sale. www.rubyhillwinery.net, 400 Vineyard Avenue Pleasanton, (925) 931-9463.
- Winemaker Series at The Winemaker's Pour House: evening with fine food from the Winemaker's Pour House and wine pairing with the winemakers from the Livermore Valley Wine Country. The Winemaker's Pour House, 2241 First Street, Livermore. Wednesday, February 29,2012 - Retzlaff Vineyards; Wednesday, March 7, 2012 - Charles R Vineyards. 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. For more information (925) 215-2656, www.winemakerspourhouse.com

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

- Murrieta's Well, Port and chocolate weekends Saturdays and Sundays through February, 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Taste 2008 Touriga Port with succulent dark chocolate, as well as the latest releases. Silver Spur Members are complimentary, all other guests \$5. 3005 Mines Road, Livermore.
- Chocolate and Cabernet, Fenestra Winery, March 10 and 11, noon to 5 p.m. Wines paired with different chocolate dishes, both savory recipes and sweet chocolate treats. \$12.50. 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore.
- Gold on Greenville, Charles R, Bent Creek, McGrail, and Wood Family wineries are on the Leprechaun wine trail celebrating "Gold on Greenville" on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, noon to 4:30.Gold Medal Wine tasting and delectable desserts will be featured. Be sure to enter the Greenville Gold Gift Basket Raffle. \$5 tasting fee at each winery.
- Barrel Tasting Weekend, March 31, 2012 – April 1, 2012 at over 35 Wineries throughout Livermore Valley, noon to 4:30 p.m. Chance to taste wines before they have been bottled, getting a behind the scenes look into the winemaking process. Meet winemakers, bottle your own wines, enjoy food pairings, and other activities that vary by winery. Tickets are \$30 advance (\$35 event day) and include 2 days of barrel tasting, exclusive discounts, keepsake glass, and special activities at each winery. For a list of activities, participating wineries, and to purchase tickets, visit www. LVwine.org

#### MUSIC/CONCERTS

- Music every Saturday in the tasting room from 12 to 4; open every day if the gate is open and for sure on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11 to 5. Red Feather Winery, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Information at 449-1871 or www.redfeatherwinery.com
- Tri-Valley Medieval and Renaissance Collegium playing session for amateur musicians, Peter Maund, director. Mondays 7:30–9:30 p.m. 7600 Dublin Blvd., suite 370, Dublin. \$25. Information collegium2011@gmail.com or 925-424-1209 or 925-984-4395
- Chris Bradley's Jazz Band, plays at the Sunol Jazz Cafe (In the Center of Sunol) the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 7:30-9:30 p.m. The band features real Jazz from the 1920's, 30's.
- **Don't Fence Me In,** country and western, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, Feb. 24, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- San Ramon Symphonic Band, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m."Latin Spirit," Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd, San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov Pacific Chamber Symphony, a profes-
- Pacific Chamber Symphony, a professional symphony orchestra, concert 8 p.m.Feb.25,BankheadTheater,2400 First St.,Livermore.Program:Bach to Brahms - Brandenburg Concerto #6 for woodwinds, Mozart Serenade #12, Brahms Serenade #2.\$39/\$34/\$29 \$7 students. www.bankheadtheater.org
- Ho'olaule'a o Mana'olana: A Celebration of Hope, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center. 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov American Idol contestant, Jason 'Wolf'
- Hamlin, Live at The Winemaker's Pour House, evening of wine, music and food,

Sun., Feb. 26, Fund-raiser for Big Dawgs Rescue (www.bigdawgrescue.org). Two shows, 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Reserved seating, only 24 seats available each show. \$20 will call only (925) 215-2656; General Admission \$10 limited availability. The Winemaker's Pour House, 2241 First Street, Livermore. For more information call 925 215-2656, www. winemakerspourhouse.com

- Salute to the Rat Pack, Sun, Feb. 26, 2 p.m. A Swingin Tribute to Frank, Dean, Sammy and The Legends of Las Vegas. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www. bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800. Red Molly, Bluegrass, March 2, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater. org or 373-6800.
- The Temptations, March 2,8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon. ca.gov
- Diane Schuur, jazz, March 3, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater. org or 373-6800.
- California Symphony, spring concert Novacek Plays Rach 3, featuring guest conductor Alastair Willis, who will conduct a program including Ruslan und Ludmilla Overture by Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka, Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra, and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 featuring internationally renowned pianist John Novacek. Novacek Plays Rach 3 will take place at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 4, 2012 at the Lesher Center for the Arts (1601 Civic Center Drive, Walnut Creek). Tickets (\$39-\$69) can be purchased by calling the Lesher Center ticket office at 925-943-7469 or by visiting www.californiasymphony.org.
- Ing www.californiasymphony.org.
  Pinkalicious presented by Bay Area Children's Theater, March 10-18, Fridays 7 p.m., Sat.and Sun.2 and 4:30 p.m. Front Row Theater. www.sanramon.ca.gov
  Jayme Stone, Banjoist Extraordinaire,

March 16, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www. firehousearts.org. **Molly's Revenge**, Fri., March 16,6 to 9 p.m.

- **Molly's Revenge**, Fri, March 16,6 to 9 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Molly's Revenge is returning to St. Clare's for St. Patrick's Day Dinner.Molly's Revenge is a dynamic, acoustic Celtic band known for its unique and infectious enthusiasm. Tickets are \$40 per adult, \$20 for children under 12. That includes a dinner of corned beef and cabbage with beverages. Members of the public are invited. It is not necessary to be a member of St. Clare's to buy tickets. Tickets are available at the church office. For more information call 925-462-4802.
- Music Dept. Benefit Concert with Wake the Dead, Fri., March 16,8 p.m.Las Positas College, Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance purchase tickets will be available online at www. brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925.424.1119
- Ashu Classical Saxophonist, March 18,3 p.m.Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts. org. Food for the Soul, a Chamber Music
- Food for the Soul, a Chamber Music Concert to benefit Open Heart Kitchen on Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 4 p.m.. First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore. Information contact Janet Holmes, at 925-829-0244 or Phyllis Harding at 925-447-8630.
- LizzWright, jazz, March 21, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater. org or 373-6800.
- Larry Carlton, four time Grammy Winner, Thurs., March 22, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts



to the Bankhead Theater on Fri., March 23. Rediscover one of the most popular fairy tales of all time, as Cinderella struggles to escape her wicked stepmother and ugly stepsisters for an evening to attend the Royal Ball and there finds her Prince Charming. The show is recommended for grade K-5. Tickets for the 9:30 a.m. performance are limited; class openings are available for 11 a.m. To order tickets go www.ctcinc.org/1112tour/1112Tour\_Order\_Form.html or call 800-606-0424.

### <u>ART & ENTERTAINMENT</u>

Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

- Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, March 23,8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- Livermore Amador Symphony, concert Sat., March 24, 8 p.m. featuring violin soloist Laura Hamilton;works by Wagner, Mendelssohn and Dvorak. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www. bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- Larry Carlton, four time Grammy Winner, March 22, 8 p.m., Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www. firehousearts.org.Children's Variety Show, Sat., March 24, 1
- Children's Variety Show, Sat., March 24, 1 p.m.Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, Donlon Way, Dublin.Featuring Amazing Mr. Pete. A former Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus Clown. \$5 youth. www.ci.dublin.ca.us
- **Top Shelf's: Disco Fever**, Motown revue, March 24, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www. firehousearts.org.
- Pleasanton Community Concert Band, spring concert, March 25, 2:00 - 3:15. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. 447-7270.
- An Evening with Rita Coolidge, 8 p.m. March 30. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater. org or 373-6800.
- The Dunwell's Pop Rock Band from Leeds, England, 8 p.m. March 30, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org. Atlantic Brass (Quintet) March 31, 8 p.m.
- Atlantic Brass (Quintet) March 31, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts Concert, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www. bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- Bill Harley, 2-time Grammy winner, Sat., March 31, 2 p.m. matinee and 8 p.m. late show. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

#### ON THE STAGE

- Legally Blonde, Diablo Theatre Company, The Musical performs at the Lesher Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, February 10 - March 3, 2012. For tickets call (925) 943-SHOW or purchase online.
- Grease, Amador Valley and Foothill High School production, March 17-24, 7:30 p.m., Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at www.firehousearts.org.
- Moon Over Buffalo, by Ken Ludwig (of Lend Me a Tenor fame), is a wild and wacky backstage farce ably helmed by award winning director Jim Colgan. Chanticleers Theatre's first show of the 2012 season, Feb. 24 to March 18,8 p.m. Fri.and Sat., 2 p.m.Sundays. Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave., Castro Valley. General admission \$18, seniors, students, military \$15. Tickets www.chanticleers. org, reservations@chanticleers.org or 510-SEE-LIVE (510-733-5483)
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Civic Arts Stage Company, Feb. 24, 25 and March 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 25 and 26 and March 3 and 4 at 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.
- Douglas Morrisson Theatre presents "Dividing the Estate" by Horton Foote, a darkly comic portrait of a family divided. Directed by Susan E. Evans. Thursday, February 23, 2012 preview 8:00 p.m.; opening reception Feb. 24; performances through March 18.Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N.Third St., Hayward.Post-play discussion March 10 matinee. Tickets \$10 preview, \$20 Sat. matinee; \$28 evening performances and Sunday matinee. (510) 881-6777; www. dmtonline.org.
- "Rogue of the Railway," Fri.and Sat.,8 p.m. March 9-24. Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Tickets by mail go to

sunol.net/srt or call 925.862.0664. **Play On!**, a comedy by Rick Abbot. March

- 10-11, 16-17, 2012. Friday-Saturday 8 p.m. Sunday 2 p.m. Doors open 20 minutes before show time. Tickets \$10. General admission. Buy online at www. asburylivepresents.com or at the door. Asbury Players, Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave, Livermore. (925) 447-8699.
- Godspell, March 23, 24, 25, 30 & 31 and April 1, Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. Las Positas College, Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance purchase tickets will be available online at www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1110
- The Importance of Being Earnest, March 28, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www. bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

#### COMEDY

- Theater Class, Meet the cast, Fri., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. Las Positas College Main Stage Theater Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$10 admission. Winner best comedy Las Positas Film Festival 2009; winner best director Vacaville International Film Festival, 2011. Sponsored by Talk Hawks. See the hit web-series in its screening/performance. Meet and hang out with the cast, and be the first to see the next episode.
- Mafia-esque plays at the Veterans Memorial building on Friday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m., Pleasanton Teen Improv troupe Creatures of Impulse will perform The Tribe, a teen long-form improv show based on the long-running reality show Survivor. Tickets for both shows are \$5 per person and are available at the door. 301 Main St., Pleasanton. (925) 931-4828.
- The Impuls-ible Film Project, Friday, April 20, Pleasanton Teen Improv troupe Creatures of Impulse return to the Veterans Memorial Building stage at 7:30 p.m. to present a revival of a format made popular by the Un-Scripted Theater Company in San Francisco. Three teams of improvisers will take to the streets of Pleasanton to shoot three improvised short films based on your suggestion. Tickets are also \$5 per person, and all tickets are available at the door.301 Main St., Pleasanton. (925) 931-4828.
- Comedy @ Firehouse Arts with Mike Pace, March 8, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.
- Night at the Improv, March 24, 8 p.m. Tickets \$10. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon.www. sanramon.ca.gov

#### DANCE

Luna Negra Dance, March 1, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

#### MOVIES

- Theater Class, Meet the cast, Fri., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. Las Positas College Main Stage Theater Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$10 admission. Winner best comedy Las Positas Film Festival 2009; winner best director Vacaville International Film Festival, 2011. Sponsored by Talk Hawks. See the hit web-series in its screening/performance. Meet and hang out with the cast, and be the first to see the next episode.
- Student Film Festival, Sat., Feb. 25, 1 to 10 p.m. Las Positas College, Barbara F.

Mertes Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance purchase tickets will be available online at www.brownpapertickets. com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925.424.1119.

Jewish Cultural Film Series, "An Article of Faith," Sunday, March 11, 3:30 p.m.; "Kaddisch Fur Einen Freund (Kaddish for a Friend)," Sun., March 11, 7:15 p.m.; "Mabul (The Flood)," Thurs., March 15, 7:30 p.m.Vine Cinema, 1722 First Streetin Livermore.To purchase tickets online or for more information: www.eatbayjewishfilm.org or call 510.318.6456

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

#### CHORAL

- VoltiSF, chamber singers perform Songs With(out) Words, Fri., March 2, 8 p.m. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, San Francisco; Sun., March 4, 4 p.m., The David Brower Center, Berkeley. Works by John Muehleisen, "...is knowing...," Robin Estrada's "Paghahandog;" Reena Esmail's "The White Key;" David Conte's "The Homecoming," and Huang Ruo's "Without Words." \$25 advance, \$20 seniors over 65, \$10 students under 21; at the door \$30, \$25 seniors, \$10 students. www. VoltiSF.org. 415-771-3352.
- Valley Concert Chorale, March 10, music from weddings and coronations. www. valleyconcertchorale.org.
- Broadway Chorus, March 30-April 1,2012 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. 8 p.m. March 30 and 31;2 p.m. April 1. www.trivalleyrep.org.

#### OPERA

- **Opera San José** continues its 28th season with the romantic tragedy La Traviata, Verdi's heartbreaking tale of love and sacrifice, overflowing with some of the most unforgettable music in all of opera. Eight performances are scheduled February 11 through 26 at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at www.operasj.org. La traviata is sponsored by the Applied Materials Foundation and made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José.
- OperaLIVE! at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Sunday, March 4, 2pm 3:00 p.m. Free. Livermore Valley Opera presents a one-hour performance of arias from Tosca as well as those from other well-known operas. Tenor David Gustafson, who will sing the part of Cavaradossi, Tosca's lover, will perform. For more details on the full production of Tosca and the library preview programs, please visit www. livermorevalleyopera.com.
   Broadcast from the Met, Dublin Regal

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

Livermore Valley Opera presents Puccini's Tosca, March 10, 11 and 17, 18, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www. bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800. Recital, featuring tenor Marco Stefani. March 17, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Infor-

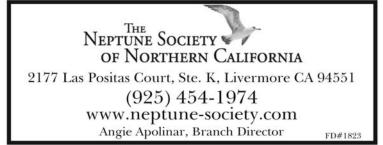
4444 Kallroad Ave., Pleasanton. Information at www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- Political Issues Book Club meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, and reads books about issues and trends that are driving current affairs in both the national and international arenas. Topics that have been covered include politics, governance, economics, military affairs, history, sociology, science, the climate, and religion. Contact Rich at 872-7923, for further questions
- We're Talkin' Books! Club is a membercentered book group led by a small group of book club veterans, with reading selections based on member recommendations and consensus. No homework required- share your insights or just listen in! Contact Susan at 337-1282 regarding the We're Talkin' Books! Club.
- Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton events: **The Fly Fishing Show**, Feb 24 - 26, Fri. 10am - 5:30pm; Sat 9am 5:30pm; Sun 9am - 4:30pm. Adults \$15; child under 12 \$2,5 and under free. The Fly Fishing Show is the largest event of fly fishing west of the Mississippi. Seminars, exhibits, casting ponds, fly tiers, manufacturers, lodges, books, DVD's and more are all part of the admission Faire, March 9-11, Fri, 12pm - 6pm; Sat, 10am - 6pm; Sun, 10am - 5pm. Adults \$7 weekend pass, Child under 12 free accompanied by adult. Gems, Jewelry, Crystals, Beads, Lapidary Equipment, Silver, Gold, all your jewelry needs under one roof. Classes and demonstrations. www.gemfaire.com
- Museum on Main, preschool pre-literacy program, M.o.M.'s Reading Time. For ages 2 to 5 and families, free reading program, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Reading at 10 a.m. with theme crafts following Donations appreciated. No reservations required. Large groups or playgroups please phone in advance: 925.462.2766 or email: education@museumonmain. org. 2012 M.o.M.'s Reading Time Dates and Themes: March 14, The End of the Rainbow; April 11, Art Smart; May 9, Please and Thank You; June 13, Flag Day; July 11. We All Scream for Ice Cream: August 8, It's A Circus; September 12, Fiesta; October 10, Creepy Critters; November 14. Thank You, Veterans: and, December 12, Light Up the Seasons. The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street in historic downtown Pleasanton
- Livermore Reads Together, A Bell for Adano, events (Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore unless indicated otherwise): The Swingin' Blue Stars of the USS Hornet sings music of the 1940s; Feb.23,7 p.m.everyday life and everyday resistance in Southern Italy during WWII

presented by Laura Ruberto; Feb. 26, 2 p.m. dramatic ready from A Bell for Adano by readers from Shakespeare's Associates. Livermore Reads Together 2012 is sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Library.For additional events check the library's website at www. livermorelibrary.net.

- Science on Saturday, March 3, 9:30 and 11:45 a.m, Restoring Sight to the Blind: Bridging the Medical Gap with Technology; Presenter: Sat Pannu, Teacher: Kirk Brown. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's lecture series for middle and high school students, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge. www.bankheadtheater.org
- Murder by Merlot, a wine tasteless event. Interactive Mystery Dinner Theatre presented by GibsonHouse Mystery Performers at Sunol Valley Golf Club. Fri., March 9. Wine tasting attire most welcome. 3-course gourmet meal and farcical mystery play, all for \$59 per Sleuth, tax and gratuity included. Seating begins at 7:15 p.m. The Sunol Valley Golf Club, 6900 Mission Road, in Sunol. Reservations required at (925) 862-2408. www.SunolValley.com.
- 5th Annual Cuban Culture Week: March 12-16, 2012, Musicians, Singers, Dancers, Writers. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. www.semanacubana.org for times and locations of events.Information contact Catherine Suárez at CSuárez@laspositascollege. edu or 925.424.1212.
- Ed Kinney Lecture Series, 7 p.m. An Evening with Isadora Duncan, Tues., March 13. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. \$10 General Admission, \$5 Members & Seniors, \$3 Students/ Teachers with ID. All tickets are paid at the door. All tickets are open seating. Information www.museumonmain.org or (925) 462-2766.
- Trout Fishing in America, March 15, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.
- St. Patrick's Day-themed Brew Crawl on Friday, March 16 from 6-9 p.m. hosted by Pleasanton Downtown Association. Costumed guests will sample local craft beer and appetizers in a variety of downtown businesses. Information is available from the Pleasanton Downtown Association (925) 484-2199, www. pleasantondowntown.net.
- 2012 Dublin St. Patrick's Day Celebration, March 17 and 18, festival at Civic Plaza, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parade, March 17, 9:30 a.m. Dublin Blvd. Shamrock 5K Fun Run & Walk, Sun., March 18,8:30 a.m. Civic Plaza. www.ci.dublin.ca.us.
- Goodguys 30th All American Get-Together, March 24 - March 25, 2012, Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue, Pleasanton. Over 3,000 All American or American Powered Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars, Street Machines and Trucks, Vendors and Exhibitors, Indoor and Outdoor Car Show, Swap Meet and Cars 4 Sale Corral, Model and Pedal Car Show, Arts and Corafts Show, Kids Play Area, Pinstripers Brush Bash and Auction. For more information visit www. allamericangettogether.com.



### Education

### Community

### Pleasanton PTA Council Celebrating Founder's Day

Pleasanton PTA Council will be celebrating PTA Founder's Day and the 115th Anniversary of PTA on Feb. 23. The luncheon celebration will be held at the historic Pleasanton Hotel at Handles Gastro Pub to honor the three founders of PTA, including Pleasanton's own Phoebe Apperson Hearst, as well as past and present PTA leaders. Founders Day is also a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of children and families

"Founders Day is a perfect time to renew our dedication to the Purposes of the PTA that were defined by PTAs Founders more than a century ago. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education," said Jodie Vashistha, Pleasanton PTA Council President.

In addition to awards and presentations, the celebration will include a keynote address from Todd Patkin, author of *Finding Happiness*. Mr. Patkin, who resides in Massachusetts, is flying in for the event. The topic for his keynote will be *The Pressure Cooker and the Culture of Achievement* and will focus on the stress that kids face today and what we as parents and educators can do to help our children find happiness.

Todd will also be conducting a free evening Parent Ed event co-sponsored by Pleasanton PTA Council and PUSD Adult Ed. The topic for the evening presentation is Improving the Happiness Report Card: How Parents Can Push Kids to Succeed Without Pushing Them Over the Edge. The Parent Ed event will take place February 23 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Hart Middle School Multipurpose Room at 4433 Willow Road in Pleasanton. The evening event is free and open to the community. For more information or to register, please call 426-4280.

The Pleasanton PTA Council began in 2003 as an umbrella group for all PTAs in Pleasanton. The mission of the PTA is to represent their members and to empower and support them with skills in advocacy, leadership, and communication to positively impact the lives of all children and families. More information is available at www.pleasantonpta.org. California Lawyer magazine has selected Todd A. Goluba as one of the recipients of the 16th annual California Lawyer "Attorneys of the Year" (CLAY) Awards.

Goluba is a Partner in the Pleasanton office of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR) who practices education law and serves as general counsel to more than 25 school districts, community college districts, and county offices of education.

His CLAY award designation for outstanding achievement in education law was determined as a result of Goluba's innovative negotiations on the issue of including student test outcomes as part of teacher evaluations and linking that to performance-based bonuses. The Obama administration is committing significant federal funding to school districts that implement this model of educational reform.

In serving as chief labor negotiator to the Lucia Mar Unified School District in San Luis



Pleasanton Lawyer Earns Award

Todd A. Goluba

Obispo County, Goluba led the school district's bargaining team to an historic labor agreement with its teachers' association which has statewide significance in the education profession. In the first agreement of its kind in California, the district and the teachers' association agreed to implement a comprehensive new evaluation system in which student achievement based on test scores is one element used to determine yearend compensation bonuses for high performing teachers.

Goluba also recently achieved a professional milestone when his firm named him an equity partner. "As leader of the firm's personnel and education law practice team for Northern California, Todd's contributions have been exceptional," says AALRR Managing Partner James C. Romo. "We are pleased to welcome him to the ranks of equity partner and even more proud of the significant impact his work has made in the education profession," add Romo.

The CLAY Awards are given to attorneys whose achievements had a significant impact in 2011 and whose work is expected to have an effect in the coming years. The awards recognize accomplishments in a wide variety of legal practice areas. The honored attorneys include government lawyers, law professors, attorneys from international law firms, and public interest lawyers.

### Pleasanton Chamber Announces Award Winners

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce has announced the recipients of its 49th annual Community Service Awards. The 2011 honorees listed below will be honored at a special event on March 23, 2012 at Pleasanton Firehouse Arts Center. The public is invited to attend.

Sensiba San Filippo LLP, Business Philanthropy Award: For businesses that have provided philanthropic service beyond the scope of normal business activity.

Goodguys Rod & Custom Association, Excellence in Business

Award: For businesses that have made a positive impact in the Pleasanton community through their achievement within the scope of normal business activity.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, Excellence in Service Award: For non-profit organizations that have contributed to Pleasanton.

Bob Athenour, Distinguished Individual Service Award: For individuals who have contributed to Pleasanton through exceptional service to the community or philanthropic efforts. The Dahlin Group, Green Business Award: For businesses that are small or large that promote sustainable environmental business practices throughout their organization for the benefit of employees, customers or the community.

The event begins 6pm with a networking reception, 7:30pm program start and live entertainment to follow. The awards presentation will be held inside the Firehouse Theater, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

To attend the event contact the Chamber of Commerce at 777 Peters Ave., Pleasanton, 846-5858.

### Community

#### DL Wholesale Adds New Line

DL Wholesale, located in Livermore, has added steadyGROWpro soilless media products to its line of hydroponic and horticulture equipment.

The steadyGROWpro product line includes a wide variety of sheet, plug, block and slab media for indoor soilless plant growing. "We were very impressed with the performance and quality of the steadyGROWpro products," said DL Wholesale Sales Director Tony Alton.

DL Wholesale Inc is a rapidly growing wholesale distributor of general hydroponic and horticulture equipment. DL carries reliable, highest quality, and cost effective equipment.

SteadyGROWpro is an inert, sterile product that optimizes soilless plant growth. Used by home and greenhouse gardeners, professional gardeners and hydroponic growers, steadyGROWpro is made from carbon based materials and is eco-friendly. Consisting of 89% air and 11% media, it can be reduced from its original form to a mass of less than 11 percent or incinerated cleanly. SteadyGROWpro is manufactured by Syndicate Sales Inc., a 60-year staple in the international floral industry that manufactures, imports and distributes more than 1,500 floral-related items in the U.S. and overseas.

For more, visit www.steadygrowpro.com.

### Livermore Chamber Officers to Be Installed

The Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Board Installation and Gala Event at the Robert Livermore Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 25.

Checkers Catering and Special Events is catering the event.

The Robert Livermore Community Center will be transformed into the New Decade Lounge with music, dancing, an open bar, a fun casino and lots of networking opportunities. Jody Amos from Amos Productions will be providing the ambiance, music and disc jockey services, and has been a popular DJ at the Gala before.

The new Board of Directors to be installed include:Board Chair, Tim Tikalsky, from RINA Accountancy Corp.; Vice Chair, Jay Davis, from the Fannie and John Hertz Foundation; Secretary, Crystal Lu from Sybase, Inc.; Treasurer, Jennifer Thaete, from the Law Office of Jennifer Thaete, LLP; and Past Board Chair, Christine Wente, from Wente Vineyards

The gala event will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue. Tickets are \$115 per person.

For more information or to register, please visit www.livermorechamber.org or call 925-447-1606.

#### Community

# Milestones

### Working with Children Nets Top Award for Volunteer

at Sandia National Laboratories, has been named Volunteer of the Year by Citizen Schools California for his work as a volunteer teacher at Oakland's Elmhurst Community Prep Middle School.

An engineer by training who spends his days tackling national security issues for Sandia, Holliday's volunteer efforts focus on another critical cause: middle school students. Once a week for the past two years, Holliday has utilized his engineering and robotics expertise while leading an afterschool robotics program through Citizen Schools.

"I'd been teaching robotics for over a decade, but always in a onesy, twosy fashion, a lecture here, a workshop there," Holliday explained. "I was drawn to Citizen Schools because they had a structure that could impact STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) principles. I'm paired with a classroom teacher who helps with classroom management, and the kids have responded enthusiastically.'

Currently, Holliday volunteers at Danville's San Ramon Valley High, teaching an advanced robotics class.

Citizen Schools is a national nonprofit organization that partners with middle schools to expand learning for children in low-income communities. The organization mobilizes thousands of adult volunteers like Holliday and his coteacher Wiley Neel, also a Sandian,

Maynard Holliday, a researcher to help improve student achievement by offering skill-building apprenticeships after school.

Macy Parker, Elmhurst Community Prep Campus Director, describes Holliday as an amazingly dedicated volunteer who has opened new doors for students.

"Over the last two years, he has led our 6th graders in not only learning how to build, program and exhibit robots, but also how to think about broader possibilities for their own futures," she said. "Our students had never met a robotics engineer. They didn't know that this kind of job was possible, or that their love of figuring out how things work was connected to a job called 'engineer' or to the things they do in math class."

Holliday said he believes he's making a difference in more ways than one.

'Because it's Oakland, those students don't see many people of color in math and science," he said. "It's important to me that the kids see that reflection."

Holliday was first exposed to robotics while an undergraduate student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa. In the aftermath of the nuclear meltdown at Three Mile Island in Dauphin County, Pa., the university established a Robotics Institute with funding from Westinghouse Corp. Holliday worked with a professor who was tasked with designing robots to explore the contaminated reactor.

His interest in engineering,

however, goes back to childhood. A self-described "Trekkie," Holliday's childhood dream was to become an astronaut, and engineering was a way to get there. In pursuit of this aim, he won scholarships to Stanford University, where he earned a master of science in mechanical engineering design, and the International Space University in France.

He came within arm's reach of his dream in 1994 and 1996, when he was a finalist for the U.S. Astronaut Corp. In 1996, he was a finalist with Rick Husband and William McCool, who would go on to become the commander and pilot of the Space Shuttle Columbia. Both men died in the 2003 disaster. Holliday withdrew his application from NASA at that point.

Before coming to Sandia, Holliday spent 16 years as a robotics engineer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. In the late '90s, he assembled and led the joint Department of Energy (DOE)/NASA International Pioneer Project Team that designed and fabricated a radiation hardened telerobotic mobile vehicle for site characterization and remediation tasks at Chernobyl unit 4. After several years in the private sector, he joined Sandia in 2011 and works in the Systems Analysis Group on Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) projects.

"I've been fortunate to attend top-notch universities and work at very good jobs," said Holliday. "My credo is that you learn it, earn

### Community



Maynard Holliday, named Volunteer of the Year by Citizen Schools California, works with 6th-graders at Oakland's Elmhurst Community Prep Middle School. Educators there call him an "amazingly dedicated volunteer who has opened new doors for students." (Photo courtesy Citizen Schools California.)

#### it, and return it."

Volunteers at Citizen Schools teach for an hour and a half one afternoon a week at schools in schools.org/volunteer/.

Oakland, Redwood City, East Palo Alto or Campbell. Interested parties should visit www.citizen-

### Women to Be Inducted into the Alameda County Hall of Fame

Eleven outstanding women will be inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame at a luncheon in Oakland on March 31

Among them is Dawn Shaughnessy of Livermore. She was chosen in the science category.

Other inductees are Terry Alderete of Newark. Business and Professions; Barbara Bernstein of Berkeley, Community Service; Mildred Howard of Berkeley, Culture and Art; Oral Brown of Oakland, Education; Connie Galambos Malloy of Oakland, Environment; Pamela Arbuckle Alston, DDS, of Oakland, Health; Jocelyn Larkin of Berkeley, Justice; Nicole Taylor of Oakland, Philanthropy; Debby De Angelis of Hayward, Sports and Athletics; and Arooj Haq of San Leandro, Youth.

"Each of these 11 outstand-

ing women contributes to life in our community in ways that help make Alameda County a place that is second-to-none in terms of its vibrant culture and the diversity of its people," said Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, an event co-chair. "Our Women's Hall of Fame also continues to grow, and we believe our newest inductees will help make 2012 our best year ever."

This year's Women's Hall of Fame luncheon and awards ceremony is set for 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 31, 2012, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 4700 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland. The event will be hosted by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women.

The program raises money for

local charities providing needed resources to women and children in our community. The Women's Hall of Fame also sponsors a Youth Scholarship to help a girl or young woman further their education or training. Tickets to the luncheon and awards ceremony are \$75. For tickets, call (510) 272-6510 or visit http://www.acgov.org/cao/halloffame/.

### **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.)

Bone Marrow Donor Registration drive, Amador Valley High School on Saturday, February 25 from noon to 4 p.m. in the main office, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Those who register need to be in good general health and between the ages of 18 and 60. Registration is easy and painless. A simple cheek swab is all it takes to save a life. Visit DonorsChoose site www.donorschoose. org/amadorpereira for information.

org/amadorpereira for information. Family Reading Night, Wednesday, February 29, the teachers at Arroyo Seco Elementary School, 5280 Irene Way, Livermore, are hosting a Family Reading Night. The event will be held at Arroyo Seco School from 6:15 – 8:00 PM. Families will choose from a variety of activities that focus on reading and language arts skills. Each family will attend two sessions that could include elements of Reader's Theater, poetry, art, crafts or cooking. One of the activities will also be on hand to showcase that reading is "cool" for teenagers, too. The doors will open at 5:45 PM for families to preview session choices.

Tack Sale, Trash for Trails and Tri-Valley Trailbazers, Inc, are holding a Tack Sale of horse equipment and donations of baling twine which is recycled to make outdoor furniture. This event is Sunday, March 11 from 10am to 5pm (rain date is April 1). Limited space available for sale tables. So RSVP as soon as possible to dianeocr@sbcglobal.net or call Dianne Offutt at 1-855-OWL-CROSS. This event is at OW's Crossing Ranch, 7890 Camino Tassajara, Pleasanton. Refreshments will be available. Be ready to buy and sell tack. Plus bring baling twine, there is an award for the most twine delivered. The twine is recycled and the proceeds are all donated to the improvement of local trails.

**Food Matters**, the film, will be shown at 7 p.m. on Sat., March 3 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. This is a film challenging the sickness society that the current medical system encourages through the heavy usage of strong pharmaceuticals and blind ignorance of nutritional solutions. This film shows us that food and nutrition are the keys to a healthy lifestyle. Guests from an organic subscription farm, Farm Fresh To You, will be on hand to discuss their farm and bring some of their produce. Potluck meet & greet starts at 6:30 p.m. A discussion follows the film. For more information, call 925-462-3459.

Daffodil show, The Northern California Daffodil Society will hold its annual Bay Area daffodil show at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore, on Sat., March 3, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun., March 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show is open to the public. Admission is free. Visit www.daffodil.org or call show chairman Kirby Fong at 443-3888

chairman Kirby Fong at 443-3888. Garden of Grace Learning Session 4: Planning and Planting a Summer Vegetabla Garden on Saturday, March 3, 11 to 11:45 AM. Rain or shine. Free. Asbury Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, classrooms 11 and 12. Class taught by Dr. Mark Brunell, Alameda County Master Gardener, information at www.asburygardenofgrace.org/ Armchair Travelers, a monthly program,

Armchair Travelers, a monthly program, will take place at the Livermore Civic Center Library on Thurs., March 8, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Frank Rainer will show digital photographs of the trip he and his wife Sigrid recently took to Korea. Adults are invited to this free program held on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Rooms of the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. For additional information please call 925 373-5500.

**Spring Break SAT Prep Class** in Livermore - LARPD is offering an intense SAT prep class April 2 -5 from 9 am - noon each day. Classes will be held at Robert Livermore Community Center 4444 East Avenue, Livermore.Register at larpd.dst.ca.us or 373-5700, or go to susanprep.com for additional information.

Scholarships available for Amador, Foothill and Village seniors: In 1965 a group of Pleasanton educators and business people got together for the purpose of raising money and awarding scholarships to graduating seniors. 47 years later Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. has awarded \$469,000 in scholarships. Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. awards its general scholarships as well as 8 memorial scholarships to graduating seniors from Amador, Foothill and Village High Schools. Applications for the scholarships can be downloaded at www. amadorvalleyscholarshipsinc.org

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Feb. 25, 41 to 50 miles, Feather Pedals Ride, conditioning ride for Cinderella Classic, meet 8:45 a.m. at Park & Ride lot off E. Airway in Livermore, Kathy Kane, 323-5611. Sun., Feb. 26, 47 miles, Dublin to Moraga loop, meet 8 a.m. at Shannon Center, Peter Rathmann, 336-0973. Tues., Feb. 28, 8 to 13 miles mountain bike trails, Lake Chabot loop, meet 7 p.m. Janie Moorhead, 980-9889.Wed, Feb. 29, 29 miles leap day with the Bears, meet 9:30 a.m. Lafayette/Moraga Regional trail head parking lot, Alberto Lanzas, 510-825-9581. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Livermore July 4th fund-raising, Thurs., March 22 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center - Cresta Blanca Room, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore Tickets are \$20 at the door. Roger Kardinal will provide entertainment. There will be light appetizers, wine and beer tastings. A raffle will be held for gift baskets and autographed sports memorabilia. Donations may also be mailed to: Livermore Fireworks c/o LARPD Foundation, 4444 East Avenue Livermore, CA 94550 Make checks payable to LARPD Foundation with "FIREWORKS" noted in memo space LARPD Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information email livermorefireworks@gmail. com or call 925 963-8019. Join Livermore Fireworks on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/Livermorefireworks ), follow us on Twitter (http://twitter.com/livfireworks), and visit the Livermore Fireworks website (http://livermorefireworks.org/). Meetings are held each Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, is sponsoring a candlelight vigil, 7 p.m. Wed., March 14 in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton. Participants will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Peaceful War Protest on the fourth Wednesday of the month, March 28, between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Questions?? Call Cathe Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail. com; or kdowding@pacbell.net.www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

Spring Boutique, Our Savior Lutheran Ministries will be hosting a Spring Boutique on Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will take place in the gymnasium at Our Savior, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue in Livermore. Everyone is invited to attend. S Please contact the church office with questions, 925-447-1246.

Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated, Linda Paine, Co-founder of the Election Integrity Project, will be the guest speaker. Luncheon is on Saturday, March 10, 11:30 a.m., at The Rock House Restaurant, 1840 Portola Avenue, Livermore. Cost of lunch is \$20 per person. For reservations or information call Phyllis at 925-462-4931 or email coupclan1962@pacbell.net.

American Legion Post 237, is looking for new members, Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Veterans Hall, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. Those served in the military between the following dates you are qualified for admission into the American Legion. WW II Dec 7, 1941- Dec. 31, 1946. Korean War Jun. 25, 1950 - Jan. 31, 1955. Vietnam War Feb. 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975. Lebanon/Grenada Aug 24, 1989 - Jul 31, 1984. Panama Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan 31, 1990. Gulf War/War on Terrorism Aug 2, 1990 to present. Bring a copy of discharge document DD-214 to a meeting. Mailing address is Amer. Leg. Post 237, P.O. Box 823, Pleasanton, Ca. 94566.

Livermore Lions Club, 2nd Annual

Crab (renewal) Feed or Corned beef and cabbage (for non-crab eaters) on March 24. The event is being held at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Avenue, Livermore. The \$45.00 ticket(s) is good for all you can eat Crab or Corned beef and cabbage. The ticket also enters the purchaser in a change for a door prize of a Nook reader. During the event various other fund raising functions will be held (50/50, raffle). Dessert will be provided for a donation to the Livermore Lion's Club. The event runs from 5:30 PM to 9 PM with food served during event by the Lion's and the Leo's. The proceeds of the event go to support the Livermore Lion's services to the community. Ticket purchases contact Lion Ben Barrientos at 925 449 9974 or bbarrientos@earthlink. net. Livermore Lion's 7 years and still in support of the Livermore community. Some tickets may be available at the door.

Kindergarten, Do you have a child turning 5 on or before November 1, 2012 and ready for kindergarten? Come to Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's annual Kindergarten Registration Fair on Thursday, March 1 from 3 p.m.-7 p.m. or Friday, March 2 from 2-6 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center. For more information, visit www.livermoreschools.com.

**Foothill & Amador Juniors:** Coming soon to Foothill High School: for only \$165, learn the strategies needed to outsmart the SAT with Catalyst's SAT Boot Camp! Saturday & Sunday, March 3rd & 4th -- class runs 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. both days; sign up online at www. CatalystPrep.com. This event is sponsored by Foothill's AABC and Amador's PTSA. Questions email: katrina.edwards@mac.com for FHS students or CarlaSB45@gmail.com for AVHS students.

Livermore Library Board of Trustees, meeting 7 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 23 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted at the library 72 hours prior to the meeting. Bingo in Livermore has a new night with

**Bingo** in Livermore has a new night with a Progressive Jackpot game. Tuesday Night Bingo has come to the Bingo Ranch at 3070 Pacific Avenue Livermore . Cash prizes from \$175 to \$1199. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m.Follow us on Facebook: http://tinyurl.com/85lyedm. As a reaction to the state education budget and funding, schools have resorted to creative fund-raising in order to keep programs afloat. LVCP High School is hosting the weekly Tuesday Bingo game at The Bingo Ranch.

Bingo game at The Bingo Ranch. **The Metabolic Edge,** Tues., Feb. 28, 6:30 to 8 p.m. presented by the Tri-Valley YMCA, 6693 Sierra Lane, Suite F, Dublin. Free to YMCA members, \$10 for nonmembers. Register at 263-4443. Information at www. trivalleyymca.org.

Free income tax help, Feb. 1-April 14. AARP tax aide volunteers, trained and certified by IRS.. Serving seniors and low-middle income taxpayers. Robert Livermore Community Venter, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Mondays noon to 4 p.m. by appointment only (373-5760) and Saturdays 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. walk-ins. Also available at Livermore Library, Dublin Library and Pleasanton Senior Center. For information on schedules go to aarp.org/taxaide or call 1-888-227-7669.

Jungle of Jewels, The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Pleasanton is requesting donations of costume or precious jewelry for its annual jewelry event, "Jungle of Jewels" on March 9, 10 and 11, 2012. Donations are accepted at the shop during open hours: Monday to Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5. The Discovery Shop is located in the Mission Plaza Shopping Center at 1987-A Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Contact Monda Wiseman, Mgr. at (925) 462-7374 for more information. All proceeds benefit the American cancer Society's programs of research, education, service and advocacy.

Widowed Men and Worker) ern CA., Lunch in Pleasanton, Feb. 26, 1 p.m. RSVP by Feb. 23 to Athene, 846-0111. Lunch and optional movie in Dublin, Feb. 29, 11:30 m PSVP by Ecb. 26 to Marca 929 E124

a.m., RSVP by Feb. 26 to Marge, 828-5124. Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the second floor conference room at Heritage Estates Retirement Community. The address is 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore All are welcome. Contacts are: Sandra Grafrath 443-6655 or Lee Parlett 292-9280.

Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation

has opened their its application for graduates of accredited Livermore schools. The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation will award thousands of dollars this year for continuing education to four year college, community college, graduate schools, technical and vocational schools. The Pedrozzi Scholarship Foundation uses an electronic application that requires all applicants to apply on-line. No other application will be accepted. Learn more about the eligibility requirements, selection criteria and how to apply by selecting the details for the scholarship type by going to www.pedrozzifoundation.org.In addition to the on-line application, the required official transcripts must be postmarked or hand delivered to our office on or before March 1, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. **Ath annual "Ragin Cajun" Mardi Gras** 

4th annual "Ragin Cajun" Mardi Gras themed dinner and dance, silent and live auction fund-raiser for the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation (SJWHTF), on Friday, March 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the Palm Event Center in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$85 per person. The event will be hosted by Jessica Aguirre and Mike Inouye. Bring your dancing shoes, beads and masks to the event. Help us, help cancer patients. Last year's event sold out, purchase tickets early. Visit www. healingtherapiesfoundation.org or call (866) 862-7270.

Writing Club for Young Adults, ages 12- 21, are invited to join The Writing Club at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center. The Writing Club will meet once a month on Thursdays, February 23, March 29, and April 26,2012, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., for a fun-filled evening of writing with author J.L. Powers. This free event will take place in the Storytime Room of the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Learn about publishing your works and how to expand writing horizons. Write and edit each other's work. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermorelibrary.net, or contact Sandy at 925-373-5500, extension 5583.

**Operation: S.A.M.** "Supporting All Military" is a 501(c)3 non profit military support organization based in Livermore. S.A.M. has been in operation since January 2004. It is dedicated to the continued support of deployed troops. Preparation of comfort packages takes place every other week - all year long. Providing morale support for those deployed. All information provided is confidential and is not shared for security purposes. To submit a name and address, inquire about donations or helping, please visit www.operationsam.org, email operationsam@comcast.net or call 925 443-7620 for more information and the calendar of events.

Free Diabetes Self-Management Classes, 6 to 7 week series about living with diabetes. Thursdays, February 23 through April 5 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Class is open to adults of all ages (not just Seniors) with pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes. Please call the Alameda County Diabetes Program at 510-383-5185 to register. Space is limited.

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. The Tri-Valley office is located at 3311 Pacific Avenue, Livermore 94550 and can be reached by phone at (925) 371-1531, by FAX at (925) 373-5034 or by e-mail at abril.tamayo@cril-online.org.All services are free.

#### RELIGION

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

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 8:30 a.m. worship (semiformal); 9:45 a.m. adult Bible study/Sunday school; 11 a.m. worship (informal). For information, call 925-447-1246.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Information 447-1950. St. Matthew's Baptist Church, 1239

North Livermore Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Prayer each Wednesday at 7 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7:30 p.m. 449-3824. United Christian Church, celebrating 50 years in the Tri-Valley. 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; worships on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The community is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. Call 449-6820 for more information.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 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 for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Standard warnesdays, hease clanonice at **Trinity**, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Bible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

**St. Charles Borromeo**, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scola at 447-9800.

Stepping Stones on Grief Journey workshop, bimonthly event. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23, 2012 and March 8 & 22, 2012. No preregistration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty at 925-846-5377 for more information.

**Catholicism**, St. Michael Catholic Church in Livermore will screen all ten episodes of Father Robert Barron's groundbreaking "Catholicism" series, followed by a question and answer session led by Suzanne Slupesky, Catholic theology scholar. One episode will be featured per night for 10 consecutive Mondays through March 12, 2012, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in St. Michael Parish Hall located on the 300 Block of Maple Street, Livermore, California. Admission is free. Learn what Catholics believe and why. Discover the full meaning of the faith. For additional information on Father Barron's series visit www. catholicismseries.com.St. Michael Parish, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, 925-447-1585.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blendedstyle with choir and band, family worship. 10:30 a.m. contemporary led by band, Sunday School for children and middleschoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org; 925-846-4436.

**St. Innocent Orthodox Church**, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. For details please see our website at www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. Leo Arrowsmith at 456-0845.

Adult Inquirer's Class, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, adult inquirer's class, Sunday mornings January and February. Learn about the Episcopalian faith. Rev. Carol Cook will be the guide. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802. Sign up on the church kiosk or on the web site: www.stclarespleasanton.org.

**St. Clare's Episcopal Church**, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Services on Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. All are welcome and worship, whether or not you feel called to participate in any other way in the community.For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church**, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:30am. Children's Sunday school during the 10:30 a.m. service. For more information call the church office at (925) 447-3289 or SaintBartsLivermore.com.

**St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church** follows the traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer. 193 Contractors Avenue, Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. Sunday school provided. For information, contact Fr. Ben Brown at 925/906-9561.