



Find Out What's Happening
Check Out Section A
 Section A is filled with information about arts, people, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board.

Program Gives Hope for Future

By Carol Graham

At the Livermore Adult School, formerly Almond Avenue Elementary School, on Feb. 25, the scores of almond trees were in full bloom - a fitting sign of hope and new beginnings.

More than two dozen young people and their families met at the school to attend a monthly meeting for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA), a memorandum that calls for deferred action for certain undocumented young people who came to the United States as minors and

who have pursued education or military service here.

This was the second meeting hosted by East Bay Youth and Family Initiatives and the social committee of the Unitarian Church in Livermore (UUil). Ten volunteers from the partnership assisted the young people in understanding and completing the DACA application process.

"When the students and their parents arrived, they were subdued and somewhat tentative," said UUil volunteer Judith Herr. "After several hours of working

hard to complete the forms, they finished up enthusiastic, warmly thanking us, smiling, and grateful."

The DACA memorandum was passed in June 2012 and carries strict guidelines. "Candidates are people who were brought here under the age of 16, who have lived here for at least five years, and who are working toward or have earned a diploma," said Immigration Attorney Amy Lighter. "These are people who have been in the United States for a long time and are already a part of the community."

Further requirements include having been born between June 16, 1981 and 1997; continuous residence here since June 2007; being physically present for the application process; and having not been convicted of a felony or significant misdemeanor, nor posing a threat to national security or public safety.

For the past month, UUil volunteer Nancy Rodrigue has worked with several students, including a brother and sister who attended the meeting with their parents. "The siblings have no mem-

ory of Mexico and think of themselves as Americans," she said. "They came with a stack of documents, such as school progress reports, awards for outstanding scholastic achievement and scout awards. The boy has earned a two-year scholarship to Las Positas College, so he is on his way to becoming a success."

"The DACA process is complicated and topped with language issues," Rodrigue added. "I have to say that I admire these parents for their support of their children to

(See FUTURE, page 4)

Mayor Says Pleasanton and Its Horizon Look Bright

By Ron McNicoll

Financially, last year was a good one for Pleasanton business and government. The current year promises to be even better, according to Mayor Jerry Thorne.

Thorne gave the annual State of the City speech to the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 20, his first since being elected mayor in November.

Thorne cited a list of job-growth accomplishments in the city, led by an expansion of Workforce, a software company co-founded by David Duffield, who co-founded PeopleSoft, and then lost it to Larry Ellison and Oracle.

Workforce has been operating in a building in Stoneridge Corporate Plaza near the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. It is buying five adjacent buildings for an expansion expected to add about 3000 jobs, bringing the total up to about 4000. Workday employs 600 workers elsewhere.

Clorox is another big firm casting its lot with Pleasanton. The firm once conducted research in Pleasanton, and is now returning with a new 60,000 square foot research facility. An earlier speaker at the chamber said at least 700 jobs will be coming.

The city also picked up two big commercial locations totaling 148,000 square feet, split between Pleasanton Business Park and Britannia Business Center.

University of San Francisco moved its campus from San Ramon to Pleasanton. Local startups have been growing.

The Stoneridge Creek Community construction is underway, and "after many years of hard work, the Stoneridge Drive extension will open this summer," said Thorne. The packed audience at the Hilton Hotel gave that remark sustained applause.

Old commercial spaces (See PLEASANTON, page 5)



BUNNIES AT PETSMA RT Meet Goldie. She's a full size Holland Lop, weighing in at 3 lbs. She's easy to handle, and easy to love. Adopt this month and get a free Rabbits for Dummies book. Meet Goldie and 12 + bunnies at a new location this Saturday from 12-3 pm at the Dublin PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. For more info, call 925-519-1723, or email ebrabbit@comcast.net. Visit www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com to see more pet profiles.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Dick Jones prepares for a flight, during which he will to take photos.

Photographer Records Sights from the Air

By Carol Graham

When Oprah magazine contacted Livermore's Dick Jones, he was happy to help.

As a photographer for more than 40 years, Jones has captured some of the Tri-Valley's most unique and fascinating sights. The April

2013 issue of Oprah will be mentioning the Centennial Light Bulb, a 110-year-old light bulb hanging in East Avenue's Fire Station 6, and needed a picture.

Jones has plenty. Along with photos of the famous light bulb and Sunol's scenic Train of

Lights, Jones is best known for his aerial photography - breathtaking views of the Livermore-Amador Valley and northern California, then and now.

In his recently published book, Tri-Valley Before & After Photos, Jones displays images of Stoneridge

Mall during its construction in 1980 with green fields stretching out in all directions, the VA Hospital in 1982 standing solitary among uncultivated wilderness, and Ruby Hill in 1994 when it was still just hills.

Placing the before and (See AERIAL, page 12)

Pleasanton OKs Zoning for Shelters

The Pleasanton City Council approved zoning that will allow for homeless shelters and supportive housing to locate in the city.

The zoning is required by state law under SB 2.

The council vote was unanimous, but not happy. Mayor Jerry Thorne commented, "This is just another nail in the coffin of local control."

Approved by the council

was an overlay district in two commercial areas where homeless shelters would be allowed as a permitted use. A conditional use permit would not be required.

The second change re-

lated to supportive and transitional housing, which calls for homes where less than six residents are located to be treated the same as regular housing. A facility with (See ZONING, page 10)

Lawrence Laboratory Considers Pay Cuts, Furlough Days Following 'Sequestration'

By Jeff Garberson

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has developed several cost-cutting contingencies that could start March 10 if "sequestration" takes place at the federal level, a Laboratory spokesperson said.

The Laboratory has plans for imposing a 10 percent

salary reduction for all employees and contractors, a mandatory day off every other Friday, and reductions in certain administrative expenses such as procurements, travel and training, the spokesperson said.

By contrast, Sandia Laboratory in Livermore expects no salary cuts or mandatory

days off, although hiring plans for the rest of 2013 could be affected, a spokesperson for that facility said.

Sequestration is the name given to the program of automatic federal budget cuts that emerged from the debt ceiling standoff of 2011. The cuts, slashing \$85 billion from the federal budget

during the remainder of this year and \$1.2 trillion over 10 years, are expected to start tomorrow, March 1, if the Administration and Congress do not reach a last-minute budget deal.

Lawrence Laboratory National Laboratory is preparing for a budget reduction of up to \$120 million

through September 30, the end of this fiscal year, according to the spokesperson. The 10 percent salary cut, if implemented, would start March 10 at the earliest, the spokesperson said.

The every-other-Friday furlough days would be paid like holidays, at the reduced (See LAB CUTS, page 4)

Study Will Look at Potential Wheels Merger With Bayside Cities

Merging LAVTA into a bigger agency that would include the Tri-City area of Fremont, Newark and Union City might bring better bus service at lower cost, according to Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty.

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) has operated Wheels buses since 1985 in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin. The system was created through a joint powers agreement between

the cities and the county, and is run politically by a board with representatives from all four jurisdictions. Haggerty serves on the LAVTA board.

Haggerty is also a member of the Metropolitan

Transportation Commission (MTC) board, where he first made the suggestion for a merger a few months ago.

Haggerty told The Independent this week that the study will be convened by the MTC. The purpose is

to see whether a merger of the Tri-Cities and the Valley would provide better services for constituents, through better economies of scale for LAVTA, Union City and AC Transit. Union

Inside

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PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Parker - a 3 year old Pomeranian mix who is a social butterfly. He is described as the perfect family dog and a wiggly worm! Parker is a lap dog and always very happy; he loves everybody he meets and thrives on attention. For more information, call 925-426-8656 or go online to www.valleyhumane.org or www.facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety to see other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Photo by Trina Cort

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Breakfast with Buchanan

Congresswoman Joan Buchanan will host two complimentary pancake breakfasts during which constituents can discuss legislative and community issues with Buchanan. One will take place in Livermore on Sat., March 9 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. A second one is set for Sat., April 20 in Dublin at the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Avenue. The session will be from 10 a.m. to noon.

To RSVP visit the website at www.asmdc.org

Swalwell Hosts Town Hall Meeting

Congressman Eric Swalwell will host a town hall meeting on Sat., March 2 at Harvest Park Middle School in Pleasanton. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Swalwell will provide information about the services his office can provide. There will be a discussion of issues impacting the Bary Area, from job creation to economic growth to immigration reform.

The school is located at 4900 Valley Avenue, Pleasanton.

Hamilton Begins Campaign

Mark Hamilton has officially launched his campaign for the May special City Council election. The City Council seat was vacated when Jerry Thorne was selected Mayor.

Hamilton has worked in Pleasanton for over 15 years as Director of Financial Services for ADP Inc. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 24 years retiring as a Major.

Hamilton has coached hundreds of Pleasanton kids over the past decade. His coaching starting with the PNLL, PJFL, and YMCA Basketball and has continued as a head coach at the High School level.

Hamilton said that he has been a long proponent for quality education. He expressed a desire to have the city and school district work even closer to advance services not just for youth but for all residents of Pleasanton.

"I have no ties to special interests or special purpose groups," stated Hamilton. Adding, "Pleasanton residents have voiced frustration with political ties to certain developers, special interests or voting blocks on the council. I have none. I plan to come with fresh ideas, sound business principals and only one constituency, the citizens of Pleasanton," said Hamilton.

Miller Begins Campaign

David Miller kicked off his campaign for Pleasanton City Council last Saturday, at the Pleasanton Farmer's Market.

Miller said that many of his supporters are blue-collar and middle-class professionals. They are concerned that City Govern-

ment is evolving into a self-perpetuating bureaucracy. They are afraid that as members of the community, they will be given less and less say in how our community is being run.

Miller said of Pleasanton, "It is 'small town America'." When you see a picture of the 4th of July, high school marching bands, kids with kites, people waving when you drive by, neighbors inviting neighbors over for hotdogs and hamburgers, that's Pleasanton! We have a responsibility to preserve our small piece of the American Dream. We have to fight any outside interests who want to take that away from us."

For information or to help with campaign efforts, contact Miller at 925.609.4894 or go to the website, www.VoteDavidMiller.com

Top Physics Stories

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory garnered two top physics stories on the American Physical Society's list of the top physics newsmakers of 2012.

In May 2012, the two most recently discovered elements were given names after the physics labs that discovered them. Number 114 is flerovium (Fl) after the Flerov Laboratory of Nuclear Reactions in Dubna, Russia, and number 116 is livermorium (Lv) after the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. In September, researchers at the RIKEN laboratory in Japan claimed to have successfully generated atoms of element 113. If confirmed, it would be the first new element to be discovered in East Asia, though researchers at Livermore and Russia also have claimed to have synthesized the element in the past.

The title of the "World's Fastest Computer" returned to the United States in June 2012 when Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Sequoia machine topped out at 16.2 petaflops. Then in November, Oak Ridge National Laboratory one-upped them with its Titan supercomputer, which hit 17.59 petaflops. U.S. computers now hold the top two slots for the first time since 2009, beating out Japan's K computer. Sequoia is used by the military to simulate nuclear detonations while Titan is an open machine leasable by the public.

Facilities Updated

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced the successful completion of the Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program (FIRP). Over the past 11 years, FIRP was created, organized and funded to reduce an accumulation of facility maintenance, repair and refurbishment projects across NNSA's eight sites throughout the country.

At the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, NNSA spent \$238 million on over 100 projects. They include extending the life of many facilities by updating or replacing air-conditioning units, boilers,

compressors, fans, electrical equipment, breakers, transformers, switch gears, and repairing or replacing roofs. The projects revitalized the infrastructure of the lab, especially among facilities most critical to NNSA, and demolished facilities that were no longer needed or beyond their life-cycle.

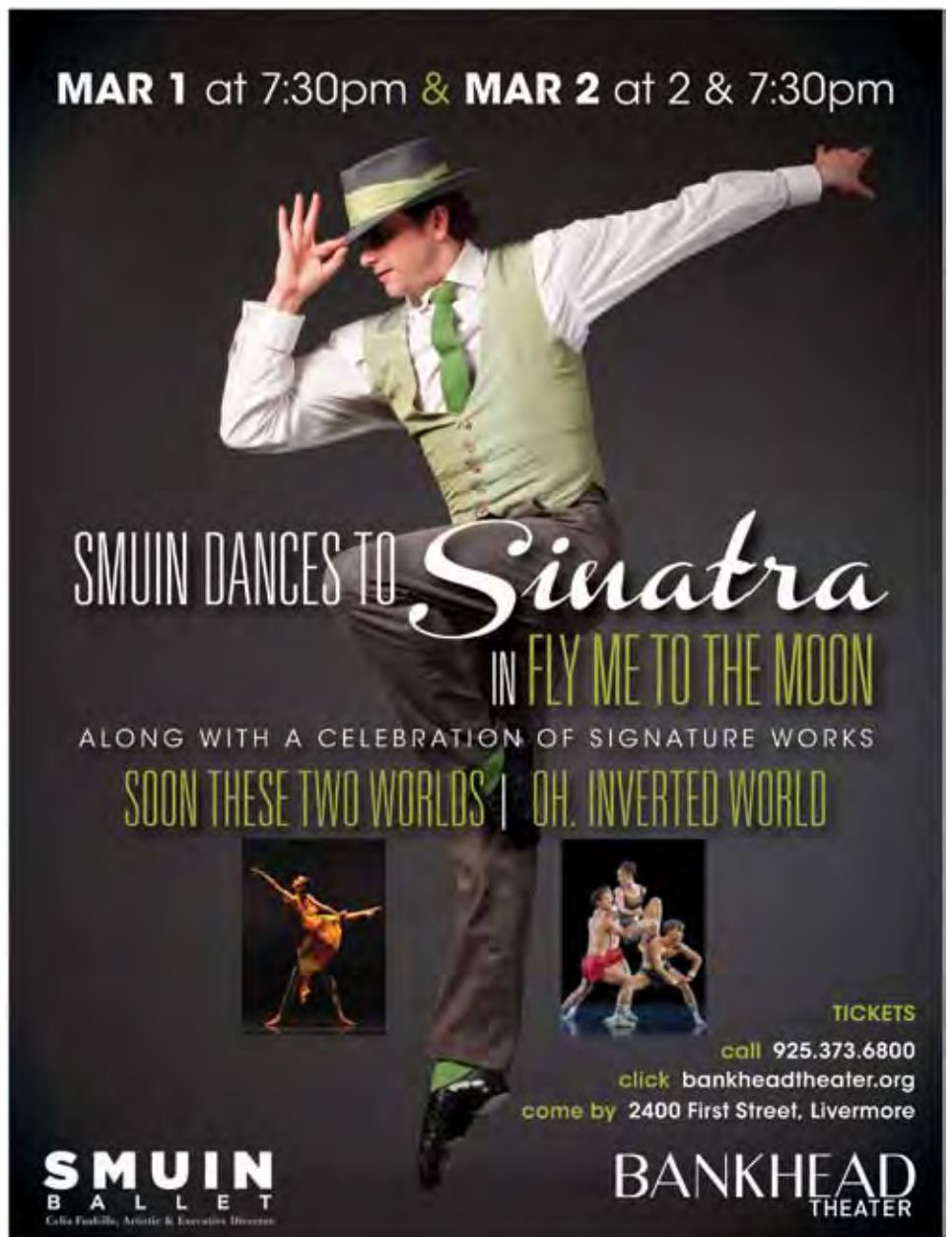
Lab specifics include the following: reduced deferred maintenance by \$126 million; extended the average roof life from 6 years to the industry average of 10 years; demolished almost 500,000 gross square feet of facilities (or over 11 acres of space); recycled 28,000 tons of concrete (equivalent road base for a seven-mile, two-lane road); recycled and reused 14,000 tons of metal/equipment (equivalent to 2,517 full-size automobiles); and revitalized space by changing its purpose, e.g., converting

underutilized lab space to office space or modernizing other facilities.

NNSA Field Office Manager Kim Davis Lebak stated, "Many facilities at the Lab were improved through the program. It improved facility maintenance and repair and also helped move the Lab forward by building the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rated building at LLNL."

Correction

A story about the appointment of Abe Gupta to the Dublin City Council incorrectly stated that Matt Morrison was a professor at San Francisco Law school. Morrison, who sent a letter of support for Gupta's appointment, was a student at the law school, and knew Gupta in Gupta's position as a professor there.



MAR 1 at 7:30pm & MAR 2 at 2 & 7:30pm

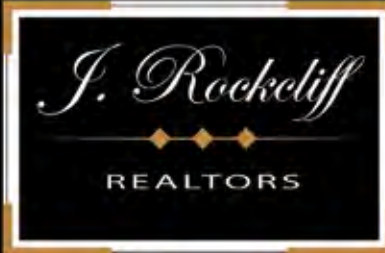
SMUIN DANCES TO Sinatra
IN FLY ME TO THE MOON

ALONG WITH A CELEBRATION OF SIGNATURE WORKS
SOON THESE TWO WORLDS 1 OH, INVERTED WORLD




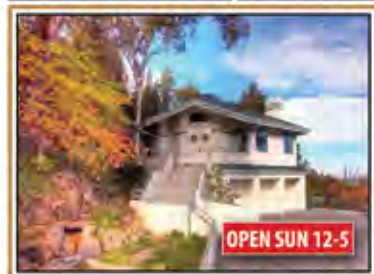










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7230 Clubhouse Dr Pleasanton  bd 6 ba 5.5 sqft +/- 5,223 \$1,949,900 Pvt guest suite on the main level. Amazing custom estate in rural part of Pleasanton. Beautiful neighborhood, close to freeway for commute yet feels like the country. Spectacular, gorgeous entry w/ 2 spiral staircases, hardwood floors, amazing custom kit. area for party prep. Greg & Lisa Doyle 925.855.4046			
164 Barber Street Livermore  bd 4 ba 3 sqft +/- 2,450 \$575,000 Classic 2,450 square foot farmhouse! 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, office, huge bonus room with fireplace, big country kitchen, large master bedroom and bath. New exterior paint! Diane Sass 925.699.9508	6044 Kingsmill Ter Dublin  bd 5 ba 5.5 sqft +/- 5,035 \$1,495,900 Gated Pinnacle community with breathtaking golf course location/views! Atherton model with dual circular staircases, volume ceilings, granite countertops, expansive master suite, luxurious master bath and 3 car garage! 1 bedroom and 1 1/2 bathrooms downstairs! The Frazzano Team 925.735.7653	4020 Eagle Nest Blackhawk  bd 3 ba 3 sqft +/- 1,693 \$509,900 Picture Perfect! Bright & airy with LOTS of square footage in this popular 3 bd/3 full bath plan. LOW HOA dues w/ community pool. Walking distance to popular shopping including our own favorite... Peets Coffee! Freshly painted, HIGHLY UPGRADED, Close to schools. The Frazzano Team 925.413.4511	2971 Chestnut St Brentwood  bd ba acres +/- 41 \$1,995,000 Years ago the property contained a small dairy. The property has been farmed for many years with crops. Currently leased for farming activities. The Home & out-buildings are not part of lease. The income is \$10,500 yearly has been the same amount for many years. Terry De Luz 925.583.2183
1136 St Julien St Brentwood  bd 2 ba 2.5 sqft +/- 2,101 \$619,900 Gorgeous gated resort area for over 55 active adults in Trilogy - this floor plan is enhanced with a large center courtyard w/gas fireplace, extensive bamboo flrs, granite counters, romantic high ceilings, nearly new condition w/every amenity. 34,000 sq ft resort facility. Carolyn Young 925.963.0093	177 Elisha Ln San Ramon  bd 4 ba 4 sqft +/- 3,181 \$979,000 Immaculate condition! Very well maintained by original owners. 3 car garage, bonus/den space off family room, hardwood floors, exercise area off master closet. Landscaped yard with covered patio. Bosch stainless steel appliances and slab granite counter. A must see! Bonnie King 925.736.8411	26928 Palomares Castro Valley  bd 3 ba 2 sqft +/- 1,944 \$847,500 Country Ready. In the beginning of Palomares, Nice cement driveway to a spacious parking area. Plenty of room for Chickens, Horses, Gardens or your own Vineyard, Spacious living room with wood burning fire place, Newer paint/Carpet/Bathroom. Kristy Peixoto 925.251.2536	22148 Eden Canyon Castro Valley  bd 4 ba 4(2) sqft +/- 5,835 \$3,300,000 Best of Both Worlds, Enjoy 100 Gated Acres, Relaxing, Entertainers Dream Home, over 5835 sqft with 30 ft ceilings, Gourmet kitchen, Master bedroom with nook, Helicopter landing, 4,200 sq.ft. shop and so much more. Kristy Peixoto 925.251.2536
6877 Maple Drive Dublin  bd 3 ba 2 sqft +/- 1,468 \$498,880 One to Remember! Complete remodel. Beautiful Kitchen and Baths. New Heating and Air. Roof just put on. Hardwood Flooring, Double pane Windows, Copper Plumbing. Just a wonderful home with large family room/ Brick Fireplace. Nice size private yard. Mark Traikoff 925.855.4115			

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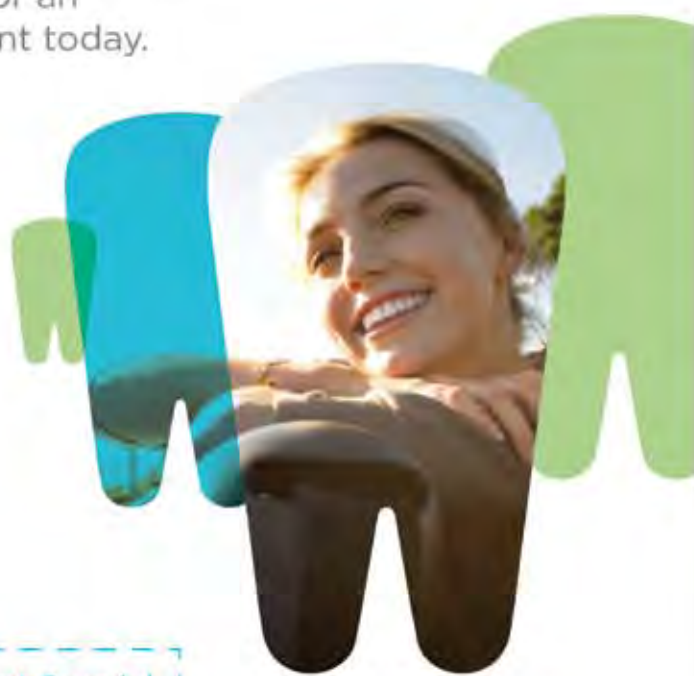
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EDITORIAL

Housing the Homeless

We are pleased that the Pleasanton City Council is shouldering some of the responsibility to provide sites where shelters for those who are homeless could be located. The council okayed zoning that designates two sites.

While state law requires the action, it was good to see Pleasanton move forward.

For years, Livermore has been providing places for the homeless to stay. Three shelters are located within the city. In addition, local churches have opened their doors during bad weather.

An emergency shelter, if built in Pleasanton, would provide minimal supportive services. A stay would be limited to six months or less.

City staff indicated that given the cost of land and difficulty in finding funding it would be unlikely that such shelters would come to the city. However, it is important that the opportunity is there to do so. Every community should do its fair share to help those who need it the most.

LAB CUTS

(continued from page one)

rate, the Lab representative added.

The Laboratory has about 6,500 employees and an operating budget of about \$1.6 billion. Its budget comes mostly from the National Nuclear Security Administration, a semi-autonomous arm of the US Department of Energy.

There is considerable uncertainty about how the funding reductions will be carried out and whether they will be short-lived or permanent, which makes their local effects difficult to predict. Some analysts fear major job losses leading to a new recession with downward spiraling economic consequences. Others minimize the risk.

"Like every other federally funded institution out there, we are watching how things play out in Washington," the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory spokesperson said.

In the meantime, other DOE facilities were also making contingency plans in the face of large uncertainties.

A mid-February report by Democrats on the House Armed Services Committee painted a particularly gloomy picture, including the prediction that the Y-12 production plant in Tennessee would have to furlough 700 to 1000 employees for up to six months. It also said that hundreds of employees would be laid off at national labs, universities and contractors that depend for support on the Energy Department's Office of Science. Office of Science is a branch of DOE that supports basic science and other non-defense research and is funded separately from NNSA, which supports Lawrence Livermore and the other defense facilities.

(Y-12 is the code name for the electromagnetic isotope separation plant producing enriched uranium.)

Within the DOE weapons complex, the report predicted that up to 1,000 employees would be furloughed at both Hanford Site in Washington state and Savannah River

Site in South Carolina, and up to 2,500 at the Pantex Plant in Texas.

The report said that 500 employees at Los Alamos National Laboratory could be forced into unpaid, two week furloughs. More recently, Los Alamos director Charles McMillan said that budget cuts might be managed by reductions in purchasing and subcontract work and possibly "short" furloughs of employees. His statement did not confirm that employees would be unpaid during any such furloughs.

Furloughs for up to 100 employees were forecast for the main Sandia Laboratory site in Albuquerque, NM. At press time for the Independent, it was unclear whether the absence of furlough plans at Sandia's Livermore site meant that mandatory days off would occur only in New Mexico or whether updated planning indicates that they will not be necessary at either site.

While many other DOE defense sites have prepared for furloughs, none have reported plans for the layoffs that are forecast by the Congressional report for Office of Science labs. Under federal law, layoffs at any DOE site would require advance public notice.

From a national perspective, NNSA acting administrator Neile Miller testified to Congress in mid-February that sequestration would slash her agency's 2013 budget by 7.7 percent, which translates to an effective reduction of more than 13 percent over the remaining seven months of the fiscal year.

She warned that the NNSA's national security responsibilities would be significantly impaired if those cuts occur. She cited a variety of activities that would be hobbled, including surveillance of stockpiled nuclear weapons, maintenance of aging plants, delays in responding to the needs of the armed services, and research aimed at certifying nuclear weapons without returning to nuclear testing.

FUTURE

(continued from page one)

have a better life than they had in Mexico, and who are willing to reveal themselves as undocumented by coming to our seminar. We could see the anxiety in the people when they first entered the room, wondering if we were really immigration agents or if we were really trying to help their children."

Once completed, applications and corresponding documentation are mailed with a \$465 fee to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in Phoenix. Approval can happen in as little one month, or may take up to a year depending on a candidate's circumstances.

The approval of deferred action does not grant legal status to applicants, but is simply a two-year promise not to deport someone. It does allow applicants to receive work permits and drivers' licenses.

"We plan to conduct two more DACA registrations, then reassess our process and the need for more of these events," said Rodrigue, noting that the partnership is considering how to best reach out to the community DACA is designed to assist.

"The response from the community has been positive," added Lighter. "The

Solar Energy Partnership Focuses On Lighter, Cheaper Technology

A program to develop solar energy options is being touted as a poster child for public-private partnerships.

Sandia National Laboratories and Cool Earth Solar have signed an agreement that could make solar energy more affordable and accessible. The partnership is the first to take advantage of the Livermore Valley Open Campus (LVOC).

The five-year Cooperative Research & Development Agreement (CRADA) calls for researchers with Sandia's New Mexico solar energy program to help pilot, characterize and validate Cool Earth Solar's inflated, concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) technology. The Livermore-based company's equipment will be located on a five-acre site known as the Clean Energy Demonstration Field on the LVOC.

One of Cool Earth Solar's units already has been set up, with dozens more planned over the next five years. The unit is connected to Sandia's power grid, and up to 500 kilowatts of solar power could be provided to the labs by 2018.

Rob Lamkin, CEO of Cool Earth Solar, commented during a press conference to announce the partnership, "The sun is shining. That is a really good thing for solar energy. Right now, we are making electricity to help power work at the labs."

Congressman Eric Swalwell declared, "This collaboration is a perfect example of how the government and private sector can work together to help us lead the world in the search for better, safer, more affordable energy and in turn, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and grow our national economy."

Lamkin added that the demonstration project is just a start. The goal is to

market the technology internationally. "Solar energy needs to be made available to everyone."

Swalwell mentioned President Obama's challenge to reduce the country's footprint and to strive for more public-private partnerships. He said of Livermore and the Valley, "We're leading the way." He noted that access to capital, a risk-taking culture and a brain trust are needed to advance innovative ideas. The culture and the brains are here. The access to capital is the difficulty. It demonstrates the importance of federal funds to create private-public partnerships with the goal to advance innovation.

Kish Rajan, representing the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, labeled the effort, as "so Californian - innovation teaming up with government to accomplish earth changing things. It is something California does that is different from any other place in the country or the world."

Rajan responded to criticism that it is too difficult to conduct business in California. He stated it wasn't too tough for the original forty-niners, the industrialists who built the railroads, and entrepreneurs such as Kaiser, Packard and Disney. "This partnership will build on a special formula where we figure out how to do things that are difficult."

Others talked about the impacts on the economy. State Senator Ellen Corbett said that solar energy will reduce costs in the schools, saving millions of dollars. "The power of the sun will change the world."

Livermore Mayor John Marchand added that it will be possible to leverage LVOC to develop more part-

nerships and grow new technology companies helping to create jobs. "Collaborations will allow the labs to change the future and define a new century. It is happening here in Livermore."

High costs have hindered efforts to make large-scale solar a viable energy option. Cool Earth Solar's approach, Lamkin said, has been to use inexpensive, thin-film plastic as the core material for its equipment.

Most of today's solar energy systems take the form of flat panels or heavy mirrors or metal boxes-with-lenses and require significant amounts of heavy, expensive materials. Cool Earth's inflated solar concentrators are primarily made of inexpensive and free materials that are readily and abundantly available, such as plastic thin film and air. This design approach radically reduces material requirements as well as cost and time.

The inflated, tube-shaped concentrators are key to Cool Earth's innovative design. Each 3 foot diameter concentrator is made of plastic film - similar to that used commercially for packaging and shipping. When inflated with air, the concentrator naturally forms a shape that focuses or concentrates sunlight onto a PV cell placed at the focal point. This means fewer solar cells are required than in conventional technology. A single cell in the concentrator generates up to 1200 times the electricity of a solar cell without a concentrator.

The inflated structure is naturally strong and aerodynamically stable, able to withstand high wind speeds. Finally, the inflated tube protects the PV cell and receiver from the environment, including rain and snow, as well as insects and dirt.

Each inflated concentrator includes, in addition to the solar cell receiver, a small air pump for maintaining air pressure and a simple heat sink to handle the concentrated energy from the sun. The resulting system uses a minimum amount of material, has a small footprint, and causes the least disruption to the natural environment.

"For our equipment to capture the same amount of solar energy as more traditional solar equipment, we use less than half the materials in terms of weight and mass," Lamkin said. "When you factor in the fact that the little material we do use is a whole lot cheaper, that's how we drive down the cost."

Both Cool Earth and Sandia agreed that establishing a new business arrangement as part of the LVOC initiative was a challenge.

"For some time now, we had hoped to find a national laboratory partner to give us a different technical perspective on our technology, help improve it, and drive it toward commercialization with us," Lamkin said. Sandia made perfect sense, since the labs possess decades of solar expertise and maintain a Livermore site less than three miles from Cool Earth Solar's offices. Lamkin credited former Sandia/California Vice President Rick Stulen for championing the partnership and shepherding it to fruition.

In addition to the Sandia /LVOC deployment, Cool Earth Solar is developing commercial sites for the future deployment of its technology in northern California and Texas. "We've spent years developing the technology, so now it's time to deploy it and invite the public to come see it," said Lamkin.

NIF RESEARCH

(continued from page one)

and fusion energy.

A near-term goal of the NIF is to demonstrate "ignition," or energy breakeven, which would mark the culmination of more than 50 years of effort and is a principal research pillar of the NNSA's mission.

The National Academies stated that the target physics programs on the NIF (and related facilities) "should receive continued high priority."

The report found that so far as target physics is concerned, "it is a modest step from NIF scale to IFE scale."

As a result, the recommendation is that, "planning should begin for making effective use of the NIF as one of the major program elements in an assessment of the feasibility of inertial fusion energy." The report states that this should include appropriate economic analyses of inertial fusion

power plants, within a comprehensive system engineering approach.

"In the event that ignition is achieved on the National Ignition Facility or another facility, and assuming that there is a federal commitment to establish a national inertial fusion energy R&D program, the Department of Energy should develop plans to administer such a national program (including both science and technology research) through a single program office." The report also talked about an area of concern, "The issue of proliferation from research facilities will have to be dealt with long before proliferation from potential power plants becomes a concern." Issues include the possibility of using the plant to create materials that are essential to the construction of nuclear weapons.

The report said of NIF and future research, "It will likely take significantly more than a year to gain a full understanding of the discrepancies between theory and experiment and to make needed modifications to optimize target performance."

The latest report follows one prepared for Congress in December that made a similar observation. The report, written by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), proposed a three year nationally-based program using NIF for a broad-based experimental program addressing a more diverse range of scientific issues and opportunities.

The emphasis at the facility will shift towards improving computer models until they match up with what has been measured experimentally. Once the codes and models are improved to the point at which agreement is reached, NNSA will be able to determine whether and by what approach ignition can be achieved at the NIF. While that does not mean the end of ignition experiments, it does mean that more of the beam-

time at NIF will be used to simulate nuclear weapons and for fundamental science, including some non-ignition work.

After three years of work to better understand the physics of ignition, the NIF program would be assessed again at the end of fiscal year 2015.

NNSA oversees management of the national laboratories for the Department of Energy.

MAILBOX

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

Thrift Store Open Sally Bystroff Board Member

The Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch Thrift Store is still active for the next six to twelve months and will continue to serve our customers. It is NOT going out of business. It continues to support work in behalf of youth in our area

and will continue to do so while it is still Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch. Once the Corporation is dissolved it will be handed over lock-stock-and-barrel, all of it, to another non-profit group in the valley who will continue to dedicate its monies to youth programs in the valley.

We are very pleased to stay in business with the Thrift Store and continue to be an active part of contributing to our community.

We are very grateful for the past support and urge you to continue to bring donations and patronize the Thrift Store.

'Assault Weapons' Dave Pastor Pleasanton

Over one hundred years ago, semi-automatic rifles became available to the public. About 50 years ago, the appearance began to change. Warm oiled wood became hard plastic and pistol grips morphed from wood extensions to separate pieces of alloy. The basic functions of these rifles did not change. About 20 years ago, the politicians began calling them "assault weapons" in order to scare their constituents. To this day, these rifles function as they did 100 years ago, but they are vilified by the press. Unacknowledged is the fact that they are the most popular style of rifle sold in this country with an estimated 10

(More MAILBOX, page 10)

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STUDY

(continued from page one)

City operates its own bus system. Fremont and Newark use AC Transit.

"There is a bit more of a nexus between the Valley and the Tri-Cities, as far as transit is concerned. We'll look at ridership, and see if there is a better way to run service. We can see if there would be better access to Livermore BART, and to jobs in Silicon Valley," said Haggerty.

Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti, who serves on the LAVTA

board, mentioned the study at the council meeting Feb. 19. He said, "We have concerns locally (about a possible merger with Tri-Cities), not that we are opposed, but mergers always sound better in theory."

"We don't want to solve Fremont's and Newark's problems -- no offense -- at our expense, because we have a system that works," said Sbranti.

LAVTA/Wheels general

Workers Sign Union Contract with Castlewood

Castlewood Country Club has agreed to a new three-year union contract with its workers through Unite Here Local 2850.

Union spokesperson Sarah Norr said the workers voted 44-1 to accept the contract, which will expire in February 2016.

Management locked out workers in February 2010, and agreed to let them back in October 2012. Some 46 of the original 61 locked-out workers returned. Others found permanent jobs elsewhere, or left the area.

The returned employees have been working under

the old union contract, which expired in 2009. Some replacement workers hired by management during the lockout will remain. However, the union returnees have first rights to job preferences and shift hours. All of the replacement workers will join the union.

The biggest sticking point after the old contract expired was the contribution to health care insurance made by management. There was agreement on cost for a single insured person, but not about cost of a plan that includes dependents.

In the old contract, management covered all of the insurance cost. With the rising cost of health care insurance, management said it would no longer do that. Workers said they were willing to pay \$225 per month, but management wanted the workers to shoulder more of the burden, and asked for \$330 for single coverage, and \$739 for a family of three or more. That figure went as high as \$850 per month in later negotiations, said Norr.

Under the agreement, workers will pay \$225 per month for health coverage, whether single or for a family, during the first two years, then \$150 in the last year.

After the agreement was concluded, the union sent a letter to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) urging the agency to drop its

action against Castlewood.

An NLRB official ruled against Castlewood management, and sided with the union's contention that management engaged in illegal practices during the lockout. Castlewood appealed that decision. The appeal has not been resolved.

If management were to lose, it would be obligated to pay the back wages to employees, less what they earned working at substitute jobs elsewhere. They also would have to pay locked-out workers all of the unemployment money that the state paid them. The workers, in turn, would pay the state back from the amount they received from Castlewood. If the workers found jobs during the lockout, they would have to pay the state the difference between their unemployment and their job earnings during the lockout period.

Norr said that waiting for resolution of the NLRB complaint could take years. It is not worth the trouble, especially since the workers would not be keeping all of the back pay.

If the NLRB drops the complaint, it would save Castlewood that financial obligation.

Castlewood management has given no estimate about how much money it has spent on the expenses associated with the lockout.

Castlewood general manager Jerry Olson did not return calls seeking comment on Friday and Monday.

One Castlewood worker, Jeanette Cardenas, was quoted in a union press release about the contract. "So many people told us that dishwashers and waitresses couldn't win against millionaires. We've learned that it doesn't matter who you are, if you stay strong and you're on the side of justice," she said.

Workers drew support from the community during the lockout. More than 60 Valley clergy members lent their backing. The NFL Players Association took a stand in favor of the workers.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty and Congressman Jerry McNerney were among the politicians who turned out to address rallies and marches at Castlewood.

PLEASANTON

(continued from page one)

are being revived. The building once occupied by Borders will get a tenant, as will the former TGI Friday's.

A national retailer "has made a commitment to move into the Domus store site (on Main Street). I know residents will be thrilled, so stay tuned for public announcements," said Thorne.

A sign of Pleasanton's prosperity is its annual average household income of \$127,000, one of the highest in the United States. The national average is \$61,000 and at the state level, \$65,000.

City government's financial resources are very good, said the mayor. The conservative policy of amassing funds before committing them to building projects, avoids the need to obtain loans and pay the interest charges. That has left the city free of major debt.

The only remaining debt is for the city's golf course. Thorne said, "It makes sense to pay that off. I would like to see the city debt-free during my term."

THORNE WANTS B1, WITH SUNSET

Looking ahead to this year, Thorne said that in dealing with traffic congestion, the city must still find funding to widen Highway 84 so cut-through traffic from the Central Valley won't clog Pleasanton streets.

Thorne said that Measure B1, which was defeated by a very small margin, was a flawed sales tax initiative. However, it would have funded 50 percent of the Highway 84 project.

"My belief is that if they bring back B1, it can be

improved with a reasonable, appropriate sunset clause. We could look back at the end of the sunset period to see if they (Alameda County Transportation Commission) did what they said they would do," said Thorne. He replaced former Mayor Jennifer Hosterman as the city's representative to ACTC after he was sworn in as mayor in December.

"I'll never support a tax that does not have a sunset clause. I don't think you should, either. If we get an appropriate sunset clause, I will support it, and I will ask you, too, to support it," he said.

Thorne went on to say that the Legislature is now looking for 55 percent approval for some taxes. "If that happens, there may not be a sunset clause in B1," said Thorne. With a 55 percent margin, the lack of a sunset clause could stay in the measure, and it would pass, since it almost passed last year, when it needed 66.7 percent.

THORNE BACKS C.E.Q.A. CHANGE

On economic development, Thorne said that he will work from his new position as one of 46 members of the League of California Cities board to try change aspects of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). He said he has heard "horror stories in Alameda County, about CEQA being used for nothing that had anything to do with the environment." He did not give any examples.

Thorne said, "This city will work regionally to

freeze regional development fees, and be a watchdog about rising fees with other regional agencies. This will ultimately improve the environment for companies who want to relocate to the Tri-Valley area."

Pleasanton also will be involved in efforts to create more recycled water for landscaping irrigation use, so there is less demand on potable water from Zone 7 Water Agency. It will help meet the state mandate to reduce water use by 20 percent per capita by 2020, he said.

Another topic mentioned by Thorne was the coming development of various sites around the city to address the housing/jobs imbalance that the state said that Pleasanton needs to fix.

"None of us is happy about the Legislature usurping local control over our destiny. But we will jumpstart the construction industry. I saw some of the projects coming forward. This image that we'll have high-rise ghettos lined up against the railroad tracks is just not true," said Thorne. The city has design standards, so coming forward, "I'll work with these folks to make sure that what they build, you and I will be proud of."

Thorne closed with the remark, "It is a self-evident truth that Pleasanton is a world class city. If we hold fast to that truth, our journey will move forward; our future will be bright; and the state of our city will always be strong."

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SPORTS NOTES



Pictured are high school wrestlers headed to the state championships this week. They are, from left, Kyle Campiotti, Tyler Rardon, Nicolas Lang, and Angel Beltran.



The St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) CYO SM/SC 4th Grade Girls Basketball team "Tuff Girls" captured the CYO 4th Grade Girls Championship. Pictured are Coaches Craig Waugh, Gary Arruda, and Glen Brongiel; (top row) Wyatt Nostrand, Kelena Brongiel, Athena Lewis, Hannah Whitelock, Ashley Emmanuelle, Mercedes Valverde, Jackie Urban, Haiden Arruda; (front row) Kendall Waugh and Erin Schrader.



The Livermore Aquacowboys swam at the Albany Armada Aquatics Zone 2 Distance meet on February 23, 2013 in Albany. Swimming for LAC were Megan Wilcox, Tori Carroll, Caroline Eckel and Matthew Hayes.



Pictured are West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy gymnasts Jasmine Saucelo, Sara Ling, and Megan Quint.

Four Qualify for State Wrestling Championships

Livermore and Granada High Schools will be well represented at the California State Wrestling Championships on March 1st and 2nd in Bakersfield. Livermore's Tyler Rardon and Nicolas Lang, along with Granada's Kyle Campiotti and Angel Beltran all qualified by placing in the North Coast Section Masters Tournament this past weekend at Newark Memorial High School.

Livermore's Rardon, with a record of 41-3 on the year, came in as the number 1 seed at 152 pounds. He won the NCS title with a 5-3 victory over the third seed Joey Clay from Rancho Cotate. This was the second straight North Coast Section title, and state appearance for the senior Rardon, who is the #9 rated wrestler in the state.

Coming in with an overall record of 39-6 on the season, Granada's Campiotti, the number one seed at 160 pounds, and 35th ranked wrestler in state, won the section title with a 10-1 victory over third seeded Healdsburg wrestler Dominic Merlo. The senior Campiotti, an All-League football player, only gave up 4 points in the tournament while finishing the tournament with three majors, a tech fall, and a pin.

At 145 pounds, sixth seeded wrestler Nicolas Lang of Livermore won the section title with a 3-2 overtime victory against the number one seeded Payton Russom of De La Salle. Lang, with an overall record of 22-6, completed his great run to the championship by beating the number one, two and three seeded wrestlers to advance to Bakersfield. Lang is the 20th wrestler in the state at 145lbs. This is the second straight year Lang

has medaled at masters.

Rounding out the state qualifiers is 20th state wrestler Angel Beltran of Granada. Beltran, a junior and number two seed, coming in with a record of 34-7, took second place after a hard fought 9-6 loss to the number one seeded Jacob Macalooloy of James Logan in the finals of the 138 pound weight class. Beltran, who also placed eighth last year at masters, looks to continue his great year.

Wrestling championship bouts start at 9:00 am on Friday, March 1st in Bakersfield.

Pleasanton Ballistic

Pleasanton Ballistic Premier 99 Under 14 boys soccer team closed out the NorCal National Premier League Winter season with a dramatic 1-0 win over Pacific Soccer Academy. With the game tied 0-0 left back Kyle McClanahan sent an early cross in behind the defense. Striker Blake Tucker pressured the onrushing PSA keeper forcing a poor clearance that ended up on the foot of Youki Chiba. Chiba, seeing the keeper was caught well off his line chipped the ball into the goal from 25 yards for the game winner with two minutes remaining.

In the first half Ballistic nearly scored in the 14th minute when Blake Tucker's shot to the far post was nearly headed into the goal by Sam Christensen. Keeper Blake Staniford and his backline of Chris Machi, Jacob Dremalas, Imran Matin, and Kyle McClanahan put in a fine effort to earn the clean sheet.

Top offensive players: Blake Tucker, Youki Chiba. Top defensive players: Blake Tucker, Youki Chiba. The Premier 99 finish the Winter season with a record of 4 wins, 1 draw, and 3 losses.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Amador Valley High School girls varsity basketball team advanced to the semifinals of the North Coast Section (NCS) division I finals with a 47 to 39 win over the Foothill Falcons. Overall, Aria Mack led the Lady Dons with 14 points, 8 rebounds, and 3 assists, followed by Alysse Ketner with 13 points and 9 rebounds. The Lady Dons played the Monte Vista Mustangs on Feb. 27 for a trip to the finals.

WCOGA Gymnastics

The West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy optional gymnasts competed in the following meets:

San Diego Classic hosted by Poway Gymnastics on January 26, 2013. Level 7 gymnast Megan Quinton placed 1st on bars and 6th all around.

2013 Mardi Gras Invitational hosted by North Bay Athletic Association in Vallejo on February 9, 2013. Level 7 Younger Division: Jasmine Saucelo placed 3rd on bars and beam and 2nd all around. Sara Ling placed 1st on floor and 2nd on vault. Older Division: Megan Quinton placed 4th on beam and 5th all around.

Spirit of the Flame Challenge hosted by Golden Bear Gymnastics Academy-Berkeley on February 23, 2013. Level 7 Jr. A Division: Jasmine Saucelo placed 1st on bars with 9.2. Sara Ling placed 3rd on beam with 9.15. Jasmine and Sara tied for 2nd place all around with 35.475. Sr. B Division: Megan Quinton placed 1st on beam with 9.00, 2nd on bars and 3rd all around with 35.325.

much for your help.

Run, Walk

Axis Community Health's first-ever fun, foolish, and fabulous 5K Walk & Run takes to the streets on Sunday, April 7th.

The event starts at the future Axis location, 5925 West Las Positas Blvd., in Pleasanton's Hacienda Business Park.

Axis is the sole provider of affordable, quality primary medical care in the Tri-Valley. Families turn to Axis for immunizations, prenatal care, chronic disease management, and other needs. By helping people stay healthy, Axis is helping lower healthcare costs by preventing the need for more expensive care, according to Compton. In addition to medical care, Axis offers behavioral health and WIC nutrition services and serves more than 14,000 Tri-Valley residents at its current five sites.

Registration includes a commemorative tech T-shirt. Registration fee is \$30 for adults until April 3, \$35 after; and \$15 for youth (17 or under) until April 5, \$20 after. Event logistics are by On Your Mark Events. Runners can win medals in their age division.

Livermore Aquacowboys

The Livermore Aquacowboys Seniors competed at the Cabrillo Threshers Senior II T&F swim meet in Santa Cruz on February 16-18, 2013. Swimming for the Livermore Aquacowboys were Nathan Boas, Shelby Diehl, Katie Kulp, Stephen Mackanic, Trent Trump, Nina Hayes, Haley Hamza, Bryce McLaggan, Celine Nguyen and Jenna Chew. Finalists were Bryce, Nina, Trent, Haley and Stephen. Achieving new best times for the Livermore Aquacowboys seniors were Jenna Chew, Shelby Diehl, Stephen Mackanic and Bryce McLaggan.

Jr. Football Signup

Livermore Junior Football League is registering players for the 2013 season.

LJFL is founded under the principle that every Livermore child who wants to play football or cheer should have the opportunity.

Due to its success over its six-year existence and the support of LARPD and the high school football programs, LJFL is expanding to all children aged 7 through 14 (as of September 1, 2013). Football participants will learn the fundamentals of contact football in a safe and positive environment and play regardless of talent level or ability. Cheer participants will learn the fundamentals, cheer at games and compete locally. All games will be played in Livermore at the high schools. All practices will take place in Livermore. The season begins on August 1 and concludes in early November. Online registration is open at www.LJFL.org.

There is an early registration discount of \$50.00 for football and \$25 for cheer. Registration cost increases after April 30. Each player pays a \$35 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 April 30.

Anyone interested in coaching is invited to go to www.LJFL.org and register by filling out an application to start the process. LJFL provides training for all coaches; no experience necessary.

Registration will close when the league reaches 16 teams. No players are ever cut. All players play the entire game on offense or defense. Players are not limited to a few plays per game. Everyone plays the entire game.

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

Help Granada LL

For anyone who has ever been involved with Granada Little League here in Livermore, whether as a board member, coach, umpire, volunteer, parent or player, we need your help. We are looking for any information you may have, including pictures, stories, or documents, that may help us capture the history of Granada Little League that started back in 1967. If you have any information to share, please send it to glhistory@comcast.net, along with your contact information. Thanks so



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Dublin High School Gales varsity boys basketball team, seeded second in the North Coast Section D-II field, beat No. 7 Concord 86-69. Cameron Moses scored 22 points and collected eight rebounds to lead the win. Dublin takes on Mt. Eden (Hayward) in a semifinal game.

Prizes include Best Costume in adult, teen, and team categories, as well as top fund-raiser in each category. The event takes place rain or shine. To register, sponsor or volunteer, go to www.AxisAprilFools5K.org or call 925-201-6221.

by the 12 host cities as needed. Volunteers must be over the age of 18 or accompanied by an adult. Shortly after filling out the online form at www.amgentourofcalifornia.com, applicants will be contacted by their local organizing committee with further information.

Stage 7 on Sat., May 18 follows a route through Livermore to the summit of Mount Diablo.

For more information, please visit www.AmgenTourofCalifornia.com.

Bike Race Volunteers

Fans have the unique opportunity to experience the 2013 Amgen Tour of California, from the inside.

Race organizers are recruiting nearly 5,000 volunteers to assist with the race along the approximately 750-mile course from Escondido to Santa Rosa, May 12 - 19, 2013. Volunteer registration is now open at www.amgentourofcalifornia.com.

Many of the volunteer positions available are Course Marshals, a critical race duty. Course Marshals are assigned along the race course to assist race staff and local law enforcement authorities in each city. They have the opportunity to be on the race route and close to the cyclists, helping to monitor pedestrian traffic, barricades and road closures, as well as keeping spectators informed as the race is in progress.

Additional volunteer positions, such as media support, security and volunteer check-in, are being recruited

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¹ Special election periods constitute periods outside of the usual IEP, AEP or MADP when an individual may elect a plan or change his/her current plan election.

² Criteria for qualifying during SEP is determined by the plan at time of enrollment. Some restrictions may apply. Contact plan for more info.

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Young visitors enjoy a hands-on craft at the museum.

Valley Children's Museum Offers Variety of Activities

By Carol Graham

"I don't remember the last time I was able to relax at my child's birthday party," said Stacy Nguyen after hosting her son's 6th birthday party at the Valley Children's Museum on February 23rd. "This party could not be more perfect."

From a list of activities, Nguyen chose three for the partygoers: God's Eyes, Corn Husk Dolls and Prairie Candy. "They had so much fun learning about what they were making and eating," said Nguyen. "Even the parents had fun doing the activities."

The two-year-old Valley Children's Museum is growing like most youngsters do: by leaps and bounds. The museum, located in Dublin's Emerald Glen Park, is open the second Saturday of each month year round. It offers visitors a chance to explore and experience historical California life through exhibits, crafts and hands-on activities. The museum is also open during the Dublin Farmers' Market each Thursday evening from April to September.

Brand new this year, the museum offers the opportunity to host birthday parties for up to 20 children, and provides a program for 4th-grade classes called the Mission Experience.

Educators can book a 90-minute session and do play-based activities that will bring the mission experi-

ence to life," said Education Program Manager Helga Glasson. "Children will experience a day in the lives of missionaries and Native Americans, and discover the important role they played in shaping California's history."

Students will engage in activities such as Mission Detectives, Mission Chair building, Basket Weaving and the Games of Staves or the Shell Game. Each child receives a full-color workbook filled with mission facts, activities to try at home and puzzles.

"Mission Experience provides students with an affordable, local opportunity to experience mission history and its influence on life today," added Glasson.

The museum is currently housed in a 52-foot, state-of-the-art mobile structure. A permanent building will be constructed within the Dublin Crossings project scheduled to break ground next month.

"Valley Children's Museum has been tireless in its effort to establish a children's museum in the Tri-Valley," said Dublin Operations Manager Linda Spencer. "We are delighted to have the partnership of the City of Dublin to make that possible."

Along with the City of Dublin's support, the museum is primarily funded through donations from

sponsors including Standard Pacific Homes, Studio Blue and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. Visitors are asked to contribute a \$5 donation.

"We would love to have more volunteers," said Spencer. "A retired teacher who volunteers said she just loves to see the children's creativity, the way their minds work, and their enthusiasm. It's a rewarding opportunity to help with activities."

Saturday activities for visitors involve timely and seasonal themes: in January, children created cloudburst mobiles; in February, bug Valentines; and on March 9th, youngsters will learn to "Save, Spend, and Share" through a presentation and piggybank craft sponsored by KeyPoint Credit Union.

Throughout the year, children can take part in projects such as making kites, covered wagons, Ohlone headbands, and clothespin dolls.

"Our mission is to spark the excitement of lifelong learning," said Spencer. "Children learn through doing - on their own and in groups. Even grownups enjoy participating in that experience along with having a place to gather with others who have the same objectives."

To plan a visit, schedule a field trip, volunteer or donate, visit www.valley-childrensmuseum.org.

Shadow Cliffs Water Slides To Be Gone Forever

The water slides at Shadow Cliffs Park will be the last anyone ever will see there, an East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) committee has decided.

The EBRPD board's operations committee examined the two bids that came in for a new water slide operation at the park. Neither one had even a remote chance at success, said committee member Ayn Wieskamp, who represents the Valley.

Both bids were submitted by Texas-based Harvest Family Entertainment. One plan would use the 3.5 acre site currently there. The other would have expanded the operation to somewhere between 8 and 11 acres.

Once committee members heard Harvest's terms to build the facility, they knew it would not work, said Wieskamp.

The district is firmly resolved not to spend one penny on a new facility. All costs would fall to the operator. The park district would simply try to grant a long-term lease so the operator

could make a profit. However, Harvest wanted EBRPD to pay 80 percent of the construction costs, and also wanted the park district to take a smaller share of the concession money than in the request for proposal (RFP), said Wieskamp.

"Basically, they expected a much larger crowd every day. It would be like a special event day. The park couldn't take that, neither could the neighbors or the street (because of the congestion)," said Wieskamp.

EBRPD already knows how residents near Shadow Cliffs feel about noise from the park. It's noisy on Independence Day, said Wieskamp.

Both the small and large plans counted on reaching a much larger marketing area than just the Valley, said Wieskamp.

The existing slides, which were installed by park founder Glenn Kierstead when it opened in 1981, will be removed. It's not clear when that would occur, said EBRPD assis-

tant general manager Jim O'Connor. There are no funds in this calendar year budget, he said.

O'Connor said that when EBRPD put out the call for proposals for a new facility, people in the business told him they thought it was viable within the parameters set by the district. Harvest was the only firm that responded.

Many Pleasanton residents were hoping that someone could revive the slides. The Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Commission backed the idea at a meeting. Some commissioners reminisced about how they or their children used the slides in the past. Many hundreds of Valley residents, mostly in Pleasanton, signed a petition urging the district to reopen the facility.

There will be a small reminder of the slides. Long-range plans for the park call for a small splash pool for children's play near picnic tables. It may be a long wait, though. EBRPD is backlogged for years in its capital improvement funding.

Survey Finds Businesses Like Pleasanton As a Location

Nine out of ten businesses believe Pleasanton is an excellent or good place to do business.

That was just one piece of information presented to the Pleasanton City Council regarding the results of a survey initiated by the city's Economic Vitality Commission. The survey was conducted both by telephone and on-line.

Pamela Ott, economic development director, summarized the findings. She said that the businesses who responded particularly cited that Pleasanton's central location provides access to regional markets. Businesses said they feel supported by the community. In assessing Pleasanton's location, all of the factors were rated above good. They include attracting qualified employees, retaining qualified employees, attracting and accessing customers, accessing vendors, and finding an appropriate

business space. Ott said that one of the themes that emerged was that city rules and regulations make it hard to get things done.

Infrastructure and services received good ratings with the exception of telecommunications and public transportation systems, Ott continued. Those two areas received a ranking below "good."

When it comes to amenities, the city received ratings of "good," in all categories with the exception of entertainment. Ott said the questioning did not delve into what type of entertainment is missing. Public schools, recreational activities, variety of restaurants, and community events rated high.

City services received a range of marks. Public safety, community beautification and property appearance standards ranked between good and excellent. The per-

mit processing and business recruitment were between fair and good. Ott said that about half of those surveyed rated the permitting process as easy to very easy; half ranked it difficult to very difficult. It may depend on what type of permit is being sought, she surmised.

"The good news is that staff ranked high to very high in the permitting process," she added.

Comments regarding permitting suggested that the city limit requirements while still meeting city standards. Permits need to be less expensive.

Ott said the survey demonstrates that while the city does many things well, we're not perfect. There are some areas we can work on improving. The survey will be used as a baseline for future surveys.

Mayor Jerry Thorne said, "It seems to me that a lot of what respondents are talking about is based on perception. We are working on establishing a set of performance measures with the intent to improve the perception."

Livermore Plans for Fast Responses to Legislation

The City of Livermore is moving ahead with state legislative platform guides to assist staff in responding to actions being considered in Sacramento.

Setting guides will allow city staff to respond more quickly to legislation that would impact the city, because they would not have to return to the council for direction.

Using the guides, city staff would connect and communicate with state legislators regarding issues and impacts from the city's perspective. The platform establishes eleven categories of interest. Within each area, the platform identifies potential actions the city would oppose, support, or monitor.

Donna Pontau, senior management analyst for the city, noted, "Local control is the core tenant. The city would oppose any legislative attempts to restrict local authority or decision-making." The guidelines state that a city should not incur additional costs to comply with any new regulations.

Staff would monitor all CEQA legislation and support efforts to eliminate redundant, costly and cumbersome mandates and restrictions.

The second area of interest focuses on energy, science and innovation. Pontau stated, "As the only city in

the United States with two national laboratories, energy, science and innovation play important roles in the local economy, workforce and community values." The city would generally support actions that would provide funds for projects in transportation and renewable energy.

"Fiscal stability is another major category," continued Pontau. The city would oppose diversion of local funds and state mandates with no or inadequate funding to implement or maintain the mandates. There would be objections to legislation that initiates oversight of local finances. City staff would monitor possible revisions to Proposition 13.

Housing and planning is yet another area of interest to the city. The city's platform

would support measures that promote the development of housing within the city for all economic segments of the population. It would also favor land use patterns that maintain safe residential neighborhoods, bolster economic prosperity, preserve open space and enhance overall quality of life.

Public safety, infrastructure rehabilitation, job creation and economic development, transportation and parking development limits, climate, sustainability and water are also listed as categories of interest.

With regard to transportation, the guidelines note that funding is a major barrier to progress in this area. "State interference on parking allocations also threatens local control for making sound planning decisions for future

Livermore developments."

Water was a point of discussion for the council. Doug Horner suggested that stating support of new water conveyance systems should be changed to monitor efforts to build such systems. "Support would depend on conservation and benefits to Livermore," he said.

Mayor John Marchand supported the change in the water guidelines. He suggested adding wording that the city would monitor impacts of fracturing. Marchand also wanted wording in

housing to be changed from affordable to workforce. "We want people to be able to live and work in the community."

Horner proposed modifying transportation guidelines from "support" to "monitor" any future plans for Measure B1 spending. It would be dependent on money being funneled back to Livermore or guarantee BART to make sure Livermore receives its fair share.

Other councilmembers agreed.

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JACK THE GIANT SLAYER (PG13) DLP D-BOX	1:10 4:00 6:45 9:25
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER 3D (PG13) DLP	11:45 2:30 5:10 8:00
21 AND OVER (R) DLP	12:05 2:25 4:50 7:20 9:45
THE LAST EXORCISM PART II (PG13) DLP	11:55 2:20 4:45 7:15 9:40
SNITCH (PG13) DLP	12:00 2:30 4:50 7:15 9:35
DARK SKIES (PG13) DLP	12:15 2:40 5:05 7:25 9:45
A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD (R) DLP	11:45 2:25 5:00 7:30 9:55
SAFE HAVEN (PG13) DLP	1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH (PG) DLP	11:50 2:00 4:15 6:35 8:45
IDENTITY THIEF (R) DLP	1:50 4:35 7:00 9:40
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) DLP	12:45 3:45 6:45 9:30
PHANTOM (R) DLP	12:50 3:45 6:50 9:30
ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) DLP	1:00 4:30
WARM BODIES (PG13) DLP	8:00

PREVIEW, MARCH 7TH:

OZ: THE GREAT AND POWERFUL 3D (PG) DLP	9:00 PM
OZ: THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) DLP D-BOX	9:00 PM
DEAD MAN DOWN (R) DLP	10:00 PM

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW - SAT @ MIDNIGHT

New on tap: Livermore's own
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Best Actor - Daniel Day Lewis

LINCOLN
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Maggie Smith stars in Dustin Hoffman's directorial debut

QUARTET
Fri - Sun: 1:20 4:30 6:45 8:50
Call for Mon - Thurs show times

LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

VOLUNTEER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Volunteer Advisory Bodies are the perfect place to get involved and make a difference in your community. The City of Livermore is seeking Livermore residents for the following bodies:

Beautification Committee: Reviews and recommends to City Council beautification projects for parks, roadsides, medians, city gateways, and standards for landscape maintenance districts. Public outreach achievements include Earth Day, Arbor Day and Annual Appearance Awards. One vacancy. Meets: 1st Wednesday at 6:00 pm, Maintenance Service Center, 3500 Robertson Park Road. Next meetings: 3/6/13 & 4/3/13.

Historic Preservation Commission: Responsible for identifying, protecting and preserving Livermore's historic resources. Their successes are visible in the beauty of Livermore's historic structures and landmarks. Three vacancies. Meets: 1st Thursday at 7:30 pm, Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue. Next meetings: 3/7/13 & 4/4/13.

Livermore Housing Authority: The purpose of the Authority is to administer and oversee the 125 low-income housing units at Leahy Square. Additionally, the Authority oversees the Section Eight Certificate Program and the Voucher Program for subsidized housing. One vacancy. Meets: 2nd Wednesday at 5:30 pm, 3203 Leahy Square. Next meeting: 3/13/13.

Library Board of Trustees: The Board helps to set goals and objectives for the broad variety of services and programs provided by the Livermore library and recommends policy modifications to the City Council. Two vacancies. Meets: 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm, Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue. Next meetings: 2/28/13 & 3/28/13.

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

Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office by Friday, April 5, 2013, 5:00 pm.

World Series Trophies Coming to Livermore

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District will host the San Francisco Giants World Championship Trophy Tour presented by Bank of America on Saturday, March 2, at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

Fans will get the opportunity to have their photo taken with the 2010 and 2012 Major League Baseball's Commissioner's Trophies, crafted by Tiffany & Co. The stop with LARPDP is part of a three-month public tour to share the MLB Commissioner's trophies with Giants fans in Junior Giants communities throughout Northern California.

LARPDP operates Randy Johnson Field, named for the former Giants pitcher who went to Livermore High School. The field is home to Livermore's own Junior Giants, a free and noncompetitive baseball program providing opportunities for children to demonstrate confidence and leadership, to link with adult mentors and to develop a strong understanding of the importance of literacy and healthy living. This will be the fourth year for Junior Giants in Livermore. Fans having their photo taken with the

trophies will have the opportunity to support LARPDP's Junior Giants by making a voluntary contribution.

The LARPDP stop on the tour will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

There have been a large number of fans attending each of the trophy viewings. The Giants intend to accommodate as many fans as possible during the viewing time period. Fans can take photos of the trophies with their personal cameras up to a designated area while waiting in line. Once fans have reached that designated area, only the professional photographers will be allowed to take a posed photo of you or your group.

Fans are advised to arrive early as the line will be cut off, if needed, to allow the trophies to leave at the designated end time. A Giants representative will assess and determine a cutoff point in line.

A fan arriving during the designated viewing time is not automatically guaranteed a photo with the trophies. Fans are accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Meet an Olympian at the Pleasanton Public Library

The Pleasanton Public Library is pleased to present Barbra Higgins, who represented Panama in the fencing competition at the 1984 Olympics, as a guest speaker on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

Higgins will share her first-hand experiences of competing in the Olympics, show fencing equipment and talk about her sport. She will also bring film highlights featuring our own Northern California Olympians.

Higgins is Vice-President and CFO of the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame, and an

Executive Board member of the Northern California Olympians Alumni Association. A popular and accomplished speaker, her inspirational life and message will entertain and inspire both adults and children.

No registration is required for this free event, which is suggested for those age 8 and older. For more information about this and other children's library programs, visit the library website at: www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us

or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.

ZONING

(continued from page one)

more than six people living in it, would be a permitted use in the multifamily residential district. No special approval would be required, nor would the city need to be notified.

An emergency shelter would provide minimal supportive services. A stay is limited to six months or less. Two locations were approved. One is off of Old Santa Rita Road, the other is within the Valley Business Park on Stanley Boulevard. A shelter would be allowed a maximum of 50 beds to house 50 people. The ratio would be one bed per 400 square feet. Exterior and interior areas would be provided for clients. On-site management and security would be required as would a shelter management plan.

Supportive housing managers could not place a limit on the length of stay. The use would be linked to onsite or offsite services that assist the residents in retaining housing, improving health status

and maximizing the ability to live, and, when possible to work in the community. This type of housing is geared towards a target population. One example would be a home where those who are developmentally disabled might reside.

Transitional housing would include a predetermined length of time when a person might live there. The period would be no less than six months.

Thorne asked if approving the zoning would create a huge demand for such uses.

Community Development Director Brian Dolan explained that it would be very difficult, despite the need, to acquire land and the funding package to put one together in Pleasanton.

Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio asked if there were homeless shelters elsewhere in the valley. Staff replied there are none in Dublin. Three are located in Livermore.

MAILBOX

(continued from page 4)

million sold by over 25 different US manufacturers. In case you missed it, the rifle found at the Sandy Hook shooting never left the trunk of the car. Four handguns were used.

A new bill introduced in Sacramento, SB374, will call ANY semi-automatic rifle with a detachable magazine an "assault weapon" including the previously legal "bullet button" equipped rifles, and require you to register it with the State as such. This will include rimfire as well as centerfire rifles. Your little Ruger 10/22 will be a controlled "assault weapon." You will not be able to sell it, give it to your children, or will it. It will have to be taken out of state or destroyed when you die. Don't believe me, look up call legislative info on the web. And you thought that an all Democratic government would rule benevolently.

Boy Scouts Walter D. Harvey Livermore

A recent campaign by some activists to pressure the Boy Scouts of America to allow homosexual men to be BSA troop leaders would have BSA ignore the long and tragic history of sexual abuse within the Catholic Church and its ongoing disastrous fallout. I doubt that the scouts themselves, their parents and current troop leaders are responsible for this campaign. Instead, it undoubtedly is coming from individuals and organizations that do not have, nor ever will have, responsibilities for dealing with the potential consequences of what they are advocating for an organization that they don't belong to. Maybe Pope Benedict, after he steps down, would be willing to offer the BSA some fatherly advice on how to deal with this issue.

Congressman Swalwell Joins the Rancho Runners

By Patricia Koning

Newly elected Congressman Eric Swalwell made good on one of his campaign promises—to go running with students at Rancho Elementary School in Livermore. He did so on Feb. 22. "I try to run every day," he said. "So I figured why not come here and let these energetic kids set the pace for a faster workout."

In his campaign for California's 15th Congressional seat, Swalwell spent a lot of time walking through neighborhoods and going door-to-door to introduce himself to voters. One of those doors that he knocked on belonged to Dave Hinds, a former Rancho parent.

"I told him if he were elected, he needed to come run on our track," said Hinds. "On election night, I showed up at his party to remind him of that promise."

Swalwell is not the first distinguished visitor to make a stop at Rancho. "Miracle on the Hudson" pilot Captain Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger and his wife Lorrie attended the dedication of the school's track in 2010 and ultra-marathon runner Dean Karnazes visited in 2008.

In 2009, the school made national headlines when it won the top prize—\$100,000 worth of fitness equipment—in the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports awards. Rancho students gave away the prize to Tuolumne Elementary in Modesto because they felt the Tuolumne had a greater need for the fitness equipment.

In 2010, Hinds and Bret Dupuis, another Rancho parent, fulfilled a longheld dream of building a quarter-mile track at the school for the Rancho Running club



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Congressman Eric Swalwell leads students around the track.

and physical education program. Students in the Rancho Running club have run over 250,000 miles since the club began in 2006 and top runners log several hundred miles in a school year. The first of its kind in Livermore, the Rancho Runners inspired running clubs at many other area elementary schools.

While Hinds and Dupuis no longer have children attending Rancho, they have stayed involved with the running club. Rancho parent Heather Boyd has taken over day-to-day operations of the running club. She created a Running Club Wall of Honor in the school's multipurpose room that keeps a tally on the all-time mileage total, annual mileage totals, individual mileage record, mile challenge winners, and Hall of Fame.

"Heather is personally responsible for making sure the legacy of the running

program is proudly represented and inspirational to current and future athletes," said Dupuis. "We need more people like Heather. We are proud to have her as a part of the Rancho family."

Swalwell visited Rancho on the monthly Family Friday, which falls on the last Friday of the month. Parents are invited to run and walk with their children while music plays on the track. After the kids head to their classrooms to start the schoolday, parents can stick around for coffee with principal Chris Calabrese.

After running a few laps, Swalwell spent some time talking with the kids. A native of Dublin and former member of the Dublin City Council, he shared his first experience running for office.

"My first race was for student body president in the fourth grade and I lost.

I lost badly," he said. "But I didn't give up. I ran again in the fifth grade and I won. I promised soda machines and longer recess and you can guess how that turned out. I learned a valuable lesson not to make promises I couldn't keep."

He answered questions from the students. He was asked whether he'd ever met the President. "I met President Obama for the first time a few weeks ago, and it felt to me like he was eight feet tall," said Swalwell.

He described being a Congressman as "pretty thrilling." He's worked on Capitol Hill before. In 2001, Swalwell was a staffer for former Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher in her Washington DC office.

"I'm still mindful of where I came from," he said. "This is where I grew up, so I only want the best for this area."

Dublin, ValleyCare Team up for 10 Week Wellness Challenge

The City of Dublin is partnering with ValleyCare Health System and Kaiser Permanente to create a program that motivates, educates, and empowers residents to achieve optimal health through a customized wellness challenge. From March 17 through May 25, 2013, the City of Dublin will be offering a "10 Week Wellness Challenge." By bringing together teams of friends, families, neighbors, and co-workers, Live Healthy Dublin will help to create a lifestyle of healthy habits, physical activity, improved nutrition, and weight loss.

Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti said, "The Wellness

Challenge is part of the Dublin City Council's initiative to increase the health and quality of life for all Dublin residents. It's a great way for people to join together in meeting mutually-beneficial goals."

The City of Dublin's 10 Week Challenge will be a team-centered physical activity and educational program that will assist the participant and teammates in making positive changes that lead to a healthier lifestyle. The participants register online and receive the following resources and items to make staying motivated easy:

- A Live Healthy training t-shirt

- Unlimited access to the online resource center, which includes training and nutrition software

- Coupons, plus activity, nutrition, and recipe tips via email

- Personalized online tracking page and journal

- A one-year subscription to a national lifestyle magazine

- Educational sessions and fitness activities

The program will kick-off during the City of Dublin's "Shamrock 5K Fun Run and Walk" on Sunday, March 17, and will feature a celebratory wrap-up event for team participants at the Dublin Farmers' Market on Thursday, May 30.

The cost to participate is \$5 for the first 250 registrants. After that, the price increases to \$20 per participant. Teams will be made up of 2-10 people, and will be categorized as to their level of activity (beginner, intermediate, or advanced); their affiliation (business, school, or friends and family); and main goal (weight loss or increased physical fitness activity). Teams will then compete against other teams from like categories, and can win the challenge based on how many team members achieve their goals.

For more information, go to: www.livehealthydublin.com or contact Dublin Parks and Community Services at (925) 556-4500.

Save Mount Diablo Selects New President

After fourteen years of leading Save Mount Diablo's Board of Directors, past President Malcolm Sproul, welcomed longtime fellow Board Member and supporter Scott Hein as he accepts the position as the new board president for 2013.

Both Sproul and Hein lend their scientific perspectives to assist with Save Mount Diablo's work to preserve, defend and restore the remaining unprotected 70,000 acres surrounding Mount Diablo. "We are fortunate to have amazingly talented and dedicated volunteers to assist with our work to preserve, defend and restore the Diablo wilderness. All of our Board and Committee members go above and beyond to share their expertise. We

welcome Scott in his new role as Board President," explained Executive Director Ron Brown.

In addition to Chairing the Land Committee and serving as a member of the Stewardship Committee, Hein has been a Board Member for more than a decade. He also happens to be a naturalist and nature photographer—providing Save Mount Diablo many of his gorgeous images of the wild lands and life in our backyard. "My personal expectation is that, if we are successful in our efforts to preserve its wild lands, we will one day have California Condors flying over the Diablo wilderness," Hein declared.

Hein earned a doctorate in Analytical Chem-

istry from Oregon State University and a B.S. in Chemistry from Indiana University. He is co-owner of Diablo Analytical, Inc, a small technology business located in Antioch. Hein was appointed by the Concord City Council to serve on the Community Advisory Committee for the Concord Naval Weapons Station Re-use Project. He has received Diablo Magazine's Threads of Hope award for his volunteer efforts with Save Mount Diablo. He and his wife Claudia, live in Concord.

Sproul served as President of Save Mount Diablo's Board of Directors from 1998 until 2012. An experienced field naturalist and Principal in natural resources management and environmental planning

at LSA Associates, he has spent most of his life exploring our local parks and open spaces. "I was the kid who hiked around the hills and brought back frogs, snakes and lizards. To know that there are kids growing up right now who want to get outdoors and that they have the opportunity, in part because of our work, is really satisfying," said Sproul.

Sproul continues to contribute his expertise as a member of Save Mount Diablo's Board of Directors, Land and Nominating Committees.

"We are grateful for Malcolm's leadership over more than a decade and his continued support as a member of our Board of Directors and Land Committee," said Land Programs Director Seth Adams.

AERIAL

(continued from page one)

after photos opposite of one another allows viewers a glimpse back in time. For those who knew the valley when it was comprised of wide open spaces, and for those who didn't, the photos are a treat to see. Also included are Shadow Cliff Water Slides, Bishop Ranch and the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

The book follows on the heels of Jones's Aerial Photography, a picturesque view of Del Valle and Los Vaqueros reservoirs, the Golden Gate Bridge and Yosemite, and the Farallon Islands, nicknamed the Devil's Teeth - a jagged ocean outcropping 30 miles west of San Francisco.

"Previously I collaborated on two books with Juliette Goodrich," Jones said of working with the CBS news anchor and reporter on The Little Light Shines Bright and The Train of Lights.

"In the last three months I've published three new books: the photography books and a poetry book by my grandmother," he added. "I do not publish books to make money, but it helps."

The Poetry of M.E.M. (Mable Elizabeth Montieth) is a collection of Jones's grandmother's poetry, primarily from 1920s and 30s, that simultaneously highlights both the similarities and differences between lives lived in separate centuries. In The Flapper, she writes, "She kept all the gossips busy, all the kind old ladies dizzy..." Another poem expresses concern about dating in 1931: "He'd



Aerial photos by Dick Jones show Stoneridge Mall in 1980 (lower photo) and in 2012.



have to climb from his lofty seat, come up the walk on his own two feet... In these modern days when a beau's a 'date,' and he calls the girlfriend 'Baby!'"

Jones may well have inherited his artistic bent from Mabel, as well as the industrious nature that M.E.M. commiserates about in the poem Wail of the House-

wife: "Can't you see the wild commotion, from the mountains to the ocean, if I ceased my faithful service for a day?"

In describing his own endeavors and accomplishments, Jones lists 32 occupations from grape picker to commercial pilot, TV commercial actor to high pressure installer, explosive designer to videographer.

"One of my future projects is to go through my nearly 60,000 photographs and share them with people who may not even know I have them," said Jones. "I was at the final party for Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch, which I've been involved with since the mid-70s. I found a video I'd made in 1986 when they were on the hill behind the VA Hospital and uploaded it for folks to see. I also have footage of air shows in the 80s. I'm finding some of the pilots and pointing them to the videos so their families can see them."

Jones's RJ Aerial business was started in the 60s, after he accepted a job at Sandia National Laboratories because, "They offered five weeks of vacation each year." Flying around the valley Jones would photograph ranches and buildings, then sell the images to the owners. After a hardscrabble couple of years, Taco Bell contacted him to photograph the restaurant's proposed sites to show traffic patterns and nearby schools or businesses.

"After a while, KFC, 7-Eleven and commercial real estate companies began to contact me, too," said Jones, whose recent work includes photographing the Livermore Premium Outlets, the Hayward School District, Los Vaqueros Reservoir and the Highway 84 extension.

For all his accomplishments, Jones is particularly proud of his 45-year marriage to wife Dodie - and the car that put a little dent in it four decades ago. He set out one day promising to purchase "a family car," and returned with a '67 GTO convertible, an acquisition that, for a time, put a frosty divide between the couple.

Supervisors To Hold Hearing on Zone 7 Independence Bid

By Ron McNicoll

Zone 7 Water Agency's bid for total independence from Alameda County will be the subject of a public hearing before the Alameda County Board of Supervisors Transportation and Planning Committee.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. March 5 in the county public works building, 4825 Gleason Drive, Dublin.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty, a member of the committee, said that supervisors want to make sure there is a public hearing before the county moves ahead with legislation concerning total independence.

"We want to have a hearing in the district, where most of the people affected can have the ability to voice any concerns," Haggerty told The Independent.

Zone 7 has achieved a great degree of independence in detaching from county government structure in operating its water service.

However, the county has resisted separation of the flood control operations of Zone 7. Officials contend that the Valley's flood channels are linked to inflow from Contra Costa and outflow southward to another county flood control zone. Separation would harm management of that arrangement.

Zone 7 has replied that for all practical purposes, it already is managing its channels, and hiring contractors to undertake most of the maintenance work.

Another aspect of separation is the political dimension. Sen. Mark DeSaulnier carried a bill that would have empowered Zone 7 to separate. Zone 7 said that method was consistent with the fact that the agency was set up by a state act in 1960.

However, DeSaulnier received calls from officials in Alameda and Contra Costa counties asking him to pull the bill, which he did. Some concern was also voiced in the ongoing discussion that a vote of the people in the Valley might be more appropriate to settle the independence question. The issue of flood control was also raised.

Also at issue is Dougherty Valley. Zone 7 resisted serving the area in the late 1990s. However, developers, who bought water rights from an agricultural district in the Central Valley, convinced the board to wheel water to DSRSD, which now

serves the water to nearly all of the 11,000 homes in Dougherty Valley.

Zone 7 has contended that it's only fair that Dougherty Valley residents be able to vote in Zone 7 elections. Whether people already in the Zone 7 area want to be joined by Dougherty Valley water customers has not been determined.

Zone 7 director Angela Ramirez Holmes said at the last Zone 7 meeting Feb. 20 that the upcoming hearing will mark the first time there will be a public discussion of the separation issue since DeSaulnier dropped his bill in May 2012.

One reference to the desirability of Zone 7 independence from the county came up at the Zone 7 meeting. General Manager Jill Duerig told the board that the county provided Zone 7 five days notice that its contract with a security firm was to be canceled. There were problems with insurance.

The firm that was canceled was hired separately from the one with which the county General Services Agency signed a contract for all other county security

services. Zone 7 called that firm, ABC Security, to step in and fill the gap. It will cost an estimated \$20,000 more than the old contract, until the expiration June 30.

Board president Sarah Palmer said, "If we had control over our own contract, we would not have to scramble on security."

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Dodie has since warmed to the classic car that's made numerous appearances in local parades and car shows.

"Yup," said Jones with a smile, "Same wife, same

car."

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Dublin Resident Brings His Folk Music Roots to Performances

By Carol Graham

While talking, Carl Tilchen frequently reaches for the honey blonde for the hourglass shape sitting next to him. Her name is Helen and they've been together three years.

Helen is a Gibson guitar purchased from an inheritance received from Tilchen's Aunt Helen, earning the name of honor. To punctuate certain points, Tilchen alternately strums, picks and taps his guitar.

"I got involved with the folk music movement of the '60s," said Tilchen, who began playing at age 19. "I hung out with Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger in Greenwich Village. We sang songs and put on hootenannies and music concerts."

Four decades later, Tilchen remains captivated by the music, having added jazz, blues and rock to his folk beginnings.

On Sunday, March 3rd, he'll perform at the Blackhawk Auto Museum's Family Day, playing a variety of car songs including Route 66, Thunder Road, Mustang Sally and American Pie.

"I'll also play original comedy songs like 'Google's No-Driver Car,' and 'Racing for the Common Man,'" he said.

In fact, Tilchen won the West Coast Songwriters' monthly Best Song award in December for I Just Want to Be Bob Dylan.



Carl Tilchen uses his guitar to tell stories.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

"When I heard interviewer Ed Bradley tell Bob Dylan, 'You're the voice of your generation, you're a folk rock relic, you're a '60s troubadour from bygone days, you're in the bottomless pit of cultural oblivion,'" I said, there's a song!" said Tilchen. "I sang those four lines and added, 'My guitar strings are broken, my harmonica screams, my old blue jeans fell apart at the seams, but I keep dreaming, these folk song scenes, I just want to be Bob Dylan.' The audience went wild and I got the best song award."

Tilchen grew up in Lynbrook (an anagram of Brooklyn), Long Island, later selling sound systems at Harvey Electronics, whose historical flagship store was located on Manhattan's Radio Row.

After acquiring a Bachelor's Degree in business, Tilchen earned a Master's Degree in education from Long Island University with the thesis: The Jug Band as an Integral Component to Twentieth Century American Music and Its Utilization in Contemporary Education.

"Nobody else had ever

done it before," Tilchen said with a laugh. "Right after the Civil War, the African American folks who had been slaves wanted to make music. Of course they had no money for musical instruments, so they picked up whatever they found: old whiskey jugs, washtubs and washboards. They made their music this way. It became a major influence on Louis Armstrong."

Tilchen spent a year traveling around Mexico, becoming fluent in Spanish, before ending up in the Bay Area where he worked

as a tour guide manager.

"I'd manage conventions coming into San Francisco as well as outbound tours all over the U.S.," he said. "I'd use my music to make the tours more fun for travelers. I loved it. I led an historical tour through Washington, DC and Virginia. Going past the harbor town where World War I ships had been built, I sang, 'I'm going to Newport News, take a battleship across the bay . . .'"

Along with playing at the Village Gate and the Bitter End in New York City, and the Bootlegger Bistro in Las Vegas, the Dublin resident performs locally at Yoshi's in San Francisco, DaKine Island Grill in Sunnyvale, and at the San Jose Jazz Summer Fest.

Tilchen's Blackhawk Auto Museum performance, from 2 to 5 p.m., is free with paid admission to the museum - \$7 for students and seniors, \$10 for adults.

For a preview, search Carl Tilchen on YouTube. To be placed on the mailing list for Tilchen's upcoming performances, email carltilchenmusic391@gmail.com.

"The music lives on. The songs will never die, and some of them have changed the world," Tilchen said. "I'm glad to sing the ones that make the world a better place."

East Avenue Presents "Seussical The Musical"

East Avenue Middle School's Drama Club "Acting Up!" is performing "Seussical the Musical."

"Seussical the Musical" is based on characters from at least fifteen Dr. Seuss books. This show is about the power of imagination and of believing in yourself. The Cat in the Hat acts as the Emcee to steer the audience through the world of Horton the Elephant, the Who's of Whoville, Miss Gertrude McFuzz, Yertle the Turtle, and other Dr. Seuss personalities.

East Avenue's Drama Club, "Acting Up!" has been rehearsing since October.

Directors Kelly Cartwright and Stephanie Fish have worked together for 8 years as volunteers, giving many children at Arroyo Seco and East Avenue Middle School the opportunity to take to the stage. Their efforts are strongly supported by the Boosters at East Avenue Middle School. "We believe this is such a great gift to give to the children. Stephanie and Kelly are dedicated, hard-working volunteers. The cast and the directors spend many hours rehearsing and the performances are always wonderful. Many of the children at East have gone on to participate in Drama Classes and Drama Club at the High School level," says Boosters President, Leslie Lemieux.

Showtime is at 7 p.m. on Fri., March 1 and Sat., March 2 (Dr. Seuss's birthday).

Admission is Free. However, donations in any amount are appreciated. Performances are at East Avenue Middle School's Multi-purpose room, 3951 East Avenue.



Harvest Park Middle School thespians show off the medals they won at the state competition.

Harvest Park Actors Garner Gold at Theater Festival

Student actors in Pleasanton's Harvest Park Middle School brought back medals from their first competitive tournament in theater.

A total of 32 students entered two separate categories and walked off with 64 medals, including 41 gold citations at the Middle Stage Festival on Feb. 9 in Elk Grove. It was the 12th annual festival, which is sponsored by the California Educational Theatre Association (CETA).

In addition, the young actors brought down the house in the new category of musical comedy, which Harvest Park drama teacher Leanne Bean suggested that the festival create.

The judges at the festival were so excited by Harvest Park actors' performance of music from "Grease" that they

arranged for them to perform in the school gym for all 300 attendees.

This was Harvest Park's first year at the festival. The students might not have gone, if their annual performance at the school had not been thwarted by a low budget this year.

"In lieu of the show, we went to the competition. It cost less, and was a great way to achieve that rush of performing," said Bean.

Even if Harvest Park returns to its regular schedule next year with a major performance, teacher and students want to go back to the festival. The event drew schools from Santa Cruz to the Sierra foothills. One of the judges was Shawn Ryan, who was a semifinalist on "America's Got Talent," and recorded two albums.

Because Harvest Park

pioneered the musical comedy category, CETA awarded gold medals to all the students who performed in "Born to Hand Jive" from "Grease." Spencer Shin was given special billing as the lead singer.

Other gold medal winners of the day were Alyssa Bardakos, Jenna Van Ommeren, Blake Staniford, Nick McGuire, Tim Michael, and Tyler Cavros for their group scene from "Breakfast Club."

Emma Patten, Katie Sullivan, Kelly Simms, Jocelynn Santamaria won gold for their group scene in "Mean Girls."

Myah Slaton, Hannah Macasta, Nagisa Smalheiser, Chloe Reddy, April Maestas, Kelly Simms, Jessica Lawer took gold for their musical small group entry "The Lion King," and Hannah So for her monologue, "Being a Teen-ager."



Work includes a sculpture by Matthew Nylander (left); Elemental by Engela Olivier-Wilson (above); and Four Seasons of Yosemite by Bill Hackett.



Exhibit Opening at the Harrington Gallery Focuses on 'California'

The Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center will host the unique exhibit titled "CALIFORNIA: Earth, Air, Water, Fire, Life." The installation interprets and honors nature in California, and features painter Engela Olivier-Wilson, photographer William Hackett, and sculptor/designer Matthew Nylander.

The exhibit opens Saturday, March 2, and runs through Saturday, April 6.

The gala opening reception event will be held on Wednesday evening, March 6. The reception is free and open to the public. Performance art will be presented by Le Tableau Magnifique Dance Company at 6:30 p.m.; reception with the artists from 7:00-9:00 p.m. All three artists will be in attendance.

The exhibit is a unique concept-installation in that it is a true collaborative venture among three artists working in completely different mediums. "Our goal is to deconstruct and reinvent the subject matter in such a way that it will create a fascinating and visually enticing experience for the viewer by combining styles, textures, media and perspectives in ways not done in most exhibitions," according to the artists' joint statement. "Paintings, photography, and sculptures (will) celebrate California's natural beauty as it has been shaped by the elements over the mil-

lennia. From the high mountain passes to the depths of the ocean, the gallery will be transformed to reflect major geological features of the state," says gallery director Julie Finegan.

All of the pieces in the show, with the exception of one painting, are new. Most of the work is large scale. Olivier-Wilson's largest work is 14 by 6 feet. Some highlights of the show include a three-dimensional coral reef, creative views of the stars and microscopic sea creatures, and functional sculptures from recycled materials.

Livermore resident William Hackett says photography is his passion and his muse. As a microbiologist he brings a scientific edge to the theme of this exhibit. He states that his work will "explore new technological angles and scientific perspectives, 'dissecting' California in ways that will invite the viewer into this exhibition much like Alice was enticed into Wonderland."

Matthew Nylander's large and economical wooden constructions symbolize the elements which can be found in air, forest, sky, sea. His approach is more conceptual, and very detail-oriented. "In terms of my personal philosophies, the natural world is just as powerful as the mechanical devices we invent to conquer it," says Nylander. He further explains his creative

thought process: "Placing an object in a space that defines it, that complements it, that engages it, is the real challenge."

Engela Olivier-Wilson is an award-winning painter who moved to the Bay Area from her homeland of South Africa. Her work in this exhibit attempts to create a visual environment which unifies and flows with the work of the other artists. In her words: "I listen and look for a long time before I create. I don't attempt to be merely representational in my work. Whether it is doing portraits of flowers or abstract installations, I zoom in, I change the angle, I deconstruct the subject-matter to the bare bones, I break open a world to the viewer to draw others into my 'mindspace'; to show others what I see."

All three artists lauded gallery director Julie Finegan. "Julie is an amazing, professional curator. She and the City of Pleasanton opened doors for us and are allowing us to do so many new things with this show," says Olivier-Wilson.

The Harrington Gallery is located inside the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Gallery hours are Wed.-Sat., 12-5pm, Sa. 11am-3pm, and also one hour before most performances and during intermissions. Admission for this exhibit is free. Donations are gratefully accepted.

“From Baroque to Jazz” 3 Ways from Pacific Chamber Symphony

The area's own resident professional chamber symphony plans a unique program featuring three different and creatively exciting presentations for its March 3 concert in Livermore.

The program includes the world premiere of a work by contemporary composer Christopher Caliendo. Mr. Caliendo's composition, "Cross Cultures No. 1 for String Symphony," consists of a suite of 3 pieces based on folk music styles from Argentina, Andalusia, and Russia. The suite is dedicated to the Pacific Chamber Symphony and its artistic director, Lawrence Kohl.

World-renowned virtuoso mandolinist Mike Marshall, accompanied by Pacific Chamber Symphony, will play two compositions; one of his own creation ("Mandolin Concerto No. 1 in G major") and "Concerto in G minor" by J.S. Bach. Mike Marshall is considered to be one of the world's most accomplished and versatile string instrumentalists in



American today. A master on mandolin, guitar, mandocello and violin, he has created some of the most adventurous instrumental music for over 35 years. His concert tours have taken him around the globe.

From there the program takes the listener on a trip to Cervantes's "Don Quixote" via Telemann's romantic and tragic "Don Quixote Suite" narrated by actor in residence, Livermore Mayor John Marchand.

The "Don Quixote Suite"

is a "programmed overture," according to Telemann himself. Its 8 short movements depict the adventures of Cervantes' heroine Don Quixote, including the "Attack on the Windmills" and "Sighs of Love for Princess Aline."

According to observers, the Pacific Chamber Symphony blends the power and tonal richness of a professional symphony orchestra with the intimate clarity and delicate nuances of a chamber music ensemble.

Under the guidance of Maestro Lawrence Kohl, these professionals offer insightful interpretations performed at the highest level.

The concert will be at 7:00 on Sunday, March 3, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$45/\$36/\$30, \$7 students, and can be purchased at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First St., Livermore, online at <http://tickets.livermoreperformingarts.org>, or by phone at 925.373.6800.

A "La Traviata" with a Twist

By Heidi Massie

Livermore Valley Opera's production of *La Traviata*, which opens Saturday, March 9, the first of four performances, will be complete with professional opera singers, beautiful costumes, full orchestra, and lavish sets. Although Verdi's opera is one of the most often performed operas throughout the world, this production will be different. It's *La Traviata*, with a twist.

Stage Director Brian Luedloff, the Associate Professor of Music and Director of Opera Theater at the University of Northern Colorado who directed LVO's 2011 production of *Madama Butterfly*, is looking forward to returning to the Bankhead Theater and sharing his creative vision of *La Traviata*.



Brian Luedloff

"*La Traviata* is truly one of the great operas of all time," said Luedloff. "The fantastic music matched with taught drama, and not a note or word out of place is what makes it so special. Verdi writes in a variety of styles here and in the process creates an emotional roller-coaster ride of love, passion and heartbreak. The

final scene is one of the most heart-wrenching moments in theater."

As Luedloff explains, his vision of the opera is unique, so much so that even opera aficionados who have seen *La Traviata* before will not want to miss LVO's production.

"We've gone back to the novel upon which the opera is based, Alexandre Dumas' fils' *La Dame aux Camellias* (The Lady of the Camellias), who in Verdi's opera is *Violetta*, a Parisian courtesan. We return the principal action to the 19th century setting, contemporary with Dumas' and Verdi's time and wishes.

However, Luedloff said he has added a "little twist."

"The audience will meet *Violetta* as a modern-day

woman in a hospital bed, dying of unknown causes, and reading the Dumas fils' text. As she falls into a deep sleep under the weight of morphine and hallucinates the events of *La Traviata* in the 19th century, as if they were the events of her own life. The performance culminates in a final act where reality and fantasy merge into one dramatic climax."

Though Luedloff has directed *La Traviata* before, he says that he never tires of it. "Every time I come back to the masterwork I discover new things, new layers. We've incorporated that idea into the scenic design using layers of drapes that pull back to reveal the secrets of the story." LVO's professional set designer Jean

(continued on page 5)

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Granada Students Travel to Washington for Inauguration

By Carol Graham

Two weeks into the new year, a group of high school students travelled nearly three thousand miles to witness an historic event taking place three weeks into the new year.

On January 21st, seven Granada High School students and a teacher joined 800,000 others on the National Mall to witness the second-term inauguration of President Barack Obama.

"It's a once-in-a high school opportunity because it only happens every four years," said senior Jeremy Martin. "At the inauguration we were in the very front, where we could see. Standing up and turning around, you just saw a sea of heads all the way past the Washington Monument. It was crazy."

Teacher Bob Mariotti arranged the trip through Close Up, a foundation whose mission is to inform, inspire and empower young people to exercise the rights and accept the responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy.

"Granada has been participating in this particular Close Up program since the 1970s," said Mariotti, who

teaches Advanced Placement Government and US History. "I had the opportunity to go to this inauguration and the last one. Going to Washington is a great hands-on opportunity for the students to develop an interest in government and history."

The group spent the week prior to inauguration day visiting the Holocaust Museum, the National Archives, the Spy Museum and Ford's Theatre, where President Lincoln had been assassinated.

"We actually saw a pillow that has Lincoln's blood on it," said senior Maryann Gong.

Mariotti noted that the teens were particularly impressed with a Cuban Missile Crisis exhibit in the National Archives. "It showed the behind the scenes decisions that ultimately resolved the crisis. Seeing items like Kennedy's legal notepad with his random thoughts and doodles humanized history."

Jeremy added, "It was living, breathing history right in front of us. Studying about it is one thing; going there is different."

The trip was open to

all students. Close Up programs strive to include participants of every race, creed, geographical community, socio-economic level, and academic standing. Since 1971, more than 740,000 students have participated in their programs.

"This was a study visit where students participate in workshops with students from other parts of the country," said Mariotti. "Close Up also provides learning opportunities for the teachers. I participated in an activity concerning a major Supreme Court case at the Federal District of Appeals. I also visited Monticello - Thomas Jefferson's home, and Montpelier - James Madison's home. In the past I've participated in study visits to Civil War battlefields at Gettysburg and Antietam. I've been able to bring those experiences back to the classroom."

The morning of the inauguration, the teens got up before 3 a.m., "To get the best possible seat," said Mariotti.

As the hours crawled by, and the crowds grew thicker, the teens tried to nap. "There were so many people watching us like we were an attrac-



Pictured are (back row) Adrianna Rocha, Eleanor Mount, Sara Franklin, Maryann Gong and Leslie Feldmeir; (front) Jeremy Martin and Sam Brinker.

tion," said Gong, laughing. "They were like, 'Oh, a little bundle of high school students sleeping on the floor. Take pictures!'"

According to the 20th amendment, the President must take the Oath of Office on January 20th. Since it fell on a Sunday this year, a private swearing-in ceremony was held on that date, followed by the parade and public

ceremony the next day.

The official theme for the 2013 inauguration was "Faith in America's Future," a fitting theme for high school students on the brink of adulthood.

"I'm a big fan of President Obama. He's so passionate about what he does," said junior Eleanor Mount. "Someday I hope I'm that passionate about something. Traveling to Washington

made me want to be more involved in politics. I definitely want to vote; I also want to read all the propositions. I want to be an informed voter."

Jeremy stated, "Actually going there and seeing everything made things so much more personal. It made me more interested in politics." As for the inauguration, he added, "I'll always know, I was there."

The Book's Done, But You're Not: Marketing and Promotion for Authors

Susan Sachs Lipman will be the guest speaker at the next monthly meeting of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch on Saturday, March 16, 2013, at the Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton.

Author and social media expert Susan Sachs Lipman will take participants in the meeting through the steps of marketing and promotion. The talk will cover setting goals, establishing a platform, writing and pitching releases, promoting through blogs and social media, doing interviews, approaching booksellers, and creating

events.

Susan Sachs Lipman is the author of *Fed Up with Frenzy: Slow Parenting in a Fast-Moving World*, which grew out of her award-winning blog, *Slow Family Online*. She has written for the *New York Times Motherlode* blog, the *Christian Science Monitor's Modern Parenthood* blog, and many other outlets. Visit her blog, www.slowfamilyonline.com, to learn more.

The CWC Tri-Valley Branch invites writers of all genres and experience levels to learn about their craft at its monthly meetings. The

meeting will be Saturday, March 16, 2013, 2:00-4:00 pm (registration at 1:30). The cost for CWC Members is \$10, nonmembers, \$15. Anyone interested in the program or the organization may attend with no obligation to join. Reservations requested by contacting Deborah Bernal at reservations@trivalleywriters.org no later than Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

For information about California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch contact Paula Chinick at president@trivalleywriters.org or visit www.trivalleywriters.org

Marlo Thomas Keynote Speaker

Actress, producer, author and social activist Marlo Thomas tops the lineup as keynote speaker at the March 4, 2013 East Bay Women's Conference (EBWC), presented by the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau and Chevron. The conference aims to ignite women's voices and inspire change in their personal journey through life.

Thomas is a founding director of the Ms. Foundation for Women and is a board member for the National Women's Political Caucus, The Creative Coalition and the Museum of Television and Radio. She also carries on the life work of her father,

Danny Thomas, by serving as the National Outreach Director for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Joining Thomas at this year's conference is praised humanitarian and photographer, Lisa Kristine. Kristine specializes in using photography to expose deeply human stories to inspire change and incite people to action. Closing out the day's event will be East Bay native and women's wellness and fitness specialist, Lorrie Sullenberger, who will have women leaving the day believing that anything is possible.

The day-long conference, this year is themed

Women's Voices: Catalysts for Change.

San Francisco Bay Area news anchor, Dan Ashley will emcee the conference.

A registration fee of \$195 provides attendees with admission, continental breakfast, lunch and afternoon reception, health information and screenings, prize drawings, and more.

To learn more about the East Bay Women's Conference, contact the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau at www.walnut-creek.com or (925) 934-2007. Follow us at: Twitter Facebook and LinkedIn.

Guitar and Mandolin Virtuosos Bring American Roots Music with a European Flair

Since the Bankhead Theater opened in 2007, LVPAC Presents has offered Livermore audiences a broad range of musical experiences. Continuing in this tradition, the end of February will bring the return of Italian guitarist Beppe Gambetta, who played at the Bankhead in 2009. He will appear with Ukrainian-American violin and mandolin virtuoso Peter Ostroushko on Feb. 28.

The program will be an evening of American roots, jazz and folk music with a uniquely European flair. Gambetta is known as an exceptional innovator in acoustic guitar. Ostroushko's versatile and lightning-fast playing touches on a variety of styles. They will appear at the Bankhead Theater for one performance only on Thursday evening, February 28, 2013.

A native of Italy, Beppe Gambetta melds his distinctive European style with his deep love for American roots music. He grew up playing Italian folk and classical guitar but fell in love with the sound of American folk music and its mix of rhythms and melodies. Gambetta's



Peter Ostroushko

own multicultural style is a sophisticated combination of traditional and original melodies with a classical influence. His music reaches across genres, evoking a range of emotions from serious to lighthearted and appealing to a broad audience. Gambetta has released a dozen recordings as well as DVDs and books on guitar techniques. He has collabo-

rated with acoustic music legends David Grisman, Doc Watson and Norman Blake.

Peter Ostroushko grew up in the Ukrainian community of northeast Minneapolis surrounded by the mandolin, balalaika and bandura sounds that have since come to influence his passionate and fluid style. Known internationally as

one of the world's finest mandolin and fiddle players, he employs his technique to explore his wide ranging interest in everything from classical music, Celtic tunes and Appalachian folk songs, to bluegrass, traditional jazz, and rock. He is sought after as a session artist, backing such prominent musicians as Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson, Chet Atkins, and Bob Dylan.

Tickets to hear the dynamic musical collaboration of Beppe Gambetta and Peter Ostroushko on February 28th range from \$23 to \$43 for adults and \$14 for students.

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

OPERA

(continued from page 3)

Francois Revon will again contribute his talents to create the scenes for Luedloff to communicate his unique vision of La Traviata to the audience.

As it is with each opera production, LVO celebrates opening night with a gala dinner at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard restaurant.

The gala begins with a welcome reception at 4:30pm. Appetizers and wine donated by Livermore's BoaVentura de Caires winery will be served. Guests have an opportunity to meet Luedloff as well as Alexander Katsman, LVO's Artistic Director and Music Director and Conductor. During the three-course dinner, Luedloff and Katsman will share insights to the production of La Traviata. Immediately after dinner, guests will head to a dessert reception in the Bankhead

Theater lobby just one block from the restaurant. The opening night gala is underwritten by Charlene McKenney, Managing Director of Northwestern Mutual.

Gala Tickets are \$85. They are available through Bankhead Theater box office. Proceeds allow for LVO to continue its mission of bringing quality opera to the Tri-Valley and beyond.

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

Tickets for performances are adults \$39-\$74, students 18 years and younger \$10 off on all days, all seating sections (student ID required).

Opening night Gala tickets are a separate ticket purchase.

Photography Exhibit Opens at Cuda Ridge

Cuda Ridge Wines presents the work of Jennie and Chuck McGregor. The photography exhibit, featuring Livermore landscapes, runs through March 31st.

A reception with the artists will be held at the winery on Sun., March 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. The reception will include refreshments and complementary wine tasting of two wines. The winery is located at 5385 East Avenue in Livermore.

Jennie's work concentrates on local downtown locations including the Donut Wheel and the Lizzie Fountain Clock. Chuck's landscape work runs from the hills east of Livermore to Sycamore Grove south of Livermore.



"The Long Way" (left) by Chuck McGregor and "Lizzie Fountain Clock" by Jennie McGregor



Cuda Ridge Wines is major supporter of the local art scene. The art is on display,

and available for purchase, during normal tasting hours from Fri.-Sun., 12:00 - 4:30.

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'Paper Cuts' Work to Be Shown

An exhibition, "Paper Cuts of Livermore Wineries and Vineyards" will feature the work of Madelynn Ellis.

During a visit to China, artist Madelynn Ellis became infatuated with the simplicity and delicacy of traditional Chinese paper cuts. Coupled with her passion for paper, this seemed like a fitting medium with which to produce a series of works highlighting the Livermore Valley wine industry.

The exhibit of selected paper cuts will hang upstairs, on the second floor Pleasanton Art League Wall at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton from March 5 through April 2. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Saturday 12-5pm and Saturdays 11am to 3pm.

There will be a reception on Wednesday evening, March 6 from 7 to 9 pm open to the public. Inquiries regarding the show can be made by contacting the artist by email at mtellis@pacbell.net or by telephone at (925) 462-7964.

Studio Seven Focuses on Spring

Studio Seven Arts presents a special art exhibition focused on spring time themes of home and garden during the month of March.

Artists will show a diversity of works and pieces. They include Kieren Dutcher, a painter specializing in the gouache medium, oil painter Pat Devitt, who explores light and foliage; Carol Massier and her garden art, and abstract paintings from Corey West and Courtney Jacobs.

Saturday featured artist events in March: 3/2 -- Kieren Dutcher- Gouache demo touching on light hearted art inspired by children; 3/9 -- Patricia Devitt oil paintings that explore various forms of light and foliage; 3/16 -- Carol Massier features garden art; 3/23 -- Abstract paintings by Courtney Ja-



Sunlight Through Smoke

cobs; and, 3/30 -- Abstract paintings by Corey West

"The Refresh exhibition welcomes the new season with light hearted fine art with artists that are truly masters in their individual crafts," said Dirk Christensen, owner of Studio Seven Arts. "Visitors to the gallery can view originals that embody personality and creativity."

Studio Seven Arts is located in downtown Pleasanton at 400 Main St., information (925) 846-4322.

Call for Entries to in Pleasanton Chalk Art Event

Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) will host a city-wide arts celebration on May 11, 2013 where artists will have the opportunity to display their talents as chalk street artists on the streets of downtown Pleasanton.

PCAC is accepting applications from artists now through April 15, 2013. The following applies: Limited number of 4' x 4' street painting squares available on Division Street between Railroad and Main; Cost is \$125 per square; 12-pack of chalk provided; Sponsorships available.

Applications are available at www.the-big-draw.com

"This is a first-of-its-kind event for Pleasanton," says PCAC president Jill Vellinger. "We're providing



an opportunity for artists to share their creativity and help us celebrate the richness that arts bring to our lives."

The Big Draw event on May 11th will be a culmination of a week of various arts-related events that including the availability

of uniquely painted pianos along Main Street for people to play the week of May 5. In addition to the chalk artists drawing for the public on May 11, festivities include live performances of dance troupes and improv comedy, Elephants for the Arts Tag Sale, Authors Row at Towne Center Books and more.

"All proceeds from this event will benefit our Arts in the Schools Grant program," adds Vellinger. "We are very excited about The Big Draw which we hope will become an annual event for Pleasanton."

For more information about The Big Draw and the Calling All Artists application, visit www.the-big-draw.com. To learn more about PCAC visit its website at www.pleasantonarts.org.

Pleasanton Art Collection Continues to Grow

In 2012, The Harrington Art Partnership had another successful and fun time bringing four new public art sculptures to the City of Pleasanton and one to Kaiser Permanente Hospital at Stoneridge, in Pleasanton.

The five sculptures are Joyful Play (donated by Maggie, Henry, and Oliver Loll), Eternity, Comet (installment purchase - accepting donations until 2015), Nurturing My Child (at KP), and Wind Song.

Many partners helped to make the purchase of the sculptures possible. They are: VIP: (Very Important Partners) Bob and Marilyn Athenour, donating Joyful Empowerment (to be installed soon in 2013); Leadership Pleasanton, Class of 2012, donating toward Comet; SP: (Special Partners) Bob Mattos, Tim and Ruth Bennett, and Jaclyn Pearson; P: (Partners): Yvonne McNamera; Public Art Enthusiasts: Dave and Robbie Eshelman, Shirley Anderson, Carolyn S. Ainsworth, Jack and Maclyn Pons, Olga Alexander, plus

5 others.

Eight Saturday Pleasanton Public Art Walks drew over 100 participants to view old and new public art pieces throughout the downtown area and at the Senior Center.

The City of Pleasanton, created and printed the Pleasanton Public Art Walk brochure.

The Harrington Art Partnership website was created and is maintained by Bennett Graphics.

2013 is going to be Another H.A.P.P.Y. (Harrington Art Partnership Piece for You) great year. Three new public art pieces are already planned for this year: Bob and Marilyn Athenour's donation of Joyful Empowerment will soon be installed, followed later by Rock, Paper, Scissors by Kevin Box; and finally, after several years of planning and searching, the mural of Pioneer Founders (awaiting approval) will be created and possibly painted by local, Livermore portrait artist Barbara Stanton as Master Artist along with 16 other

artists, to be named later.

Monthly Saturday Art Walks will begin in March, through June. Join the Harringtons on these walks every second Saturday of the month. The two-hour Walk and Talk begins at 9am from the Pleasanton Civic Center parking lot off Old Bernal Avenue. The walk varies each time, but includes Downtown Pleasanton, Firehouse Art Center, and possibly the Library and Senior Center with Centennial Park.

Nancy and Gary Harrington, the Harrington Art Partnership, lead the walk, showing the existing public art and giving information about the artists and anecdotes regarding their works. Walkers will receive a map of the Pleasanton Public Art Walk, with locations of the art, its name, the artist, and year of installation.

Art lovers are invited to visit the Harrington Art Partnership website at harringtonartpartnership.org, and also become contributors of Public Art for Pleasanton.



"Comet"



"Joyful Empowerment" was recently accepted by the city council.

Artist on Food Network's *Sugar Dome*

By Patricia Koning

Livermore artist Engela Olivier-Wilson believes that a true artist should be able to use virtually any medium or concept and produce art from it. Last fall, she had the opportunity to put that philosophy to the test when she painted with food on Food Network's *Sugar Dome*. Her episode, "Dangers of the Deep," airs this Saturday, March 2 at 1 pm on Food Network.

Sugar Dome is all about taking artists out of their comfort zones and challenging them to create revolutionary food art that captures each week's theme in just six hours. Each week cake designers and sugar artists team up with artists from a completely different discipline – for "Dangers of the Deep", it was scenic artists. Past episodes of *Sugar*

Dome have featured professional fruit carvers, graffiti artists, sand sculptors, pyrotechnics experts, costume designers, and more.

Sugar Dome is hosted by David Bull, the contest is judged by pastry chef and cake designer Paulette Goto, pastry chef Pichet Ong, and special guest judges related to each week's theme. The winning team takes home a \$15,000 prize. Learn more about *Sugar Dome* at www.foodnetwork.com/sugardome.

"*Sugar Dome* was one of the toughest things I've ever done," says Engela. "Edible paints don't behave like regular paint. I had to figure out how to work with these materials on the fly. It was also an amazing, wild, and fun experience. I'd go back to the *Sugar Dome* in a heartbeat."



Engela Olivier-Wilson

She's also grateful to photographer William Hackett for helping her meet the requirements of the grueling selection process for *Sugar Dome*. "I had just a few days to put everything together," she says. "There is no way I could have

done it without Bill."

A native of South Africa, Engela has been working in the United States for the past six years. Last year she painted the 30-foot dolphin mural at East Avenue Middle School. She owns a commercial art-based business, art4spaces, which provides (interior design industry) visual solutions for clients across the Bay Area. Learn more at www.art4spaces.com.

Engela's work is also featured in a new show, "California: Earth, Air, Fire, Water, Life", along with the work of Bill Hackett and Matthew Nylander, at the Harrington Art Gallery. The show runs from March 2 through April 6 with the Artists Reception on March 6. See www.facebook.com/CaliforniaArtExhibit for more information.

'Monologues' Performance at Las Positas College

Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* will be performed March 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. at Las Positas College.

Ensler's epic play is about the female experience, so when Tri-Valley Haven asked local Director Eleisa (Lisa) Cambra to head up the show, she did not hesitate to say yes. Eleisa has directed the monologues before for Tri-Valley Haven and always donates her time. This year's production is exceptionally special for Ms. Cambra, as the performances will be held at Las Positas College's Mertes Center for the Arts, Eleisa's Alma Mater. ra.

One of Eleisa's greatest mentors is Wendy Wisely, her theater instructor when

Lisa attended Las Positas College. "Wendy showed me everything I need to know about the theater. She is a remarkable director and actress. I was so glad that Wendy agreed to act in this production of *The Vagina Monologues*."

For tickets to *The Vagina Monologues*, directed by Eleisa Cambra and featuring Wendy Wisely, March 1st and 2nd at 8 pm, please go to: [Http://vaginamonologues.brownpapertickets.com](http://vaginamonologues.brownpapertickets.com). Proceeds go to Tri-Valley Haven's domestic violence and sexual assault programs to serve victims and to end violence.

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

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LIVERMORE, Pres. Ralph Sherman - DoubleTree Hotel Wed., 12:30 p.m.

LIVERMORE VALLEY, Pres. George Wineinger - Beed's Sports Bar & Grill Tues., 7a.m.

In, 2012 the Rotary Clubs of Livermore (and the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore) collectively donated over \$120k to support community projects for kids, schools, scholarships, food and clothing for those in need. We also donated dictionaries to all 3rd grade students for the 10th year in a row. www.livermore-rotary.org

DUBLIN Pres. Tim Delaporte - Dublin Ranch Golf Club, Tues., 12 noon
Rotarians are a group of dynamic individuals who place service above self. Join us at one of our fun and engaging meetings. Together we can change the world. www.dublinrotary.org



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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

La Traviata by Verdi, presented by Livermore Valley Opera. Sat., March 9, 8 p.m.; Sun., March 10, 2 p.m.; Sat., March 16, 8 p.m.; Sun., March 17, 2 p.m.. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ragin' Cajun, Mardi Gras event, music, dancing, dinner, beads, live auctions, and more on Friday, March 8, 2013, 6:30 to 11 p.m. at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton. Annual fund-raiser event for the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, which provides cancer patients in the East Bay Tri-Valley area with financial assistance for complementary healing services during the course of their chemo and/or radiation therapy that are not covered by insurance. Tickets online at <http://www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org> or call (866) 862-7270.

50th Annual Coin Show, Livermore Valley Coin Club, March 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore. Displays, bourse, prizes.

Free admission, free wooden nickels, hourly drawings. Lunch available.

An Evening with Lady Carolyn, Tues., March 12, 7 p.m. Museum on Main Ed Kinney Lecture series, Celebrate Women's History Month with Carolyn Runnells, as the lovely Lady Carolyn. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl, March 15, 6 to 9 p.m. downtown Pleasanton. Downtown merchants, restaurants and local breweries. www.pleasantondowntown.net

St. Patrick's Day Festival, March 16-17, Civic Center, Dublin. Parade on March 16. www.ci.dublin.ca.us

History Lecture, Livermore Heritage Guild, new Livermore "Images of America" photo book featured. Doors open 7 p.m., talk begins at 7:30 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. \$2 donation suggested.

An Evening with Titanic Expert Richard Shaw, Tues., April 2, 7 p.m. Museum on Main Ed Kinney Lecture series. Join Titanic Expert Richard Shaw for stories of day-to-day activities on the Titanic

as well as the famous and not-so-famous tales of passengers and crew. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

18th annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party, hosted by Assistance League® of Amador Valley, will be held on April 13 from 12 - 4 at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton. The event includes tea tables decorated by the members, food, raffle prizes, lucky teacups, a hat contest and silent auction. Penny Warner, an award-winning author, family life columnist and child development educator, will be the guest speaker.

Tickets are \$50 and must be reserved by March 29. Proceeds from this event provide school clothes and shoes to children in need. Information, call Annette at (925) 462-5275, or visit www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org.

Run for the Parks, April 14, 2013 - Sycamore Grove Park. 10K starts 9 a.m. - fee \$30 by April 12/\$35 on Race Day, 5K starts 9:10 a.m. - fee \$30 by April 12/\$35 on Race Day; kids' 1 mile fun run starts 9:30 a.m. - fee \$10 by April 12/\$15 on Race Day; Special Family

entry of \$25 per person is available to families of 4 or more. Funds raised go to support new trail development and park maintenance for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Race day festivities will start and end at the Wente Vineyards Wine Garden area located at the main vineyard on Arroyo Road. www.larpd.dst.ca.us/

History Lecture, Livermore Heritage Guild, speaker Henry Bailey, "The California State Guard." Wed., April 17, doors open 7 p.m. talk at 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$2. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club annual Plant Sale on Saturday, April 27, 9am to 1pm at the parking lot of Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. All plants are grown by members of the garden club and are sold for low, low, prices. There will be an assortment of annuals, perennials, roses, succulents, vegetables and garden related items. Garden club members will provide expert advice. For information call Bev at 925 485-7812.

Help Needed to Bring 'Girl Rising' Film to the Tri-Valley

Pleasanton resident Michelle Hinsberg (21) plans to host the screening of "Girl Rising," at the Dublin Regal Hacienda Crossing 20 on March 19, 2013 at 7:30pm. In order to bring the film to the Tri-Valley she needs to recruit 100 ticket reservations.

Girl Rising is a new film about the power of education to transform lives and the importance investing in girls' education. It tells the stories of 9 young girls from around the world who face - and overcome - unbelievable obstacles on the path toward getting an education.

Each girls story was written by an author and is narrated by a cast of great actresses, including Meryl Streep, Kerry Washington,

Anne Hathaway, Salma Hayek, Alicia Keys, and others.

With a portion of every ticket sale for Girl Rising going to supporting girls' education, the Tri-Valley will be making a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable girls in the world.

Tickets are \$10. Reservations are due by March 3 at <http://gathr.us/screening/1147> (in the event that there are not 100 reservations, no one will be charged).

Concert Canceled

The Bonfiglio-Bedrosian-Cho Trio concert of classic works set for Sunday, March 3 has been canceled. The group hopes to reschedule.

March 10 & 14

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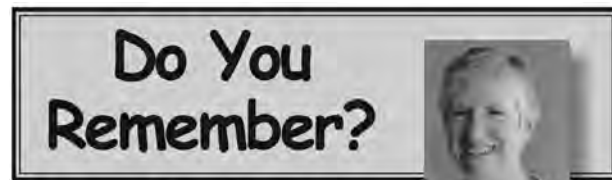


Le Concert



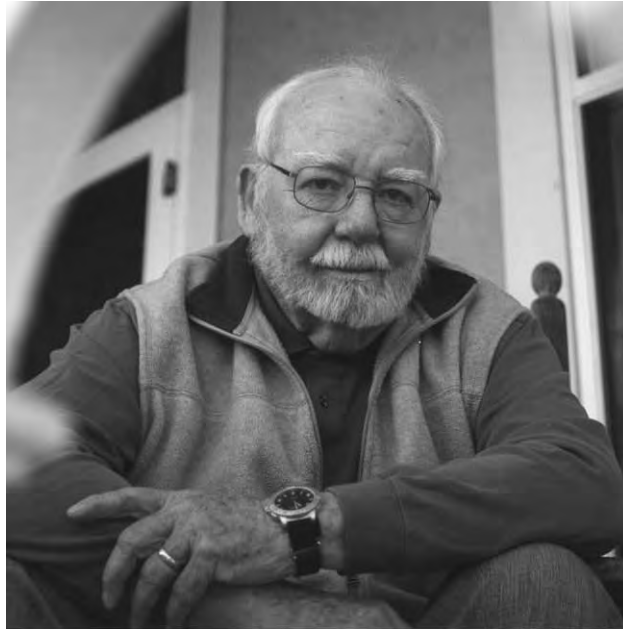
When I learned the other day that Garrett (Gary) Drummond had resigned from the Livermore Historic Preservation Commission, I knew that the time had come to write a column about this man who has become so involved in the history of our community. At 6 feet and 220 pounds, he has a commanding presence; during my early years in working on local history, I was in awe of him. His hair, mustache, and short beard are white now, but I can easily imagine their original red above his freckled face—that Scottish red of his ancestors who immigrated to Mississippi eight generations ago. Many of them fought for the South in the Civil War. I still hear echoes of the southern accent in his voice.

Both of Gary's parents were teachers; his father taught engineering and his mother Spanish. Because of the Depression, the family moved often, from Mississippi to Oklahoma, to Georgia, to New Mexico, and finally in 1940 to Albuquerque. Gary was born in 1929 in Mississippi. After high school graduation, Gary worked for a paper company in Albuquerque, and then in 1952 was hired by Sandia. His work for Sandia included going to the Marshall Islands for two overseas nuclear test series and managing the



By Anne Homan
Livermore City Historian

Garrett B. Drummond, Livermore Valley Historian



GARY DRUMMOND

U.S. weapons stockpile in Maine. He married Elizabeth Hannefey in 1950. They had three daughters. When the position in Maine closed, his manager agreed to send Gary to Sandia in Livermore. He came to our city with his family in September 1959.

He worked for Sandia for 46 years, retiring in 1994. Mainly, he helped to develop their computer systems and also worked with people from around the world on developing fuel efficiency for automobiles as the Executive Committee Secretariat of

the International Energy Agency Combustion Research Agreement. Gary graduated in 1979 from St. Mary's College with a B.A. in Humanities, with a concentration in history.

The Livermore Heritage Guild, the city's history society, started in 1973. Although Gary was not a founding member, he soon became active in the organization and involved with Livermore government connected with history. He told me that in order to be a happy person, he had to live two lives—one to have something in his stomach (take care of his family) and one to have something in his heart (take care of himself). From 1975 to 2001 he was a member of the Guild's board, and sometimes served as president. From 1978 to 1981 he served on the Alameda County Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation Commission. From 2002 to 2013, he was a member of the City of Livermore Historic Preservation Commission; he was chairman in 2004 and 2005. In 2004 he was named the Livermore City Historian.

When Elizabeth gave birth to a son in Livermore, their fourth child, they needed a larger house. The house of Thomas Knox, at 567 South L Street had been vacant for two years. The Drummonds bought it. Knox had been post-

master of Livermore for 13 years and mayor for 11 years. Built in 1898, the old house needed many repairs and renovations. Gary did most of the work by himself. There are two bedrooms downstairs, a long room that had been combined from two smaller living rooms into a dining/living room, and a small study created from the original kitchen. Gary turned the stairs to the top floor so that they were safer, and made the upstairs playroom into a bedroom for his daughters. Unfortunately, Elizabeth died in 1983. Later, in 1991, he built an addition with a modern kitchen and a comfortable breakfast room with large windows that bring the outdoors inside. A pair of old doors that have "Mally's Hotel" engraved on them lead out to a balcony. Gary bought the doors from the Fankhausers, who had them in their garage for about 40 years. The house is very tastefully decorated with antiques.

Gary threw himself more and more into his "heart" activities. While working on Guild projects with Anna Siig, he told her that he would serve as the Guild president if she would be vice president. This kept them cooperating closely. Anna has a Danish background, and Gary became acquainted with the Danes of Liver-

more. He even joined the Dania Society here. One day, Gary said to Anna in Danish, "Will you marry me?" Her reply came quickly: "Where did you learn that?!" They married in 1989.

In 1976 Gary organized and managed, through the auspices of the Livermore Heritage Guild, a survey of architectural styles of heritage resources within the original city limits. He often took interested people, including me, on tours of the area. In 1987 he managed the successful nomination of the D.J. Murphy house to the National Register of Historic Places. Five years later, he managed the successful application of Wente Bros. Estate Winery for a State Historic Landmark designation.

He has been the author of six books: Architectural Styles of the Livermore-Amador Valley; Recollections: Being the Early Life in the San Ramon Valley of Prof. James D. Smith, Headmaster, Livermore College; 125 Years—The History of the First Presbyterian Church; The Klondike News (with Anna Siig); The Vintner's Tale; and The Chinese Experience in the Livermore Valley. Gary also taught a course in local history for the Adult Night School for ten years. In 1994 he began a program for Livermore third graders, who must learn about local history. He took their classes for an hour's tour of the downtown area. This program still continues today with other leaders.

Gary has spent much of his time lately on a book that he started long ago—it covers the early wineries in Livermore and Pleasanton before Prohibition (before 1920).

(Readers can reach me at am5ohoman@yahoo.com.)

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Milestones Community

Dancer Chosen to Attend Joffrey Ballet School

Tiffany's Dance Academy has announced that Isabella Kagele, 15, a long time student from Pleasanton, who attends Tiffany's Dance Academy in Livermore, has been accepted to the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City.

"This is an incredible honor, not only for Isabella, but for the entire local dance community" said Tiffany Henderson, founder of the Tiffany Dance Academy. "We are elated to have played a role in shaping Isabella into becoming the beautiful, versatile and extremely talented dancer that she's become and we couldn't be more honored to have her represent Tiffany's Dance Academy (Livermore) as she makes her way to New York to join the elite ranks of dancers from around the country."

The Joffrey Ballet School was founded in 1953 and seeks to transform passionate dance students into versatile, individualistic artists able to collaborate and evolve fluidly in a fast-changing society.

Isabella has been attending Tiffany's Dance Academy in Livermore since 2001, when she was just 3



Isabella Kagele, 15, a longtime student at Tiffany's Dance Academy in Livermore was just accepted to the Joffrey Ballet School in New York.

years old. "I'm super excited about what the future holds, but I'm sad to be leaving Tiffany's Dance Academy" said the 15 year old rising star. "It's been a great place for me to learn and make good friends and I couldn't have made it to Joffrey without their help and support. I'm truly grateful for all that I've learned and I'm proud

to represent Tiffany's in this next chapter of my life."

Tiffany Henderson founded Tiffany's Dance Academy in 2000 and has since expanded to seven locations.

To learn more about Tiffany's Dance Academy visit their website at TiffanyDance.com.

Dimits Selected as an APS Fellow

Andris Dimits, a physicist in the Fusion Energy Sciences Program at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), has been selected as a 2012 American Physical Society (APS) fellow.

Dimits was cited in the plasma physics category for "important insights and

contributions to the theory and simulation of kinetic turbulent transport in magnetized plasmas, including the effects of self-consistent turbulence-induced velocity shear and Coulomb collisions." He joined LLNL in 1990 and has worked on theory and simulation of magnetized fusion plasmas,

hydrodynamic instability and turbulence and high energy density physics, as well as high-order and multilevel Monte-Carlo simulation algorithm development.

In the past 25 years, nearly 100 LLNL employees have been elected APS fellows.

Dublin Honors Two Residents and an Organization

The City of Dublin has announced the 2012 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Organization of the Year.

Former mayor, Janet Lockhart, was selected as citizen of the year; Camille Chabot, young citizen; and the Tri-Valley Youth Court, organization of the year.

The winners were celebrated during an evening ceremony on Wednesday, February 20, at the Shannon Community Center. The purpose of these awards is to recognize outstand-

ing individuals and groups who have contributed to the quality of life in Dublin this past year.

Nomination criteria for both the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are based on the Dublin Pride – Integrity in Action Program's 10 Characteristics: Responsibility, Respectfulness, Caring, Giving, Positive Attitude, Trustworthiness, Cooperation, Doing One's Best, Honesty, and Self-Discipline. The Young Citizen of the Year

recognizes the volunteer service of Dublin's youth in 1st – 12th grade.

Award recipients will be recognized at an upcoming City Council meeting. The Organization of the Year will receive a \$500 cash prize, and a \$300 donation will be given to each of the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year's favorite non-profit organization.

Information on each of the award recipients can be found on the City's website at www.dublin.ca.gov.

Military



Air Force Airman Andreas L. Rodriguez (pictured above) graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Rodriguez earned distinction as an honor graduate.

He is the son of Samantha Rodriguez of Livermore, and Santos Rodriguez of Texas. The airman is a 2010 graduate of Foothill High School, Pleasanton.

Army Spec. Justin M. Donk has returned to the U.S. after being deployed overseas at a forward operating base to serve in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Operation Enduring Freedom is the official name given to anti-terrorism military operations involving U.S. troops and allied coalition partners. Active duty and reserve component members from all branches of the U.S. armed forces have been deployed to support the war against global terrorism outside

the borders of the United States. U.S. troops serve in South, Southwest and Central Asia, the Arabian peninsula, the Horn of Africa, islands in the Pacific, and Europe.

Donk is an infantryman and rifleman assigned to the 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. He has served in the military for three years.

He is the son of Cindy and Frank Donk of Livermore. The specialist is a 2009 graduate of Livermore High School.

Education

Gavin Herr, a native of Livermore, is among the 217 high achieving students from Whittier College who made the Fall 2012 Dean's List. An undergraduate student is awarded Dean's List honors if he or she earns a 3.70 grade point average (GPA) while completing a full-time course load (12 units) in the fall and spring terms.

Harsha Koneru from Livermore, has been named to the fall 2012 dean's list at St. Bonaventure University. Koneru is majoring in biology.

Boston University awarded academic degrees to 1,631 students in January 2013. Among the graduates was Staci A. Morrison of Livermore, who received a Master of Science in Mass Communication. Boston University is the fourth largest independent university in the United States, with an enrollment of more than 29,000 students in its 17 schools and colleges.