

THE INDEPENDENT • SECTION A



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.

Lab Researchers Work to Protect Borders, Elephants in Fight Against Terrorism

Elephant ivory and materials related to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) have more in common than one might think. Both are smuggled across porous international boundaries, often as far from border patrols and official trade routes as the smugglers can get. Both are used for nefarious purposes, with profits from elephant ivory supporting terrorism and unrest across Africa.

Although the National

Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) International Nonproliferation Export Control Program is directed primarily at WMD smuggling through commercial channels, it also includes a program called Counter-Trafficking System Development. It focuses on securing foreign borders between commercial ports of entry in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540.

The resolution requires

member states under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to take and enforce effective measures against the proliferation of WMD, their means of delivery and related materials

As part of this NNSA program, two border analysis experts from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Bob Greenwald and Wilthea Hibbard, spent a week in Kenya late last year training officers of the Kenya Wildlife Service

(KWS) in methods to harden their borders. Here the primary threat is poachers killing elephants and smuggling the ivory to fund terrorism. KWS is an active, armed component of Kenya's border security and all too often has to combat poachers from Somalia.

Elephant ivory poaching is big business in Africa. In 2011 alone, approximately 2,000 elephants were killed for their ivory, which fetches about \$1,000 a pound in

China and Southeast Asia. An older elephant, with the largest tusks, has as much as 200 pounds of ivory. The elephant slaughter in Africa is at an all-time high to meet rising demand for ivory in Asia's rapidly growing economies. In 2012, 15 KWS rangers were killed by poachers.

Leaders around the globe recognize the seriousness of this threat. Kenya's Prime Minister, Raila Odinga, said

(See TERRORISM, page 4)

Council Candidates Offer Views on Issues

Four candidates are running for the Pleasanton City Council seat vacated when Jerry Thorne was elected mayor last November.

The by-mail only voting is set for May 7. Ballots will be automatically mailed out to all eligible registered voters living in Pleasanton.

The candidates are Mark Hamilton, David Miller, Kathy Narum, and Olivia Sanwong. All are first time candidates.

Each was interviewed by The Independent. Questions related to such areas as residential and business development, high density housing, cut-through traffic, open space, and programs for youth and seniors. The candidates were also asked what skills they would bring to the council and what they would like to achieve if elected.

The interviews are in alphabetical order.

MARK HAMILTON

Mark Hamilton has worked in Pleasanton as Director of Financial Services at ADP Inc. for over 15 years. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 24 years retiring as a Major. For his service, Miller received several Meritorious Commendations, leadership, and awards in armed combat situations.

On the civilian side he has managed multi-million dollar budgets and large staffs in financial arenas, including Bank of America and West America Bank.

Hamilton has coached local youth in various sports for over 12 years starting with the Pleasanton National Little League, Pleasanton Junior Football League, and YMCA Basketball. He currently coaches wrestling at Amador Valley High School.

Hamilton said he decided to seek the council seat after he was approached by a school board member who suggested he run. He declared, "I bring an independent view. I have no ties to real estate or development. I would bring a common man approach to issues."

He added that he lives and works in Pleasanton. He understands local businesses. "I would work to bring in new businesses." He proposes working with Silicon Valley companies looking to relocate to bring them to Pleasanton. To help keep businesses, Hamilton would like to understand why some leave the city to relocate to other areas. His goal would be to fill empty buildings with companies new to the city and local companies looking to expand.

He said that he is committed to further streamline city processes to support careful planning to grow the economy and the creation of higher wage technology oriented jobs. "This will increase city tax revenue and bring important high wage jobs to the city. In addition, more shopping opportunities would bring more people to the city generating more revenue to help fund services the residents want."

(See CANDIDATES, page 9)



Pleasanton American Little League launched the 2013 season with an Opening Day Jamboree on Sat., March 2. Following the ceremonies, it was time to play ball.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Sequestration Comes While Livermore Schools Look at Layoffs

By Ron McNicoll

The federal sequestration bill that went into effect last Friday with a reduction of \$85 billion in spending will affect Valley schools, cities and businesses.

Aside from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory employees who might experience direct pay cuts of 10 percent, alternating Friday furlough days, and layoffs, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District might feel the most direct pain from sequestration.

Potentially, the district could lose up to \$210,000, which is the equivalent of four teaching positions.

However, that salary equivalent of four teachers doesn't mean that four teach-

(See IMPACTS, page 5)

Pleasanton Restores 38 Positions for Next School Year

The Pleasanton school board voted to bring back a total of 38 full-time equivalent staff at a cost of \$2.8 million for the coming school year.

The board at its meeting Feb. 26 took two separate votes. The first, authorizing

almost all of the positions, was unanimous.

Among programs authorized for restoration were counselors at all three school levels, tech specialists for elementary and middle schools, a PE specialist section once a week in elemen-

tary schools, and an elementary band/strings teaching position.

The second vote was 3-2, with board vice president Valerie Arkin and trustee Chris Grant and Jamie Hintzke for it, and board president Jeff Bowser and trustee Joan

Laursen against.

That motion, made by Arkin, added a full-time equivalent library technician position, split equally between Amador Valley and Foothill high schools. It also added one literacy coach to three that were approved in

the unanimous vote. Other coaching positions authorized in the unanimous vote were two in math and one in technology.

The instructional coaches will replace the specialist approach of the past. Instead of

(See PLEASANTON, page 4)

New CEO Selected To Head i-GATE

Thomas Spirgi has been selected as the next chief executive officer for i-GATE (Innovation for Green Advanced Transportation Excellence) in Livermore.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand said that Spirgi, who has been on the job for about a month, will replace Rob White. Details of Spirgi's contract are still

being finalized. It should be completed soon, stated Marchand. "I am very excited to see him coming on board."

Prior to i-GATE, Thomas worked at Solyndra, a Photovoltaic Manufacturing company.

At Solyndra, Spirgi worked as Director of En-

(See i-GATE, page 4)

Non-profit Career Center Focuses on Educating Clients

A non-profit career center in Pleasanton has been keeping costs low for job-seekers, and has taught them a variety of skills, including how to act during a job interview.

Many of the clients at Hand 'n Hand Career Training center are younger people, who are looking for certain certificates that are job-related. Other clients have ranged in age as high as 74 years old, said founder Sue Bartolotti.

The spread in educational achievement ranges from people who are just out of high school to those who hold Ph.D's. One physicist with a doctorate did not require any job training, but he definitely wanted to develop his interviewing skills.

The physicist took the five-day course in interviewing and resume writing. Some older clients, who have been in one job for a long time, are not even

(See CAREER, page 4)



Students work with vacuum technology to expand and shrink a marshmallow. The No. California Chapter American Vacuum Society provided the equipment.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Students Have Fun with Science

By Carol Graham

For the record, Daddy takes more steps than Mommy each week, baby chicks breathe through their eggshells, guitars are the

best instrument for getting baby brother to sleep, and inexpensive sunscreen works just as well pricier brands.

These were just some of the questions answered

at Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's 11th annual Science Odyssey held at Junction K-8 School on February 28th.

(See ODYSSEY, page 8)

Inside

SECTION A	Editorial.....4
Art & Entertainment..... 8	Mailbox.....4
Bulletin Board..... 11	Roundup.....3
Milestones 12	Short Notes..... 7
MAIN SECTION	Sports..... 6
Classifieds..... 10	Obituaries..... 9



PET OF THE WEEK

Lizz has a kind soul and is eager to please her new forever family. She came to the adoption center last May as a teen mom with two kittens of her own. Soon after intake, her babies were adopted and she was left alone. Lizz has formed a tough shell during her long stay at VHS and would do so well in a new home where she could shine and get all of the attention to herself. 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

Fifth-grade Friends' Recycling Brings \$500 to Haven



Liva Helt and Drew Pagtakhan have been busy collecting recyclable materials for a good cause.

By Ron McNicoll

Two Pleasanton fifth-graders turned cans and bottles into \$500 for the Tri-Valley Haven.

It was not exactly magic - it involved hard work. Liva Helt and Drew Pagtakhan were able to raise \$250, and will be presenting it next week to officials at the Haven.

The donation comes during a pledge-match period, which will continue until June, so their donation will double to \$500, thanks to the generosity of the matching donor.

The match was a pleasant surprise for the girls, who have been Best Friends Forever since entering the first grade at Vintage Hills.

Liva lives near Vintage Hills Elementary. Drew lives in Livermore, but attends Vintage Hills because her parents work in Pleasanton. Mother Erin Pagtakhan teaches English at Foothill High School, her father

Darren Pagtakhan teaches English at Amador Valley.

Vintage Hills fifth-grade teacher Adam Randall assigned the class to read a story about a boy who did not fit in. Hills used it as a lesson to teach compassion, which is one of the six "Community of Character" traits that the school district wants to instill in its students.

Randall's assignment to the children was to come up with a project that demonstrates compassion. Drew and Liva talked about it, found out there are certain recycling centers that pay cash for bringing in bottles and cans, and went right to work the next day.

Both girls had to take the initiative in accomplishing many things they had never done. They picked out an area in each of their neighborhoods, and went door to door, introducing themselves to their neighbors.

They left plastic buckets

for the participating neighbors. They came back faithfully every Friday to collect them, which was a lesson in service. Then their mothers drove them to the recycling centers.

The girls even learned a little bit about marketing. They called their project "Cans for Care," which has the catchy alliteration and succinct phrasing for which some advertising writers strive.

They even functioned in the role of publicists and teachers. Liva said the girls had to make it clear that they did not want banana peels and plastic bags to show up in their buckets. They also did not want any recyclables that centers would not pay money for, such as newspapers or most kinds of glass bottles.

Drew said that she was "really shy" about going neighbors and making a pitch for their cooperation. "I didn't know a lot of people.

This makes me feel better. I'm excited to bring in the check, and that made me really ecstatic," she said.

Liva said, "It was hard, the first couple of times." There was the process of educating potential donors.

The girls will be following up with thank-you notes to the neighbors. Their big moment will come when

they present the check to Tri-Valley Haven.

Liva's mother, Pernille, said, "Both Drew and Liva learned to be kind, and interact with people they didn't know. The neighbors know Liva by name now."

Drew's mother, Erin, added, "In education, we try to make kids more aware, and be students of the world, so

this is great."

"I talked to Drew about compassion. If you have that, all of the other other (five Community of Character) traits fall in place. Compassion is the big one in our household. It is the key to respect, so it should be part of the regular dialogue in the home and in school," said Erin Pagtakhan.

ValleyCare
Medical Foundation
Welcomes

Anthony K. Koh, MD

Board Certified in Internal Medicine

Dr. Anthony Koh has joined the ValleyCare Medical Foundation specializing in Internal Medicine.

Dr. Koh has been an inpatient hospitalist for Kindred Hospital of San Francisco Bay Area in San Leandro and Doctor's Medical Center in San Pablo since 2009. Previously, he practiced at St. John's Hospital, Cannon Valley Clinic of the Mayo Health System and Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital, all in Minnesota.

Dr. Koh completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York — a member of the Sinai Health Care System and received his medical and undergraduate degrees from the Institute of Medicine in Yangon, Myanmar (Burma). He has been involved in several research projects and received an award from the New York chapter of the American College of Physicians and American Society of Internal Medicine for research.



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VALLEY ROUNDUP

State Budget Session

State Senator DeSaulnier will be hosting a budget town hall meeting on March 13 in Dublin.

The session will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Dublin City Council Chambers, 100 Civic Plaza.

Residents are invited to stop by with questions or comments.

Sunset to Present New Plans

Sunset Development Company will hold a second neighborhood meeting to discuss its proposed conversion of the Sunset Office Plaza and Livermore Financial Center into some type of residential use.

The meeting is set for Thurs., March 7, 6:30 p.m. at the Sunset Elementary School, 1671 Frankfurt Way, Livermore.

In response to comments made at the previous meeting, Sunset has developed additional conceptual plans. Proposals for apartments and three-story townhomes have been eliminated, according to an e-mail sent to neighbors and tenants.

Neighbors have been vocal in expressing their opposition to rezoning the two sites. Their view was presented at last week's Livermore City Council meeting speaking in the public forum.

New Firefighters Begin Training

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LFPD) in partnership with the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department (MOFD) started its first Recruit Fire Academy in almost 2 years on March 4. Sixteen Firefighters started their careers by lining up at attention at the LFPD Training Center located on Busch Rd. in Pleasanton.

They began their 11 week training that will include topics such as structural and wildland firefighting, technical rescue, vehicle extrication and hazardous materials. Most of the Academy will be held at the LFPD Training Center. Some will be off-site at locations that house specialty training equipment and instructors such as Camp Parks, the Chevron refinery in Richmond and San Francisco Fire Department's Treasure Island training center.

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department have partnered in providing training to recruits in an effort create a more efficient and cost effective process that utilizes a regional approach to training. Ten members of the Recruit Fire Academy were hired by the LFPD and six by MOFD.

The recruits are scheduled to graduate on May 17, 2013.

LARPD Budget Changes

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board of directors approved several adjustments to the 2012-2013 capital improvement budget as part of the

mid-year review.

To help cover turf and lighting costs for the Robertson Park sports field improvements, the Board approved increasing the appropriation by \$113,000. The additional funds will cover costs for unanticipated underground work and engineering for the new lighting system and a higher grade of synthetic turf material.

An additional \$25,000 was allocated for the Robertson Park respite area and trail to cover additional staff time for design, bidding and project management.

The budget will be adjusted for upgrades to Ravenswood Historic Site. The City of Livermore and LARPD have a funding partnership for renovations to protect the Victorian estate from weather, including upgraded roofing and siding plus safety upgrades to the porch area. The City had to reduce its contribution from \$133,000 to \$103,000. LARPD has committed \$50,000 to the project.

Olive Oil Basics

The Alameda County Conservation Partnership, Hillcrest Ranch and UC Cooperative Extension will present a program on Olive Oil Basics: Introduction to Pruning and Tasting from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sun., March 17.

This will be a field-based workshop at Hillcrest Ranch in Sunol. Bring pruning attire, gloves and clippers, as well as a sample of oil from 2012 for an afternoon tasting session. Extra clippers and pruning equipment will be available.

This field day will be geared towards olive growers in the first ten years of production, however is open to all interested parties.

Cost is \$5 to cover the cost of snacks. Hillcrest Ranch is located at 11901 Foot-hill Road, Sunol.

The agenda is as follows:

9am-12pm: Receive hands on training from Hillcrest Ranch owner Kathleen Elliot, who will provide background on a range of pruning approaches.

12pm-1pm: Learn the basics of olive oil tasting and how to characterize the taste profile of a product.

1pm-2pm: Hear about the history of olive production in the East Bay while enjoying snacks and sharing samples of this year's oil.

Please RSVP by March 12, 2013. Email Susan Ellsworth at susan.ellsworth@acrcd.org or call (925) 371-0154 x 103 to register. Include name, number of years in olive production, as well as email and phone.

For more information visit: www.acrcd.org/workshops.aspx

This field day is part of a series funded by the USDA NIFA Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program Grant # 2011-49400-30641. The series is hosted in conjunction with SAGE



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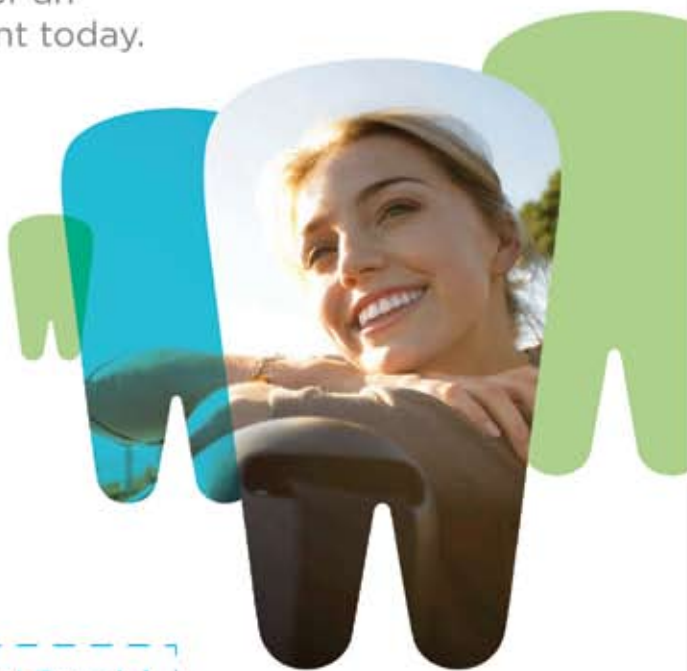
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EDITORIAL

Continue the Positive

Art and science are in the forefront in the Valley.

Events last week were designed to engage and excite student interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The Livermore School District hosted its annual Science Odyssey. Students from all of the district's schools entered projects.

Las Positas College was the site of the annual Expanding Your Horizons conference, which focused on encouraging young women to seek careers in math and science.

The event was organized by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The Lab is also behind the annual Science and Engineering Fair. This countywide competition will be held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton March 8 and 9 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

In the art world, Carnegie Hall announced that Pleasanton's Annie Wu, a student at Foothill High School, has been selected to perform with the first ever National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America. Wu plays the flute. Her time with the orchestra will include two weeks of training followed by an international tour with stops in Moscow and London.

The Lab, school districts, and parents are to be commended. Opportunities where students can see what is possible, will encourage them to make positive choices in the future.

TERRORISM

(continued from page one)

recently that "Security agencies must treat the emerging poaching threat as part of the insecurity gripping the country and not a wildlife issue..."

Under the NNSA program of "capacity building," in which countries are given tools to solve their problems, LLNL Global Security staff have developed an analysis process to help countries secure their borders as well as a curriculum to teach the process.

Greenwalt and Hibbard taught the curriculum to KWS trainers and senior management. The process began with three major analyses: the smugglers' intent and capabilities; border patrol goals, methods, and capabilities; and the local terrain.

Technologies and tactics are developed to fill gaps and improve effectiveness. The resulting solutions are tested in a virtual testbed. The first three days of the training were devoted to instruction and exercises based on a generic country, which was

then followed by a two-day comprehensive exercise in which the students applied what they had learned to a local problem on their country's terrain.

"When I saw that we would be teaching highly experienced officers, I was concerned that perhaps our material was at too low a level," says Greenwalt. "The KWS officers were thrilled with what we had brought. They said they had never done an analysis at this depth, tying all components together. They took with them our entire curriculum for use at their training academy."

This is not the first LLNL effort to assist in the problem of elephant poaching.

Several years ago, other LLNL researchers working at the Lab's Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry, used AMS technology to analyze the age of elephant tusks to determine whether poaching crimes had been committed in Africa. The team was led by principal investigator Tom Brown.

PLEASANTON

(continued from page one)

specialists working directly with children, the coaches will work with teachers, who will then be able to work with the students.

Superintendent Ahmadi said that the district is in Program Improvement, an imposed condition, because certain student populations at two schools failed to score up to proficient level in certain academic areas on the Annual Yearly Progress tests. Part of complying to correct the problem is to provide coaching and support for teachers.

Further, with a new core curriculum becoming standard in California and 46 other states in 2016, many teachers will have to be trained to meet those standards, and coaching is the way to accomplish that. Also, having the teacher training is a more efficient use of limited dollars for the task, added Ahmadi.

Explaining her vote against Arkin's motion, Laursen said that it is clear the additional positions are desired by all board members, but she wanted to wait until later in the budget process before committing the extra \$102,000. A big consideration is funding for Class Size Reduction, making sure there is funding

when we consider providing for it in the budget.

Grant said that the district needs to "keep investing in reading intervention programs." He added, "We can look at the budget in the future, but this is a priority area for all of us."

Bowser said he voted "no" because he wanted to be "fiscally prudent. Looking at the multi-year projection, I'm not sure I can comply with this."

The restored positions for next year are for one time only. They are funded partly by the concessions that the teachers, classified personnel, and administrators agreed to this year when it looked like Proposition 30 might not pass.

Prop. 30 saved programs in this school year. The district employees did not ask for their concession money back this year, so that carry-over will be used for next year.

Further, Pleasanton Partners in Education (PPIE) has been raising funds. Some of the money will go for specific restorations. As of Feb. 21, PPIE had raised \$298,000. Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment (PSEE) has also raised money for the arts programs.

CAREER

(continued from page one)

aware that resume writing has changed, said Bartolotti. Now the resumes are tailored to the person's job skills, as they match up to a job description. In the old days, one simply listed education and work experience.

All of the classes go for a week, eight hours a day. They include classes about entrepreneurial management, the credit field, e-commerce, and retail sales.

A sampling from the on-line catalogue shows that the sales class covers many things, including a step by step analysis of a sale, role playing focusing on the sales process, how to manage time, and even learning retail sales slang.

Hand 'n Hand holds a job fair every month on its premises on Stoneridge Drive. There are other special presentations, as employers come in ready to hire people, said Bartolotti.

"Safeway held an exclusive job fair here. They brought in 12 of their staff, and even conducted drug-testing here. There were 60 interviewed, and 15 walked out with job offers that day. Safeway offered them jobs that included positions for clerks, bakers, coffee servers, produce and gas station attendants," said Bartolotti.

Bartolotti's background is in business education. She worked with the College of Automotive Management in

Pleasanton. She was director there, but when the automotive industry took a dive in 2008, they facility closed its doors. "Auto companies were not ready to sign \$16,000 checks anymore for five weeks of training," she said.

Many of the people who use Hand 'n Hand are eligible to have their expenses covered by various government programs. The state employment department often picks up the tab for its clients, since Hand 'n Hand has qualified as an institution on the state's list.

Bartolotti also offers outreach to schools. She went to Valley High School in Dub-

lin to "let them know we are here, especially students in a non-traditional school, who might have had problems. They just need more skills. We are able to offer them small classes, and make sure there is one-on-one instruction. That's why we are here all day, and that's why there is homework. When you come into our center, you are coming to work, said Bartolotti.

Bartolotti opened the center last year, though planning began in 2009. She is still volunteering her time, though she hopes one day the non-profit will be bringing in enough revenue to pay her a salary.

Recycled Water Coalition Is Growing

The Western Recycled Water Coalition (WRWC) is showing off its new name as it spreads its geographical reach to the Central Valley.

The alliance of water recyclers had been called the Bay Area Recycled Water Coalition. Now that it has added Fresno and some cities in Tulare County, the name had to be changed.

The coalition works to find grants for its members so that recycled water projects can be enabled.

In the Valley, Pleasanton, Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD), and Zone 7 Water Agencies are members.

Livermore operates a wastewater treatment plant,

but is not a member. The city uses recycled water at its municipal golf course and in select areas north of Interstate 580, including fire hydrants, which are painted purple to designate their water status.

DSRSD recycled water projects irrigate sports fields and other public landscapes. Pleasanton sends its wastewater to the DSRSD plant.

Zone 7 joined several years ago. It does not have any recycled water projects, but has been looking at the possibility of a joint desalination project in San Francisco Bay, probably on the Carquinez Strait in northern Contra Costa County.

Since the name has been

changed, all members must rejoin the organization. The membership is not controversial for Zone 7, so it will be on the board's consent calendar at the March 20 meeting, said general manager Jill Duerig.

Zone 7 has two interests in belonging to the WRWC, said Duerig. Besides the desalination project, Zone 7 wants to support recycled water as an easing of the burden of providing potable water to customers. The more recycled water that can be delivered, the less demand on Zone 7.

Zone 7 obtains its water from Lake Oroville in Northern California. The

system travels through the Delta, which is a bottleneck for water delivery.

Court decisions about the proper times to pump water to avoid Delta fish kills have restricted the times when Zone 7 can take water.

Further, this winter has become a dry one. The state has told Zone 7 that it will be allowed a water allocation this year that is 20 percentage points lower than normal. However, it is too soon to make a final determination. With plenty of rain and snow, things could get better. However, if March is a dry month, the 20-point deficit could grow even more, said Duerig.

CAREER

(continued from page one)

gineering, responsible for the development, building and implementation of PV Manufacturing tools. His last role was Chief of Staff where he supported the CEO on Corporate Level initiatives. Thomas joined Solyndra in 2007, after working for Novellus Systems, a Semiconductor Capital Equipment company. At Novellus, he held numerous positions in Business Development, Strategic Marketing and Global Product Management.

Brandon Cardwell, i-GATE vice president, said there was no hesitation in

hiring Thomas because of his connection to Solyndra.

Solyndra was the center of controversy after it received federal stimulus dollars and then went out of business.

Cardwell stated, "Spigri's skill set was too good to ignore. He brings a strong technical background and has filled high administrative positions. He is excellent with people."

In 1996, Thomas emigrated from Switzerland, where he was born and raised.

Thomas lives in Danville with his wife and their two boys.

On Tuesday, the Davis City Council voted to approve a contract with Rob White as its chief technology officer. In that capacity, he will be working closely with i-GATE on behalf of the City of Davis. Half of White's salary will be paid the city, the other half by a technology and industry group.

Rochelle Swanson, vice mayor of Davis, represents the city at i-GATE. She confirmed the city's commitment to i-GATE and said that she looks forward to working with Livermore to advance the mission of i-GATE.

White has been commuting from Sacramento to Livermore. By taking the job with Davis, he reduces his commute time by almost three hours.

i-GATE operates a 501(c) 3 non-profit technology commercialization center (NEST), an Academic Alliance, and a non-profit facility development corporation. The i-GATE partnership is supported by economic and workforce development organizations, federal laboratories, universities, the State of California iHub program, and nine regional cities.

MAILBOX

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

Social Stigma Grace Clark Livermore

Shortly after our recent presidential election, the Vatican reaffirmed its condemnation of LGBT people. In addition, many other political and religious leaders continue to work hard every day to stigmatize, dehumanize and pass laws against LGBT people. Why do these good, well-meaning people do this? The fundamental reason given is that they believe LGBT people are making an immoral "perverted lifestyle choice." They simply do not believe that LGBT people could possibly be born that way. "LGBT people are disgusting. God does not make mistakes, and God would never make anybody that way. It's just not natural." The "ick factor" is very strong.

The problem is that serious responsible medical, psychological and biological scientists/professionals have long known that LGBT people are born that way. Scientists know that LGBT people are just as natural as "regular" people; and scientists know that trying to convert LGBT people to "regular" people is like trying to teach a fish to play baseball. However, many social leaders feel they must deny science. After all, if the scientists were correct, then the social leaders would

clearly and obviously be engaged in bigotry. That would be very embarrassing.

When did you choose to become hetero? Amazingly, many citizens continue to believe that LGBT people wake up one day and say to themselves, "I think today I would like to risk losing my family, my friends, my job, my religious standing, my spouse and possibly my life. I'm eager to live under laws that deny me my civil liberties. I think I'll choose to become LGBT. That looks like something fun to do."

I believe that there is no good reason why religious faith and science cannot co-exist without acrimony. All that is required is letting go of some of the beliefs created long ago by fallible humans. Predictably however, despite modern scientific knowledge, many social leaders continue to protect their egos and long-held power by taking moral cover behind ancient texts and cherished traditions. This is exactly what the Vatican did to Galileo Galilei after he proved in 1613 that, contrary to church teachings, the Earth rotates around the Sun. The Roman Inquisition put Galileo under house arrest until his death in 1642 for heresy against the Pope. They banned his scientific publications. It was not until 1984, fifteen years after the first manned moon landing, that the Vatican finally apologized to Galileo.

Today, many LGBT people continue to suffer depression, diminished lives and hate crimes. Large fractions attempt or commit suicide because they are stigmatized by well-intentioned individuals and backward institutions who promote shameful interpretations of the holy scriptures. I've known suicide victims. We cannot expect our children to stop bullying as long as our political and religious leaders do it.

As we wait 350+ years

for the Vatican and other institutions to apologize to LGBT people, please understand that (1) NOBODY voluntarily joins a stigmatized minority group, (2) Some people in your family tree were born LGBT, (3) Stigma kills, (4) *The holy scriptures instruct us to love and embrace the poor, downtrodden and ostracized—not drive them to suicide in the name of God*, and (5) Your level of personal peace will improve dramatically once you suppress your ego, drop your fear, open your heart and honor the Golden Rule; Mine has.

Brown Paper Bags Mary McMahon Livermore

Now that the shock and panic with the demise of plastic bags has been abated, may I suggest the use of brown paper bags. Many food banks and churches in Livermore distribute groceries every week to our needy neighbors. For a few dimes each week donate the bags to these groups. You will feel better.

Livermore Opera Roger Lake Livermore

The Livermore Valley Opera has done it again. From the Bohemians in 1890's they will transform the Bankhead Theater into Parisian high society in the 1840's with their performance of La Traviata by Verdi. It is the story of a fallen woman who redeems herself through a selfless act.

My wife and I have been attending the rehearsals and it has all of the makings of an extraordinary performance. It is done traditionally with a twist at the end. It is a great pleasure watching the director, Brian Ludloff, collaboratively working with the performers to assemble all of the pieces that will create the atmosphere of Paris and the

life of Violetta. He watches every detail, every movement and every pause. He is a master of his craft. The stage design was created for this performance and uses layers of scenic drapes. Alex Katsman has assembled a dream team of singers.

Rebecca Davis is a vivacious Violetta, a strong willed woman that has adapted to a hard life and then discovers true love. This is one of the most demanding roles in Opera, besides continually being on stage, the part requires that she sing in three styles, a coloratura, a full lyric and dramatic. It is a tour de force and she was made for the part. Her flashing dark eyes melt men's hearts. David Gustafson, tenor, is Alfredo, a naive son from the country that is smitten by Violetta in spite of her notorious past. His devotion to her knows no bounds, his love is timeless and her loss throws him into the depths of despair. The chemistry between them is white hot. Torlef Borsting, bass baritone, is Germont, a father asking Violetta to do the unimaginable for the sake of his family. We could feel his anguish as he realized the unseen impact. The supporting staff of full-time opera professionals and the Livermore Opera Chorus rounds out the excellent cast. One of the high points is the dusk-to-dawn bacchanalian party with the full company featuring gypsies, fortunetellers, matadors and bulls.

We unreservedly urge you to come to one of the four performances (March 9, 10, 16 and 17th). You will see a great performance. You don't have to drive to San Francisco to see great opera — great opera is in Livermore! Buy your tickets at the Bankhead Theater ticket office by phone, email or walk up (12-6 T-Sat). Don't miss this. Immerse yourself in the glitter, glamour and decadence of Paris and enjoy this magnificent opera.

THE *Independent*

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IMPACTS

(continued from page one)

ers will be laid off. It is just a way of quantifying what the loss of revenue from sequestration represents.

Assistant superintendent Chris Van Schaack told The Independent that for one thing, although there apparently will be cuts in special education funding, he won't recommend that any special education teachers be laid off.

The district was prepared by the school board meeting March 6 to consider laying off 18 full-time equivalent positions, including one administrator, in order to meet the state requirement of a 3 percent fund reserve.

The current reserve is 3.5 percent. It had been higher, because of layoffs several years ago. However, it has gone back down because of annual deficit spending. This year the deficit expenditures total \$4.7 million.

If the board were to lay off people, any teachers in the group would have to receive a preliminary notice by March 15, according to state law. Final notice would go out in May. If a teacher does not receive a preliminary notice, he or she cannot be laid off in the next school year. Other district employees have later notification deadlines.

Sequestration would cut out a small percentage of the district's special education and Title I low-income household funding. There also would be a cut in Title II funds, which are used to train teachers and principals.

Costs will go up automatically for the district next year, because teachers will have step-and-column pay increases. Utilities and supplies are expected to cost more with a rise in inflation.

"We were deficit spending this year, and it will be even more next year," said Susan Kinder, chief business official.

In Pleasanton schools, the total bite from sequestration

would add up to \$208,000, according to Director of Fiscal Services Suzy Chan.

Most of it would be \$157,000 for special education. The Title I loss would be \$33,000. For Title II, the teacher education money, it would be \$10,000. Other losses would be \$5,000 for the English Learners program, and \$3,000 for career and technical education.

RIPPLE EFFECT MIGHT BE FELT

The cities of Livermore and Pleasanton don't receive much federal money directly into their budgets. However, there is potential impact out in the communities.

Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho said that sequestration will touch the local economy with a ripple effect from the furloughs of federal employees, such as those at the science labs.

Pleasanton receives \$300,000 to support some social services and police and fire. They may be vulnerable to some small percentage of revenue cuts, but there would be no significant impacts to the city budget, said Fialho.

"The impact on the local economy is a bigger point. A lot of our residents work at the national laboratories. Without continued employment there, there would be an impact on Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley," said Fialho.

Fialho said that there are a number of small businesses that work with the labs as contractors. They could be impacted. For example, if a small local electrical firm or a custodial services is tapped for some of the ongoing maintenance at the labs, that work might be reduced.

Job losses also translate to less discretionary income for people who are laid off. That dampens spending in stores and restaurants. Cutbacks in personal spending also mean less money donated to non-profits and school fund-raisers, said Fialho.

Livermore assistant city manager Troy Brown said that the city receives very little funding from the federal government.

"When we look at sequestration, we see broad cuts in social services, which would be spread out over many jurisdictions. It would not be 10 percent (for example) on us," said Brown.

Nevertheless, the impacts of sequestration are serious. "We are at a tenuous state in the economic recovery. Anything that can impact on a global or regional scale (is serious)," said Brown.

"People shouldn't worry about the level of services here. We have found the bottom of the economy, and have a pretty bright future ahead, with Paragon (Outlet Mall) opening. We are optimistic. Paragon is doing great," said Brown.

Congressman Eric Swalwell has also commented on sequestration. He said in a press release that he has signed on as a co-author of HR 699, a bill that would replace the sequestration with a "balanced approach. It would include additional revenue from multi-millionaires and smart cuts to reduce unnecessary spending."

Swalwell said sequestration has "broad, indiscriminate cuts." In the 15th Congressional District, schools will lose \$11 million in federal funding, and the figure for the state is \$87.6 million, said Swalwell.

Director of Library Services for Livermore Announces Retirement

Director of Library Services Susan Gallinger has announced her retirement after a 43-year career in library services, 28 of which she has spent with the City of Livermore. Susan will end her tenure as Livermore Library Director on April 15, 2013.

Prior to coming to Livermore as Library Director in 1985, Susan served as assistant director for the Nicholson Memorial Library in the City of Garland, Texas. She then moved to Tacoma, Washington where, as assistant director for the Tacoma Public Library, she oversaw a library system that included a Main library and eleven branch libraries. Susan came to Livermore in 1985 when the City had only one library - serving 45,000 residents.

Upon arriving in Livermore, Susan was tasked with improving the technology of the library and enhancing the outreach of library services. Library automation was introduced and continues to be utilized in the delivery of library services to the community.

Under Susan's watch, the Springtown Branch Library was opened at its current location in 1986. The City's library outreach services were expanded with the use

of the "Library-in-a-Box," a 12 ft. x 12 ft. construction box that offered books and other materials at various locations around the community during the summer months. This program was the genesis for the creation of the Rincon Branch Library which opened in 1992.

In 1986, Susan began what has become the Livermore Library Summer Reading Program. Children who read 100 books in this program are presented awards at a regular City Council meeting in September every year. In 1986 when it started, 19 children were eligible for the awards. In 2012, over 800 children had a chance to be recognized by the City Council.

Susan's proudest achievement is the opening of the Main Library at the City's Civic Center. This 56,000 s.f. facility opened in 2004. The Civic Center Library has an annual circulation of over 800,000 items, 75 public computers, free wifi

for the public and numerous examples of public art.

Her contributions to the Livermore Library are recognized by City Leaders who appreciate the positive impact she has had. Livermore Mayor John Marchand said, "Because of Susan's efforts, we have a world class library system, and our Main Library is the crown jewel of libraries in the Tri Valley area."

In addition to her duties as Library Director, Susan has been active in the Livermore community. In 1999-2000, she was the first female president of the Livermore Rotary Club. She has served on numerous non-profit boards and has been involved in many community service projects. In 2001, she traveled to Snezhinsk, Russia to represent Livermore and establish a Rotary Club in this Livermore Sister City.

Susan plans to spend more time with her family, travel and play lots of golf.

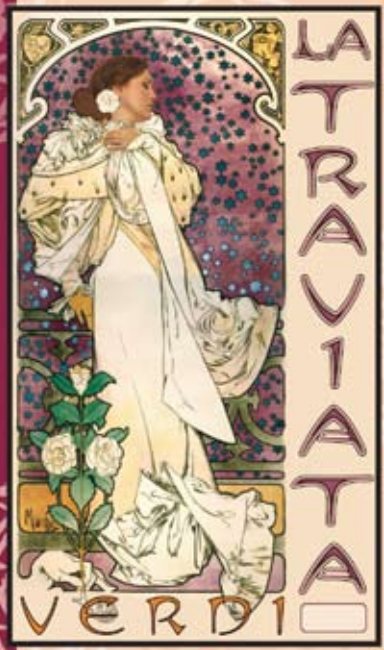
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For non-urgent concerns, Monday through Thursday before 4 p.m., call 925-875-6223. For urgent medical concerns, or on weekends, holidays or after hours, call the advice nurse at 925-875-6100 to schedule an appointment.
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Breastfeeding is a natural process and mothers and babies don't always need professional help. However, if breastfeeding is not going well, the baby is not getting enough milk or breastfeeding is painful for the mother, then timely help can make all the difference for both. A lactation consultant provides assistance with hands-on instruction and reassurance to make breastfeeding a positive experience for you and your baby.

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650-853-2960

 Learn about normal newborn appearance and behavior as well as soothing techniques from one of our Dublin Center pediatricians or family medicine doctors. After the presentation, our doctors will be available for a Q&A session about everything newborn in this free one-hour class. You'll also find out how the Pediatrics and Family Medicine Departments work, what happens in the hospital and what to look for in the first few weeks with your baby.

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The Health Resource Center offers information and support for those who wish to make informed decisions regarding their health and wellness. The center is open to all members of the community.

- Nurse health educators
- Health reference books
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- Informational brochures
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SPORTS NOTES



In the photo are members of the Granada Little League Junior 80's opening day team Mark Silverthorn, Manager Kyle Hemmig, Connor Detlefsen, Manager Doug Detlefsen, Alex Gonzales, Jack McCaffrey, Jason Van Bladel, Chad Hemmig, Coach Kevin Van Bladel, Connor McGothin, Jack Kath, Zach Stewart, Justin Szopa, Coach Jeff Stewart; and kneeling, Tristan Clark, and Tyler Rodgers.



Taylor's Martial Arts pictured are (back row) David Mordick, Vince Aying, Katrina Curbelo, Keith Britto, Debbie May, Wade Taylor, Kevlin Husser; (middle) Ariyana Walling, Ethan Chao, Joseph Ventura, Hector Flores, Jaden Husser, Tanya Sharetskaya; and (front) Sofie McMichael, Helena Macias, Mayalanni Erediano, Alexis Aying, Devin Mordick, Elizabeth Garcia, and Noah Britto.



Tallon Chambers, from the Amador Judo team in Livermore, competed in the Vacaville PAL Judo Club event.



The Livermore Aquacowboys were represented at the Pacific Swimming Zone All-Star meet. The meet was hosted by the Carson City Tiger sharks in Carson City, Nevada on March 3, 2013. Alex Gonzalez (14) and Caroline Eckel (11) from the Livermore Aquacowboys represented Zone 2 at the All-Star meet.



Dublin High School boys varsity basketball team lost 74 to 60 to Newark Memorial last week. The Gaels, with a 24-6 record for the year, move into state championship division II second round action this Saturday with the opponent to be determined. Dublin's record earned it a first round bye.

Scholar/Athlete

Las Positas College "Hawks" swimmer Kyle Suchland has been selected for inclusion on the 2012 California Community College Athletic Association's (CCCCA) prestigious Scholar Athlete Honor Roll. Suchland will be among a select group of recipients of this honor at the Celebration of Scholar Athletes Luncheon during the 16th Annual CCCC Convention on Wednesday, March 27 at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel in San Mateo, CA.

Suchland is a backstroke and freestyle specialist at Las Positas College. His athletic accomplishments include holding the team records in the 100 (53.32) and 200 (1:57.39) yard backstroke, and the 200 (1:52.21) and 500 (5:01.03) freestyle, as well as the fastest 100 yard freestyle (46.72) in a relay.

While deeply involved in his extracurricular, time-intensive, swimming activities, Kyle also maintained a 4.0 GPA (Grade Point Average) while carrying a full load (13-20 units per semester) of academic courses. For more information, contact Dean Dyan Miller at (925) 424-1275 or dmiller@laspositascollege.edu.

The CCCC is the governing body providing oversight of intercollegiate athletics within the California Community College System. That network of higher education institutions is the single largest educational system in the world, with attendance in excess of over 2.6 million students annually. The CCCC establishes the rules and regulations to administer the intercollegiate athletic activities of the nearly 27,000 student athletes attending California's community colleges.

and 3 RBIs. Solid performance by the defense helped lead the team to victory.

Yankees 4, A's 5: A's pitcher Grant Blockley pitched a strong 3 innings, allowing 2 runs on 5 hits. Blockley also had an RBI and 2 runs scored. Zachary Parodi pitched 2 solid innings and went 2 for 3 with a run scored. Yankee's pitcher Andrew Hayley went 3 innings allowing 3 runs on 4 hits. Hayley also went 1 for 2 with 2 RBIs. Megee also went 2 for 3 with 1 run scored. VanTrease had a stellar defensive game.

Junior 80's: Granada Jr 80's Black Team had a strong opening day with a 15-8 victory over Pleasanton National. Contributions up and down the lineup contributed to the win. Starting pitcher Jack Kath and starting catcher Tyler Rodgers held Pleasanton scoreless in the first inning while Granada jumped out to a 3-0 lead. Pleasanton roared back by the third inning taking a 7-4 lead over Granada. Relief pitcher Chad Hemmig held Pleasanton to only 4 more runs as Granada's bats came alive to score 11 more runs to end the game, 6 of the runs coming in the fourth inning on a two out rally. Strong offense came from 1st baseman Connor Detlefsen going 3 for 3 with 2 singles, 1 double, 2 RBIs and 3 runs. 3rd baseman/catcher Mark Silverthorn was 3 for 3 with 2 singles, 1 double, 2 RBIs and 3 runs. Tristan Clark and Zach Stewart each had a double, while lead off hitter Jason Van Bladel stole his way around the bases for 2 runs. The defense team of Alex Gonzalez, Connor McGlothlin and Justin Szopa helped relief pitcher Hemmig hold off the Pleasanton bats. Right fielder Jack McCaffrey caught a soaring pop fly with 2 outs and 2 on base to end the inning for Pleasanton.

Farm: Giants vs. Orioles: Thomas Cooper was the Giants star on offense while Gavin Bates was the Giants' leader on defense. In the second inning Cooper broke the game open when he launched the biggest hit of the contest into deep right field towards the 200 foot sign, and cleared the bases driving in 3 runs. Dom Franco contributed an RBI plus two long singles. Dominic was strong behind the plate as catcher. In the second inning Jack Robbins was the standout on defense. Ava Schwarz turned in two solid defensive plays. Conner Raridan had a good day at the plate with a sacrifice out and RBI single in the third inning. Lukas Cusimano had a sacrifice RBI in the first and singled his teammate to second base in the next inning. Luke Schwarz had two long singles to center field. He also made some good plays on defense. Scotty Lineweber sent a long smash into center field to drive in a run. Natnael Leary was a standout on offense with three strong hits. Gavin Bates flexed his muscles on defense in all three innings.

Cardinals vs. Red Sox: Cardinal standouts were Ben Johnston, who went 3 for 3 with a double and 3 RBIs; Hayden Borg with 3 RBIs as well as to accompany his solid D at first. Red Sox standouts: Dominic Skally played a great game at first base, making some great catches. Jo Jo Camilleri was great in the field and had a big hit.

Phillies 13, A's 13: It was an unassisted double play by Adrian Vargas which secured the tie for the Athletics. At the top of the six inning there was a late rally by the Athletics fueled by Ozzie Cervantez' double, Gavin Benitez' RBI line drive double to the left field fence, and then a clutch RBI single by Joey Keeler for the A's thirteenth run. Throughout the game the lead changed hands 3 times. Lucian Wolf hit three singles, including an RBI. Lucian Wolf's single kept the rally alive. On defense in the fifth inning, Lucian Wolf recorded an unassisted out at first. Ashton Baswell made a key defensive play in the fifth inning, backing up at third to prevent the winning run. Luke Leary contributed 4 singles and a nice catch at 3rd base. Marco Wilde added two RBIs in the 4th inning. Ozzie Cervantez charged a slow grounder in the 3rd inning and completed a hard throw to first for an out. Adrian Vargas never saw first base as he opted to only hit doubles on opening day. Noah Olivier hit the ball well in the first inning and was robbed of a base hit. Wyatt Krauss lined a single. Joey Keeler and Gavin Benitez both pitched in with two additional key singles prior to their big hits in the sixth inning. Connor Rosales had a nice scoop and throw to Luke Leary for a close play at second base in the 4th inning. Connor reached first base three times on Saturday. Leary had an unassisted out at third base in the 5th inning.

AA Division: Yankees 12, A's 5: Sean Nadeau and Colin Johnston pitched a great game. Donovan Holmes hit a single and a double. Josh Cullen, Denny Durham and Jackson Snodgrass also all had hits. Neil Patel stole three bases.

Majors: Giants 6, Phillies 3: Stellar performance on opening day by all Giants pitchers including Ian Rasmusen, Grant Borjon and Ryan Escover. Giants offense, Ethan Vincent drove in 2 RBIs and Ian Rasmusen had an in the park homerun, driving

Majors: Phillies 4, Giants 12: Phillies top players: Dalton Johnston, Jackson Brown, Aaron Aguilar; Giants top players: Mikey Bryson, Evan Capurro, Nolan Martin.

A Division: Angels 14, Giants 22. Angels 13, Red Socks 13.

T-Ball: MudCats: Top players were Noah, Chris and Angelina.

Tumbling and Trampoline
Several higher-level gymnasts from Livermore's Springtime Tumbling and Trampoline team traveled to Phoenix, Arizona for the Classic Rock Gymnastics Invitational held February 15-17th. In addition to individual awards, Springtime won two team awards: 1st place for Level 10 trampoline and 2nd place for Level 10 double-mini. Below are the individual scores:

Kendall Aasen 15 & over: Trampoline Level 8: 51.5/1st, Double-Mini Level 8: 60.2/1st, Tumbling Level 8: 52.9/2nd; Kaitlyn Clevenger 11-12: Trampoline Level 8: 52.5/1st, Double-Mini Level 8: 59.4/2nd

Robathan Harries 15 & over: Trampoline Level 10: 53.9/2nd, Double-Mini Level 9: 50.4/5th, Tumbling Level 7: 36.6/2nd; Ruben Padilla 11-12: Trampoline Level 10: 59.9/1st, Double-Mini Level 10: 63.2/1st, Tumbling Level 9: 56.2/2nd

LOCAL MEETS
Gymnasts from Livermore's Springtime Tumbling and Trampoline competed in two local meets in February. On February 10th they traveled to Marin to compete in the MEGA TnT Invitational. On the 24th they went to San Jose to compete in the Vargas Invitational. Below are the results for both meets.

(TR: Trampoline, DM: Double Mini, TU: Tumbling, L: Level)
MEGA Invitational: Boys: Ben Tomlin: TR L6 20.1/2nd, DM L6 55.4/2nd; Timothy Chan: TR L7 21.3/2nd, DM L6 55.9/1st; David Davison: TR L7 24.4/1st, DM L8 59.2/2nd; Nick Francken: TR L7 21.8/2nd, DM L7 55.6/3rd; Connor Tomlin: TR L8 48.2/2nd, DM L7 56.6/1st; Nicholas Chan: TR L8 46.5/3rd, DM L7 56.3/1st; Jeremy Pigford: TR L8 48.5/1st, DM L8 50.6/2nd; Nicolai Petersen: TR L8 48.5/1st, DM L8 58.0/1st

Girls Ages 6-11: Emma Petersen: TR L6 22.0/1st, DM L6 53.8/2nd; Megan Wong: TR L6 23.4/1st, DM L6 57.8/1st; Sabra Wilson: TR L7 23.1/1st, DM L7 57.6/1st; Girls Ages 12 & over: Camille Wong: TR L6 24.1/1st, DM L6 57.3/1st; Kendall Aasen: TR L8 49.3/1st, DM L8 60.2/1st; Loren Couture: TR L8 27.8/2nd, DM L8 59.6/2nd

Vargas Invitational: Girls Ages 9-10: Emma Petersen: TR L6 21.9/4th, TU L4 55.6/2nd; Sabra Wilson: TR L7 22.8/2nd, DM L7 55.8/3rd, TU L5 54.1/2nd; Boys Ages 9-10: Ben Tomlin: TR L6 20.4/5th, DM L6 54.7/4th, TU L4 55.0/1st; Timothy Chan: TR L7 21.3/2nd, DM L6 54.9/3rd, TU L5 51.8/2nd; Connor Tomlin: TR L8 48.1/1st, DM L7 54.5/2nd, TU L7 49.5/1st

Girls Ages 11-12: Dawn Powell: TR L5 21.5/3rd, DM L5 55.7/5th, TU L4 54.3/4th; Kaitlyn Firestone: TR L5 21.2/4th, DM L5 55.9/4th, TU L4 56.3/2nd; Megan Wong: TR

Granada Little League

Granada Little League results from opening weekend:

T-Ball: Rangers vs. D-Backs: Top offensive players for the Rangers were Hans Randall, Anya Eastman and Tyler Palma; for the D-backs were Dario Benjines, James Foulke and Charlie Hertz. Top defensive players for the Rangers were Jess Wilder, Blake Downs and Andrew Van Raden; for the D-backs were Seth Sprague, Preston Temple, and Brayden Tenyson.

Minor A: Rangers vs. Yankees: The top all around players for the Yankees were Nathan Blanton, AJ Bridges, and Nicky Pietro. The Rangers' top players overall were Drew Hansen, Quinn Boyd, and Jack Taggart.

Cardinals vs. Red Sox: Cardinal standouts were Ben Johnston, who went 3 for 3 with a double and 3 RBIs; Hayden Borg with 3 RBIs as well as to accompany his solid D at first. Red Sox standouts: Dominic Skally played a great game at first base, making some great catches. Jo Jo Camilleri was great in the field and had a big hit.

Phillies 13, A's 13: It was an unassisted double play by Adrian Vargas which secured the tie for the Athletics. At the top of the six inning there was a late rally by the Athletics fueled by Ozzie Cervantez' double, Gavin Benitez' RBI line drive double to the left field fence, and then a clutch RBI single by Joey Keeler for the A's thirteenth run. Throughout the game the lead changed hands 3 times. Lucian Wolf hit three singles, including an RBI. Lucian Wolf's single kept the rally alive. On defense in the fifth inning, Lucian Wolf recorded an unassisted out at first. Ashton Baswell made a key defensive play in the fifth inning, backing up at third to prevent the winning run. Luke Leary contributed 4 singles and a nice catch at 3rd base. Marco Wilde added two RBIs in the 4th inning. Ozzie Cervantez charged a slow grounder in the 3rd inning and completed a hard throw to first for an out. Adrian Vargas never saw first base as he opted to only hit doubles on opening day. Noah Olivier hit the ball well in the first inning and was robbed of a base hit. Wyatt Krauss lined a single. Joey Keeler and Gavin Benitez both pitched in with two additional key singles prior to their big hits in the sixth inning. Connor Rosales had a nice scoop and throw to Luke Leary for a close play at second base in the 4th inning. Connor reached first base three times on Saturday. Leary had an unassisted out at third base in the 5th inning.

AA Division: Yankees 12, A's 5: Sean Nadeau and Colin Johnston pitched a great game. Donovan Holmes hit a single and a double. Josh Cullen, Denny Durham and Jackson Snodgrass also all had hits. Neil Patel stole three bases.

Majors: Giants 6, Phillies 3: Stellar performance on opening day by all Giants pitchers including Ian Rasmusen, Grant Borjon and Ryan Escover. Giants offense, Ethan Vincent drove in 2 RBIs and Ian Rasmusen had an in the park homerun, driving

Gymnastics

Several levels of boys gymnastics teams from West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy (WCOGA) of Pleasanton competed on February 23rd-24th at the Top Flight Invitational in Fremont.

The Level 5 and 6 Team took second place and third place respectively. Bringing in top scores in the level 5 division was Isaiah Mlay 1st place AA and Anish Lahorani in the 6-8 age bracket, and in the level 5 Age 9 bracket Malakai Mlay earned 8th place AA, Tyler Hom 12th place AA, Andrew Tambunting 14th AA. In the Level 6 division Cameron Levine took 8th AA, Cameron Higgins earned 10th and Kiran Bhat took 13th, Aden Cohen earned 17th. In the Level 8 age 11-12 bracket Zion English earned 2nd place, Dominic Costa 4th, Ben Roller 6th. In the 13 and older age bracket of level 8 Robbie Tambunting took 3rd, Stephen Chan took 5th, Yianni Constantanides 6th and the Level 8 Team took 1st Place. For the Level 10 Team Nikita Latman took 2nd and Chris Siebel 5th AA.

The Level 9 WCOGA boys team traveled down to Southern California on Feb 16th to compete in the Palm Tree Classic and earned the First Place Team award. In the 13-14 age bracket Thomas Mistretta took 3rd AA and Bennett Huang took 4th AA. Travis Gollott (level 10 age 17-18 bracket) swept the field, taking first AA.

Livermore American LL
Livermore American Little League scores:

AA Division: Angels 5, Padres 5; Padres top players: Jarret Williams, Matthew Villareal, Garret Montgomery; Angels top players: Jordan Lamendola, Roberto Alvear, Matthew Warren.

Orioles 10, Phillies 0, Yankees 1, Orioles 16.

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SPORTS NOTES

Support Livermore High Sports At the Cowboy Round-Up

By Patricia Koning

On Saturday, March 9, the Livermore High School (LHS) Boosters Club presents its Cowboy Round-Up fundraiser from 6 to 11 pm at the Robert Livermore Community Center. The event includes dinner catered by Texas Roadhouse, a dessert auction, DJ and dancing, silent and live auctions, and a raffle of gift baskets created by LHS sports teams.

The Cowboy-Round up is the LHS Boosters Club's largest fundraising event. It allows the organization to raise funds to support sports teams at LHS. At the event, teams are able to directly earn funds by providing raffle baskets with 100% of proceeds returned to the individual teams.

Tickets are \$45 for individuals or available in packages that include admission and drink tickets. The pack-

ages are: Player Package for 1, admission and five drink tickets (\$50); Fan Package for 2, admission for two and 10 drink tickets (\$100); Head Coach Package, Table for 4 with one bottle of wine (\$200); and Team Package, Table for 8 and two bottles of wine (\$400). A portion of each Head Coach and Team Package ordered will be donated to the team of your choice.

Packages, individual admission, drink tickets, and raffle tickets can be ordered at www.cowboyboosters.org/auction.html. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Questions can be directed to cowboyboosters@gmail.com.

LHS Boosters has donated over \$26,000 to the high school's sports teams. About half that amount has been awarded to sports teams as grants for uniforms, ref-

eree stands, bleachers, balls, swim caps, scoreboard controllers, and other items. In addition, LHS Boosters has purchased many items from the wish lists of coaches.

"These are all things the District used to pay for," explains LHS Boosters president Barbara Morgan. "We try to honor all requests to fill the needs of our teams. The only rule is that items funded by the Boosters must be used for multiple years and belong to the sports teams."

The other half of the \$26,000 has come from the proceeds of the stadium and large gymnasium snack shacks at LHS. The LHS Boosters stock and inventory the snack shacks, which are run by athletes and parents during sporting events.

"In the past, only a few sports teams have operated the snack shacks. This year, we are giving that opportunity to all of the sports teams. In addition, we are operating the snack shack during more sports, like girls' lacrosse and track," says Morgan.

To date, 17 teams have operated and benefitted from the snack shack. An added bonus, says Morgan, is the interaction between parents and athletes of different sports, as multiple teams may operate the snack shack on the same night.

The LHS Boosters also expanded their spirit wear offerings to include items like socks, beanies, scarves, and necklaces. "It's gone really well," says Morgan. "The most popular item is the flannel pajama pants."

The goals and objectives of the LHS Boosters are to maintain and improve the athletic facilities at LHS; support and recognize the efforts of teams and athletes; provide additional opportunities to teams and athletes not funded by school money; and have an ongoing dialogue with the community, increasing awareness of LHS athletic events.

To learn more, visit www.cowboyboosters.org.

can win medals in their age division. 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.

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 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.

Club is open online. Please visit www.fusionsc.org. Two walk-in dates have been scheduled as well: Sunday, March 17th and Sunday, April 14th, both 10am-2pm at the Livermore High School Student Union. For questions or more information, please visit us at www.fusionsc.org or call (925) 443-7570.

Martial Arts

Taylor's Martial Arts in Livermore sent 15 of its students to compete in the California Black Belt League 2013 Kick Off Tournament in Modesto, CA, on March 2, 2013. The following students competed and placed:

Forms: Sofie McMichael - 1st Place First Timers; Alexis Aying - 1st Place 8-10 yr old Beginners; Helena Macias - 2nd Place 8-10 yr old Intermediate; Jaden Husser - 1st Place 11-13 yr old Beginners; Katrina Curbelo - 3rd Place 11-13 yr old Beginners; Hector Flores - 1st Place 11-13 yr old Intermediate; Ariyana Walling - 2nd Place 11-13 yr old Intermediate; Joseph Ventura - 1st Place 18-39 yr old Advanced

Sparring: Mayalanni Erediano - 1st Place First Timers, 3rd Place 6-7 yr old Girls Beginners; Devin Mordick - 3rd Place 8-9 yr old Boys Beginners; Alexis Aying - 1st Place 8-9 yr old Girls Intermediate; Elizabeth Garcia - 1st Place 10-11 yr old Girls Intermediate, 10-11 yr old Girls Grand Champion; Noah Britto - 4th Place 10-11 yr old Boys Intermediate; Katrina Curbelo - 1st Place 12-13 yr old Girls Beginners; Ariyana Walling - 1st Place 12-13 yr old Girls Intermediate; Hector Flores - 1st Place 12-13 yr old Boys Intermediate, 12-13 yr old Grand Champion; Joseph Vitale - 2nd Place 14-15 yr old Boys Advanced; and Tanya Sharetskaya - 2nd Place 14-15 yr old Girls Black Belt.

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 ghlhistory@comcast.net, along with your contact information. Thanks so 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.

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

PPIE Taking Entries for 1st Annual Run for Education

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education, PPIE will hold its 1st Annual Pleasanton Run for Education on Sunday, April 14, 2013. The event will include a half marathon, 5K and 1-mile Kids' Challenge. Both the half marathon and 5K routes pass through the scenic historic Main Street of Pleasanton and finish at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

The Pleasanton Run for Education is presented by ClubSport Pleasanton and 100% of the proceeds from the half marathon, 5K & 1-mile Kids' Challenge will

benefit Pleasanton schools.

PPIE is a non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting Pleasanton public schools by raising funds for programs that are threatened by state budget cuts. "It is our hope that this event will be an annual highlight that will bring the community together to increase support of our education initiatives," said Kelly French, Pleasanton Run for Education chair.

To register or to sign-up to volunteer on race day, please go to www.ppiirun.com.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Likeness family, Tawny holding Peyton, Matt and Caydence posed with the two San Francisco Giants World Series trophies. They were on display Saturday at the Robert Livermore Community Center in Livermore.

SHORT NOTES

Book Sale

Friends of the Dublin Library spring used book sale will be held at the library, 200 Civic Plaza, Friday, March 8 - Sunday, March 10, 2013.

The sale features specially priced books, new or of extra value; special collection of vintage books, and teacher materials section. Most prices are \$1 or less. Funds from sales go towards purchasing the Library's materials and supporting its programs.

Friday, March 8 is open to members only, 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Memberships will be available starting at 5:30 PM. Hours on Sat., March 9 are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sun., March 10, 1 to 4:30 p.m. is Bag Day. Fill a paper bag (provided) for \$4 or fill a special edition Friends of the Library canvas tote bag for \$8. Totes are also available for \$5, including sales tax. Bag Day Special features all audiovisual and specially priced items 1/2 off.

Friends of the Dublin Library invite you to shop for bargain books and audiovisual materials at the semi-annual Used Book Sale.

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

Gem Faire

Gem Faire will be in Pleasanton Mar. 8-10, 2013 at Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Hours are Fri. 12pm-6pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, and Sun. 10am-5pm. General admission is \$7, valid for the entire weekend.

Over 60 world renowned importers/exporters and manufacturers will be on site with the largest selection of fine jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, minerals, findings and much more at incredibly low prices. Finished and unfinished jewelry, rare gemstones, jewelry making tools, supplies & boxes will be available.

For more information, visit www.gemfaire.com or contact Gem Faire, Inc. at 503-252-8300 or email: info@gemfaire.com.

Fun on the Farm

Forest Home Farms Historic Park and the Glass House Museum offer Fun on the Farm from

10am to 2pm the 2nd Saturday of each month.

On March 9, 2013 the theme for the day will be "Mystery Gadgets and Tools." Over the years the patent office has been busy recording the latest ideas to make work in the kitchen and around the farm easier. Many of these time-saving contraptions have been replaced by newer technology.

Tours of the restored Victorian Glass House Museum will be held at 10am, 11am, 12pm and 1pm and tours of Forest

Home Farms Historic Park, including the tractor museum, at 11am and 1pm. Each tour lasts approximately 45 minutes and the fee is \$5 per person or \$8 for both tours taken on the same day. Tour tickets can be purchased in the Gift Shoppe. Children ages 2 and under are free.

For information about Forest Home Farms Historic Park call (925) 973-3284 or visit www.SanRamon.ca.gov. Forest Home Farms Historic Park is located at 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

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Join Our Team!

Volunteers are needed to assist with this year's Livermore Wine Country Festival.

Volunteering as a couple, group, company, friends or neighborhood, just adds to the fun. To ensure that you all get to volunteer together, sign up early!!

With our collection of restaurants, shops, live entertainment venues and unique experiences; we have a lot to be proud of. The successes of our events are due to Volunteers. The one thing we all have in common is our dedication to our pride and joy... Downtown Livermore!!

We hold a mandatory Volunteer Training Meeting (That makes our Insurance Company very happy!) that is not only informative for the event, but will really showcase all the great things your downtown has to offer! Join the team! It's always a great time!!

Thank You!

Livermore Downtown Inc. will thank volunteers 21 years of age and older with a Special Volunteer Wine or Beer Tasting Package to be used that weekend when not on duty! Volunteers under 21 will also receive a thank you gift for helping us out.

For more information go to www.LivermoreDowntown.com

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Young Women Learn about Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

By Carol Graham

Las Positas College hosted the Tri-Valley Expanding Your Horizons conference on March 2. The event is designed to encourage 6th - 9th grade girls to consider education and career options in the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"It couldn't have gone better," said event chairperson Jean Shuler. "The weather was perfect, the conference was full and the workshops were great. The girls seemed to really enjoy the entire day learning about STEM subjects. They were energized and had fun."

About 300 girls from Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and the surrounding areas attended the event organized by the Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories.

"I was surprised about the size of the event," said father Bill Washington, whose 12-year-old daughter Zoe attended the event. "There's a huge void in the business world in which these subjects are imperative for advancement. It's encouraging to see so many young ladies interested in expanding their knowledge and acumen."

Attendees visited a career fair and participated in their choice of two 90-



LLNL scientist Sonia Wharton (far left) lead a workshop where students learned the principles of wind energy and designing windmills. (Photo - Jacqueline McGrade, LLNL)

minute hands-on workshops, which included Modern Alchemy - Livermorium, LEGO Robotics and Junior Vets for Pets.

Livermore High School freshman Isabella Widmann joined the Fingerprinting Whodunnit? workshop. "I had fun exploring the different aspects of science that I can pursue and the different ideas of what I can become," she said. "I liked how the class opened up a whole variety of ideas."

Since 1979, Tri-Valley Expanding Your Horizons has provided an independent conference under the

Expanding Your Horizons Network, the umbrella for EYH conferences throughout the world. Although conferences in past years had been held at LPC, its most recent venue had been Diablo Valley College.

"We are very pleased that we were able to bring this great event back to Livermore and Alameda County," said LPC President Kevin Walters, Ph.D. "This is the heart of our mission - serving our community partners and building educational opportunities. I can't imagine a better way to reach out to the community than to be

part of a project that helps young women get into science professions."

During the conference, an adult program, conducted by LPC and Oakland's Techbridge, was offered to parents to provide information on preparing their daughters for college and stimulating their interest in STEM subjects.

Local dignitaries were offered tours of the workshops. "Every classroom was alive with action and enthusiasm," said LPC Vice President Janice Noble, Ph.D. "My hope is that these young women begin to see themselves in the role of women of science, technology, engineering and math. I also hope that the college campus is no longer a scary adult place, but a place where they can come for educational opportunities, and the beginning of a life of learning and growth."

Noble added that the coordination between EYH organizers and Las Positas College was exceptional. LPC looks forward to a return engagement next year.

"The conference is a completely volunteer effort; we're always seeking female professionals to lead or help in the workshops," said LLNL organizer Susan Springer. "We hope the girls realize that there are no limitations on their futures. They need to keep their minds open and explore all of their options. Science is a girl thing, too."

For more information, visit tveyh.org.

Engineering and Science Fair This Weekend

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory presents the Alameda County Science & Engineering Fair on Sat., March 9 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Students in 6 - 12th grades from schools in Alameda County have submitted science and engineering projects.

The science fair projects will be open to the public on Saturday, March 9th from 2:30 pm until 6:00 pm at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Follow the signs to the project buildings O, P, R Fairgrounds MAP Admission. Parking is free - enter at Gate 12 off of Valley Avenue.

More information can be found at www.acsef.com

Pleasanton Girl's Talk Helps Guard Against Cyberbullies

By Ron McNicoll

With the demeaning and intimidating behavior of bullying in schools spreading to on-line contact, Pleasanton Middle School 8th-grader Aashna Avachat decided to do something about it.

As a service project intended to attain her silver medal in Girl Scouts, Aashna created a slide show. She visited her former elementary school, Hearst, on Jan. 25, and made a presentation of the show to a combined audience of 4th and 5th graders. Aashna demonstrated creativity in searching the internet for images, choosing colorful drawings and varied type styles that appeal to elementary school children. She received help from a friend, Alisia Blair.

Aashna attended forums about cyberbullying in Pleasanton and San Ramon to gather much of her information for the presentation. Other material, including visuals, came from Common Sense Media, a San Francisco-based non-profit.

Common Sense Media works to guide children and parents about age-appropriate materials on the web, as well as in other media, such as books and television.

Aashna's slide show covers many facets designed to teach kids how to keep their guard up to prevent being exploited while on-line.

One basic rule is in four words: Stop, block, talk, and save. The first three words of the rule mean that the victim should stop looking at the bullying attack, and stop the attack by blocking it on the computer. Then kids should talk about the attack with their parents.

Only 10 percent of children are willing to talk to their parents about such attacks, said Aashna. "Some think that they can handle it themselves, or that it's not a big deal, or their parents will be overprotective. But parents had a childhood. They know what it's like to be bullied, and they can help," said Aashna.

Saving the material in the cyberattack is important. When someone is bullied on the playground, it's usually the victim's word against the perpetrator's. However, with computers, the material can be saved and printed out.

Printing out the bullying material is essential, because it can be shown to school officials, and, if necessary,

the police. In that way, such attacks can be stopped, not only against a particular individual, but also against others, said Aashna.

Students should not be afraid to go on Facebook, provided they use the privacy feature that is available allowing access to their site only if people log in.

There are fake Facebook logos on-line. If you click on one, a computer may get a virus, said Aashna.

It's also important to be careful what one writes on a Facebook page. "Eighty percent of colleges look at social networking accounts. If you post pictures at a party doing crazy things, you may have perfect grades, but colleges also look at how students act after school. They may not want you," said Aashna.

Like computer users of all ages, young people need to be aware of the danger of viruses. "A lot of times, a virus might be hidden in an attachment. There might be an attached picture, and you catch the virus when you open it up. Sometimes pop-up ads for anti-virus programs will give you a virus, which is ironic," said Aashna.

One good protection for kids on-line is for them to use a parent's e-mail address. In that way, if anything goes wrong, the parents will know about it immediately. The child won't be a victim, said Aashna.

District assistant superintendent Odie Douglas happened to be at Hearst on the day Aashna was giving her talk. He was invited to attend. Douglas came away impressed with both Aashna and her friend, Alisia.

"They were very well-versed young women, poised and informative in their presentation," said Douglas.

Aashna hopes to interest other schools in hearing her presentation.

ODYSSEY

(continued from page one)

Other projects included solar energy, nanotechnology and robotics.

"This year's event was great, about 700 students with 500 projects participated," said event coordinator and science teacher Regina Brinker. "Many more students and families attended the event to see the projects, visit the many display booths and listen to live music."

With original songs like Dance of the Muscle Groove and Fathom the Atom, local band Scientific Jam performed during the fair in Junction's multi-purpose room. "The Odyssey is a great event where students have a forum to present their scientific ideas and experiments," said band founder and Christensen Middle School science teacher Jeffrey Hale. "Students learn the scientific process and how to communicate findings in a public forum."

Any K-12 student in the district may participate. Students must complete scientific investigations that include formulating a question, posing an hypothesis, testing the prediction by collecting data and con-

ducting research, analyzing the results, and forming a conclusion.

"By completing science projects, students develop and use reasoning, creativity and critical thinking skills," said Brinker. "Not everyone will grow up to be a scientist or researcher, but everyone will grow up having to make life choices using critical thinking skills to help decision making."

Teachers in the district encourage students to participate though don't require it. Two Joe Michell School teachers found a unique way to inspire their second-grade students. "To show how much we value the thinking process and work that go into researching, conducting and completing a Science Odyssey project, we offered students two weeks free from homework last year," said Katie Cortez. "At first they just bought into the homework pass, but in the end they all raved about the whole process and how much they learned about science. The real pay-off came this year when the majority of those students completed another project as third graders even without the home-

work-free incentive."

Cortez's third-grade daughter Madalen worked with a friend to submit a bread mold experiment: White or Wheat? Light or Dark? "The part of the project I liked most was making the board because we got to use our 'art brains,'" said Madalen. "The best part of the fair was to see that we got a 1st Place ribbon."

The day before Thursday's fair, students brought their projects to Junction and met with two judges who questioned them about how their topics had been chosen, what difficulties they had faced, and what they had learned.

"Students were awarded first, second or third place, or honorable mention," said Brinker. "Regardless of the placement students were proud of their work and their accomplishment."

Attendees visited exhibitor booths to discover firsthand what developments are taking place in the community. Solar Universe, Wattz On, Friends of the Arroyos and Livermore High School Green Engineering Academy were among the two dozen exhibitors at the Odyssey.

"Students are exposed to new ideas, and to old ideas from a different perspective, which each can use to make better decisions in their future," said New World Systems' David Darlington who educates students about how to conserve energy and resources while at school.

Both Sandia and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories sponsored the event, along with support from many others including Livermore Valley Educational Foundation, Adopt a Creek, PG&E, and Zone 7 Water Agency.

"It's amazing listening to and watching students describe their experiences with experimenting, failing, succeeding, and then completing a judged interview," said Cortez. "There truly is no measure to how many academic and life lessons they learn just through the journey from idea to culmination at the Science Odyssey."



Pictured are Abbie Otte, Sean Taulbee and Kate Merritt, who were awarded the 4th and 5th Grade Best in Show/First Place winners in the district for the Science Odyssey held last Wednesday and Thursday night. The students are 4th Graders at Emma C, Smith Elementary.

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OZ: THE GREAT AND POWERFUL (PG) DLP D-BOX	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45	
DEAD MAN DOWN (R) DLP	1:20	4:20	6:50	9:30	
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER (PG13) DLP	1:10	4:00	6:45	9:25	
JACK THE GIANT SLAYER 3D (PG13) DLP	11:45	2:30	5:10	8:00	
THE LAST EXORCISM PART II (PG13) DLP	11:55	2:20	4:45	7:15	9:40
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	
SNITCH (PG13) DLP	12:00	2:30	4:50	7:15	9:35
21 AND OVER (R) DLP	12:05	2:25	4:50	7:20	9:45
SAFE HAVEN (PG13) DLP	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:50	
PREVIEW, MARCH 14TH:					
THE CALL (R) DLP			10:00PM		
INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE (PG13) DLP			10:00PM		

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CANDIDATES

(continued from page one)

There is the potential to look at incentives to attract businesses, he added. He suggested there may be a need to revisit fees to determine if they are appropriate.

Hamilton said he believes that the downtown needs to expand to provide a good mix of businesses and entertainment. At the same time, it is important to maintain the historic feeling. "I don't want the downtown to turn into a shopping mall," he stated.

Expanding entertainment opportunities would bring in revenue. "The Firehouse was a good first step. There should be more entertainment centers," he stated, pointing to the Vine Theatre in Livermore as an example. "It's an experience, not just a place to see a movie."

One of his main interests is youth engagement. He declared, "It is important to invest in our youth." One way is to maintain a strong working relationship with the schools. He would seek joint development opportunities between the city and school district for new parks and affordable recreational facilities such as the duel use gyms at Hart and Harvest Park middle schools. "There is a need to support teachers, high school sports and clubs. One of the reasons people live here is the school system. Making sure it is a strong system helps to retain high property values," he stated.

He also believes that education and activities help to build strong future citizens, reduce crime and graffiti. "We have to give kids hope. They are the future." Hamilton would like to implement after-school programs and tutor sessions. He would work with businesses to help set up jobs or internships for youth.

He is also seeking to improve housing opportunities and programs for senior citizens. He explained that much like the Youth Task Forces, "I would like to establish a Senior Citizen Advisory Committee to ensure preservation and enhancement of services dedicated to the senior population."

Open space and parks are

important, he continued. At the same time, there is a need for growth. "It is unrealistic to say we are not going to grow. Any development should include a look at potential revenues as well as environmental impacts." He wants to make sure the city has enough parks and playing fields, which he said could come along with development.

He saw some benefit to the Oak Grove development with its park and trails. "The Lins do own the land. We have to respect their right to build on it within reason. A referendum overturned the approval. Perhaps we could have negotiated a project that would have been supported. There is a need to balance the rights of ownership versus what is right for the town."

He said of future growth he would respect the urban growth boundary. "We have to listen to the voters. They approved the growth boundary. I want to keep our uniqueness," he said. He supports the ridgeline protections.

When it comes to high density housing, he states, "I'm somewhere in the middle. There was a lot of money spent fighting the lawsuit that led to the requirement to zone for high density housing. That money could have been spent on other things." He added, "I don't think there is a requirement that every person should be able to have a house. There should be preference for housing given to people who have lived in town for a long time."

An election is the best way to fill the vacant council seat. That avoids the issue of a council majority appointing a like-minded person.

Hamilton supported Measure B in the last election. "I saw value in it, in that it would reduce cut-through traffic in the city." Funds would have been available to widen Highway 84.

In East Pleasanton, he would like to add parks and trails along with some development. He stated, "It should be controlled and measurable growth."

Local control is an issue. While some mandates may

be necessary, there is the issue of fairness, he stated. "A city should be able to determine its own future. We want to maintain the Pleasanton feeling. We have a vibrancy that is not found elsewhere."

DAVID MILLER

David Miller studied electrical and computer engineering at the University of Texas. He works as a smartphone engineering executive in Santa Clara.

Miller said he was asked to run for the vacant council seat by business people, homeowners and taxpayers looking for a voice in city government. "They see me as a fresh voice."

Miller noted that many of his supporters are blue-collar and middle-class professionals. They are concerned that city government 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 the community is being run because of regional and state mandates."

He stated that he would bring several skills to the council. He has been a community advocate for the last several years, so knows issues. For the last 25 years, he has worked in the high tech industry solving problems, working with others to reach a common objective. He would use what he has learned to benefit the city, if elected.

Focusing on transparency, keeping local decisions under local control, and keeping Pleasanton's small town charm safe from outside special interests, Miller said, would be his focus.

"I'm big on fighting for local control. The City of Pleasanton should decide Pleasanton's future. I want to keep raising awareness on how local government is losing local control. We are being told what to do by unelected bureaucrats," he declared.

Asked how he would have voted on the Oak Grove development, Miller said he believes in property rights and an owner's ability to use his or her property as zoned. When a zoning change is proposed, the community needs to be involved. He supports the process that overturned the approval of the Oak Grove development.

Initiatives and referendums are options open to people to express opposition to a decision made by government.

As for the ridgeline protection initiative by voters, Miller said the key is to make sure that the rules are clear to everyone.

He supports the general concept of an urban growth boundary. "Every town should have its own character. One way that can be achieved is by retaining separation. Pleasanton's urban growth boundary was approved by citizens," he added.

Pleasanton has been required to zone for high density housing. Miller said that goes back to local control. He opposes high density because it doesn't fit the character of Pleasanton. Plus, residents never had a say. "A court decision overturned the will of the voters, overturning the housing cap."

There needs to be an open debate about housing options, to come up with the right way to solve the problem of providing housing for a variety of people who want to live in Pleasanton, Miller continued.

He offered two views regarding the addition of more population to the city. More people means more money. At the same time, there is more crime and congestion, more kids in classrooms and the need for more government (services).

"I support the right kind of growth, such as small businesses, high tech companies and single family housing," he stated.

He would work to bring in businesses using "deterministic processes," which he defined as making it less cumbersome to open a business. That would include looking at fees, zonings and the approval process. "I want to be pro-business," he added.

The city faces an unfunded liability when it comes to retiree benefits. Miller said that it is important that the city meet its obligations to city workers. He said that he supports the Mayor's efforts to create a sustainable budget with a balanced spending plan that is both fair and affordable, and meets the obligations. "It's a tough situation. You have to pay now or pay later. I think the city is headed in the right

direction. We can't continue as we have."

Currently, the city is preparing a plan for East Pleasanton. Miller said that the main thing is that it be balanced for both property owners and the people of Pleasanton.

When it comes to any development or projects in the city, Miller stated he would want three questions answered: how much will it cost, who pays, and where will the money come from? "We need to understand the cost."

He opposed Measure B, because it did not contain a sunset clause. Asked where funds would come from for such projects as widening Highway 84, Miller replied that using the money for the high speed rail system might go a long way towards financing other infrastructure.

In the downtown, Miller described himself as pro-business. "We need to make sure that what the city does helps business owners, while being respectful of residents who live in the downtown." He added that the historic buildings in the area are part of the character of the town. "However, we have to be smart about what we do, making sure that the rules are clear about what can or cannot happen. Property rights come with property responsibility," he stated.

He absolutely believes that an election to fill the vacant seat was the right way to proceed. "There is a need for voices from different perspectives to be part of city government. Pleasanton tends to have a varsity team that comes up through the commissions. If an appointment were made, it would likely have been a commissioner. Bureaucrats tend to support bureaucrats; we need leadership."

One of his goals would be to keep the schools strong. He pointed out that his mother was a teacher. "I learned the value of education. I'm teaching it to my three daughters, who attend public school in Pleasanton. I will continue to support the exceptional work of teachers at our top ranked schools."

While there is a school board to deal with school issues, Miller points out the city can impact schools. High density creates crowded classrooms.

He believes that it is possible to retain more local control. "It starts with awareness, then action. We are still in the awareness stage," he declared.

KATHY NARUM

Kathy Narum has served on the planning commission for five years. Prior to that she was a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Other civic activities include co-chair of the East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force, member of the Downtown Hospitality Guideline Task Force, Housing Element Task Force and Hacienda Transit Oriented Development Task Force. She is involved with the Pleasanton Seahawks swim team and Pleasanton RAGE girls soccer.

Narum earned a BS degree in chemical engineering from the University of California, Davis.

She said of her decision to run for the city council, "It's time. I'm ready. I have learned how to get things done. My experience has provided me with a perspective of the entire city."

One of her areas of focus would be parks and open space. "I want to make sure that we continue toward fiscal sustainability in order to maintain the quality of life residents have come to expect. That includes parks and open space," said Narum.

While some see the unfunded liability the city faces due to employee benefits as a big issue, Narum doesn't think that should be the focus of the campaign. She believes the city is moving in the right direction to deal with its unfunded liability. As the market recovers, the liability will be reduced. This year's reduction in the liability was solely the result of market recovery, she noted.

She continued, that it is important to grow city revenues in order to be able to fund capital improvement, projects such as the next phase of the Bernal Property. Businesses are the engines that drive the city's revenues. Focusing on ways to increase sales and property tax income to the city will generate revenue. She suggested working with shopping center and mall property owners to revitalize and

(continued on page 10)

OBITUARIES

Mary Lou Moore

Resident of Livermore
1934 - 2013
Born In Johnstown, PA

Mary Lou attended college at Chestnut Hill in Philadelphia, PA where she achieved a Bachelor's degree in mathematics.

In the 1950s, Mary Lou worked for Remington-Rand as a computer designer. There she met and married

James M. Moore (Jim). Mary Lou and Jim moved to Livermore, California where they had four daughters, Lucy, Peggy, Amy, and Katie.

While raising her family, Mary Lou enjoyed playing an active role at St. Michael Church. She taught CCD and volunteered in numerous activities of the schools where her children attended. She also enjoyed reading, gardening, and sewing. Mary Lou was an avid Bridge player and part of a monthly club that spanned more than 50 years.

As her children matured, Mary Lou returned to college and earned a degree in accounting, after which she served as a bookkeeper for Davidson's Pharmacy's. Later she was employed as a teller by Bank of the West where she provided years of loyal service to many Livermore businesses and residents.

Mary Lou is survived by her two brothers Thomas and George, husband James,

her four daughters, and ten grandchildren.

Mary Lou will be missed by all who knew her. She was a compassionate, loving woman with a great sense of humor and irony.

A memorial service will be held on March 11, 2013 at 1:00 pm PT at Saint Michael Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore. A Celebration of Life will follow at Saint Michael Large Hall, 326 Maple St., Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate a donation to Hope Hospice. A collection basket will be available at the service, or you can contact Hope Hospice at 925-829-8770 by E-mail: info@HopeHospice.com, or online www.hopehospice.com/donation.html.

Arthur R. Perryman, Jr.

On February 25, 2013, Artie unexpectedly passed away while visiting his children in Lake Tahoe, California.

He is survived by his two sons, Zackery Perryman and daughter-in-law Colleen Perryman of Lake Tahoe, California. Jesse Perryman and daughter-in-law Jessica Lanski of Reno, Nevada; grandchildren, Jaxen Ryder Perryman, Grayson Levi Perryman, Kyler Paul Lanski and Kinsley Marie Perryman. He is also survived by his mother Vera Perryman of Hayward, California, sister Debra Athanacio of San Lorenzo, California and brother Larry Perryman of Brentwood, California, and many nieces, nephews and friends. Artie was preceded in death by his father, Arthur R. Perryman, Sr. of Hayward, California.

Artie was born on January 31, 1945 in Oakland, California and moved with his family to Livermore in 1978, where he has since resided. Artie graduated in 1962 from Sunset High School in Hayward, California.

Artie was an extraordinary craftsman and artist. He enjoyed riding his bike around Livermore covering up graffiti, golfing with friends, and spending time with his two sons and grandchildren.

Artie will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

There will be a "Celebration of Life" on Saturday, March 9, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at his residence in Livermore, California. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The

American Heart Association in memory of Artie.

Mark Weston Harrell

Mark Weston Harrell was born on September 28, 1955 and went to be with Jesus at his home in Livermore, CA February 25th, 2012 at the age of 57.

Mark is predeceased by his parents, Warren and Dorothy Harrell. He is survived by his loving wife of 18 years, Tina. They were married in San Jose on October 20, 1994.

Mark is lovingly remembered by his wife Tina; brothers Warren, Randy and Ken; sons Mark Jr., Chris, Phillip and Travis; daughter Amanda; 9 grandchildren, and loving nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Mark was born in Oakland, CA in 1955. He graduated from Newark High School. He worked as a Director IT for Netflix and most recently as the Director of Corporate IT for Complete Genomics in Mountain

View, CA.

Mark loved sports most specifically the San Francisco 49ers, SF Giants; loved watching NHRA Drag Racing;

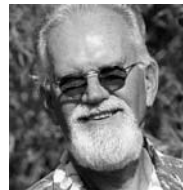
Mark found a home for his heart in the love he shared with his beautiful wife Tina. He smiled bright around any of his 9 beloved grandchildren. He loved trying new recipes, working out, reading, and was a sound engineer for many years.

He enjoyed riding his Harley bikes with his friends of the Celebration Riders, taking the boat out with family and friends, as well as reading the Bible and writing in his journal.

Mark had a strong relationship with Jesus. His aim was to be more like Jesus in his everyday actions, words and thoughts. Those who knew him best would say that "he was just a special man." He would say he was trying to let Jesus live life through him.

The Memorial Service will be held at Celebration Christian Center, 1135 Bluebell Dr. Livermore, on March 7th, 2013 at 4:00 pm with Pastor Larry Ihrig officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Livermore Pregnancy Resource Center 4200 East Ave. Suite 104 Livermore, CA 94550 or go to www.livermoreprc.org

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CANDIDATES

(continued from page 9)

improve their developments thereby attracting shoppers. The city should encourage companies to locate in the Hacienda Business Park.

To assist businesses, Narum said, "We need to be as efficient as we can when it comes to permitting and the approval process." She pointed out that fees are seen as an issue. However, many people don't know that Pleasanton collects regional fees along with city fees. Other cities, such as Livermore, only collect city fees. The regional agencies collect their own fees. That gives the perception that it costs more to conduct business in Pleasanton.

Incentives, such as allowing city fees to be paid over a number of years, might be one way to attract more businesses, she said.

She is focusing on the Stoneridge Mall, as an example. There is an additional 250,000 square feet of space approved for Stoneridge. "I would work with the owners to encourage them to move forward. The mall needs revitalization." She says other shopping centers around the city should also be revitalized. The staff should encourage and support owners. Keeping people shopping in Pleasanton and bringing in people from outside of town means money for the city.

She supported the Oak Grove development project mainly because of the park and trails that would have come with it. "In hindsight, there are some questions I would have asked. But I'm not sure I would have changed my vote."

Narum said she respects the vote of the people that overturned the approval. She also is supportive of the redline protection initiative. However, there is a need to define terms in the initiative. One issue that has been discussed at the planning commission is what constitutes a 25% slope. Some have been created by grading, others are natural. In her view, there is nothing in the initiative that says there should be exemptions for man-made slopes.

State law requires the city to zone for high density housing. She points out that it cost the city \$3 million

to defend itself against the lawsuit that led to the requirement to rezone land. She stated, "That is money that could have gone to parks or some other desired project. The lawsuit resulted in a loss of some control over development on sites around the BART station."

Narum pointed out that the city will not build one unit. Development will be market driven. "I think some of the opposition to high density housing is fear of change. So far, the applications we have seen for high density housing are high quality communities that come with a lot of amenities such as a pool, BBQ area, open space and playground."

She admits that the problem of providing housing for local workers, such as police, fire and teachers, has been ignored. The pendulum had swung too far in approving expensive homes; now, it is swinging back the other way.

"I'm not happy that we don't have more local control." Narum said that local leaders lobby in Washington, D.C. for regional projects. Local control is a regional concern. Why not go to Sacramento and lobby to return control back to the region. "We need to be aggressive in telling our legislators that loss of local control is not acceptable."

Cut-through traffic is coming out of the business park. The Stoneridge Road extension offers an option for commuters to leave Pleasanton. Narum opposed Measure B because it did not contain a sunset clause.

In the downtown, Narum said, "I have a soft spot for historic buildings. When it became evident that the Downtown Specific Plan did not address applications that tore down or modified historic homes, the decision was made to provide more clear direction. That effort is underway. The downtown contributes to the charm and character of Pleasanton. Some people want nothing done, others want to take a bulldozer to the area. My focus would be to maintain the integrity of the area, but allow some change."

Narum was a member of

the downtown hospitality guidelines task force. She opposed the final recommendation, preferring a wider transition zone along Peters Street between residents and downtown businesses. "I want the downtown to be successful. If we don't have buy in from residents, it won't happen."

She believes an election was the best way to fill the vacant council seat. However, in the future consideration might be given to appointing the person who finishes third in the previous election. There would have to be some criteria, such as finishing within a set percentage of the winners. Otherwise there should be an election. "There is a lot to be said for having a dialog and discussing the issues."

Narum would like to see the senior housing at Kottinger Place and Pleasanton gardens move forward.

In talking to seniors, she said that "greening" the cemetery is another issue important to them.

She would like to see more activities for kids. "I know it's a money issue. At the same time, there is nothing that says the square footage at the mall couldn't be filled by entertainment options such as a movie theater or a bowling alley."

If elected, Narum said, "I am a believer in focusing on a few priorities and getting those done rather than having a laundry list of where it seems like nothing really gets accomplished. To fulfill the wishes of residents, the bottom line is that we need to increase revenues, she declared.

OLIVIA SANWONG

Olivia Sanwong is a native of Pleasanton. She graduated from Amador Valley High School. While in high school, she was a member of the "We the People" competition team. She is currently a member of the Pleasanton Economic Vitality Committee (EVC) and has been appointed to the Cultural Steering Plan Committee. Congressman Eric Swalwell named her to serve on the Women's Advisory Committee for the 15th Congressional District. Sanwong earned an MBA

from The Simmons School of Management, a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from UCLA, and completed Economics courses at Harvard University Extension.

Her professional career includes working as a senior market research analyst at Autodesk, and a teaching assistant at Simmons School of Management.

Sanwong said she would bring a knowledge of Pleasanton and technology skills to the council. Her career in the tech industry has included exploring and analyzing models that create change through new applications of technology. If elected, she would look at using technology to increase civic engagement in government. "Residents would see a 21st century leader using 21st century tools, like social media, to address the city's highest priorities," she declared.

If elected, she would like to update the city's website, as well as look at other ways for information to be provided to residents about programs that are available.

One of the goals of the EVC is to keep businesses in Pleasanton and encourage others to locate in the city. "I've noticed that a lot of people who live in Pleasanton commute elsewhere. This is a very technology-oriented workforce. I would try to convince technology companies to take advantage of the workforce and locate in Pleasanton," she stated.

Sanwong isn't convinced that incentives are needed to attract business. "It's all about the story, providing the information about the advantages of Pleasanton and the region as a business locale." She mentioned Innovation Tri-Valley, i-GATE and trips taken by regional leaders to Washington, D.C. as tools that can be utilized to promote the area.

She was living in Boston at the time the Oak Grove referendum was circulated, so did not take a stand. She sees the redline protections as important, noting, "People in Pleasanton do not want development on hills."

She supports the urban growth boundary. Sanwong pointed out that urban growth boundaries in the

Valley have provided for activities in areas that she and others enjoy, such as visiting wine country or hiking on the ridge. She thinks that higher densities are a good trade-off to maintain such amenities. "It's about making smart decisions and getting out the right message. The overall cost to society in terms of infrastructure is less for higher density than if development were sprawled," she stated.

There are some sites in Pleasanton that would be conducive to higher density, such as those near transit. "I know there is no support for building high density throughout the city. I do believe in walk-able communities." Sanwong would like to see more housing options in the city, noting it can be very expensive to live in Pleasanton.

She and her husband live in the downtown. "We enjoy living in a building that has been preserved. At the same time, there are structural issues that could raise issues about the cost of repairs." Consideration needs to be given to property rights and the cost to preserve a building when coming up with a plan for preserving the historic character of the downtown.

The city's recent business survey found that people would like to see more entertainment options. She thinks the city should spend some energy in trying to accomplish that goal. For teens, she doesn't think a youth center would be the best idea. There needs to be options that attract teens and others, such as bowling.

Sanwong says that the city is headed in the right direction in dealing with its unfunded liability for worker benefits. "I don't think it is as big an issue as it is made out to be. Pairing it with a discussion about economic development, the city can look at ways to reduce the deficits by increasing revenues. It comes back to education and economic growth."

Education is a key, Sanwong declared. She would look at ways to utilize younger people with higher degrees. They know how to use technology. They are the future. It is important to provide workforce develop-

ment opportunities, such as classes in Excel.

Cut-through traffic is an issue, particularly in the downtown. She supported Measure B. Sanwong said she is hopeful that any new proposal will look at ways to solve traffic on 580, 680 and work to improve and widen Highway 84.

East Pleasanton planning is underway. Sanwong said she doesn't hear a lot in the discussions about using modeling and visualization tools in creating a specific plan. For example, extending El Charro to Stanley would be expensive. I would like to see a cost analysis to see whether an extension works with the entire road system and if it is worth building. A model would provide that information.

When it comes to local control, it comes back to communication. "This isn't the Pleasanton of yesterday. The secret is out about California. People are coming here. There needs to be a conversation to make our concerns known, to tell Sacramento we need more property tax money back to deal with the cost associated with mandates approved by the state."

Not all solutions will come from government. Sanwong is an advocate of partnerships that involve government, nonprofits and for-profit entities. Open Heart Kitchen is a good example, she said. It is a volunteer organization that receives support from Safeway.

For-profits aren't the only type of organization that can enhance city revenues. She points to nonprofits such as hospitals and museums as other options to boost economic development. In Pleasanton, Maddie's Fund is an animal rescue organization located in the Hacienda Business Park. There are plans to provide classes in how to go about organizing such efforts. People who come from all over to take the classes will stay in Pleasanton hotels and eat locally.

The example is just one of the cases available to send out the message backed by quantitative data that Pleasanton is a good place to conduct business. "There are so many positives," she stated.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474379

The following person(s) doing business as: Small Jobs Fine Home Remodeling, 2390 Pasatiempo St, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Sean Henry, 2390 Pasatiempo St, Livermore, CA 94551

This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on May 3, 1991. Signature of Registrants :s/: Michael S. Henry This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2013. Expires January 29, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474396

The following person(s) doing business as: Cafe Joy, 5321 Hopyard Rd, Ste G, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Taj N. Kamkar, 2833 Alnwick Ave #4, Livermore, CA 94551 (2)Marjan Fotouhi, 6122 St. Andrews Way, Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by a General partnership The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2013. Signature of Registrants :s/: Taj N. Kamkar, Marjan Fotouhi, Partners This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 30, 2013. Expires January 30, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474457

The following person(s) doing business as: Mechanic King Auto Repair, 3687 Old Santa Rita Rd #14, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): RUB Enterprises LLC, 4011 Regatta Dr., Discovery Bay, CA 94505 This business is conducted by a Limited liability company The registrant began to transact business under the

fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Raymond Haywood, President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 31, 2013. Expires January 31, 2018. The Independent Legal No. 3398. Published February 14, 21, 28, March 7, 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 473572

The following person(s) doing business as: Brain Stain Entertainment, 5157 Norma Way, Apt 239, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Caleb Leighton, 5157 Norma Way, Apt 239, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/26/2012. Signature of Registrants :s/: Caleb Leighton This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 10, 2013. Expires January 10, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474604

The following person(s) doing business as: Bel the Handyman Services, 1312 Maplewood Dr., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Belkasim Maklaf, 1312 Maplewood Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Belkasim Maklaf This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 5, 2013. Expires February 5, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474621

The following person(s) doing business as: Animal Medical Center of Pleasanton, 3901 Santa Rita Road, Suite A, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Harinder Bains, 1318 Railroad Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted

by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Harinder Bains This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2013. Expires February 5, 2018. The Independent Legal No. 3403. Published February 14, 21, 28, March 7, 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474859

The following person(s) doing business as: Boatmasters, 5162 Preston Ave., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Boatmasters, 5162 Preston Ave., Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/9/90. Signature of Registrants :s/: Michael P. Schmitt This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2013. Expires February 11, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474770

The following person(s) doing business as: Koko Fit Club Livermore, 4485 First Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): AG Professional Group Inc, 691 New Well Ct., Lathrop, CA 95330 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Amninder Sandhu - VP This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 7, 2013. Expires February 7, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474781

The following person(s) doing business as: VB Property Management, 403 Junction Ave #117, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Victor D. Baldi, 55 Headland Ct, Danville, CA 94506, Livermore, CA 94550 (2)Cynthia M. Silveira, 6204 DeJen Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94506 This business is conducted by a General partnership The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 1, 2013. Signature of Registrants :s/: Victor Baldi - General Partner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 8, 2013. Expires February 8, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474781

The following person(s) doing business as: VB Property Management, 403 Junction Ave #117, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Victor D. Baldi, 55 Headland Ct, Danville, CA 94506, Livermore, CA 94550 (2)Cynthia M. Silveira, 6204 DeJen Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94506 This business is conducted by a General partnership The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 1, 2013. Signature of Registrants :s/: Victor Baldi - General Partner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 8, 2013. Expires February 8, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474781

The following person(s) doing business as: Sweet Deek Photography, 726 South K Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Danielle Courtney Norheim, 726 South K Street, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted

by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Danielle C. Norheim This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 7, 2013. Expires February 7, 2018. The Independent Legal No. 3407. Published February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474573

The following person(s) doing business as: Caddis, 2245 South Vasco Rd Unit B, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christopher J. Sorensen, 4336 Baylor Way, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Christopher J. Sorensen This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 5, 2013. Expires February 5, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474361

The following person(s) doing business as: Restoration Chiropractic, 1682 First St., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lessard Chiropractic Inc, 1682 First St., Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Scott R. Lessard, President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2013. Expires January 29, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474781

The following person(s) doing business as: VB Property Management, 403 Junction Ave #117, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Victor D. Baldi, 55 Headland Ct, Danville, CA 94506, Livermore, CA 94550 (2)Cynthia M. Silveira, 6204 DeJen Ct, Pleasanton, CA 94506 This business is conducted by a General partnership The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 1, 2013. Signature of Registrants :s/: Victor Baldi - General Partner This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 8, 2013. Expires February 8, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474506

The following person(s) doing business as: Mark's Truck and Auto Repair, 248 North I Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the

following owner(s): Mark W. Lemke, 15827 Ash Avenue, Patterson, CA 95363 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Mark Lemke This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 1, 2013. Expires February 1, 2018. The Independent Legal No. 3411. Published February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474361

The following person(s) doing business as: Restoration Chiropractic, 1682 First St., Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Lessard Chiropractic Inc, 1682 First St., Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Scott R. Lessard, President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on January 29, 2013. Expires January 29, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474361

The following person(s) doing business as: Bar K Z Management Trust, 739 Caliente Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kenneth Nather, Trustee / Kenneth & Nancy Nather Trust, 739 Caliente Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a Trust The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/18/2012. Signature of Registrants :s/: Kenneth Nather, Trustee / Kenneth & Nancy Nather Trust This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2013. Expires February 27, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474506

The following person(s) doing business as: White House / Black Market #3595, 5663 Bay St., Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): White House / Black Market, Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy., Fort Myers, FL 33966 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Kevin R. Schockling, VP-Tax This statement was filed

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474506

The following person(s) doing business as: Mark's Truck and Auto Repair, 248 North I Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the

3/7/13 CNS-2451601# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3414

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474748-9

The following person(s) doing business as: (1)Bittmore (2)Bittmore Horses, 1286 Geneve Ct, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bittmore Horse Services LLC, 1286 Geneve Ct, Livermore, CA 94551 This business is conducted by a Limited liability company The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/24/2007. Signature of Registrants :s/: Brian Bogie, Owner/Officer This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 7, 2013. Expires February 7, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 475383

The following person(s) doing business as: Bar K Z Management Trust, 739 Caliente Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kenneth Nather, Trustee / Kenneth & Nancy Nather Trust, 739 Caliente Ave, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a Trust The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 5/18/2012. Signature of Registrants :s/: Kenneth Nather, Trustee / Kenneth & Nancy Nather Trust This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2013. Expires February 27, 2018.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474755

The following person(s) doing business as: White House / Black Market #3595, 5663 Bay St., Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): White House / Black Market, Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy., Fort Myers, FL 33966 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Kevin R. Schockling, VP-Tax This statement was filed

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474755

The following person(s) doing business as: White House / Black Market #3595, 5663 Bay St., Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): White House / Black Market, Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy., Fort Myers, FL 33966 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Kevin R. Schockling, VP-Tax This statement was filed

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474755

The following person(s) doing business as: White House / Black Market #3595, 5663 Bay St., Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): White House / Black Market, Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy., Fort Myers, FL 33966 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Kevin R. Schockling, VP-Tax This statement was filed

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 474755

The following person(s) doing business as: White House / Black Market #3595, 5663 Bay St., Emeryville, CA 94608, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): White House / Black Market, Inc, 11215 Metro Pkwy., Fort Myers, FL 33966 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/: Kevin R. Schockling, VP-Tax This statement was filed

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612 NETWORKING BIDDERS CONFERENCES FOR RFP #901083 Pharmacy Benefit Management North County - Monday, March 11, 2013, 10:00 a.m. at Alameda County General Services Agency, Room 1107, 11th Floor, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA and South County - Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 2:00 p.m. at Social Services Agency, Shooting Star A #637, 24100 Amador Street, Hayward, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on April 9, 2013 County Contact: Gina Temporal at (510) 208-9606 or via email: gina.temporal@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612 NETWORKING BIDDERS CONFERENCES FOR RFP #901088 Employee Service Recognition Awards North County - Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 10:00 AM at General Services Agency, Room 222, 2nd Floor, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA and South County - Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 2:00 PM at Public Works Agency, Main Conference Room, 4825 Gleason Drive, Dublin, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on April 9, 2013 County Contact: Lovell Laurente (510) 208-9621 or via email: lovell.laurente@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

day, March 13, 2013 at 2:00 PM at Public Works Agency, Main Conference Room, 4825 Gleason Drive, Dublin, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on April 9, 2013 County Contact: Lovell Laurente (510) 208-9621 or via email: lovell.laurente@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612 NETWORKING BIDDERS CONFERENCES FOR RFP #901004 Behavioral Health Management Information System South County - Monday, April 1, 2013 at 2:00 PM at Social Services Agency, 6th Floor, Room 637, 24100 Amador Street, Hayward, CA and North County - Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 10:00 AM at General Services Agency, Room 1107, 11th Floor, 1401 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, CA Responses Due by 2:00 pm on May 2, 2013 County Contact: Ryan DeCoud at (510) 208-9619 or via email: ryan.decoud@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

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the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (Form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

10. Attorney for Petitioner: **TERRY CAMPBELL WALLACE**
2125 Wylie Drive, Suite 7
Modesto, CA 95355
(209) 529-4800

The Independent Legal No. 3420. Published March 7, 14, 21, 2013.

ANIMALS

2) CATS/ DOGS

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

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

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

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56) ADULT CARE

Independent Contractors Wanted. Senior Home Health Care. Must have experience. Senior Solutions, Inc (925)443-3101.

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155) NOTICES

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REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES

Tax Tips for Homeowners

By Cher Wollard

The advantages of buying and owning your home are numerous: pride of ownership, stability and community involvement, opportunity to build wealth for yourself and future generations.

As you prepare to file your federal income taxes this year, keep in mind that home ownership also offers significant tax advantages.

"The main advantage is that you have additional write-off's that can lower your taxable income," says IRS Registered Tax Preparer Jenny DeSantis of Livermore.

This means you can itemize your deductions and pay taxes on a smaller amount of your income. It could even push you into a lower tax bracket.

The two main write-off's, according to DeSantis, are:

1. property taxes that you pay annually, and
2. mortgage interest paid on your loan.

"When preparing a tax return, all taxpayers receive what is called a standard deduction," she explained. "Depending on your filing status, it can range anywhere from \$5,950 (for individuals or for married taxpayers filing separately), to \$11,900 for married couples who file a joint return.

"This standard deduction is taken against your adjusted gross income to lower your taxable income," she explained.

"When you purchase a home, if you take into account property taxes and mortgage interest alone, you generally will have enough expenses to exceed the standard deduction, allowing you to itemize your deductions using a Schedule A."

Most married couples filing jointly can deduct interest on up to \$1 million in mortgage debt (\$500,000 for individuals) on their primary residence or second home on their federal and state income taxes.

"Once you are able to exceed the standard deduction, there are other deductions that you can take as well, including, but not limited to, sales tax, state income tax, medical expenses, and charitable contributions," DeSantis said.

In addition to mortgage interest and property taxes, some homeowners can also deduct private mortgage insurance, sometimes called MI or PMI. Those who purchase homes with less than 20 percent downpayment – and anyone using FHA to purchase or refinance a home – are required to carry PMI.

The PMI tax deduction was due to expire at the end of 2011, but was extended retroactively for 2012 and through 2013 in the "fiscal cliff" negotiations earlier this year.

It is, however, phased out by 10 percent for each \$1,000 by which your adjusted gross income tops \$100,000. That means that you can't use the deduction if your adjusted gross income exceeds \$110,000.

If you purchased or refinanced your primary residence in 2012, you may also be able to take a deduction for fees, known as points, paid to obtain a mortgage with good interest rates and terms. A point is equal to 1 percent of the loan principal.

Points on mortgages obtained to purchase a home may be deductible on your federal taxes.

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

Depending on your circumstances, you could also be eligible for such tax advantages as a home office deduction (for those who work out of their home) or a mortgage credit certificate (MCC) for low-income first-time homebuyers who purchase in certain areas.

Homeowners who installed solar energy systems or qualified Energy Star products may also qualify for credits on their federal taxes.

Credits differ from deductions in that they are applied to the bottom line, rather than reducing the income on which taxes are paid.

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

Profits made on the sale of real estate are generally considered to be capital gains, rather than income. The good news: You are likely entitled to a hefty exemption in your capital gains tax.

"The way the tax code reads right now, for your personal residence, individuals are not taxed on the first \$250,000 of profit and married couples are not taxed on the first \$500,000 of profit," DeSantis said. "That's profit, not the sales price."

So, for example, if you purchased a home in 1999 for \$650,000 and sold it last year for \$875,000, that is a profit of \$225,000, regardless of how much you owe on the property.

That profit may be offset somewhat by the cost of improvements, as well as the costs of selling your home. The difference is your net gain, which would be subject to capital gains tax rules.

In this case, if the home was your primary residence, you would likely not pay tax on this amount, as your profit is below the exemption.

(Contrary to some reports, the Affordable Care Act does not impact profits from the sale of real estate in 2012. Starting next year, however, certain investors could be subject to a surtax on real estate transactions.)

If you sold your property in a short sale or were subject to foreclosure in 2012, the Mortgage Forgiveness and Debt Relief Act of 2007 may provide some help.

Normally, any debt forgiveness is considered to be income. For example, if you owned someone \$100,000 and they settled with you for \$70,000, the \$30,000 in "forgiven" debt would be considered taxable income.

Under the act, however, qualified homeowners who were forced into foreclosure or mortgage restructuring on their principal residence can usually exclude income of up to \$2 million (\$1 million for single people or married taxpayers filing separately) on the difference between the amount the lender received from the sale and the amount owed.

California offers similar relief on state taxes.

The federal tax relief expires at the end of this year.

If you bought or sold a home in 2012, you'll need a copy of the end-of-year statement from your mortgage company as well as the escrow statement, also known as HUD-1, from your transaction. These documents should contain all of the information you need to report the sale on your 2012 tax return.

Your real estate agent should be able to provide you with a copy of the HUD-1 if you do not have yours handy.

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

Mortgage Insurance Increase Ahead for FHA Buyers

Mortgage insurance premiums for FHA borrowers will increase from 1.25 percent to 1.35 percent as of April 1. Those borrowing more than \$625,500 will experience even higher rates.

In addition, as of June 3, FHA will no longer allow borrowers to drop mortgage insurance once their loan balance drops to 78 percent of the property's value.

This adds up to higher costs for FHA borrowers.

Best advice: Act now, if you are planning to use FHA financing to purchase or refinance a home.

If you need a tax expert to help you sort through your eligible deductions, or if you are thinking about buying or selling a home, contact your local Realtor.

Next time: Tax Tips for Real Estate Investors

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

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Brownies Raising Funds for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

By Carol Graham

February's afternoon sunlight glistened off sparkly headbands, neon sunglasses and gold-colored pins in the courtyard of Smith Elementary School in Livermore. With ponytails bouncing and hot pink shoelaces flashing, the second-grade girls of Brownie Troop 30309 filmed a dance video to help raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS).

"Part of the Brownie program involves learning financial literacy in conjunction with cookie sales. There's also a patch that relates to philanthropy," said parent and co-leader Jenn Bowman. "My friend Nicole Nicolay is training for her first Ironman triathlon, fundraising for LLS's Team in Training, and making dance grams for people who donate. The girls voted to support her with a portion of their cookie sale proceeds."

In turn, Nicolay, 36, offered to make a dance gram not just for the troop, but with the troop - an offer that was met with much enthusiasm and excitement.

"I knew the girls would love to do it since we often have a crazy dance party at the end of our meetings," said Bowman. "I wanted the girls to meet a woman who is accomplishing something incredibly difficult but using the experience to do good for others."

Nicolay began training for Ironman Lake Tahoe four months ago after recovering from a traffic accident last summer. "The car I was riding in was hit by a texting driver as we exited the freeway near Vasco



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Nicole Nicolay coached the Brownies in how to create a video.

Road," she said. "I suffered quite a few injuries, one of which required surgery. I spent two months in bed and several months in physical therapy. I wanted to work hard to regain my strength. A friend gave me the idea to join Team in Training's IronTeam."

The LLS signature fundraising program Team in Training is the world's largest charity sports training program, raising nearly \$1 billion for blood cancer research and patient support since its inception 20 years ago.

"I, like many in our community, have been affected by the immense courage and determination of my family members battling cancer," said Nicolay.

For five years Nicolay, a

Livermore "Mompreneur" whose most recent startup is Agent Evolution, has been posting spirited dance grams on friends' social media sites and walls, as well as on her channel: www.youtube.com/therealniknik - which also features the Brownies' video, "Troop 30309 Inspires #IronTeamSF."

Brownie Kimmie Keller said, "The best part of making the dance gram is it will help people get the help they need while I got to have fun and be a dancing video star!"

Upcoming cookie sale booths in Livermore will be Sunday, 3/10 at Emil Villas's from 2 - 4 p.m.; Friday, the 3/15 at Sauced from 5 - 7 p.m.; and Saturday, 3/16 at Safeway (OSH center) from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

All cookies cost \$4 per box, including the Gift of Caring which allows purchasers to donate a designated box of cookies to their choice of a local food bank or to military troops. For more information contact Jenn Bowman at (925)216-0201.

"I know the girls have a better understanding of what the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society does and, more importantly, how it helps kids just like them who are fighting cancer. I hope they realize there are many fun ways you can make a difference in your local community," said Nicolay who will compete in the September 22nd triathlon, an endurance event that includes 2.4 miles of swimming, 112 miles of cycling, and 26.2 miles of

running. "The girls have inspired and motivated me to keep working toward my fundraising goals and my Ironman goals," she added. "Every time I watch the dance gram we made it fills my

heart with joy. The girls have lifted my spirit and reminded me to keep following my passion. It's never too late to be who you could have been."

To donate, visit www.IronNik.com.

BART Boosts Fares, Parking Fees

The BART board approved a 5.2 percent fare increase and 50-cent parking fee boosts that will begin next January.

Acting at their meeting Feb. 28, directors approved a plan to tie fare hikes between 2014 and 2020 to one-half percent below the cost of living adjustments that would be used as a benchmark. The fares would rise every two years.

The vote to increase fares was unanimous. The parking fee vote was 8-1, with Fremont director Tom Blalock voting "no."

The average fare will rise from \$3.59 to \$3.78, and the minimum fare from \$1.75 to \$1.85.

On parking, the board decided to charge a minimum of \$1 per day at all BART stations. Currently seven of them provide free parking.

Parking will rise by 50 cents at all stations that are routinely full daily. The increases will continue every six months, until a \$3 cap is reached, unless parking drops below the full levels.

The Valley's two BART stations, West Dublin/Pleasanton and East Dublin/Pleasanton are full daily. The increases will go into effect in January. The exception will be the free-parking period at the stations on weekends.

The parking is so lacking at the two stations during the busy times that BART and other agencies are working on building an addition to accommodate 550 more vehicles at the current East Dublin station.

BART director John McPartland said that he supports the increases, especially in the light of the \$8 billion needed for operation and maintenance expenses, including acquiring new BART cars.


McPartland said that the higher parking fees will come nowhere near paying for the cost of maintaining the parking areas. Those costs include security and electricity for lighting the lots.

"We are running in red ink on a continuous basis for

parking," said McPartland. He said that it costs at least \$2.50 per day per space, and possibly \$3.50, but BART takes in only 92 cents per space.

McPartland would like to see the spaces come up to the break-even point. Currently, all riders are subsidizing the parking through the fare box. That is not fair, he said.

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THE INDEPENDENT • SECTION A

Dublin Gears Up for St. Patrick's Weekend Festivities

Dublin's 30th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration will be held March 16 and 17.

The weekend's festivities will begin on Friday evening, March 15, with the annual Green and White Gala hosted by the Dublin Sister City Association. The event will take place at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. and welcomes guests and dignitaries from sister city, Bray, Ireland visiting Dublin for the weekend's events. "Irish Happy Hour" will commence at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing to live music. For tickets or more information, please contact Carol Satterthwaite at (925) 829-3657.

On Saturday, March 16, the morning begins with a serving of hot "green"

pancakes served fresh off the griddle at the Annual Firefighter's Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast will be served beginning at 7:00 a.m. at Fire Station #16, located at Donohue Drive and Amador Valley Boulevard. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5 per person. Proceeds will benefit the Alameda County Fire Fighters Association-Local 55 Charity Fund, which supports local non-profit and community-based organizations.

Afterwards, head down Amador Valley Boulevard or Village Parkway to find the perfect viewing spot for the 30th Annual Dublin Lions Club Parade. Bring chairs or take advantage of the bleacher seating available at 7400 Amador Valley Boulevard. Over 80 entries featuring marching bands,

colorful floats, bagpipes, equestrian riders and more will step-off promptly at 9:30 a.m. onto Dublin Blvd. from Amador Plaza Road.

The 30th Annual St. Patrick's Day Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 16 and 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Dublin Civic Center. There will be three stages featuring authentic Irish entertainment, 250 craft and commercial vendors, an Irish Tea Cottage, a Festival Food Court serving up unique Irish specialties, carnival rides and of course, a leprechaun!

• Entertainment at the festival will include two stages of all-Irish music with everything from traditional Irish folk music to Celtic Rock and bagpipes

(See FESTIVITIES, page 7)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Improv Troupes Compete using Hunger Games Styled Themes

Creatures of Impulse, a 26-member teen improv troupe, presents Improv Face Off, in three different performances at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

Each unique show is based loosely on a Hunger Games-styled theme, and each features a different guest opponent troupe: Wednesday, 3/13 (free preview show) with Livermore Valley Charter Prep's High School Improv Team; Thursday, 3/14 with Think Fast from Granada High School; Friday, 3/15 with Improv the Nation from Dublin High School; Saturday, 3/16 with professional troupe The Un-Scripted Theater Company from San Francisco. All shows are at 7:30 p.m.

Each night Creatures of Impulse "faces-off" with another improv team, performing seven to nine rounds per night, with one game or scene per round. After each round, the teams will present the audience with a "wall of prizes." (Sound familiar, movie fans?) An audience member is randomly selected to choose a prize from a performer. Points are awarded. The games continue with the goal being to foster interactions between troupes.

Creatures of Impulse has grown from its beginnings in 2006 as a result of the City of Pleasanton's Haunted House Performance Class, into an award-winning teen improv program. This season COI has added Pup-

pets of Impulse to its team, performing a full-length improvised musical play which kicks off its Spring tour in San Francisco's Un-Scripted Theater in Union Square. COI will close their season with a bang at the Teen Comedy Festival in Chicago on May 12. This marks COI's fourth time

(continued on page 6)



Facing off are (left) Alex Cappa of Dublin High School and Drew Orlando of Creatures of Impulse. Photo at right is of the troupe. (Aaron) Zwiefel Photography



'Talent Against Trafficking,' Community-wide Benefit

By Carol Graham

Last year, Braden Sweeney asked twenty Bay Area performers to take a leap of faith and perform in a talent showcase he was producing as a community-wide benefit.

This year, the performers leapt at the chance to be a part of it again.

Sweeney will present "Talent Against Trafficking: A Vocal and Dance Showcase" at the Livermore High School Performing Arts Theatre on Saturday, March 16th at 7:30 p.m.

"Although human trafficking is a serious and mature matter, ALL material presented during this event will be appropriate for all ages," said Braden. "The show will be fun and highly energetic, celebrating our ability to make a difference as a community."

After the success of last year's showcase, "Performing For the Protection Plan," which earned nearly \$8,000 to benefit Africa's Invisible Children, Braden chose this year to support an international cause: the Polaris Project.

"Human trafficking is

the selling and treatment of humans as objects," said Braden. "It takes everything it means to live as a human being and rips it out of victims. It ends lives without ending heartbeats."

The Polaris Project is a leading organization in the global fight against human trafficking and modern-day slavery. Named after Polaris, the North Star that guided slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad, the project pushes for stronger federal and state laws, operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline, conducts trainings, and provides services to victims of trafficking.

"Statistics show that over 27 million people are in modern-day slavery around the world. Over one million are children, and 70% are female," said performer Melissa Heinrich. "The statistics and stories are horrifying and harrowing. We are lucky enough to live in a place where we may not witness these crimes in our daily lives, however human trafficking is a heinous violation of human rights for so many people in our world



Braden Sweeney is planning show.

today. We owe it to those who are suffering to do what we can."

Every year, human trafficking generates billions of dollars in profits by victimizing millions of people around the world as well as here in the United States. It's considered to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world.

"Human trafficking is not only happening in other countries," said Braden. "With an estimated 300,000 children prostituted in the United States, it's a huge problem in our country, too. It's not always easy to talk about, but we have to start the conversation. We have to start calling it what it is: human trafficking is slavery.

Exposing it is the first step we must take as a worldwide community to bring it to an end."

Every dollar raised will go to the Polaris Project, as production costs have been sponsored by local businesses. Mony Nop Real Estate covered the theater costs. Fantasy Sound will provide professional sound

services.

Tickets for the two-hour show are \$15 for adults, and \$10 for children 12 and under. The evening will include raffle drawings for "Nights on the Town" themed baskets, provided by Casa Orozco, Piccola Casa, Peet's, Granada Bowl, Boomer's, the Bankhead Theater, Beeb's and Bruno's.

"I'm most looking forward to the excitement and positive energy of the evening itself. As an audience member it will be palpable," said mom Nicole Sweeney. "What we want most of all is to fill the (450-seat) audience. Not only are people helping support a very important effort against human trafficking and helping spread awareness, but they will be able to enjoy a fun, energetic evening of entertainment."

Braden's siblings are also involved in the showcase: sister Lauren will be singing solo as well as a duet with Braden, and brother Connor is set to document the evening. "I'll be filming backstage and in the audience for a montage piece that

(continued on page 3)

Rising Star in Contemporary Jazz Julian Lage to Perform

Guitarist Julian Lage has been described as "ferociously gifted" and his band as one of the best up-and-coming ensembles in improvised music today. While paying tribute to his classical music background and broad musical influences, from folk and bluegrass, to Latin and jazz, Lage is known both for his artistry as a musician and his emerging skills as a composer.

LVPAC Presents will offer audiences the opportunity to experience the full range of his talents when the Julian Lage Group appears at the Bankhead Theater for the first time in a single performance on Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

A native of Santa Rosa, Lage first picked up the guitar at the age of five and has been performing virtually ever since. At the age of eight, his musical abilities were profiled in the documentary "Jules at Eight." Just four years later, he was invited to perform with other young talents at the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards show and appeared at the San Francisco Jazz Festival the same year.

Lage made his first recording at the age of 11 with jazzman David Grisman and has since performed with numerous other legends of the music world including Carlos Santana, Pat Metheny, and Herbie Hancock, as



Julian Lage

well as fiddle master Mark O'Connor.

Formed shortly after Lage finished his degree at Boston's Berklee College

of Music in 2008, the Julian Lage Group is an eclectic mix of artists and instruments with a musical style that reflects their diverse

backgrounds. Classically-trained cellist Aristides Rivas, percussionist Tupac Mantilla, bassist Jorge Roder and tenor saxophonist Dan Blake each bring their own unique talents into the group, letting their creative improvisations roam freely, while weaving together a rich and complex chamber jazz sound.

The group's debut album, "Sounding Point," released in 2009 was nominated for a Grammy Award in the now discontinued "Contemporary Jazz Album" category. Their second album "Gladwell" was immediately credited as one of the best jazz albums of 2011 by the Chicago Tribune and Acous-

tic Guitar. A concept album meant to evoke the personal connection and intimacy of a small town, Lage said, "'Gladwell' presented us with a clear architecture to compose songs that evoke feelings of people and places we hold dear." The 12 album tracks paint a picture of a quiet town much like the charming wine country surroundings of the Sonoma County region in which Lage grew up.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. Tickets may be purchased at the box office, by calling 925-373-6800 or visiting www.bankheadtheater.org

Ensemble to Perform Varied Program



The Archetti Baroque String Ensemble prepares for performance at the Bankhead.

Del Valle Fine Arts continues its 33rd annual concert season with a performance by the Archetti Baroque String Ensemble on Saturday March 23, 2013 at 8 pm at the Bankhead Theater. Their performance is entitled "Master of the Italian Concerto."

Archetti means "bows" in Italian. The name was chosen both for its literal depiction of the group's essential music-making tool, and for its evocation of the dominance of the Italian concerto in this repertoire. The group's size is perfectly suited to play Torelli's Four-

violin Concerto, but also will also be small enough for the intimacy needed for Bach's Concerto for Two Violins in D minor. Another highlight of this concert is Vivaldi's Concerto in E Major, La Primavera (Spring from the Four Seasons). Handel's Concerti Grossi was directly influenced by the concerti grossi of Arcangeli Corelli, whom he met while working in Italy between 1706 and 1710. His 12 Grand Concertos for Strings, Opus 6, are considered by Handel scholar Winton Dean to be "one of the twin peaks of the Baroque concerto" alongside

Bach's Brandenburg Concertos. Archetti will perform the Concerto Grosso in D Major.

This eight-person baroque ensemble was formed in 2009 from the leading performers of early music in the Bay Area. In the best tradition of small baroque chamber orchestras, this group performs without a conductor. Founders Carla Moore (violin) and John Dornenburg (violone) have performed together in a wide spectrum of early music ensembles since 1986.

Carla is concertmaster of the Portland Baroque Orchestra, and a frequent concertmaster and soloist with

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and American Bach Soloists. She has performed and recorded with many of the leading Baroque ensembles in the USA, and has also played under Sir Roger Norrington in London.

John Dornenburg is known primarily as a viola da gamba soloist, but he has also performed and recorded on the violone with large ensembles in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Seattle, and New York over the past 20 years. He has directed performances of large-scale Baroque works such as Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610, L'incoronazione di Poppea, and Purcell's Dido and Aeneas. Fellow Archetti members include violinists Anthony Martin, David Wilson and Alicia Yang; violist David Segó; cellist Elisabeth Reed and harpsichordist Yuko Tanaka.

The remaining pieces on their program include the Introduction teatrale in G Major by Locatelli and the Concerto Grosso in G by Hellendaal.

Ticket prices are \$35, \$29 and \$23. They can be purchased at the Bankhead Theater box office, 2400 First Street, Livermore, by phone at (925) 373-6800 or from the LVPAC web site, www.mylvpac.org. High school and grade school children can attend free, with tickets available at the box office.

The final concert for DVFA 2012-2013 season will be the Debussy Trio on April 27.

TALENT

(continued from page 2)

Braden would like to have done," said Connor.

Melissa added, "Braden is incredible for organizing this event. He's a senior at Granada High School, taking many AP and honors classes, pouring so much energy and time into his college auditions for musical theater programs, keeping up with his intense training and family responsibilities, AND he somehow finds

time to put on an incredible event benefitting a worthy cause. Did I mention he did this last year too? And that it was wildly successful? Whatever college he winds up going to will be a lucky institution because he is one amazing, talented and selfless person."

To learn more or purchase tickets, visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/talentagainstrafficking/>



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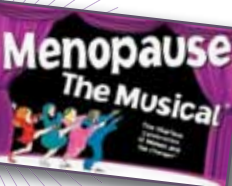
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Buddhist Boot Camp Focuses on Training the Mind

By Carol Graham

"What strikes me the most about Timber Hawkeye and the Buddhist Boot Camp book and talk is that the message is true for everyone," said audience member Sandy O'Connor. "No matter who we are, where we come from or even what we believe in, we can all learn a little something about acceptance, forgiveness and compassion. We can nurture happiness in our own lives and in turn, the lives of others."

O'Connor was one of dozens who attended Buddhist Boot Camp author Timber Hawkeye's talk at Pleasanton's Towne Center Books on February 28th.

The premise behind Hawkeye's book is that boot camp is a training method. Buddhism is all about training the mind. Many people don't have time to meditate every morning yet still want spiritual guidance without dogma or rituals, which is what Buddhist Boot Camp provides in a highly-readable format.

"I talk about putting compassion into action, about bridging the gap between what we believe and how we act in the world," said Hawkeye. "My book is a map to being the best version of ourselves."

Hawkeye's journey

started years ago while working as a paralegal. When he moved from California to Washington he discovered that despite making half the money, he was twice as happy. "I learned that how happy I am has nothing to do with how much money I'm making," he said. "The money is never enough because our definition of enough continually changes."

He decided to leave the corporate world behind, sell his belongings and move to Hawaii. Friends told him, "Dude, keep in touch. We want to know what happens with your life."

What happened is that Hawkeye learned to live mindfully and with deep joy. "My intention is to awaken, enlighten, enrich and inspire," he said of sharing his experiences in a book that evolved from his blog. "I hope readers walk away empowered to see the world through the eyes of gratitude and deep appreciation for life itself, making love-based decisions instead of letting fear control their choices."

Livermore's Yvonne Miller said of attending the talk, "The topics of mindfulness and meditation are what propelled me to Towne Center Books today to listen to Timber Hawkeye. I was moved



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Timber Hawkeye discusses his book.

by his message of personal truths spoken in sincerity and gentleness.

"What I choose to carry with me is to consider my words before speaking. Timber spoke about having

three gates in our throats: at the first gate, ask if a statement is true; at the second gate, ask if a statement is necessary; at the third gate, ask if a statement is kind."

One of Buddhism's governing principles is that all suffering is self-inflicted. "All of our joy is self-inflicted as well," added Hawkeye. "I was looking for something inspirational that people today would not only have the attention span to read all the way through, but actually understand and implement in their daily lives. I pictured a simple guide to being happy, and in it just two words: 'Be grateful.'"

Wearing a "Sit Happens" t-shirt, a playful nod to meditation, Hawkeye spoke to the audience for nearly an hour before taking questions from the attendees.

"How can I juggle striving to be more enlightened without being attached to goals?" asked one attendee.

Hawkeye answered, "Act without wanting anything in return, without attachment to any outcome."

Hawkeye's Towne Center Books visit is one of 26 stops on a book tour concentrated on the west and east coasts, with a trail of visits across the central United States.

"Our customers are interested in spirituality in general - Buddhism of course included," said Judy Wheeler who owns the independent bookstore on Main Street. "We had great feedback from people

as they left, and several emails from people since the event saying how much they enjoyed hearing Timber. I'm impressed that people took the time to do that."

Hawkeye might gently object to the focus being on the messenger instead of the message. "People come to see someone extraordinary; I am anything but," he said. "I'm the same as you. There are no enlightened beings, only enlightened activity."

Copies of Buddhist Boot Camp are available at Towne Center Books for \$12.99. The bookstore's future events include a talk by Murder Misdirected author Andrew MacCrae, along with upcoming visits from bestselling authors J.A. Jance, Meg Wolitzer and Elizabeth Berg.

As for Hawkeye's visit, "I think a lot of people find issues with religion and its dogma," said O'Connor. "This book is perfect for those of us who may have been disillusioned but still have faith in whatever form. The beauty is it is also perfect for those who embrace religion as well. Buddhist Boot Camp is definitely a book to be shared by all."

For more information, visit buddhistbootcamp.com, or townecenterbooks.com.

Art Walk Set for Saturday in Pleasanton

On eight art walks, over 120 art enthusiasts joined Nancy and Gary Harrington on the Saturday Pleasanton Public Art Walks. These walks are held in conjunction with the World Walk To Wellness program.

The second Saturday of each month, March - June, Nancy and Gary will lead Saturday Pleasanton Public

Art Walks. The first walk is this Saturday, March 9. It will begin at 8:30 a.m., in the Pleasanton City Hall parking lot on Old Bernal Avenue.

Each Art Walk will last approximately two hours, with frequent stops to view and hear informative tales regarding the public sculptures and murals.

Since 2010, Nancy, Gary

and the Harrington Art Partnership have brought 11 public art pieces to Pleasanton. At least three new art pieces are planned for 2013. Pleasanton Public Art Walk brochures, with map, will be available. Learn how you can become a partner. All donations are acceptable, regardless of amount.

Two separate Art Walk

tours are needed to view all public art in the Pleasanton downtown area, Library, Firehouse Arts Center, and Centennial Park with the Senior Center. March and May Art Walks will include the northern half, while the southern half will be in April and June. The Firehouse Arts Center is included in all art walks.

Heritage Guild Photos Displayed at the Pour House

The Livermore Heritage Guild presents, "Livermore," a photo collection from the 1930s to the 1960s that was published by Arcadia in the "Images of America" series.

The exhibit will be at the Winemaker's Pour House, 2241 First St., Livermore on Thurs., March 14 starting at 6 p.m.

The event will include a conversation and book signing. The new book shares photos from "Mid-Century" Livermore. Loretta Kaskey and CSUEB History Grad student John Christian led the effort to comb through thousands of Guild photos to provide researched pictures for this book.

For information about the Pour House, call 215-2656 or go to www.winemakerspourhouse.com.

'Relatively Speaking' Exhibit Opens at the Bankhead Theater

Relatively Speaking, an exhibit featuring artists who are related, will be on display at the Bankhead Theater, located at 2400 First Street in Livermore, from March 6 to May 7. An artist reception will be held during Downtown's Art Happens on March 14 from 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Abstract painting allows Louise Gray to freely explore color, form and texture as a direct medium of expression, unhampered by the demands and concerns of representational forms. She works with a balance of spontaneity and careful editing.

Her son, Andrew Roberts-Gray, creates paintings that present an environment where ideas and images work with and against each other simultaneously. He paints scenes from nature and imposes patterns and images with technological and/or organic references

which do not have an immediate relationship to the landscape. He is interested in creating an unstable condition in the paintings where nature is contrasted with the emerging forces of abstraction. His techniques support the delicate conflict among abstraction, representation, and the resolution of each painting.

Jonathon Miller grew up in the Bay Area where he took his first photography class in high school. Though he primarily works digitally, his first love will always be black and white film. His specialty and passion is environmental portraiture. He is currently working with alternative processes with an industrial theme.

His wife, Joanna Crawshaw, focuses on paintings that play with texture and color relationships and explore the emotions that many of us share through our journey in life. She



'Brush Can Knife #7' by Andrew Roberts-Gray

feels the journey is the most important part of life, and this is reflected in her work. Though she has been working on this idea for many years, she feels this series may never have a definitive end.

Ronald Rigge's photography includes a series on the disappearing aspects of the American West, from decaying signs and architecture to orchards. His most satisfying recent work has been of a "pictorialist" style that can be produced from infrared



'Walking in the Garden' by Lisa Rigg



'Crossing to Safety' by Louise Gray

films that are still available. He prints all of his own work, including Ilfochrome color prints, in a conventional home darkroom. He has explored digital photography methods, but still



'Pruning Ladders' by Ron Rigge

enjoys working with classic silver techniques.

His wife, Lisa Rigge has been photographing since 1978. She studied black and white photographic printing at the M.I.T. Photography Lab in Cambridge, MA. Since then, she has taken numerous photography classes and workshops held in the US and Mexico. Since the

early 1990's she has been hand tinting black & white photographs and teaches this technique at Las Positas College.

Linda Ryan is a local artist, manager of the Bothwell Arts Center and co-manager of the Downtown Art Studios among many other local arts-related projects. Her work explores movement and rhythm and honors the human form as much as the experience of painting.

Grace Ryan, her daughter, is now studying for a joint Master's at King's College Institute of Psychiatry and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She is showing works she produced while completing her minor in Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University. Grace focuses on realism with attention to detail and celebration of form and color.

'Mad As a March Hare' Theme for Arts Happens in Downtown Livermore

Art Happens on March 14th from 6-8 at several locations in downtown Livermore. The evening's theme is "Mad as a March Hare."

Bring something to add to the Community Found Object Sculpture-Building event at the Downtown Art Studios (especially related to Mad, March or Hare) and check out an art exhibition by Joanna Crawshaw as well; partake in a drum circle workshop at ABC Music Source & Academy; view portraiture by Jacob Hankinson and watch him demonstrate live portraiture while taking part in Open Mic Night at Panama Red Coffee House; experience open mic poetry led by Poet Laureat Cher Wollard and an exemplary alternative photography exhibition featuring works by Walter Davies, and Lisa and Ron Rigge at Figurehead Art



Cher Wollard

Gallery. There will be art-making demonstrations at Winemaker's Pour House. "Animal Art – a fundraiser for Little Creatures," will be this month's art focus at Artistic Edge at Blacksmith Square

A reception for Rela-

tively Speaking, an exhibit by Family Members in Art will be held at the Bankhead Theater as well as opening night for an exhibition of fine graphic hyperrealism by Tim Danganan. End the evening night karaoke and a rotating display by mixed media artist Trish Fenton at Sanctuary Ultra Lounge.

Art Happens events are free and open to the public. Download a map brochure at <http://mylypac.com/index.php/bac/art-happens.html> or pick one up at any of the above locations, and like Bothwell Arts Center on Facebook to keep informed. Art Happens is coordinated by the Bothwell Arts Center with help from the Bankhead Theater/Livermore Performing Arts Center.

Art Happens each second Thursday of the month - check out www.bothwellartscenter.org for info!



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Celebrating Rotary's 108th Anniversary

ROTARY CLUBS & Weekly Meetings

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



A donation of \$15
will save 25
children from Polio.
www.endpolionow.org

Art Show Set at Alviso Adobe

The Pleasanton Art League will host an open show at the Alviso Adobe.

The exhibit will be open to the public on March 9 and 10. A reception and awards ceremony will be held on Sat., March 9 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Alviso Adobe is located at 3465 Old Foothill Road, Pleasanton.

Amador to Screen 'Miss Representation'

The Amador Valley High School Career Academies will be showing the movie "Miss Representation." on March 12. This is an important film for young women, men, and their families. In a society where young girls struggle with eating disorders, cutting, and depression, this movie will bring clarity, education, and comfort as well as incite questions.

Ultimately, the goal is to empower young women to find their true potential through the film's message and the inspirational women it highlights. The film encourages girls to understand that they are valued not because they are simply pretty or wear nice clothes, rather they possess intelligence and leadership qualities that benefit their school community.

Following the movie, the audience will have the opportunity to engage in discussion with a panel of experts to better understand the film's message and how it pertains to our lives.

The movie will be shown at 7:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room at Amador Valley High School. The suggested donation is \$5. Some content may not be suitable for students under the age of 14. - See more at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar/event/



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Sunol Repertory Theatre production of "Murder in the House of Horrors," A Who Done It Mystery, opens this weekend in Sunol. Performances of the interactive play are Fri. and Sat March 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23 at Sunol Glen School 11601 Main St. Sunol. Doors open at 7:30. The performance starts at 8 p.m. Beverages are sold at intermission by charitable organizations. Tickets at \$15 are available at Elliston Winery, 463 Kilcare Road between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Pictured are Linda Hinshaw-Kramm as Elvira Gray; Victoria King-Bowman as Lorenda Westbrook, and Donna Blevins as Lt. Josephine Friday.

Follow the Threads of History during An Evening with Lady Carolyn

Museum on Main celebrates Women's History Month at the Firehouse Arts Center in Downtown Pleasanton on Tuesday, March 12th at 7pm with An Evening with Lady Carolyn.

Carolyn Runnells entertains as Lady Carolyn weaving her way through the threads of history by wearing and displaying clothing that brings history to life by sharing stories about people who wore the clothing and the occasions and special circumstances in which they were worn.

A retired history teacher, Runnells owns more than 100 different outfits ranging over 400 years, from the Renaissance Era in the early 1560s to the vintage clothing from the 1960s. The 1870s, Victorian period clothing she will wear on the Firehouse stage includes 17 layers and weighs more than



Carolyn Runnells as Lady Carolyn

27 pounds.

Piece by piece she will remove the layers, discussing the design and history of each piece. Runnells jokes, "Women love it and men are amused . . . and thankful by the time I finish!"

A recent certification by the National Association of Interpretation allows Runnells to combine her love of history and her extensive collection of award winning costumes into informative and educational presentations.

All events are general seating at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 members and seniors, and \$3 students/teachers with ID.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Museum on Main during regular operating hours or by phoning the museum at (925) 462-2766. Tickets purchased by phone will be available for pick up at Will Call in the lobby of the Firehouse Arts Center on the evening of the event. Tickets may be available at the event subject to availability.

IMPROV

(continued from front page)

being the only teen improv troupe to represent the State of California at this prestigious national festival.

COI founder and director Mark Duncanson is a huge advocate of the supportive improv culture, himself a seasoned graduate of the Bay Area Theater Sports improv program, and continuing professional performer himself. He credits his college theater instructor "Max" Pentilescu with unlocking his "improv brain" and teaching him that improv isn't just about comedy, it's about connecting. He developed his love for long-form, story-based improv in 1994 when he was cast in "Liquid Soap," an improvised episodic soap-opera based out of San Francisco.

"All kinds of kids perform in Creatures of Impulse," says COI Director Mark Duncanson. "Over the past six seasons, we have had aspiring actors and musicians, but we also attract teens that have never performed on stage, and don't even have aspirations of being on stage later in life. The great thing about improv and its inclusive and supportive ideals is the universal appeal it has..."

improv is all about listening, supporting, saying 'yes' and together creating something from nothing."

COI is a performance group for teens in grades 9-12. Auditions are held in early summer for the fall season. Also available are improv workshops, including "The Great IMPROV Play Date" for ages 11-18, and "The Middle School IMPROV Experiment," both available through the City of Pleasanton Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information on Creatures of Impulse Improv Troupe, Improv Face Off 2013, or supporting the spring tour, contact Mark Duncanson at 925-931-4828 or mduncanson@cityofpleasantonca.gov

General admission tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Student tickets: \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org, by calling 925-931-4848, and in person at the Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday - Friday 12:00 noon-6:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm, and two hours prior to the performance.

Wine Night Features a Movie and Wine Tasting

The Vine Cinemas and local wineries will be partnering for an event at the Vine Cinema in downtown Livermore.

On Wednesday, March 13th, four local wineries will be pouring their wines and pairing them up with the movie feature, My Big Fat Greek Wedding. At 5:45 the doors will open to En Garde, Rodrigue Molyneaux, 3 Steves, and Concannon Vineyard. John and Jim Concannon, Steve Burnham, Csaba Szakal, and Lindsey Roffey will be on hand to talk about their wines and why they pair so well with the featured movie.

The movie will begin at 6:30pm. The Vine Cinema serves a full dinner menu. At 8:15, the winemakers, who also happen to be Livermore historians, will gather at the front of the movie theatre for a round table discussion about their wine, the Livermore Valley wine scene, and answer questions.

Tickets are \$15 per person. Contact the Vine Cinema for tickets. Vine Cinema is located in downtown Livermore, 1722 First Street, 925-447-2545, www.VineCinema.com

FESTIVITIES

(continued from front page)

to Celtic harp. "Celtica" a high-energy Celtic Rock band will headline the Main Stage with performances on both Saturday and Sunday. A third stage will feature the performers of the McBride School of Irish Dance and also the McGrath Irish Dancers performing throughout the weekend.

- The Arts & Crafts fair will showcase a variety of talented artists. The "Irish Marketplace," will offer Irish tartans, Celtic capes and shawls, hand knit wool sweaters, Irish histories of names and Coats of Arms, beautiful Celtic jewelry and much more.

- The Festival Food Court will feature many unique Irish inspired specialties such as Guinness marinated tri-tip, corned beef sliders with spicy slaw, beer braised Irish bangers with boxty and sautéed cabbage, authentic fish and chips and be sure to save room for delicious Bailey's Irish Crème Brulee for dessert. A variety of traditional festival favorites and International choices will also be available.

- For a steaming cup of authentic Irish Tea, step



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Young Irish dancers took part in last year's parade in Dublin.

inside the Irish Tea Cottage to enjoy live music along with shortbread and scones served with freshly brewed tea.

- A Carnival will offer rides and attractions for all ages

On Sunday, March 17, the 15th Annual Shamrock 5K Fun Run and Walk begins along Dublin Blvd. near the Civic Center at 8:30 a.m. The race will wind its way through town and finish at the festival with live music, awards and giveaways

for participants. Register online at www.active.com by March 13. For race information please call (925) 556-4500.

Festival admission is free. Plenty of free parking will also be available nearby. Or, visitors can take BART to the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station and connect with a free Wheels pass available at the station during the weekend of the event. Call (925) 556-4500 or visit www.DublinStPats.com for more information.

St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl Set for March 15

Downtown merchants, restaurants and local breweries will come together on Friday, March 15, 6-9 p.m., at the second annual St. Patrick's Day Brew Crawl, hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA) and sponsored by the Tri Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau and Markstein Sales Co.

Patrons can shop along Main Street and sample over 25 varieties of beer while enjoying a beautiful spring evening.

The Pleasanton Downtown Association encourages everyone to enjoy down-

town responsibly. To support this effort the PDA will be selling designated driver tickets for \$10 on the night of the Brew Crawl and the event programs will include taxi contact information.

Tickets are on sale for \$30 at Pleasanton Main Street Brewery – 830 Main Street, Redcoats Pub – 336 St. Mary Street, Studio Seven Arts – 400 Main Street and online at www.PleasantonDowntown.net.

If not sold out, tickets will be available for \$35 at 5:30 p.m. on the night of the event at the Veterans Memo-

rial Building – 301 Main St. Tickets must be redeemed by 7:30 p.m. Ticket price includes beer tastings at 25 downtown locations, a commemorative beer glass and tasting map. Only 1000 tickets will be sold. "Like" Pleasanton Downtown Association on Facebook for the latest Brew Crawl info. Event is rain or shine, no refunds. We are not responsible for lost, misplaced or stolen tickets.

Brew Crawl events take place twice per year. This year's Halloween Brew Crawl is scheduled for Saturday, October 26.



Red Clay Ramblers

Red Clay Ramblers Swing into Livermore for Show at the Bankhead

For more than 40 years, the Red Clay Ramblers have been ambassadors for string band music, bringing their sound to such diverse art forms as symphony, ballet, Broadway, and film scores. Audiences at the Bankhead Theater will have the opportunity to see the Red Clay Ramblers as they swing into town on Wednesday evening, March 13, 2013.

Formed in 1972, the Red Clay Ramblers started out with just a banjo, a guitar and a fiddle, and a name they chose to reflect the characteristic red clay earth of the hills surrounding their hometown of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The group evolved and grew over the next decade, but since the late 1980s the members have remained much the same, keeping their eclectic style and sound remarkably consistent. Their music owes much to their North Carolina mountain string band roots, to which they have added a touch of bluegrass, country, rock, gospel and New Orleans style jazz in an irresistible combination. With their impeccable musicianship and lighthearted sense of fun, the Red Clay


Ramblers have been described as "purveyors of down-home, foot-stomping music with attitude" by the Seattle Times and "string band masterminds" by the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Red Clay Ramblers have also worked to expand audiences for the musical style through creative projects in multiple art forms. In 1999 they were given a special Tony Award for their Broadway hit "Full Moon" which also had successful runs in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and in Europe. They have collaborated on works with Carolina Ballet and with Atlanta Ballet, uniting lively string band music with innovative dance movements. The Red Clay Ramblers have also been frequent guests on Garrison Kellior's "A Prairie Home

Companion," played with symphony orchestras, appeared on television, produced shows for children, and have composed and performed music for several film scores.

Classic folk music continues at the Bankhead Theater in April with the legendary Arlo Guthrie. In June, the Quebe Sisters return with their Western swing fiddles and sweet three-part harmonies to help kick off the 95th Annual Livermore Rodeo. Tickets for all events in the current LVPAC Presents season are available now through the Bankhead ticket office.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Livermore. Purchase tickets at the box office, call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.


**THE NEPTUNE SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**
 2177 Las Positas Ct, Ste. K, Livermore CA 94551
 (925) 454-1974
www.neptune-society.com
Angie Apolinar, Branch Director

FD#1823

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

Art Happens, 2nd Thursday of each month, 6 to 9 p.m. March 14, April 11. Downtown Livermore. Art displays, poetry, entertainment, special events. For the brochure go to www.bothwellartscenter.org.

California: Earth, Air, Water, Fire, Life. Exhibit at the Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, March 2 through April 6. Exhibition interprets and honors nature in California, and features painter Engela Olivier-Wilson, photographer William Hackett, and sculptor/designer Matthew Nylander. Regular gallery hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 12-5 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, 4444 Railroad Avenue. Admission is free, donations always appreciated.

Art Show. Livermore artist Maryann Kot is showing her art at the Wente Winery tasting room at 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore for the month of March. Hours 11 AM to 4:30 PM

Livermore artist, Gloria Sayers, is exhibiting her paintings at the café at Garre Winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore for the months of March and April. The café is open weekdays 11 am to 2 p.m. and weekends 11 am to 3 p.m.

Seasons of the Valley, an exhibit of the art of Bettie Goosman is displayed at The Purple Orchid Inn, 4549 Cross Rd., Livermore. Art can be viewed daily from 8 am to 6 pm. For more information call (925) 606-8855

Cuda Ridge Wines features work of local photographers, Jennie and Chuck McGregor featuring Livermore landscapes, runs through March 31st. The winery is located at 5385 East Avenue in Livermore. The art is on display, and available for purchase, during normal tasting hours from Fri.-Sun., 12:00 - 4:30.

Pleasanton Art League Show at the Alviso Adobe, March 9 and 10. Reception and awards Sat., March 9, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Located between Old Foothill Road and Foothill Road, 3465 Old Foothill Road, Pleasanton. www.pal-art.com/

Paper Cuts of Livermore Wineries and Vineyards features the work of Madelyn Ellis. 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.

Livermore Art Association, spring show, April 6 and 7, The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Reception and awards ceremony, Sat., April 6, 7 to 9 p.m. Public is invited. No admission charge.

Essential Nude Figurative Show, April 18-21, Bothwell Arts Center, 8th and H Streets, Livermore. Reception on April 18, 7 p.m. No admission charge. www.LivermoreArtAssociation.org.

Fresh Work III: Open Juried Exhibit, Harrington Gallery, April 24-May 25, reception and awards April 27, 1 to 3 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Livermore Art Association, Pleasanton Art League, meeting Mon., March 18, 7:30 p.m. Cultural Arts Building, 4455 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Patti Heimbürger, will present a program on textual art. www.LivermoreArtAssociation.org.

Fine Art on Friday, 10 a.m. with Art Critique & Coffee at the Corner Bakery Cafe, Pleasanton Gateway Plaza. Professional, Local and Emerging Artists of the San Francisco Bay Area. Contact Claudette for more information 510 543-4776.

Classes, Colored Pencil Classes "Basics and Beyond." Instructor Maryann Kot. Starting at 6:30 PM-9:00 PM on Tues., March 19th for five weeks. Classes will be held at the Bothwell Arts Center 2466 8th Street, Livermore. Sign up at Way Up Art and Frame, Livermore. 925-443-3388. Space is limited. See Maryann's paintings at Wente Winery, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. March 1st through March 28th

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

Preschool Art classes: Thursday mornings 9:45 - 10:45. Children aged 3-5 are welcome to join this class. Classes cover drawing, painting, print-making, sculpture and ceramics. For further information please contact Thomasin Dewhurst at (925) 216-7231 or thomasin_d@hotmail.com or visit <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/>

Livermore Art Classes, Artist and art instructor, Thomasin Dewhurst offers art instruction to children and adults. Classes cover painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, collage, animation and construction. For further information please call (925) 216-7231 e-mail thomasin_d@hotmail.com or visit <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com>

WINERY EVENTS

Live music and special events, Wine-maker's Pour House, 2241 First St., Livermore. www.winemakerspourhouse.com. March 7, 6:30-9 p.m. Steve Fread; March 8, 6:30-9:30 Natalia Suseoff; March 9, 6:30-9, Marchine Gun Banana; March 10, 4-5 p.m. David Correa and Cascada. Vintner Evening with John Concannon of Concannon Vineyard, Thurs., March 7, 6:30-9 p.m. food and wine pairing. St. Patrick's Day at the Winemaker's Pour House, 5 to 8 p.m. Sun., March 17. Live music with Pog Mo Thoin, Gabe Duffin, Celtic and Irish folk music, special Irish menu.

Barrel Tasting Weekend, noon to 4:30 p.m., March 23 and 24, taste wines right out of the barrel, meet winemakers and more. Each winery will host a unique experience during barrel tasting weekend including at least one barrel sample for each ticket holder. Chance to pre-purchase wines before they have even been bottled (aka "futures")!

Tickets are \$35 in advance/ \$40 event day and includes barrel tasting at over 30 wineries on Saturday and Sunday, a logo wine glass and wine tasting map. Visit www.LVwine.org for tickets and a list of participating wineries.

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Blacksmith Square, music every Saturday 3 to 6 p.m. in the courtyard, 21 South Livermore Ave., Livermore.

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band will appear at The Castle Rock Restaurant in Livermore/at Portola Ave. Band performs 2nd and 4th Tuesdays. Dance Floor, Small Cover.

San Ramon Symphonic Band, March 8, 7:30 p.m. A Night at the Symphony, Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, Albion Rd., San Ramon; sanramonperformingarts.com. 973-3343.

Laurie Rubin, Mezzo Soprano, 8 p.m. Sat., March 9. Smith Center at Ohlone College, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont. She has appeared in multiple venues, including the Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and the White House and has performed in operas, as a soloist and in her own musical ensemble. \$15-\$20, event parking \$2. www.smithcenter.com or 510-659-6031.

Julian Lage Group, March 12, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Red Clay Ramblers, March 13, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Story Road, featuring members of Molly's Revenge, concert 7 p.m. Sat., March 16, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Great music, Good Food - traditional Irish Fare. Child care will be provided. Tickets are \$40.00 for adults, \$25.00 for children. Membership in St. Clare's is not required. To purchase tickets, please call the Church office: 925-462-4802 or e-mail david.wildy@gmail.com, www.stclarespleasanton.org

Pleasanton Chamber Players, March 17, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Steve Seskin & Friends The Songwriters sing, March 16, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, Albion Rd., San Ramon; sanramonperformingarts.com. 973-3343.

Archetti Baroque String Ensemble, Del Valle Fine Arts concert, March 23, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Beatles tribute, the Sun Kings, March 30, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Jesse Cook, April 5, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore-Amador Symphony, April 6, 8 p.m. guest conductor potpourri: Dawn Harms. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Joni Morris: A tribute to the Legendary Ladies of Country Music, April 6, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, Spring Concert, "A Concerted Effort," 2 p.m. April 7, Firehouse Arts Center,



The swinging sounds of the Silver Moon Band will be heard at the Pleasanton Library at 2p.m. on Sunday, March 10. The band performs favorite ballads sung in the style of Old Blue Eyes, Bobby Darin and others. The musicians in this eleven-piece all star group have appeared with such notables as: Steve Allen, Ray Charles, Paul Anka, Tito Puente, Jack Jones, Maynard Ferguson, The Drifters, and many others. All library programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required. For more information, please call Penny Johnson, 925/931-3405.

4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Free admission.

Kathy Mattea, April 11, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Beatles Concert Experience, West Coast Performing Arts Presenters, April 19, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Arlo Guthrie, April 22, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Paris Combo, April 24, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Lettermen, April 26, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Debussy Trio, Del Valle Fine Arts concert, April 27, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure, Feb. 14-March 10. By Steven Dietz. Based on the original 1899 play by William Gillette and Arthur Conan Doyle Winner of the 2007 Edgar Award for Best Mystery Play Combining two of Arthur Conan Doyle's stories, The Scandal in Bohemia and the Final Adventure. The Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward. The Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday, 12:30 to 5:30 and can be reached at (510) 881-6777. www.dmtonline.org.

Tickets for the 32nd year of the Sunol Repertory Theatre are on sale at Elliston Winery, 463 Kilkare Rd. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 on Sat. & Sun. between 11am-4pm. This is a first for the theatre "Murder in the House of Horrors" A Who Done It Mystery. Performances are Fri. & Sat March 8, 9, 15,

16, 22 & 23 at Sunol Glen School 11601 Main St. Sunol. Doors open at 7:30. Performance starts at 8 p.m. Beverages are sold at intermission by charitable organizations.

Pippi Longstocking at the Firehouse Arts Center. Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company presents the popular children's tale. Friday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday March 9, 7:30 p.m.; and 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays March 8, 9. Tickets are \$10, \$15, \$18; Child or Senior: \$6, \$9, \$12. Tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

Murder Most Fouled-Up, a comedy by the award-winning playwright, Nikki Harmon, presented by Asbury Players Community Theater. Story of a greedy family, a confused household staff and some unhappy spirits who only have 24 hours to find the treasure hidden by the diabolical Edwin Randolph and his ancestors. Performances March 8 and 9, 2013. Show time Friday and Saturday 8 p.m.; Sunday matinee 2 p.m. General admission \$10. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, CA. (925) 447-1950. Tickets available at the door or online at Brown Paper Tickets. For more information about this show or about Asbury Players Community Theater, go to www.asburyliveprents.com.

Ivy and Bean, The Musical, March 9-17, 11 a.m., 2 and 4:30 p.m. Front Row Theater, Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon; sanramonperformingarts.com. 973-3343.

Student One Acts, Mar. 20, 12:30 p.m. and Mar. 22, 8 pm. Black Box Theater, Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. 424-110.

Forever Plaid, March 22 - 30, Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Presented by the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. 925-314-3400, www.danville.ca.gov

Menopause The Musical, April 10, 7:39 p.m., April 12 and 13 8 p.m. and April 13 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Includes lesson guide. www.ctcinc.org, 800-606-0424.

Hair, spring musical, Las Positas College, April 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21. Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$10 students/seniors, \$15 general admission. www.brownpaperickets.com or 1-800-838-3006.

She Loves Me, Pacific Coast Repertory Theater, weekends April 12-28, 8 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Cinderella, April 19 - May 5, Presented by San Ramon Community Theatre, Front Row Theater, Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon; sanramonperformingarts.com. 973-3343.

It's Magic, April 21, 3 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Best of the Best, Sat., April 27, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, showcasing performing arts students. Las Positas College Foundation fundraising. 424-1100.

Reach for the Stars, Livermore Valley Education Foundation fund-raiser for arts in the schools, April 28, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

COMEDY

Creatures of Impulse, teen improv troupe, presents Improv Face Off, in three different performances all at 7:30pm. Each unique show is based loosely on a Hunger Games-styled theme, and each features a different guest opponent troupe. Wednesday, 3/13 (free preview show) with Livermore Valley Charter Prep's High School Improv Team; Thursday, 3/14 with Think Fast from Granada High School; Friday, 3/15 with Improv the Nation from Dublin High School; Saturday, 3/16 with professional troupe The UN-Scripted Theater Company from San Francisco. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Students \$5 advance, \$8 door; adults \$10 advance, \$15 door. www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the Box Office at the center. Free parking.

MOVIES

Free Classic Film Series, Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, 1st Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. through June 6, 2013. The program is hosted by Candy Klaschus, a film historian who coordinates the Humanities program at Las Positas College. The programs are free and all are welcome to attend. Penny Johnson at 925/931-3405.

AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

Children's Choir Auditions. Galina's Music Studio is currently holding open auditions for its youth choir ages 7 to 17 on Friday, March 15th, 6-7 p.m. and on Friday, March 22nd, 6-7 p.m. at Galina's Music Studio located at 2222 Second

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

St., Suite 2, Livermore. Please submit an audition information form online at www.galinasmusicstudio.com or call (925) 960-1194.

Auditions - Oliver, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. Vocal auditions April 8 and 9, kids 13 and under 7 to 8 p.m., adults 8 p.m.; dance auditions April 11, kids at 7 p.m., adults 8 p.m. Callbacks April 13 at 11 a.m. Open auditions. No appointments. Please prepare 32 bars up-tempo Broadway. Please bring sheet music in your key. No transposing, no a cappella. 1020 Serpentine Lane Suite 101 in Pleasanton. www.trivalleyrep.org/auditions.php

CHORAL

Valley Concert Chorale, Songs of Serenity: Featuring the music of two of the choral world's most creative contemporary composers, Las Postas College Chamber Choir will join the Chorale in performing Durufle's beautiful Requiem, and Lauridsen's moving Lux Aeterna. Sat., April 13, 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 4th & L Streets, Livermore. Tickets are \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. High school and college students \$10 with valid student ID. Children 12 and under are free. www.valleyconcert-chorale.org or (925) 866-4003

OPERA

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

New Lindsay Wildlife Museum classes, 3-week long Saturday classes run from March 9-March 23 and April 13-27. The Signs of Spring class in March lets children discover how plants bloom, insects hatch, reptiles move, birds

migrate and mammals get ready for babies as California awakens from the winter. The Water Explorations class in April lets young children have fun discovering the mysteries of water and water mixtures, and get a little wet in the process. Classes are 10-11 AM for age 2.5-5 with an adult, and 3-4:30 PM for age 4-6 (and teacher's helpers age 9-14). Register online at www.wildlife-museum.org

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 are available online at <http://www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org> or by calling (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 charming tea tables decorated by the members, delicious food, raffle prizes, lucky teacups, a hat contest and silent auction. Penny Warner will be the guest speaker. She is an award-winning author, family life columnist and child development educator. The tickets are \$50 and must be reserved by March 29. Proceeds from this event provide school clothes and shoes to children in need. For information, call Annette at (925) 462-5275, or go to 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. 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 more information call Bev at 925 485 7812.

5th annual Wine Tasting Fund-raiser, Sat., April 28, noon to 4 p.m. The Purple Orchid, 4549 Cross Rd., Livermore. Silent auction, wine tasting, finger food, live performance by John Lee Hooker, Jr. \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. Benefit for Leukemia and Lymphoma Societies. <http://winehike.ticketeap.com>. 413-7788.

Scholarships, Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated presents its sixth annual college scholarship program. The 2013 awards are directed toward all eligible high school seniors throughout the Tri-Valley who will be attending two or four year academic colleges in September, 2013. Three non-partisan scholarships shall be awarded -one for \$1,000 and two at \$500. To qualify, students submit an original essay of not less than 500 words on the theme: Why Do People From Other Countries Want To Come to The United States? Submit essays in Microsoft Word format to mrs.w@comcast.net during the week of April 15-19th, or mailed no later than April 19th to Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated, 6 La Sonoma Drive, Alamo, CA 94507. Include home telephone number and name of school attending or type of schooling being received. Winners will be decided by May 10, 2013.



The 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, delicious food, raffle prizes, lucky teacups, a hat contest and a silent auction. Guest speaker is an award-winning author, family life columnist and child development educator. Her book can be purchased at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton. The tickets are \$50 and must be reserved by March 29. For more information, call Annette at (925) 462-5275, or go to www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org. This chapter of a national philanthropic organization has many programs that benefit residents of all ages in the Tri-Valley. The proceeds from this event will provide school clothes and shoes to children in need.

Asbury Invites All to Join 'Walk to Jerusalem'

By Carol Graham

This year, members of Livermore's Asbury United Methodist Church decided to add something to a season that typically calls for subtracting something.

"The forty days leading up to Easter are known as Lent," said Reverend Kim Risedorph of the period during which many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting or giving up certain luxuries. "Traditionally, Lent is a time of reflection and introspection, a time to intentionally draw closer to God, the Divine Presence.

"This year at Asbury UMC we decided to add something special to our Lenten season. We decided we would walk to Jerusalem."

From Livermore to the city of Jerusalem are 7,422 miles. Each mile participants walk during Lent contributes to meeting that mileage goal by Easter Sunday, March 31st.

"It's seems like such a daunting task," said participant Tony Gnecco. "However, if enough of us can commit to it and encourage others to do the same, we

may be able to pull it off. It would show the power of what could happen if enough people pull together and commit to something."

Asbury UMC invites all interested to join the walk by recording distances covered and workout periods on their web site. "Our goal is to get moving, and to be developing healthy exercise habits that keep us in good health," said Risedorph. "Another goal is to practice talking about things that matter - the things that give our life meaning, purpose and joy."

In Methodist tradition,

said Risedorph, there was a question at the center of all early Methodist gatherings: "How goes it with your soul?"

"Our walk to Jerusalem is our modern-day version of that question," she said. "When we walk together, we are trying to use some of that time to consider: What's happening in my life? Where have I experienced God's presence? Where do I yearn for God's presence? What are my burning questions about God and faith?"

For participant Thomas Petty, "The Journey to Jeru-

salem gives me a reason to slow down and force myself to get away from the busy day-to-day things that must get done. There is always one more thing that needs to be accomplished. This has given me the time to take a breath and take a walk. The symbolism of taking it one step at a time reflects how we have to deal with life's challenges."

To sign up or learn more about Asbury UMC's Journey to Jerusalem, visit www.Asburylive.com.

Mitchie McCammon participates with the Asbury Hikers, which invites mem-

bers to discuss their faith as they explore trails around the Bay Area. "Being on top of a ridge gives you a great view of God's creation and a great appreciation of the beauty that surrounds us in our own backyard," she said.

Added Risedorph, "Giving something up for Lent can be meaningful, yet sometimes we have to look at traditional practices from a different angle to get fresh meaning. Over time, when we are faithful in taking care of our souls and our bodies, we gain an abiding sense of well being. I hope our walk leads us in that direction."

Pleasanton Chamber Hosts Community Service Awards Gala

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will recognize individuals, groups and businesses who have demonstrated excellence and community leadership in business, volunteer activities and achievement within the Pleasanton community on Thursday, March 21 at the Firehouse Arts Center.

The Community Service Awards began in 1963 to recognize good people doing great things in the community and since then hundreds of recipients have been honored.

Award recipients include: 1st United Services Credit Union, Business Philanthropy Award: For businesses that have provided philanthropic service beyond the scope of normal business activity.

Simpson Manufacturing, Excellence in Business Award: For businesses that have made a positive impact in the Pleasanton community through their achievement within the scope of normal business activity.

Volunteers in Police Service, Excellence in Service

Award: For non-profit organizations that have contributed to Pleasanton.

Debi Covello, Distinguished Individual Service Award: For individuals who have contributed to Pleasanton through exceptional service to the community or philanthropic efforts.

The Clorox Company and Café Main, Green Business Award: For businesses that are small or large that promote sustainable environmental business practices throughout their organization for the benefit of em-

ployees, customers or the community.

This event, sponsored by Chevron, will feature a Parisian theme woven throughout the evening's gourmet food stations and entertainment vignettes. The public is invited to attend this fun-filled evening beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a hosted bar, and heavy hors d'oeuvre food stations and a silent auction followed by the awards presentations and live auction. Cost to attend is \$75 per person and tickets are on sale now.

Downton Abbey - Season 3

By Linda Milanese

The seven episodes of Downton Abbey's 3rd season have flown by with 2 weddings, 2 births, and 2 funerals—well, technically 1½ weddings, counting Edith's.

So why haven't I been moved to tears by the characters yet?

I've been fascinated by the fast-moving plot, entertained by the quirky personalities, and intrigued by the lifestyle of a bygone age.

But I haven't been reaching for tissues.

One thing is for sure: Julian Fellowes keeps the show moving. He can never be accused of creating flat Dickens-like characters who always behave in a predictable way. But while the characters aren't static, neither are their changes exactly subtle. The Downton folks sometimes experience hard-to-believe, extreme makeovers that prime you to be ready for anything the plot serves up.

Let's start with Tom Branson (or as Maggie Smith calls him "the chauffeur"). He begins as a member of the downstairs staff, falls in love with the democratic daughter, Sybil, and returns to Ireland after they marry where he pursues his political activism. Forced by political events to return to Downton—followed by Sybil's death in childbirth—

season 3 transforms Branson from an IRA revolutionary to a member of the ruling class. Yes, he struggles with his new identity as estate agent, but in a few months' time he's changed from an unruly revolutionary to a soft spoken overlord in a suit.

Thomas: His role for 2½ seasons was to smoke in the alley with O'Brien and scheme against the residents of Downton. He was clearly a villain. After a homosexual incident—set up by the most evil O'Brien—Thomas is almost completely destroyed for the wrong reasons. We'd have been delighted to see him punished for his past crimes hatched in the alley with O'Brien, but his vulnerability in a homophobic society doesn't satisfy our thirst for justice. So it's a relief to see the open-mindedness and protection the staff and Robert Crawley extend to him, however anachronistic it might actually be. When Thomas, in the very next episode, selflessly sacrifices himself to protect his accuser from a terrible beating, I should have been moved. But presented with such an extreme personality change, you're mostly left wondering, "Who is this man?"

And, there is the despicable O'Brien. Am I mistaken or did the events at the Scottish castle show her in

a less than evil light? And, of all things, she appears to have distinguished herself as a hairdresser? This from a woman whose own hairdo is reminiscent of—and about as attractive as—that of Alice the housekeeper on "The Brady Bunch."

Edith seems to be a different person every season. She started out as an example of sibling rivalry at its worst—the source of the rumors about the Turkish ambassador that almost destroyed her sister Mary. She was transformed into a nurse in Season 2 and a feminist journalist who rises from the ashes of being left at the altar in Season 3. Who will she be next year? By the way, I saw an online photo story showing the "Downton Abbey" characters out of costume. Edith is really attractive. This homely spinster role can't be good for her ego.

Now Matthew didn't experience a huge makeover, but I saw his death coming—I wasn't gobsmacked. Everyone was practically eulogizing him throughout that last episode of Season 3. Mary loved him because only he knew "the real Mary;" Edith's editor/love interest defers to Matthew's sage advice; and, most notable, Robert finally admits that Matthew's modernization efforts have saved Downton. It seems that whenever someone

stands out as especially admirable, they're next. Who have the previous most honorable Crawley? Sybil. And look what happened to her. I was ready and dry-eyed for Matthew's end.

The next day I read it was about contracts. Matthew and Sybil wanted out of the show. Killing them was apparently the only reasonable exit.

I think the show's plot takes precedence over character development. What appears to be an extreme makeover is simply accommodating the story line. The story must be told—and quickly. A sad event happens, and the distracting plot just moves right along.

Besides, I can't remember Downton characters themselves indulging in any really tearful, opera-worthy scenes—except for Tom Branson—but he is Irish if that has any bearing. When something bad happens, everyone on Downton gets over it. They look pained for awhile; they look sad or angry. But they get over it without histrionics, so the logical conclusion is: why shouldn't we?

So I remain interested, yes—really interested.

But moved? No.

Moved or not, I'm already counting down the ten long months for the start of Season 4.

International Film Series at Vine Cinema and Alehouse First Movie Shown on March 10

The Annual International Film Series will be screened at the Vine Cinema and Alehouse, 1722 First St., Livermore.

The first film, "David," will be shown at 4 p.m. on Sun., March 10. (USA, 2011, 80 minutes, English, Arabic with subtitles). Daud, the 11 year-old son of an imam, feels marginalized from society and other youth in the Muslim community. He becomes acquainted with a group of Jewish boys and a genuine friendship develops between him and one of the boys—a relationship that is challenged when Daud's religion is revealed. PG-13.

The film will be followed at 7:15 p.m. by the film, "My Dad is Baryshnikov." (Russia, 2011, 88 minutes, Russian/English with subtitles)

In order to gain "mojo," the gangly and untalented Boris Fishkin, a student at the prestigious Bolshoi Academy, tells his classmates that his runaway father is Mikhail Baryshnikov, one of the world's foremost ballet stars. This twisting of the facts gains him self-confidence and clout in the school. Set in Moscow in 1986, this comedy showcases the cultural face of the Soviet Union.

"Le Concert" will be shown at 7:30 p.m. on Thurs., March 14. (France/Russia, 2009, 100 Minutes, Russian/French with subtitles)

Andrei Filipov refuses to think of himself as a janitor at Moscow's Bolshoi Orchestra. Demoted years ago by Soviet bureaucrats, Andrei dreams of returning as the orchestra's conductor. He accidentally intercepts an invitation for the Bolshoi to play in Paris, and starts reuniting his former musicians to play a Tchaikovsky concerto that the Soviet government had outlawed. Le Concert is an emotionally stirring film that will leave you cheering!

Purchase tickets online at eastbayjewishfilm.org or 510.318.6484, or at the door

The festival is co-sponsored by Congregation Beth Emek, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, Temple Beth Torah, Tri-Valley/Tri-Cities Midrasha, Jewish Federation of the East Bay.

Tickets Available for 2013 Shakespeare Festival

Tickets for the 2013 Livermore Shakespeare Festival season are now available.

Performances are weekends June 20 to July 21 at Concanon Vineyard in Livermore.

This year's productions include "The Liar," by David Ives adapted from the comedy by Pierre Corneille, and "The Taming of the Shrew."

This year Tiered Pricing for Livermore Shakes patrons is being offered. The first two rows and aisle seats in the first 8 rows are our "Premier" seats. The 8 seats on the outer aisle in the last two rows (in both House Right and House Left sections) are the "Discount" Seats. All other seats are called "Regular" seats.

The may be purchased at www.livermoreshakes.org or 1-800-838-3006.

NOTE: Anne Homan is on vacation this week.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Crab feed, Sat., March 9, 2013 hosted by the Livermore Lions Club in Livermore, at St. Matthews Baptist Church, 1239 N Livermore Ave. Doors open at 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. All you can eat crab for \$40 per person. The ticket also includes a chance to win a door prize of a Melvin Jones Membership. During the event various other fund raising raffles will be held. Dessert will be provided for a donation to the Livermore Leo's (Lions' Program for future Lions). The menu also includes pasta, salad, clam chowder, bread, tea, coffee, water and soda. Proceeds of the event go to support the Livermore Lion's services to the community. Ticket may be purchased at 925 443 4414 or bbarrientos@earthlink.net or 925 449 9974.

Semi-Annual Used Clothing and Equipment Sale, Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club, 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. March 9 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Clothing, gear and toys from 200+ sellers. If you're looking for maternity wear, clothing for newborns to teens, car seats, single and double strollers, swings, bouncy seats, baby carriers, cribs, high chairs, safety gates, toys, books, videos/DVDs and more. www.tvmotc.org

Tea Dance, The Pleasanton VFW Post 6298 will host Tea Dance on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The dance will be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 301 Main Street, Pleasanton. Dance to the music of the 30's and 40's played by the Mellotones Combo. This event will cost only \$7, including refreshments. The Mellotones Combo has been playing for various activities (private parties, celebrations, etc.) in the Tri-Valley area for the past several years. The group consists of seven musicians including piano, bass, drums, guitar, trumpet and saxophone, plus a vocalist. They play what some might call the Great American Songbook; that is, popular tunes of stage, screen and radio, plus all-time favorites from the Swing Era of the 1930s and 1940s.

Tri-Valley Chapter 397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) will meet Thurs., March 14 at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main St., Pleasanton. Federal employees and retirees are invited to attend to learn about a national association that advocates for them. Attendees need not be NARFE members. A no host luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. A business meeting will follow at 1 p.m. Guest speaker Josh Laine, owner of the Valor Winery in Livermore, will speak about hiring veterans. He assists them in obtaining benefits and in other ways as well. Look for chapter signs at the restaurant side entrance. To request more information, directions or transportation to the meeting, please call Gary at (925) 373-6758. Background on NARFE is on the Web at www.narfe.org.

50 Shades of Red, casino and auction evening benefit the Livermore and Granada High School Safe & Sober Grad Night. April 12, 7 to 11 p.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Evening includes light appetizers, raffle prizes, starter chips for gaming, dancing, silent and live auctions. \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door. www.lhsgradnight.org or www.granadagraddnight.com.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet on Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m. at Alisal School's multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Robin Parer, owner of Geraniaceae will speak on hardy

and tender geraniums and pelargoniums. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Bev at 925-485-7812 or visit www.lavgc.org.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club and Tri-Valley Chapter of Move On will host Congressman Eric Swalwell on Sun., March 10 at the iBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., event starts at 1 p.m. Discuss what can be done and is being done, meet new people, bring finger food to share & beverages. Public is invited.

Congressmen, Temple Beth Torah presents U.S. Congressional Representatives Mike Honda and Eric Swalwell on Sunday, March 10. With the new districting, Congressman Eric Swalwell represents Pleasanton and surrounding areas, as well as, northern Fremont. It will be held at Temple Beth Torah, Social Hall, 42000 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont from 9:30am to 11am. The cost is \$10 or \$8 for seniors (+60). A light breakfast (lochs, bagels, coffee, fruit and orange juice).

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., March 9, 39-54 miles over Calaveras, meet 9 a.m. at Crank-2 Bike Shop in Pleasanton, Rob Defosse, 216-4823. Sat., March 9, 50/60 miles, Cinderella Classic conditioning rides, meet 9 a.m. at Jakroo in Pleasanton, psycelejulz@sbcglobalnet or karin.poe9@gmail.com. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Armchair Travelers, a monthly program, will take place at the Livermore Civic Center Library Thurs., March 14, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Phillip Mumford talk about his four-month, 7,500-mile trip by bicycle through Africa from the deserts of Egypt and Sudan, on to the mountains of Ethiopia and the game parks of Kenya and Tanzania, along Lake Malawi, through Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, and ending in South Africa. Adults are invited to this free program at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. For additional information, call 925 373-5500.

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society presents Tim Fox, a genealogist for more than 20 years to speak on "Fun Tools to Help Genealogist Work Smarter," March 12. Meeting at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton at 7:30 pm, doors open at 7. Learn how to keep up with new software, websites, tools and devices and use of Smart Phones, Tablets and other tools. For additional information contact Pat Northam, Program chairperson, email: program@L-AGS.org.

Pleasantonians for Peace, candlelight vigil 7 p.m. Wed., March 13 in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton. Participants will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Peaceful War Protest on the fourth Wednesday of the month, March 27, between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Call Cathie Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowling@pacbell.net. www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA, lunch in Dublin, March 14, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by March 11 to David, 833-7647. friendly bridge, March 16, 1 p.m., RSVP by March 9 to Jeanne, 361-6110. lunch in San Ramon, March 19, noon, RSVP by March 16 to Janet, 443-3317. Happy hour in Pleasanton, March 21, 5 p.m., RSVP by March 10 to Marge, 828-5124. lunch at DVC culinary facility, March 27, 11 a.m., RSVP by March 17 to Ruby, 462-9636.

Garage sale, Tri-Valley Church of Christ, Livermore, (4481 East Ave) is hosting a community garage sale on Saturday, April

13th to raise money for a youth mission trip to Guatemala this summer. For only \$30, community members are invited to rent a 10' x 18' space in the parking lot to sell items or represent/advertise an organization. The garage sale starts at 8:00am and ends at 3:00pm. There will be endors, music, hot dogs and sodas, and all proceeds go toward sending students to San Cristobal, Guatemala, to help the poor and needy. Anyone interested in renting a space (first come, first served), contact Orinda Weiss at (925) 606-7598 or orindalee@gmail.com.

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 more information call Bev at 925 485 7812.

Two local networking groups GNON (Girls Night Out Networking) and B2B Gathering Inc. once again join forces in Pleasanton on March 27th to provide the community with a networking seminar and tradeshow. The event, sponsored by Saunders Accountancy Corporation, will allow attendees the opportunity to network with 150+ in one night and have the opportunity to visit trade show booths. In addition to the tradeshow, participants will attend the B2B fast paced 90 minute networking seminar. March 27th, 2013 from 5-8:30 pm at the Four Points by Sheraton (5115 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton) ALL for only \$5/pp. RSVP to gnoners@gmail.com. Information, contact GNON Founder/Director, Frances Hewitt at (925) 487-4748 or at gnoners@gmail.com.

Tri-Valley Republican Women present former State Legislator, Lynne Leach, at the annual Membership Luncheon to be held on March 9 at Cattleman's Restaurant. Leach is a member of the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Posse, on the executive board of Mount Diablo Boy Scouts of America, and advisory board of the Chinese-American Political Association. As a legislator, Ms. Leach worked on various committees: Transportation, Insurance, Jobs and Economic Development, Aging and Long Term Care, and Legislative Audit. Social time is 12:30, meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$24 per person. For information and reservations, contact Devy Torrance at deandevy2004@yahoo.com or phone 925-234-2209.

SAT Prep Classes in Livermore - LARPD is offering classes in Strategic SAT Prep (Saturdays 4/6 - 4/27/13 - 9 am - noon), "Spring Break SAT Prep" (Tues. - Fri. 4/2 - 4/5 - 9 - noon), and Last Minute SAT Prep (4/15/13 - 5:30 - 9 pm or 4/20/13 - 1:30 - 5 pm). Classes will be held at Robert Livermore Community Center 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. Register at 925 373-5700, or go to susanprep.com for additional information.

Foothill High School's Academic & Activities Booster Club (AABC) is offering 6 scholarships of \$500 each to the graduating seniors. Applicants must attend a higher education college/university. Three of these scholarships are on academic basis and other three are based on need. Application forms are available with Mrs. Bing at the Counseling Desk at Foothill HS. Awards will be based on effort, activities and interests both in and out of school. Consideration will be given to students who have demonstrated academic improvement during the past four years. The last date of application is Friday, April 19, 2013.

Free Healing Touch Sessions for Tri-Valley Veterans March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8. Available time slots: 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., or 11:30 a.m. Free Healing

Touch sessions for active, inactive, combat or retired Veterans from any military branch. Healing Touch Program is endorsed by the American Holistic Nurses Association. Advance reservation required as space is limited. Sessions held at Las Positas College, Veterans First Center, Building 1000, Livermore. Student status is not required. For more information or to schedule a session, please visit www.quantumhealingth.com or call 925-352-8917.

Ragin Cajun Mardi Gras Gala hosted by the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation on March 8, 2013 at the Palm Center in Pleasanton. The event includes dinner, music, dancing as well as silent and live auctions. The proceeds benefit cancer patients living in the Tri-Valley by providing healing therapies that help offset the side-effects of radiation and chemotherapy and are not covered by insurance. Information and tickets, contact the Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation at 866-862-7270 or visit the website at www.healingtherapistfoundation.org

M.I. Hummel Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter, meets second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. at a member's home. Guests always welcome. Topics include sharing of Hummel figurine news and information. For information, contact Joan Mumma, club secretary, 447-5164 or www.mumma.org/hummel/

Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military" is a 501(c)3 non profit military support organization based in Livermore. S.A.M. has been in operation since January 2004. It is dedicated to the continued support of deployed troops. Preparation of comfort packages takes place every other week - all year long. Providing morale support for those deployed. All information provided is confidential and is not shared for security purposes. To submit a name and address, inquire about donations or helping, please visit www.operationsam.org, email operationsam@comcast.net or call 925 443-7620 for more information and the calendar of events.

RELIGION

First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. Contemplative Service in the Chapel, 10:30 Traditional Service in the Sanctuary and children's program. For more information www.fpcl.us or 925-447-2078.

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

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

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Information 931-1055.

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

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

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

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 8:30 a.m. worship (semiformal); 9:45 a.m. adult Bible

study/Sunday school; 11 a.m. worship (informal). For information, call 925-447-1246.

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

Calvary Chapel Livermore, Sunday Services 10:30 a.m. 545 No. L Street Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvalrylivermore.org.

St. Matthew's Baptist Church, 1239 North Livermore Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Prayer each Wednesday at 7 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7:30 p.m. 449-3824.

United Christian Church, celebrating 50 years in the Tri-Valley. 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; workshops on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The community is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. Call 449-6820 for more information.

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

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

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Bible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scola at 447-9800.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blended with choir and band. Childcare offered for infants through age 6 and children start in the worship service. 10:40 a.m. contemporary worship led by a band. Sunday school for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org 925-846-4436.

St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 5860 Las Positas Rd., Livermore. Sunday Liturgy Wednesdays at 6 p.m. 449-4403 or www.TriValleyBibleChurch.com.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Sunday services with Rev. Joyce Parry Moore, Rector: 8:00 am Contemplative Eucharist with Taize music; 10:20 am Godly Play for children; 10:30 am Sung Eucharist with choir (child care available). Youth Group meets Sundays from 4 to 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall for "Rite 13" and Journey to Adulthood" programs. www.saintbartsrivermore.com for more information.

St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church (1928 Book of Common Prayer), 193 Contractors Avenue, Livermore. Sunday services: 8:45 a.m. (Low Mass) and 10 a.m. (High Mass with Sunday School). Other Holy

Days as announced. For information, call msg. center at 925/906-9561.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ at 4481 East Avenue, Livermore, worship service 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Sundays, all are welcome. 925-447-4333 (a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Little Brown Church, United Church of Christ 1411 Kilkare Road, Sunol. 10:30 a.m. worship. All are welcome here. www.littlebrownchurchofsunol.org 925-862-2580

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 486 S. J Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. worship service. Bible Study/Sunday School 10:20. Bible Basics Class, which explores the main teachings of the Bible, meets at 7:00 Sunday night. Call 371-6200 or email pmjrmueler@gmail.com for more info.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ, 4481 East Avenue, Livermore; 447-4333 www.trivalleychurch.org. Update on classes for The Story 9 to 10:00 a.m., Worship Service 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Lynnwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Sunday worship at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. with childcare and Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. (First Sun. of month 9 a.m. is traditional with organ, 10:30 a.m. is informal with guitar). Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer minister. All welcome. www.lynnwood.org, 925 846-0221.

St. Michael's Centennial celebration, mass and dinner, April 27, at St. Michael Church. Mass at 3 p.m. followed by a celebration dinner with two seatings: 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets for dinner are available in the rectory and at the school. For additional information, please email Jacki Tyler jtyler@csdo.org or St. Michael's School or Sister Emmanuel sr.cardinale.op@gmail.com.

Cedar Grove Community Church located at 2021 College Avenue in Livermore. Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University classes will begin Friday, March 1, 2013 at 7:00 PM. Contact Gary Chang at (925)447-2351 for more information or to register.

Lenten Series, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore, is offering Wednesday evening programs during Lent. All are welcome at 6:00pm potluck dinners and 7:00pm Evening Prayer services with discussions led by guest speakers. Topics include "Women and Literature" with Susan Mayall, March 13, and "Women Mystics," led by St. Bart's rector, the Rev. Joyce Parry Moore, on March 20. There will also be a labyrinth walk at 7:00pm on Friday, March 1. For further information, call the church at 925-447-3289.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews' annual community seder Saturday, March 30 at 5 pm at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. The hour-long English haggadah is secular and progressive, and includes music, along with ritual elements with Humanistic explanations. The ceremony is followed by a non-kosher-for-Passover potluck dinner. To make a reservation and claim a potluck assignment, please call 510-888-1404. Canned and boxed food for the food bank will be collected at the event. Free to members and children. A \$10 donation is requested from non-member adults (13 and over) to help defray costs of rent and ritual foods. 925-485-1049, http://trivalleyculturealjevs.wordpress.com

Unity of Tri-Valley Church, Sunday services 10:00 a.m.; all are welcome. Ongoing small groups, weekly activities, choir, classes, and Children's church. 9875 Dublin Canyon Rd., Castro Valley. 829-2733, www.trivalleyunity.com Rev. Karen Epps.

Milestones

Community

Pleasanton Musician Selected for First-Ever National Youth Orchestra

Carnegie Hall announced the names of the 120 young musicians from across America who have been specially selected to come together from June 30 through July 23, 2013 to create the first-ever National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America.

Among them is Annie Wu, flute, of Pleasanton.

The musicians of the

first National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America will travel to New York in late June 2013 for a two-week training residency on the campus of Purchase College, State University of New York, working with some of the country's best professional orchestral players.

The young musicians will then have the opportunity to

represent their country as the NYO-USA undertakes its inaugural international tour with stops at Washington DC's Kennedy Center, followed by dates in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and London.

Internationally-renowned conductor Valery Gergiev will lead the NYO-USA in its first year, with the ensemble joined this

summer by violinist Joshua Bell as soloist.

The orchestra's concert program will include Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 in E Minor, and a new work by young American composer Sean Shepherd, co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall especially for NYO-USA.



Visit Tri-Valley capped off January's Restaurant Month celebration with the presentation of checks to the local-based charities that were the beneficiaries. The checks were presented during a luncheon at the San Ramon Marriott's new Bishop Grill. Overall, \$4,500 was raised. Participating in the wrap-up event were, from left: Geoffrey Sarabia-Mason, Visit Tri-Valley vice president; Ana Cardenas, Chief Operations Officer, Meals On Wheels and Senior Outreach Services; Larry Sly, Executive Director, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano; Sarah Alessi, Hospitality Marketing Coordinator, Wente Family Estates, and Debbie Gudmundson, general manager, Residence Inn, Pleasanton and Visit Tri-Valley Board of Directors member. Not represented, but also a beneficiary, was Open Heart Kitchen.

Alameda County Fair Continues to Collect Awards

In addition to now being ranked 33rd in the Top 50 Fairs in North America by Carnival Warehouse, the 2012 Alameda County Fair took home 27 Western Fair Association (WFA) awards at the 90th Annual Achievement Awards Convention in Reno, NV in January.

The Western Fairs Association is a non-profit trade association serving the Fair Industry throughout the Western United States and Canada. WFA offers an Annual Achievement Awards Program to recognize excellence and to share successful Fair ideas and programs.

The Alameda County Fair continues as the most awarded Fair in the United States and Canada in the Mega Fair category. The 2012 Fair, which saw an attendance record of 534,577 patrons during its 17-day event, received 8 first place honors, 8 second place, 10

third place, and 1 honorable mention. Among the Alameda County Fair's 8 First Place awards, the Fair was presented with honors for the following entries: radio advertising, outdoor advertising, fair logo contest, printed newsletter, electronic newsletter, e-blast, newspaper advertisement - black and white and color, any other advertising piece - fair backpack, poster, printed fair souvenir - cookbook, fair sponsored event, fair innovation marketing strategy,

Interim event rental innovative marketing, exhibits competition - cell phone scavenger hunt, exhibits display, new children's program - Storyville, maintenance, fair sponsorship program, employee programs, service member partnership, new community outreach program - Kids Against Hunger, theme pro-

gram, use of fair's theme throughout competitive exhibits, new innovative use of technology, interim events, and new agricultural program - Sudsy's Barn.

The Alameda County Fair also received 12 international awards from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) for its 2012 Fair Marketing Programs and continues to be ranked in the Top 50 Fairs in the United States.

Recently released attendance numbers from Fairs across the nation show that the Alameda County Fair is ranked 33 on the list of the Top 50 North American Fairs and the 6 largest Fair in California. This is the highest ranking in history for the Alameda County Fair. Of particular note, 16 of the Fairs larger than the Alameda County Fair are State

Fairs, while the Alameda County Fair is successfully operated by the nonprofit Fair Association, without any tax funding from the government.

"We truly appreciate all of the people that attended and supported the 2012 Alameda County Fair, making it one of our all-time best Fairs. When this record attendance is coupled with industry recognition and awards it makes for a very special year," commented Randy Magee, Interim CEO.

Planning is currently underway for the next award-winning annual Fair. This year's Fair will mark the 101st year with a theme of "Summer Fun Starts Here". The Fair will run every day except Mondays, from June 19th through July 7th. For more information, please visit our website at www.AlamedaCountyFair.com or call (925)426-7600.

Education

Berklee College of Music announced that Peter Chatterjee of Livermore has earned placement on the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2012 academic year. To be eligible for this honor, a full-time student must achieve a grade point average of 3.4 or above; a part-time student must achieve a grade point average of 3.6 or above.

Elizabeth Wilkins of Livermore, is among some 35 Bryan College students who will spend their spring break in service and ministry projects throughout the United States March 9 to 17.

Five teams led by students and a faculty or staff mentor, will provide "extra hands for our partner organizations," according to Heather McIntyre, a student intern in the college office of faith and mission who is helping coordinate the project.

Elizabeth, daughter of Ron and Mary Wilkins of Livermore will work with children and youth at Hope for Opelousas in Opelousas, LA.

Megan K. Grabowski, a resident of Livermore, has been named to the fall 2012 Dean's List at Texas State University. To be named to the list at Texas State, a student must earn a minimum grade-point average of 3.50 while carrying a class load of at least 12 semester hours.