

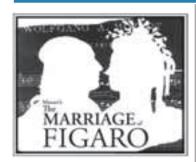
**VOLUME XLVI, NUMBER 11** 

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STANDARD CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT US POSTAGE PAID INLAND PUBLISHING

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009



### 'Marriage of Figaro' Opens With Gala

An outstanding cast and director, a unique set, and some special events are designed to create an inviting experience for both first time and seasoned opera goers.

Livermore Valley Opera's production of "The Marriage of Figaro" opens with a special evening on March 14 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

The evening has been designated as Las Positas College Night, in recognition of the various arts programs offered at the college.

Prior to the performance, opportunities are available to meet the cast and to learn more about the opera.

The evening gets underway with a gala beginning at 5:30 p.m. Appetizers and wine will be served. Key production personnel will be available to answer questions about the opera. The gala can be attended separate from the performance.

Patrons are invited to a preperformance lecture during which the speaker will reveal anecdotes about the composer and the characters in the opera. The presentation will take place one hour prior to curtain. The lecture is included in the ticket price.

A traditional artist reception is held in the lobby immediately following each performance.

To enhance the opera-going experience, Livermore Valley Opera will be using a set constructed by the major Hamilton Opera Company in Ontario Canada.

The outstanding lead singers come mostly from the greater Bay Area. Eugene Brancouveanu will sing the role of the Count. He is a former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and sings internationally.

# Fires All Beams: NIF Reaches Milestone

Laser researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have reached a long-sought goal, firing a laser pulse through all 192 arms of the National Ignition Facility into the 10-meter target chamber for the first time. The achievement moves the program across a technical threshold from the construction and development of the world's most powerful and complex laser to the beginning of full experimental operations.

Formal project certification by the U.S. Department of Energy should follow by the end of this month. Official dedication is scheduled for May 29.

The energy level of the first full shot was a modest 420 joules of ultraviolet light per arm. Over the coming months, shorter and more energetic pulses will be fired as the system approaches design capacity of 1.8 million joules in 20 billionths of a second. That is equivalent to 500 trillion watts of power, or more than 500 times the peak electrical generating capacity of the U.S. (As the Independent was going to press, the Lab announced that it fired NIF at one million joules early Tuesday morning.)

The beams will be aimed at a BB-sized target containing fu-

sion fuel, generating pressures and temperatures in the target that are comparable to those found in the centers of stars and in nuclear explosions. Studying the physics of nuclear weapons is in fact NIF's primary goal. A particular question is whether and whether very hot fusion reactions can be generated at the core of the target that then spread rapidly to cooler, surrounding fusion fuel, generating much more energy than was deposited by the laser. Complementary goals are to study matter at the extreme pressures and temperatures that might be found in the centers of

stars and in large planets, and to explore the possibility of generating fusion energy.

NIF's capabilities will be available to qualified researchers from around the country. Scientists and engineers from Los Alamos and Sandia will travel to Livermore for classified defense projects using NIF, just as Livermore weapons program personnel go to those labs to take advantage of their special facilities. In non-defense areas, NIF offers a unique planetary and astrophysics laboratory on Earth. For example, Raymond Jeanloz, professor of earth and planetary science at UC-Berkeley, was particularly excited about the potential for studying very dense matter such as is thought to exist in planetary interiors. "NIF has given us a real breakthrough experimentally," he told a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In fusion energy studies, researchers will be able to conduct experiments at higher power levels than ever before. For example, visitors from the University of Rochester's Laboratory of Laser Energetics will be able to extend work done on their own Omega laser system by using NIF's more powerful beams

(See MILESTONE, page 3)

## **Pleasanton Schools** to Seek Parcel Tax **Approval in June**

#### By Ron McNicoll

Pleasanton voters will be asked to approve a four-year parcel tax of \$233 annually when they go to the polls June 2.

The school board voted unanimously at a special meeting March 5 to put the parcel tax on the ballot. The board also added 21 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to its potential layoff list, bringing that total to 249 FTE. Some jobs are only part of a position, so the district uses the FTE designation.

Even with the parcel tax, there will be severe staff cuts. The tax would save approximately 126 full-time equivalents. However,

another 129 jobs would be gone, unless other funding is found for them.

Revenue of \$4,584,000 is projected to come to the district annually from the tax on approximately 20,000 parcels in Pleasanton. There are about 900 parcels more than that. Owners of those properties are expected to claim a senior or disabled persons exemption.

The \$4.5 million would cover about 45 percent of an estimated deficit of \$10,200,000 through June 30, 2010. The key benefit of the \$4.5 million is that it would save major programs that parents (See PARCEL, page 4)

## **Livermore School District Ponders Flexibility To Categorical Programs**

#### By Patricia Koning

Last month, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation affecting the budgets for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 fiscal years, severely cutting funding

To mitigate some of this loss, school districts will, for the first time, have some flexibility with how they spend their categorical dollars. In general, school funding is divided into two pots: the

Preserve Pleasanton Schools



FINDING OURSELVES DAVID TOAY LOWELE

### 'Finding Ourselves ....' New Book by **Local Author**

"We are the chosen.

"... in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors, to put flesh on the bones and make them live again to tell the family story.'

So writes Della M. Cummings in the opening pages of David Toay Lowell's family history, "Finding Ourselves."

"... doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but instead, breathing life into all who have gone before,' Cummings continues. ...

"Those who have gone before cry out to us: 'Tell our story.' So we do. In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. ...?

In "Finding Ourselves," Livermore businessman and civic leader David T. Lowell embraces that storytelling tradition, presenting the stories of six families related to his mother. He originally intended to write a history of his mother, Helen Toay Lowell, and her family, but as the research progressed, the broader family joined the narrative.

The family consists of pioneers who settled in southern Wisconsin in the 19th century. Some pulled up roots and headed west. One of the highlights of the book is a memoir about the wild west written by James Roberts (See BOOK, page 2) Green 'Crop' Makes **Environment Less Green** 

Bv Ron McNicoll

People who care about the environment have a big stake in Alameda County's efforts to root out marijuana farms in rural areas.

Besides being illegal, and contributing to people's drug problems, thousands of plants grown surreptitiously on big parcels are harming the environment and wildlife. Sgt. Shawn Peterson, who heads a county sheriff's detail on drugs, said the growers, who are operating on remote land, will often dam up a stream, or tap a spring, and di-

munity program called "Coffee

with the Cops." A representative

from the Police Department, in-

cluding the Chief of Police, the

Downtown Resource Officer,

Crime Prevention or a Patrol Of-

ficer will be available at a local

coffee shop to chat with commu-

nity members. The objective is to

go where people already gather

and get to know them and allow

them to ask questions they might

with the following three dates/lo-

Art & Entertainment......10

Bulletin Board.....7

Classifieds.....11

Editorial.....4

This pilot program will begin

have in a casual setting.

Coffee with the Cops Program **Begins Friday in Livermore** 

The Livermore Police Depart- cations: ment will soon begin a new com-

Friday, March 13, 6:00-8:00 P.M. at Panama Red, 2115 First Street.

Saturday, April 11, 9:00 -11:00 A.M. at Peet's Coffee, 152 So. Livermore Ave.

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 -11:00 A.M. at Starbuck's, 2470 First Street.

If it looks as if the community is responding to the program, the department will schedule further dates to include different departments within the Police Department as well as other city departments.

billion in overall spending reductions, \$9.3 billion or 61% came from K-12 education.

larger pot is the general fund, which districts can use as they see fit, and the smaller pot is cat-(See LIVERMORE, page 4)



(right), rallied in support of the school parcel tax in Pleasanton.

crops.

Diverting water lowers the levels in streams to which the small creeks contribute. That harms fish life there. Further, the growers add fertilizer to their diverted water. That can kill plants and animals near the grow, and fish in the downstream areas. The high concentration of nitrates also seeps into the underground water basin in those rural areas. That can impact local wells.

(The areas are not linked underground to the Valley's main (See CROP, page 3)

# Sunol Students Cultivate Learning

Kindergarten students at Sunol Glen School pose in front of the sign designating their garden

#### By Ron McNicoll

as a wildlife habitat.

Even the kindergartners are growing crops at Sunol Glen School. They learned how plants grow, and where food comes from.

The students were out in one of the school's two organic gardens earlier in the winter, planting bok choy. Later they harvested it, and learned how to

stir-fry it to serve with rice for tasty eating in class.

The project is part of the K-8 school's total hands-on approach to teaching science and other subjects to all grades. The whole thing started four years ago when parent and garden hobbyist Beth Ann Bentley of Livermore started growing vegetables in planter boxes at the school, to show chil-

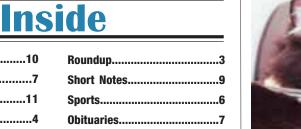
dren the gardening experience. A \$2500 grant from a state

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

program promoting gardens in schools enabled her and other volunteers to create a new garden in front of the school, where old flower beds were, and a larger garden, about one-quarter acre, in the rear. Bentley gives much of the credit to principal and (See SUNOL, page 8)

#### PET OF THE WEEK

Meow! Like a chatty Cathy, Jenna will have a conversation with anyone who will listen! Her favorite spot is a window, but a lap works nice as well. If you're looking for a loving lady with a bit of an attitude, come visit Jenna at Valley Humane Society's Kitty City at 3670 Nevada street in Pleasanton. Open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM. Visit the website www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656. Jazzed About Pets is this Friday- March 13 at 8PM. Tickets available at the door or call the Bankhead Theater Box Office at 925-373-6800.





to K-12 public schools. Of \$15.1 Photo - Doug Jorgensen Amanada Dilger, age 6, is a student at Vintage Hills Elementary School and her mother, Theresa



Artist's concept of regional theater.

## **Meeting Devoted to Answering Questions about Regional Theater**

The Board of Directors of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center will host a special town hall meeting on Tuesday, March 24, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street beginning at 7 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to allow those attending to direct their questions concerning LVPAC's proposed Regional Performing Arts Theater to a panel of LVPAC staff, consultants and invited community leaders.

In announcing the meeting, David Dial, LVPAC's Executive Director stated, "We are most anxious to help residents of Livermore to better understand our proposal to construct a regional theater in the Downtown. The theater is the final element needed to accomplish LVPAC's mission to create a first-class performing arts center that will bring world-class arts and entertainment to the Livermore Valley and the surrounding region. We know that many in our community want to better understand the size, scope and cost of this

**OPERA** 

(continued from page one)

The cast and characters in-

clude Countess - Duana Demus

and Kaileen Miller; Figaro -

Sascha Joggerst and Robert

Stafford; Susanna - Jennie Litster

and Sepideh Moafi; Cherubino -

Erin Neff and Evgenia

Chaverdova; Marcellina - Carrie

Hennessey; Basilio - Michael

Mendelsohn; Bartolo - Jason

Sarten; Antonio - Michael

Beetham; Barbarina - Jordan

Trommater; and Don Curzio -

proposal. We would like to provide an in-depth opportunity to answer questions and to encourage greater knowledge of what will be gained, both for the community's arts and cultural profile and the desired downtown enhancement and revitalization. We would like people to hear our answers and decide for themselves on the merits of our proposal."

The meeting will bring together those who have been most involved in developing the key areas of the project, including finance, fundraising, programming, design and impacts on the downtown.

The format of the meeting, which will be moderated by former LVPAC Executive Director Len Alexander, will be shaped entirely by questions from the audience and responses from panel members who will share current, in-depth information about the project, the projected timetables for funding and construction and insights on the

benefits for LVPAC and the City which will accrue from the operation of the theater. Panelists will include David Dial, LVPAC Executive Director; Steve MacCracken and Hutch Mouridian, architects for the theater; Robert Gamble, senior advisor for Public Financial Management; Nikolai Sklaroff, Managing Director and Head of Cultural Institutions Investment Banking for Loop Capital Markets, LLC; and Tom Reitter and Phil Wente, LVPAC Board Members.

The meeting will be the kickoff event in the creation of a new LVPAC support organization, the Friends of the Regional Theater. It is expected that this group will help to share information about the regional theater throughout Livermore and the surrounding communities and encourage support for the completion of the project.

A wine, coffee and dessert reception in the theater lobby will follow the formal meeting.

#### BOOK (continued from page one)

for his daughter in 1915. "Drinking, Gambling, Wine and Women of the underworld were the pitfalls of destruction then as they are today. Carrying revolvers was a very common practice. They were not concealed but ... carried in full view of every one," reminisced Roberts, whose diaries of tips to the California Gold Rush (1852-1859) and through Indian county to Virginia City, Montana in 1864-1867, are part of the book. Roberts and most of the men of

the family were miners, farmers and tradesmen, many of them successful. There were two miners who built small fortunes, another miner who became a union leader and judge in Idaho. There was a stonemason and lay minister who served in the Wisconsin legislature.

The ethic of the individual as an independent businessman pervaded their lives," observes David Lowell, who is himself imbued with that ethic.

Aspiring to be a novelist, Lowell earned a degree in English and creative writing at the University of Wisconsin in 1954. He wound up pursuing a career in the community newspaper business in Livermore. Retired now, he has resumed his writing ambitions. This is his second book; the first was a history of his father's family published two years ago.

"A family reunion was the catalyst for the project," Lowell recalls. "Forty or 50 of my cousins were there. They regaled me with stories from the family and directed me to others who had their own stories.

"Finding so many cousins in place was a real one breakthrough. The cousins are the ones in the family who have the history. A lot of it is oral history," says Lowell.

He was also assisted by historical societies and by several publishing houses — Munsell Publishing, Western Historical Company, B.F. Bowen — which specialize in local history written in the late 1800s. The long newspaper obituaries that were in

style in the 19th century were an invaluable aid.

Lowell's research began in 1965. He spent ten years writing the two books.

"Finding Ourselves" is an attractive, big-paged, coffee-table type book, with more than 400 pages filled with text, hundreds of photographs, and landscapes by three prominent Wisconsin artists. The landscapes

## Transit Fair Set in Pleasanton

The City of Pleasanton is hosting its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Transit Fair at the Pleasanton Senior Center on Tuesday, March 17th, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Senior Center is located at 5353 Sunol Boulevard. The event is

open to the public. Representatives from Wheels, Pleasanton Paratransit Service, BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit), ACTIA (Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority), ACE train and the Pleasanton Police Department will be at the fair to provide the latest transit information and transportation options. The Pleasanton Police Department will facilitate a conversation on crime prevention.

enable readers to "walk a little in

their shoes" and visualize the area

were originally printed, with sales

mostly to family members. All

215 have been sold. The book is

now in its second printing. Lowell

has donated copies to nine

libraries, including Livermore,

whose copy is available in the

Two hundred fifteen copies

where the family lived.

research section.

The Senior Center's Snappy Café will offer a St. Patrick's Day meal for \$5.00 for adults and \$3.50 for seniors. Reservations must be made for the dinner by 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 13.

Refreshments, door prizes, and special music at the transit fair will be provided by the City of Pleasanton.

For more information, please call the Pleasanton Senior Center at (925) 931-5365.



Number 1 on the Billboard Charts. Jazzed About Pets will feature his signature smooth jazz plus classic rock. hits with vocals. Special guest comedian Mark Pitta has appeared on the Tonight Show and Comedy Central. Mar 13 • 8pm 565/550/545/540

#### Jil Aigrot

Voice of Academy Award Winner, Marion Catillard in La Vie En Roie

This famous French songbird inhabits the role of one of her country's most celebrated songstresses, Edith Piaf. Previously an actress, Jil Aigrot has recently thrown herself into the performance that brought her to the big screen in the first place-releasing "Words of Love," a collection which includes Aigrot's interpretations of nearly 20 of Piaf's most noteworthy songs. Mar 16 + 8pm 555/540/535/530/512 students

#### Aquila Theatre Company

William Shakespeare's "The Cornedy of Errors" Aquila's production of Shakespeare's tale of two sets of identical twins whose lives get turned upside down before they are finally put in order relies not only on slapstick comedy, but also on wonderful performances and imaginative staging. Founded in London in 1991 by Peter Meineck, Aquila is now based in New York City. Mar 23 • 8pm \$45/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students

#### The Marriage of Figaro Livermore Valley

From Gypsies **Musical Pictures** to Kings Keyboard Conversations\* Livermore-Amador

Kenneth Louis. Jose Maria Condemi, a staff

The story offers a variety of twists and turns. Figaro and Susanna joyfully await their upcoming marriage but the wedding is clouded by the marital woes of their employers, the Count and Countess. The Count seems to have lost interest in Countess (the same Count and Rosina from The Barber of Seville). He now covets Susanna, Rosina's maid servant. The two women devise a plan with the help of Cherubino that will teach the Count a lesson he will never

21, 8 p.m. Sun., March 22, 2 p.m. matinee.

Livermore Valley Opera offers special youth and student prices in every section, on every performance. The definition of "student" pricing has been expanded to include any youth "who looks under 18" or has a Student Body Card. On Frugal Friday, students tickets are as low as \$19.

Separate tickets are available for the Gala only at the Bankhead Ticket office for \$40. Tickets for performances of the opera are adults \$39-\$59; students \$29-\$49; Frugal Friday only adults \$29-\$49; students \$19-\$39. They are available at the box office, 2400 First St., Livermore, by phone at 373-6800 or on-line at www.livermoreperformingarts.org



Assistant Stage Director at San forget. Magnificent arias, duets, Francisco Opera, will direct the production. Alexander Katsman is the Music Director and Conductor.

The opera is sung in Italian with English supertitles.

The opera itself is described as a "combination of comedy and pathos." It is considered to be Mozart's greatest social commentary.

and ensembles abound that reflect deception, anger, discord, and finally, repentance, and reconciliation.

Opera Week schedule is as follows: Saturday, March 14, gala night, 5:30 p.m. (separate ticket), curtain 8 p.m. Sun., March 15, 2 p.m. matinee; Frugal Friday, March 20, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., March



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Beautiful French Country Manor in a charm- ing private country setting. From the imported approx antique French gate to the charming decor, this home has so much character and appeal Excellent floor plan with a downetairs.	www.ToddMartinez.com     WWW.Marty     PLEASANTON     ECOND STREET   \$1,095,000     naterky 55 years ago with permits. Walk     harmers market every Saturday around     here to the Fisday afternoon concert in the     x, and all the festivities all summer long.     ATTNEZ	And the second s	Bedroomal Middlerranean home. Proman cul-de-sac location with expansive rity views from the trent and hills in the e-location - but constraint with expansive rity views from the			
Liver.More real estate for sale     3637 CARRIGAN CMN   \$189,000     Townhouse, 1,240+/ SQFT, 3 Bed 1.5 Barb, Buit 1981   925,583,2169     2271 WALNUT ST   \$315,000     Residential Income, Built 1053, Excellent Income property,   925,784,0667     2155 SHETLAND RD   \$3399,950     Single Family, 3 Bed 2 Bath, 1,470+/- SQFT, Built 1968   925,998,5112     795 JUNCTION AVE   \$499,000     Duples, 2 Unit, Ganage, Arous from Park, Well to Downtown,   ANGELA ADAMS     ANGELA ADAMS   925,580,4513     1061 EL CAMINITO   \$499,000     Single Family, 3 Bed 2 Bath, 1,790+/-SQFT, Sunset West,   ANGELA ADAMS     ANGELA ADAMS   925,580,4513     364 ANDREA CIR   \$675,000     Single Family, Brockmesdow, 4 Bed 2 Bath, wild bit 2084-/SQ FT,   5045,000     Single Family, Brockmesdow, 4 Bed 2 Bath, wild bit 2084-/SQ FT,   50695,0000     Single Family, Brockmesdow, 2,196+/SQFT, 5 Bed 3 Bath,   10704 E, CHANCE     925,180,000   Single Family, Brockmesdow, 2,196+/SQFT, 5 Bed 3 Bath,     VICKIE KELLER   925,371,0771     2752 CHABLIS WAY   5855,000     Single Family, Just a 10 min, walk to town, 4 Bed 2,5 Bath	LIVERMORE REAL SETATE FOR SALE   Single Family, 6 bed 5.5 bath, 4,100+/- sin ft, 10,800+/- sin ft, 10,800+/	DLFAGANTON ZSUNOL REAL STATE CORSALE   2274 VIA ESPADA Pleasamton   2759.950   Single Famil, Del Prado, 4 Bed 2.5 Bath, 2.120 SQFT.   KELY PATERSON   925.200.2525   3748 SELVANTE ST Pleasamton   Single Family Patterson   Single Family Delta Pleasamton   Single Family ALENT FOR SALE   Single Family ALENT FOR SALE   Single Family ALENT FOR DAD Crastro Valley   Single Family ALENT SALE STATE FOR SALE   Single Family Charge Viewal 6 Bed 4 Beth, 3LT0+/ SQFT   MICHAEL 1 DUFFY   Single Family Tessama Banch 4 Bed 25 Beth, 2220+/ SQFT   Single Family Tessama Banch 4 Bed 25 Beth, 2220+/ SQFT   Single Family Tessama Banch 4 Bed 25 Beth, 2220+/ SQFT <td 3="" 3.340-="" 4="" <="" banch="" bed="" beth,="" colspane="" family="" sqft<="" td="" tessama=""><td>LAST BAY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE   42200 VARGAS ROAD Fremont \$2,700,000   Single Family &amp; Land, Honse Ranch, 56+/, Aoes, 4 Biel 1 Bath Home, 925,251,2536   44763 AGUILA TER Fremont \$3,000   Single Family &amp; Land, Honse Ranch, 56+/, Aoes, 4 Biel 1 Bath Home, 88,000   WRISTY PEXOTO 925,251,2536   44763 AGUILA TER Fremont \$3,70,000   Single Family, 5 batms, 5 Bath, 5,060+/, SQFT, Maskon San, Jose 925,846,7997   771 PRADERA WAY San Ramon \$749,950   Single Family, 3 Biel 2,5 Bath, 2,5354/, SQFT, 7,000+/, SQFT, 1,0 925,730,5262   2024 FEATHERMINT DR San Ramon \$975,000   Single Family, 3 Biel 2,5 Bath, 2,5354/, SQFT, 3,050+/, Suft in 2003 925,251,2580   1432 GREENWILLOW WAY Tracy \$200,000   Single Family, 3 Biel 2,5 Bath, 1572+/, SQFT, 3,050+/, SQFT, 1,00 925,251,2580   1432 GREENWILLOW WAY Tracy \$200,000   Single Family, 0 KER 1/3 ACRE LOT, 2 Biel 2 Bath, Buil 1948 925,785,3795   160 W BEVERLY Tracy \$249,000   Single Family, 0 VER 1/3 ACRE LOT, 2 Biel 2 Bath, Buil 1948 925,785,3795   160 OOVE CT Tracy \$375,000   Single Family, 0 VER 1/3 ACRE LOT, 2 Biel 2 Bath, Buil 1948 925,785,3795</td></td>	<td>LAST BAY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE   42200 VARGAS ROAD Fremont \$2,700,000   Single Family &amp; Land, Honse Ranch, 56+/, Aoes, 4 Biel 1 Bath Home, 925,251,2536   44763 AGUILA TER Fremont \$3,000   Single Family &amp; Land, Honse Ranch, 56+/, Aoes, 4 Biel 1 Bath Home, 88,000   WRISTY PEXOTO 925,251,2536   44763 AGUILA TER Fremont \$3,70,000   Single Family, 5 batms, 5 Bath, 5,060+/, SQFT, Maskon San, Jose 925,846,7997   771 PRADERA WAY San Ramon \$749,950   Single Family, 3 Biel 2,5 Bath, 2,5354/, SQFT, 7,000+/, SQFT, 1,0 925,730,5262   2024 FEATHERMINT DR San Ramon \$975,000   Single Family, 3 Biel 2,5 Bath, 2,5354/, SQFT, 3,050+/, Suft in 2003 925,251,2580   1432 GREENWILLOW WAY Tracy \$200,000   Single Family, 3 Biel 2,5 Bath, 1572+/, SQFT, 3,050+/, SQFT, 1,00 925,251,2580   1432 GREENWILLOW WAY Tracy \$200,000   Single Family, 0 KER 1/3 ACRE LOT, 2 Biel 2 Bath, Buil 1948 925,785,3795   160 W BEVERLY Tracy \$249,000   Single Family, 0 VER 1/3 ACRE LOT, 2 Biel 2 Bath, Buil 1948 925,785,3795   160 OOVE CT Tracy \$375,000   Single Family, 0 VER 1/3 ACRE LOT, 2 Biel 2 Bath, Buil 1948 925,785,3795</td>	LAST BAY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE   42200 VARGAS ROAD Fremont \$2,700,000   Single Family & Land, Honse Ranch, 56+/, Aoes, 4 Biel 1 Bath Home, 925,251,2536   44763 AGUILA TER Fremont \$3,000   Single Family & Land, Honse Ranch, 56+/, Aoes, 4 Biel 1 Bath Home, 88,000   WRISTY PEXOTO 925,251,2536   44763 AGUILA TER Fremont \$3,70,000   Single Family, 5 batms, 5 Bath, 5,060+/, SQFT, Maskon San, Jose 925,846,7997   771 PRADERA WAY San Ramon \$749,950   Single Family, 3 Biel 2,5 Bath, 2,5354/, SQFT, 7,000+/, SQFT, 1,0 925,730,5262   2024 FEATHERMINT DR San Ramon \$975,000   Single Family, 3 Biel 2,5 Bath, 2,5354/, SQFT, 3,050+/, Suft in 2003 925,251,2580   1432 GREENWILLOW WAY Tracy \$200,000   Single Family, 3 Biel 2,5 Bath, 1572+/, SQFT, 3,050+/, SQFT, 1,00 925,251,2580   1432 GREENWILLOW WAY Tracy \$200,000   Single Family, 0 KER 1/3 ACRE LOT, 2 Biel 2 Bath, Buil 1948 925,785,3795   160 W BEVERLY Tracy \$249,000   Single Family, 0 VER 1/3 ACRE LOT, 2 Biel 2 Bath, Buil 1948 925,785,3795   160 OOVE CT Tracy \$375,000   Single Family, 0 VER 1/3 ACRE LOT, 2 Biel 2 Bath, Buil 1948 925,785,3795		

Blackhawk	Blackhawk West	Danville	Lafayette	Livermore	Orinda	Pleasanton	Walnut Creek
4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.	3880 Blackhawk Rd.	15 Railroad Ave.	3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 100	1983 Second Street	89 Davis Rd, Ste. 100	5075 Hopyard Rd, #110	100 N. Main St.
Danville, CA 94506	Darwille, CA 94506	Danville, CA 94526	Lafayette, CA 94549	Livermore, CA 94550	Orinda, CA 94563	Pleasanton, CA 94588	Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.648.5300	925.736.6000	925.855.4000	925.253.7001	925.667.2100	925.253.7000	925.251.2500	925.280.8500

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## VALLEY ROUNDUP

#### ADA Plan Comments

The City of Pleasanton will host a public meeting to invite comments on its American Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan on Thursday, March 19. The meeting will take place at 2:00 p.m. in the Pleasanton Public Library, located at 400 Old Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton. Staff will provide an update on the city's progress on the plan and will discuss the coming activities planned for this year and the future. The meeting will include an opportunity for the public to provide input on these activities.

Under the ADA, public entities must ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from services, programs, and activities because public buildings are inaccessible. City governments must also comply with Title II of the ADA, which covers requirements for curb ramps at pedestrian crossings and accessibility for public rights-of-way.

The City of Pleasanton has an ADA transition plan, some components of which have already been completed. The meeting will cover a discussion of sidewalk ramps that have been built and those that are planned for construction. Another topic will be the recent progress on access to city buildings. Some recently completed projects include the newly upgraded Gingerbread Preschool, which was designed for ADA compliance. ADA compliant doors were

also recently installed at 200 Old Bernal Avenue to facilitate better access for all members of the public to City Council and commission meetings.

For more information, please contact Daniel Smith at (925) 931-5509.

#### **Buchanan Appointed**

Assemblymember Joan Buchanan (D-Alamo) has been appointed to the Advisory Commission on Special Education and the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Commission.

"For nearly 20 years, I have worked to improve the quality of education in our schools. I am honored to have the confidence of Speaker Bass with these appointments," said Buchanan.

Speaker Bass also appointed Buchanan to the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Commission. This commission provides assessments on early education programs and works to identify ways to raise the quality of pre-school programs in California.

"We know that access to high quality preschool programs is a predictor of future school success. Access to pre-school and early intervention programs should be a priority for all of us," stated Buchanan.

For more information on Assemblymember Buchanan or to sign up to receive e-alerts, please visit her website at www.assembly.ca.gov/a15.

### CROP

(continued from page one) underground basin, which Zone 7 Water Agency uses for water

#### storage.) **UP TO 7000 PLANTS FOUND**

The farther rural reaches south of Livermore and in the remote parts of the Sunol valley are places where Peterson has found grows that ranged from 2500 to 7000 plants. One grow found off Mines Road at about mile marker 8 "was a small one" -about 2500 plants, said Peterson.

Deputies caught the squatters. They were tapping into the spring, and also diverted a stream. It was a camp, but camouflaged with manzanita, so it wouldn't be seen from the air. More typical are grows farther out Mines Road, near mile marker 20. Peaks near there are as high as 3000 feet. "We find them out there all the time," said Peterson.

The deputies also check around Kilkare Road and other spots not far from Sunol, where foliage is thick and the land is hilly, and hard to reach. Not every location is remote. One grow that Peterson investigated was in Palomares Canyon, about oneeighth of a mile from a home. "The homeowner heard a commotion. He found a water line, running through part of the creek, and a network of gardens with 3000 plants," said Peterson.

Peterson has even come across "contract" growing. One man arrested last year in the Mines Road area for growing 7000 plants said that he was going to be paid \$10,000 for his crop by people in Mexico, who set him up in business with some initial money.

#### **GROWSARE HARD TO DETECT**

The deputies drive down the county roads, looking for breaks in the foliage, which may indicate impromptu paths. They also use a helicopter, though trees sometimes successfully hide grows. A remote camp can take all day to reach on foot. "The more difficult it is for us, the more beneficial for them," said

Peterson.

There is a physical danger to people who might come across the growers. Some of them have been armed with guns or knives. There have been confrontations between growers and landowners. No one has been hurt in Alameda County. In another county, a game warden who happened across a grow was shot several times, said Peterson.

Education is the major method of rooting out the hidden plants. Peterson spoke to some homeowners along Mines Road not long ago. They hold potlucks every six months as a neighborhood social event. Peterson was available to present a talk about the subject at the session.

"If anyone sees odd behavior on rural roads, or people in areas where they aren't supposed to be, they should give us a call. Don't think it isn't a big deal. Lots of tips turn into significant investigations," said Peterson.

#### **MILESTONE** (continued from page one)

reconfigured to suit the Rochester "direct drive" approach to laser fusion.

Ed Moses, Principal Associate Director in charge of NIF, gave full credit to the "ingenuity, dedication and hard work" of the "extraordinarily talented team" that has worked on the laser and brought it to the point of full system operation.

Ground was broken for NIF in 1997. There followed a series of financial controversies and cost increases that obscured progress that was made in designing and creating the most powerful laser ever built. Some of the problems were caused by management missteps, some required by demands for improved laser capabilities, some caused by inflation as Washington that slowed the delivery of funding. There were also program disputes, as other laboratories complained about NIF's cost and disputed its relevance to the Stockpile Stewardship program. Several government reviews of project management and cost increases were highly critical. An

## **Prime Outlet** Signs up **Stores**

Prime Retail announced last week the names of 17 leading designer and name-brands that will open stores at Prime Outlets - Livermore.

Joining Neiman Marcus Last Call, which will open a 24,000 square foot anchor store at the property, Prime Retail has signed the following: Adidas Outlet Store, Ann Taylor Factory Store, Banana Republic Factory Store, Barneys New York, BCBG MAXÁZRIA, Brooks Brothers Factory Store, Dooney & Bourke, Coach Factory, Columbia Sportswear, Gap Outlet, J. Crew Factory Stor, Michael Kors, Michael Stars, Nine West, Sunglass Station, Tommy Hilfiger, and True Religion Brand Jeans. "We are pleased that our leas-

ing momentum continues in Livermore Valley," said Prime Retail Senior Vice President of Leasing Lisa Kessler.

Prime Outlets - Livermore, a \$156 million ground-up project, will be located at the intersection of El Charro and I-580. The center will feature approximately 120 outlet stores with a gross leasable area of 470,000 square feet.

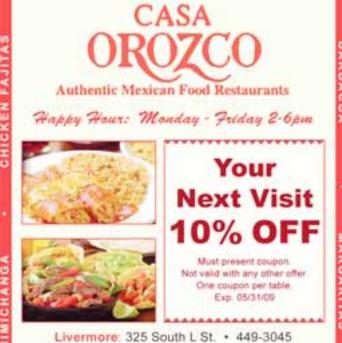
August 2000 study conducted for Congress by the General Accounting Office was one of them.

However, underlying the criticism was a solid base of technical achievement that had been demonstrated at Livermore through the development of a series of increasingly powerful lasers from the 1970s onward. While the external criticism continued, so did construction and the technical work needed to complete the design and build and test the optical systems that would fill the cavernous NIF building. Recent government sponsored reviews of the Livermore laser program have been more positive.

NIF celebrated "first light" (laser pulses fired along the first four laser arms) in 2003, with more clusters of laser arms activated as the months passed. Experimental observations matched computer simulations closely, lending confidence that the program continued on the right track. Construction was completed in January of this year.

The 192-beam shot took place in the early morning hours of February 26.





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# **EDITORIAL**

### **Springtown Wetlands**

The Livermore City Council has taken an important step that will lead to restoration and preservation of the Alkali Wetlands of Springtown.

The area, consisting of 482 acres, 298 of which are city owned, has long been recognized as one of Livermore's ecological treasures, providing habitat for a variety of federally protected plants and blessing the community with colorful wildflower displays every year.

There's been much talk through the years about creating a preserve, but BMX bikes remain the biggest user of the site — vandalizing the landscape.

Responding to recent complaints from citizens, the City Council has voted to designate the wetland area as potential mitigation for the Isabel/Interstate 580 interchange. If approved by the regulatory agencies, the city would assume responsibility for restoring the area and creating a seasonal wetland, using mitigation permits from the interchange project to help pay for it.

We applaud the council and city staff. The community will be able to enjoy this very special site, the Alkali Wetlands of Springtown, for generations to come.

## LIVERMORE

(continued from page one) egorical funding, which is typically earmarked for specific services and programs.

In anticipation of this action, the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District enacted a spending freeze on all programs, including categoricals. Categorical programs include class size reduction, special education, tobacco use prevention, testing, gifted and talented education (GATE), and block grants for programs such as art and music, professional development, and pupil retention.

For budgeting purposes, the State separated categorical programs into three tiers: tier 1 programs will have no funding reductions and no flexibility; tier 2 programs will have funding reductions of nearly 20% (08/09 and 09/10 school years) and no flexibility; tier 3 programs have the same spending reductions and flexibility. The 20% cut to tier 2 and tier  $\dot{3}$  programs will cost the District about \$1.2 million.

Falling into tier 1 are K-3 class size reduction and special education. Tier 2 includes agricultural vocational education, pupil testing, and English language acquisition. Tier 3 includes the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), GATE, and the School and Library Program Block Grant (SLIP). (For a full list, see the agenda for the March 3 Board of Education meeting at www.livermoreschools.net.)

Flexibility means that the Dis

\$200,000 grant for library books in its general fund. The Brea Unified School District plans to reallocate nearly \$900,000 that would have gone for GATE and instructional materials.

At this point, the Livermore School District is not planning to reallocate money from categorical programs with flexibility. "Because those are one-time dollars, we are trying to build a budget for the next school year without relying on that money," explains Livermore School Superintendent Brenda Miller. "If the May revise is worse than we expect, we may have to reconsider that decision.'

In addition, in seven tier 3 categorical programs, school districts can sweep any money left over at the end of the current school year into the general fund for the 09/10 school year. Susan Kinder, executive director of fiscal services, says the District expects a sweep of about \$2 million, which has already been factored into budget projections.

The Livermore School District is slated to receive \$3.2 million in federal stimulus money over the next two years, \$2.5 million for special education and \$700,000 for Title 1 schools. "It would be great to get this money, but we still don't know if it will come directly to us or through the State," said Kinder. "We have not factored any of this into our budget projections."

Stimulus money would be

## **Innovation According to Bob Borchers**

#### **By Patricia Koning**

On Thursday, March 5, Livermore High School graduate (class of '84) Bob Borchers shared his thoughts on innovation in the third installation of the Livermore Performing Arts Center's Rae Dorough Speaker Series. Borchers knows a thing or two about innovation, having worked at Nike, Nokia, and Vertu before joining Apple to market the iPod and iPhone.

"I think innovation is an incredibly important topic today. Decade after decade the United States and other countries have shown that through innovation, we can emerge strong from economic downturns," said Borchers, Apple's Senior Director of Worldwide Product Marketing for the iPhone. "So it's very topical today as we look for creative ways to get out of the situation we're now in."

In introducing the topic, he noted that a Google search on the word "innovation" results in 14 million hits and on Amazon one can find thousands of books with "innovation" in the title. Borchers recommends one of those books-The Innovator's Dilemma: The Revolutionary Book that Will Change the Way You Do Business by Clayton Christensen.

He defined innovation as changing how the world works or how we perceive the world. A classic example of innovation is the Internet. Borchers laid out four principles of innovation: first and best are overrated; change the rules; obvious benefit; and once is not enough.

To explain each principle, he used examples of innovative and not-so-innovative products and

companies. Borchers first turned to his own employer, citing the Apple Newton as an example of first and best being overrated. While first to market with an impressive array of capabilities, the Newton failed because the handwriting recognition technology didn't work as promised. The ultimate winner in the PDA game was the Palm Pilot, which came out later and did a few things very well.

"I almost didn't want to use 'change the rules' in this talk because I think it's a trite and overused statement, but at the same time very true," said Borchers. "Some companies have a lot of trouble with this.

To illustrate this concept, he told the story of how FedEx founder Fred Smith took on the United States Postal Service, which had a monopoly on mail delivery, and aviation laws that at the time did not allow cargo aircraft to use the same flight path as commercial airways.

For the principle of obvious benefit, Borchers turned to another of his employers, Nike. "You have to create a benefit your customer can recognize easily," he said. "If you have to work too hard to make it obvious, you have a problem."

Nike bought rights to an air bladder invention for shoes that would not compress over time as other materials would and in 1982 came out with the first version of Nike Air. "It was a significant flop," said Borchers. "Because no one had any idea what 'Air' was."

Bruce Kilgore, Borchers' first boss at Nike, was tasked with marketing the Nike Air and came up with the novel concept of cut-

ting a hole in the side of the shoe so the consumer could visualize the concept of air. Nike Air then became a phenomenon.

Borchers next turned to Motorola, a company he said has difficulty with "change the rules". Motorola dominated the early cell phone market with its StarTAC phone, but the company didn't adapt well to the switch from analog to digital and quickly ceded its position as the market leader to Nokia.

In 2005, Motorola came back with the RAZR, which has again put the company on top. "They've sold 60 million RAZR, but have yet to do anything beyond this product, like a smart phone," said Borchers.

He then applied the four principles of innovation to the iPhone. It was neither the first smart phone or first to use a touch screen, but it did change the rules. "When we began working on the iPhone, we realized there was a lot of baggage about what a mobile phone should look like," he explained.

The team debated at length about the need for the battery bar and signal strength meter on the phone's display and the green send and red end buttons. In the end, the bar and meter stayed, but nearly all the buttons normally found on a mobile phone were eliminated.

Another way the iPhone changed the rules was in the relationship with the carrier partners. "In the past the carriers owned the relationship with the customers, so they defined the product. Through force of will, we established that each partner would do what they did bestfor us it was software and the

phone design, for AT&T it was customer service and the network," explained Borchers.

To demonstrate the iPhone's obvious benefit, he showed several early television advertisements that focused on what the product did, not a long list of features. The same concept was applied to ads for the iPhone store.

And as for "once is not enough," Borchers pointed out how much the iPhone has changed in the two years since its launch with new design features and applications.

"The true test of innovation and success, however, is how you look on YouTube," said Borchers. He played a short video of himself rapping to "Hit Me on My iPhone.'

The back story behind the video is that Borchers had talked with hip hop artist Pete Miser about being in an iPhone commercial. That didn't pan out, but it did inspire Miser to write "Hit Me on My iPhone" and, with the help of a few friends, recut promotional videos of Borchers explaining the iPhone. To see for http:// vourself. visit www.petemiser.com/, where you can also download the MP3 and ringtone.

In the informal question and answer session that followed Borchers' talk, Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena revealed himself as a true Apple devotee with a question about why, in advertisements and marketing materials, the iPhone always shows the time as 9:42. It turns out, the iPhone was launched at 9:42 am during Steve Job's keynote address at the MacWorld conference in 2007.

### PARCEL (continued from page one)

and teachers have told school trustees are crucial to continuing the district's current level of academic performance.

The district is rated in the top ten in California on the annual academic assessment exam. It also scores high compared to districts across the United States, according to superintendent

Some \$2 million of the parcel tion in kindergarten through dropped. They talked about better academic and emotional development, which they said smaller classes offer. Another \$966,000 would retain counselors at their current levels in the elementary, middle and high schools. Some \$535,000 would ensure that reading and math support programs, such as reading specialists and Barton reading program continue at full strength, instead of being cut in half. The remainder of the parcel tax revenue would guarantee that the library media staff would remain at current levels for elementary, middle and high schools, and eight of 10 custodial positions would be saved. The el-

strength.

DESIRED

dently.

In this school year, the district

for that eventuality, if it happens.

The 21 full-time-equivalent slots were added to the list of potential layoffs at the March 5 meeting because an expected \$2 million to the district from the federal economic stimulus package might not occur, said Casey. Preliminary notices of layoffs for specific positions are due to go out to teachers by March 15, notices of termination by May 15. The district by law must give 45 days notice to classified employees, who are the support staff, including office workers at school sites and custodians.

#### **UNION LEADER: 'RIGHT** THING TO DO'

In looking at the prospect for passing the parcel tax, teachers from the classroom as far as possible, but management is involved in the classroom."

Noting that some residents have criticized the administration, and that cutting administration jobs can help pass the measure, Kernan said, "We have to have that option in there. However, it does not reflect the thoughts of this board." The audience gave his remarks sustained applause.

Board president Chris Grant said that the parcel tax and the cuts are not just about numbers. "They come down to individual stories. For example, it's the Barton (reading program) support for the girl with dyslexia in the second grade. She got her confidence back, and did better (than her reading grade level).' Trustee Jim Ott, who for several meetings has been urging that people pay \$1 per day to the district, said that in view of the \$233 tax sent to the ballot, he would encourage residents to write a \$100 check in addition to the tax. Board member Valerie Arkin said that she agrees with the amount of \$233. "I think we can sell it to the community.<sup>3</sup> Trustee Jamie Hintzke made the motion for the tax, seconded by Ott. Hintzke then had to leave the meeting for southern California to attend a conference of PTA groups. She is the immediate past president of Pleasanton PTA.

ementary school strings and band program would be pre-

John Casey.

tax revenue would guarantee preservation of class size reducthird grade and in ninth grade English and math. The size reduction was by far the most important feature that parents and teachers did not want to see served. Existing technology instruction would remain at full **HEALTHY RESERVE** 

"What we've tried to do is put the district in the position, by the end of the next school year, to have a 3 percent reserve in place, and a balanced budget," Casey told the Independent. The district for years cruised along with a 5 percent reserve in the general fund, but reduced it last year to 3 percent, which is the state-required minimum for districts to manage their finances indepen-

trict could choose to cancel the CAHSEE next year for one-time savings of \$113,000 or GATE for one-time savings of \$98,000. (The projected budget for all categorical programs is also in the 3/3 agenda.) For Livermore, the tier 3 categoricals total about \$4.5 million in the 09/10 school year. The Board of Education must hold a public hearing before it can vote to eliminate any categorical funding.

Other, more severely affected school districts are already making plans to use the flexibility option. The Orange County Register reported that the Anaheim Union High School District, which is facing a \$39 million shortfall, will likely use a

also one-time, so it cannot be used for ongoing programs, which includes most employee salaries. The District has used recent onetime money for the additional cost of bringing sixth grade to Joe Michell, supplemental math at Portola Elementary School and Junction Avenue Middle School, campus supervisor training, an extra warehouse worker, and security cameras at Del Valle/Phoenix Continuation High Schools.

The Board will continue discussing the 2009/10 budget at future meetings, as decisions about laying off classified workers need to be made by the end of April and the District's projected budget is due May 15.

notified the county schools administration that it must dip below its 3 percent in reserve. It does not project going below zero percent. Going below 3 percent brings the district some red tape in dealing with county schools department. However, going below zero percent would bring the state in to run the district's finances.

The \$10.2 million projected deficit is a worst-case scenario. That outlook would include failure of the parcel tax to obtain the necessary two-thirds vote at the polls, and rejection by voters statewide of a state financing package in an election on May 19. The district will be prepared

union president Trevor Knaggs said that the community's chief motivation to pass it should not be because it will help property values, as has been argued at meetings, but for the educational value for kids, "and it's the right thing to do."

Before voting on the resolution for the parcel tax, trustee Pat Kernan said that for the past 10 years, the district's biggest challenge was attracting and retaining top talent. Now that it has done that, "it rips my heart out now with these cuts.'

Kernan also gave a pat on the back for management, which will be losing positions, too. "I know the public view is to cut away

## Livermore Council Approves General Plan Climate Change Element

The Livermore City Council approved a climate change element as part of the general plan. Seven new objectives and associated policies to reduce emissions are part of the plan

The vote was unanimous.

The first objective calls for the preparation of a climate action plan in an effort to reach the state mandated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the city. The city is aiming at 2011 to have the action plan in place. AB32 requires statewide emissions to be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. A more drastic goal is set for 2050.

The other objectives relate to land use, transportation, water efficiency, energy, open space/ conservation, and waste reduction.

An audit was conducted to determine the current levels of emissions within the city. The study looked at greenhouse gases generated by local government, as well as those from the rest of the city. The level is at 700,000 tons per year including emissions on highways that are adjacent to the city. The average person accounts for 8 to 9 tons per year. If the city continued at its current rate, with the increase in population, emissions would be 900,000 tons per year.

For government, buildings are the prime emitters at about 54 percent of the total. The generation of electricity is the main cause of the high level of greenhouse gases. The vehicle fleet accounts for 18 percent and public lighting 14 percent.

In the general plan element, the goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the control of the city to a level of 15 percent less than 2008 levels by 2020. The highways are not considered to be under the control of the city. The changes would

reduce the per capita generation of greenhouse gases to 7 tons per year in 2020.

"The emissions per person would have to drop dramatically to meet the 2050 goals," according to consultant Rick Walter of Jones & Stokes. The goal would be to achieve a level of 2 to 3 tons per person. "That is the level identified by scientists to reduce the catastrophic impacts of global warming," explained Walter.

The action plan would calculate the reductions possible through a variety of actions. It would look at the level of reduction as well as the cost effectiveness.

"Land use is where the city has the greatest impact. The new general plan element calls for greater support for infill, mixed use and high density development as a way to reduce vehicle travel emissions," said Walter.

Water efficiency is another area of focus. The city would adopt new programs that encourage recycled water use and conservation measures. The reduction in emissions would be realized, because less water would have to be pumped into the area. Water is the largest consumer of energy in the state.

The open space/conservation goal would be to plant trees that don't use a lot of water

A supplemental environmental impact report was prepared to look at the impact of potential policies, as well as the impact of climate change.

The element could cause "unavoidable significant changes in views, visual resources and light and glare if new renewable energy facilities, new transit or rail facilities, or other facilities built as part of climate change implementation cannot be designed to conform to current policy requirements regarding scenic views." The EIR finds that the project would contribute to a cumulative change in the visual character of the city. The change would occur when new rail, transit or renewable energy facilities were built.

Climate change could impact the wine region, water supply and growing season. Walter said that future impacts would become more clear as better models become available.

#### NAME CHANGE

The city approved changing the name of Triad Drive to Comcast Place.

The request was made by Comcast. The corporation has relocated to Livermore. The three buildings on the street are occupied by Comcast.

One building houses its regional offices, a second the call center, and the third operations. There will be about 1000 employees, with a goal of further expansion and more employees.

Philip Arndt, government affairs director for Comcast, noted, "Asking for the name change is an important expression of the confidence in the city we hope to call home for a long time. It creates a sense of pride for employees."

Arndt said that Comcast will take care of the cost of signs and is working with the Postal Service to ensure the change occurs smoothly

#### SPRINGTOWN GOLF COURSE

The city will officially begin its search for a new entity to manage the Springtown Golf Course. The city council approved the request for proposals at its meeting on Monday.

Under the proposal, the city would lease the entire facility to

a private operator for a ten year period, who would accept all of the market risk. The lease would be \$1 per year. The private operator would have full authority to set green fee rates, rules and hours of operation. The current greens committee would have no oversight.

In addition, the operator would be responsible for the water supply. However, if permits to use creek water were not continued, the operator could opt out of the lease. The city would then take again over management of the golf course.

North Livermore resident Jason Kane has been critical of the city's handling of the golf course. On Monday, he expressed his support for the lease proposal, with one exception. He suggested that the new operator would be well served to work with the current greens committee.

Kane thanked the city for its efforts. "It's been a long fight, sometimes contentious. I think the way the lease is written makes any potential operator aware of the situation. Hopefully, there will be lots of bids.'

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## Search Is Under for Adult Day Care Manager

The Tri-Valley Adult Day Care Program Board (TVADCP) is seeking a partner to establish and manage an adult day care program in the Tri-Valley Area.

The closure of the Friendship Center in Livermore in June 2008 left the Tri-Valley area as the only region of Alameda County without an adult day care program. The TVADCP Board, in consultation with the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville, has developed a process to select a manager for this senior service.

A public meeting to discuss the selection process and to learn more about the TVADCP is planned for 10 a.m. on Friday. March 27th at the Regional Community Room at the Dublin Civic Center.

The TVADCP is a non-profit organization that has been in operation for twenty years. Its mission is to promote and support adult day care. It has been providing such support over that period of time, mainly in the form of outreach, fundraising, and scholarships for elders in need. The TVADCP Board envisions continuing in this supportive role to ensure that the new program manager will have every

opportunity to succeed in this venture.

During the start-up phase of this program, the TVADCP Board intends to assist the successful applicant to pay for approved costs that may include but not be limited to facility renovations and other costs needed to re-establish a program. It is anticipated that the selected management entity and the TVADCP Board will jointly establish a Memorandum of Understanding to define the roles, responsibilities, and areas of cooperation.

A number of caregivers, along with their loved ones, expressed concern about the loss of the adult day care program offered at the Friendship Center.

Wara Alexander, Pleasanton, stated, "The Friendship Center was a haven of encouragement and hope for me and my husband David. He had passed from being a Captain in the USN with command of an Air Wing, thru the gradual closing down of his world, giving up singing in the church choir, playing tennis with friends, to just being at home with me. The Friendship Center expanded his world with an outstanding staff and circle of new friends. Parkinson's was no

longer winning all the time. David felt more energy and was happier. And I had respite time to catch my breath to manage another day. There has been no way to replicate the advantages of an adult day care program with either personal effort or money."

Larry Sampson, Livermore, declared, "My wife Mary was a client of the Friendship Center. Life with a special needs loved one is an everyday challenge. Our lives changed gradually as we become more isolated and withdrawn from the community. When you are charged with the 24/7 care of a loved one, the respite care provided by such a program is invaluable. I applaud the efforts of the TVADCP to restart a program. We are all getting older and some of us or our families will benefit from such a program."

For more information on the TVADCP's efforts to re-establish an adult day care program, or to download an application form, visit the website at: www.trivalleyadultdaycareproject .cloverpad.org.

Please contact Jan Pinney at jfpinney@sbcglobal.net for any questions regarding the application process.

## **Pleasanton Begins Effort to Reduce Emissions**

California cities are required to look at ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to set a target, the City of Pleasanton underwent a greenhouse gas emissions audit. The city council heard the results Monday and were somewhat dismayed that the nearby freeways are considered to be part of the city's emissions.

The analysis was conducted by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). The audit provides the basis for several initiatives, including completion of a citywide action plan to reduce greenhouse gases.

Mara Lara, assistant to the city manager, presented the findings. A baseline of 2005 was selected, because prior to that data is not available. The study was divided into local government emissions and the community.

Buildings were found to be the largest emitters under the local government category, recording 44 percent of the greenhouse gases followed by vehicles at 24.9 percent.

In the community sector, transportation was responsible for 64.4 percent of the greenhouse gases. Countywide, traffic is responsible for 57 percent of the emissions. Residential and Commercial/industrial buildings accounted for 16.4 percent and residential buildings 14 percent. Lara told the council, "If the

community continued to behave in the same manner, by 2020 there would be a 28.5 percent increase in emissions." She noted that any improvements implemented since 2005 were not included in the study. "Traffic westbound on I-580 and along I-680 are included in the city's carbon footprint," Lara added.

AB32 requires a reduction in emissions by 2020 to 1990 levels (15 percent of the 2005 baseline), and by 2050, 80 percent below the baseline. SB325 provides for a reduction in development and vehicle miles traveled.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman commented, "The council has been excited about the information, so the city can begin to address climate change at the city level.

Cindy Councilmember McGovern commented, "When I hear that 50 percent of the trans-

portation emissions come from state highways, I feel the city is behind the 8-ball from the start. If you took away the highway numbers, we'd be doing pretty well and could reduce back to 1990 levels pretty easily."

City Manager Nelson Fialho said that staff is working on initiatives that provide for the use of renewable energy, and more energy efficient buildings. The city is also looking at solar retrofits for two wells and is transitioning to hybrid vehicles. The city's new energy and en-

vironment commission will be tasked with coming up with an action plan for the city.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan stated, "This is something I've been waiting for, for a very long time. I'm eager for the new commission to be put in place. The priority needs to be able to implement a plan. The city has done a lot of planning, but we're not good at implementing those plans."

Councilmember Jerry Thorne added that he hopes the commission will look at other aspects of the environment, such as water use. He also hoped that any plan would include the cost of implementing it.

## **District Finds Building Character** Can Build Academic Achievement

muscles.

Kristen's

By Ron McNicoll

When the Pleasanton Unified School Sistrict began its Community of Character program in 1999, a concerned parent went to Rich Puppione, who was a school district administrator then

The man's concern was that if the school district started teaching kids to play by the rules, "they wouldn't be accepted into the good schools.'

The result has been just the opposite, said Puppione. Character education was the most beneficial program that Puppione saw in his 36 years as an educator. "You can excel in a bully-free school, and you can get along with teachers. It's a level playing field," he said.

Puppione made those remarks last week at a recognition ceremony at Foothill High School. A large panel of judges read more than 900 entries, from about 40 percent of the student body, and chose the top five winners in each Foothill class. The students' task was to write about one of the six community of character traits. They are honesty, integrity, compassion, selfdiscipline, responsibility, and respect. All four first-place winners wrote about compassion, which was the topic chosen by 16 of the 20 top-five essay writers

THE FOOD IN THE FRIDGE Kristen McDeavitt, who took first place among freshmen, told the story of her grandmother, who was dying of Lou Gehrig's disease, an illness that has a progressive degeneration of the

grandmother showed compassion by refusing to complain about her illness or her circumstances. Instead, she worried about her family. After she could no longer speak, she wrote notes about what to make for dinner, and "little messages of love." On her death bed, the

grandmother's "last message was the food in the refrigerator that my family should eat for dinner. No dying regrets, or any selfish wishes. Her last thoughts were for (the) family.'

Sophomore winner Megha Jain's father accepted for her, because she was away at a schoolrelated event. In her essay, Megha described herself as growing up in a city of abundance, where she could indulge her "selfish agenda and desires." Therefore, she never "realized the need to go out and actually help others.

That changed on a trip to India. Coming face to face with a beggar girl in a train station, Megha felt as though the girl were "conveying all her life's difficulties through that desperate stare." She gave her the little money she had with her. The response was "a large, thankful smile on her face.'

Megha adds, "I will forever remember the happiness that filled my heart, knowing that I was able to provide help to this girl in need.'

#### MOM'S EXAMPLE IN CARING FOR HUSBAND

Jennifer Lee, the junior class winner, wrote about her mother's compassion. Her mother worked

selflessly to take care of her husband, whose cancer was discovered on his 50th birthday. She quit her job as a nurse to stay home with him. She not only made things better for her husband, but also for her daughter.

When Jennifer couldn't sleep, because of her fear and worry, her mother told her, "'Let the oxygen machine sing you to sleep," and I would let it. It was my own lullaby.'

Jennifer's father died three years ago. The lesson she learned from her mother was that compassion "is not simply caring about someone; it's about saying it through your actions."

Sally Kim, the senior class winner, wrote about her visits to a bed-ridden man afflicted with ALS. She was surprised that she could learn a lot from the 50-yearold man, about positive attitude and taking pleasures in small things in life, such as flowers and beautiful weather outside.

The man, named Wayne, could live "more in the present than most people," said Sally. In gratitude for Wayne's friendliness and positive outlook on life, Sally started a public awareness project in which others signed up as volunteer visitors for ALS patients.

Sally wrote, "To a 25-year ALS patient, the most effective treatment is compassion. My heart fills with warmth as I imagine his smile, knowing that, every week, I am making a small difference in Wayne's life."



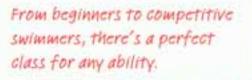


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## PORTS NOTES



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Granada High School lost 64 to 29 to Monte Vista in the NCS Division 1 semifinals. In the photo, Erin Dodelli (24) and Monte Vista's Dani Rabago (13) battle for the ball. The other Tri-Valley women's team in the playoffs, Dublin, defeated Encinal 74 to 61 in the Division 3 semifinals. In the finals, they lost 72 to 35 to Bishop O'Dowd.

#### Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks swim team competed in the California-Nevada Spring Championship held in Las Vegas, Nevada February 25th - March 1st. Overall, the Pleasanton Seahawks' team came in second in their division.

Many best times, including new Pacific Swimming records, were achieved as the Pleasanton Seahawks sliced through the water. Catherine Breed took 2nd place in the 1650/1000 free, 3rd place best time 500 free, 6th 100 free, and 10th 200 fly. Allison Brown placed 3rd in the 1650 free. Tory Houston took 6th place in the 200 breast. Bryan Hughes (13) set two new Pacific

Swimming records (200 fly/400 IM), received two best times in the 1650/1000 free, and achieved a Junior National time for his age group in the 500 free. Joshua Meints took 3rd place in the 100 breast, and 7th in the 200 IM and 100/200 Back. Karen Wang recorded a best time in the 100 back and grabbed 3rd place in the 200 back.

The women's 400 free relay, consisting of Karen Wang, Katrina Anderson, Allison Brown and Catherine Breed, finished strong taking 6th place. The same team swam to a 2nd place finish in the 800 free relay.

#### Granada Little League

Granada Little League results from opening weekend: Majors: Giants 1, Angels 0. Top hitters: ints - Ricky Reeves 1B, Austin Velasquez

Rays (Offense) Logan Wright, JD Cerruti, Dylan Corker (Defense) Austin Melendez, Jackson Newkirk, Joey Keller. Phillies (Offense) Erin Schrader, Augie Mascari, Neil Shah (Defense) Colin McConnell, Ryan MacIntire, Jordan Bailey.

A's (Offense) Jaxson Mosby, Andrew Berg, Gavin Reynolds (Defense) Cooper Meyer, Michael Buti, Hunter Hought Padres (Offense) Joshua Bailey, Jake Fields, Will Wentworth (Defense) Garrett Riddiough, Chase Kerezsi, Ben Wigginton. The kids played really well for the first game of the

#### Livermore American LL

Livermore American Little League games form opening weekend:

Single A: Red Sox 9, Phillies 6: The Phillies had great fielding from Xavier Pelican. Gavin Napier helped his team by hitting a triple. And Zachary Burke batted a double, but it was not enough to overtake the RedSox. Wes Edwards lead off with a triple, while Evan Capurro got 2 hits, and Joseph Fields got 3 hits for the RedSox. Capurro and

Fields had top defense and turned a double play in the 4th inning. AA Division: Cardinals 5, Diamond-backs 6: Diamondbacks top 3 players: Miles Larson, Garon Michaelis, Scott Stafford; Cardinals top 3 players, Robby Twesten, Griffin Bateson, Bobby Payne.

AAA Division: Mariners 11, Giants 6: Giants Top 3 Players: Austin Hosmer (pitched very well); Cory Cathrea (went 3 for

prevailed again with a 8-6 win. Meghan Serrano added another 4 goals, Emily Barrett with 3 goals.

The PLC U15 A "Thunder" boys, led by coaches Rory Manley, Dan Monaghan, and Mike McConnell, started their 2009 season with three wins. They defeated the Burlingame Coyotes 15-5. The Palo Alto Tomahawks was a 15-2 victory, with goals from Michael Barbier, Jerome Rigor, Jeff Snyder, Josh Allen, Conner Chin, and Joe Klug. Then to wrap up the weekend they defeated the Diablo Scorpions 13-10 with goals form Daniel Arthur, Steven Patrick, Jerome Rigor, and Elijah Caluya. The offense drew strong support from their middies Conner Francesca, Zack Wilhite, Joshua Yu, and Tom Yozzo. The Thunder defense was led by Ryan Almeida, Trent Morgan, Collin Del Porto, George Curtis, and Brandon Becker, as they helped Goalie Zach Beata keep the ball out of the Thunder net. Pleasanton Mariah U15 was victorious

in both of games on Opening Day Sunday. In the first game against the Lamorinda Flash, Mariah was victorious with a 10 to 6. Awesome offense was provided by Meghan Serrano with 4 goals, Emily Barrett with 2 goals, Kendra Cheda and Samantha Kim with I goal. Great saveswere recordedby the goalies, Tanja Kovacevic and Alyssa Marceno. The second game, saw the Mariah defeat the Walnut Creek Warriors, 8 to 6. Meghan Serrano added another 4 goals, Emily Barrett scored 3 goals. Strong defense was led by Andrea Bright and Rachael Kunzer.

#### LHS Varsity Lacrosse

The Livermore boy's Varsity Lacrosse went 3 - 0 last week to remain perfect this season against non- EBAL teams.

The season started off with an 17 - 0 shutout of Alhambra. In the game Livermore scored 8 goals in the first quarter and never looked back. Ben Jacobson, Jerrod Martinez and Marc Acosta all had hats tricks. Tommy Parker had 2 goals and single goals were by Eric Loberg, Paul Warnke, Brian Hicks, Nate Loberg, Matt Holzschuh and Travis Cyronek. 3 assist each were by Jerrod Martinez, and Tommy Parker. 2 assists were Martinez, and 1 ommy Parker. 2 assists were by Marc Acosta and Paul Warnke. 1 assist each were by Ben Jacobson, Kyle Kline, Matt Holzschuh and defenseman Chris Hill. The shut down defense was lead by Ryan Stark, Chris Hill, Rusty Schmidt and Craig Cofer. Earning his first shut out was Goalie Gavin Herr who turned away 5 shots.

Up next for the Cowboys was Campolindo whom they defeated 7 -6 in a real thriller. Livermore jumped ahead 3 -1 in the first quarter on goals by Tommy Parker, Ben Jacobson and Kyle Kline. Livermore went up 4-1 on a goal by Marc Acosta, but Campolindo stormed back with 3 gaols to tie the scoe. With 12 seconds left in the half Ben Jacobson's goal put them up for good at the half. Livermore went up 6-4 after 3 quarters on a goal by Tommy Parker and went up early in the 4th quarter on a goal by Marc Acosta 7 -4. But the resilient Campolido team would not go away as the tallied 2 goals in the 4th quarter and Livermore hung on to a thrilling 7 - 6 victory to remain undefeated. Kyle Kline had 3 assists in the game. Again Ryte Rine had 5 assists in the game. Again tough Defense by Chris Hill, Ryan Stark, Rusty Schmidt and Craig Cofer with excellent in the net from Gavin Herr who stopped 12 shots held off Campolindo.

Livermore defeated Dougherty Valley 15 -2. Livermore once again scored 8 goals in the first period. Ben Jacobson scored 5 goals, Marc Acosta 3, Tommy Parker had 2 goals. Single goals were by Jerrod Martinez, Eric Loberg, Paul Warnke, Vince VanBinsbergin and Nate Loberg. Jerrod Martinez, Tommy Parker, Paul Warnke, Kyle Kline had 2 assists each and Ben Jacobson, Harrison Wood, and Brian Hickshad 1 assisteach. The defense was lead by Rust Schmidt, Chris Hill, Ryan Stark and Craig Cofer. Jake Heston and Morgan Linn played hard on Attacks. Middies Matt Holzschuh, Andrew Finster, Travis Cyronek, Ryan Wilkerson and John Yoon ran the field plays. Goalie Gavin Herr stopped 10 shots in the victory. This kept Livermore unde-feated after 3 game against non-EBAL teams.

LHS J.V. Lacrosse The Livermore boys' J.V. Lacrosse went 2 - 0 to remain undefeated against non-EBAL

teams last week. The season started with an 8 - 1 victory against Northgate. Stan Steeper had 3 goals, single goals by Zach Pursch, Joey Youngblood, Daniel Rowan, Steven Niessen and Cameron Locke. Kyle (Jr) McCammon had 2 assists and Stan Steeper and Zach Pursch and 1 assist each. The defense was lead Joe Gonzalez, Spencer Davidson, Michael Fischer, Aubrey Gott, Ian Ingram, Chris Alderson and Tim Brynes. Fine middie play by Cody Shubin, San Burnett, William Kaufman, Michael Filyau, Scott Cragg and Joe Munns. On attack was Arek Medina Steven Martinez stopped 9 goals in the Game 2 of the season was a 12 - 1 defeat of Alhambra. Zach Pursch lead the way with 4 goals, followed by Stan Steeper's 3 goals and Kyle McCammon's 2 goals. Joey Youngblood, Steven Niessen and Jacob Cuellar each had a goal. Steeper had 2 assists and single assists by Daniel Rowan, Cameron Locke and Tim Brynes. Good middie play from Kamron Abri, Gary Chapeta and Keyon Taravati. Once again Steven Martinez stopped 7 shots to only give up 1 goal. This kept Livermoe undefeated after 2 games against non EBA L teams non-EBAL teams.

East Stanley Blvd. Discounts are available at January and February dates. Information go to website www.eteamz.com/lyfc or email lyfc@onebox.com/lyfc

The league is currently accepting appli-

cations for both football and cheer coaches for

#### Jr. Football Signup

the upcoming season

Registration is underway for the upcom-ing Livermore Junior Football League (LJFL) season.

Due to its success over its two-year existence and the support of LARPD and the high football programs, LJFL is expanding to all children aged 9 through 14 (as of December 31, 2009.) All football partici-parts will learn the findamentals of contact pants will learn the fundamentals of contact football in a safe and positive environment and play regardless of talent level or ability. All cheer participants will learn the fundamentals, cheer at games and compete locally. All games will be played in Livermore at the high schools. All practices will take place in Livermore. The season begins on August 1 and concludes in early November.

In person sign-ups will take place on Wednesday, March 18, 6 to 8 pm, Wednesday, April 22, 6 to 8 pm, Saturday, April 25, 2 to 4 pm, Saturday May 9, 2 to 4 pm and Wednesday, May 20, 6 to 8 pm at Round Table Pizza, 4098 East Ave., Livermore.

The registration cost is \$265 for football and \$100 for cheer. Registration will close when the league reaches 260 players. Players who are not able to register with LJFL will be given instructions to Pleasanton Junior Football League registration. LJFL intends to expand in the future to accept all Livermore children who wish to play contact football or to cheer.

For additional information, interested parents should visit: www.LivermoreJuniorFootball.com. President and Vice-President of LJFL are Jim Burke and Bob Adelman.

#### Ultra-Marathon

A 50K Diablo Trail Run hosted by Save Mount Diablo will be held Sun., March 22. Start time is 8 a.m. The Diablo Trail 50K is a point-to-point

ultra-marathon starting at Round Valley Regional Preserve in Brentwood and follows the Diablo Trail to Castle Rock Park in Walnut Creek. The trail winds through Round Valley, Morgan Territory, Mount Diablo State Park and Shell Ridge Open Space. The course is challenging and fully supported. The event includes post race lunch and t-shirt for all participants. All runners must check in at the start in Brentwood between 7:00 and 7:45 am To register or for more information go to

www.savemountdiablo.org.

#### Diablo Century for Cyclists Cycling enthusiasts are invited to regis-ter for the first annual Diablo Century to be

held on Sunday morning, April 26 at the Contra Costa JCC (CCJCC) in Walnut Creek. The is being sponsored by the CCJCC and Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay (JFCS/East Bay). Three routes, all beginning at the CCJCC

on Tice Valley Blvd. in Walnut Creek, will accommodate various cycling levels: the 25mile route will take casual cyclists through the scenic hills of Danville and Alamo to the foot of Mr. Diablo and back. The more challenging 100-K route (62 miles) will offer cyclists views of Mt. Diablo via Clayton and the Morgan Territory. Cyclists will descend into Livermore and return via Danville and scenic Blackhawk. The final 100-M route (100 miles) will have serious cyclists taking the 100-K route and then adding to the challenge with a jaunt to Castro Valley, followed by a climb up Redwood Road to Moraga

All three routes conclude with a return ride to the CCJCC, where a barbecue lun-cheon and commemorative t-shirt will await registered riders.

Rest stops will be stocked with water, fruit, and snacks. Support and Gear vehicles will be traveling throughout the course to assist riders, aiding with mechanical break-downs and providing transportation as needed.

The Diablo Century will take place come rain or shine. Start time for the 100-K and 100-M routes is from 6:30 to 8:00 am. The 25-M route begins at 8:00 am. Individual registration fee for all routes is \$45 per person. Tandem for all routes is \$85 per tandem and additional luncheon tickets for nonregistered riders are available for \$10.

conservation and recreation are all part of the group's mission. In "Fly Fishing Basics," students will

learn what fish to eat, basic knots, wading safety, fundamentals of fly casting, where to find fish, where to go fishing, how to safely release fish and more. The class will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. March 25, April 1 and April

8 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. An all-day Saturday outing will be held following the classroom instruction.

"Fly Fishing Basics" is \$52 to attend; registration No. 2285. For more information or to register, visit www.larpd.dst.ca.usor call 925-373-5700.



Visitors to the Pleasanton Library's Fitness Festival scheduled on March 14 can learn about the oddly named sport of Pickleball, similar to tennis but using a wooden paddle.

## Pleasanton Library to Host Fitness Festival

The Pleasanton Public Library will host a multi-faceted Fitness Festival on Saturday, March 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the library front lawn at 400 Old Bernal Avenue. The program is funded by a grant from Fit for Life, an initiative of Libraries for the Future and the MetLife Foundation to promote brain health awareness. The Pleasanton Public Library was one of just 17 library systems in the nation to be named as a Fit for Life grant recipient.

As one of the largest populations in the history of the United States ages, baby boomers are paying attention to brain health to delay the effects of time. The brain contains 100 billion neurons, 900 billion glial cells, 100 trillion branches, and 1,000 trillion receptors. Together, they react to stimuli in a series of electrical bursts that help our brain to continuously change in response to ideas, actions and activities.

This free Fitness Festival will introduce participants to a number of new activities including rock climbing and opportunities to sample new sports such as Pickleball (similar to badminton and tennis, using a wooden paddle), and fencing. Visitors will also have an opportunity to see demonstrations of weight lifting, jujitsu, tai chi and tae kwondo, and can shake off winter tensions with a free massage.

Special guest speakers include FitTV's Diet Doctor, Dr. Melina Jampolis, who lectures throughout the nation on nutrition for weight loss and optimal health, and Dr. Rahul Parikh, a Pediatrician who has a special focus in adolescent medicine. Dr. Jampolis has appeared on Regis and Kelly and been interviewed by many national magazines and newspaper publications. Dr. Parikh is based in Walnut Creek and is a regular contributor to Salon.com.

Participants can also obtain information about various health related organizations that will be represented at the event. They include the Valley Care Health Library, Axis Community Health, the North American Strongman, Inc., Las Positas Fencing Center, instructors from the City of Pleasanton's Parks and Community Services department, Healing Touch, the USA Pickleball Association, the Pleasanton Senior Center, Pleasanton Community Counseling Center, the Las Positas College Department of Psychology, and many others.

For more information, please call the Pleasanton Public Library at (925) 931-3400

1B. Angels - Jason Whitney 1B. Top Pitchers: Giants - J.T. Storti 4I, 1H, 9K. Angels - Jake Collishaw - 3I, 1H, 5K. Padres 7, A's 2. Top hitting A's were

Louie Arias with an out of the park Home Run with an RBI! Aboumrad played great defense and strong pitching from Jake Jackson. The Padres pulled out a win with 2 runs from Derdak, and 1 each from Moylan, Sloan, Jason Bohl, Tompkins and Miller. Sloan was the starting pitcher with strong follow up from Jason Bohl and Despotakis who allowed no hits or runs. Minor AAA: Padres 15, Rays 4. Top

Hitters Rays - Jason Frost 2B, 2 runs scored; Tyler Stultz 1B, 2 runs scored. Padres -Moreland, 1B, 2B, three runs scored; Riddiough, 1B, 4 runs scored.

Top Pitchers Rays - Dominic Bricker 2IP, 4H, 3R, 3K; Conner Swadener 2IP, 2H, 4R, 1K. Padres - Gregory Moreland, 5IP, 3H, 2R, 10K; Eric Martin 1IP, 3H, 2R, 1K. Great defensive play by the Rays Center Fielder Dominic Bricker and Joe Murphy at Second base to tag out a two-base hit at Second. Gregory Moreland pitched an excellent game holding the Rays to just two runs in 5 innings

Phillies 3, Angels 10. Top hitters: Phillies Jack Lutz 1b-1 rbi-1, Mark Pruett 1b-1 run-1, Kevin Patel 1b-1 rbi-1. Top hitters Angels: Jack Walker 1b-1 2b-1 rbi-3 runs-2, Angels: Jack Walker 10-1 20-1 r01-3 r01is-2, Brandon Zuanbrecher 1b-1 3b-1 runs-2, T.J. O'Ferrall 1b-2 rbi-1 runs-2. Top pitchers Phillies: Johnny Bailey 5-in 8-hits 10 runs 5 strikeouts. Top pitchers Angels: Jack Walker 2-in 1-hits 2-runs 2-strikeouts, Brandon Zaunbrecher 2-in 3-strikeouts. Minor AA: Ginets 13 Revs 10. Ginets

Minor AA: Giants 13 Rays 10. Giants offense was led by Ryan Wright, Reid Heffron and Jason Vanbladez. Mark Silverthorn, Troy Wentworth and Brandon Johnson were top defenders. Top offensive players for the Rays were Seth Street, Sean Croghan and Colton Casey. Rays' defensive players included Alex Katisich, Nolan Mc Cormick and Dylan Martinez. Angels 9, Phillies 8. Top hitters Phillies-

Ray Montes-base hit 2 RBI, PJ Kalcic base hit, RBI. Great pitching for the Phillies by Riley Van Trease who struck out the side in the 2nd inning and Seth Davis pitched a no run 4th inning. Angels- Great pitching by AJ Phillips with 4 strike outs, Matthew Reddick displayed both great offensive and defensive skills. All in all it was a close and well played

game by both teams. **Tball**: Giants (Offense) Kieran Campbell, Sam Carbonaro, Aden Clements (Defense) Stephen Geyer, Ryan Hansen, Andrew Hofmann: Angels- (Offense) Andrew Bates, Carson Devine, Mason Franchi (Defense) Jordan Fritz, Sam German, Yash Hammond

3) & Bobby Woods (great defensive play as catcher). Mariners Top 3 Players: Jarod Heise (winning pitcher), Darian Look (great catching) & Chris Roessler (unassisted double play). It was a well played, hard fought game. The Mariners broke the game open

game. The Manners broke the game open with a 6th inning rally. The Giants 6th inning rally just fell short. Angels 5, A's 4: Angels Top 3 players: CJ Malski, Tyler Gonzales, and Lucas O'Brien. A's Top 3 players: Daniel Nunez, Logan Koch, and Boney Noreiga. The Angels took an early lead in the game with CJ Malski pitching 3 innings with a low pitch count. The A's scored with Daniel Nunez getting two hits and Boney Noreiga getting a hit to come home. Logan Koch also made an out at home plate. The Angels came back with Tyler Gonzales making an awesome double-play at first base and Lucas O'Brien shutting game down as closing pitcher.

#### Pleasanton Lacrosse

The Pleasanton Hurricanes under-13 A team ran its record to 4-0 for the season with a pair of big wins over the weekend.

The Hurricanes opened the weekend with a 7-3 win over the Danville Scorpions in Danville. Matthew Maria Cui scored three times, with Conner Neads, Justin May, Jamirr Holland and Ben Rittler adding one each. Holland had two assists, while Josh Miller also had an assist from his goalie spot.

The defense of Connor Veit, Zane Manaa, in big performances, along with Miller in the goal, who had six saves. On Sunday, the Hurricanes came back

with a 7-1 win over Southern Marin. Maria Cui had three more goals, with Holland adding two and Rittler and Nick Stivers one apiece. Holland had three assists and Clint May added one

Miller had 10 saves, with Veit, Manaa, Schiafinno and Knaggs playing well once

Luke Legins, Andrew Totaro, Christian Son, Daniel Payne and Tor Heggelund played well in the midfield for Pleasanton, which stands on top of the league through the first two weekends on play. Pleasanton Girls Lacrosse U15 Mariah

was victorious in both of games on their Opening Day Sunday. 1st games on then Flash, Mariah was victorious with a 6-10 win. Awesome offense by Meghan Serrano with 4 goals, Emily Barrett with 2 goals, Kendra Cheda and Samantha Kim with 1 goal. Great saves by the goalies, Tanja Kovacevic & Alyssa Marceno. 2nd game vs. Walnut Creek Warriors, Pleasanton Mariah

#### Football/Cheer Signup

Livermore Youth Football and Cheer Livermore Youth Football and Cheer (LYFandC) is starting registration for the upcoming season.

This is a full contact football league that has been established for 36 years. The league's motto is "children first, game second." The goal is to teach the fundamentals of both football and cheer needed to make the transi-tion into high school. The league works together with the local high schools to ensure its participants are learning the fundamentals needed for their very competitive football and Cheer programs. LYFandC's emphasis is on proper technique and fundamentals, respon-sibility, accountability, and most impor-

tantly being a good person and teammate. All coaches are required to attend coaching clinics each year to strengthen their knowledge of the game.

Football and cheer squads have been very successful in the highly competitive Diablo Valley Youth Football Conference (DVYFC). Registration will be held March 12 and April 16 from 6-8 pm at Round Table Pizza 1024

To register for the Diablo Century or to learn more, please visit www.ccjcc.org/diablo or call 925.938.7800. To learn about volunteering opportunities, please contact Kathryn Winogura at kwinogura@jfcs-eastbay.org.

#### CYO Basketball

In the Girls CYO 4th Grade A Team Championship game, St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) (#4004) faced off against the 8-1 St. Isidore's (#4002) team that held aregular season record of 3-0 against SM/SC. SM/SC fought hard leading by a score of 4-0 in the 1st quarter and were tied at halftime with a score of 8-8. St. Isidore's continued to battle and took a 3rd quarter lead of 15-10 going on to win by a score of 19-10 shutting out SM/SC in the 4th quarter. MacKenzie Farro, Riley Heffron, Claire Abele, Isabella Neads and Melissa (Missy) Nunes scored 2 points each for SM/SC. Brianna led St. Isidores in scoring with 7 points. Alex scored 4 points, and Cameron and Mayaeach scored 3 points for St. Isidores. Alyssa finished the scoring for St. Isidores with 2 points. Tiaja Andrews, Katelyn Johnson, and Adriana Sblendorio played awesome defense for SM/ SC. Kiara Arias was out with a pulled muscle for this game. Jordan, Shannon, Makela, Heather and Madison) played aggressive defense for St. Isidores.

#### Fly Fishing Class

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is offering a new class this spring for fly-fishing enthusiasts - and anyone who is interested in becoming one. The Tri-Valley Fly Fishers will give students a comprehen-sive introduction to the sport of freshwater fly fishing. Participants will develop an under-standing of the basic knowledge and skills.

There are a variety of lakes in the East Bay as well as rivers throughout Northern California that are conducive to fly fishing. The Tri-Valley Fly Fishers is a group of about 60 men and women who are interested in the sport and help new anglers get started. Education,



SUPPORTED BY: LARPD - Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District & PJFL - Pleasanton Jr. Football League (www.p)fl.com)

#### **CIBER Federal** Intrinsyx Technologies Corp & The Norland Group

A team of high caliber professional, technical and administrative services staffing firms

> Invites you to an Open House at The Hilton Garden Inn 2801 Constitution Drive, Livermore Thursday, March 19, 2009 11:30 am - 7:00 pm

Stop by and drop off your resume or email it to sschwartz@ciber.com

Individual interviews cannot be scheduled, but come by to learn about this dynamic team and talk about the prospect of our future staffing requirements.



#### **Final Public Workshop** Draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan

The City of Pleasanton is seeking public input on the Draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan.

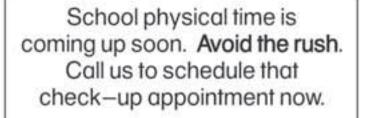
> Wednesday, March 18, 2009, at 6:30 pm In the Veterans Memorial Building, Main Hall

301 Main Street

The workshop will:

- Provide an overview of the Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan
- Discuss proposed pedestrian improvements
- Discuss prioritized list of bicycle & pedestrian projects
- Take public comments on the master plan

This master plan is funded by a grant from the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA). The development of the master plan is overseen by the City of Pleasanton Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The draft master plan document is available on the internet at: http://pleasantonbikepedplan.webexone.com. After entering the site, scroll down and select "Enter as a Guest" then select "Documents". For more information, please call Janis Stephen in the Community Development Dept/Traffic Engineering Division at (925) 931-5671 or by email at: jstephen@ ci pleasanton ca us



Livermore/Pleasanton **Pediatrics** 925.455.5050

## BULLETIN BOARD

Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included.

11th Annual Democratic Party St. Patrick's Day Dinner, March 19, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Carpenter's Hall, 1050 Mattox Road, Hayward. Traditional Irish fare. Guests include State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, Secre-tary of State Debra Bowen, California Democratic Party Candidate for Chair John Burton. State Senator Ellen Corbett (10th District), Assembly woman Mary Hayashi, and Assembly man/State Attorney General Candidate Alberto Torrico. Tickets \$25 individual prepaid, \$30 at the door; seniors/students \$20 prepaid, \$25 at the door; children 12 and under free. (510) 635-3121 or email

robintorel@aol.com by 3/17/09. Parenting Your Aging Parent, free monthly class designed for baby boomers who are sandwiched between the needs of their growing children, the needs of their aging parents and other relatives, and their own needs . In this class, students will get information and resources to assist them. The March 18 class will feature Carol Garberson. a nutritionist for Senior Support Services, offering help for caregivers and elders on diet and exercise. The title of her talk is "A Proactive Approach to Aging." Instructor Ruth Gasten has taught parenting classes in the Valley for over 35 years. Classes meet from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Amador Valley High School Library, 1155 Santa Rita Road

Pleasanton, Conference Room B. The April class will be held on April 22 and the May class on May 13. Register by phone at Amador Valley Adult School at (925) 426-4280 or sign in at the class on March 18

Pasta Feed and Silent Auction fundraiser, Thursday, March 26, Village Alterna-tive Ed. High School Multipurpose Room, 4645 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. Event will raise money for student programs. This event will provide a cultural experience while sharing the impact our school has made on the lives of young people in our community. This small alternative education high school provides at-risk students with the support to become successful citizens. Contact Denise DRobb@pleasanton.k12.ca.us925-426-4260

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, sponsoring a candlelight vigil Wed., March 11 at 7 p.m followed immediately by a peaceful march to City Hall. The vigil will be held in front of the Museum on Main. 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. Information Cathe Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or ding@pacbell.net.

Hearing Loss Association of America. **Tri-Valley Chapter** meeting, 7 p.m. on Mar. 19 at Valley Community Church, 4455 bel Valle Parkway, Pleasanton. The program will start at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public, are free. Refreshments are served. The speaker will be Bernie Frazelle, General Manager of General Technologies. It is a California company that sells a large variety

of assistive listening devices and Bernie will bring them all so you can see them and how they work. For more information contact Hiram Van Blarigan at 925 455 6591 or Email hvanblarigan@hotmail.com

Bingo Fund-raiser, Christensen Middle School PTA, Sat., March 14, St. Patrick's Bingo Bash, The Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Doors open 4 p.m., games start at 6:30 p.m. Games pay either \$175, \$250 or \$500. Lucky green ball raises \$175 payouts to \$250. All players receive a green coupon at buy-in, good for a free extra pack, free pull tabs or free flash board cards. Mention to Ian or Michelle that you read this notice in The Independent for an additional

\$2 in free pull tabs. Fifty percent of the evening proceeds go to the CMS PTA. **Cruising the Night Away**, Donlon Elementary School invites the public to an evening of food and entertainment Sat. March 28, 6 to 11 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel & Spa in Dublin. The night will include a silent auction of memorabilia, trips, family activities & other unique items. Tickets are \$46 per person. For more information, email DonlonAuction@comcast.net.Proceeds from the 2009 auction will help support existing programs and continue to upgrade the school's technology

Livermore Valley Professional & Busi-ness Women (LVBPW) meets 6 p.m. Thurs., March 26 Café Nordstrom in the Pleasanton Stoneridge Mall. Guest speaker wilal be Pamela McDonald; topic, Women making changes to prevent heart disease, obesity and chronic illness. McDonald, NP, is the author of "The APOE Gene Diet Book." Networking

and dinner at 6 pm, registration at 5:40 pm Cost for dinner and program is \$20. Pre-registration is required and can be made with ona at 925-828-3006. The public invited.

Tri-Valley Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind meeting on Saturay, March 14, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. We meet in Cafeteria Room 2 at Valley Memorial Hospital in Livermore, 1111 Éast Stanley Blvd. Do you know anyone who is blind or is experiencing vision loss? This organization can help people to adjust. Any visually impaired or blind person is urged to attend. Call, Carl, 449-9362 for more info.

Live Entertainment, music and ballroom dancing, Friday, March 20. Pleasanton Senior Center. Dance to the sounds of Treblemakers. Doors open 7:00pm. Dancing from 7:30-9:30pm. Dessert served. Ages 18 and older. Advance ticket purchase \$7R/\$8N, at door \$8R/\$9N. Call 931-5365 for reserva-tions. Pleasanton Senior Center 5353 Sunol Blvd Pleasanton California 94566

Tri-Valley Seniors: Need a ride to your medical appointment? Seniors who require door-to-door service are now eligible for a ride to their medical appointments. Volunteers use their personal vehicles to drive seniors to and from medical appointments. Seniors must be 60 and over, living in Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton or Sunol, and unable to find aride (relative, friend, bus, paratransit.) For aride or to volunteer, Call Jennifer Cullen at (925) 931-5387 or email her at ja.cullen@yahoo.com. Funding for the ja.cullen@yahoo.com. Funding for the Senior Transportation Program is provided by Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority and Measure B Funds.

## OBITUARI

#### Johnnie Kenneth Hamm

Johnnie Hamm, 64, native of Dallas, TX, died on February 27, 2009, with his loved ones at his side. He was born November 14, 1944

He served his country proudly in the Coast Guard in the midsixties. He later went on to become a Journeyman Maintenance Mechanic in production for 40 years at Caterpillar Tractor in San Leandro and at Johnson Controls in Livermore. Johnnie was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. His greatest joy was spending time with William, his cherished grandson.

Johnnie is survived by his loving family, his wife of 41 years, Emma Hamm, son, Johnnie C. Hamm and his wife Karen, daughters, Karen Hamm and Gina Turner and grandson William Turner all of Pleasanton, brothers, Michael and David Hamm and sister, Barbara Coker all of TX.

A memorial Service was held Friday, March 6, in Pleasanton, CA In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the MRSA Survivors Network, P.O. Box 241, Hinsdale, IL 60522

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

#### Paul J. Laborde

Paul Laborde, 71, born in Oakland, a 37 year resident of Pleasanton, died peacefully at home with his loved ones by his side on March 4, 2009. He was born January 25, 1938.

Paul served his country proudly in the U.S. Army from 1960 -1966. He worked as a pressman for the Oakland Tri-

2009. She was born in Oakland, California November 30, 1917.

She attended McClymonds High School. She moved to Pleasanton some years later and worked at Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore. Geradine enjoyed reading, sleeping, traveling and gambling. Her passion was entertainment. She sang for the GI's at Mare Island often. You could find her entering singing contests in Oakland, and going to the Sweets Ballroom, where she remembered watching the 10 cent dancers, dance with guys from the USO. Even in to her 90's you could see her watching entertainment at the The Brewery, Fridays in the Park and Pleasanton Hotel, singing and clapping along. She finished out her travels with a trip to Disneyland January 1st 2009, to watch her grand niece Alexe entertain.

Geraldine was preceded in death by her husband John 'Tillman" Nerton. Geraldine is survived by her nieces and nephews, Jim Amaral, Lee Amaral, Donna Theodore Martin, Beverly Kingsley, Joe Theodore and Ted Theodore. The family would also like to acknowledge her caregivers Dawn, and Jing Jing for their kindness and care.

Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, St. Elizabeth Seton, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Burial will be at St. Augustine's Cemetery, Pleasanton.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

#### Kenneth W. Saunders

Kenneth W. "Ken" Saunders passed away peacefully on March 3, 2009 in Castro Valley.

#### Florence Jo Senft

Florence Jo Senft passed away on March 6, 2009 at the age of 69, after a long battle with cancer. Florence was born in Pleasanton, Kansas in September 1939. Florence married Paul William Senft in 1957 and they raised their family in Livermore.

After receiving a successful bone marrow transplant, Florence was a 2 time survivor of cancer.

She loved playing Bunko, cooking, bowling and being a homemaker. She enjoyed reading fiction; especially mysteries.

Florence is survived by her loving husband of 52 years Paul and her sons Jeff (Deanna) Senft of Modesto, Steven and Scott Senft, both of Livermore, 7 grandchildren Staci King, Katie Thiesen and Sara Senft all of Manteca, Adam Senft of Escalon, Lisa Averett of England, Christina Cates of Arizona, and Erica Smith of Livermore and 3 great grandchildren; Natassja Cavalier of England and Joslyn and Jolene Cates of Arizona. She is also survived by her "sisters," Sandy Senft and Sandy Fazio.

Visitation for family and friends will be held on Tues., March 17, 2009 from noon to 1 p.m. with funeral to follow at 1 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary Chapel 3833 East Ave. Livermore.

In lieu of flowers the family respectfully requests Memorial donations in Florence's name may be made to UCSF Foundation, Box 45339, San Francisco, CA, 94143-0339.

#### Bernice Egan Rooney

Bernice Egan Rooney, a third generation Livermore resident, died at her home on March 7 2009 in Livermore at the age of 92. She was born on the family ranch in the Altamont and graduated from Summit School. She was a member of the Livermore High School class of 1935. She worked for Concannon Vineyard, Wells Fargo Bank and the Livermore School District. She was a life-long member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, where she was active in Golden Friends. She is survived by a son, Michael Rooney and his wife Tiny of San Jose, daughter Kathleen Rooney and her husband John Humphrey of Livermore, grandchildren Keeley Rooney, Tara Prast and her husband Evan, John Humphrey, Shannon Rooney, Brittany Humphrey and Shawn Rooney; two great grandchildren, Aiden Rooney and Grace Prast, sisterin-law Mildred Egan and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Jack Rooney, son John Rooney, Jr., and grandson Patrick Rooney.

Visitation will be from 1 to 9 p.m. on Thurs., March 12 with a rosary at 7 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Fri., March 13 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Burial will be at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Livermore.

Memorials may be made to St. Michael's Education Fund, c/o, 458 Maple St., Livermore, CA 94550, or to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Suite 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

#### Satoru George Hirota

Satoru George Hirota, 71, of Livermore, passed away on March 6, 2009 in Alamo, California. He was born April 21, 1937

He was a devoted to his fam-

ily. He is survived by his wife Hiroko, his daughters Carol (Steve) Singer and Kathy Hirota and grandchildren Jacob and Ashley Singer. He also leaves behind many extended family members.

No services will be held. Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.



Granada High School Class of 1989 Seeking all classmates from GHS Class of 1989 for the upcoming 20th year reuni which will be held on September 5, 2009 ReunionCommittee@GHS1989.com or visit

www.GHS1989.NET for more information **Tri-Valley Democratic Club** meeting Mon., March 16, 7 p.m. at the IBEW Hall 6250 Village Pkwy Dublin. Nancy O'Mally Chief Assistant District Attorney for Alameda County will speak about her efforts to fight human trafficking, domestic violence, and to provide community services to victims of crime. Q & A and a discussion will follow her presentation. Refreshment served. Wheelchair accessible. Public invited. Information www.TriValleyDems.com

Livermore Amador Valley Garden **Club** will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, at Alisal School, multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The speaker is Bill Grant. He is a garden writer hotographer, and founder of the CA Garder Landscape Historical Society. His topic will be Why You Should Grow Tea Roses Visitors are welcome. For questions, cal Sally at 417-8809. Showmanship Clinic, Sunday, March

15, 1:30-4pm at Cayetano Ridge Equestrian Center, 4730 Dagnino Road in Livermore. For those who wish to polish their skills or learn new ones; Know what the Judge is looking for; Learn tips to put you and your horse in the top of the class. Demonstrations of the different styles and Color Coordination session. This is for humans only, please leave your horses at home. Raffle. \$20 per perso Proceeds will be donated. For info: Gina 925

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., March 14, 56 miles Cinderella training ride, meet 7:30 p.m. at Shannon Center, Karin featherpedals@yahoo.com. Sat., March 14, 50 miles west from Dublin to Castro Valley, meet 9 a.m. at Shannon Center, Christy Simpson, 803-0173. Sun., March 15, 80 miles double Diablo summit, meet 8 a.m. at Alden Lane in Livermore, Curtis Stallins, 922-2461. Wed., March 18, 30 miles waterfront in Benicia to Mare Island, meet 10 a.m. in Benicia, Barbara Wood, 707-745-6353. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring. Wildflowers of Mt. Wanda, ranger led

walk Sat., March 14 at John Muir National Historic Site. Two hour walk begins at 9 a.m., gentle saunter. Meet at the CalTrans Park and Ride, corner of Alhambra Ave., and Franklin Canyon Rd., Martinez. Bring water and binoculars (if available). Wear good walking shoes, trail is steep. If raining heavily, walk cancelled. Information, 228

Spaghetti Dinner, Rodeo queen contest fund-raiser sponsored by the Livermore Ro-deo Foundation. Sat., March 28, Livermore Rodeo Grounds in Robertson Park. 5:30 p.m. no host bar and silent auction; 6:30 p.m family style dinner; 7 p.m. queen announce-ments. \$10 adults, \$7 child, age 10 and under.

For tickets, call Ann Reese, 371-4059. Sisters in Service 4th Annual Indian **Dinner**. Fund-raiser family event to benefit marginalized women and children in India. Event includes special music, food and guest speaker, Kay Strom, co-author of Daughters of Hope. Kay will share her SIS related experiences at the hardest places in the world researching child trafficking for her upcoming book with Michele Rickett, President isters in Service. Sunday March 29, 5.30 8pm at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. Adults - \$10, Chil-dren under 10-\$3. Tickets and info call Gloria

@ 925-998-3785. www.sistersinservice.org SmARTSunlimited Children's Performing Arts School, open house March 22. 1 to 6 p.m. Piano, voice, guitar, brass, percussion, KinderSmARTS, acting, theater, film, tutoring. Nationally Certified Teachers and Programs. 53 Wright Brothers Avenue, Suite D, Livermore; 925-245-0283. NCHRA Tri-Valley Chapter Meeting, Wed., March 11, 11:30 a.m. to noon regis

2009 - Tracking the Trends. Cost: \$35 (NCHRA members): \$55 (general). Contact: Henry Lonsdale, 925-240-2400. Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network,

ogram What's Your Chemical Body Bur den. 7 p.m. Mon., March 16. Featuring Mary Brune, co-founder & director of Making Our Milk Safe (MOMS). Meeting at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St., Pleasanton. This meeting is free for members, as well as for first visitors to Tri-Valley HMN. www.holisticmoms.org.

Together We Prepare: Emergency Pre**paredness**, presenters training, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 14. Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Dept., Station #6, 4550 East Ave., Chianti Room, Livermore. Livermore-Pleas anton Fire Department seeks community volunteers interested in emergency prepared ness to help present basic emergency prearedness training to 25% of our community The 1-day presenters training session will provide "how-to" tips to effectively present this piece. Enroll/Contact: Call (925)454-2361 oremail TogetherWePrepare@lpfire.org

Clothing and equipment sale, Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club semiannual sale Sat., March 14, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Most items left unsold will be half off from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m. New location: Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. \$10 per person entrance fee. Participation to buy and/or sell open to the public. Great bargains on clothes, strollers, toys, videos, play pens, layettes books, high chairs, swings, gates, cribs, outdoor toys and more. Information

Amador Valley Quilt Guild will meet on Saturday, March 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Avenue, Pleasanton. The meeting will feature Cindy Needham from Superior Threads speaking on Thread Fact and Fiction. The guild is a nonprofit educational association for guilters of all skill levels. Anyone interested in quilting may attend. For further information about the guild or upcoming speakers, please visit our website, http://

amadorvalleyquilters.org. Job's Daughters Bethel No. 14, Pleaston will be having a Pasta Feed and Silent Auction at the Pleasanton Masonic Lodge at Friday, March 27 at 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$8 for Adults and \$5 for Children under 5. Job's Daughters is an organization for girls between the ages of 10 and 20 years old who have a Masonic relationship. Tickets: Debbie Bertolino at 925-913-0163 or debbiebertolino@hotmail.com. Any dona tion to the auction would be appreciated. Visit www.bethel14.com/ for more info about Job's Daughters. Pleasanton Masonic

Lodge, 3370 Hopyard Avenue, Pleasanton. Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Lunch in Fremont, Massino's Restaurant, March 18, 12:30 p.m. RSVP by March 16 to Vickie, 510-656-1166. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Marriott Hotel, March 20, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., RSVP by March 18 to Lorraine, 846-5695. Friendly bridge/optional lunch in Pleasanton March 21, 1 p.m. RSVP by March 18 to Phyllis, 462-4735. RELIGION

Praver Immersion Series, Spiritual Life Committee, Catholic Community of Pleas-anton. Thurs., March 19, St. Augustine; Mon., April 13, St. Augustine; Mon., March 19, St. Augustine; Mon., April 13, St. Augustine; Mon., June 8, St. Augus-tine; all are 7 to 9 p.m. 462-5756. Lenten Mass of hope and gratitude for

Cancer survivors, their family members and their friends. Wednesday, March 25, at 7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton, Father Padraig Greene will be the celebrant. A social and refreshments will follow the service. For more information, call Mary Merucci 846-8436 or Helen Wirtenson (925) 462-3798

Lenten sermon series - "Passion for Creation: Releasing What Does Not Serve Us," based on the writings of 13th century mystic Meister Eckhart. Rev. Steve Maynard vill expound on these teachings at the March 15th Sunday service, 10 a.m., Tri-Valley Unity, meeting at the Radisson, 6680 Re-gional St., Dublin. All are Welcome. Ongoing classes and groups www.trivalleyunity.com, (925) 998-0038.

Dublin Center

tration/networking/lunch. noon to 1 p.m. program on California Employment Law in

bune for 38 years. Paul was affiliated with the SIRS and the Knights of Columbus.

Paul is survived by his loving family, wife of 47 years, Eileen Laborde of Pleasanton, children, Patrick Laborde (Michelle) of Duvall, WA and Lisa Hill (Aaron) of Livermore, brother, Henri P. Laborde of Rio Vista, CA, and grandchildren, Jessica and Brandon Laborde, Allison and Christopher Hill. He is also survived by several in-laws and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held Monday, March 9, at St. Isidore Catholic Church, 440 La Gonda, Danville. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to St. Jude Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 in memory of Paul Laborde.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

#### Geraldine Nerton

Geraldine Nerton, a resident of Pleasanton, died March 3,

He was 82.

Ken was born October 21, 1926 in Alameda. He was raised in Oakland and a 56-year resident of Castro Valley. He was a WWII veteran and retired after 40 plus years as vice president of Roeber's Inc. of Castro Valley. He loved his family and friends. Ken was an avid fisherman, who loved his vacations at Lake Tahoe.

He was preceded in death by his wife Arlene Saunders. He is survived by son Michael W. Saunders and his wife Dr. Monika Buerger of Livermore, daughters Robin A. Plant and her husband James R. Plant and Diane "Dede" K. Webb and husband Mark Webb; and grandchildren Hannah and Colby Webb, all of Castro Valley. Ken is also survived by his companion Beverly Church of Alameda.

Funeral services were held March 7 in Hayward. Arrangements by Deercreek

Funeral Services.

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### THE TRAUMA OF THE BIRTH PROCESS It seems to me ....

It seems to me that the birth process may be one of the most traumatic events of ones life. Even so-called "natural" birthing methods can stress a still-undeveloped spine. One can only imagine that if the journey thought the birth canal can be so violent at to occasionally fracture shoulder blades, fragile spines could certainly be twisted, bent or otherwise damaged.



The resulting irritation to the nervous system can be the cause of many newborn health complaints. Colic, unexplained crying or fussing, poor appetite, breathing problems and allergic reactions can often be traced to nervous system dysfunction caused by a malfunctioning spine.

Many spinal problems seen in adults begin in childhood. Proper spinal hygiene is an important key to better health. Do you know a child who could benefit from quality chiropractic care?

It seems to me THAT WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTH CARE, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF ALL AVAILABLE OPTIONS.

To discuss those options just pick up the phone and give us a call at (925) 960-1960 or get on the web and visit www.haquechiropractic.com I'm Dr. Anita Haque wishing you and yours the very best in health and happiness.

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### New Service: Endocrinology



Lakshmi Srinivasan, M.D., joined the Department of Endocrinology at the Dublin and Fremont centers in January and is ready to care for you and your family.

- M.D. degree, University of California, Davis 2003
- Residency in internal medicine, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
- Fellowship in endocrinology, Stanford University Medical Center
- Board certified in internal medicine
- Speaks Tamil and medical Spanish

The endocrine system is a system of glands that produce hormones. Hormones regulate activities in the body such as digestion, reproduction, growth and development. Commonly treated conditions include, but are not limited to: diabetes, thyroid disease, metabolic and cholesterol disorders and menopause.

## Livermore Chamber Now a **Certified GreenBusiness**

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce has been certified as a Green Business by the Alameda County Green Business Program. In order to achieve this honor, the Chamber had to meet strict requirements in pollution prevention, conservation of resources, and environmental compliance.

Some of the steps involved in meeting the requirements included water conservation, energy conservation, recycling programs, and reduction of waste.

California Water Company was instrumental in the Chamber reducing its water consumption. They donated and installed lowflow toilets, replacing the office's aging ones. "We were very happy to be able to assist the Chamber with meeting their water use reduction goals. Through our conservation budget, we were able to replace old, leaky toilets with high efficiency ones. This change should help the Chamber not only save water, but also show a reduction in their water bill," states John Freeman, District Manager for California Water.

To meet the energy conservation requirements, the Chamber turned to PG & E for assistance. "PG&E was most pleased to partner with the Livermore Chamber to help green our business community's headquarters facility," said PG&E Public Affairs Manager Tom Guarino. "These energy upgrades will help the Chamber office with energy efficiency and act as model for other business and residential customers," Guarino added.

All the old fluorescent lighting was replaced with new high

efficiency, low mercury lights. Even the bullet lights were replaced with new bulbs requiring much less energy.

The Chamber had to institute programs not only to reduce waste and recycle more, but ensure they are purchasing materials with less packaging and office supplies made with at least 30% recycled materials. The Chamber now looks for the logo denoting the products as using recycled materials. Changing habits in the office for copying and printing will also make a huge difference.

Sheila Fagliano of Waste Management, inspector for the recycling and reuse aspects of the certification, showed staff how to improve the reduction of waste. "I appreciate the effort that businesses like the Chamber of Commerce put forth to make sure they are thinking green and being green in as many areas as they possibly can. Not only are their general business practices in-house green but when putting on events they encourage their vendors to be green as well"said Fagliano. "The Livermore Chamber of Commerce has raised the bar for other chambers in Alameda County.'

For more information on this Alameda County sponsored program, log on to www.greenbiz.ca.gov. To find out how the Livermore Chamber of Commerce worked to meet its certification requirements and maybe pick up some tips on how to do it, call the Chamber at 925-447-1606.

## **Students Raise Funds for Open Heart Kitchen**

Lynnewood United Methodist Church completed a fundraising effort on behalf of Open Heart Kitchen with presentation of a final check for \$2,500 to Linda McKeever, Executive Director of Open Heart Kitchen. Overall, donations from Lynnewood to Open Heart totaled \$44,891.

The members of the Lynnewood church were stunned when they learned of the recent financial challenges of Open Heart Kitchen caused by a sharp dropoff in corporate donations. Donations from the church congregation began to pour in.

The youth of the church were particularly taken with the problem. They organized a talent show and dinner. They setup a donation station in the church lobby. Their efforts were capped by "Souper Bowl Sunday" when

they wore football apparel and collected buckets of coins and bills at Sunday worship.

"Lynnewood has a special connection with Open Heart Kitchen," said Steve Elliott, Outreach Leader for the church. "Our congregation helped found Open Heart and they operated out of our church kitchen as their home base for many years."

"The youth at our church are quite engaged with the world in which they live. We are proud of them!" exclaimed Kim Risedorph, one of Lynnewood's pastors. "In stark contrast to the common stereotyping of young people, these kids are keenly aware of the larger needs of our community."

We are most grateful for the time and effort Lynnewood put into raising money for us," said McKeever.

## Annual Day in the Park Will Not Be Held This Year

The Taylor Family Foundation (TTFF), serving Northern California children with lifethreatening and chronic illnesses, developmental disabilities, and youth at-risk, announced today that it is postponing this year's Day in the Park fundraiser, which was scheduled for late August. TTFF has opted to forego this year's event in recognition of the challenging economic climate facing many of its donors.

As a result of funds raised at the 2008 Day in the Park and by reducing expenses, the foundation will be able to operate the same camperships that it had previously scheduled for this year.

"We have a great deal of respect and admiration for the groups that support Day in the

Park," said TTFF President and co-founder Elaine Taylor. "We understand this is going to be a difficult year for many organizations and recognize their need for respite and recovery in their own businesses this year.'

The Taylor Family Foundation's Day in the Park supporters include local and regional wineries, restaurants, chefs, and in-kind and cash sponsors. TTFF will focus its efforts on planning Day in the Park for 2010 to mark a double anniversary. The non-profit will be celebrating 20 years as a foundation and 10 years at Camp Arroyo, a Livermore Valley camp it founded for ill children.

"Over the years, we have helped more than 36,000 chil-

dren," said Executive Director Angie Carmignani. "Our dual anniversary will celebrate this milestone and launch many more years of serving our amazing children." The Taylor Family Foundation offers summer and weekend camps to children with conditions such as brain tumors, skin disease, heart disease, Crohn's & colitis, autism, diabetes, bipolar, celiac, hemophilia, asthma, pre-school burn survivors, and HIV/AIDS at no cost to their families.

"There is a very strong demand for The Taylor Family Foundation's services. Our camp calendar is booked through 2011," said Taylor. "Through a combination of low expenses for our small staff and a reduction in costs, we will ensure every dollar goes further. We will make it possible for the nearly 3,000 campers who will attend camp this year to experience the magic camp offers. While making the necessary financial accommodations, we will continue to pursue various avenues for funds that will allow us to continue our robust camp programs.'

Among the programs that will benefit from The Taylor Family Foundation's Camp Arroyo this season is the first ever Epilepsy Camp in Northern California. This group, in addition to the 17 other groups, will experience all camp has to offer, including the 210 foot zip line, ropes course, rock wall, swimming pool, and open meadows to enjoy themselves and just be kids.

## **LARPD Offers Series of Classes for Caregivers**

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is offering a Spring Caregiving Series running March 14 through June. A variety of class offerings will be held during this time.

The Spring Caregiving Series is designed with current and future family caregivers in mind adults who may be caring for a parent, a spouse, a neighbor or a friend. All of the classes will be offered through LARPD Senior Services, using community experts as instructors. Classes will be held at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5759 or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

They include the following: Using Music to Interact Beyond Dementia: Certified Music Therapist Jennifer Geiger will teach participants how to enhance their interaction with older adults, especially those with dementia. Those in the class will learn how music can improve quality of life, ease tension and more. No prior musical experience is needed. The class is \$20 and will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 14. Class No. 8000.

Assistive Devices and Transfer Training: Attendees will learn how to safely transfer an-

#### other person and when someone should use an assistive device such as a walker or wheelchair. Physical Therapist Terry Moore will also teach how to strengthen back muscles and proper body mechanics. The class is \$20 and will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 30. Class No. 8001.

Caring for Dying: The Art of Being Present: This seminar will feature a presentation of the documentary "Caring for Dying: The Art of Being Present." The class, led by filmmaker Michelle Peticolas and family therapist Michael Stephens, encourages interactive exploration of the challenges and rewards of this delicate subject. They will discuss being present for yourself and the dying individual as well as exploring feelings and concerns. Group discussions and important caregiving facts will be explored. The class is \$20 and will be held from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 4. Class No. 8002.

Medi-Cal for Long-Term Care: Hannah Knafo of the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform nonprofit group will discuss Medi-Cal eligibility, estate recovery, pre-placement assistance and more. Knafo will guide attendees through this of-

ten-complicated process. The class is \$15 and will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14. Class No. 8003.

It Takes Two: This four-week class will present a refreshing approach to understanding and coping with dementia behaviors. Beth Logan of the nonprofit Family Caregiver Alliance will offer this in-depth series of classes to help participants learn new skills to handle troubling behavior, feel more confident and positive about the caregiving role and learn more about the affected individual's ability to understand and communicate. The class has a suggested donation of \$100 and will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays from April 27 to May 18. Class No. 8005.

Preserving Assets Throughout the Continuum of Care: Julie Fielder, a registered nurse and attorney, will share information on important legal documents necessary to plan for current and future needs. Learn how to use tax laws, public benefits, VA assistance, long term care insurance and more at any level of care. Attendees will learn the key components to a comprehensive plan to help preserve assets and cover costs as care needs evolve. This class will help ensure your loved one has the best care at any level.

The class is \$20 and will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 26. Class No. 8004.

Helping Yourself So You Can Help Your Loved One: Participants will learn what they, as caregivers, need to do to take care of themselves, too. Micheal Pope of Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay will discuss how caregivers' needs change as the dementia progresses and how to address these changes. She will also discuss ways to cope with family dynamics and how to find out about useful community resources that may help alleviate caregiving responsibilities. This class is \$20 and will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 6. Class No. 8006.

In addition to these classes at the Community Center, Jann Oldenburg of Senior Visionary Services will escort a group to tour board-and-care and assisted living facilities. Those who join will learn what to look for, what to avoid and the differences among levels of care. The tour date is to be determined. Interested parties can call Sandra Kaya at 925-373-5759 for more information.

To register for any of these classes in the Spring Čaregiving Series, call 925-373-5700 or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

## Fit for Life Programs Focus on the Brain

The Pleasanton Library will present three programs on the brain as part of its Fit for Life series.

21st Century Neurosurgery, is the presentation by Dr. Ronnie Mimran, Neurosurgeon, of Pacific Brain and Spine Medical Group, Inc. at the Pleasanton

sented by Erica Monasterio, RN, MN. FNP-BC Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Nursing, Division of Adolescent Medicine and Department of Family Health Care Nursing, University of California, San Francisco. The program will be 7 p.m. Thurs., March

19 at the Pleasanton Library. Monasterio will present a free

modifying their own risk. Her special interests are the integration of behavioral health and sexual health services for youth into primary care settings.

The Aging Brain: Retaining Brain Abilities, is the topic of a presentation by Dr. Deborah Barnes, assistant professor of psytween 'normal' brain aging and dementia, and the evidence that physical and mental activity may enhance brain function and possibly delay dementia onset. Neuropsychiatric disorders such as dementia and depression are common and debilitating in older adults. Dr. Barnes' research at the San Francisco Veterans Af-

#### SUNOL (continued from page one)

superintendent Molleen Barnes, and facilities manager Lowell Hoxie for backing the gardens' creation.

At many of the grade levels, the crops are tied to subjects being studied indoors. The fourthgraders learn about the Mission period in California history, so they are planting grapes, a citrus tree, and the types of seasonal vegetables the missionaries would have planted.

The sixth grade studies ancient Egypt, so those students will have a flax farm, and learn how linen was made. The seventh-and-eighth-graders will create a Shakespeare garden. It will have roses and herbs. "If you read his plays and poems, certain plants are in his work. They include lavender, roses, rosemary, and thyme," said Bentley.

Art classes can use the garden as a place to sketch or paint, as well as writing poetry. "It is truly an outdoor classroom," said Bentley.

Where our modern foods come from is the work being accomplished by first- graders. They have a world map, and learned to stick pins in it to show the various countries that were the origin of specific foods. Who knew that carrots, purple in those days, came from Afghanistan? Or that spinach first grew in Nepal? The first-graders tracked down nine different countries in their hunt.

The second graders work in the front garden, which has been designated a certified wildlife habitat garden. To win certification from the National Wildlife

Federation, the students had to locate a water source, (one is a nearby creek for egrets and great blue heron, the other the school garden hose), provide ground cover that protects young in the species, and food to sustain the animals. They found that milkweed is food for monarch butterflies.

Another parent volunteer, Jessica Fox of Fremont, was instrumental in obtaining the accreditation for the garden. It's a carryover from her ecology degree. Fox works as a consultant for utility companies nationally, advising them on improving sustainable business practices.

Other grades have their activities. The fifth graders are collecting scraps at school, and composting them. Third-graders will grow sunflowers to attract bees, in an effort to help rebuild the shrinking bee population in the United States. When the sunflowers go to seed, the kids will collect them, so that the following year's third-grade class can

do new planting. The school is applying for a \$50,000 grant from the Altamont Advisory Board, which was created as part of the Altamont Landfill settlement a few years ago. Education about ecology is one of the categories for funding.

The grant would fund a fulltime person to help integrate the garden and habitat further into the curriculum. That person could also establish a farmers market at the school, said Fox. Sunol residents could be invited to set up their own stands, too.

Library at 7 p.m. on March 16.

Dr. Mimran will offer a free overview of the latest developments in neurosurgical procedures. This program is celebrating Brain Awareness Week and is funded by the Fit for Life program of Libraries for the Future in partnership with the MetLife Foundation.

Dr. Mimran received numerous awards and honors throughout his educational experience, including the "Charles Shank Award for Excellence in Neurosurgery," and "University of Florida College of Medicine Outstanding Resident Educator." He has published numerous articles on the minimally invasive treatment of spinal disorders. After completing his Neurosurgery Residency, he moved to the Bay area and joined the team at Pacific Brain and Spine.

Dr. Mimran is board eligible with the American Board of Neurological Surgery. He is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and the AANS/CNS Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves. His practice focuses on surgical and non-surgical treatment of brain and spinal disorders, with an emphasis on minimally invasive techniques for the spine.

The Adolescent Brain and Behavior, is a program to be pre-

slideshow and talk about the adolescent brain and the biological reasons why teenagers behave the way they do. Parents of teens and pre-teens will find answers to their questions at this thoughtful presentation.

Monasterio is a Family Nurse Practitioner in the Division of Adolescent Medicine at University of California, San Francisco, and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Nursing. She is the Nurse Faculty in the Leadership Education in Adolescent Health program, an interdisciplinary training program designed to enhance health professional's abilities to provide health, mental health and social services to youth, as well as to develop and implement programs on a local, state and national levels to promote wellness among young people.

Monasterio's expertise is in working with high risk youth in community based settings and developing and monitoring primary care programs to serve marginalized youth. She is also a trainer whose focus has been training health care and social service professionals to increase their knowledge base, sensitivity and skills in working with adolescents, particularly in the areas of adolescent development, risk and resilience, sexuality, sexual minority youth, substance involvement and engaging in interventions to support youth in

chiatry at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center, University of California, SF. The program is at 2 p.m. Sat., March 28 at the Pleasanton Library.

Dr. Barnes, an epidemiologist who studies cognitive decline and dementia in older adults, will discuss what types of changes typically occur in memory and thinking abilities as people age, the differences be-

fairs Medical Center focuses on the identification of factors that may help preserve cognitive function and prevent dementia.

These programs are funded in part by a grant from Fit for Life, an initiative of Libraries for the Future and Metropolitan Life. For more info regarding the programs, call Penny Johnson at 931-3405.

vsp



ValleyEyeCareCenter.com

Noses to toes, both can smell bad. We'll work hard for you to discover the cause. Call us for an appointment.

Livermore/Pleasanton **Pediatrics** 925.455.5050



## SHORT NOTES

#### Essay Contest

The Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated will award scholarships of \$500 each to two winners of a nonpartisan essay contest.

The contest is open to any high school senior living or attending school in Dublin, Pleasanton or Livermore who plans to attend a two- or four-year academic college in Fall 2009. Eligible students must submit an original essay of at least 500 words, presented as an open letter to Congress, addressing the future tax implications for today's high school generation as they pertain to one of the following topics: (1) the 2009 Federal economic stimulus package, (2) nationalization of health care, or (3) immigration reform

Students should go to www.trivalleyrepublicanwomen.org for complete rules and submission requirements. Essays submitted by regular first-class mail must be postmarked by April 22 and sent to the address indicated on the website. Essays submitted by email must be sent no later than April 24 to jmpersico@comcast.net. Questions should be directed to that email address. Winners will be announced May

#### LVPAC Fundraiser

Scheduled to be held March 30 – April 5 at the PGA TOUR's TPC San Francisco Bay at Stonebrae in Hayward, the Nationwide Tour's 2009 Stonebrae Classic will give Bay Area charities the opportunity to participate

in Tickets Fore Charity. Registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations are invited to participate by selling special \$20 weekly grounds tickets to the Stonebrae Classic. 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to charity. Each participating organization will receive 75% of the proceeds from the tickets they sell, with the remaining 25% donated to San Leandro-based George Mark Children's House.

Among the local nonprofits selling tickets is the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center.

The Stonebrae Classic will feature 144 players competing in 72 holes of stroke play, with a cut after 36 holes. All four rounds of the Stonebrae Classic will be televised on Golf Channel, the exclusive television home of the Nationwide Tour.

Non-profit organizations interested in participating in the program may call the Stonebrae Classic tournament of-fice at (510) 728-7903. To purchase tickets to the Stonebrae Classic and designate your favorite participating charity as the beneficiary, please call the tournament office or order tickets online at www.stonebraeclassic.com.

TPC San Francisco Bay is located at 222 Country Club Drive in Hayward. For tickets and more information call (510) 728-7903 or visit www.stonebraeclassic.com.

#### Nature Programs

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff is offering two nature programs this weekend.

A Holdener Hike is set for Sat., March 14 at 2 p.m. Meet Ranger Amy Holitzer at the east end of Hansen Road.

The group will explore little-known Holdener Park. Blue-eyed grass, wild onion, blue dicks, buttercups, Johnny jump-ups, shooting stars and wallybaskets - Holdener has them all and more. Wear sturdy shoes, and prepare for some steep off-trail trek-king. The views and flowers will be well worth the effort. Call 925-960-2400 for directions.

Birds are the topic of the Sun., March 15 program. Meet Ranger Dawn Soles at 2 p.m. at Veterans Park in the picnic area. There are a wide variety of birds in color, shape, size and habit.

Division, Certified Farmers' Market Program, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, 95814 or e-mailed aba@cdfa.ca.gov. Please contact Mr. Miller at (916) 445-2180 for additional information.

#### Jr. Ranger Program

Mount Diablo State Park taking signups for the Spring 2009 Junior Ranger Program. During this Program, kids will have an opportunity to learn about wildlife, geology and many other topics. Hosted by a state park ranger and a park docent, each session will include classroom presentations, hands-on activities and a hike. Awards will be given at each stage of completion.

Children, ages 7 to 12, plus one accompanying adult are eligible to participate. Sessions will be held at various locations in the Park. The five Saturday sessions will begin May 2nd and conclude June 6th. Each session runs from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Reg-istration is limited to 15 children, plus one parent per child. While there is no charge for the program, payment of the Park's entrance fee is required.

For more information or to register, contact Steve Elliott at 925-362-8697 or by email at SAE612@msn.com. Advance registration is required. This program is sponsored by Mount Diablo State Park in cooperation with the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association.

California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Prior to arrival, participants with disabilities who need assistance should contact Ranger Scott Poole at 925-837-6129.

#### Springtown Library

March Music Madness will be offered at the Springtown Branch of the Livermore Library at 11 a.m. on Sat., March 14. Children will be invited to sing and play on a variety of musical instruments as storyteller John Weaver leads them in song. John will also read books about music.

The new Baby Storytime (10:30 a.m.) and Preschool Storytime (11 a.m.) are offered every Thursday through May! These programs will take place at

the Springtown Branch of the Livermore Public Library, 998 Bluebell Drive, just off I-580 at the Springtown exit, next to the duck pond. Open to the blic. Free of charge. Call (925) 373-5517, or drop by public

the Springtown Branch Library, for more information.

#### Students Helping

Students at Harvest Park Middle School in Pleasanton combined classroom learning with service learning.

As a support activity to reading the novel Where the Red Fern Grows, students made dog toys and treats in the school colors to sell. For every dog toy sold, the students will donate one to the local animal shelter. All proceeds will go to Tri-Valley Animal Rescue in Dublin.

Last Saturday, February 21, the students had a booth at the Farmers' Market in downtown Pleasanton where they sold their items.

#### **Beetle Party**

After a year of tender, loving care and careful attention to details, Liver-more Collision Center has given "Barney the Bug" a new lease on life with a complete and total restoration. To celebrate the vintage Beetle's "coming out of the garage" event, a party will be held on Friday, March 13, 2009, from 11:00AM to 2:00PM with free hot dogs and door prizes.

Owner Gerry Mueller is thrilled to be back behind the wheel of his sea blue Bug, which he purchased brand-new in 1965 for little more than \$2,000. By the time he turned it over to Bill and Robin

sion repair shops that do complete restoration projects, including repainting and custom work. For more information, go to www.livermorecollisioncenter.com or call 925-443-2848.

#### School Going Green

St. Raymond School in Dublin is working with Amador Valley Industries and the school's lunch provider, Children Choice to launch a "Go Green" Program. All the new bins were provided through a grant. They are holding a big assembly next Wednesday and Thursday to introduce this new program. This new program is saving hun-

dreds of dollars along with helping to recycle reduce and reuse. This effort was planned by the Student Council of St. Raymond School.

#### Autism Treatments

"Treating the Toxic Cascade - New Medical Treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders" is the topic of a program to be presented at the Pleasanton Library on March 28 at 11 a.m.

Dr. Lynne Mielke will discuss the recent data on the autism epidemic, possible causes of autism, and the fact that autism is a multi-system medical disorder that requires advanced medical treatment.

Mielke is the founder of Develop-mental Spectrums clinic in Pleasanton, a clinic devoted to treating the underlying medical problems found in Autistic children.

She has presented numerous talks on the subject of treating Autism and other brain injuries in the community to parent and doctor groups, has trained other doctors in the application of autism treatment principles and protocols, networks frequently with other top autism doctors around the country, has been invited to the prestigious ARI Think Tanks many times, conducts research on effective treatments and clinical findings, and has been interviewed extensively in the media, including local and national newspapers and television, on this topic. Helping autistic children and their families is her personal and professional mission.

This program was funded in part by a grant from Fit for Life, an initiative of Libraries for the Future and Metropoli-tan Life. For more info regarding the program call Penny Johnson at 931-3405.

The program is free and open to all. No registration required.

#### Wood Working Classes

Hand tool expert Rob Cosman will be teaching three different wood working classes on Saturday, March 28th at the Woodcraft Store in Dublin.

Cosman has a bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology/Furniture De-sign from BYU and has worked with many of the world's best known craftsmen, including Tage Frid, Alan Peters, and Sam Maloof. His first seminar in Dublin will focus on Hand Plane Tune-Ups and Sharpening, the second on Hand Cut Mortise and Tenon joints, and the third on Hand Cut Dovetails. Each class will be three hours long. They run from 9 a.m. to noon, noon to 3 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m.

For information regarding times and tuition, call Woodcraft at (925) 875-9988.

#### Chocolate & Cabernet

Fenestra Winery will be hosting their annual "Chocolate and Cabernet Weekend" on March 21 & 22 from noon to 5pm, both days. Red wines are paired with different chocolate dishes, both savory recipes and sweet chocolate treats.

The fee is \$10 per person (\$5 for non-drinkers and children), and includes wine samples, buffet plate, logo decadent pairing for your taste buds. Wine club members get in an hour early at 11am on March 21st only "This is one of our most popular events," stated winemaker, Brent Amos. "Chocolate and wine is a great pairing and this weekend attracts a lot of wine and chocolate lovers.' Guest chefs are from Gimanelli's Deli in Pleasanton and some homemade recipes from Fenestra's own tast-ing room staff. This year's dishes will feature: Chocolate Ťrail Mix; Wild Mushroom Ragout; Almond and Chocolate-stuffed Figs; Cream Cheese Chocolate Cupcakes; Chocolate Banana Nut Bread; Chocolate Vegetarian Chili; and a White Chocolate Cheesecake paired with Fenestra's Sweet Viognier dessert vine. The winery is open for sales and tasting every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, with the website et information, visit the website at www.fenestrawinery.com or email info@fenestrawinery.com. The win-ery is located at 83 Vallecitos Road in Livermore.

19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in San Ramon.

#### Artifacts Displayed

"Forgotten Contributions of the Bay Area Chinese," a collection of artifacts from a San Leandro Reservoir dig, opened Friday, March 6 in the Califor-nia State University, East Bay C.E. Smith Museum of Anthropology in Meiklejohn Hall 4047 on the Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.

The free exhibit will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday from March 9-June 11, except for March 23-32 and May 25.

The focal point of the exhibition honors the Chinese workers whose efforts created the San Leandro Reservoir. Their story was virtually un-known until archaeological excavations beginning 20 years ago unearthed a Lake Chabot labor camp, exposing the unseen daily life of more than 800 Chinese people.

Artifacts from the original excavation, headed by Anthropology Professor George Miller, include tools, bottles, opium paraphernalia, and other clues to the lives of the laborers.

Information is at http:// class.csueastbay.edu/anthropology-museum/ or call 510-885-7414.

Campus parking is \$5 per vehicle per day. Permits may be purchased from machines in a lot across Harder

Road from Meiklejohn Hall, or in lots

E2, F, G, H, K or N.

#### Gem Faire

The 20th annual Gem Faire will be held March 13-15 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sat. and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sun.

Admission is \$5, valid for the entire weekend.

Nearly 70 dealers will offer a selection of fine jewelry, gems, beads, crys-tals, minerals, findings and more. Fin-ished and unfinished jewelry, rare gemstones and jewelry making tools will be available under one roof

For more information, visit www.gemfaire.com. There is a fee to park at the fairgrounds.

#### Grad Night Fund-raising

Granada High Safe and Sober Grad Night Fundraising Opportunities include the fol-lowing: April 3, Poppy Ridge Golf Course Tournament to support Granada & Liver-more High Schools. Day of golf, lunch, BBQ dinner and prizes. Sponsorship and adver-tising opportunites available also. 100% of proceeds go to Safe and Sober Grad Night events at both schools. See school websites or contact Denise Mueller at 925-455-6822,

m u e 1 l e r  $_3$  9 @ a o 1 . c o m  $_$ (mailto:mueller39@ aol.com). The following restaurants are donating a portion of their sales on the following days towards the Grad Night event. Every Monday night at Mountain Mike's on First St. 20% goes to grad night; every Thursday night at Round Table on First St. 20%; 3/18 Arma-dillo Willy's on Tassajara in Dublin 5-9PM 20%; 3/19 Baja Fresh on N.Livermore Ave. all day 15%. Pick up a flyer at the Granada High office or go to www.granadagradnight.com to download a flyer to take with you and present for credit to the grad night when you go. If you forget your flyer you can still tell them you are there to support the graduating seniors at Granada

High in Livermore. Also: Umigo Racetrack is holding an evening on Wednesday March 25. Umigo Indoor Go Kart Track will be donating 20% of ticket sales when flver is presented. 11AM to 10 PM at 6538 Patterson Pass Rd in Livermore. Go to www.grandagradnight.com to download a flyer which has information on the racetrack and event. All racers must be 16 years of age or older or have completed the Umigo Jr. Racing class prior to or on day of this event in order to participate. Under 16? Get 7-9 of your friends together and book a Jr Racing Class on the day of the fundraise and get your Umigo Indoor Kart Racing license. Reservations are required. Racers must be at least 4'10" & 10 years of age. 925-373-RACE

from noon to 5 p.m.

Newly released wines include Pinot Grigio, Sauvignon Blanc, '07 Cabernet, and 06 Petite Sirah Port. The \$20 fee includes live music, heavy appetizers, keepsake wine stem, various varietal tasting and barrel sampling.

No reservations are required. The winery si located at 1188 Vineyard Pleasanton. Information is at 931-0744 01 www.mitchellkatzwinery.com.

Historic Garage Open

The 1915 Duarte Garage will be open on Sun., March 15 from 10 a.m. of the off off off of the second of the second of the off of the off of the second of the seco

The Lincoln Highway was the first transcontinental highway in the United States.

The Duarte Garage contains memorabilia form the early days of automo-biles, such as a collection of old California license plates, gas pumps, "Flying A" sings, old photos, and a tire repair shop area complete with old tools.

In addition, the garage houses a restored 1917 Model T fire truck and a 1944 Mack. Both are Livermore fire trucks that have been restored by volunteers. Presently, the crew is working on a 1920 Seagrave. It has been dis sembled down to the chassis and has been steam cleaned. The Livermore Heritage Guild op-

erates the Duarte Garage with an all volunteer staff. There is no charge for admission. Donations are appreciated and used for projects at the garage. For more information, call 443-9740.

#### **History Lecture Series**

The Livermore Heritage Guild's March history lecture will focus on older homes in the community.

Jeff Kaskey, president of the Livermore Heritage Guild will talk about the typical houses in Livermore's older neighborhoods, including the different architectural styles and deals and their historical significance.

The talk will provide information for those wishing to retain an authentic look to their homes when remodeling or upgrading. A representative from a local window company will be available to answer questions about repairing or replacing older windows for energy efficiency and proper operation.

The presentation will be on Wed., March 18 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Doors open at 7 p.m. The lecture starts at 7;30 p.m. Come early for refreshments and con-versations. The talk is open to everyone. A \$2 donation is suggested. For more information, call 443-9740.

#### 4-H Helps Community

From Feb. 28 - March 7, local Del Arroyo 4-Hers participated in the Tri-Valley Food Drive. Chaired by Del Arroyo 4-H member Jessica Smith, the 4-Hers handed out about 450 bags, each 4-H family handing out 50 to 60 bags, door to door. The food collected in the bio-degradable bags was do-nated to local food pantries.

#### Art Competition

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) has announced the details of the 2009 11th Congressional District Art Competition.

The competition is part of the nationwide annual Congressional Art Competition intended to showcase the

## **Registraion Underway for** Annual Bras for the Cause Walk

artistic talents and abilities of students in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories.

Each Member of Congress hosts a competition among high school stu-dents in his or her district. The winning artwork from each district is then fea-tured in a display in the busy corridor that connects the Cannon House Office Building with the U.S. Capitol, used daily by Members of Congress and visitors to Washington, D.C.

In addition to having his or her artwork on display in Washington, D.C., the Grand Prize winner from the 11th District also will be flown, with a guest, to Washington, D.C., to attend an awards ceremony on June 24, 2009.

The contest is open to all high school students who reside in the 11th Congressional District. Artwork is due by May 1, 2009. There are additional guidelines and

regulations on the artwork: Piece must be two-dimensional; each piece can be no larger than 30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, including the frame

Pieces can be submitted in several categories, including paintings, drawings, prints, and mixed media.

For more information on the contest, contact Cheri Clasen in Rep. McNerney's Pleasanton office at 925-737-0727.

The District 5170 Area 4 Speech Contest was held last week at the Dublin

Radisson Hotel under the leadership of

President Bob Tucknott and Area Con-

sented. The contestants, along with the school and club they represented, were

as follows: Katy Sanlis, Livermore High,

Livermore Club (First place); Annie Arcuri, Dublin High, Dublin Club (Sec-

ond place); Nidhi Mastey, Foothill High,

Tri-Valley Club (Third place); Charles Guo, Foothill High, Pleasanton North Club; Chris Pulido, Amador High, Pleas-

anton Club; and Elizabeth Camacho, Granada High, Livermore Valley Club.

held next week, pitting the winners

from Areas 1-5 in one contest and those

from 6-10 in a second. The top two

speakers from each of the two regions

will compete for the District Champion

on Sunday April19, on the final day of

The City of Livermore has issued a

Proclamation that the week of March 8th - 14th should be recognized as Girl Scout Week. Green ribbons with cop-

ies of the proclamation can be seen adorning the trees of First Street com-

Girl Scouts are selling cookies from now until March 22nd. Booths will be

located around Livermore. Downtown

Safeway, Walmart, and Lucky's on Concannon Blvd. are a few of the retail

establishments that are hosting booth

locations for Girl Scouts. Become a Girl Scout at Thinking

Day. Girl Scouts of Livermore will

have a day of fun and food to explore foods and festivities celebrated by Girl

in grades K-5 may register for Girl Scouts at this event. Fee of \$14.00 per

girl and \$13.50 per adult covers pro-

gram and Girl Scout membership. Thinking Day will be held at Robertson

Livermore Community Center, Satur-

day, March 14, from 11am-1:30pm. To register for the event RSVP to Julee

Melhus by Friday, March 13th at 1(800)

447-4475 ext 108.

Girls

Scouts from all over the world.

the District Celebration.

**Girl Scout Activities** 

memorating this recognition.

Two sets of regional finals will be

All six Area 4 clubs were repre-

Rotary Speech Contest

test Director Mike Kyle.

How did they get that color? How come they can fly? What exactly makes a bird a bird anyway?

There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs. Participants may call 925-960-2400 or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us for more information

#### Farmers' Market Committee

There are six member vacancies and 17 alternate member vacancies on the Certified Farmers' Market Advisory Committee. The vacancies in-clude two certified producer representatives; seven alternate certified producer representatives; four alternate certified farmers' market manager representatives; three major certified farmers' market representatives; three alternate major certified farmers' market representatives; one county agricultural commissioner representative; two vacant alternate county agricultural commissioner representatives; and one alternate public member representative.

The certified producer representatives must be active in the direct sales or marketing of certified agricultural products at certified farmers' markets.

The Certified Farmers' Market Advisory Committee is charged with making recommendations to the Secretary on legislation, regulations, enforcement issues, and administrative policies and procedures pertaining to the direct marketing of agricultural prod-ucts at certified farmers' markets. The committee also recommends the annual budget and fees to provide enforcement services.

The committee generally meets two times per year in Northern California. Members of the committee receive no compensation, but are entitled to receive travel expense reimbursement. The term of office for a member of the committee is two years. Notification of the committee meetings and their meeting minutes can be found via the Internet from the Department's web page by going to http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ meetings.html

Individuals interested in being considered for appointment as a member or an alternate member should send a letter of consideration and include a letter of recommendation from the industry. Nominations will be accepted until the positions are filled. Nominations can be sent to Mr. Gerry Miller, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Inspection Services



Miller in 2008, the Volkswagen was probably worth \$100 in salvage parts. Today, less than a year later, Barney's value is more than \$40,000.

After surviving several fender-benders and other minor accidents, the little bug was put out of commission when it was side-swiped by a red light runner on a cold night in January 1988. "The insurance company only paid \$750 for salvage. I knew it was going to take a lot more money to restore old Barney," says Mueller. So he put the car in the garage and waited for the right opportunity, which finally came in 2006 after selling his house. Finding himself with some extra cash on hand, Mueller decided it was time to bring his beloved Barney back to life. He was referred to Bill Miller at Livermore Collision Center who agreed to under-

take Barney's transformation. The Millers said they enjoy spend-ing the time and effort restoring vintage cars because they take pleasure in bringing back fond memories to the original owners. "Restoring and customizing vehicles is a personal journey for both the owners and us," says Robin. "With the production of newer vehicles such as hybrids, vintage cars today are a form of art that give us pleasant reminders of the past."

Owners are attached to their vehicles in so many ways - be it their first car, a car the family took on vacation, or a friend's car from high school or college. Even so, it's rare for someone like Gerry Mueller to still own his car after 44 years and have it in like-new condition. As for Mueller, he's simply looking forward to cruising California's beautiful and historic highways once again with Barney the Bug.

Livermore Collision Center (LCC) is one of the last few remaining colli-

#### Farm Spruce-up

Help spruce up Forest Home Farms for spring on Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 9am to 12pm. There'll be projects in the vegetable garden, the wildlife garden and around the farm. Bring gloves and garden tools. Re-freshments will be provided. This is a free volunteer event, perfect for families, scout groups, brownie troops and service clubs

Call 925-973-3200 to register for Activity #59958 or register online at www.sanramonrecguide.com. Call the farm at 925-973-3284 for more information

Forest Home Farms is located at

#### **Dictionaries for Students**

Each year, for the past six years, the MacMillan Dictionary is given to students at eleven school sites for use at home and school. The dictionary contains 35,000

words and includes a history of many words as well as sections on the U.S. states and presidents, nations of the world, maps, geometric shapes, solar systems and a thesaurus. On the inside of the cover is a personalized name plate for each child.

The project is funded by the Rotarians of Livermore, the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore and the Hindu Community and Cultural Center. Teams of local volunteers from these groups visit third grade classrooms to present the books to the children.

The goal is to continue to give the book to all third grade students every ear, until eventually all Livermore children have one. To support the project for future years, any donation would be welcome. Contact the Livermore Community Dictionaries for Youth Scholars Project at Carol Howell, Dictionary Chairperson, 1252 De Paul Way, Livermore, CA 94550. Dictionaries were presented at three

school sites recently: the Livermore Valley Charter School, Marylin Avenue School, and Sunset School

#### Wine Release

Mitchell Katz Winery will host a wine release event on Sat., March 21

#### Due to the recent sale of the properties

FINE JEWELRY COLLECTION: that would surpass most jewelry stores from European and Asian Estates well over 100 certified and appraised pieces including 18 cts Diamond necklace; 3.24 cts and 2.03 cts Diamond stud earrings plus Ruby, Emerald, Tanzanite and Sapphire in rings, earrings and necklaces. An elegant necklace in 19.65 cts. Emerald and 6.07 cts Diamond. Custom designed men's watch 4.34 cts, 2 new Breiting watches plus other fine jeweiry pieces. FINE ART COLLECTION: Maimon Oil, Tarkay Watercolors; Marc Chagali Lithographs, Rare Salvador Dali Lithographs; Peter Max Original brush strokes and Pino Giclee all signed; Also Serioraphs/ Etchings/ Oils from different artists. SPORTS & ROCK MEMORABILIA: A collection of memorabilia from Miley Cyrus Signed Guitar to Tim Brown & John Elway signed jerseys and more to come. A DESGINER'S TREASURE: Bronze Statues including Large Fountains, horses,

Tri-Valley SOCKs has announced that once again, the Bras for the Cause walk will be held on Mother's Day weekend.

The fourth annual "Bras for the Cause" Breast Cancer Walk will take place in downtown Pleasanton, on Saturday night, May 9, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Interested persons are invited to get out their walking shoes and decorate a bra and the leisurely paced, 10-kilometer moonlit walk with a group of spirited, supportive sisters and brave brothers. (Yes, men have to wear a bra, too!).

All proceeds from the walk go to the Tri-Valley's Axis Community Health Center and the San Francisco Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. In 2008, the Bras for the Cause Walk generated more than \$100,000 toward the fight again breast cancer.

To register as a walker or to find information on corporate sponsorship, please see our website: www.trivalleysocks.org or email us at walk@trivalleysocks.org

Tri-Valley SOCKs raises money for breast cancer research, treatment, and educational programs. The group operates with no paid staff and is run completely by hardworking, dedicated, and funloving volunteers. Tri-Valley SOCKs is a Not-for-Profit corporation organized and existing under the California State Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, with recognition as a 501(c)(3) corporation status.





"all items are subject to change availability without prior notice

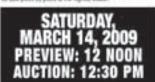
giraftes, dolphins and other animals. Also Tiltany- style lamps, porcelain, crystals, etc. HANDMADE RUGS: A handmade rug collection from Iran, India, Pakistan, Tibet silk and wool including round and runners all

MANY ITEMS UNRESERVED

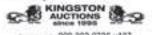


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Folkgrass duo to perform concert.

### Still On the Hill Performs at Pleasanton Library

Still On The Hill, the Ozark Ozark rootstock. The result is a Folkgrass duo will perform at the Pleasanton Library on March 15 at 2 p.m.

At the very heart of the "folkgrass" phenomenon is a duo known as Still on the Hill (Kelly Mulhollan and Donna Stjerna). This duo will be making a stop in the Pleasanton area. They have been making waves all over the U.S., Canada and Europe with their hard-to-classify style that falls somewhere between folk and bluegrass.

Many writers have tried to describe Still on the Hill but no one has captured their essence more eloquently than Julie Koehler, review editor for Bluegrass Now: "These musicians have grafted the wild climbing vines of bluegrass, folk, classical and mountain music onto the hardiest of yet-to-be-named hybrid music that compels people to stop and listen, to pause in their hectic lives and pay attention to something they've never heard before. It's magic, and there's simply not enough magic in the world today.

Still on the Hill has proved itself a favorite at many prestigious festivals and venues here and abroad, including the Kerrville Folk Festival, the Philadelphia Folk Festival and countless others. Their own region, the Ozarks, has voted them "Best Folk Band" for 4 years and they are now members of the Hall of Fame.

There is no admission charge. No registration is required. For information, call Penny Johnson, 925/931-3405.

## Concert Theme, 'From Spanish Gypsies to Danish Kings'

The Livermore-Amador Symphony will perform a concert with the theme, "From Spanish Gypsies to Danish Kings" at the Bankhead Theter in Livermore on March 28.

A prelude talk will be from 7 to 7:30 p.m. The concert begins at 8 p.m.

Music featured in the Livermore-Amador Symphony's concert spans a wide geographical area and was written over a period of time extending from the eighteenth century to the present day. The underlying theme of the concert, however, is both universal and human. Each piece deals with passion, whether physical in nature or the love of one's coun-

Mozart's Cosi fan tutte overture is all froth and coquettishness (you can almost hear the fluttery conversation behind the



**Jeff Pelletier** 

fans.) In Bizet's eternally favorite, Carmen, Suite No. 2, the music takes on a much more sensual, wilder rhythm. It evokes the darker side of human love, with loss of innocence, vanity, and sensuality driven to obsession. Sibelius' incidental music written for the historical drama King Christian II also reflects the many moods of human passion sorrow, nostalgia and gaiety.

With Khachaturian's concerto for flute and orchestra, we leave the world of the theatre and share the melodies inspired by the Armenian landscapes and folk music of Armenia. Composer of the Armenian National anthem, Khachaturian was at one time censored by the communist movement as being "politically incorrect". The Livermore-Amador Symphony is fortunate to welcome back flutist, Jeff Pelletier, as featured soloist for this work.

Jeff Pelletier, the Symphony's principal flute player, until his move out of the Bay Area, began his professional career in the East where he performed in master classes and was a member of a professional flute choir, "The Howlin' Winds of Maine" that toured throughout the country. After his arrival in California he was principal flute with Ohlone Wind Orchestra and founder of the San Francisco based Wind Quintet Ventos.

The Symphony is including the Las Positas College Orchestra joining in the performance of Carmen Suite No.2. The Las Positas College Orchestra, conducted by Cindy Browne Rosefield, was formed in 2005 to provide students an opportunity to rehearse and perform a variety of orchestral works by noted composers.

Tickets are available through the Bankhead Theater box office at 2400 First Street, Livermore, or online at bankheadtheater.org or by calling (925) 373-6800.

Gino Samyn (Piano) studied

at the Lille Conservatory of Mu-

sic where he earned a Saxophone

gold medal in 1992. Cyrille

Gabet (Accordion/Percussion)

started performing in a singing

group when he was 6 years old,

and won 1st prize at the National

Superior Conservatory of Paris in

1995 (classical percussions).

Daniel Fabricant (Bass) has per-

formed as a freelance bassist with

world-class acts such as Mary

Wilson of the Supremes, Lorna

Luft, Lisa Vroman, Andrea

Marcovicci, Klea Blackhurst,

Linda Lavin, Paula West and

cated at 2400 First Street in

Downtown Livermore. The ticket

office is open Tuesday through

Saturday from 12:00 noon to

6:00 p.m. To purchase tickets call

visit

925-373-6800 or

www.bankheadtheater.org.

The Bankhead Theater is lo-

Spencer Day.

petition in Cannes.

## French 'Songbird' Inhabits the Role of Edith Piaf

Jil Aigrot performed as the voice for Academy Award winner Marion Cotillard in "La Vie en Rose." She will perform March 16 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Aigrot inhabits the role of one of her country's most celebrated songstresses, Edith Piaf. Previously an actress, she has recently thrown herself into the performance that brought her to the big screen in the first place-releasing "Words of Love," a collection which includes Aigrot's interpretations of nearly 20 of Piaf's songs.

The performance in Livermore begins at 8 p.m.

Aigrot was discovered by Ginou Richer, Edith Piaf's close friend and personal secretary. Shortly after their chance meeting, Jil Aigrot was chosen to be the singing voice of the great Edith Piaf in Olivier Dahan's Academy Award-winning film, "La Vie en Rose."

Aigrot is an enthusiastic performer and delivers a wonderful homage to Piaf on stage. Jil trained at the Cannes Music Academy and received First Place honors in the singing com-

#### Amador Valley and Foothill high schools in Pleasanton will stage the musical, "Bye Bye Birdie" this spring.

Performances are March 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Amador Theater.

Bye Bye Birdie Opens at Amador Theater

The story revolves around rock and roll superstar Conrad Birdie and the complications that arise when his agent stages a publicity stunt on The Ed Sullivan Show. Conrad has been drafted into the army. He will kiss one lucky girl from Sweet Apple, Ohio before being leaving for the army.

Songs in the production include "Put On A Happy Face," and "The Telephone Hour," not to mention the memorable title tune "Bye Bye Birdie."

Tickets are \$10 for students and \$12.00 for adults. Tickets are on sale at Civicartstickets.org

For more information, contact Kelsey Hartman, Drama Director, Amador Valley High School: khartman@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

## A Really Romantic Afternoon

#### by Susan Steinberg

A beautiful day outside, but even more beautiful inside Trinity Lutheran Church for the Pleasanton Chamber Players' ravishing concert, "The Rise of German Romanticism.

As meticulously crafted by the group's founder and prime mover, the indefatigable harpist/coordinator Dominique Piana, the program proved both entertaining and educational. Selections from little-known composers or unfamiliar works by famous names provided an enlightening retrospective of the first half of the 19th century in Germany, and the gradual shift from Classicism to Romanticism. The first work, ETA Hoffman's quintet for harp and strings (1807) was a perfect example of a composition couched in classical style but expanding to explore the vocabulary of romantic expression. Beginning with a lush opening movement, the piece moved into a slow plaintive Adagio with serene harp accompaniment to the strings' dialogue. Soon all were involved in merry scampering play, ending in a spirited pursuit. The final movement brought the dramatic tension characteristic of Romantic music, but still in a bright playful mood rather than the tragic despair of later composers. Here too there are no bravura solo segments for the harp, which would become more common in future works. A second quintet also added an unusual fifth instrument: a clarinet, which had become popular among composers in the early 19th century. Heinrich Baerman, himself a master clarinetist, wrote this piece in 1820, including virtuoso demands as daunting as Paganini's later violin showpieces. Listeners were fortunate to hear Gary Sears' brilliantly accomplished performance, impishly playful even during the most difficult passages. A surprise treat in the first movement was the familiar quotation from Mozart's popular Symphony in G. Minor, enhanced with many show-stopping embellishments for the clarinet. The second movement, Adagio, switched to a slower, more expressively longing melody line, like an aria from the popular Bel Canto operas of the period.

In contrast the final allegro's jaunty arpeggios and highly ornamented nonstop runs were breath-taking literally, as well as figuratively. One could well imagine a merry musical prankster like Till Eulenspiegel playing the scales that followed.

The piece closed with a lovely theme played with warmth and fluidity that combined romantic lyricism with robust musical athleticism in perfect balance, earning soloist Sears a welldeserved ovation from the audience Two short pieces closed the program's first half. Surprisingly, Franz Liszt's memorial elegy for Richard Wagner, although written as late as 1883, eschewed Liszt's usual flamboyance to revisit the peaceful spiritual realms of Wagner's opera "Parsifal". Beginning with the slow solemn tempo of a funeral procession, it culminated in a re-creation of the mystical Holy Grail theme, with exquisite shimmering in the high strings that truly provided a celestial musical experience. The next work by Carl Maria von Weber also began with a Preludio in slow march-like cadence before plunging into the Capriccioso. This quick-paced romp of quirky tempos featured themes that seem to chase each other up and down the strings, at one point practically sliding downhill until interrupted by the harp's slow serious chords. expected, France As Schubert's 1819 composition, Larghetto and Andante for clarinet and harp, allowed both instruments to express the soulful melodies that touch the heart and elevate the spirit. Minor key motifs of longing seem to express the musings of a poet saddened by his experiences in life. Completely captivating, but all too short. Robert Schuman's masterful 1849 work for cello and piano brought the beautifully sensitive partnership of Lawrence Granger and Priscilla Carter Granger to the stage. The deceptively simple, heartbreakingly-moving Adagio, was a model of economy sometimes reduced to one long drawn-out note of spiritual pufinally resolved in one great cathartic emotional rush. a foretaste of the great lush orchestral works to evolve over the next half-cen-

tury. The cello-piano duo was joined by Karen Stasko Veca, flute for the concert's final work, a trio by C.M. van Weber. Hauntingly beautiful minor-key phrases echoed by the flute and violin finished in a magical



Jil Aigrot performs in Livermore.

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auditions by appointment on Mon-day, March 16, at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The church is located at the corner of 4th and L Streets. The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The Chorale performs a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contempo-rary, and folk to jazz. To schedule an appointment, call (925) 462-4205. Auditions are for the May 9th concert "Movie and Musical Favorites," and

the upcoming 2009-2010 season. First Annual Barrel Tasting, hosted by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association on March 28 and 29, noon to 5 p.m. Over 20 wineries will be participating. This Association fundraiser event is \$20 advance or \$25 at the barrels. Fee includes a

Livermore. Information 373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle, two concerts by Valley Concert Chorale Sat., March 14, 8 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasanton, and Sun., March 15, 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Livermore. www.valleyconcertchorale.org. **Honk**, a contemporary re-telling of the

story of the Ugly Duckling, to be staged by Christensen Middle School. Performances are held at Livermore High School Performing Arts The-atre in Livermore. Frid., March 13, Sat., March 14, and Sat., March 21 at 7pm. One matinee performance is offered on Sunday, March 22 at 2pm. Tickets are \$6-\$8 and can be purchased in advance by email at tix4honk@gmail.com or at the door 30 minutes prior to the show.

Ohlone College Wind Orchestra, Winter Concert, 2 p.m. Sun., March

Saints will perform in a dance festival entitled, "A Brand New Year," on March 21, 7 PM, in the Dublin High School gymnasium, 8151 Village Parkway, Dublin. Performances will include the waltz, country swing, the salsa, and other specialty numbers. The performance is free of charge

and the public is invited. Aquila Theatre Company, William Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors, Mon., March 23, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore. Aquila's pro-duction of Shakespeare's tale of two sets of identical twins whose lives get turned upside down before they are finally put in order relies not only on slapstick comedy, but also on wonderful performances and imagina-tive staging. \$45/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students. 925.373.6800 or online at

www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Auditions, Valley Concert Chorale,

rity. The following Adagio changed to the drama of mounting emotional turmoil so beloved by the Romantics. The heroic struggle of a "storm-tossed soul"

blending of all three voices.

In contrast the scherzo introduced another Romantic element: the rustic folk music that seemed to embody the natural innocence and unconstrained joy of village peasants, whose festive dancing grew louder and more riotous than permitted by the strict social norms of straightlaced Vienna. (What a pleasantly unrealistic gloss on the actual lifelong toil and miserable poverty of the peasant class!)

As the appreciative audience applauded the quartet of Abraham Becker, Cecelia Huang, Micah Naler, and Gay Hagen Dunne, along with the superb soloists, special kudos were reserved for Dominique Piana, whose countless hours of effort had resulted in such a unique and fulfilling performance.

Many commented, as did this reviewer, on her eloquent and enlightening program notes, some of the best in the Bay Area. And everyone echoed regret that it would be another year until the next concert.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the local community could sponsor more frequent performances by this impressive group of professional musicians who actually live in our Valley? Anyone interested in becoming involved in such an effort (no, you needn't be a rich donor), may contact Ms. Piana at 925-455-5335 or dominiquepiana@comcast.net.

Reidel crystal logo tasting glass. www.lvwine.org.

- St. Paddy's Day Celebration at Crooked Vine and Stony Ridge Winery, Sat., March 14, noon to 5 p.m. Specialty drinks, food, fun & festivities. \$10 per person, \$5 wine club members. 4948 Tesla Rd., Livermore. www.crookedvine.com Blues and rock and roll workshops,
- for adults and teens being formed by the Pianos N' Strings Music Teaching Studio in Dublin. Groups get together for two hours, once a week for weeks starting March 15. Bring your instrument and practice amp to the sessions. Keyboards, drums and a sound system are provided. The last session will be a live performance. Information call Philip at 556-4446 or go to www.pianosnstrings.com/ rockonor/blues.
- Forever Plaid, February 16 March 15. Willows Theater, Concord. Tick-ets start at just \$10 for all performances. Call (925) 798-1300 for details. Presented by Willows Theater Company
- Seussical, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre (formerly Pleasanton Playhouse) Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. March 13, 14, 15. Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m. Sun. 2 p.m. Ticket information 462-2121 or www.trivalleyrep.com.

The Sunol Reperiory Theatre, 2009 production the melodrama, "A Million Dollar Baby or A Hot Time in the Olde Town Tonight." Performances March 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, Sunol Glen School Theatre, corner of Main and Bond streets. Curtain 8 p.m. Tickets \$15 reserved seating (assigned on first come, first served basis). Proceeds to Benefit Sunol Glen School. www.sunol.net.

Craig Chaquico, Friday, March 13, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Valley Humane Society presents Jazzed About Pets. \$65. \$50, \$45, \$40. Tickets websales@livermoreperformingarts.org or call 925-373-6800.

The Marriage of Figaro, Livermore Valley Opera, March 14, 15, 20, 21, 22. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St.,

15. Compositions by local composers including Aquilanti's University of California Pictures, Heisinger's Hymn for Band, Bohmler's Varia tions on a Theme of Schubert, and Roumains' The Contrapuntal Liberation of Fur Elise, plus John Adams' Lollapalooza, Camille Sanit-Saens' Marche Militaire Francaise, and David R. Holsinger's spectacular To Tame the Perilous Skies, Adults \$15, seniors/staff/students \$10, under age 12 \$8. Smith Center at Ohlone College, 3600 Mission Blvd., Fremont (510) 659-6031 or www.smithcenterpresents.com.

Bye Bye Birdie, Amador Valley and Foothill High Schools performance, March 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28, 7:30 p.m. Ticket : \$10 for students, \$12 for adults. 931-3444, www.civicartstickets.org.

History lecture, A Nation Trans-formed, How the Civil War changed America forever. An event in the Ed Kinney Lecture Series, March 19. Presented by Gerald Henig at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA. Cost: \$10 donation, \$5 for museum members. Reservations are recommended. For reservations call 925-462-2766 www.museumonmain.org. Youth Dance Festival, Over 80 youth

from the Pleasanton Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Keyboard Conversations<sup>®</sup> with Jef frey Siegel, Pianist, Wed., March 25 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore, Jeffrey Siegel takes listeners on an intimate journey through classical music and its masters such a Rachmaninoff's "Etudes Tableaux, as Debussy's colorful and exotic "Preludes," and Mussorgsky's astonish-ing gallery of "Pictures at an Exhibition." \$45/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students. 925.373.6800 or online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org Guard and Percussion Show, Foothill High School band is hosting a winter guard and percussion show Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the large gym. This competition will feature more than 55 groups from all over Northern California. The admission fee of \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors. Food will be available for purchase. For more information about this upcoming

show go to www.foothillband.org Events/FGP/fgp.htm. Working, Las Positas College spring musical. Performances March 27, 28, April 3, 4, 5, 17, 18, 19. Musical based on the book by Studs Terkel. Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., Sunday at 2:00 p.m. in the theater at Las Positas College, 3033 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. \$10.00 general admission, \$7 seniors/students. 424-1100.



Special Si Saturda Tickets \$8	ID OF MUSIC NG-A-LONG Showing ay, March 14 at 1:00 .00 - 50% of the proceeds the CA Indie Film Festival
	Golden Globe WINNER for Best Actor - Mickey Rourke <b>THE WRESTLER</b> (R) Fri - Sun: 12:00* 2:15* 4:45 7:10 9:20 Mon - Thurs: 2:30 5:00 7:20 The start of the star
THE WRESTLER	Academy Award Winner for Best Picture, Best Director & Screenplay - 8 total Oscar Wins! SLUMDOG MILLIONARE Fri - Sun: 11:40 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:15
1722 First St	Mon - Thurs: 2:15 4:40 7:10 VINE CINEMA reet www.vinecinema.com 447-2545

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HE'S JUST NOT THAT	INTO YOU	PG13 DLP	12:25	3:40	6.40	9:35
MILK (PG13) DUP			12:30	3.45	6.30	9.20
HOTEL FOR DOGS (PG)	DLP		1.10			
GRAN TORINO (MD.P.				4:00	6:50	9:30



## Standing Ovation for Pianist Ghindin

#### By Nancy O'Connell

Several curtain calls and a standing ovation led to three generous encores from the Russian pianist, Alexander Ghindin on March 7th at the Bankhead Theater. The winner of the 2007 Cleveland International Piano Competition, Mr. Ghindin is no stranger to winning prestigious awards. When he was still a teenager he became the youngest winner of the International Tchaikovsky Competition. His formidable technique and amazing memory, coupled with a delicate, sure touch endear him to audiences everywhere.

The house was almost full as the youthful Ghindin strode on to the stage. At the age of 31, he didn't wear the traditional tails or tuxedo of the concert musician. Rather, he wore a black tunic with a Mandarin cut over black slacks – much less constricting for his wrists and fingers as they flew over the keys.

The first work on the program was Schubert's Moments Musicaux, Op. 94, six short melodic pieces, written shortly before the composer's death in 1828. Schubert began with a deceptively simple melody. The second one in A flat Major was filled with soulful melodies. As he caressed the keys the feeling imparted was one of languid grace. He played through the playful passages and even with the fiery crescendo of notes, as though these Schubert pieces were warm ups for the works to follow. Beautiful melodies abound in Schubert, and usually his themes are repeated at least once. Number 5 in F Minor featured fiery staccato passages as his fingers raced over the keys, and the last one, Number 6 was in a contrasting mood of quiet reflection.

His Chopin *Ballade* # 1 in G

*Minor* brought out singing tones in the right hand with the left hand playing a quiet accompaniment. Very familiar passages which were technically difficult were heard. Soaring melodies were followed by dramatic octave work and rapid arpeggios encompassing the entire keyboard. A very difficult fortissimo passage was followed by chromatic runs, where every note is played in sequence. ex: C, C#, D, D#, E etc., so that there are 12 half-steps to an octave. Thundering chords brought the dramatic work to a close.

After a few quiet bars, Chopin's Scherzo # 3 in C-Sharp Minor opened up to loud octaves contrasting with a very high and rapid birdlike passage which almost sounded like the twitterings of birds. This pattern repeated itself several times, interspersed with the roaring of octaves in the bass clef. The Scherzo begins in the minor key of C-Sharp, moves into D-Flat major, and then, true to its sonata form, returns to the C-Sharp minor. Like so many compositions of the earlier Baroque period, the ending chords shift from the minor to the major and it ends in C sharp major. The driving and tempestuous finale ends with a forte chord very near the top of the keyboard, followed by a full measure of silence. The crash of an octave in the lowest register brings the exciting Scherzo to an end.

After the intermission he performed Moussorgsky's Pictures from an Exhibition, which the composer wrote as a tribute to his good friend who was an artist and architect, Victor Hartmann. His music is programmatic, as he alternates between walking or promenading between the paintings his friend had created, and describing in music the paintings. The grand familiar chords

**LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS** 

morphed into the Gnome with its devilish rhythms, trills and octave work. One can picture the gnome leaping about, just as in Tuilleries one can hear the children quarreling. The Old Castle demonstrated Mr. Ghidin's quiet, contemplative way of playing as he stroked the keys. In Bydlo a big powerful ox is pulling a heavy cart and one hears its ponderous steps. A personal favorite I have often played is The Ballet of Unhatched Chickens. With all of its grace notes, rapid staccato passages, and its trills up in the stratosphere, one can envision the chickens trying to peck their way out of their shells. The Great Gate of Kiev is solemn and majestic and very difficult to perform well. This entire work is a magnificent showcase for a pianist of statue, and this gifted musician portrayed each portion with amazing command and power.

of the first Promenade soon

Always in total control, he played the entire concert with such ease that he didn't even seem tired at the end of his printed program. His style was never bombastic or percussive, but was more in the style of Arthur Rubenstein's playing.

The audience gave him an enthusiastic standing ovation afterwards, and he rewarded us with three encores! He first played Chopin's Fantasie Impromptu, a very difficult work, which he told the lucky few who talked with him in the lobby, that he first saw three days ago! He memorized it and this was his first performance. An amazing feat.

His second encore was the Sextet from Verdi's Rigoletto, paraphrased for the piano by

Liszt. For the third, the audience joined in and clapped as he began Sousa's Stars and Stripes Forever.

Livermore is fortunate that musicians of international reknown perform in its beautiful Bankhead Theater. Alexander Ghidin's playing was an inspiration and it would be exciting if every young aspiring pianist in the area could have heard him. This reviewer sat near the front on the left side and to watch his hands and see them reflected in the black ebony was to watch a master at work. Save the night of March 29 for another inspiring evening, a special Del Valle concert of a talented cello and piano duo, Finckel and Han.

### LAA Holding a Mad Hatter's Tea Party

A Mad Hatter's Tea Party and Open House will be held at the Livermore Art Association Gallery on March 14. Tea and cookies will be served from 1:00-3:30. The event is free. Many items are discounted 10-20%. The sale lasts the month of March.

Collections by the newest gallery members: Jennie McGregor (photography), Erin Davis (pottery), Elena Morris (oils), and Christine McCall (botanicals, jewelry) will be on display.

LAA Gallery is open 11:30-4:00 Wed-Sun, and is located in the historic Carnegie Building at 2155 3rd St. Livermore. For more information visit the website www.livermoreartassociation.org.

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Happy Hooligans Perform at Tommy T's

The Happy Hooligans Comedy Caravan, starring Tom McGillen and Tom McClain, perform a live comedy/variety show 7:30 p.m. March 18 at Tommy T's Comedy Club & Steakhouse, Pleasanton).

The show was designed to be enjoyed by the Irish, those who think they may be Irish, and everyone else on earth. It could be best described as "Brilliant American Comedy, With a Dash of Irish Culture," There will be stand-up routines presented by touring comedians, some sing-a-long's and all kinds of shenanigans.

McGillen delivers a common sense cutting edge comedic observation to audiences. His show features a crazed cast of characters. He has made a number of National Television Appearances and took part a national Theater tour with George Lopez.

McClain is one of the fastest rising stars on the comedy circuit today. An actual descendant of "Little People," isn't evident from his 6'2" 300 lb. frame. He is best known as the Football Jersey Wearing, hard hitting comedian from Northern California. Since moving to Los Angeles, he has appeared on a number of television shows including "Wipeout" on ABC, "Life" on NBC and many more.

Tommy T's is a comedy club located at 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$15 - \$25. For more information, please visit www.celticlaughs.com www.tommyts.com, or call 925-227-1800.

### San Ramon Band in Concert Friday

The San Ramon Symphonic Band will perform in concert at 8 p.m. on Fri., March 13 at Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center

Larry Colon will conduct. The program for the evening will feature "Music From Around The World." There will be works by composers from Australia, Russia, Mexico, Scandinavia, Europe, and, of course, the USA.

The band in its 22nd season is made up of 75 musicians representing cities throughout the Bay Area.

Tickets are \$5 for adults/ free for students with a valid ID or youth under 12. Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.sanramonpeformingarts.com , by phone at (925) 973-ARTS, or the night of the show, 1 hour prior to performance.

### Disney Art at Alexander's in Pleasanton

Alexander's Fine Art will fearture the Art of Disney on Sat., March 14, 1 to 4 p.m.

The exhibit will debut Thomas Kinkade's Disney Dream Collection "Pinocchio Wishes Upon A Star" and "Snow White Discovers The Cottage" (availability limited).

Enter to win "Pinocchio Wishes Upon A Star" paper limited edition by Thomas Kinkade and Pinocchio's 70th Anniversary DVD. Alexander's is located at 608 Main St., Pleasanton.

RSVP at 846-6015 or nfo@DisneyArtOnMain.com by March 11.



names listed Signature of Registrant: /s/ːMarzieh Karkhanechi This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 24, 2009. Expires February 24, 2014 The Independent Legal No. 2454 . Publish March 5, 12, 19, 26, 2009.

VISA

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 420799

The following person(s) doing business as:Sunrise Jewelry Designs, 3868 Inverness Way, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following

owner(s): Sara L. Shadle, 3868 Inverness Way, Livermore CA 94551

This business is conducted

by:an Individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/.Sara L. Shadle This statement was filed with

the County Clerk of Alameda the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2009. Expires on February 6, 2009. Expires The Independent Legal No. The Independent Legal No. 2453 . Publish February 19, 2455 . Publish March 5, 12,

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 421137

February 6, 2014

19, 26, 2009.

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri Valley Notaries, 5643 Charlotte Way #37, Liv ermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Laura Brooke Smith, 5643 Charlotte Way #37, Livermore

Ca 94550 This business is conducted by:an Individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Laura Brooke Smith This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 18, 2009. Expires

February 18, 2014 The Independent Legal No. 2456 . Publish March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2009. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 421595 The following person(s) doing business as:OPUS Mobile Technologies, 2192 Grape Leaf Lane, Livermore ĊA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christophe Therene, 2192 Grape Leaf Lane, Livermore Ca 94550 This business is conducted by:an Individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Christophe Therene This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 27, 2009. Expires February 27, 2014. The Independent Legal No 2457. Publish March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2009.

#### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 421632

The following person(s) doing business as:Her Smooth Voice, 1147 Mataro Ct., Pleasanton CA 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Ann Marie Richardson, 1147 Mataro Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94566 This business is conducted by:an Individual

Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/:Ann Marie Richardson This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda

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2459. Publish March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2009. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 420980

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94550 Melanie Beckwith, 2676 Elston Street, Livermore CA 94550 This business is conducted by:a General partnership The registrant began to trans act business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on December 1, 2008. Signature of Registrant: /s/:Shelley Buchberger This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 11, 2009. Expires February 11, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2460. Publish March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 2009.

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## Ten Tax Advantages for Homeowners

#### **By Cher Wollard**

While there are many good reasons to own your own home stability, pride of ownership, hedge against inflation - the tax advantages are a significant one.

In addition to the deductions homeowners have long enjoyed, new tax credits are available for many people purchasing homes now

You will want to consult your tax preparer or the appropriate government tax agencies about how these provisions affect your individual tax bill. But here are 10 provisions worth exploring:

#### 1. Mortgage Interest

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.

This is a big advantage, says Jenny DeSantis, a registered tax preparer in Livermore.

'It is a whole different game tax-wise when you purchase a home," she said. "Most people don't itemize until they buy a home.

"But a home purchase and that big interest deduction not only reduces their taxes, it also opens the door to itemizing, so that it makes sense for most homeowners to also claim charitable donations, auto registration, state taxes and other deductions."

There are limitations on this popular deduction – for example, if you pay cash for your home and later use it as collateral for an equity loan, you may not be entitled to the deduction - so ask your tax advisor about your eligibility.

**2. PMI** Lenders often require borrowers to obtain private mortgage insurance on mortgages of more than 80 percent of appraised value. PMI is tax-deductible for mortgages taken out 2007-2010, according to attorneys with Nolo Press. This deduction phases out for those with

taxable income of more than \$100,000 per year.

#### 3. Points

Borrowers often must pay fees known as points to obtain a mortgage with good interest rates and terms. Points – a point is equal to 1 percent of the loan principal - on mortgages to purchase a home are fully deductible. If you refinance, you can also deduct those points, but over the life of the loan, according to Nolo Press.

#### 4. Other Interest

Interest on second mortgages, lines of credit and home improvement loans may be tax deductible, according to Nolo Press. Interest on a second mortgage used to purchase a home is generally taxdeductible. The interest on loans used for making capital improvements to your home, such as to install air conditioning, remodel the kitchen or add a swimming pool, is tax deductible.

You may be able to deduct interest on equity loans, but there are restrictions on that provision, so you'll need to consult your tax advisor

#### **5. Property Taxes**

The property taxes you pay to the county, including the prorated taxes you may pay upfront when purchasing a home, are deductible, DeSantis said

#### 6. Capital Gains Exclusion

When you sell a home, you are entitled to keep a portion of the profit without paying capital gains tax. Up to \$250,000 for individuals and \$500,000 for married couples filing jointly may be sheltered, provided the property was your primary residence for two of the prior five years.

"Profit" is defined as the difference between what you paid for the home and what you sell it for, minus capital improvements and the cost of selling the property. The cost of selling the property includes agent fees, title insurance, legal fees, advertising costs, inspection fees and repairs or maintenance completed within 90 days of the sale.

#### 7. First-Time Homebuyer Credit

Back-to-back federal tax credit provisions are making 2008 and 2009 great years to purchase a first home.

Unlike tax deductions, which reduce the amount of income your taxes are based on, a credit is subtracted from the taxes owed, DeSantis said. "A credit is definitely preferable."

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The 2008 provision, which applies to homes purchased between April 8 and Dec. 31 of last year, offers first-time homebuyers a tax credit of \$7,500 to be repaid in annual installments. "It's actually a 15-year interest-free loan," DeSantis said.

The new provision, contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 - also known as "the Stimulus Bill" - signed into law by President Obama last month, increases the credit to \$8,000.

'This one for 2009 is just a straight credit. You do not have to pay it back unless you sell the home within three years after purchase, according to DeSantis.

This credit applies to homes purchased Jan. 1 through Nov. 30 of this year, so the credit can be taken on next year's tax bill.

The president and his supporters hope that by getting the housing sector moving again, the rest of the country will follow.

"This really gives first-time homebuyers added incentive to purchase this year," DeSantis said.

#### 8. Credits for New Home Purchases

The state is offering all buyers, not just first-time homebuyers, credits of up to \$10,000 on new construction.

If you are looking to purchase a new home – one that has never been lived it – you may be eligible to claim a state tax credit of up to \$10,000 incrementally over the next three years.

I think the idea is to get people to spend their money on some of the new construction that's just sitting around," DeSantis said.

Your real estate agent can help you negotiate a great deal on a new home, as long as you take him or her with you the first time you stop by the development to look at the models. The purchase must be completed between March 1, 2009 and March 1, 2010.

You have to apply for this credit through the Employment Development Department. There is only so much money available, so the first 10,000 people who are approved will get it," DeSantis said. 9. Moving Costs

If you have to sell your home because of an employment transfer or to take another job, you may be able to deduct your moving expenses on your federal tax return. The new job must be at least 50 miles further from your current home than the old job was. Moving costs may include transportation, temporary lodging, the cost of hiring a moving company or renting a van, and storage fees.

#### **10. Miscellaneous**

Depending on your circumstances, you may 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 lowincome first-time homebuyers.

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

In general, though, purchasing and owning a home offers significant tax advantages.

'When they buy a house, most people can reduce their withholding so they take more of their paycheck home," DeSantis said. "That definitely makes it easier for people to afford a home. In essence, you are paying less income tax so it's more money in your pocket.'

In fact, DeSantis said that one mistake many people make is not adjusting their withholding when they purchase a new home.

When you go from owning a home to not owning a home, you don't want to give the IRS that money all year," she advised. "Some people like to get a big refund, they think of it as a form of savings, but really that's giving the government an interest-free loan on your money.

Instead, she urges new homeowners to meet with their tax consultant and figure out how to maximize their ability to withhold the right amount. "Take that extra money that you would have withheld and put it in a savings account," she said. "Even if you only make 2 percent interest, that's something."

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home, Livermore.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen Christensen Middle School students rehearse the musical

## Christensen Middle School Presents Honk!, a Modern Retelling of the Ugly Duckling

#### **By Patricia Koning**

'Honk!

This Friday, March 13, is opening night for Christensen Middle School's 11th annual musical production, Honk! A cast of over 100 students in grades six through eight will bring to life this contemporary version of Hans Christian Anderson's The Ugly Duckling.

Honk! was "hatched" in 1983 by the British songwriting team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. Honk! has been seen by more than 5 million people and has won numerous awards, including the 2000 Olivier Award for Best Musical, beating out Mamma Mia! and The Lion King. (See www.stilesanddrewe.co.uk/ honk/ for more information on the show.)

According to the show's director, Honk! was selected because, "It's great story for middle school students, especially as

Another fun character is Greylag, the Admiral of a squadron of geese. "Greylag is really the best character in the whole play," said sixth-grader Braedon Zeitler who plays Greylag. "He's tough and has a strong attitude.'

Eighth-grader Shelby White is having a blast playing the role of Cat, who spends much of the play trying to make lunch out of Ugly. "Cat is sneaky and sly and can do whatever she wants," she explains.

Taking over as musical director this year is Jed DiRosa, who has also worked on productions for Livermore High School and Newark Memorial High School. Working with middle school students is proving to be a change of pace. "I have to make things a game to corral their abundant energy," he explained. "That exuberance is great."

DiRosa is backed by an all-

## Second Concert Set in **Renaissance Music Series**

Las Positas College invites the community to discover the unique performance practice, musical interpretations, and instruments of the English Renaissance on Saturday, March 14 with Sex Chordae, a consort of viols with voice.

In the second concert of the 2009 season, Sex Chordae will perform a concert of English Renaissance music for voice and viols, featuring the music of William Byrd, John Dowland, Orlando Gibbons, Tobias Hume, and Matthew Locke among others. The repertory for viol consort embraces a wide variety of styles ranging from the chansons, madrigals, and dances of the Renaissance. Three different sizes of viols and Robin Fisher's soprano voice create a blended sound.

'We are thrilled to offer this concert series and are very pleased that the series has been warmly embraced by the community," said Marilyn Marquis, instructor and concert series coordinator. "More than 140 people enjoyed our concert last month, and we look forward to seeing them again for this month's concert.

The pre-concert talk begins at 7:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 8:00 p.m. in the College Li-

### Poet to Address Writers Club

The California Writers Club-Tri-Valley Branch offers writers of all genres and experience levels the opportunity to learn about their craft and share their work. The next meeting is on Saturday, March 21 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at Oasis Grille, 780 Main Street, Pleasanton.

Poet Kathleen Lynch will address the topic "Plucked from Air and Error: Finding the Poem That Waits to be Written." Lynch will discuss finding sources of inspiration, even in the mundane details of everyday life; using humor in poetry; and the process of writing a poem from the original idea to revision and the final prodbrary, Building 2000 at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore. Free parking is available in Lot D. General admission tickets are \$15.00 for individual concerts; student tickets are \$5.00; both are available at the door. The venue is wheelchair accessible.

Prior to the musical performance, guests will be treated to a short pre-concert talk. The event will conclude with a reception where the audience can meet the performers and ask questions about the concert. For additional information, visit the website at www.lpcearlymusic.org Las Positas also offers an op-

portunity to enhance your concert going experience with Music Appreciation class on Thursday, March 12. The class is \$5.00. For information about these classes please call the Community Education office at (925) 424-1467, Marilyn Marquis at (925) 424-1209, or Cindy Rosefield at (925) 424-1119.

These concerts are sponsored in part by the Las Positas College Foundation and the Alameda County Arts Council. For more information or to re-

quest a concert series brochure, please call Marilyn Marquis at (925) 424-1209.

## uct. She will also share her ex-

pertise on how to get published. The meeting cost is \$21 for members and \$27 for nonmembers, including lunch. Anyone curious about the group is invited to attend with no obligation to join. Reservations are required. To make a reservation for March 21, contact Fred Norman at 462-7495 or Fnorman300@aol.com or by Wednesday, March 18. For more information on the California Writers Club-Tri-Valley Branch, contact Kathy Urban at 925-296-0447 or kkurban@sbcglobal.net or go www.trivalleywriters.com. or

## Bluegrass Group to Perform in Livermore

Mac Martin and the California Travelers are in Northern California for a limited tour. On Friday, March 20 they will be performing at Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore.

Show time is 7:30 p.m., doors will open at 6:45 p.m. There will be a jam session on the patio at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Order tickets by phone 925-447-1950 ext. 0, by mail or pick them up in the church office at 4743 East Avenue, Livermore.

Mac Martin is one of the few

Pennsylvania, Mac's many recordings have won him a dedicated audience among fans of traditional bluegrass throughout the world. His commitment to the music, compelling vocals and arrangements, engaging performances, and distinctive approach to the Monroe/Stanley/ Flatt & Scruggs legacy makes him a true bluegrass treasure.

Mac Martin's band of 55 years is known as the Dixie Travelers. For this show, he'll be accompanied by some of Northern California's most experienced



Las Positas College Visual Communications student, Ana Vailati, has won a statewide design contest, gaining \$500 and the city of Kingsburg's recognition for her effort. All LPC VCOM and other 2- and 4-year California college students were challenged to revitalize the logo for the annual Kingsburg Crab and Jazz Festival. Ana's design was chosen to represent this signature event. The new logo will be unveiled on March 12, at noon, when the Kingsburg City Council and Chamber Board will award Ana her cash prize. The public presentation is the lead up to this year's festival, which takes place September 19, 2009.

### Free Poetry Workshop Scheduled for Teens

Jazz Poet Raymond Nat Turner will deliver a free poetry workshop for high school teens on Thurs., March 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. He will offer lessons on imagery, creating original theme poems, collage-covered journal books from recycled materials, and view clips of master poets performing their work.

The program will be at the Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave.

Turner has performed live internationally and on television and radio. Since 1990, he has been the Artistic Director of Upsurge! JazzPoetry Ensemble

which fuses cutting-edge poetry with jazz. He is the Executive Producer of "Chromatology", and "All Hands on Deck," two critically acclaimed CD's. Turner has over fourteen years of highly effective experience teaching poetry / performance classes and workshops.

For information about this workshop and other monthly teen events, please call the Teen Librarian, Sandy Fouts, at 925-373-5500 extension 5583 or visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.



**Janice Pementel** "Thanks Dad"

they prepare for high school. It's all about being different and be-ing accepted."

The cast of *Honk!* is a regular barnyard menagerie-in addition to the ugly duckling, "Ugly," his siblings and parents, there are geese, cats, a swan family, and a laid-back, self-confident bullfrog. Eighth-grader McKenzie Davis, who plays the role of Bullfrog, explained her character's job is to convince Ugly that there is still hope for him.

"Bullfrog is a great character," she said. "My favorite part is 'Warts and All.' when I get to sing about how sexy frogs are."



The Livermore Art Association (LAA) and Pleasanton Art League (PAL) meet Mon., March 16. The public is invited to attend. The session features an interactive art critique led by Thomas Cory. He has been a working and exhibiting artist since 1966. Artists are invited to bring a couple of paintings for a dialog about their art. (work must be at least 25% completed). Thomas will also share an assessment guide used as a reference for completed works. This is a free event and the public is welcome to attend. The meeting is 7:30-9:00 pm in the Almond Room of the Almond Avenue School, 1401 Almond Avenue in Livermore. Additional parking is at the rear of the school. For more information visit www.livermoreartassociation.org.

volunteer orchestra that includes his own mother on piano. Honk! and all of Christensen's past musical productions have been made possible through the financial support of the Christensen PTA and volunteer efforts of countless parents, staff members, and community members over the years.

Honk! performances are on Friday, March 13; Saturday, March 14; and Saturday, March 21 at 7 pm. A matinee performance will be held on Sunday, March 22 at 2 pm. All shows are at the Livermore High School Performing Arts Theater on Maple Street.

Tickets are \$8 for orchestra seats and \$6 for balcony seats. Tickets can be purchased at the door 30 minutes before show time by emailing or tix4honk@gmail.com. All proceeds from ticket and refreshment sales go towards future Christensen musical productions.

remaining first generation bluegrass band-leaders. Active in music since 1948, he has led a powerhouse traditional bluegrass band in the Pittsburgh area since 1954. 1954! Although he rarely tours outside of western

### Art of the Paperback Mystery

Art Scott, vintage paperback collector, will speak on "The Art of the Paperback Mystery" at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18.

Art will present a slide show of images that traces the evolution of the paperback book cover art and format - marketing, stylistic trends, design motifs and influential cover artists. He is the author of The Paperback Covers of Robert McGinnis, collaborated with Richard Lupoff in production of The Great American Paperback, and has contributed articles to Paperback Parade Magazine. Art

bluegrass musicians. He calls them The California Travelers, and they are Butch Waller - mandolin and vocals; Kathy Kallick - bass and vocals; Keith Little banjo and vocals; Paul Shelasky - fiddle; and Lisa Berman - dobro.

Scott has been collecting vintage paperbacks for over 30 years, and has frequently lectured at mystery conventions.

There is no charge for this event

The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten this program as part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series. For additional events, check the library's website www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

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## Students Make a Difference, One Penny at a Time



Students at Hacienda School created a message using pennies they had collected.

Students at Hacienda School in Pleasanton learned they can make a difference, one penny at a time.

The students decided to become part of a service learning opportunity introduced by Central Asia Institute. They began collecting pennies that would go toward building schools and educating children in the remote regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Hacienda students were surprised to learn that one penny would purchase a pencil. Greg Mortenson, author of the



**David Kratochvil** 

### **Students Named** To Honor Band

The California Association for Music Education and the California Band Directors Association have announced that David Kratochvil, a sophomore from Granada High School, has been selected through audition to be a participant in the 2009 California All-State Honor Bands. This is David's fourth successive year being recognized with this honor. David Kratochvil is a member of the Granada High School Band under the direction of Mr. Tom Jones. The All-State Honor Bands are held in conjunction with the California Band Association annual convention in Fresno, California on February 19-22, 2009 and the California Association for Music Education annual conference in Ontario, California on March 12-14, 2009. There were approximately 1,500 students from schools throughout the state that auditioned for the 2009 All-State Bands and the best students were selected.

Build Nations . . . One Penny at a Time," launched the effort. He is hoping that his service project will help children in America become award of illiteracy, war and poverty around the world.

The book relates the story of how he was attempting to climb K2. One of his crewmembers became sick, so he turned back. On his descent he became separated from his guide. He came across a village that he thought was the rendezvous point. It wasn't. The villagers took him in and helped him regain his strength. One morning he asked to see their school. He writes that the villagers seemed to be embarrassed because when they showed him the school, all he saw were children doing mathematical tables using sticks to write in the sand.

villagers and others to build schools. The Hacienda students used

large water jugs to place the pennies. Once the word was out, students were frequently seen putting full bags filled with pennies into the jugs. The first donations were from Ryan de Gues and Sean Whitehead. Ryan brought around 100 pennies and Sean about 250. The jug finally became full, when rolls of pennies were brought in. The next stop was to take the pennies to the bank.

On a field trip to UNCLE Credit Union, Pleasanton, the students watched the pennies being counted. A check to CAI in the amount of \$347.23 was processed and mailed.



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