

Art, Community, & Education



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

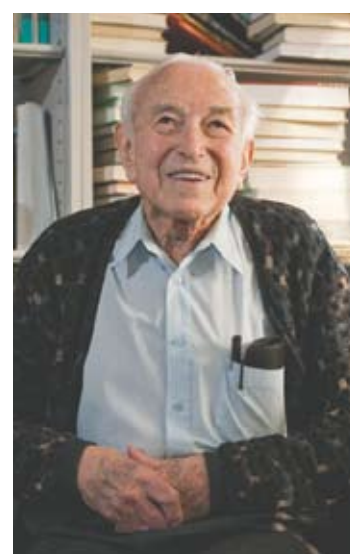


Photo - Jacqueline McBride
DICK POST

At 93, Lawrence Lab Physicist Sets A High Bar For Innovation

By Jeff Garberson
When 33-year-old Richard F. Post went to work at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in the late autumn of 1952, gasoline cost 27 cents a gallon. The U.S. was testing the first thermonuclear explosive, code-named Mike, and a Univac computer had correctly predicted Dwight Eisenhower's victory over Adlai Stevenson.

A lot of things have changed in the past 60 years, but at least one thing has stayed the same: Dick Post, now 93, is still inventing things. Holder of 80 patents for his work at the Laboratory, he is still churning out 4 or 5 potentially patentable ideas, called Records of Invention, every year.

Post is an internationally known expert on magnetism and its applications. From the 1950s through the 1980s, he helped pioneer the "magnetic mirror" approach to harnessing thermonuclear fusion as an energy source.

When the U.S. government abandoned that approach in the 1980s - unwisely, in his view - he turned to the design of magnetically levitated trains and rocket-launchers, and energy-storing flywheels that spin friction-free on magnetic bearings.

The technologies he has worked on in recent decades tend to be advanced beyond
(See DICK POST, page 10)



RABBIT ADOPTION
Hi. My name is Lars. I'm a young Dutch boy. I love to leap high in the air, and run back for attention. I am still too young to be neutered but my surgery is included in my adoption fee. To meet Lars, join us this Saturday from 12-3 pm at an Adoption Event at the Dublin Petco, 11976 Dublin Blvd. Persons able to adopt, volunteer or foster are needed. For more info, call 925-519-1723, or email ebrabbit@comcast.net. Visit www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com to see more pet profiles.

Teachers Receive Preliminary Layoff Notices

By Patricia Koning
LIVERMORE - March 15 is the date by which public school districts in California must distribute preliminary layoff notices to credentialed staff.
The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District this week sent preliminary layoff notices to over 30 credentialed staff members. Last week, the Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt a resolution eliminating 28.09 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions in the 2012/13 school year.

"This is essentially a placeholder," said assistant superintendent of administrative services Chris Van Schaack. "Education Code prescribes the timeline. This action is not in response to any Board directed budget cuts, only to possible budget cuts that could happen for many reasons."
The fate of Governor Jerry Brown's proposed tax initiative for the November ballot is one of those factors. He proposes closing an estimated \$9.2 billion deficit with temporary tax in-

creases and budget cuts. Most of the additional revenue would go to K-12 education, which means that sector has the most to lose if the tax initiative fails.
The new fiscal year, 2012-13, has the potential to be a roller coaster ride, as the Governor's tax initiative won't even come to a vote until three months into the new fiscal year. School districts across the state are making plans for worst-case scenarios. Last week, the Long Beach Unified School District announced that failure of the tax measure could

mean a one-month reduction in the school year along with elimination of a multitude of programs.
Adding to the uncertainty for the Livermore School District is the proposed Portola Academy Charter School. The proposed enrollment for the school is 560 students, many of whom would likely come from the Livermore School District.
On Tuesday, March 13, the Alameda County Office of Education rendered its decision on the Portola Academy Petition

after The Independent's deadline. If denied, organizers intend to appeal to the State Board of Education. That decision could come as late as July.
Other issues involve high school registration and kindergarten enrollment. "Enrollment in specific high school classes is a factor. For example, if a number of students choose social studies over a foreign language," said Van Schaack. "We also have to account for a possible decrease in the number of kindergarten
(See NOTICES, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Harvest Park Middle School students spent last Friday working on projects to beautify the school. Academic lessons were tied to the gardening, artwork, and service projects undertaken by the students. Projects included planning new flowers around the perimeter of the school library, working in the school's greenhouse to grow flowers, and creating a new flower bed design.

Sunol, Quarry Operator Reach Historic Agreement

Save Our Sunol (SOS) and Oliver de Silva, Inc. (ODS) have entered into an historic agreement regarding the proposal submitted by Oliver de Silva to Alameda County to revise the permit to operate the existing SMP-30 quarry on Calaveras Road in Sunol.
Discussions have been underway for over three years regarding the proposed project. The two parties have come to an agreement which meets the SOS environmental, health, and safety concerns, and provides mitigation for the impacts of development on the community of Sunol.

major disasters. Sunol CERT is also purchasing disaster supplies and storage containers that will be strategically located in the community.
In addition, the agreement provides for the contribution of \$50,000 per year, with a cost of living adjustment, to a Community Improvement Fund, for the life of the permit. The Community Improvement Fund will be held in trust for Sunol by the County of Alameda. The Sunol Advisory Committee, appointed by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, will oversee the process of community organizations and groups submitting applications for funding, and make recommendations for funding approval to the county.

The main provisions of the agreement provide for the payment of up to \$20,000 to the Sunol Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) that is organizing and training community members to be prepared for

The agreement also commits ODS to working with SOS and appropriate agencies to facilitate
(See SUNOL, page 4)

Concerns Voiced Over Pleasanton School Debt

Pleasanton residents who are concerned about the school district's difficulty in paying off its capital debts made their feelings known to trustees at a study session.
Former school board members Cindy McGovern and Steve

Brozosky, schools activist Julie Testa, former councilmember Kay Ayala and parent David Miller spoke at the March 6 session.
It was an information session, with assistant superintendent Luz Cazares making a thorough

presentation about the district's capital debt.
The district owes money on three different capital debts. One is the pay-off for Measures A and B, which refurbished schools throughout the district. The remaining debt on that is \$87.9

million, which is expected by be paid off by 2024 via the tax rate on assessed valuation in the district. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors sets the tax rate annually.
Another capital debt is for leased equipment, which is a

relatively low amount now, at \$508,000. The current year payment is \$176,000. General fund money is used to pay it off. This takes money that could go to programs, in a year when the district is looking at a potential
(See DEBT, page 10)

Community College District Lines Set; New Headquarter Plans Advance

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District board members approved the final redistricting map for the district. The board also cleared the way for moving the district headquarters to Dublin.
A report was heard from an academic Senate president about opposition to current plans from a state task force that wants to make significant changes in

opportunities for access classes at all of the state's community colleges.
The redistricting map approved unanimously by the board at its meeting Feb. 21 shows some changes in the Valley. The biggest change is the splitting of the Dublin school district into three areas.
When the former map was drawn in 2002, Dublin, Sunol and

most of Pleasanton were assigned to Area 5.
Area 7 was comprised of Livermore and a small part of the Pleasanton district, south of Interstate and north of the Arroyo Mocho, over to Hopyard Road. Livermore's growth was 10 percent.
However, the 50 percent population growth in the Dublin district in the past decade meant

that Dublin could no longer share Area 5 with Sunol and Pleasanton, which grew by 9 percent.
As a result, Area 5 now includes the northeastern strip of Pleasanton from Livermore, into Dublin's middle section. The boundary is set at Interstate 680 on the west and Tassajara Road to the East. Retired Chabot professor Carlo Vecchiarelli is the Area 5 representative.

Area 7 kept Livermore and added Dublin east of Tassajara Road. Former Las Positas president Barbara Mertes is the trustee for Area 7.
Dublin district to the west of Interstate 680 joins Area 4, which is based in the Castro Valley School District. The representative is Donald "Dobie" Gelles.
The four-year terms of Mertes
(See COMMUNITY, page 10)

Justice Academy Open To Tri-Valley Students

By Carol Graham
In conjunction with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, the Alameda County District Attorney's Justice Academy is offering a paid six-month educational and vocational experience for Tri-Valley high school students aged 16-18.
Included in the educational topics covered are criminal justice, social justice, law and the court system. From there, the academy transitions into a work-experience opportunity during which students will be placed in justice-related summer jobs with Tri-Valley offices or organizations.
This is just one of the initiatives offered by the 29-year-old Tri-Valley Community Founda-

tion (TVCF) whose mission is to strengthen the region's communities through civic engagement and philanthropy.
"The Tri-Valley Community Foundation has served as an incubator of community-based organizations and as a 'gap provider' due to burgeoning needs especially with programs to benefit youth and families," said TVCF President David Rice.
Serving the communities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol, San Ramon, Danville and Alamo, TVCF raises funds to meet human needs and support educational and cultural projects that enrich community life. The foundation's focus is on vulnerable, underserved popula-
(See ACADEMY, page 9)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Livermore National Little League teams took to the field following opening day ceremonies last Saturday. For game results, see sports notes starting on page 6.

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PET OF THE WEEK
Jell-O is a 7 month old Abyssinian blend who absolutely loves to play. At a young age still, he adores his toys and human interaction time! He gets along great with other cats and would be the perfect addition for any home. As an Abyssinian blend, he is extremely intelligent as well - this is a cat that you could teach to do tricks. There will be a special adoption event, St. Pawtricks Day on the 16, 17, and 18. Check the website www.valleyhumane.org for all of the details. Photo taken by Ken Jacoby

LED APPEARS TO BE IMPOSSIBLY EFFICIENT

MIT researchers employed an electronic trick to create a light emitting diode (LED) that emits twice as much light energy as the electrical energy required to produce it.

The outcome appears to violate laws of thermodynamics, but only superficially. At very low power levels, they report, the electrons that produced the LED light acquired added energy from vibrations in atomic lattice structure, increasing light output while cooling the surroundings slightly. In other words, there was a hidden added energy source. The result was an LED that appeared to be 230 percent efficient.

LEDs are semiconductors with electron-hole pairs that can be stimulated to emit light by applying electrical voltage. Higher or lower voltage typically yields higher or lower light output. Power increases with the square of the voltage, so the cost of applying higher voltage to generate brighter light is generally lower efficiency – a significant practical problem for LEDs. Conversely, reducing voltage means higher efficiency because electrical consumption declines faster than light levels.

MIT researchers led by Parthiban Santhanam found that at high surrounding temperatures of 135 degrees C. (275 F.), they measured 69 picowatts of light output for 30 picowatts of electrical input. The high temperatures contributed to vibrational lattice energy that increased light output, so the measurements really did not indicate a something-for-nothing violation of thermodynamic laws (or of common sense.)

Experts commenting on the work stressed its scientific interest rather than near term practical application. The cooling of surrounding materials was too slight for use in refrigeration, according to an authority from Finland. Santhanam thinks the most likely use may eventually be in low level lighting for certain scientific instruments and communications.

A report on the research was published in Physical Review Letters.

GREENLAND ICE SHEET MORE VULNERABLE

Greenland's two-mile-thick ice sheet appears to be more vulnerable to melting than previously believed, according to a study conducted by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. The study finds that complete melting can occur, slowly but surely, if the temperature rises 0.8 to 3.2 degrees C. above pre-industrial levels, with 1.6 degrees the most probable tipping point for complete melting.

Previous estimates suggested that a temperature rise in the range of 1.9 to 5.1 degrees would be needed to melt the ice sheet, with a most probable complete melting temperature of 3.1 degrees.

The world has already warmed by an average of 0.8 degrees and further warming is considered inevitable by climate scientists. If total warming does not exceed 2 degrees, the ice sheet will melt, but it will take some 50,000 years, according to the study authors. If the world warms by 8 degrees, complete melting could



take only 2,000 years. This is not rapid by the standards of daily human activities, noted lead author Alexander Robinson of Madrid. But "compared to what has happened in our planet's history, it is fast."

The Greenland ice sheet contains an estimated one-twentieth of the world's ice. Complete melting of this ice sheet alone would raise ocean levels roughly 20 feet, according to some studies.

The issue is not simply whether or not the ice sheet melts, the researchers said. It is the realization that instability and irreversible processes can begin long before an actual catastrophe occurs. The Greenland ice sheet should not be considered in isolation, they and other climate watchers said, but in the context of worldwide ice deposits.

The study made use of a computer model that captured feedback mechanisms that affect temperature change. For example, as the top of the ice sheet – now at 10,000 feet or higher – gradually sinks toward sea level, average temperatures will rise and slowly accelerate the melting process.

The model successfully calculated both the characteristics of today's observed ice-sheet and its evolution over previous glacial cycles, thus increasing the confidence that it can properly assess the future. All this makes the new estimate of Greenland temperature threshold more reliable than previous ones, the researchers believe.

They published their findings in Nature Climate Change.

LUNAR LIGHT FLASHES EXPLAINED

French planetary scientists believe they can explain flashes of light sometimes seen on the moon: superheated material ejected when the moon's surface is struck by incoming space debris only a few inches across.

The light flashes have been seen for hundreds of years. In the past, proposed lunar explanations ranged from volcanism to subsurface emissions of gas from radioactive decay. Some thought they were caused by reflections from tumbling manmade satellites, others by turbulence in the Earth's atmosphere. Some suggested sightings were fanciful, stimulated by wishful thinking.

Now, Sylvain Bouley and a team from Paris Observatory report studying lunar flashes recorded from 1999 through 2007. They estimated the most likely size of incoming debris as about 10 centimeters, or 4 inches. Calculating the brightness of the flashes, they suggest an impact velocity of up to 72 kilometers (45 miles) per second.

The flash comes from the cooling of hot liquid and gas generated by the incoming debris in the collisions, they report in the astronomical magazine, Icarus.

A NASA astronomer who was not involved in the study, Bill Cooke of the Marshall Flight Center in Alabama, says the French study "pretty much confirms what we were suspecting" after experiments aimed at recreating the flashes in the laboratory, according to a news article. "These guys are the first to put that suspicion into hard numbers."

\$250 Million Loan Moves Stoneridge Creek Development Forward

Continuing Life Communities has signed a \$250 million construction loan for its newest continuing care retirement community, Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton being constructed in Pleasanton.

According to Justin Wilson, chief operating officer of Continuing Life Communities (CLC), the construction loan represents one of the largest non-governmental construction loans signed since the beginning of the economic downturn. Bank of America is leading the syndicate financing for the 46-acre CCRC in the San Francisco East Bay community of Pleasanton.

Stoneridge Creek, which will offer 635 independent living residences, 68 assisted living apartments with a dedicated memory support area and 73 skilled nursing beds, broke ground last October. Construction is well under way on the community's infrastructure, with above-ground construction scheduled to start in early April. Hiring of key personnel, including the executive director and other administrators for Stoneridge Creek, is expected to start this fall. The new community will employ approximately 450 people overall when fully operational.

"Seventy-five percent of the homes in Phase I have already been reserved, reflecting a strong interest in the community and the lifestyle it will offer," Wilson said. "The demand was so strong that we just decided to expand the initial phase by more than 30 percent."

"We are excited to complete this construction loan for Stoneridge Creek. We've been working on the entitlement process for nearly seven years, and now look forward to working on additional communities we have in the pipeline. Although it is

extremely difficult to entitle and build a CCRC in California, the end product is worth the wait. No other CCRC offers the program we include – a high repayment with long-term care included, and the financial protection of a debt-free community. Seniors looking to retire clearly value this unique combination of benefits. We look forward to bringing new communities online as we work through the extended entitlement process elsewhere."

Troy Bourne, vice president of CLC and the onsite marketing director for Stoneridge Creek, also attributes the demand to CLC's program, which features a comprehensive package of services, amenities, activities, fine dining, and transportation with the long-term care included. Nursing care is provided in an adjacent skilled nursing and assisted living center professionally staffed 24 hours a day.

Stoneridge Creek will offer several recreational venues ranging from casual to fine dining; a library; billiard and card rooms; and a computer lab and business center. Other onsite amenities include an elegant spa and fitness center; open-air pool, steam room and spa terrace; performing arts theatre for musical and theatrical performances; movie theatre; and an art studio and a woodworking shop. Outdoor recreational amenities include tennis courts; short-game golf course; dog park; walking and cycling trails; and bocce and croquet courts.

"Because of the success of this project, Phase I has been expanded to 415 independent living homes," Bourne said. "Completion has been set for the second half of 2013, with the first Stoneridge Creek residents expected to move in shortly thereafter."

California Park and Recreation Society Honors LARP D Employee, Volunteer

District 3 of the California Park and Recreation Society recently honored both a long-time employee and dedicated volunteer of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

Retiree Sheryl Hardin and volunteer Nancy Harden received awards for Lifetime Achievement and Outstanding Volunteer in Parks and Recreation, respectively.

Hardin retired in 2011 after 29

years of service with the District. She began as a preschool teacher with the District and held a variety of positions before retiring in the role of division manager, overseeing special interest classes, facility rentals and marketing as well as operation of the Robert Livermore Community Center.

Hardin played a role in construction of the Community Center. She earned the LARP D Award of Excellence in 2004.

Harden is the volunteer largely responsible for upkeep of the Native Plant Garden near the Arroyo Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. Harden has worked with Park Ranger Amy Wolitzer

to create and maintain this garden that also serves as an educational tool for both school groups and the general public to learn about gardening with native plants to save water and help wildlife.

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<p>2194 Elsa Cmn Livermore</p> <p>bd 3 ba 2.5 sqft+- 1,911 \$464,950</p> <p>Gorgeous Cherry hardwood floors, new paint, Corian counters & court location! Light & bright! Open flexible floorplan w/huge master! Second biggest lot in development w/added parking space. Community pool/spa for summer fun! Convenient shopping & commuting.</p> <p>Diane Sass 925.462.2068</p>	<p>Laguna Heights Ct Sunol</p> <p>bd ba acres+- 10.9 \$1,398,000</p> <p>Build your custom estate in the gated, master planned community of Laguna Heights! It consists of 9 custom estate sites (3 sold) totaling 40.5 acres. The home sites range from 2.36 acres to 10.89 acres. All sites have sweeping panoramic views of the surrounding hills!</p> <p>Uwe Maerz 925.251.2568</p>	<p>6107 Ledgewood Ter Dublin</p> <p>bd 5 ba 4 sqft+- 3,844 \$930,000</p> <p>Views of Trivalley, Mt Diablo & Dublin Hills! Dub Ranch Beauty w/ 5 Beds, Bonus/Game Room, 4 Baths, Master & Guest Suite on Main Level. Premium lot location w/ access to open space. Walk to golf course, swim club & award winning schools.</p> <p>Cindy Engel 925.580.5107</p>	<p>5678 Bellevue Cir Dublin</p> <p>bd 5 ba 3 sqft+- 2,660 \$559,500</p> <p>Come see this beautiful home Price to Sell! Desirable two story home with a spacious master suite w/ walk in closets. Corner Lot.</p> <p>David Azimi 925.251.2580</p>	<p>1894 Elm St Livermore</p> <p>bd 2 ba 1.5 sqft+- 1,150 \$450,000</p> <p>Great Opportunity for 2 Homes on One Lot. Larger Unit was rebuilt to perfection in 2004 and includes large modern kitchen with gas stove, recess lights, ceiling fans, dual pane windows, gorgeous floors, carpet & paint. Smaller Unit is a 2 bed/1 bath and apx 850 sq ft.</p> <p>Corey Green 925.899.6011</p>	<p>404 Oak Ln Pleasanton</p> <p>bd 4 ba 2.5 sqft+- 3,400 \$1,598,000</p> <p>Mediterranean Villa nestled against the hills in Castlewood. A true replica of a country home in Madrid, this home is amazing in its detail, charm and ambience. Spectacular setting on 3/4 acre wooded lot, creek, lawn, balconies and patios.</p> <p>Weiner/ McDowell 925.251.2585</p>
<p>1735 Cottswald St Danville</p> <p>bd 5 ba 4.5 sqft+- 2,867 \$749,000</p> <p>Great home, well planned out. Designer touches and custom paint. True luxury living that is close to town and schools. Friendly neighborhood.</p> <p>Linda Smith 925.998.5112</p>	<p>5338 Hazel Tine Dublin</p> <p>bd 4 ba 4.5 sqft+- 3,883 \$799,950</p> <p>Foreclosure forces the sale of this beautiful Dublin Range Home in the Dublin Hills. Corner lot that's larger than most lots in the area. To many upgrades to list</p> <p>Michael Swift 925.251.2588</p>	<p>2188 McLean Place Livermore</p> <p>bd 3 ba 4(2) sqft+- 4,062 \$1,179,999</p> <p>Custom home (Court location), Special lighting system, gourmet kitchen, baking center, office; den, theatre / exercise bonus room w/ half bath and kitchenette above garage, travertine flooring, 3 fireplaces, BBQ, pool, and raised - bed garden.</p> <p>Patrick Maravelias 925.251.2530</p>	<p>260 Lyndhurst Pl San Ramon</p> <p>Lot and Land Only \$1,199,000</p> <p>Build Your Dream Home on 4.39 acres in the beautiful Norris Canyon Estates. Panoramic views of Mt. Diablo and Norris Canyon hillsides. Already for your building pad. Private gate on property. Located above existing Norris Canyon Estate Homes.</p> <p>Kristy and Company 925.251.2536</p>	<p>993 Summit Creek Pleasanton</p> <p>bd 5 ba 4.5 sqft+- 4,434 \$1,648,000</p> <p>Exceptional home in Bridle Creek. The "Avalon" model features; A separate "cabana" studio home with its own address adds another 450 square feet of living space, and includes complete kitchen and another full bath. Perfect for guests, parents, etc! Wonderful views.</p> <p>Weiner/ McDowell 925.251.2585</p>	<p>519 Escondido Cr Livermore</p> <p>bd 3 ba 2 sqft+- 1,616 \$459,950</p> <p>Wonderful Granada Woods home in a charming Livermore community of just 64 homes. Just a short distance to three parks and outlets to both E Stanley Blvd and Highway 84.</p> <p>Cindy Engel 925.580.5107</p>

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Countywide Ban on Single Use Bags

Alameda County – which includes over 1.5 million residents in 14 cities and covers more than 700 square miles – recently became the most populous county in California to pass a ban on single-use bags. On January 25, 2012 the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (StopWaste.Org), passed legislation to ban plastic and paper single-use bags in an effort to reduce waste, litter and the amount of plastic pollution that is clogging creeks and San Francisco Bay. This ordinance bans single-use bags at check out at retailers selling packaged food, while recycled-content paper or reusable bags may be provided but only if the retailer charges a minimum price of \$0.10 per bag.

The 14 cities within the county, and the County on behalf of unincorporated areas, were given the opportunity to opt out of the ordinance by resolution of their governing board by March 2, 2012. None chose to do so.

Alameda County's ordinance affects more residents than any single-use bag policy passed in California. It will go into effect on January 1, 2013. The ordinance bans single-use bags at check out at retailers selling packaged food, including pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience food stores, and liquor stores. The ordinance affects approximately 1,900 of the 7,000 retailers in Alameda County.

Recycled content paper or reusable bags may be provided but only if the retailer charges a minimum price of \$0.10 per bag. The \$0.10 price will go up to \$0.25 per bag on January 1, 2015 unless the Alameda County Waste Management Authority Board finds before then that the 10 cent charge sufficiently discourages single-use bag use. The ordinance does not ban single-use bags used to transport produce, bulk food or meat from within a store to the point of sale.

Stark Endorsed

Congressman Pete Stark has received the endorsement of the Alameda Labor Council, part of the AFL-CIO.

"I am proud to receive the endorsement of the hard working men and women of the Alameda Labor Council," said Stark. "Their support is a testament to my record of service for the working people of the East Bay. If re-elected, I will continue the fight to preserve Social Security and Medicare, provide incentives to fuel our local economy, ensure fair wages and working conditions for our workers, and bring home all of our troops."

Congressman Stark currently represents the 13th Congressional District. He is running for re-election to the newly created 15th District, which includes Hayward, Fremont, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Livermore, Union City, and unincorporated areas of Alameda County including Castro Valley, Fairview and San Lorenzo.

To learn more about Pete Stark and get involved in the campaign, visit www.petestark.com.

Potential Kidnapping Reported

Livermore Police Department received reports of a possible kidnap attempt last Saturday.

At around noon, a lone male suspect walked into the child care center at the Livermore Valley Tennis Club (LVTC), 2000 Arroyo Road Livermore. The suspect told the LVTC child care employee that he was there to pick up his son, and pointed to a 4-year-old boy in the childcare center. The employee asked the suspect for the standard verification required by LVTC to pickup children from the child care center. The suspect was unable to produce the verification and abruptly left.

LVTC staff later determined that the boy's mother, who was on site at the time of occurrence, had not given anyone authorization to pick up the boy. LVTC staff then notified police.

Police searched the area, but were unable to locate the suspect.

The suspect was described as a white male adult, 45-50 years, 6-0 tall, 250 lbs, large build, short blond hair with long sideburns, wearing a green baseball cap, a white and gray shirt, and khaki pants.

Ahern Appointed

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. announced the following appointment:

Gregory Ahern, 54, of Livermore, has been appointed to the California Lottery Commission. Ahern has been sheriff coroner for Alameda County since 2007, and has served in the Alameda County Sheriff's Office since 1980. He served as assistant sheriff from 2006 to 2007, commander from 2005 to 2006, captain from 2003 to 2005, lieutenant from 2000 to 2003, sergeant from 1986 to 2000 and deputy sheriff from 1980 to 1986. Ahern is second vice president of the California State Sheriff's Association. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Ahern is a Republican.

Suspects Sought

The Livermore Police Department is investigating two commercial burglaries that occurred on March 10, 2012, between the hours of 9:00 pm and 10:00 pm. The burglaries were in the industrial area of East Livermore on Contractors Street.

During the burglaries, two suspects forced entry into the businesses by using a prying tool to defeat the locking mechanism. The suspects entered the businesses and stole computers, printers and other electronics.

The suspects are described as two white males, with a medium build. Suspect number one was wearing baggy pants, t-shirt, and a light colored sweatshirt with a hood. Suspect number two was wearing light colored pants with a dark colored zip up jacket.

LPD investigators obtained two still photos from one of the burglarized businesses. The two suspects were captured entering the business.

The Livermore Police Department is seeking the community's assistance in locating and identifying the suspects in this case. Anyone who has information or recognizes the suspects, is encouraged to call the Livermore Police Department at (925) 371-4900.

Talk on Geological History of Mt. Diablo Set

Livermore Heritage Guild will host Ken Lavin as the guest speaker for the March History Lecture on Wed., March 21.

Lavin will take the audience on an armchair tour through 200 million years of Bay Area geological history with a focus on Mt. Diablo.

Lavin's slide presentation and talk will start with the age

of dinosaurs and lead up to the present day. It will include stories describing the adventures of early scientific expeditions to Mt. Diablo.

Lavin is outings and volunteer coordinator for the Greenbelt Alliance. He works as a naturalist for Diablo Adventures in Mt. Diablo State Park. He is also the public program chair for the

Mt. Diablo Group of the Sierra Club.

The lecture will be held at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Avenue. Doors open at 7 p.m., lecture at 7:30 p.m. Come early for conversation and refreshments. The program is open to everyone. A \$2 donation is suggested. For more information, call 443-9740.



Help bring back the fireworks!

Fireworks Fundraiser

Thursday, March 22, 2012

5:30pm - 8:30pm

Robert Livermore Community Center
4444 East Ave., Livermore
More information (925) 290-8295
www.livermorefireworks.org



scan with your smart phone

Tickets \$20 at the door

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<p>Roger Kardinal Acoustic Classic Rock Guitar</p> <p>Wine & Beer Tasting Little Valley Winery Thomas Coyne Winery Wente Vineyards Sierra Nevada</p>	<p>Appetizers & Sweets Double Barrel Wine Bar The Winemaker's Pour House Flaca's Salsa & Chips Natural desert sweets provided by Gerard'Z Honeybees</p> <p>Raffle Prize Drawings Autographed Sports Memorabilia, Livermore Valley Wine, Diamond Jewelry, Gift Cards, and much more!</p>
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Draft Finds No Deficiencies In Lab's Clean-Up Effort

The U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration has begun the fourth Five-Year Review of its environmental cleanup at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Livermore site.

The Five-Year Review report summarizes the nature and extent of contamination and describes DOE's progress in cleaning up the Livermore site.

No deficiencies in the overall remedy were identified during the review. The remedy is performing as intended and is demonstrating good progress in remediating the ground water. To further expedite the ground water cleanup, some follow-up actions are being recommended.

Superfund law requires that the cleanup actions be evaluated every five years when contaminants remain at the site above levels that allow unrestricted access. The purpose of the Five-Year Review is to evaluate the progress of the cleanup remedy toward achieving the Site's cleanup objectives, and whether the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

The U.S. Department of Energy's draft Five-Year Review report for the Livermore Site is now available to the public at the LLNL Environmental Repository in the Livermore Public Library located at 1188 South Livermore Ave., Livermore, (925) 373-5500; the Laboratory Discovery

Center, Greenville Road at East Gate Drive, Livermore, (925) 422-4599; and online at <http://www.envirinfo.llnl.gov/>. Upon completion of the review, a copy of the final report will be placed in the information repositories listed above and a notice will also be published in local newspapers announcing the completion of the Five-Year Review report.

The 800-acre Livermore Site was converted from agricultural use into a Navy flight training base and aircraft assembly and repair facility in 1942. In the 1950s, the Atomic Energy Commission converted the site into a weapons design and basic physics research laboratory. Initial hazardous materials releases occurred at the Livermore Site when the site was the Livermore Naval Air Station. There is also evidence that localized spills, unlined landfills, and leaking tanks and impoundments contributed volatile organic compounds, fuel hydrocarbons, metals, and tritium to the ground water and unsaturated sediments in the post-Navy era. By 1987, a plume of volatile organic compounds had migrated offsite about 2,200 feet west of the current Livermore Site property. These past operations resulted in the Livermore Site being placed on the EPA National Priorities List in 1987. A record of Decision was signed in 1992 that established the cleanup remedies and cleanup standards

for the Livermore Site. Previous Five-Year Reviews were completed in 1997, 2002, and 2007.

The Livermore Site remedial action objectives are: (1) prevent future human exposure to contaminated ground water and soil; (2) prevent further migration of contaminants in ground water; (3) reduce contaminant concentrations in ground water to levels below Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), and reduce the contaminant concentrations in treated ground water to levels below state discharge limits; (4) prevent migration in the unsaturated zone of those contaminants that would result in concentrations in ground water above an MCL; and (5) meet all existing permit discharge standards for treated water and soil vapor, and treat vapor so that there are no measurable atmospheric releases from treatment systems. The cleanup standards for ground water are drinking water standards. Because drinking water standards do not differentiate between industrial and residential use, the ground water cleanup remedy will be protective under any land use scenario upon completion.

For further information, the public may contact Phil Wong, U.S. Department of Energy Federal Project Director Livermore Site Office, by mail P.O. Box 808, L-293, Livermore, CA 94550; by phone (925) 422-0765; or by email phil.wong@nnsa.doe.gov.

More Free, Guided Nature and Art Walks in Pleasanton

Two Saturday morning outings combine walking with looking and learning this month with guest guides.

World Walk to Wellness is pleased to welcome back Nancy & Gary Harrington for the next in their series of Art Walks on Saturday, March 17. Meet in the parking lot next to City Hall, 400 Old Bernal Road (adjacent to public library), at 9 a.m. to begin a two-hour walk 'n' talk session at the south end of town.

The Harringtons have many good stories to share about the public art along the way, including statues that they have personally donated. The walk will include Centennial Park, adjacent to the Senior Center on

Sunol Boulevard. Sites for future art works will be shared, along with how community members can become partners in the projects. This walk is along paved, level sidewalks.

The final Art Walk in the series will take place on Saturday, April 21, and will follow a northerly route.

Dolores Bengtson, well known for her nature walks, will lead a group walk on Saturday, March 24, at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, located on Stanley Boulevard. "Bird Island" in the southern arroyo should be hosting nesting herons, egrets, and cormorants at this time of year. Walkers are encouraged to bring along binoculars and cameras. Allow about two hours for the

hike. These are unpaved trails, mostly level. Restroom facilities are available. Please note that there is a \$6 parking fee, and exact change is helpful.

Founded by Pleasanton resident Ron Sutton, World Walk to Wellness hosts a walk every Saturday, exploring the local city parks as well as nearby trails. Sutton is also CEO of ACCUSPLIT, makers of certified accurate pedometers and stop-watches. He encourages people to strive for 10,000 steps per day, the amount of activity researchers have determined will sustain good health.

For a listing of future destinations, request a free e-newsletter at walks@worldwalktowellness.org.



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SPORTS NOTES



Granada Little League Rangers Minor A player Tyler Trudeau's patience pays off as he connects the bat to the ball for a hard hit single during a game against the Cardinals on Saturday.

Cardinals and Tigers battled in a great game. Great pitching for the Tigers Lucas Aninos kept the game tied 1-1 through the 4th inning. Cardinals opened up the game in the top of the 5th with back to back singles by Jackson Taylor and Dylan Tompkins. Then Dillan Martinez steps up to the plate to hit a 3 run home run. Justin Szopa kept the rally going with a great single to center field to score two more. Tigers also had great hitting by Seth Davis and Connor McGlothlin.

Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks (PLS) had a very packed weekend March 3 - 4, 2012 competing in Alameda at the Last Chance B/A+ Meet and the Pleasanton Seahawks sponsored Senior Meet. Several qualifying PLS Age-Group swimmers also competed in the Zone II All Star Meet on March 4 in Sonoma. Many season bests, best times and new cuts were on tap for all three Meets. Go Seahawks!

ALAMEDA LAST CHANCE B/A+ MEET

Intermediate II: Max Cory (8&u) A time (100 free); Lexis Barrera (9-10) B time (100 IM)

Pre-Junior: New B-times: Sophie Beached; New A-times: Danita Gondhalekar, Rachana Mukkamala, Catharine Ren, Chris Lam; New JO Cuts: Vickie Luo (50 BK, 100 FL), Nicole Stiles (100 BK, 50 FL); New Far Westerns Cuts: Kyle Kenny (50/100 BR), Alex Ren (200 IM); 100% Best Times: Duhita Gondhalekar, Nicole Stiles, Alex Ren, Chris Lam, Rachana Mukkamala (3/4), Kyle Kenny (6/7)

Junior: Kat Cory (3 new best times); Miranda Heckman (best time 500 free); Bella Hernandez (new JO time 50 breast); Lara Serban (new JO time 200 IM); Justin Tsai (Far Western times 100/200 IM); Sue Chen (4 new best times); Laurel Heckman (first 11-12 JO 200 back); Christy Neufeld (5 new best times); Paulina Umansky (first 11-12 JO time 200 breast); Emma Valentine (100% best times); Nja Zuniga (JO 100 IM); Niklas Bengtsson, Aditya Gupta, Paarsa Heidari, and Kevin Gao had 100% best times; Alex Kuang (JO 100 fly); Will Rose (4 new best times); Ben Song (100% best times); Ben Sproul (4 new best times); Tim Yao (3 new JO times); Matt Li (best times - 200 free/IM)

Pre-Senior: Sophia Barrera: 5 best times, 1 new JO and FW; Teesa Heidari: 5 best times; Mandy Helle: 3 best times; Vera Umansky: 6 best times, 1 new JO and FW; Michelle Wang: 2 best times; Corrie Magugiad: 2 best times; Alexandra Hernandez: 4 best times, 2 new JOs, 1 FW; Rishab Nair: 7 best times, 1 new JO; Nikolas Cory: 3 best times; Alex Gilchrist: 5 best times; Michael Yao: 4 best times; Brandon Brown: 3 best times, 2 new JOs; Jonathan Mui: 3 best times; Jeffrey Wang: 1 best time; Michael Martin: 7 best times, 2 new JOs; Pieter Cory: 2 best times; Connor Daly: 1 best time

ZONE 2 ALL STAR MEET

Intermediate Group: Olivia Kim (8&u) had a great meet swimming in two relays, earning two new lifetime bests in the 100 IM and 25 free.

Pre-Senior Group: Jonah Cooper 11-12: Won 100 back (1:00.50), 3rd in US for 11 year old boys as of 3/9/12, won 100 fly (1:00.85) 11th in US for 11 year old boys as of 3/9/12, 3rd 50 free (25.60) 20th in US for 11 year old boys as of 3/9/12, member of 1st place 200 medley relay and 2nd place 200 free relay; Drew Kobayashi 11-12: 4th 50 free (FW), 2nd 100 free (FW), 7th 100 fly (FW), member of 1st place 200 medley relay and 2nd place 200 free relay; Jonathan Mui 13-14: 13th 50 free (A), 9th 100 fly (JO).



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DICK POST

(continued from page one)

anything in commercial use today. However, they are close enough to being practical that private companies often express interest through the Laboratory's Industrial Partnering office.

That suits Post just fine. "I'm interested in things with a reasonable chance of application in my lifetime," he says.

His latest flywheel work seems likely to bear fruit by generating a cooperative project with an industrial firm in coming months.

Post understands the needs and challenges of private industry, having worked with more than one company that was interested in his inventions. For example, in the 1970s, he and his son, Stephen, licensed flywheel patents to a Southern California start-up company. Later, they and friends formed a business partnership to explore the application of some of their other flywheel inventions.

Post formally retired from the Laboratory in 1994. He returns to the Industrial Partnering office at the Lab four days a week to continue flywheel and other research. He is paid for two of those days and contributes two gratis.

"I take Fridays off," he says, grinning. "After all, I'm retired."

When Post joined the Laboratory in 1952, his scientific talents were already clear. He taught physics from 1940-42 at Pomona College, his alma mater, despite having only a bachelor's degree. During World War II, he helped the Navy test and install a new kind of sonar that enabled submarines weave their way through dense mine fields. Then he designed electronic communication gear that allowed submarines to communicate with aircraft carrier groups even when submerged.

After the war, he returned to academia. He received his PhD in physics from Stanford before joining the Lawrence Lab at Berkeley in 1951. The following year, he moved to Lawrence Livermore, then called the Livermore Radiation Laboratory.

The Laboratory's chief goal was to speed the development of nuclear weapons. However, there were non-weapons programs too. Trying to harness thermonuclear fusion for energy production was one of them.

Post was group leader in the Controlled Thermonuclear Reactions program. The Livermore Laboratory led the national program known as the magnetic mirror, in which a super-hot fusion fuel, or plasma, was supposed to bounce back and forth between two strong magnetic reflectors.

Confinement was the key. Magnetic fields were carefully designed to contain the electrically charged fuel long enough for fast moving nuclei to smash into each other, fuse into helium and release energy that could be converted to electricity.

Worldwide, this kind of research was extremely difficult and sometimes halting. In the 1980s, to save money, the federal government chose to concentrate its magnetic fusion resources on one approach, the doughnut-shaped "tokamak" developed

first in Russia.

Post thinks it was a mistake to narrow the research program when there was so much left to learn. Today, the international magnetic fusion program is still at least three decades from building even a demonstration tokamak power plant.

Despite the decline of the U.S. program, Post has lost none of his enthusiasm for the magnetic mirror approach. He still participates in discussions with other fusion researchers about the latest progress in Japan and Russia, where experimental magnetic mirror programs continue.

After his pioneering efforts in fusion research, Post turned next to magnetically levitated trains and flywheels. He had already written a seminal paper on flywheels in Scientific American, in 1973. He and his son, Stephen, patented flywheel designs that addressed U.S. Navy concerns about delaminating flywheels.

In the 1990s, he adapted a magnet array that had been invented by Klaus Halbach of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for particle accelerators. Post developed a way to put permanent magnets in a Halbach configuration on the underside of trains which would levitate when accelerated to roughly walking speed. The concept became Inductrack, tested on a 20-meter track in Livermore.

In work that Post continues to contribute to today, NASA awarded the Laboratory a contract to explore the use of Inductrack for rocket launching. General Atomic of San Diego obtained a license to develop it for an urban transportation system.

In the meantime, Post has been working on improved flywheel designs that spin on passive magnetic bearings, offering generator systems that are nearly 100 percent efficient. The flywheels tend toward hollow cylinder shapes rather than heavy, solid disks.

More energy can be stored in lightweight flywheels spinning very fast than in heavy ones turning more slowly, so Post's flywheel designs are built with strong, light carbon fibers. Post has developed a novel electrostatic motor and generator design that stores energy in the flywheel and extracts it on demand with virtually no energy loss.

No energy loss means no heat build-up and no need for a cooling system inside the vacuum in which the flywheel operates. The only small losses come from converting the flywheel's high frequency output to standard 60 cycle power, and vice versa.

At 93, Post shows every sign of continuing his research well into the future. In an interview, it seemed reasonable to ask him for the secret to his intellectual vitality.

He laughed that he supposes that "solving tough puzzles" in science "makes the brain cells work."

Physics isn't the only area where he is willing to take on new challenges. A lifelong lover of classical music, he recently started piano lessons.

COMMUNITY

(continued from page one)

and Vecchiarelli expire this year. The election is in November.

Staff said that with a legal requirement to keep the population deviation between the biggest area and smallest area at less than 10 percent, the approved map was the best solution.

Dublin school superintendent Stephen Hanke said that having three college board members representing parts of the K-12 district "provides a good chance for understanding what the needs of kids from Dublin are. I think it is doable."

Hanke said that perhaps keeping Dublin in one college district area would have "maintained continuity," but the population increase over 10 years seemed to preclude that.

"We've had a lot of growth. It's projected to continue. Our K-12 is growing by 5 percent each year. It's over 6700 now, and is projected to be over 7000 next year," said Hanke.

By comparison, the Livermore and Pleasanton districts are above 14,000 each in enrollment, and Sunol is less than 300.

NEW HEADQUARTERS PLANS MOVE AHEAD

The college trustees unanimously approved hiring Steinberg Architects to design and engineer the renovation of the third floor of the building that it owns at 7600 Dublin Blvd. The approval will start the Dublin city planning review process for a new college headquarters in the building.

The college district owns the building and uses the two lower floors for classrooms for specific programs.

The new headquarters will occupy 25,000 square feet, which is approximately the same size of the current headquarters at 5020 Franklin Drive, Pleasanton.

The plan for the current district headquarters is to lease out the building, said Jeff Kingston,

vice chancellor of facilities planning and management. Money to pay for refurbishing the third floor will come from Measure B funds.

The district expects to occupy the new offices in 12 to 18 months. The purchase of the Dublin Avenue site enables the district to meet its climate action plan goals. By locating near the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station, people working at headquarters will be able to cut back on driving.

Kingston said a study showed that 17 percent of building occupants would use transit. That's a conservative estimate, used in the permitting process. Kingston expects the real figure will be much closer to 50 percent. The Dublin site also provides transit access from Las Positas College, via a transfer between Wheels bus lines.

OPPOSITION TO TASK FORCE REFORM PLAN

At the meeting, Chabot Academic Senate president Kathy Kelley presented a brief report on efforts to halt or change the current plan of the statewide Student Success Task Force.

The goal of the task force is to try to speed up students in their quests for two-year degrees and certificates, and to encourage faster movement into the state college and university systems, or qualify sooner for certificates.

In the words of one of the proposed policy's recommendations, the current system lacks focus, which enables "students to wander around the curriculum, (and) withdraw and repeat classes multiple times."

However, the policy would eliminate many classes that students, especially those from a disadvantaged background, really need to become successful in a community college, said Kelley.

DEBT

(continued from page one)

funding shortfall of \$5.5 million for its operations.

The most difficult debt for the district to pay off has been Certificates of Participation (COPs). Like the capital leases, it is secured by the general fund, said Cazares. However, the current debt is \$17.5 million. There are no plans to pay anything towards the debt this year.

Developers fees are supposed to be paying off the COPs. However, the slump in home construction for the past three or four years has left only a trickle of fee money. Ultimately it's the district's general fund that is responsible for paying off COPs.

The district is responsible for two COPs. One, in 2002, was issued for \$15.7 million. It was used to finance classroom additions at high schools, build child care facilities, and repay assessments related to acquiring the land for Hart Middle School.

The second COPs was issued for \$4.37 million, so the total of the two was about \$20 million, or \$2.5 million more than the current outstanding balance.

In the past, the district has used the Sycamore Fund, which once stood at \$7 million to pay off some of its capital debt. That reduced the Sycamore Fund to \$4 million. The situation has led the district to start to map out a plan to pay off the debt.

The Sycamore Fund was established to make sure that the future technology needs of the district are met.

The board spent the study session in a listening mode, first to Cazares' presentation of the debt, and then to the five speakers.

Several speakers referred to the fact that future growth in Pleasanton, because of the settlement with the attorney general's office and Urban Habitat, will be primarily in smaller square footage homes, much of it affordable housing. As a result, the fees collected will be significantly smaller than from large homes of the past. It will make paying off debts that much harder, especially since new facilities will have to be provided for the newcomers.

Brozosky said that a report to the district talked about where future housing would be built. He said, "There are houses in the middle of future lakes and in airport protection zones. We need to investigate what happened in the demographer's report. The information did not come from the city."

Testa said that she has followed the capital funds for 25 years. "Past boards and administrations left you with such a mess. I feel sorry for you," said Testa.

Ayala said, "The bottom line is that the district is in trouble. It is not 'distressed'. You have to have a plan to get out of this debt situation. I know this board is not responsible, but you are in the seats now. You are not going to be able to pay for these debts in the years to come."

Miller said that if the district received poor advice (about projections) in the past from a consultant, the district should sue the consultant.

Board president Joan Laursen said that the board will try to provide answers to questions that audience members raised.

to discuss it.

On paper the plan is sound pedagogically. The recommendations have been tested in California and other states, said Thompson. The biggest issue is the cost, she said.

The plan is supposed to have a \$3 million budget this year and \$6 million next year. "How they are going to generate new revenue to meet these new mandates is a mystery to me," said Thompson.

The need for remediation is clear. By law, community colleges must take all students who apply. However, the number of them who fail to meet college level standards is increasing. It's not just low-income students who need to find remediation classes.

"A very high percentage of the incoming freshman class went into remedial English or math or both. We don't have enough instructors, facilities or classified assistants (to meet the demand), and we don't have enough computers," said Thompson.

Thompson said that she went to a meeting of the Student Success Task Force last year, and told them about the cost that would be needed to carry out the program.

"Our college is in a privileged area. Imagine the cost to more under-prepared populations. The cost of the plan is not being addressed. That's my biggest concern," said Thompson.

Both professors told The Independent that some of the reason for the growing need for remediation is the increasing short-changing of K-12 education by the state budget. Cuts at the K-12 level have their impact on community colleges, they said.

LPC president Kevin Walther said, "In general, (the task force) is putting focus in the right spot, but I want to see the details of how it works. I don't think it's unreasonable for taxpayers and legislators to ask for some accountability. It's not an unreasonable request."

Walther added that he came from West Virginia, which was "promoting similar ideas, to make sure the students graduate." He added that the plan would have to make sure that access to classes is not being cut off.



Rescued animals were among those at the rally.

Rally in Support of Hayden's Law

Alameda County Supervisors Nate Miley and Wilma Chan, along with shelter and rescue animals and representatives from East Bay SPCA, Valley Humane Society and East County Animal Shelter staged a rally on Tuesday to tell state legislators to spare California animals and save the Hayden Law. Alameda County's rally was in conjunction with actions being taken by City of Los Angeles City Council and advocates at the State Capitol.

The Governor has proposed repealing the Hayden Law, which ensures the humane treatment of stray and lost animals in CA

shelters, postpones euthanasia for four to six days, and provides these animals with necessary and prompt veterinary care. The theme of the rally was to ask state legislators to "Paws and Think" before repealing the law.

"California cats, dogs and other animals deserve humane treatment, even in tough budget times," said Alameda County Supervisor and Board President Nate Miley. "Repealing the Hayden law just doesn't make sense for our state. Today's rally will help make sure that Sacramento hears our call to 'paws and think' loud and clear."



Livermore robotics team Death by Fig won the Project Award at the First Lego League Championship in Sacramento last month. They were one of 48 teams competing in the event. Team Death by Fig's food safety project tackled the problem of fresh figs becoming damaged and moldy between the orchard and grocery store. Their solution was to make a special shipping semi-trailer with springs in multiple places and a custom-shaped cardboard carton to keep the fresh figs safely separated during shipment. Megan McCandless and Annemarie Arnold have been participating in the FLL competition for 2 and 3 years, respectively. This is Annaka Green's first year. In the photo from left to right: Megan McCandless (8th grade, Mendenhall Middle School), Annaka Green (8th grade Harvest Park Middle School), and Annemarie Arnold (7th grade, Tri-Valley Classical Christian Academy of Livermore). The trophy is made out of Lego pieces.

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SHORT NOTES



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Winter returned this week to the Valley. Trees were in bloom following the early warm weather.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Come to the Mad Hatter's Tea Party hosted by Assistance League of Amador Valley on Saturday, May 5 at Aahmes Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Avenue, Livermore beginning at noon.

This 17th annual fundraiser promises to be a fun event which includes charming tea tables decorated by the members, yummy food, a hat contest, raffle prizes and champagne bar.

The entertainment will be a Chico's fashion show. Members will be modeling a collection of CHICO'S wonderful clothing.

Assistance League of Amador Valley is a philanthropic organization in the Dublin/Pleasanton/Livermore area. We are a group of 70 volunteers that purchase school clothing for local underserved children, do vision screening in area pre-schools, do volunteer work with seniors, plus other local programs.

Tickets are \$50 and all money generated by this event goes to fund our local programs.

For information call Annette at 925-462-5275 or go to our website and click on "upcoming events" to view the flier and pictures of past events. www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org.

Wildflower Wander

A Wildflower Wander in Holdener Park will be presented by Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff on Sun., March 18. Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 10 a.m. at the park located at the east end of Hansen Road.

Holdener Park may be off the radar for some, but it is a wildflower hotspot. Take advantage of a newly constructed trail to explore the park, and wander into the grass - wear hiking shoes and long pants. This program includes walking about a mile round-trip with one moderately steep section. Children are welcome, but parents should be aware that the trails are too narrow for strollers. Canceled if raining heavily.

A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs unless other fees are specified. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Paws to Read

Is your child experiencing difficulties reading or simply needs some encouragement to enjoy reading? The Paws to Read program, sponsored by the Livermore Public Library and the Valley Humane Society, helps children with reading.

The Paws to Read program is a free program that matches elementary-aged beginner readers with trained and certified dogs in a non-judgmental environment. For 25 minutes, your child will read to their furry friend with the dog's owner quietly looking on to help

with any tricky words. Programs of this type have been successful across the country, and testimonials from Livermore parents have been extremely positive.

The last series for Spring, 2012, will start in April at the Civic Center Library as follows:

Wednesdays, April 11-May 30, 7 p.m. (two sessions, 7-7:25 and 7:35-8 p.m.). Registration for this series begins Monday, April 2.

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

For more information or to register, please call the Civic Center Library's Children's Desk at 925-373-5504.

Teen Job, Career Fair

The City of Dublin has partnered with the City of San Ramon, City of Pleasanton, and the Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club to offer this year's Valley Teen Job & Career Fair. This free event will be held on Saturday, March 24, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Dublin Senior Center at 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Dublin.

This event will assist youth in obtaining summer and year-round employment featuring employers and nonprofit organizations. Attendees can expect employers and organizations looking to provide teens with job and community service opportunities, workshops on interviewing tips, panel discussion with both trade and professional workers, dressing for success, and mock interviews conducted by local officials.

For more information please visit the City's website www.dublin.ca.gov or www.DublinRecGuide.com or call 925-556-4500.

Free Tax Preparation Services

For the 5th year, the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center will be providing free tax preparation for qualified individuals and families with household income less than \$49,000 annually. Tax returns are prepared by IRS certified VITA volunteer tax preparers.

Taxpayers may also be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other credits, which can result in more money. For example, a married couple filing jointly with 3 qualifying children, who have social security numbers, may qualify for up to \$5,657 of additional Federal Income Tax Refund \$\$\$.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the United Way of the Bay Area

Earn It! Keep It! Save It! Coalition, is available for qualifying families and individuals at the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center, 141 N Livermore Avenue, Livermore.

The service is available through

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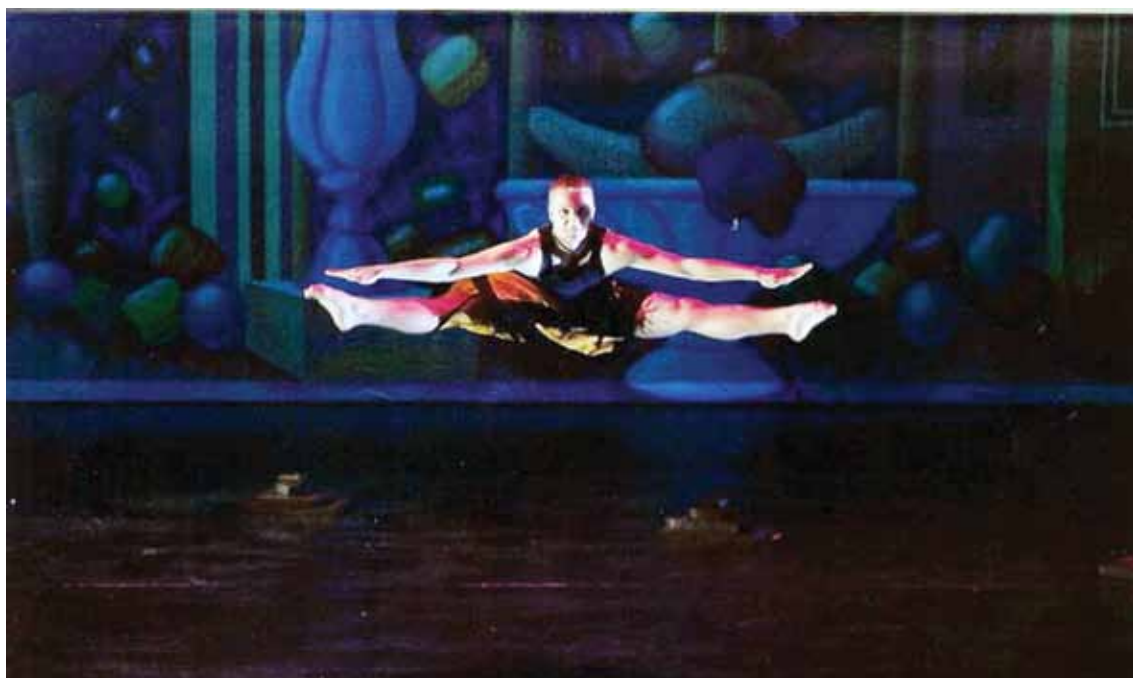
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Art, Community, & Education



Braden Sweeney has organized the fund-raising.

Vocal, Dance Showcase to Benefit 'Invisible Children'

By Carol Graham

After visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. last summer, 17-year-old Braden Sweeney felt oddly keyed up.

A huge pile of scuffed shoes that had belonged to prisoners killed in the gas chambers haunted him long into the night. "Being so close to something that had been worn by the victims was really moving," said Sweeney. "I didn't sleep at all the night after my visit. I kept asking myself, 'How can I make a difference?'"

Although Sweeney and his family hadn't made it to the museum's "Genocide Today" exhibit during their visit, the words reverberated in his mind. He set out to learn more.

"I knew I wanted to raise money," said the Granada High School junior. "I was looking for a cause I could stand behind."

On Saturday, March 24, Sweeney will present "Performing for the Protection Plan: A Vocal and Dance Showcase" at 7:30 p.m. in the Livermore High School Theater. Tickets cost \$10, with 100% of monies raised going to support Invisible Children's five-step plan to protect the children of central

Africa from enforced warfare and slavery.

"I'd seen Invisible Children on Oprah," said Sweeney. "I knew it was a reputable and trustworthy organization." The humanitarian group strives to end the use of child soldiers and slaves in Joseph Kony's rebel war and to restore peace and security to war-savaged communities.

Since 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a guerilla militant group headed by Kony and known for the brutal atrocities they commit against civilians, has engaged in a violent campaign to establish theocratic government in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

The army's documented crimes include killings, mutilations, cannibalism, and the continuous abduction of children to be used as expendable frontline fighters, supply carriers, and sex slaves for LRA members. In May 2010, President Obama signed into law the LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act—legislation aimed at stopping the LRA and Kony, who claims to be a prophet of God. Kony remains elusive.

"I can't believe inhumanity like

this is still going on," said Sweeney. "Invisible Children's Protection Plan strives to protect children by launching a radio network to warn communities about LRA activities and to send information out to humanitarian groups so they can effectively deploy services."

The protection plan also aims to offer rehabilitation and family reunification services, improve education, broadcast messages about how to safely defect and return home if abducted, and promote the arrest of Kony and top LRA leaders.

"When I started planning a fund-raiser," said Sweeney, "I approached (Granada vice-principal) Pat Avilla who told me, 'I never want to stand in the way of anyone doing good things.'"

The rest of the community has likewise rallied around Sweeney's fund-raiser, with Mony Nop Real Estate covering the cost of theater personnel, Amos Productions providing professional-quality sound, and a local print shop assisting with fliers, tickets and programs.

"The show will be almost like a talent show—only the talent is top-notch," said Sweeney of the

(continued on page 6)

California Symphony Makes Debut at Bankhead Theater

Program Features "Lara St. John and Beethoven's Ninth"

California Symphony will present "Lara St. John and Beethoven's Ninth," in its debut concert at Livermore's Bankhead Theater on Friday, May 4, 2012 at 8 p.m.

Guest conductor Donato Cabrera of the San Francisco Symphony will conduct this concert. The program features internationally renowned violinist Lara St. John in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, and Beethoven's monumental *Symphony No. 9* with the California Symphony Festival Chorus, prepared by Vance George.

The concert will begin with the world premier of a work by D. J. Sparr, the Symphony's Young American Composer Resident.

This performance marks the Symphony's Bankhead Theater debut. The Symphony's Executive Director Walter Collins, stated, "We're thrilled to perform for the Livermore community during our 25th Anniversary Season. This concert represents an unprecedented alignment of musical stars. Donato Cabrera's energy and the passion of Lara St. John will do justice to Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony."

Len Alexander, Executive Director of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, said, "We are delighted to welcome the California Symphony to the Bankhead Theater. The orchestra is a marvelously accomplished musical organization. I know that our audience will be pleased to experience such an exciting concert."

California Symphony, the resident professional orchestra of the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, is celebrating its 25th Anniversary Season.

This inaugural concert in Livermore caps a season of concerts chosen by the audience that highlight the company's strengths as a musical ensemble, lauded by critics and audiences for its inspired performances. The California Symphony has also been praised for nurturing the careers of promising new soloists and composers, as well as providing acclaimed traditional orchestral performances, and developing and performing programs that attract and engage new audiences. In April of 2012, the California Symphony will launch Sound Minds, its El Sistema-inspired music education program that combines intensive and frequent orchestral ensemble training with reading tutoring for 1st and 2nd graders.

Donato Cabrera joined the San Francisco Symphony conducting staff in 2009, when he conducted the Orchestra with 24 hours' notice, in a program that included Mozart's *Symphony No. 38* and Overture to *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Ravel's orchestration of Musorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. From 2005 to 2008, he was Associate Conductor of the San Francisco Opera, participating in the world premiere of John Adams's *Doctor Atomic* and conducting performances of *Die Fledermaus*, *Don Giovanni*, *Tannhäuser*, and *The Magic Flute*. Cabrera has also assisted in productions at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In 2002, he was a Herbert von Karajan

(continued on page 6)

Las Positas 'Godspell' Opening Night is March 23

Godspell, the groundbreaking, Off-Broadway and Broadway musical is headed to Las Positas College.

Godspell's music and lyrics are by Stephen Schwartz; originally conceived and directed by John-Michael Tebelak. Its book or story is based on the Gospel, according to St. Matthew, and in it "the parables of Jesus Christ come humanly and hearteningly to life."

Las Positas College Theater & Music Departments' production of Godspell comes to Livermore on March 23, 2012. Godspell will be performed at Las Positas College, in the Barbara F. Mertes College Center for the Arts, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, in Livermore. The performance dates are March 23, 24, 30, and 31 at 8 p.m. and March 25 and April 1 at 2 p.m. The March 25 matinee performance will benefit the charity Moment by Moment.

In addition to Godspell, composer Stephen Schwartz has written music for Pippin and Wicked, and the films "Pocahontas," "The Prince of Egypt," and "Enchanted." His music for Godspell features many recognizable songs that have become staples of both the American musical theatre and our popular culture. Godspell's most recognizable songs include "Day by Day," "O Bless the Lord," "On

the Willows," "All for the Best," and "Light of the World."

Godspell, "the musical that turned biblical parables into teachable moments," has been described as "uplifting and energetic;" "exuberant and enlightening." In her examination of the musical, director Wendy M. Wisely describes the lead character, Jesus Christ, as a "radical pacifist," who in his teaching, utilizes the parables in Matthew.

Godspell first appeared Off-Broadway on May 18, 1971, at the Cherry Lane Theater, where it ran for 2,124 performances. Its original Broadway run began on June 23, 1976, running for 527 performances.

The legendary Toronto, Ontario, production of 1972 featured Victor Garber as Jesus Christ, Gilda Radner, Martin Short, Eugene Levy, Andrea Martin, with Paul Shaffer, (currently music director of the Late Night with David Letterman).

The 40th Anniversary production, and first-ever Broadway revival opened on November 7, 2011. It is currently enjoying a long run at New York's Circle-In-The-Square Theater. Coincidentally, the Circle-In-The-Square is housed in the same building as the Gershwin Theater, where Wicked has been performed more



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The cast of "Godspell" rehearses for opening night

than 3,475 times, making it the thirteenth longest running musical on Broadway.

The Las Positas College set for Godspell is designed by Jeremy Hamm; with lighting design by Mike Rinaldi; choreography by Faith Blevins; music direction by Diane Cefalo; and costumes organized by Wesley Morgan.

The cast includes Pamela Aq-

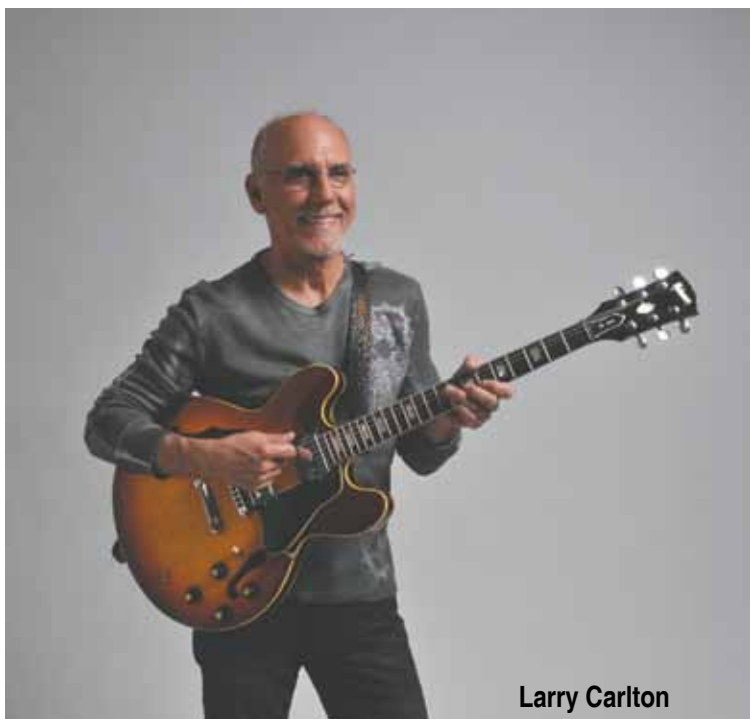
ular, Audrey Brooks, KJ Brown, Josh Gates, Kaelise Hileman, Kathi, Hileman, James Koponen, Jeremy LaClair, Steven McCloud, and Abigail Vass.

Ticket prices are \$15 for General Admission and \$10 for Students and Seniors. Tickets are available online at brownpapertickets.com, (by telephone, 1-800-838-3006),

and one hour before curtain, at the Box Office, where only cash and checks are accepted.

Moment by Moment is a 501(c)3 non profit that was established in 2006. Their goal is to, from behind the camera lens, capture the hope, courage, determination and love of families experiencing a potential life limiting illness of a child.

Guitar Legend Larry Carlton to Perform at the Firehouse



Larry Carlton

Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center will host Grammy award-winning guitar legend Larry Carlton for an 8 p.m. performance on Thursday, March 22, 2012.

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

With over 3,000 recording sessions, 100 gold albums, 19 Grammy nominations and 4 Grammy awards to his credit, Carlton is one of the most acclaimed musicians of his generation. He has performed on recordings with artists from Joni Mitchell to Michael Jackson and has released a diverse body of work as a solo jazz instrumentalist with groups such as The Crusaders and Fourplay.

Carlton began guitar lessons at the age of six, studying under Slim Edwards near his Torrance home. He became interested in jazz while at high school, influenced by Joe Pass, Wes Montgomery, Barney Kessel, and B.B. King. Saxophonist John Coltrane made a notable

impression on Carlton, and his live albums have featured cuts from Miles Davis' Kind of Blue.

During the 1970s and early 1980s, Carlton worked as a session musician in Los Angeles, making albums with such artists as Steely Dan, Joni Mitchell, Billy Joel, Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones, The Four Tops, and Barbra Streisand. He was recognized for his guitar work by many industry experts and received a Grammy Award nomination.

In mid-1980s, Carlton recorded an acoustic jazz album and worked with musicians from around the world, including Japanese guitarist Hideshi Takatani. He performed various solo projects including the 1986 live Last Nite and won a Grammy for his cover of the McDonald/Abrams song "Minute by Minute."

While working on his album "On Solid Ground" in 1988, Carlton was the victim of random gun violence, and was shot in the throat

by gun-wielding juveniles outside Room 335, his private studio near Burbank, Calif. The bullet shattered his vocal cord and caused significant nerve trauma. However, Carlton recovered and completed work on On Solid Ground in 1989. He also formed Helping Innocent People (HIP), a non-profit group to aid victims of random gun violence.

Carlton's most recent albums include two releases in 1996, Gift and With a Little Help from My Friends. He continues to tour internationally and keeps a rigorous recording schedule at his Southern California studio.

Tickets are \$35, \$40, and \$45. They may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office.

The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Features 3 Composers and Soloist

The Livermore Amador Symphony will perform a concert on March 24 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore showcasing the works of Wagner, Mendelssohn and Dvorák. The program highlights violinist Laura Hamilton, who returns to Livermore to participate in the performance.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. Conductor Dr. Arthur Barnes said he is looking forward to welcoming the former Livermore resident as soloist in the Mendelssohn "Violin Concerto." Hamilton is currently Principal Associate Concertmaster of the New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. She has led hundreds of performances, including live international HD video transmissions. She has served as a guest concertmaster on a worldwide basis.

Hamilton gives credit to local teachers for her early music education. She said she has special memories of Marion Clark, who together with her husband, Arnold Clark, spent hours working with music students. As a teenager, Hamilton studied violin in Moscow when her father was there on a scientific exchange. She returned to Granada High School in her junior year. She won the annual solo festival as a junior and the LAS Competition for Young Musicians as a senior. As an adult, she has memories of playing with the orchestra at an outdoor concert in Pleasanton.

Hamilton describes the Mendelssohn concerto as, "having everything: lyricism, drama, airy-light textures and humor in turn. That makes it one of best loved pieces of her repertoire."

The Mendelssohn work is said to be innovative for its time in the way that the various movements weave together seamlessly. The solo violin enters immediately with a display of skill followed by the simpler melodies for which Mendelssohn is famous.



Laura Hamilton

The March 24 program also features works by Wagner and Dvorak that provide a contrast, both in scene and musical style. The opening piece, Wagner's "Overture to Die Meistersinger von Numberg," is the prelude to his comic opera of the same name. It is the romantic story of young love playing out against the backdrop of a song contest. It introduces melodies associated with the characters and ideas that evolve throughout the drama.

Dvorák's Symphony No. 6 blends German influences designed to please Viennese audiences with expressions of his own

Czech nationalism to produce a mature work.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org

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Top Shelf to perform in Disco Fever program at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

Top Shelf Brings Disco Fever to the Firehouse

Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center will present the popular vocal group, Top Shelf, in Disco Fever on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

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

J'La Chic Entertainment's Top Shelf entertained at two sold-out performances, Motown Holiday Revue and Motown Madness, at the Firehouse Arts Center last season. The group now returns with a celebration of the songs and stars that turned the 1970s into the "Disco Era". The show includes the songs of Donna Summer, Gloria Gaynor, The Bee Gees, Earth, Wind and Fire, Michael Jackson, Evelyn "Champagne" King and more.

J'La Chic has entertained across the San Francisco Bay Area with

shows ranging from their Top Shelf Classics cabaret shows to full theatrical productions including Motown Madness and Legendary Ladies. Their performers include award winning and "platinum" artists, who entertain with high-energy, interactive shows and passionate performances of celebrated songs from past decades.

Tickets are Adult: \$15, \$20 and \$25; Student: \$18; Senior: \$22. They may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.



Wake the Dead

Las Positas College to Present "Wake the Dead" Benefit Concert

Get a head start on a St. Patrick's Day celebration at Las Positas College's "Wake the Dead" benefit concert, Friday, March 16, at 8 p.m. in the Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$10 for students; parking is \$2. Proceeds will benefit the Las Positas College Music Department.

Touted as "the world's only Celtic all-star Grateful Dead jam band," Wake the Dead blends Celtic traditional music and the songs of the Grateful Dead. The eight-member band has toured extensively throughout the Bay

Area and has entertained concert and festival audiences from San Francisco's Fillmore Auditorium to the Oregon Country Fair.

"Wake the Dead is a romp that flows seamlessly from rock grooves to hot Irish reels, and from haunting airs to achingly beautiful melodies familiar to Deadheads everywhere," according to the band's website. Read reviews and more on the website, www.wakethedead.org.

"Our music delights Deadheads, lovers of Celtic music, folkies, jam band fans, and adventurous music lovers alike around

the world," said Cindy Browne Rosefield, Las Positas College director of Instrumental Music and Wake the Dead bassist. She noted the success of the band's three albums which have been airing on national radio stations.

Tickets for the March 16 concert can be purchased through www.brownpapertickets.com.

For more information, please visit the Las Positas College Performing Arts website at www.laspositascollege.edu/performingarts.

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

'The Wiz' to Be Staged by St. Joan of Arc Youth

The Wiz!, is the 9th annual musical presented by St. Joan of Arc's Youth Ministry Program.

While similar in plot to The Wizard of Oz, The Wiz transforms the show into a more fun, funky, modern version. Dorothy, the little girl from Kansas, is blown by a tornado into Munchkinland in the Land of Oz. While there, she meets the Scarecrow, Tinman and Cowardly Lion along the Yellow Brick Road. She defeats the evil witch and goes to see the powerful Wizard who turns out to be a phony. However, he is able to convince Dorothy that she can do anything she wants if she just

believes in herself. Dorothy also realizes the importance of home and her family.

Performance days and times are Friday, March 16th at 7:30, Saturday, March 17th at 7:30, Sunday, March 18th at 3:00, Friday, March 23rd at 7:30, Saturday, March 24th at 7:30 and Sunday, March 25th at 3:00 p.m. The performances take place at St. Joan of Arc Church Gymnasium at 2601 San Ramon Valley Boulevard in San Ramon.

General seating tickets for \$15 each, may be purchase in one of the following ways: Online at www.sjasr.org, tickets will be available at Online Will Call the night of the

performance; at St. Joan of Arc's Main Office during office hours: Monday -Wednesday 8:00am -

7:00pm, Thursday 8:00 - 4:00, or call (925) 234-5514.

For more information, send an

email to musical@sjasr.org or call (925) 234-5514.



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Jazz Vocalist Lizz Wright Sings Own Style of Contemporary Blues

Whether she is called a soul singer, jazz vocalist or blues crooner, descriptions of Lizz Wright nearly always include the word extraordinary. A rising star in the world of contemporary jazz, Wright has been called the most gifted interpretive vocalist of her generation, one who cannot be easily classified in a single genre. Her voice, described by *The New York Times* as “luminous, smoky and perfectly pitched,” lends itself equally well to folk, gospel and blues, as to jazz and classic rock, all of which she sings with her own compelling style.

Wright arrives in Livermore for a single evening performance at the Bankhead Theater on March 21, 2012.

She was born in the small town of Hahira, Georgia, the youngest of three children whose father, a preacher, encouraged the family to sing in church but did not allow them to listen to secular music at home. Wright grew up playing piano, expressing her emotions through music. When she was eventually exposed to the world of jazz, she was eager to explore it. Wright sang with choral groups in high school, winning sev-

eral regional and national awards before going to Georgia State University to study voice. She gained notice singing in a series of Billie Holiday tributes in 2002 that opened the door for her debut album, *Salt*, which rose to number two on *Billboard's* Contemporary Jazz chart. Two equally acclaimed albums followed, *Dreaming Wide Awake*, and *The Orchard*, which featured her gospel-trained roots in a variety of songs, many of which she wrote or co-wrote. *Fellowship*, Wright's latest album, was named “Beyond Album of the Year” by *DownBeat Magazine* in 2011 and brought her more fully back to her roots, embracing both traditional songs and music she personally feels is sacred.

In addition to producing four albums over the past decade, she has also taken the time to graduate from culinary academy and become an enthusiastic gardener whose thriving vegetable plot is useful for the recipes she posts on her website. Now on an extensive tour, Wright's appearance in Livermore is one of her last in the United States before performances throughout Europe, including the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany,

Poland, and Switzerland.

Tickets to see Lizz Wright at the Bankhead Theater on Wednesday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m. range from \$34 to \$51 for adults and \$14 for students.

Since the Bankhead Theater opened, the LVPAC Presents Jazz Series has become known as a showcase for a wide range of contemporary jazz and blues artists. This season, the series has included sold-out shows for blues guitarists, Robert Cray and Tommy Castro, as well as for jazz pianist George Winston. Wright follows two other exceptional female jazz artists, the sophisticated vocal styling of chanteuse Stacey Kent in December, and two-time Grammy Award-winner Diane Schuur who performed March 3, 2012. Next in the LVPAC Presents series is an intimate concert with the legendary Rita Coolidge. Forever known for such chart-topping hits as “All Time High,” “I'd Rather Leave When I'm in Love,” and “We're All Alone,” Coolidge has turned her versatile vocals in recent years to fresh interpretations of beloved jazz standards, as well as to sharing new insights on her favorite songs. Tickets are on sale now for the Rita



Lizz Wright

Coolidge concert at the Bankhead Theater on Friday evening, March 30, 2012.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office

is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankhead-theater.org

Van Gogh in Two Parts at the Livermore Library

Artist and educator Marlene Aron will present the program *Van Gogh in Two Parts*. The presentations are 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 18 and Sunday, March 25 2012 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

There is no charge for these events.

Van Gogh in Two Parts is an in-depth study of one of the most brilliant and influential artists of the 19th Century - an artist whose work paved the way for the Modern Art Movement of the 20th Century and beyond.

On Sunday March 18, in this first part of Van Gogh's journey, *The Early Years*, we will learn about his early artistic, literary and personal influences, of his deep love and compassion for the down-trodden, and the working poor by viewing his exquisite drawings depicting his compassion for the laborer, the peasant, workers in fields and mines. View over one hundred slides of Van Gogh's art, including rarely-seen childhood drawings, gorgeous works on paper from his early Dutch years, and photographs of him and his family. Hear stories about his life, his childhood, places he lived and jobs he held before he



became an artist - gallery assistant, bookstore clerk, tutor in boarding schools, and evangelist in a mining camp. Travel with Van Gogh as he makes his way through Brussels, Holland, London, Amsterdam and Paris, onto the docks of Antwerp, and finally to the City of Light: Paris and the Impressionists.

Part II of this series, *The Later Years*, will take place a week later on Sunday, March 25. View over one hundred slides of his beautiful and powerful art as his work turns from the dark colors of his Dutch

and Belgium years to the brilliant hues of his years in France. Join us as we follow Van Gogh from his early Impressionist influences, his friendship with Toulouse Lautrec, Emile Bernard, Paul Gauguin, Camille and Lucien Pissarro, to his journey to the south of France, where his art becomes more bold, powerful, and uncompromisingly expressive.

Marlene Aron is an artist, educator and published poet. She was educated in The Netherlands at the Vrije Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten and in the United States, receiving her Master of Fine Arts degree from California College of the Arts. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Butler Institute of American Art and has been featured in *Sculpture* magazine. She taught art and art history and has given lectures, workshops and courses on Van Gogh for fifteen years in universities, museums, libraries, art centers, retirement homes and private schools.

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 at www.livermorelibrary.net.

LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA 2nd ANNIVERSARY SEASON

TOSCA

BY GIACOMO PUCCINI

HER COURAGE BROUGHT DOWN THE TERROR OF ROME

MAR 10, 16 @ 8:00 P.M.
MAR 11, 17 @ 2:00 P.M.

TICKETS: THE BANKHEAD THEATER, BY PHONE: 925.373.6800, OR ONLINE: LIVERMOREVALLEYOPERA.COM

Tosca: LVO Production Offers Riveting Theater

By Sarah Bobson

Livermore Valley Opera's *Tosca*, which opened Saturday night at the Bankhead, is not only riveting theater, but it offers something unique: two Metropolitan Opera divas, Olivia Stapp and Marie Plette, in the production.

Olivia Stapp, LVO's first woman stage director, has not only sung the role of Tosca at the MET but, closer to home, at the San Francisco Opera. She brings to LVO's production both her vast stage experience as a leading mezzo and soprano in opera houses all over the world and the training she received in Paris from the legendary coach, Jeanine Reis, who prepared Maria Callas for her role as Tosca. Marie Plette, who charmed LVO audiences with her frenetic, neurotic Dona Elvira in LVO's modern interpretation of *Don Giovanni*, sings the title role.

The basic plot of *Tosca* is this. Amid the backdrop of revolutionary sentiment in royalist Rome during the Napoleonic wars, a triangle exists between Floria Tosca, a famed opera diva, who loves Mario Cavaradossi, a rebel artist, and Baron Scarpia, a sadistic police chief who loves the diva. Tosca thinks Cavaradossi is two-timing her. Scarpia fuels her jealousy by presenting her with false evidence of Cavaradossi's infidelity, thereby tricking her into divulging the whereabouts of an escaped political prisoner Cavaradossi is harboring. Scarpia arrests Cavaradossi, tortures him,

and then sentences him to death. Tosca pleads for his life. Scarpia agrees to let Cavaradossi live if she will give herself to him. She agrees, but as soon as he hands her a signed document specifying a mock execution, she stabs him to death. Evil to the end, Scarpia has the last revenge; he has secretly ordered the firing squad to use real bullets. NOTE SPOILER: By the end of the opera, Cavaradossi and Scarpia are dead, and Tosca, who is discovered as Scarpia's murderer, commits suicide.

Under Stapp's direction, the principal characters come to life as real people.

Plette's Tosca, nuanced and complex, undergoes many dramatic changes. She goes from commanding opera diva and jealous lover to self-sacrificing woman and murderer. However, at the heart of Tosca is an artist with a romantic, unrealistic vision of life. When Scarpia tortures Cavaradossi and then wants to devour Tosca with his predatory personality, she can't come to grips with the ugliness. In her famous aria, "Vissi d'arte," she presents her bewilderment about why bad things happen to good people. Plette subdued her powerful, rich, beautiful voice enough in the beginning of the aria to convey that Tosca has tried to live her life as art, love, charity, and faith. Her



crescendo to a high B-flat at the end, where Tosca questions God for forsaking her, was plaintiff yet had a touch of angry steel in it.

Philip Skinner, a veteran singer with the San Francisco Opera, had the difficult task of portraying Scarpia's evil nature cloaked in genteel, elegant refinement without turning it into a caricature. He accomplished this with subtlety. His tall stature, angular face aided by wonderful makeup, and booming baritone helped cast his character's commanding personality. Added to this were Skinner's lascivious, predatory facial expressions and gestures. Observing Tosca as he's trying to win her, he puffs out his cheeks like a bird of prey. Then, when Tosca agrees to submit to him, he wipes his tongue across his mouth as though he's about to feast on carrion. To reinforce his possession of her, he inches his hand, claw-like in character, down her breast, as though ready to rip it to shreds.

While the three principals were equally matched in vocal ability and commanding stage presence, the show stopper of the evening was David Gustafson, who got a resounding applause after his big number in the third act, "E lucevan le stele." The role of Cavaradossi calls for a lyric tenor, a not-so-

heavy voice with strong high notes. Gustafson has a large voice with deep, robust resonance in the lower register and full-bodied tones in the upper register. Like Plette, he sang his aria with the restraint due a man lamenting that the sweetness of life is over.

In the minor roles, Torlef Borsting as Angelotti, Chester Pidduck as the police agent Spoletta, Jeffrey Goble as Sciarrone, Irene Kim as the shepherd (the role is double cast with Lena Costello), and Michael Croizer as the jailer handled their small roles admirably. John Bischoff portrayed the raggedy, bumbling Sagrestano with humor without resorting to over-the-top slapstick.

The adult chorus and the Cantabella Children's Chorus acted and sang beautifully in their brief appearance. The orchestra generally produced a sonorous quality, including a noted horn solo in the Act Three.

And now a word about the sets by Jean-Francois Revon. The first act set in the Church of Sant' Andrea della Valle was stunning, especially the large portrait of Mary Magdalene. It would have worked beautifully if it hadn't been for the wrought-iron gate that jiggled every time someone opened it or walked through it. The second act, at the Farnese Palace, was traditional and effective, except

for two chandeliers that looked (at least from seats at the side of the theater) like they were pasted on the hanging tapestry used as a backdrop. The third act, where Cavaradossi is awaiting execution at the Castel Sant'Angelo, had what resembled a giant leg and foot and a palm frond in the foreground. It was only after the performance I learned from a cast member that this represents part of the statue (leg and wing) of Sant'Angelo. It was a nice, artistic attempt at minimalism, but I think the libretto's mention of where the act takes place would have been sufficient.

All performances take place at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore.

Tickets for next Saturday evening's performance, March 17, at 8:00 p.m., and next Sunday's matinee, March 18, at 2:00 p.m., are available at the box office, at 925-373-6800, or at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Prices are: \$39-\$74. Students \$10 off on all days.

Included in the ticket price is a pre-performance lecture one hour prior to curtain. A traditional artist's reception is held in the lobby immediately following each performance.

For more information about LVO, visit www.livermorevalleyopera.org

CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY

(continued from front page)

conducting fellow at the Salzburg Festival and has also served as an assistant conductor at the Ravinia, Spoleto (Italy), and Aspen Music Festivals, and the Music Academy of the West.

Canadian-born violinist Lara St. John has performed with orchestras on five continents and in recital around the world. Her release *Bach: The Six Sonatas and Partitas for Violin Solo* in 2007 was the best-selling double album of the year on iTunes and her recording featuring two World Premiere 21st century concertos with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra had Gramophone saying "it's the sort of work that should get audiences running, not walking, back to concert halls."

Choral conductor Vance George is recognized internationally as one of the world's leading choral conductors. He has conducted

throughout the U.S. as well as Europe, Australia and Asia. Most recently he conducted concerts in New York, Salzburg, Austria, Sydney, Australia, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Spokane, Washington, Indianapolis, Indiana, Akron, Ohio, the Berkshire Choral Festival and the Ventura Bach Festival.

Notable concerts with the forces of the San Francisco Symphony and Chorus include Bach's "Mass in B Minor" and Handel's "Messiah" plus a host of seasonal and pops concerts. His unique range of musical styles, knowledge of languages, mastery of vocal colors, and synthesis of the choral-orchestral tradition has been

lauded by audiences, critics, and conductors. In the words of San Francisco composer Conrad Susa: "His knowledge of vocal colors is unsurpassed." His work embodies the legacy of the great maestros and mentors he has known as protégé and colleague, especially Kurt Masur, John Nelson,



Helmut Rilling, Edo de Waart, Herbert Blomstedt, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Robert Shaw.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. On performance days the ticket office remains open through intermission.

To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankhead-theater.org

SHOWCASE

(continued from front page)

20 featured dance and vocal performances. "I have never seen this much local talent in one showcase. We'll have everything from soloists to duets, and hip-hop dancers to ballet.

"It's a family-friendly, completely clean show."

Sweeney, who has been performing since he was seven years old, said, "This is a win, win, win. Invisible Children will get support, the audience will get to see a fantastic show, and all the performers get to do what they love."

During intermission, a raffle drawing will award prizes donated by local businesses, including "Night on the Town" baskets with restaurant gift cards, Bankhead tickets, and gift certificates to Boomers and Granada Bowl.

"It's great to be starting without a deficit since everything's been donated," said Sweeney. "The very first ticket sold has already started raising money for Invisible Children."

Invisible Children's CEO Ben Keesey, declared, "The dream is

that (capturing Kony) is the beautiful end to the beginning. The beginning of a world where a bunch of young people that see each other all over the planet on Facebook, say, 'We're going to defend each other against the most extreme cases of human brutality.'"

In promoting awareness of the issue and for the upcoming fundraiser, Sweeney made presentations to Granada's Interact club and leadership, the Livermore Rotary and the Real Estate Association of Livermore. "My dream is to sell out the show online," he said of the 450 seats available. For those unable to attend the event, donations may be made by contacting Braden on the web site below.

"This experience has confirmed for me that in some way, shape or form, this is what I want to be doing for the rest of my life," said Sweeney. "What will make me happiest is to help other people."

To learn more about the event or purchase tickets, visit: sites.google.com/site/performing4th-protectionplan/.

Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Family Band Perform Timeless American Melodies

American acoustic music duo Jay Ungar and Molly Mason are perhaps best known for their performance of Ungar's haunting song "Ashokan Farewell," which was featured in Ken Burns' landmark PBS documentary *The Civil War*. It represents just a fraction of the musical talent that makes Ungar and Mason stand out among American folk musicians. A blend of violin, mandolin, guitar, banjo, piano and sweet vocals steals the hearts of audiences as they swing through timeless renditions of Appalachian melodies, Cajun and Celtic fiddle tunes, ageless folk songs, and their own original music.

The Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Family Band, which includes Ungar's daughter Ruth and her husband Mike Merenda, will unite two generations of talent and a shared love of music in a single performance on Friday evening, March 23, 2012 at the Bankhead Theater. Tickets range from \$18 to \$40 for adults and \$14 for students.

Folk roots duo Mike and Ruthy will celebrate the first-ever recording of the new Woody Guthrie song "My New York City" as well as five other tracks also featured on their new CD.

Ungar and Mason met in the 1970s having found their way to music along slightly different paths. Ungar grew up in the

Bronx immersed in the pop music of the 1940s and 1950s. Across the country in the state of Washington, Mason was listening to traditional fiddle music and swing era melodies. They met while performing at a small club in rural New York and although they hit it off musically, they only played together occasionally before Mason headed to Minnesota to work in the house band of a new radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*. Ungar remained in New York, eventually forming a group called *Fiddle Fever*. Mason returned to join the group as bassist and the two were married a short time later.

Ken Burns heard the song "Ashokan Farewell" on a *Fiddle Fever* recording and subsequently selected it for use in *The Civil War* series. Interwoven throughout the multi-hour documentary, the haunting melody so perfectly evoked the Civil War era, many listeners believed it to be an authentic song of the 1800s. The tune earned Ungar an Emmy nomination and was included in the Grammy Award-winning soundtrack. "Ashokan Farewell" is now considered an American folk classic and has been widely performed by fiddlers, symphony orchestras, and musicians worldwide from Mark O'Connor, James Galway, and Pinchas Zuckerman, to Charlie Byrd, Jerry Garcia,

David Grisman, and Polka King, Jimmy Sturr.

Ungar and Mason have appeared on numerous television and radio programs, as well as on their own live-performance radio show, *Dancing on the Air*. In addition to their own albums, they have been featured on film soundtracks such as *Legends of the Fall* and *Brother's Keeper*, and they collaborated with baritone Thomas Hampson on *American Dreamer*, a collection of songs by Stephen Foster. For more than two decades, Ungar and Mason have run the *Ashokan Fiddle and Dance Camps* in the Catskills which have attracted legions of musicians and fans of traditional American music and dance.

Now in its fifth and largest season to date, LVPAC Presents showcases performers in music, dance and other performing arts across a variety of styles and genres. The concert by The Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Family Band follows the appearance of other exceptional folk and American music groups at the Bankhead Theater this season, including "Don't Fence Me In," a tribute to the American West, folk jazz master Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, and the bluegrass harmonies of Red Molly. During June, LVPAC Presents will honor Livermore's Western heritage and the 94th Annual Livermore Rodeo with three country bands – country rock group *Pure Prairie League* on May 17, *Buffalo Rome's* contemporary country sound on June 8,



The Family Band

and the return of award-winning western swing band *Asleep at the Wheel* for opening day of the Rodeo on June 9.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office

is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. On performance days the ticket office remains open through intermission. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org

Winter Guard and Percussion Show at LHS

Livermore High School is hosting its 14th Annual Winter Guard/Winter Percussion show this year on Saturday, March 17, 2012.

This show is the single largest fund-raiser for the band. Money raised during this event is used to support both the Color Guard and the Band throughout the entire year. The Livermore show has been well attended in the past with schools coming from as far away as Idaho. This year there are 27 units from 18 schools for the guard and percussion competition.

The Winter Guard/Winter Percussion shows are competition events where both the Color Guard and the percussion section perform in separate timed events. The percussion section and the Color Guard spend many many hours perfecting both the music and their performance. The performances and costumes are centered on a theme. Winter Guard/Winter Percussion shows are hosted throughout the entire Northwest and are well attended in Northern California. Livermore High School competes in four shows. The host school does not compete; however, they perform in the exhibition portion of the show.

The first performance will be at 9:10 a.m. on Saturday. The awards ceremony will be at 3:10 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. A concession stand will be open for lunch or snacks. For more information regarding the Winter Guard show or the LHS Band Boosters, please contact any of the Booster board members, go to www.livermoremusic.org

ArtBlock to Be Part of 1st Wednesday Events

The Pleasanton Downtown Association and Studio Seven Arts are sponsoring the 1st Wednesday ArtBlock in effort to promote arts and crafts in downtown Pleasanton.

ArtBlock will be run in conjunction with the 1st Wednesday Street Party for 2012. Angela Street will be closed off to present a display of juried artists.

Dates are May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1 and September 5 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The artists' section is open to artists displaying their own works, 30 artists will be asked to participate, all works will be juried, open to local and regional artists. There will be one Pleasanton Art League booth of selected juried art. Only products manufactured in the United States can be displayed. All art forms must be family accept-

able. All artists must submit an application to display through the Downtown Pleasanton ArtBlock.

Art forms could include fine art paintings, photography, sculpture, handcrafted jewelry, and fine craft items of glass, metal, mixed media and ceramic.

Activity areas will include

painting or craft demonstrations with audience participation if possible. A second area will be available for chalk coloring, open to children and adults.

For applications or information go to Studio Seven Arts, 400 Main St., Pleasanton or email info@studiosevenarts.com.

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



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ART & ENTERTAINMENT



Bettie Goosman's paintings in oil and watercolor landscapes are being displayed at Garre' Vineyards Cafe 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore, CA from March 1 through April 30. The restaurant is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. For more information call (925) 447-8415. Pictured is the painting, "Tucked Away."

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

Freeze Frame, top 25 photos from Tri-Valley Conservancy contest on exhibit at the Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., March 1-31. On view during regular library hours.

Passion for Pastels, Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. March 14-April 4, 2012. Opening reception, Wed., March 14, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Group of pastelists reside in the bay area. www.firehousearts.org.

Garre' Vineyard Cafe, Bettie Goosman's paintings in oil and watercolor landscapes are being displayed at Garre' Vineyards Cafe 7986 Tesla Rd., Livermore, CA from March 1 through April 30. The restaurant is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. For more information call (925) 447-8415.

Livermore Art Association, Spring Art Show, March 31 and April 1, The Barn, Pacific Avenue, Livermore. Awards event Saturday night. www.livermoreartassociation.org

The Wild Vine, Vibrant colors and mysterious patterns invite you to explore the visions of six local artists: Joanna Crawshaw, Julie Hayward, Edmee Keele, Lela Witherspoon, Nicole Wakeman and Linda Jeffrey Sailors. Exhibition March 1-April 5. 2187 First Street, Livermore.

Artists' Flea Market, sponsored by the Pleasanton Art League. Saturday, April 28, 2012; 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Delucchi Park, First Street at Neal, Pleasanton. New and used art supplies and equipment, frames, mat board, canvas, pottery seconds, discounted original artwork, art books and tapes, photography, craft supplies, new and used brushes, watercolor and oil paints, colored pencils and lots more.

"Beyond Boundaries—an Exhibit of Three Contemporary Cuban Artists," presented by the Figurehead Gallery from March 20 through April 14. The show will feature the work of visiting artists Eira Arrate, Grettel Arrate, and Estela Estevez, who have traveled to Livermore as part of Cuban Culture Week, or La Semana Cubana, an annual festival hosted at Las Positas College. On Friday, March 23 from 6 to 9 pm there will be a reception with the artists in attendance. The Figurehead Gallery is located on the second floor of the Old

Theater Mall, 2222 2nd Street, Livermore. For more information, please call 925-337-1799, or visit the gallery website at figureheadgallery.com.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Pleasanton Art League and Livermore Art Association general meeting, Mon., March 19, 7:30 p.m. Guest artist is pencil artist Peggy Magovern. Cultural Arts Building, 4455 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. Public is invited. No charge.

Everything Poetry (in two parts), Second Saturday Soup-workshops 2nd Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-12 noon Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton; Third Tuesday Trope-poetry critiques 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. Contact Cynthia Bryant at PleasantonPoetry@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Introduction to piano and keyboard: Beginner piano and keyboard lessons for children and adults. Lessons introduce and develop basic piano-playing skills, sight-reading, music appreciation and some theory. For further information please contact Thomasin Dewhurst at (925) 216-7231 or thomasin_d@hotmail.com

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

Art classes for school-age children, teens and adults: Weekday and weekend art classes offered for beginner, intermediate and advanced child, teen and adult students. Classes cover painting, drawing, print-making, sculpture and ceramics. For further information please contact Thomasin Dewhurst at (925) 216-7231 or thomasin_d@hotmail.com or visit <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/>

Kids Camp, Tri Valley Repertory Theatre is now accepting enrollment for its 2012 Summer Kids Camp. Show will be Disney's Aladdin Jr. at new TVRT Rehearsal Studio, 1020 Serpentine Lane, Ste 101, Pleasanton. Registration at (925) 462-2121 or visit the website: <http://www.trivalleyrep.org/childrensShow.php>.

Session 1: Grades 4-9 July 11th through July 15th 9:00am-4:00pm with performances on Saturday, July 16; Session 2: Grades 2-8 July 18th through July 27th 9:00am-3:00pm with performances on Saturday, July 28; Session 3: Grades 2-8 July 30th through August 10th 9:00am-3:00pm with performances Saturday, August 11. Each session culminates in two performances.

Make It & Take It, 2nd Thursday Nights, with guest artists and demos. April is "Mosaic Iris" only \$15 Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglasstudio.weebly.com.

Beginning Stained Glass, start and finish a small stained glass window (14" x 14") using cutting and manufacturing skills. Learn how to use basic glass tools. Limited to 8 students. Additional studio hours are available at a daily, weekly or monthly rate. Tools and supplies are \$174. Does not include glass. 5 week class, 2.5 hours each. Weds 10-7p, Thurs-Sat 10-9p, Sun 10-4p. Classes are ongoing. Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglasstudio.weebly.com.

WINERY EVENTS

Gold on Greenville, Charles R, Bent Creek, McGrail, and Wood Family wineries are on the Leprechaun wine trail celebrating "Gold on Greenville" on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, noon to 4:30. Gold Medal Wine tasting and delectable desserts will be featured. Be sure to enter the Greenville Gold Gift Basket Raffle. \$5 tasting fee at each winery.

Bryersantis, Livermore's Own Wine Blog and the Winemaker's Pourhouse of Livermore have joined forces for the first of many wine flights on the Pourhouse menu. These flights will be known as "The Quarterly Report." Each quarter, Bryersantis and the Pourhouse will collaborate to select a wine flight highlighting various Livermore wines. To celebrate, the Winemaker's Pourhouse will be hosting a special event on the evening of Sunday, March 18th from 5pm-8pm. For the very first flight on the Pourhouse menu, the Bryersantis Quarterly Report will feature the Las Positas Chardonnay, Page Mill Cabernet Sauvignon, and Longevity Petite Sirah. The festivities will not only include the new wine flight and meeting the wine makers, but will also include live music, and a raffle to win some great Livermore wine.

Eagle Ridge Vineyard, St. Paddy's Day Celebration, 10017 Tesla Rd., Livermore on Sat. March 17 from 12:00 - 4:30. Food & wine pairing of Corned Beef and all the fixin's with Zinfandel wine for \$5.00. 447-4328

Cedar Mountain Winery, March 17, "Corned Beef and Cabernet" - 12-4 p.m. help celebrate St. Patrick's Day & "All things Irish." Cabernet Sauvignon paired with Corned Beef. This is an annual event. Corned Beef compliments of Cedar Mountain Winery. Tasting fees apply. March 18, BYOB, fill your own bottle, noon to 4 p.m. Earl has created a special "Red Blend" table wine for this event only. Bring a clean 750 ml wine bottle, fill, and cork and label it for only \$8.00 per bottle. Use a winery bottle for \$9.00. If you fill 12 bottles we will pay the sales tax. 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore.

Ruby Hill Winery is Handles Gastropub's featured Winery for the month of March. Throughout the month, Handles will be pouring select Ruby Hill wines from their custom tap system including Elevato and Cielo Viola! Special Prix Fixe menu available Thursday-Saturday with custom Ruby Hill Pairings. Gem Society Club members will receive 10% off! Reserve tickets to the Winemaker dinner on

March 29th with Chris Graves, featuring freshly tapped Ceilo Viola! For more information visit Handles Gastropub in Downtown Pleasanton; www.eventbrite.com/event/3111292961, phone 925.399.6690.

Barrel Tasting Weekend, March 31, 2012 - April 1, 2012 at over 35 Wineries throughout Livermore Valley, noon to 4:30 p.m. Chance to taste wines before they have been bottled, getting a behind the scenes look into the winemaking process. Meet winemakers, bottle your own wines, enjoy food pairings, and other activities that vary by winery. Tickets are \$30 advance (\$35 event day) and include 2 days of barrel tasting, exclusive discounts, keepsake glass, and special activities at each winery. For a list of activities, participating wineries, and to purchase tickets, visit www.LVwine.org.

Charles R Vineyards Annual Tax Day Dart Board. Saturday, April 14 from Noon to 4:30pm. Bring a sense of aim and have taste buds ready to enjoy "Empty Cupboard Beans with Wine & Dart Board Fun." It's a game of chance (and skill). Also look for some wine specials to ease the pain of Tax Day. 8195 Crane Ridge Road, Livermore, (925)454-3040, www.charlesrvineyards.com

4th Annual Wine Tasting Silent Auction, Sun., April 22, noon to 4 p.m. Purple Orchid Inn & Spa, 4549 Cross Road, Livermore. Benefitting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Hosted by HIKE members of Team in Training. Local wineries will showcase their wines for tasting. There will be finger food, music, inspirational speakers, and raffles. Silent auction items to fit every budget. <http://winehike2012.ticketleap.com/winehike/> Use code: SUPPORT or call 925 413 7788 for tickets

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Pinkalicious presented by Bay Area Children's Theater, March 10-18, Fridays 7 p.m., Sat. and Sun. 2 and 4:30 p.m. Front Row Theater. www.sanramon.ca.gov

Trout Fishing in America, March 15, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Jayne Stone, Banjoist Extraordinaire, March 16, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Molly's Revenge, Fri., March 16, 6 to 9 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Molly's Revenge is returning to St. Clare's for St. Patrick's Day Dinner. Molly's Revenge is a dynamic, acoustic Celtic band known for its unique and infectious enthusiasm. Tickets are \$40 per adult, \$20 for children under 12. That includes a dinner of corned beef and cabbage with beverages. Members of the public are invited. It is not necessary to be a member of St. Clare's to buy tickets. Tickets are available at the church office. For more information call 925-462-4802.

Music Dept. Benefit Concert with Wake the Dead, Fri., March 16, 8 p.m. Las Positas College, Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance purchase tickets will be available online at www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925.424.1119

John McCutcheon, Folk Music Master, Asbury Live Presents Concert Series at 4 p.m. on Sun., March 18. Asbury United Methodist Church is located at 4743 East Avenue in Livermore. Tickets are \$15 in advance, for students and seniors and \$20 at the door. Tickets may be purchased during the week at the church office open M-F, 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3

p.m. Doors open at 3:15 - seating is limited. For concert details and ticket purchasing on-line see the concert website at www.asburylivepresents.com.

Ashu Classical Saxophonist, March 18, 3 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Food for the Soul, a Chamber Music Concert to benefit Open Heart Kitchen on Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 4 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore. Information contact Janet Holmes, at 925-829-0244 or Phyllis Harding at 925-447-8630.

Lizz Wright, jazz, March 21, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, March 23, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Piano and organ concert, featuring concert pianist Daniel Glover and organist Jerome Lenk, Fri., March 23, 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Livermore. Featuring the music of Liszt, Bach, Franck and more. Tickets for this event may be purchased for \$25 in advance or at the door. www.brownpapertickets.com.

Livermore Amador Symphony, concert Sat., March 24, 8 p.m. featuring violin soloist Laura Hamilton; works by Wagner, Mendelssohn and Dvorak. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Larry Carlton, four time Grammy Winner, March 22, 8 p.m., Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Children's Variety Show, Sat., March 24, 1 p.m. Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, Donlon Way, Dublin. Featuring Amazing Mr. Pete. A former Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus Clown. \$5 youth. www.ci.dublin.ca.us

Top Shelf's: Disco Fever, Motown revue, March 24, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, spring concert, March 25, 2:00 - 3:15. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. 447-7270.

An Evening with Rita Coolidge, 8 p.m. March 30. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Dunwell's Pop Rock Band from Leeds, England, 8 p.m. March 30, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Atlantic Brass (Quintet) March 31, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts Concert, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Bill Harley, 2-time Grammy winner, Sat., March 31, 2 p.m. matinee and 8 p.m. late show. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Wesla Whitfield, April 1, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

John Denver Tribute with Ted Vigil, April 6 and 7, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Jazz Concert featuring guest guitarist, Mimi Fox, April 7, Las Positas College, Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance purchase tickets will be available online at www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925.424.1119

Anton Schwartz Presents Turrentine Tribute, Fri., April 13, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Pacific Chamber Symphony - a professional symphony orchestra. 8:00 p.m. April 14 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Program: Handel/Mozart - Water Music, Symphony #41 "Jupiter." www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Sista Monica Contemporary Blues Artist, 8 p.m. Sat., April 14, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Pleasanton Chamber Players, April 15, 3 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Better Than Ezra, April 20, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

Edgar Winter, April 21, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

Moon Over Buffalo, by Ken Ludwig (of Lend Me a Tenor fame). Chanticleers Theatre's first show of the 2012 season, Feb. 24 to March 18, 8 p.m. Fri. and Sat., 2 p.m. Sundays. Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave., Castro Valley. General admission \$18, seniors, students, military \$15. Tickets www.chanticleers.org, reservations@chanticleers.org or 510-SEE-LIVE (510-733-5483)

Douglas Morrisson Theatre presents "Dividing the Estate" by Horton Foote, a darkly comic portrait of a family divided. Directed by Susan E. Evans. Performances through March 18. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward. Post-play discussion March 10 matinee. Tickets \$10 preview, \$20 Sat. matinee; \$28 evening performances and Sunday matinee. (510) 881-6777; www.dmtonline.org.

Sunol Repertory Theatre Melodrama, "Rogue of the Railway," Fri. and Sat., 8 p.m. March 9-24. Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Tickets by mail go to sunol.net/srt or call 925.862.0664.

Play On!, a comedy by Rick Abbot. March 16-17, 2012. Friday-Saturday 8 p.m. Sunday 2 p.m. Doors open 20 minutes before show time. Tickets \$10. General admission. Buy online at www.asburylivepresents.com or at the door. Asbury Players, Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave, Livermore. (925) 447-8699.

Grease, Amador Valley and Foothill High School production, March 17-24, 7:30 p.m., Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at www.firehousearts.org.

Godspell, March 23, 24, 25, 30 & 31 and April 1, Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. Las Positas College, Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door. Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925.424.1119

The Importance of Being Earnest, March 28, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Shout, pop anthems and ballads performed weekends April 13 to May 5 at the Studio Theatre, Pleasanton. Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production. www.trivalleyrep.com.

The Mikado, A Wonderfully Silly Victorian Musical Farce, Friday, Saturday 8pm; Sunday 2pm; April 13-May 5, 2012. Role Players Ensemble presents The Mikado by Gilbert & Sullivan. Sex and politics come together in this best-loved comedy of Gilbert & Sullivan, set in the mythical village of Titipu where flirting is a capital offense. The Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. Tickets \$18 - \$26 -

call (925) 314-3400 or buy tickets online at www.villagetheatreshows.com, or at the Community Center, 420 Front St.

The Vagina Monologues, April 6 and 7 at 8 p.m., April 7, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

2012 Reach for the Stars! Livermore Valley Education Foundation's second annual Reach for the Stars fund raiser features a dynamic arts showcase of elementary, middle and high school students from Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District's visual and performing arts programs. Sun., April 15, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Beauty and the Beast, presented by California Theatre Center, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore on Wed., April 25. Recommended for grade K-5. 9:30 a.m., 122 seats available; 11 a.m. class size openings. www.ctcinc.org/1112tour/1112Tour_Order_Form.html or call 800-606-0424.

Best of the Best, Las Positas College, April 28, Barbara F. Mertes Center for the Arts Main Stage Theater, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Advance purchase tickets will be available online at www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006. Tickets will also be available at the door. For further information call the Performing Arts Events Line at 925.424.1100 or call Cindy Rosefield at 925.424.1119

COMEDY

Night at the Improv, March 24, 8 p.m. Tickets \$10. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramon.ca.gov

Comedy @ Firehouse Arts with Darren Carter, April 12, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Paula Poundstone, April 13, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Impuls-ible Film Project, Friday, April 20, Pleasanton Teen Improv troupe Creatures of Impulse return to the Veterans Memorial Building stage at 7:30 p.m. to present a revival of a format made popular by the Un-Scripted Theater Company in San Francisco. Three teams of improvisers will take to the streets of Pleasanton to shoot three improvised short films based on your suggestion. Tickets are also \$5 per person, and all tickets are available at the door. 301 Main St., Pleasanton. (925) 931-4828.

DANCE

Swan Lake, Friday, April 20, 2012 at 7 p.m. and Sun., April 22 at 3 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Featuring Le Tableau Magnifique, premier ballet company with Livermore School of Dance. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet, April 28, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Zydeco at the Bothwell! Dance and Zydeco Dance Lessons, \$15, live zydeco music, gumbo, beer & wine available for purchase. March 31, Motordude Zydeco; May 19, Mark St. Mary and the Delta Blues & Zydeco band; Ted Sherrod Dance Instructor both nights. Doors open at 5:30, Dance Lesson 6:00, live music starts at 6:30. \$15, more info at www.bothwellartscenter.org. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore.

Friday Evening Group Dance! Learn how to dance with great instructors from It's All About Dancing, new dance every week from Salsa, Tango, Swing and more. Group lesson starts at 7:30, followed by open dance until 9:45 in our new location

at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore; 925-449-9292. \$15.

AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

Auditions, Oklahoma, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, Monday, April 16 and Tuesday April 17 at 7:30pm at the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's new rehearsal space, 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 101 Pleasanton. Please bring 32 bars Rogers and Hammerstein standard. Accompanist provided. No a capella or tapes allowed. Please bring a headshot or picture a completed resume, your conflict calendar and download and fill in an audition form at www.trivalleyrep.com. Be dressed and ready to dance. All roles open. Performances at the Bankhead Theater July 20-Aug. 5. Please contact the producer with any questions: kbreedveld@trivalleyrep.com. For additional information visit our website at www.trivalleyrep.com, or call 925-462-2121.

MOVIES

Jewish Cultural Film Series, "Mabul (The Flood)," Thurs., March 15, 7:30 p.m. Vine Cinema, 1722 First Street in Livermore. To purchase tickets online or for more information: www.eatbayjewishfilm.org or call 510.318.6456

Sing-a-long to the songs from the movie "Grease" on Sunday, March 25 at the Vine Cinema in Livermore. Pre-event social will be at 4:45 p.m. followed by the 5:30 p.m. sing-a-long screening. Tri-Valley Rotary fund-raising event. Includes costume contest. The Vine Cinema, is located at 1722 First Street in Livermore. Tickets are \$10 kids, \$15 adults. They may be purchased on-line at trivalleyrotary.org or call the ticket hotline (925) 272-1603.

Classic films at the Pleasanton Library, Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library present the series. Theme this year is "Three Great Directors." Admission is free. The series is hosted by Candace Klaschus, Professor of Media Studies at Las Positas College. Klaschus offers a brief talk about each film prior to the screening. Directors featured in this year's series are Howard Hawkes, John Ford and Alfred Hitchcock. Refreshments. A complete list of the "Three Great Directors" films is available at the Pleasanton Public Library. Movies shown the first Thursday of each month through June 7, 2012. No registration required. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

CHORAL

Broadway Chorus, March 30 - April 1, 2012 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. 8 p.m. March 30 and 31; 2 p.m. April 1. www.trivalleyrep.org.

OPERA

Livermore Valley Opera presents Puccini's Tosca, March 17, 18, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Recital, featuring tenor Marco Stefani. March 17, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Information at www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

MISCELLANEOUS

5th Annual Cuban Culture Week: March 12-16, 2012, Musicians, Singers, Dancers, Writers. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. www.semanacubana.org for times and locations of events. Information contact Catherine Suárez at CSuarez@laspositascollege.edu or 925.424.1212.

Trout Fishing in America, March 15, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

St. Patrick's Day-themed Brew Crawl on

Friday, March 16 from 6-9 p.m. hosted by Pleasanton Downtown Association. Costumed guests will sample local craft beer and appetizers in a variety of downtown businesses. Information is available from the Pleasanton Downtown Association (925) 484-2199, www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Mad Science of Mt. Diablo brings its traveling science fair to the Pleasanton Public Library on Saturday, March 17 at 2:00 p.m. The programs are hands-on and inquiry based, and provide a strong educational focus in a fun environment. TLlibrary meeting room at 400 Old Bernal Avenue. No registration is required. Free admission tickets will be distributed in the Children's reading area beginning at 1:30 p.m. For more information on this and other library events, please visit the library's website at www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/services/library, or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 8.

2012 Dublin St. Patrick's Day Celebration, March 17 and 18, festival at Civic Plaza, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parade, March 17, 9:30 a.m. Dublin Blvd. Shamrock 5K Fun Run & Walk, Sun., March 18, 8:30 a.m. Civic Plaza. www.ci.dublin.ca.us.

Goodguys 30th All American Get-Together, March 24 - March 25, 2012, Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Avenue, Pleasanton. Over 3,000 All American or American Powered Rods, Customs, Classics, Muscle Cars, Street Machines and Trucks, Vendors and Exhibitors, Indoor and Outdoor Car Show, Swap Meet and Cars 4 Sale Corral, Model and Pedal Car Show, Arts and Crafts Show, Kids Play Area, Pinstripers

Brush Bash and Auction. visit www.al-mericangettogether.com.

Ed Kinney Lecture Series, 7 p.m. California Secretary of Resources John Laird, Tues., April 10. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. \$10 General Admission, \$5 Members & Seniors, \$3 Students/Teachers with ID. All tickets are paid at the door. All tickets are open seating. Information www.museumonmain.org or (925) 462-2766.

Prose & Poetry Workshop, Sat., April 14, 3 p.m. Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, Donlon Way, Dublin. Learn how to use voice control, tone and body mechanics to help deliver a message. Poets from all backgrounds and levels are welcome. There will be a \$5 entry fee at the door which includes refreshments. Please contact Jonnie McCoy-Howell, the City's Poet Laureate, at (925) 452-2105 or email poet.laureate@dublin.ca.gov for more detailed information.

Run for the Parks, Sun., April 15, 5K, 10K, kid's 1 mile fun run. Benefit for Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Registration information email info@finishlineproduction.com.

City of Dublin All American Car Show, Sat., April 21, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Heritage Park and Museum, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin. Classic, muscle, tuners, exotic, imports, custom cars, trucks and motorcycles. DJ, food trucks and vendors will be on site. Free admission. 556-4500 for information on entering show.

Mariachi Sol de Mexico, April 27, 8 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Taste Gold Medal Winning Wines During 'Gold on Greenville'

"Gold on Greenville" will offer wine lovers the opportunity to sample San Francisco Chronicle Gold Medal winning wines.

Four wineries, all located on Greenville Road in Livermore, will offer a special tasting on Sat., March 17 from noon to 4:30 p.m.

Wineries and wines are:

Bent Creek Winery, 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2009 Zinfandel Port

Charles R Vineyards, 2009 Zinfandel
McGrail Vineyards and Winery, 2008 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve (named Best Red Wine in the competition)

Wood Family Vineyards, 2009 Zinfandel "Muy Bueno," limited quantity available

There is a \$5 tasting fee at each winery. The wines will be served with a variety of treats.

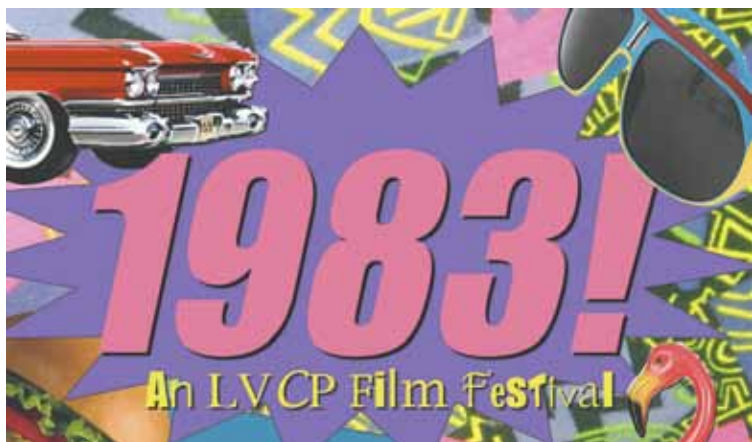
Entries Being Accepted for Livermore's Top Teen Poet Contest

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

Charan Sue Wollard, Livermore's Poet Laureate, and Connie Post, Livermore's Poet Laureate Emeritus, will host this event. The contest will take place from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm in the Community Room of the Livermore Public Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. All Livermore teens, ages 12 to 18, are invited to submit poems to perform. Poetry submissions will be accepted at each Livermore Public Library branch from April 1, 2012 through May 10, 2012.

Approved poems will be performed before an audience and judged based on the age of the poet. A select panel of judges will determine the winners of each age division. Winners will be chosen based on poem content and performance. Contest winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the conclusion of the program. Family and friends are invited to attend this free event.

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



Film Festival: Reimagining the 80's

By Patricia Koning

Remember the 80's? It was the decade that saw the rise of the personal computer, Music Television, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Pac-Man, the Cold War, legwarmers, pegged jeans, side ponytails, mullets, and the *Baby-Sitters Club*?

If you are feeling nostalgic for this bygone era – or you are too young and just plain curious – then don't miss the "1983!" Film Festival, presented by the Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School (LVCP) on Wednesday, March 21 at 7 pm at the Vine Theater. The event will feature 15 student films, representing the work of 110 students. Each film is between five to eight minutes.

"The goal of this project is to give students the opportunity to create beautiful work," explains LVCP English teacher Justin Guerra. "Students have not only written and filmed their contributions, but also created movie posters and a variety of other content."

The festival is designed as a real world example of the California Content Standards in English regarding descriptive narrative. "There are so many amazing 80's movies these kids have grown up with because most of their parents were teenagers in the 80's. For many kids, the great benefit of this project is not only the writing of a narrative but also creating a greater understanding of where their parents fit into this story," he adds.

His English students worked in small groups to collaboratively write, film, and edit their short films. Music and technology teacher Colin Dean also supported the filmmaking through his courses and helped Guerra design the project.

"A few years ago I heard a great interview with Ann Martin of the *Baby Sitters Club* books. She explained how many of her books ended at the high school prom because it was the most logical ending point for a high school drama," Dean explains. "When Justin came to me with the idea of 80's movies, I suggested having all films end at the prom. Imagine each of these students' films all ending at the same place and the same time: different students and experiences all end at the same slow dance. The only way we could pull this off was to throw a fake 1980's prom."

The school put on an 80's Prom Night, giving each group the chance to use the entire class as extras in their movies. A total of 31 scenes were filmed with time left over to let loose and dance to '80's music.

"Often there was slow dancing with no music as to record dialog. There was even a Bollywood type dance scene that the entire class participated in filming," says LVCP principal Lauren Kelly. "All of the students were so supportive of one other and their work and vision."

Tickets for "1983!" are \$5 and can be purchased in advance from LVCP main office. Please call at 925-456-9000 for more details or visit <http://lvcp.org>.

Do You Remember?



By Anne Homan
Livermore City Historian

Olivina: What's Left

I wrote about the development of the Olivina Winery, one of the first in California, in my column on 24 April 2008. I mentioned the double row of walnut trees that lined a dirt lane to the winery from the gateway that says "Olivina" at the corner of Arroyo and Wetmore Roads. Mostly dead, they were torn down by the Wentz family, who recently bought this section of Olivina and planted the area in grape vines. It is wonderful to see Olivina soil bearing grapes again.

Julius Paul Smith bought the 2,000-acre property in 1881 and planted wine grapes on about 675 acres. By December of that year, workers had built a men's lodging house, Chinese quarters, a dining hall, and an office building. None of these have survived. In May 1885 work was begun on the excavation for a concrete winery.

Sycamore Grove Park now includes most of what used to be Olivina. About a month ago, my friend Dick Finn and I went on a journey with LARPD Park Ranger Pat Sotelo. We climbed into his truck at the ranger station near the VA Hospital and rode to the Sycamore Grove Park entrance on Wetmore Road. It was the Friday of President's Weekend, and many people were out walking in the park, enjoying the beautiful spring-like day. Pat drove carefully down the trail and stopped to point to an area across the Arroyo Del Valle where the rangers had found evidence of the colony of Chinese men who had worked at the old vineyard. We continued and then turned into another drive to the winery that had black walnut trees on both sides. Like the trees torn down by the Wentzes, these large trees are mostly dead now, having reached their life expectancy. Pat explained that park em-

ployees had collected and saved enough walnuts to plant two rows of new trees between the old ones, and we could see them, vibrant with life, growing inside their plastic cages.

We drove down to the site of the Olivina Winery and its attendant buildings snuggled up to the base of a hill that runs from east to west. Park Ranger Darren Segur then joined us for our ride through history. Darren pointed out the probable site of the house built by Smith to the west of the two still existing buildings, the winery and the distillery. A hand-built waist-high stone wall runs in back of the site; the house burned in 1959. Built into the hillside are two small stone buildings painted white that have no windows—just doors. We looked inside of one and saw large hooks in the beam at the ceiling. This was a meat storage locker, where employees hung deer and beef and other meats. Since the temperature underground all year round stays at 55°, this would give natural refrigeration to the meat. The winery and distillery, farther east along the same hill's base, have been fenced in with chain link fence by the park to keep curious visitors from the dangerous dilapidated structures. In old photographs the winery had a top floor and roof of redwood, but these have fallen in, leaving the lower two floors of vine-covered concrete.

The distillery was originally of wood, but it has been covered with corrugated iron that has now rusted completely. It, too, has lost its roof. In this building, perhaps the first distillery in California, Smith made brandy from Folle Blanche grapes. In old photos that Pat brought to consult, we saw a barn-like building still farther to the east. It was built of wood and had three air ducts on the roof. Pat and Darren told of uncovering pieces of redwood

at the site, and while we were there, Dick and I found square nails brought up by a ground squirrel from its burrow. Old fire maps showed a building here. We decided tentatively from the evidence that this was a place for wine storage.

We all piled into the truck and rode up the hill behind the structures. This narrow gravel road, surrounded by olive trees, is one of the oldest in the Livermore area—here is where wagons pulled by horses hauled the grapes from Olivina vines up to the crushing house. The wooden crushing house is gone; only a hole remains at its site on the hilltop above the winery. After the grapes were crushed, they were sent down by gravity through a pipe and over a bridge into the winery.

The area behind the hill is flat, and the rangers walked with us toward the south. We noticed several sad-looking palm trees and then two more of a healthier type of palm planted side by side. This was probably meant to be the entrance to a new, fancier home for the Smith family. The rangers showed us a drawing of the proposed mansion that was never built. A windbreak of eucalyptus trees was planted behind the building site. Other non-native trees are scattered around the area. To the east of the site, the rangers showed us a rectangular-shaped excavation with rock walls. They believe this was a koi pond. However, Julius Smith died in 1904 at age 62, and the family never carried through with their plans for a mansion. We turned our backs to the site and looked northward; I drew in a breath with amazement. Spread out before us was a magnificent view of the entire Livermore Valley from Mt. Diablo to Brushy Peak. I was glad to see that the hills had a tinge of green.

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

Milestones

Education

The University of Idaho announces the 1,333 students that made the Dean's List for fall semester 2011, an increase in outstanding students over the spring 2011 semester. To achieve this honor, undergraduate students achieved a grade point average of 3.5 GPA on a minimum of 10 graded credits. Livermore resident Leslie J. Carlson was among those on the list from the College of Art and Architecture.

The following local students have been named to the University of Dallas Dean's List for the fall 2011 semester: Stephen Klem, a freshman chemistry major; Madeleine Klem, a senior history major; and Michael Klem, a freshman physics major. All three are from Livermore.

James Ding of Pleasanton, son of Gongyuan Ding and Zhong Fan, was named to the Dean's List of Emory College, the undergraduate, liberal arts college of Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., for the 2011 fall semester. Students must be in the top 20 percent of Emory College or have approximately a 3.81 grade point average or higher to be named to the Dean's List.

Community

Corporate Trainer

UNCLE Credit Union has announced that Lenna Bonilla will join the organization as corporate trainer, effective March 5.

Bonilla recently received her Professional of Human Resources (PHR) certification from the Society of Human Resources Management. She has extensive training in human resource management and is skilled in the development of workshops and training materials.

The author of several e-books, she has written titles that include Quick Guide to Prepare for Your PHR Certification; Learning How to Be Frugal, Cheap, and Thrifty in Hard Times; Updating Your Management Skills: An Outside Perspective; Essentials of Networking in today's Job Market; and Interviewing with Confidence. Bonilla received her bachelor's degree in human resources management from California State University at Stanislaus.

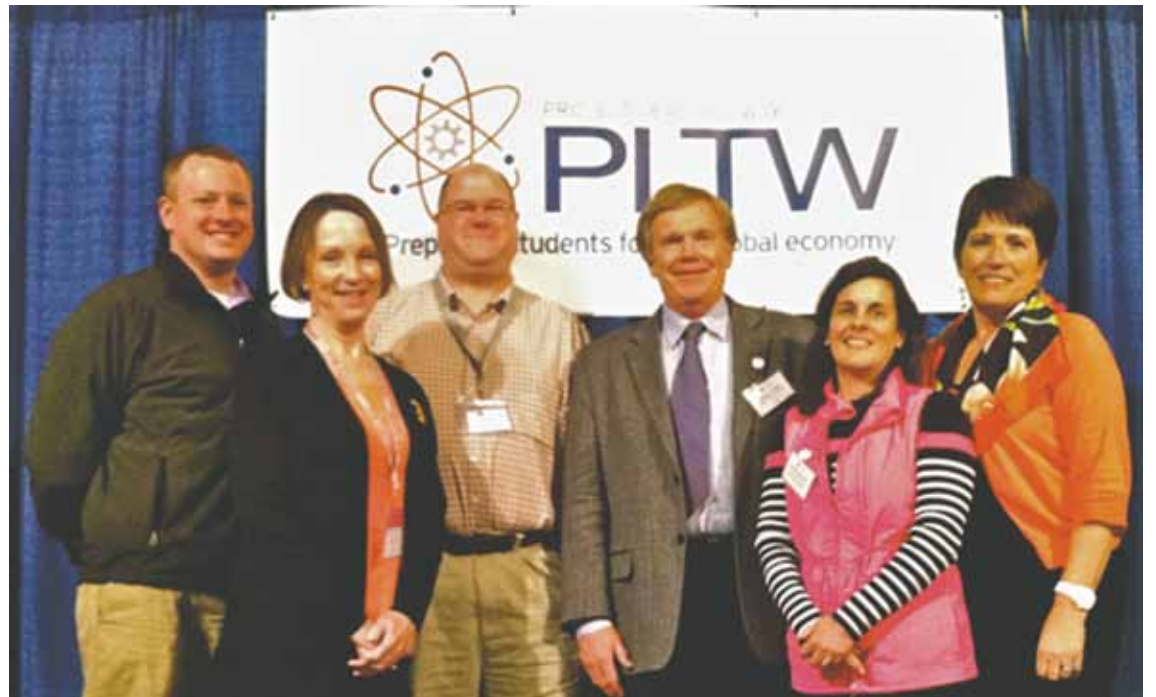


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Community



Pictured, from left to right, are, Erik Taylor, Melinda Hall, Mike Waltz, all from LVJUSD, Duane Crum, State Leader of PLTW, Nadine Horner, External Relations Officer for LLNL and Peggy Berger, LVJUSD.

Local Representatives Take Part in First Project Lead the Way Conference

A team from Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District was invited to attend the first annual Project Lead the Way (PLTW) statewide conference in Sacramento on Feb. 22 and 23. Peggy Berger, Melinda Hall, Erik Taylor and Mike Waltz joined other districts from throughout the state to learn from a group of teachers, community leaders and industry partners who are making a differ-

ence for students. Also attending was Nadine Horner, External Relations Officer for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, who was given briefings by the California Chamber of Commerce and national and state leaders on the effectiveness of PLTW.

PLTW is committed to a world-class curriculum, high quality professional development, and engaged network to create the con-

text for accelerated learning in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) areas. PLTW is a not-for-profit organization partnering with public schools, organizations in the private sectors, and higher education institutions to increase the number and quality of engineers, technologists, and biomedical professionals graduating from our educational system. PLTW courses utilize project and problem-based learning that teaches students how to apply what they are learning to real-life situations.

The Livermore team was invited to attend this event because of its partnerships with Chevron, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Contra Costa Economic Partnership and the establishment of the Green Engineering Academy at Livermore High School along with two middle schools, Gateway To Technology (GTT) programs.

Military

Navy Seaman Timothy R. Darlington recently completed Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. While in training, he served as the Recruit Chief Petty Office and named Honor Recruit of his division. He is the son of Katheryn and David Darlington of Livermore and is a 2010 graduate of UC Davis. Upon graduation, Timothy was promoted to the rank of E3.

