

Art, Community, & Education

Capturing Wildlife with a Camera



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.



Livermore City Council-member Stewart Gary is wearing one of the t-shirts that will be available for purchase.

Bring Back the Fireworks Fundraiser Set

A "Help Bring Back The Fireworks" fundraiser will be held Thurs., March 22 at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

The festivities are planned from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Cresta Blanca Ballroom.

Entertainment will include acoustic Classic Rock/Folk performed by Roger Kardinal.

Wine and beer tasting will be provided by Little Valley Winery, Thomas Coyne Winery, Wente Vineyards and Sierra Nevada. Light appetizers will include nibbles from Double Barrel Wine Bar, The Winemaker's Pour House, Flaca's Salsa & Chips, natural dessert sweets by Gerard Z Honeybees and cheese and olives.

Raffle prizes such as a John Madden autographed football, diamond jewelry, Livermore Valley wine, gift cards to amazing restaurants and more will be awarded. A limited number of "I Helped Bring Back The Livermore Fireworks" T-Shirts will be available for sale of \$20 each.

The donation is \$20. For more information call 925 290-8295 or go to <http://livermorefireworks.org>, <http://www.facebook.com/Livermorefireworks>, <http://www.twitter.com/livfireworks>

The Robert Livermore Community is located at 4444 East Avenue in Livermore.

Livermore Autism Program Emphasizes Parent Bonding

A national program that teaches parents how to help autistic children at home through relationship-building activities will be presented Friday evening at the Presbyterian Church in Livermore, 7-9 p.m.

The program, called Son-Rise, emphasizes eye contact, play therapy and other bonding approaches in which parents aim to create trust and a feeling of safety first and then allow a child to grow and learn at his own speed, according to the Livermore sponsor of the event, Annette Musso.

"Parents will leave the evening with at least three new, concrete ways to help their child with autism immediately," she said.

The Son-Rise program will be presented by Suzanne Pruss, a certified instructor. The program was founded nearly 30 years ago by Barry and Samahria Kaufman to deal with their son's autism.

Its emphasis on parent-child

(See AUTISM, page 5)

EBRPD Explores Future of Water Slides

Although the water slides at Shadow Cliffs won't be operating this summer, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) directors have taken the first step to possibly have them in use in future years.

There is no guarantee the slides would remain. However, the possibility is a switch from a staff recommendation at a committee meeting March 15 that said the four slides should be removed, and the area put back to its natural condition. A staff re-

port said the facility has "reached the end of its useful service."

Members of the operations committee bypassed that recommendation, and chose another alternative, which eventually may evolve into asking potential water slide operators to bid on repairing the facility and operating it.

However, first the committee wants to obtain an accurate estimate on what the upgrade will cost. Members asked staff to take a good look at the inventory con-

ducted by inspectors they hired in the winter, and then come back with a plan to hire an engineering consultant to write a report.

If the committee decides that the costs are too high, it might end the project at that point. However, if it looks as if it might be feasible for a potential operator to bid, then it's possible the committee will seek bids.

The bids would include paying for all of the capital costs of repair and the adaption to new standards, such as restroom fa-

ilities for handicapped people. Ultimately, the important decisions on the issue would be made by the full board.

If an operator could make a go of it, the committee appears willing to allow more than 10 years on a lease, if that would help ensure the project's success, said committee member EBRPD Director Ayn Wieskamp. Her district includes Shadow Cliffs.

According to the park's new master plan, the water slide area eventually will be redone with

splash pads and picnic tables. However, directors know there is no money now to proceed with that plan in the near future, said Wieskamp.

If the slides could be refurbished and operated, it's a good idea, because they have served so many Tri-Valley families, said Wieskamp.

Refurbishing the slides would be a win for EBRPD, because no tax money would go into the arrangement. The recreational (See SLIDES, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The annual parade celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Dublin was held last Saturday, March 17. Many of the marchers were decked out in green colors and shamrocks. The parade is hosted by the Dublin Lions Club. The weekend include entertainment, an Irish Tea Cottage, arts and crafts, food and fun for all.

Six Industry Projects to Be Aided by Lab's High Performance Computing

Six industry projects have been selected for the advancement of energy technologies using high performance computing (HPC) at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The projects will be managed by the Lab's High Performance Computing Innovation Center (HPCIC). The HPCIC is located in LLNL's open campus, an open research and development area for collaboration with industry, academia and other government agencies.

Called the "hpc4energy incubator," this pilot program aims to innovate and accelerate the development of energy technology and boost U.S. economic competitiveness in the global marketplace by teaming industry with the scientific and computing resources at national laboratories.

The companies selected are GE Energy Consulting; Robert Bosch LLC; Potter Drilling Inc.; ISO New England; United Technologies Research Center; and GE Global Research.

These companies will collaborate with Lab scientists and use the Lab's HPC to find solutions to urgent energy-related problems and learn how to employ HPC as a powerful tool for innovation.

"By bringing together industry (See COMPUTING, page 5)

Ramirez Will Be New Zone 7 Director

Angela Ramirez Holmes will replace Chris Moore on the Zone 7 Water Agency board when the new terms begin in July.

Ramirez filed for the position on March 14, the last day of the five-day filing extension in the June election. Although the election June 5 is a primary election

statewide, it serves as the only election for the Zone 7 board. The top finishers are elected.

Since three candidates filed for the three seats that were up for election, they were elected automatically, although it will be up to Alameda County to make it official.

The other two spots are being filled by incumbents Sandy Figueres of Livermore and director Dick Quigley of Pleasanton.

Moore said that his duties as San Jose police chief, to which he was promoted a year ago, are too demanding to serve another term on the board.

Ramirez told The Independent that she learned of the Zone 7 vacancy from an e-mail sent out by a Tri-Valley elected women's group.

"I was concerned that no one filed for such an important issue (water). I was waiting to see if (See ZONE 7, page 4)

Music Program Designed to Improve Academic and Social Development

A violin in the hands of a small child can pay big dividends in the development of that child, both academically and socially.

The idea, called El Sistema, was first launched in Venezuela 33 years ago. The program provides intensive, sustained music education to low income children in an after-school setting. The primary goal is to substantially improve academic and social outcomes for these children, not to train professional musicians.

California Symphony has plans to bring the program to the

Bay Area, particularly to schools in Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

Walter Collins, California Symphony Executive Director, urged the symphony to sponsor the program as a way of impacting the lives of students beyond teaching them music.

Collins said he is proposing to bring the program to Livermore. "We would leverage the caring power of the community and other arts groups such as the Livermore-Amador Symphony (See MUSIC, page 4)

Livermore High School Hosts Two Foreign Exchange Students

By Patricia Koning

For students in Katherine Paszkolovits' German classes at Livermore High School (LHS), it wasn't hard to imagine what life is like for the typical German high school student, thanks to Charlotte Erlinghagen, an exchange student from Frankfurt, Germany. Charlotte and Greta

Curro, a student from Sicily, are both spending the academic year in Livermore through the AFS Intercultural Programs USA.

"I love to travel, and I wanted to see if the United States is like the movies," says Greta. She also wanted a change from the Italian school system.

U.S. public schools, explains

Greta, couldn't be more different. "In Italy, we don't have school sports, dances, school libraries, even lockers. Relationships with teachers are very formal. School here is a lot like it appears in the movies."

Charlotte's cousin studied in the United States and loved it, so she decided to follow in his footsteps. "Everything is so big here! The streets, the cars, the houses, everything," she says.

Charlotte and Greta are two of 22 foreign exchange students hosted in the Bay Area through AFS Intercultural Programs, a youth exchange that operates all over the world. The organization was created by ambulance drivers in World War I and World War II, known as the American Field Service. In 1947, AFS members created a secondary school student exchange program that is now referred to as AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc.

"AFS-USA works toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a (See STUDENTS, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Greta Curro (left) and Charlotte Erlinghagen are exchange students attending Livermore High School.

Pleasanton Council Delays Discussion of Ordinance

The Pleasanton City Council continued an item that, if approved by the council, would have instituted new provisions for locating financial institutions in the downtown.

The council was scheduled to consider the ordinance that would designate financial institutions as conditionally permitted uses for properties that are within the downtown revitalization

district, have frontage on Main Street, and are zoned central commercial. Financial institutions are currently permitted uses in the central commercial district both within and outside the revitalization district.

Councilmember Jerry Thorne asked for support for the continuation from other councilmembers. Any councilmember has the (See BANKING, page 4)

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PET OF THE WEEK

My name is Snowy and I am a pretty kitty. I love to be held. I have gorgeous long white fur that needs daily brushing. I like to be outside in the sun at the VHS fully-enclosed kitty outdoor run, but only for a little while because of my light fur. If you give me a kitty tunnel, I will play hide and seek with you all afternoon. Please help me to find my forever home with you. Come on down and meet me. Call 925-426-8656 or go online to www.valleyhumane.org or www.facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety to see other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Photo by Jeff Cummings

RISK OF EATING RED MEAT

Many studies have shown that eating too much red meat is unhealthy. Two recent studies underscore this general warning in very different ways that reflect how complex the relationship is between health and contributory factors like diet.

One study, carried out by researchers at Harvard Medical School, found that eating an extra 3-ounce serving of red meat every day will increase the risk of mortality by 13 per cent per year. The other study, carried out by researchers from Penn State and elsewhere, found that consuming modest amounts of low-fat beef as part of cholesterol-lowering diets can improve cardiovascular health.

The study at Harvard, published online in the Archives of Internal Medicine, was by far the larger of the two. It looked at data on 121,342 men and women who participated in the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study and the Nurses Health Study. These studies compiled data from questionnaires filled out by participants concerning diet, health and other issues. Mortality was mainly from cardiovascular disease and cancer.

The Penn State study, published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, put 36 high-cholesterol individuals on various cholesterol-lowering diets including lean beef for five weeks at a time, examining blood fats after each five week period. One of the diets is called DASH, for Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension. Another is BOLD, for Beef in an Optimal Lean Diet.

The Harvard study found 13 percent elevated mortality per daily serving of red meat (beef, pork, lamb) and 20 percent elevated mortality from processed meats like sausage, bacon and hot dogs. It found that substituting other foods for the red meats would reduce mortality significantly. For example, eating nuts instead of red meat reduced mortality by 19 percent, while eating fish instead of red meat reduced it by 7 percent.

The Harvard lead author, An Pan, told news media that any amount of red meat adds to risk.

The Penn State study found reductions of several percent in total cholesterol and in the low-density (LDL) fats that can coat the insides of blood vessels and raise the risk of cardiovascular disease.

So far as the Penn State authors knew, this was the first study to look at the effects of lean beef in cholesterol-lowering diets. It does not contradict the Harvard study. However, it points to the need for further examination of the role of beef fat content in dietary health.

More broadly, it raises a red flag that researchers have long been aware of, and news reports often ignore, about the strength of conclusions that can be derived from questionnaire-based studies. Did participants in the Health Professionals and Nurses studies remember their diets accurately in detail over a period of years? If they had been asked, would they have known about the fat content of the red meats that they ate?

Carol Koprowski, a dietitian and research professor at the University of Southern California who did not participate in either study, cautioned against overinterpretation of the Harvard findings, given the uncertainties inherent in questionnaire-based research.

News reporting about the Harvard study was heavy. It ranged from alarmist to derisive. The small, almost unnoticed Penn State clinical study suggested that those who enjoy beef may be able to do so healthily if they eat the lean variety in modest amounts in diets that are designed to lower blood fats.

SMALL REACTOR DESIGN ENCOURAGED

U.S. Department of Energy has made eight locations available at Savannah River Site in South Carolina for development of small, modular nuclear reactors that would generate tens of megawatts of electrical power rather than the 1,200 megawatts or more typical of major nuclear plants today.

SMRs, as small modular reactors are known, are aimed at providing energy for remote locations like military outposts and mining operations. Modular implies that they are made and sold as a complete unit, something like conventional electrical generators only much more powerful — and containing nuclear fuel.

Three companies signed memoranda of agreement and five more companies are considering signing, according to news reports. To start with, work will focus on design. Moving to construction would require Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval and licensing, which is famously slow.

DOE spokesperson Jim Giusti said, "We're starting a marathon race and this is the beginning." Some observers estimated that it would take 10-20 years for a plant to be built.

Still, the agreement removes certain hurdles for the companies and helps fulfill the Obama Administration's promise to encourage nuclear power as a domestic energy source that does not generate greenhouse gas.

Savannah River Site has certain advantages for nuclear power research. Because it produced nuclear weapons materials for half a century, it has undergone extensive cleanup, is well understood ecologically and geologically, and has resident security and nuclear expertise. Making it available for nuclear power studies is analogous to Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories dedicating acreage for commercial partnering in the Open Campus site on Greenville Road.

Companies that signed on are NuScale, of Corvallis, Ore.;



Holtec, of Marlton, N.J.; and Gen4, of Denver. Each has proprietary designs for modular nuclear reactors.

In general, the future of SMRs is unclear. As a concept, they are attractive in providing flexible generating capacity, standing alone at some tens of megawatts of power or in a series making a larger system. They don't require the huge capital outlay, land acquisition and operating infrastructure of a major power plant.

Proponents claim they can be made inherently safe with modern technology given their small size. In a warming world, they don't generate greenhouse gases. They could be purchased and returned to the manufacturer as a unit after a set length of time like 10 years, without the need for on-site waste disposal.

In practice, they have many of the liabilities of any nuclear plant. Nuclear fuel and its accumulating waste products will require careful attention. Approval and licensing will be onerous even apart from community activism. Being small, they will be more expensive per unit of electrical energy than large plants. Economically, they face the uncertainties that any new product (developed in some cases by start-up companies) would in a competitive market.

The Savannah River project may not be the only government-provided opportunity for SMRs. Tennessee Valley Authority, a federally owned corporation, is reportedly considering a similar effort at its vacant Clinch River reactor site.

WARMING CLIMATE, SWARMING BEETLES

Some have called the destruction of lodgepole, ponderosa and other pines from the southern Rocky Mountains to Western Canada the most damaging forest insect blight ever seen in North America. It has been caused largely by infestations of pine beetles, which once played a healthy scavenging role in forest ecology by killing old, sick trees and making room for young healthy ones.

There have been occasional pine beetle outbreaks in the past, but in recent years the beetle population has exploded. Now they are swarming and attacking younger and healthier trees, sometimes thousands in a single tree, according to forestry literature. Their spread has decimated huge regions of forest. A Canadian pilot reported flying for an hour over central British Columbia and seeing only dead trees.

Pine beetles normally have a one-year life cycle, laying eggs which hatch larvae that survive low winter temperatures partly by metabolizing glycerol, which serves as an antifreeze. Now, University of Colorado naturalists are investigating the possibility that rising temperatures are stimulating the beetles to produce two generations per year instead of one. That might account for the dramatic growth in pine beetle populations.

The first clue was the 2008 discovery in Colorado of adult pine beetles two months earlier in the summer than normal. Subsequent investigations confirmed that pine beetles were emerging from the larva stage and flying off early in the summer rather than late. Then the researchers found that these young adults were mature enough to lay eggs early in the summer. The larvae from these eggs are able to mature, reproduce and lay eggs of their own in time for another hatch in the fall.

It remains to be determined whether the second crop of pine beetles survives the winter. If they do, they could help explain the voracious destruction and geographic spread. The research was led by Jeffrey Mitton, a geneticist. It will be described in an upcoming issue of American Naturalist.

Evening of Entertainment to Benefit Livermore Library

The community is invited to a celebration benefitting the Livermore Public Library. The event is hosted by the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore in honor of its 25th anniversary.

Scheduled for 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, the event will feature a diverse showcase of music and dance. A significant portion of the proceeds will be donated to the library.

The entertainment line-up includes Mariachi performers; dancers from Valley Dance Theater, Grupo Folklorico Tlapalli and It's All about Dancing; a string quartet from the Livermore-Amador Symphony, vocalists from the Livermore Valley Opera, and music from Mike Bocchicchio and the Virtual Trio, bluegrass and Irish music artists Reggie and Jesse Gaylord, Scottish fiddler Don Homan, and harpist Anna Lorenz.

The event also will feature a library tour, Livermore Valley

wines and hors d'oeuvres by Checkers Catering.

"The library is delighted to be the beneficiary of this exciting event," said Livermore Public Library director Susan Gallinger. "Providing the venue for this event allows us to thank the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore for their generous support in supplementing our diminishing materials budget. The funds raised will help the library keep up with demand for new books and other materials."

Established in 1987 by the two Livermore Rotary Clubs, the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore is a non-profit, charitable organization focused on youth, service and creating opportunities for Livermore organizations that enrich lives and build a stronger community.

Cost is \$50 per person and is partially tax deductible. For more information and to register for the event, visit www.rotarianfoundationlivermore.org.

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2558 Kellogg Loop Livermore bd 6 ba 4 sqft +/- 3,414 \$659,000 Beautifully Upgraded Home in Dunsinclair's Bds + Bonus, 4 full bths, over 3400 sq ft, over 9000 lot with extended driveway. Gorgeous hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen with granite tops, iron-stair case railings, frnt/back landscaping.	5338 Hazel Tine Dublin bd 4 ba 4.5 sqft +/- 3,883 \$799,950 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	2188 McLean Place Livermore bd 3 ba 4(2) sqft +/- 4,062 \$1,179,999 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.	188 Heligan Ln #5 Livermore bd 3 ba 3.5 sqft +/- 1,548 \$449,950 "Designer Home" Chef's Kitchen: Slab granite, mosaic tile backsplash, stainless appliances, great room and kitchen - balcony off of greatroom, sit up breakfast bar, surround sound, downstairs master suite, 2 car garage, Recreation Center, Activity Park (Pool, tot lot).	993 Summit Creek Pleasanton bd 5 ba 4.5 sqft +/- 4,434 \$1,648,000 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.	519 Escondido Cr Livermore bd 3 ba 2 sqft +/- 1,616 \$459,950 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.			
Corey Green 925.899.6011	Michael Swift 925.251.2588	Patrick Maravelias 925.251.2530	Cindy Engel 925.580.5107	Weiner/ McDowell 925.251.2585	Cindy Engel 925.580.5107			
Blackhawk East 4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir. Danville, CA 94506 925.648.5300	Blackhawk West 3880 Blackhawk Rd. Danville, CA 94506 925.736.6000	Danville 15 Railroad Ave. Danville, CA 94526 925.855.4000	Lafayette 3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, CA 94549 925.385.2330	Livermore 1983 Second St. Livermore, CA 94550 925.667.2100	Montclair/Piedmont 6116 La Salle Ave., Ste. 200 Oakland, CA 94611 510.339.4800	Orinda 89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100 Orinda, CA 94563 925.253.7000	Pleasanton 5075 Hopyard Rd Ste. 110 Pleasanton, CA 94588 925.251.2500	Walnut Creek 1700 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.280.8500

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Planning Commission OKs Walmart

The Pleasanton Planning Commission approved plans by Walmart to open a Neighborhood Markets in the vacant former Nob Hill supermarket on Santa Rita Road.

The vote was 5 to 0. The proposal had previously been approved by the city's zoning administrator. The decision was appealed by two Pleasanton residents, Angela Joe-Willmes and Linda Martin.

The City Council voted 4-1 to accept the zoning administrator's decision, with Councilman Matt Sullivan opposed.

Speakers who addressed the commission Monday were mainly in favor of the market. They pointed to a need for a neighborhood store to replace Nob Hill. In addition, the store would boost the local economy.

At previous hearings, union members had voiced their opposition, citing low wages and inadequate health benefits paid to workers by Walmart. In addition they argued that low prices drive out other grocery stores eliminating jobs for union workers.

The next possible move would be for a member of the City Council to file an appeal of the commission's decision. There is a deadline of 15 days.

If there were an appeal, it would then be heard by the council.

Wellness and Recovery Center Opens

The Alameda County Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) – Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS) department announced the grand opening and dedication of the Gail Steele Wellness and Recovery Center at 409 Jackson St. in Hayward. The event was held Wed., March 21.

The building will be occupied by three behavioral health programs including the South County Crisis Response Program (CRP), the Geriatric Assessment Response Team (GART), and a satellite office of the Family Education and Resource Center (FERC).

The site will also be utilized to host a variety of trainings and educational events. Services and programs are scheduled to be operational at the site beginning April 2, 2012.

This building and its associated programs are supported through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) passed by California voters in November 2004 to provide funding to expand and improve mental health services and programs. A subset of this funding, known as MHSA capital funding, was made available to counties to expand and improve their facilities. BHCS and the County General Services Agency (GSA) utilized MHSA capital funds to acquire, rehabilitate, and furnish this new County facility.

The facility is named in honor of longtime Alameda County Supervisor Gail Steele, who retired from office in 2011.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

ValleyCare Health System (VHS) introduced its new, state-of-the-art building in Dublin to the public recently at 4000 Dublin Boulevard, Suite 150. The new Urgent Care Center will be open "after hours" Monday – Friday 5 to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Urgent Care Center currently located at ValleyCare Medical Plaza in Livermore will remain open everyday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. ValleyCare Occupational Health will relocate offices from Livermore and Pleasanton to the new facility. In the doorway is Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti. Shannon Stewart discusses some of the monitoring equipment.

STUDENTS

(continued from page one)

global volunteer partnership," explains Marika Strauss, AFS team development specialist for the San Francisco Bay Area. As a high school student, she went to Spain through AFS.

Living in the United States offers Charlotte and Greta another new experience – having "sisters" in their host families. At home, both teens have older brothers. "It's fun to be the big sister," says Greta.

AFS screens prospective host families through written applications and in-home interviews. Host families, including children ages 14 and up, undergo criminal background checks. The exchange students are also matched with a liaison, another family that meets with the school, student, and host family to ensure the safety and well-being of the student. Liaison families act independently of host families but must live in the same community.

Nadine Horner, a public relations officer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and her husband are Greta's liaison family. They accepted the role not knowing where Greta was from, so it was a welcome surprise to learn she was from Italy, where Nadine's husband spent two years studying. "It's been a delight getting to know Greta," says Nadine.

Both teens are enjoying attending high school in the United States. Charlotte has two more years of high school left when she returns home, but decided to attend LHS as a senior so she could experience senior year, including prom, graduation, and grad night. After meeting Paszkolovits a few weeks into the school year, she took it upon herself to change her schedule so she could be a teaching assistant in German 1 and German 2.

"The students were so pleased to meet someone authentic," says Paszkolovits. "Every time we studied an aspect of German life like the school system, fashion, celebrations, and cultural issues, Charlotte would share her own experiences with the class. It was wonderful for the students to learn directly from a German peer."

Charlotte enjoyed the experience as much as the German students. "It's really great to hear other people learn your language. Language is a part of who you are and when they are learning your language, they are learning a part of you," she says.

Charlotte is on the swim team and Greta is trying out pole vault. "I always liked watching it on television and here I have the chance to try it for myself," she says.

Both teens are top students at LHS, earning high grades in tough classes like Advanced Placement Calculus and Chemistry. Attending school in English was not difficult, except in math classes. "We never had any reason to learn the English words for math at home," says Greta. "So for the first few weeks I was always looking in the dictionary."

While both teens miss their families, friends, and local food, they say they'll be sad to leave their American friends when they return home in June. They are looking forward to a trip to Southern California in April with other Bay Area AFS students. AFS organizes regular outings and activities for the exchange students.

AFS is currently seeking host families, liaison families, and students interested in studying

abroad, along with volunteers in all capacities. Most AFS programs are semester- or year-long exchanges for students ages 15 to 18. There are also shorter summer programs ranging from two weeks to three months for high school students, community service programs for young adults over 18, and programs for teachers and other professionals.

The academic year abroad costs about \$12,000, depending on the country. Tuition covers round-trip international travel, professional guidance and sup-

port, placement with the host family and host school, orientations, medical insurance, and 24-hour emergency assistance. Host families are not paid.

Scholarships are available; Charlotte received a full scholarship and Greta received a partial scholarship. Visit www.afs.org for more information on tuition and scholarships.

For more information, contact Marika Strauss at 1-800-237-4636, ext. 1582 or mstrauss@afs.org or visit www.afsusa.org/san-francisco-bay.

Sunday's Farmers' Market at New Site

The Livermore Sunday Farmers' Market is moving to a brand new location on March 11th: Blacksmith Square on South Livermore Ave. between Railroad Ave. and First St.

The market has new hours as well – 10:00am to 2:00pm. As always, the market is open year-round, rain or shine. There will be a cooking demonstration by "Cookin' the Market" chef, Mario Hernandez, preparing fresh and simple recipes using market-fresh produce. Samples what he's prepared and take home some great recipes. There

will be a jump house and coloring and crafts for children.

Coming soon to the Livermore Sunday Farmers' Market will be earthy spring asparagus and fresh green peas. Right now there are mounds of bright green lettuce, chard, and kale, plump sweet strawberries, cauliflower and broccoli, carrots, gourmet hot foods and baked goods, and much more. Cherries will be arriving in May.

The Thursday evening farmers' market will return to Carnegie Park in Livermore on May

17 with Thirsty Thursdays featuring wine tasting by the Livermore Valley Wine Growers Association. Both the Sunday and Thursday farmers' markets are sponsored by the Livermore Downtown, Inc. Learn more about them and other exciting downtown events at www.livermoredowntown.com.

For more information on the Livermore Farmers' Market, please contact the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association at (800) 949-FARM, (925) 825-9090, or go to www.pcfma.com.



No horn blowing ... but a company worth knowing

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Dealing with Bullying

Pleasanton is stepping forward to combat the problem of bullying and violence. A speaker event tonight, March 22 will feature keynote speaker Calvin Terrell of Social Centric.

Terrell's presentation is "Violence or Virtue: A Community Challenge." He uses an interactive approach that engages the audience in discussions about the spectrum of bullying and violence, strategies to prevent bullying and violence and the need for a culture of collaboration.

The event is hosted by Foothill High School's "Got Assets? Initiative" and the Pleasanton School District.

A press release issued about the event points out that peer bullying is the most widespread form of violence in schools.

The presentation will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Four Points Sheraton Ballroom, 5155 Hopyard Road. There is no charge.

Given the reportedly pervasiveness of bullying in today's society, it is important to begin to work together to create an atmosphere of tolerance, respect and inclusiveness. This talk is a step in that direction.

ZONE 7

(continued from page one)

someone else filed," but no one did on the last day, so she submitted her papers.

The two important issues right now for Zone 7 are participation in helping to shape the future of the Delta and the continuation of dealing with the details of the agency's separation from Alameda County, said Ramirez.

(The separation has been underway for several years. It is amicable, but there are many details to work out.)

Ramirez said that she has picked up water policy experience in her work for several elected officials. She served as a staff aide for former Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher and as a district representative for Assemblymember Nancy Skinner of Berkeley.

Ramirez lives in Pleasanton with her husband and three children. She is a partner with two others in Alliance Campaign Strategies, which handles campaigns in the Eastbay and the Stockton area.

The firm consults on campaigns. It has worked for Valley officeholders such as Zone 7's Moore, Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti, Dublin councilmembers Kasie Hildenbrand and Eric Swallow, and Assemblymember Joan Buchanan. She spent four months as interim director for Assemblymember Bob Wieckowski, whose district includes a southern slice of Pleasanton.

Ramirez said that she organized the Measure QQ campaign in Pleasanton, which was on the ballot with Measure PP. Both

dealt with the future of Pleasanton ridgelines and open space. Both were approved, Measure QQ with fewer votes.

She also was involved as a citizen in opposing the proposed Walmart superstore in Livermore, as a member of Livermore First. She said that the opposition to a superstore was a Valleywide issue.

Ramirez has not been involved in the recent controversy over a Walmart grocery store proposal for the former Nob Hill store on Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton.

Ramirez earned a degree in politics from St. Mary's College, and a teaching certificate from Chapman University. She is a PTA member and a member of the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee (DCC). She also previously served on the board of Tri-Valley NOW.

In view of her service on the DCC, and her staff work for Democrats Tauscher, Skinner and Wieckowski, and her campaign consultancy with Buchanan, Ramirez was asked what she would respond to people who might say she filed for the non-partisan office to run for partisan office someday.

Ramirez laughed, and said, "Everyone who knows me, knows that I have said 'no' to public office in the past. I served the community in other ways including with the PTA. All have been non-partisan, except for Buchanan's campaign," she said. (Staff members of elected partisan officials don't have party designations in their jobs. They are expected to serve all constituents well, regardless of party.)

Pleasanton School District Exploring Early Retirement Option for Some Employees

A consultant for the Pleasanton Unified School District will survey certificated personnel to see whether enough eligible employees would be willing to take an early buyout from the district.

Trustees agreed, 4-0, at their meeting March 13 to pay Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) \$3500 to survey employees to see whether an early retirement plan would work for the district.

Trustee Jeff Bowser abstained. His wife, who is a teacher in the district, is eligible for early retirement. Bowser said that he had no legal conflict of interest, but wanted to abstain in case there were any appearance of a conflict.

If the plan were put into effect, the district would pay 5 percent more to the plan to cover the extra cost of its contribution to the plan each year for a total of five years.

The incentives for the district in encouraging early retirement from non-management certificated people can be two-fold. It could turn out that the district would save money by not paying full ticket for employees near the

end of their careers.

More people retiring than through the natural attrition process would also free up more jobs for people who otherwise would be laid off in May.

The board is expected to make a decision at a meeting in May about proceeding with the early retirement plan.

PARS senior vice president Dennis Yu said that normally, in a district, a certain percentage would sign up. In Pleasanton 41 employees out of 191 would be eligible for early retirement.

If only 41 sign up, the district would lose \$427,000, and not go ahead with the plan. However, if 59 can be found to make the commitment, the district could at least break even. That would still help create openings that could retain some teachers that otherwise would be laid off.

Yu said that 59 sign-ups might not be the break-even number. It could be lower, maybe as low as 50, once the actual people who would sign up are known, along with their salaries.

It's also possible the interest among employees would be so high that the district would exceed the break-even point, and

achieve some savings, said Yu.

Trevor Knaggs, president of the district's teachers union, spoke up for the plan. He said that it could save some cuts on the list. It could be appealing to teachers who know that with the gloomy state financial picture, there might not be any salary increases in the next three or four years.

"At the end of the day, if not enough are encouraged to participate, it's okay. At least we can (look into it)," said Knaggs.

Right now, unless the district finds enough money to offset \$5.5 million in projected cuts, the district would let go 26 elementary school teachers because of planned change in class size reduction, from 25 to 30 students in a class. There are other positions on the layoff list, too.

O.K. FOR TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

The board unanimously approved adding transitional kindergarten next year. The plan is to offer four classrooms at Hearst, Lydixsen and Valley View elementary schools, said Jane Golden, director of curriculum and special projects.

The district would place 30

students in each class, which would create a surplus of \$200 per classroom, because the state money for it works out that way. Staffing at 28:1 would leave a \$5900 deficit per class, and at 25:1, the deficit would be \$15,000.

Legally, a district can place 32 in a transitional kindergarten class. However, the average of all classes could not go over 30.

Children born in November would be eligible for transitional kindergarten. If not enough sign up to complete a class of 30, the district may go to families with students born in October and September to see if they are interested in putting their children in the classes.

Trustee Chris Grant said that he supports the idea, but fears it could be the victim of mid-year cuts. "As we enter into it, we should be cautious we don't expand it dramatically to October and September birthdays, until we see the fiscal stability at the state level," said Grant.

Board president Joan Laursen said that she has been "excited about this program for a long time."

SLIDES

(continued from page one)

facility would still be available to people who enjoy it, said Wieskamp.

The slides in the last year of operation in 2011 showed 26,000 separate runs, according to Glenn Kierstead, owner of California Splash 2, which operated the slides for the past few years.

Kierstead told the Independent that he wants to see the park continue, even if he were not a successful bidder. "I enjoy seeing the smiles on faces of kids who use it," he said.

FAR APART ON COST ESTIMATES

Kierstead said that he could fix up the slides for \$280,000, which is much lower than the "less than \$6 million" that EBRPD assistant general manager Jim O'Connor talked about at the meeting. Kierstead claimed that there may not be as much to accomplish as the EBRPD staff says there is.

However, there won't be a firm figure until the engineering report is completed. Even then, Kierstead questions whether the firm that will prepare the EBRPD report would be as tuned into low

costs as an evaluating firm in the water slide industry would be. He would like EBRPD to hire an industry consultant.

However, Wieskamp said that it is imperative that the district proceed the correct way when it comes to the consulting work, so it is certain that all of the safety measures would be in place.

Pleasanton resident Julie Testa, who has advocated for keeping the slides open, said she was disappointed nothing could be done for this summer. "It doesn't bode well to miss a season," she said.

O'Connor said that there is not enough time to complete the engineering study, go out to bid, and still get the facility open this summer.

Testa said that she was glad to see Wieskamp and other committee members reject the alternative that would have terminated the slides immediately. She said that she felt "blind-sided" by the staff recommendation to terminate the slides.

Testa attended community meetings on the formation of the Shadow Cliffs general plan. At the meetings, district representatives said that "even if you phase out the water slides, it would be in the long term, not in the immediate future or 10 years out,"

said Testa. Many in Pleasanton support the water slides, and want to see them continue, she said.

O'Connor had no estimate on when the engineering report would come back to the operations committee. When the report is finished, it will be up to the panel to determine what to do

BANKING

(continued from page one)

right to continue an item on an agenda. Thorne had not wanted to use that ability without support from other councilmembers. The matter was a consent calendar item.

Thorne stated, "It feels like a knee-jerk reaction to a single situation in the downtown. The staff hasn't fully vetted all of the unintended consequences if this ordinance were approved."

Thorne pointed out that there are large numbers of banks in the downtown, because the city insisted they locate there.

Both Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio supported the continuation. However, Hosterman said she was comfortable with the way the ordinance was written.

Cook-Kallio said she would

next.

If members think it's wise to continue the slides, the next step would be going out for bids for an operator to present a plan with a realistic chance for success. Besides Wieskamp, the other committee members are Doug Siden of Alameda and Carol Severin of Castro Valley.

MUSIC

(continued from page one)

and Pacific Chamber Orchestra."

The goal is to place a violin in the hands of every first grader in a school. The first time the California Symphony's program will be implemented is at Downer Elementary in San Pablo.

"Downer administrators are convinced the program will make a difference. The school has committed its own funds," he stated.

Collins explained that the program is offered three days a week in 25 minute modules. The first session focuses on chorus, rhythm and basic music. The students then move on to violin instruction. Collins noted that there is an early commitment towards playing together. A concert is performed the first week.

The final module focuses on academics, with volunteers acting as tutors in such areas as reading.

Collins stated that the students keep the violins. It's to be determined at what point they begin to take the instruments home, but the goal is for them to have practice become a part of their daily routines.

"We have funding for one school. However, there is interest in Richmond in providing the program in schools in that

community," Collins added.

One of the "cool things" is that each child, before receiving a real violin, builds his or her own cardboard violin. They use it to practice for the first four weeks. It teaches them respect for the instrument, as well as how to handle it. "Parents play a critical role. We ask them to provide an appropriate rehearsal space at home. They also join the kids for two nights to help assemble the cardboard violins," Collins stated.

The program is free to the students. However, the California Symphony cannot sustain this program alone, continued Collins.

To make the program affordable, one company has agreed to donate the bows. Another company has given the California Symphony a break on the cost of violins. The Symphony is applying for grants.

Symphony volunteers have created the kits from which the students will construct the violins.

Teaching artist auditions are held to find an instructor for the program. Candidates are observed teaching and interacting with two groups of first graders. A committee of symphony musicians are on the hiring committee

along with several staff members. "We're looking for the Mary Poppins of music," he quipped.

The program continues on through 6th grade, at this point. The Symphony has established a multi-year plan with budgets. The idea is for the older kids to begin mentoring the youngsters in the orchestra as they progress through the program. "We're starting off with violins and cellos, then will add instruments as they move up. We are waiting for a visionary foundation to fund this vision," he stated.

According to several websites, scientific research has found that encouraging music involvement in a fun way strengthens children's educational, physical, and emotional development. When learning a song, a musical instrument, or a dance step, a child experiences the unique integration of body and mind that music provides. Sensory integration is a crucial factor in children's learning readiness for school subjects such as reading, writing, and math. Music improves spatial-temporal reasoning (See the M.I.N.D. Institute research), a neurological process needed to understand mathematics.

The California Symphony will play its first concert in Livermore on May 4. The 8 p.m. performance will offer a program of Lara St. John and Beethoven's Ninth. In addition, the symphony will perform a world premier work by D.J. Sparr, the Young Composer in Residence.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. For ticket information, go online to www.bankheadtheater.org or call 373-6800.

MAILBOX

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

Paper Bags Walter D. Harvey Livermore

We are being told by County Authority and city officials that recycled content paper bags used by food retailers will be taxed at a minimum of \$0.10 per bag starting 1/1/13 in a questionably motivated attempt to discourage their use. This tax will increase to \$0.25 on 1/1/15 if customers are not sufficiently motivated by the \$0.10 tax to reduce paper bag use. Since County Authority and city have also banned plastic carry out bags, the need for paper bags will increase in spite of the tax; shoppers will not bring enough of their own bags to compensate for this increased need, hence paper bag tax increases are inevitable. To date we have not been told who will be the beneficiary of these taxes, nor how long they will be collected.

Paper bags are reusable, recyclable, biodegradable and made

from 40% recycled products. Additional new paper is provided by an insignificant fraction of the output of tree farms that are needed to supply our huge need for tree products of all kinds. These farms of rapidly growing trees provide the environmental benefit of sequestering carbon that is being dumped into the atmosphere by fossil fuel-burning power plants, factories and vehicles. And paper grocery bags are not a noticeable contributor to roadside litter like those empty beverage containers on which we have been paying a \$0.05 tax for many years.

So why this assault on paper bags and those who need and use them?

Disappointed Gail Shearer Livermore

I attended the February 29 Forum on Single-Payer Health Care for Californians sponsored by the League of Women Voters and was very disappointed by what I heard. I'm not sure of the name of the doctor on the panel (Was it Dr. Clark? The moderator did not speak very clearly.) Dr. Clark said hardly anything about Health Maintenance Organizations in his discussion; although among Lab retirees Kaiser is the largest health care provider.) Afterwards when I tried to ask him about Kaiser he said quote "Kaiser is my competition." So

what are we to assume from that -- surely not that he is going to give a thoughtful summary of what HMOs will have to offer. I'm afraid under his view of the single payer plan there is no place for HMOs. An accurate discussion of their corporate structure, salaries of administrators, etc would have been a welcome relief from hearing about the excesses of the other medical insurance plans. Those of us who use Kaiser are happy that we are dealing with physicians in a completely coordinated group including hospitals and feel that we are receiving good care at a very reasonable price.

After attending the Feb. 29 meeting, I no longer support the Single Payer Plan. I am happy with my Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). Since I am under Medicare I could use it as a single payer plan and work with individual doctors which I have chosen not to do. However I have helped family members do this in the past and the paperwork is a headache as well as the challenge of choosing specialists when needed.

The presentation was completely one sided which might be all right if there were only two models, but this is not true since the third model is HMOs. If this was supposed to be an unbiased well thought out recommendation for a single payer health care plan it failed.

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i-GATE Partners Discuss CyberTran Test Track Site

i-GATE officials visited the future site of the CyberTran International low speed test track in Richmond, CA. The meeting was attended by representatives from the cities of Richmond and Davis and the three East Bay department of energy national labs - Lawrence Livermore, Sandia, and Lawrence Berkeley. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss requirements of a high speed test track location for CyberTran's ultra-lightweight high-speed rail technology. CyberTran is considering both Lathrop and Davis as potential locations for the high-speed test track.

The test track is proposed as a five-mile continuous figure eight loop that will allow CyberTran to validate the application of their rail technology at speeds in excess of 150 miles per hour. The CyberTran vehicle and rail technology have already been tested in low speed environments of up to 60 mile per hour on closed loop tracks and on a 1/32nd scale test track at the Richmond facility with speeds modeled in excess of 160 miles per hour. With a full-scale high-speed test facility, CyberTran will be able to demonstrate that the technology is appropriate for use in urban and rural transit environments.

"Davis is committed to being a leader in sustainability and alternative modes of transportation. We are intrigued by the CyberTran technology because of the potential for affordable and fast connections with the Sacramento region and its urban centers and transportation hubs," explained Davis Mayor Pro Tem Rochelle Swanson.

CyberTran's plan for the high-speed test track includes almost \$100 million dollars of investment and will result in local and regional construction and manufacturing jobs in design and assembly of the track and vehicles. By demonstrating the ability of the system to operate across the spectrum of low to high speed environments, CyberTran hopes



Artist's concept of CyberTran station.

to demonstrate the potential for use of the technology as a connector between current mass transit systems across California, the US, and internationally. At a projected cost of just 20% per rail mile of traditional rail technologies, and the ability to operate in built-out urban centers with minimal impact, CyberTran is currently working with several congressional members to identify funding for the high-speed test track from existing transportation appropriations.

The technology provides a passenger rail system that can allow passengers to plan their destinations around their personal schedule. The raised track includes an electric third-rail for vehicle power similar to many urban mass transit technologies. However, the track is light enough to be incorporated into buildings and structures so that stations can serve passengers with the greatest amount of flexibility. The computer-controlled and lightweight rail cars are powered by solar panels that line the track. Stations are aligned as off-track sidings to allow the system to continue to move cars through the systems while unloading and loading.

"Rail transit is an important part of the transportation picture," explains Neil Sinclair, CEO and

President of CyberTran. "We have developed the CyberTran technology as an application of all of the best attributes that rail technology has to offer, including ease of use, seamless operation in urban and rural environments, connection between regional centers, and stations that are adjacent to the mainline so that the vehicles can bypass stations where no stop is necessary." This last point is a major distinction for the CyberTran rail technology. By using a station layout that allows stopping vehicles to get off of the mainline, travel times for passengers are dramatically decreased with the elimination of unnecessary station stops.

As part of the i-GATE iHub Initiative, CyberTran is an affiliate in the partnership that includes national labs, research institutions, academic partners, economic and workforce development organizations, and venture capital firms.

With a primary focus on connecting appropriate sectors together in collaboration, i-GATE partners have focused on identifying and quickly deploying new technologies and innovations to have a positive effect on the economy and assist in creating thousands of new job opportunities in the region.

Concannon Founder Inducted Into Irish American Hall of Fame

First Vintner in Hall; Past Inductees include President John Kennedy and Director John Huston

Concannon Vineyard founder James Concannon has been recognized as one of "The Great Irish Americans of Yesterday" at the 2nd Annual Irish America Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Luncheon held at the New York Yacht Club. He is the first vintner to be formally inducted into the enduring Irish America Hall of Fame.

Past inductees include John F. Kennedy, President; John Huston, renowned film director, screenwriter and actor; and father to Anjelica Huston; Charles Carroll, Signatory to the Declaration of Independence; and Commodore John Barry, Founder of the US Navy, among others.

The Irish America Hall of Fame presentation will be held at Irish America Day on July 4, 2012 in New Ross, County Wexford, Ireland.

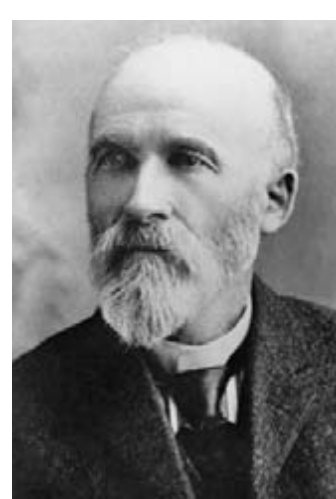
"It's a great honor to have my great-grandfather, patriarch of Concannon Vineyard, recognized for his contributions and named to this esteemed list of Irish American leaders. His achievements have shaped our desire to build on his legacy of tradition with innovation in grape-growing, winemaking and estate management practices," said John Concannon, fourth generation vintner at the Livermore winery.

When James Concannon planted white Bordeaux cuttings in late 1883, Concannon Vineyard became one of the first wineries to make Bordeaux-style wines in California. The vineyard he planted and the wines that he began producing soon after have flourished for over 128 years, making it one of California's longest lived wineries.

Over the next four generations, the Concannon family has earned recognition for its great commitment to sustainability programs, stewardship of the land and quality enhancement initiatives, including pioneering of Concannon clones 7, 8 and 11, bedrocks of California Cabernet Sauvignon that replanted much of Napa Valley in the 1970s, and bottling of America's first varietally labeled Petite Sirah over fifty years ago.

"2011 marks the 50th anniversary of Concannon Vineyard's inaugural bottling of the first Petite Sirah varietal, and we are justly proud of its continuing contribution to the development of viticulture in America," notes John Concannon.

Irish America Magazine co-founder and editor, Patricia Harty, stated, "The Irish America Hall of Fame honors the extraordinary achievements of Irish-American leaders of today, from their significant accomplishments and contributions



James Concannon

to American society, to their personal commitment of safeguarding their Irish heritage and the betterment of Ireland. James Concannon continues to inspire us with his vision to come to America, establish a winery that has been a pillar of the wine industry for 128 years, raise a family of ten with his wife Ellen, while making many contributions to church and community, always proud of his rich Irish heritage and maintaining a close connection to Ireland."

The historic winery earned organic certification for its estate vineyards in 2010 and preserves an agricultural way of life by protecting vineyards from urban development through its Conservancy tier of critically acclaimed wines.

For additional information, www.concannonvineyard.com

IRISH WHISKEY

This year was also notable at Concannon for the launch of Concannon Irish Whiskey made from Petite Sirah.

John Concannon wrote an article in tribute to James Concannon, "I wish my Great-Grandfather were here now so I could personally give him this Special Tribute on his Birthday... which, as luck would have it, is also on St. Patrick's Day!! If I could I would ask him such questions as, as an early pioneer of the California Wine Industry, what did he envision?"

"I imagine that I would also be enthralled and happily surprised by other stories of his many life's adventures and dreams which he shared around his family table.

However, this St. Patrick's Day, his 165th Birthday, I believe I would have a surprise for him that not even he would have imagined!

"Just a century ago, James returned from Bordeaux's Chateau d'Yquem with premium vine cuttings, including Petite Sirah, primarily used as a blending grape in Old World France. However, because of the unique climate in the Livermore Valley, James believed the grape would flourish in the New World with a more robust flavor, thereby allowing him to craft beautifully distinctive Bordeaux and Rhône-style wines. James was correct in his assessment, and Concannon became one of the first wineries to make Bordeaux style wines in California.

"I wonder, when carefully transporting and meticulously planting those Petite Sirah vines, could he ever have imagined that Irish Whiskey from his beloved Ireland would be crafted and then finished with the same Petite Sirah? If my Great-Grandfather were here, I would want him to know how honored I am to announce the 2012 release of Concannon Irish Whiskey as a tribute in admiration of his adventurous spirit, vision and ambitious endeavors, along with our family's highest respect for his character and the legacy he began.

"Concannon Irish Whiskey, therefore, has been crafted for an ultimate smoothness, flavor, balance and complexity that he would have been honored to savor. This dedication is for him as well as for the rich history and culture of the Concannon family's ancestral homeland that he loved," concluded John Concannon.

COMPUTING

(continued from page one)

try's entrepreneurial know-how and the national labs' science and technology, we aim to establish a model for energy technology innovation," said Tomas Diaz de la Rubia, Lab deputy director for Science & Technology. "Our goal is to boost U.S. economic competitiveness in the global energy market by accelerating the development of new energy technologies.

"The national labs offer access to some of the world's most powerful supercomputers as well as the multidisciplinary expertise required to apply HPC to the development of innovative solutions to the country's energy challenges," added Diaz de la

Rubia, who announced the pilot program last year at a Technology Leadership and Strategy Initiative (TLSI) workshop, sponsored by the U.S. Council on Competitiveness and hosted by the U.S. Naval Academy in Washington D.C.

The hpc4energy incubator emerged from the National Summit on Advancing Clean Energy Technologies held in Washington D.C. in May, 2011. The summit was sponsored by the Howard Baker Forum, the Bipartisan Policy Center, LLNL, and other

partners who focused on exploring how HPC can catalyze rapid advancement of U.S. clean energy technologies.

This program also addresses the needs and benefits identified earlier in studies by the Council on Competitiveness in strengthening the U.S. manufacturing sector and competitiveness as a whole. The studies identified HPC as a key competitive advantage for the U.S. and underscored the importance of removing the barriers inhibiting industry's adoption of HPC.

Portola Overpass Opening Provides New Route to I-580

The newly constructed Portola Avenue Overpass is open to traffic

It opened on Wednesday, March 21, 2012, earlier than originally scheduled. The contractor finished up the striping operation on Tuesday. Electronic message boards will be placed at the junction of Portola and Airway to advise motorists of the new route to I-580.

The opening of the Portola Avenue overpass is the final step of the Isabel/I-580 Interchange project.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand stated, "I am pleased

to see this final component of the Isabel Interchange project opening early. The Portola Overpass benefits all of Livermore by providing greatly improved access to the residences, and businesses on the north side of I-580 and to Las Positas College. The incorporation of bicycle and pedestrian friendly features into this crossing enhances the use of non-motorized transportation resulting in a cleaner and more healthy environment for the City."

For information on the Isabel Avenue Interchange project, call Roberto Escobar at (925) 960-4500.

AUTISM

(continued from page one)

relationship distinguishes it from another approach, applied behavioral analysis, which stresses rewards and disincentives guided by outside specialists.

Musso swears by the home-based Son-Rise program, based on the experience she and her husband have had using it with their own autistic child. She calls the results "healing and beautiful for the entire family."

"Many parents don't know about autism, so we go to professionals and we are told what to do," she said. "We need to learn that we parents are the best support and partner for our own child."

Parents need outside help, Musso agrees, but that is best provided by volunteers, who "come with warmth in their hearts," rather than paid staff.

A donation of \$10 will be encouraged but not required for Friday night attendees, Musso said. Those with questions are encouraged to phone her at 925-784-1537.

Livermore Sanitation

Why Compost Your Food Scraps?

- Food scraps (fruit, dairy, grains, meat, bones, etc.) go in your organics cart along with yard waste and food-soiled paper.
- Food scraps and yard trimmings you place in your organics cart are processed into a rich soil amendment.
- Food scraps you place down your garbage disposal end up in the landfill.
- Food scraps you place in your garbage cart release methane as they decompose at the landfill.
- Methane is a greenhouse gas which traps heat in the atmosphere 20 times more than carbon dioxide, accelerating climate change.

Do Your Part...Use Your Organics Cart!

www.LivermoreSanitation.com

Reed Plumbing Company

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(925) 371-5671
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The City of Pleasanton invites you to apply for vacancies on the following commissions and committees:

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails – 1 Youth Member
Civic Arts Commission – 1 Member
Economic Vitality Committee – 1 representative from each of the following categories:

- Business at Large
- Business Park
- Commercial Services Firm
- Commercial Real Estate Broker
- Commercial Real Estate Developer
- Environmental Industry
- Infrastructure
- Medical Technology
- Residential Real Estate Broker

Energy & Environment Committee – 1 Member
Housing Commission – 1 Alternate
Library Commission – 1 Member, 1 Alternate
Youth Commission – Representatives from each of the following categories:

- Village High School Freshman/Sophomore – 1 Member
- Harvest Park Middle School 6th or 7th Grade – 1 Member
- Pleasanton Middle School 6th or 7th Grade – 1 Member
- Thomas Hart Middle School 6th or 7th Grade – 1 Member
- At Large Student 6th to 10th Grade – 3 Members
- Adult Commissioner 18 years old or older – 2 Members
- Alternate Members 6th Grade to 10th Grade – 2 Members

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) Citizens Advisory Committee
3 Pleasanton representatives

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or on the City's web site at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/newcommapp.pdf>. For additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 23, 2012.

If you are interested in serving on a commission or committee that has no current vacancies listed, you may register your interest in future vacancies by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027 or by completing an interest card on our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

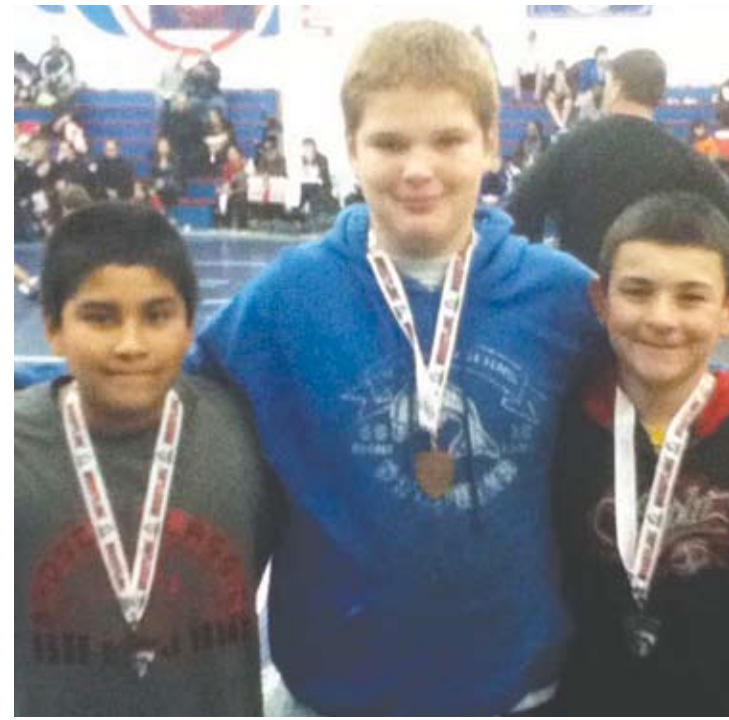
SPORTS NOTES



West Coast Gymnastics Xcel Silver and Bronze Team competed at the 2012 Golden State Classic Gymnastic Meet held March 10 in Sacramento where the West Coast team finished in first place. Results: **Brace Younger Division:** 1st place All Around Irene Kim; 2nd place All Around Kayla Robertson; 5th place All Around Hannah Wang; 6th place All Around Danielle Enriquez; **Older division Bronze:** 1st place All around Aiko Harris; 4th place All Around Rachel Kim; 5th place All Around Hailey Benner; 6th place All Around Allyson Murphey; 7th place All Around Isla Gristen; 8th place All Around Hannah Chen; **Silver Younger Division:** 3rd place All Around Emma Clopton; 4th place All Around Amanda Kim; 5th place All Around Sarah Schmuck; 6th place All Around Claire Fuller; 7th place All Around Micaella Martim; **Silver Older Division:** 5th place All Around Anna Orozco; 6th place All Around Amanda Furrer; 7th place All Around Krista West



Burns Baker, age 76 and a resident of Livermore, ran his first 5k race on March 17 at Lake Del Valle. The race was the Badger Cove event put on by Brazen Racing. This first time runner not only completed the 5k, running every step of the race, but also finished first in his age group.



Pictured are East Avenue Middle School wrestlers Jesse Sierra, Adam Lebish and Bryan Torres, who all placed at the 19th Annual Bancroft Wrestling tournament.



Taylor's Martial Arts, of Livermore, CA, sent one of its black belt students and its two youngest students on the tournament team to The Proper Challenge Karate Tournament in San Pablo, California on March 3, 2012. The following students competed & placed: Alexis Aying (age 7): 1st Place 6-7 yr old Girls Novice Sparring; Kristin Ford (age 8): 2nd Place in 8-9 yr old Novice Forms & 2nd Place in 8-9 yr old Girls Novice Sparring; Brandon DeBorba (age 17): 2nd Place in Boys 15-17 yr old Continuous Sparring. Pictured are Alexis Aying (left) and Kristin Ford (right), not present for the photo was Brandon DeBorba.



Pictured are members of the Wrestling Bulldogs team from Junction K-8. They competed at Bancroft Middle School's tournament.

4th Place Bronze. Gold medal winners were undefeated for the entire tournament to win first place in their respective bracket. Results are: 6th Grade Girls: Jordyn Parker, 152lbs
6th Grade Boys (including a 4th & 5th grade competitors in 6th grade brackets): Elijah Maravilla, 4th grader, 69lbs, Bronze; Alex Johnson, 5th grader, 1 pin-win; Anthony Martinez, 94lbs, Gold; John Takemura, 106lbs, Gold; Keaton Simoni, 108lbs, 1 pin-win; Zach Oliveira, 111, Bronze; Zach Stewart, 136, Bronze
7th Grade Boys: Joseph Lestochi, 87lbs; Magnus Resler-Miller, 123lbs, Bronze; Eric Maravilla, 123lbs, Gold; Ryan Myers, 125lbs; Tyler Pokorny, 138lbs, Bronze; Alejandro Buenestro, 156lbs, Gold
8th Grade Girls: Jordan Madrugra, 139lbs, Bronze; Janelle Holm, 176lbs
8th Grade Boys: Gerardo Tornero, 113lbs; Robert Guel, 115, 1 pin-win; Jared Johnson, 118, Bronze; Taylor Braga, 137lbs, Bronze; Angel Rodriguez, 207lbs, Bronze



Livermore Aquacowboys
The Livermore Aquacowboys swim team competed at the Pacific Swimming Short Course Junior Olympics Trials and Finals on March 16-18. The Junior Olympics were hosted by San Ramon Valley Livermore Aquatics in San Ramon. The meet challenged 1241 swimmers with 5369 total entries. LAC had more swimmers than ever make finals, with 22 finals swimmers.
Results: Caroline Ekele: 1st place 50 fly, 4th place 50 fr, 9th place 100, 200 fr, 100 fly, 11th place 500 free. Paige DaCosta: best time 50 bk, 6th place, 100 IM 15th place. Sofia Moufarrej: best Time 50 free, Jenna Chew: best time 50 free, Shahini Ananth: 16th place 200 breast. Celine Nguyen: best time 200 breast, best time 100 breast. Tori Carroll: best time 200 breast.
Haley Hamza: 2nd place 200 bk, best time, 3rd place 1000 free, best time. Katie Kulp: best time by 5 seconds 200 bk, best time by 53 seconds 1650, new Sectional time, 1st place. Shelby Swanson: 3rd place 50 free, 6th place 100 free, best unshaved 200 fly. Franco Moufarrej: 16th place 50 free best time, 11th place 50 bk, best time. Christopher Gonzalez: 9th place 50 bk, best time, 10th place 100 bk, best time, 7th place 50 fly, best time, New Team Record. Collin Trump: New Far western time in 100fly but DQed.
Brandon Siu: best time 50 free, 13th place. Alex Gonzalez: best time 100, 200 bk, 12th place in 200 bk. Trent Trump: best unshaved 200 bk, 1st place, best time 200 fly, best unshaved 200 IM. Alex Wang: best times 200 bk, 200 fly, 200 IM, 200 Br. Andrew Hayes: best unshaved 100 fly
Other LAC swimmers who competed were Nathan Boas, Catherine Elliott, Nina Hayes and Sarah Swanson.

Pleasanton Rage U19D3 teammates jump for joy. Pictured (from left) Mary Gruen, Ari Siegel, Autumn Whitney, Nayo Clinchard, Haley Boehmer, Madison Nethery, Kelsey Milligan, Megan Smart, Kara Matsune, Sarah Machado, Taylor Lee, Dana Syriani, Olivia Zhu, Carly Boehmer, and Kiley Zieker. Not pictured: Nicole Torquato. Photo - Robin Smart

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Other LAC swimmers who competed were Nathan Boas, Catherine Elliott, Nina Hayes and Sarah Swanson.

Christensen Wrestling

Christensen Middle School turned in another good performance at the 19th annual Bancroft wrestling tournament held at San Leandro High School on Saturday, March 17.

A total of 9 wrestlers placed, 7 of those made the finals. Two 6th graders led the way. In the finals, Chris Sanchez pinned his opponent in the second round to take first place. Christian Lopez also pinned his opponent, in the first round, to finish in first. 5 wrestlers finished in second place. In an anticipated match, Ryan Petersen had time run out on him as he was trying to take down John French of Hart Middle School. Ryan lost 5-7 and finished in second place. A rematch at the league finals on March 31st is expected. Fellow 7th grader Miguel Castro made the finals for the second week in a row and finished in second place.

8th graders Kyle Tadokoro and Chris Lassen both made the finals for the second week in a row and placed second this week. Alejandro Tuzon, 8th grade, pinned his first 2 opponents to make the finals and place second. After losing a tough semifinal match 5-6, 6th grader Coben Turk won his next 2 matches to finish in 3rd. 7th grader Joey Sullivan also had a tough loss in the semifinals, losing in overtime 8-10. He made up for it with a perfect pancake head and arm and pinned his opponent in the second round to finish in 3rd.

The Cougars will compete next Saturday, March 24 at Harvest Park Middle School Tournament, where over 600 wrestlers are expected to be there.

East Avenue Wrestling

The East Avenue Middle School wrestling team had eleven medalists at the 19th Annual Bancroft Wrestling tournament on March 17. East Avenue advanced three wrestlers to the championship finals claiming two gold-medals.

Seventh-grader Bryce Disbrow (139 pounds) and eighth-grader Dillon McNaney (150) both won gold medals in their weight division. Disbrow had an exciting 6-4 win over Taiye Martin from Canyon Middle School in the championship finals. McNaney also had an impressive tournament collecting two pins and pinning his final opponent in the first round of the championship finals.

In the eighth grade division Logan Potter (88) took second place, Vince Medeiros (122) and Zane Luzader (129) took third and Michael LaFlamme (129) and Johnathan Solboda (150) each took fourth place.

Other wrestlers from East Avenue that

medaled were Bryan Torres (98), Adam Lebish (Hwt) and Kayla Smith (160) each taking third place and Jesse Sierra (110) took fourth place. Bryce Disbrow had the fastest pin for the team pinning one of his opponents in 11 seconds in the first round.

Junction Wrestling

Twenty-one Wrestling Bulldogs from Junction K-8 competed at Bancroft Middle School's 19th annual Bronco Classic. Thirteen earned medals for their outstanding abilities on the mats. The team collected four 1st Place Gold, three 3rd Place Bronze, and six

Silverthorn - LBT 200 free (new Olympic Trials cut); Jason Chen - LBT's 100/200 back, 200 free; Katie Woods - LBT's 50/100 free, 100 fly; Moriah Simonds - LBT's 100/200/400 free

Pleasanton Rage

The Pleasanton Rage U16D3 Orange team advanced to the finals of the Association Cup this past weekend with back-to-back victories in single elimination play. The quarterfinals pitted the Rage against the Sacramento SA Velocity, a team that averaged over 5 goals per game while shutting out their opponents in last week's pool play. The Rage held steadfast and broke through in the second half, when midfielder Nikki Cerri one-touched a cross from Cassie Santana into the net from the 5 yard line. This proved to be the only score of the game and enough to advance the Rage Orange squad into Sunday's semifinals.

In the semifinals, the Rage faced a tough and talented Clovis Crossfire 95G team. The game started ominously with a serious knee injury to a Rage player within minutes of kickoff, halting the game for 30 minutes. Sunshine then turned to wind, rain and hail as the elements wreaked havoc throughout the hotly contested match. Both defenses asserted themselves, stifling numerous offensive attacks throughout the game. The game would remain scoreless at the end of regulation, through the first 15 minute overtime, and deep into the second. It appeared the winner was going to be determined by penalty kicks when defender Kayla Cerri wheeled on a rebounded corner kick to carry the Rage to the finals on a dramatic last second goal and 1-0 victory.

With these victories, the Rage U16D3 Orange team advances to this week's Association Cup final in Elk Grove. The team is coached by Joe Santana and Malcolm Cerri.

The Rage U19D3 Orange's season came to an end in the CYSA Cup quarterfinals Saturday, losing 1-nil to Hanford United. Hanford made the most of just 6 shots by converting a breakthrough in the 37th minute for the lone goal in a hard fought game contested on the cold, soggy turf at Elk Grove.

With all but junior Kiley Zieker graduating this spring, this marks the end of youth soccer for a very special group of girls. Their team spirit and soccer skills have reflected well on them, Pleasanton, and the Rage organization. Top Offensive Players: Nayo Clinchard, Haley Boehmer, Mary Gruen; Top Defensive Players: Sarah Machado, Autumn Whitney, Dana Syriani

Pleasanton Ballistic

The Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club U19 Select advanced to the quarterfinals of the CYSA Association Cup before falling to the LYSL Avenal 3-1. The Select went 2-1 in preliminary games, led by Tyler Briggs and Brandon Cohen with 2 goals each, and Morgan Melendrez and Alex Lutz with one apiece. However, a disqualification forced a penalty kick-shoot-out versus Clovis Crossfire prior to the game vs the Avenal. In a drama-filled situation, Clovis and Ballistic found themselves tied 4-4 after 5 shooters. The two teams matched misses, saves, and goals until the 9th shooter, when Zach Morrissey converted and GK Lucas Moses laid out to block the try, sending the Select into the quarterfinals.

The Select gave up a counterattack goal in the 18th minute, and then a late goal in the first half put them down 2-0. Despite this, they were still in the game, forcing the Avenal

GK to make two strong saves and hitting a crossbar. An early goal by LYSL put the Select in a deep hole, but they did not quit and pressured the Avenal the whole second half. The last 20 minutes were all hands on deck, and the Select scored on a 3-1 victory. U19 Select team members who played in a successful post-season: Cam Baker, Yashar Behnam, Tyler Briggs, Eric Brooks, Brandon Cohen, Isaac Flanzbaum, Barron Kim, Suhau Kuo, Joe Lee, Jake Lorentz, Justin Lui, Alex Lutz, Morgan Melendrez, Zach Morrissey, Lukas Moses, Ian Newbery, Austin Rogers, Will Upp.

Granada Little League

Granada Little League results from last week:

Farm: Diamondbacks vs. Giants: The top players for the visiting Giants included William Eccles starting Pitcher, Joshua Bach starting batter, and Cason Mills with a great first base catch. The top players for the home team Diamondbacks were Joseph Keeler for going 3 for 3 with 2 doubles and making two defensive outs at pitcher and first base. Cole Carnahan had a fantastic game going 3 for 3 with a grand slam and several defensive outs at the bases. Matthew Stiger was also 3 for 3 and converted two defensive outs as pitcher.

Cardinals vs. A's: The top offensive players for the visiting Cardinals included Aidan Bartz, Ashton Souza, and Sebastian Verbinski, hitting the ball sharply for multiple base hits. The top offensive players for the home team A's were Tyler Mutz with line drives to all fields, Kendra Riddiough switch hitting and getting hits, and Joseph Camilleri smashing flyballs to the outfield. Defensively for the Cardinals, Jacob Sanchez at shortstop and Brendan O'Hara at second base played stellar defense, nearly turning a double play. Ethan Chapman also played great defense in the infield. On defense for the A's, Jack Taggart displayed what he learned during PEP. Marco Wilde played like a vacuum at shortstop, and Ben Johnston flashed impressive leather at the hot corner.

Giants vs. Diamondbacks: The Giants defense was on fire against the Diamondbacks as both teams played through the mud to make a lot of hits and great plays. In the first inning, Giant's Adam Greer made a great

defensive catch in left field and a throw to second base. Cason Mills caught the ball at first for a Dback out in the second inning. Joshua Bach slammed a base hit on the first pitch and then Kobe Tavis batted all the runners in with his line drive in the third inning, concluding a very exciting game.

Minor A: Diamondbacks vs. Cardinals: Top players for the D'Backs were J. Sisto and G. Rose who both caught great pop flies, for the Cardinals number 8 Storjohana made a great catch at first. Top defensive players for the D'Backs were H. Borg who stole second and T. Eaton with a huge double, for the Cardinals A. Matheson with a power hit into center field, and D. Hood.

A's vs. Rangers: Top offensive players for the A's: Alex Clouser, Jack Kolling, and Ryder Rios. For the Rangers: Gavin Breen, Calvin Seely, and Bobby Zepeda. Top defensive players for the A's: Jensen Roland and the two pitchers, Colin Johnson and Sean Nadeau. For the Rangers: Will Christensen, Frank Middleton, and Hayden Williams.

Minor AA: Giants 15, Cardinals 14: Both teams played great games. For the Giants Andrew Berg and Chris Silva had powerful hits for their team. Chris also caught the game ending fly ball. For the Cardinals Justin Gilliam struck out a batter and caught a fly ball. Ryan Macintire went three for three and stole 2nd base. Andy Gankins hit a double.

90's Division: PFL 6, Granada Giants 2; Giants Pitchers: John Bailey 5 inn, 4 runs, 4 hits, 4 strike outs; Brandon Cuy 1 Inn, 2 runs, 2 hits; PFL Pitchers: Gonzaga 2 Inn, 2 runs, 3 hits, 3 strike outs; Johnson 4 Inn, 2 hits, 7 strike outs; Gipson 1 Inn, 1 strike out. Giants offense: Brandon Cuy 1 single, 1 run, 1 Stolen Base; John Bailey 1 single, 1 RBI; Josh Marty 2 singles, 1 RBI; Dominic Stewart 1 single; PFL offense: Im 1 single;



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SPORTS NOTES



Christian Grenier scored the only run in the AA Division game between the A's and the Padres in Livermore National League action.



Granada Little League Minor A player William Christensen of the Rangers takes a grounder at first base against the A's on Saturday.

Johnson 1 single, 1 stolen base, 1 run; Gipson 1 single, 1 RBI; Winegar 1 rbi, 1 single, 1 run, 1 stolen base

San Ramon Black 11, Granada Giants 7: Giants Pitchers: Chris Ayon 3 Inn, 3 runs, 4 hits, 4 strike outs; Brandon Cuy 2 Inn, 3 strike outs; Sean Dreger 2 Inn, 6 runs, 4 hits, 1 strike out; Spencer Christensen 1 Inn, 2 runs, 1 hit, 1 strike out; San Ramon Pitchers: Voss 3 Inn, 2 runs, 6 strike outs; Martinez 2 Inn, 1 run, 1 hit, 3 strike outs; Payette 2 Inn, 4 runs, 5 hits, 5 strike outs. Giants offense: Hunter Goncalves 1 single, 2 runs; Sean Dreger 2 Singles, 2 RBIs; Joe Rechin 1 single, 1 RBI; San Ramon offense: Renditch 1 single, 1 triple, 2 runs; Leathey 1 single, 1 triple, 2 runs 1 RBI; Raimier 1 single, 1 run

Pleasanton National LL

Pleasanton National Little League results:

AAA Division: Mets 8, Giants 6: The Mets and Giants squared off on Opening day for Pleasanton National. Michael Cassetti took the hill to start for the Mets. He pitched masterfully for the visitors, going almost four complete innings of no-run ball. He struck out 9, keeping the Giants off-balance, moving his fastball around and changing speeds. Ben Schwartz led the Mets offense going 2 for 2 with a huge double to right in the 4th inning. Leadoff man Karson Jordan added a single and scored a run. The Giants were 6 to 1 early, but rallied back in the 5th to tie the game. Justin Warner led the attack for the home team, going 1-2 including a huge two-run double in the 5th. Spencer Oxe also had a great day at the plate for the Giants, going 1-3 and hitting the ball hard in every at-bat. The Mets got two runs back in the 6th with a couple of tough at-bats and some great baserunning. The Giants tried to rally again in the bottom half of the inning but came up short as the Mets held on to win 8 to 6. Ben Schwartz - Mets (2-2, 2 runs, double, walk, RBI); Karson Jordan - Mets (1-2, run, walk, SB); Justin Warner - Giants (1-2, run, walk, RBI); Spencer Oxe - Giants (1-3). Top Defensive Players: Michael Cassetti - Mets (3.2 IP, 0 H, 5 BB, 1 R, 9 K); Pranav Chandra - Giants (Great catch in right field).

Farm: Cardinals vs. Mets: Mets and Cardinals put a great game together. The Cardinals fielding was good, starting with Ben Harbourne at 1st fielding ground balls and making tough digs and Adam Harbourne catching fly balls. Dillon Riley made a great play up the middle and threw to 1st for the out. All the Cardinal hitters were great. Top Hitters: Mateo Spencer solid hits all game; Jordan Cribbs way to crush; Brayden Nakkon awesome job. Top Defensive Players: Ben Harbourne - Great at 1st Base; Adam Harbourne - Great at 3rd Base; Joe Beer

- Great at 2nd Base

Livermore American LL

Livermore American Little League results from a rain-shortened week of games:

Majors: A's 8, Giants 9: This was a close game, and the Giants came from a five run deficit to overpower the A's in the bottom of sixth inning. Conner Johnston hit in 2 RBIs in the third with a solid base hit up the middle. Then he hit in another RBI in the sixth to score the tying run. There were a couple throw downs where the A's were caught stealing, prompted by great throws from Tyler McMahon, and catches by Cody Skinner and Parker Brandt. Tyler McMahon closed out the game with solid pitching for a three up- three down inning and the win. The top of the order for the A's was strong as Tristen Mulrooney has a triple, Nick Monica had a single, and Logan Cole had 2 triples and a double. A's standout players: Tristen Mulrooney, Nick Monica, Logan Cole; Giants standout players: Tyler McMahon, Conner Johnston, Cody Skinner

Indians 9, Red Sox 4: Indians took 4-0 lead in first on hustle and key hits, Red Sox tied it in bottom of first with 5 hits. After scoreless 2nd, Indians got 2 in 3rd, and 3 in 4th for insurmountable 9-4 lead. Indians Braden Jackson recorded first 11 outs. Kane Montez got last 7 outs, shutting Red Sox out after their 4-run outburst to start the game. Giants top players: Cameron Songey - two nice catches in outfield; Braden Jackson - triple, double, 3-2/3 innings 0 runs 7 Ks; Jack Perry - HR. Red Sox top players: Mason Arnold - 2 singles, 3+ innings 0 earned runs, Kyle Betz - single, Anthony Persi - throw runner out at home from LF

AAA Division: Red Sox 11, Yankees 8: The Red Sox came back to win this nail biter with an in the park grand slam by Matthew Hagan in the 4th inning. Matthew also hit a 2 rbi, in-park home run earlier in the game. Joe Doughty hit a triple and a single. Nick Delisle tripled in the 3rd inning and scored on Luke Sorenson's sacrifice for the rbi. The Yankees played hard and got on base often, with key plays by Tyler Kelly, Cole Gareb, and Clay Boghossian. This was the Red Sox first win of the season. Red Sox top players: Matthew Hagan, Joe Doughty, Nick Delisle; Yankees top players: Tyler Kelly, Cole Gareb; Clay Boghossian

A's 16: Dodgers 5: The Dodgers and the A's played for the second time this season. Both teams played with skill and determination. The A's were powerful in the first half. Jack Volponi hit a deep blast to left field in the 2nd which sparked a rally by the A's,

leading to 9 runs in 2 back-to-back innings. Grant Peterson played an outstanding game going 4 for 4 including a triple, with 4 RBIs. A's pitcher Nolan Martin was phenomenal on the mound, earning 3 straight strike-outs in the 4th, getting the A's out of a bases-loaded threat. Nolan continued his pitching mastery to log 6 strike-outs in total. For the Dodgers, Joseph Fields exhibited great talent going 2 for 3 with 2 singles, and making amazing diving catches at shortstop. Joe Bartoni was equally impressive with a single and RBI in the 3rd, and 2 awesome catches of fly balls hit deep to the outfield. Tait Thorvund was extraordinary at third base, snagging several well hit balls to shut down the A's offense. Final score: A's 16, Dodgers 5.

AA Division: A's vs. Red Sox: The game was called after 4 complete innings of play due to conditions. The score at the end of the 4th inning was A's 6 and Red Sox 2. A's played a good defensive game, some great infield plays which included Jake Kennedy's unassisted out at 3rd base. Alex Scull played well, pitching and at short stop. Hunter Thompson had a well hit single with an RBI in the 2nd inning. Brett Whitelaw hit two singles to score 3 runs. For the Red Sox, Dylan Frusso and Mikey Duperty combined for 4 innings of excellent work on the mound. Brandon McDougall made a stellar play in the 3rd inning to stop the A's rally. The game was called after 4 complete innings of play due to conditions.

A Division: Yankees 10, Cubs 9: Daniel Rochin from the Cubs played an amazing game both offensively and defensively batting 3 for 4 and earning himself an amazing triple, 3 RBIs and pop fly catch. Heavy hitter Max Bromberg batted a perfect 4 for 4 with 2 awesome doubles and 2 RBIs. Jacob Franks showed us his batting skills with his second single for the season. Overall it was a very close game which was tied in the 6th inning until the Yankees scored the final run winning them the game 10-9 Yankees. For the Yankees, Garrett Bozdeck was perfect at the plate, going 4 for 4, scoring 2 runs, and driving in an RBI. On defense, Garrett held down first base catching a pop-up and helping to put out 2 base runners. Jarred Sanchez showed his power, going 3 for 4, scoring a run, and driving in 2 RBIs. Jarred played some great defense at 1st base as well, helping to put out 2 runners. Adam Sahn came through big to drive in 2 RBIs in addition to playing outstanding defense at pitcher, making a huge play to throw out a runner at first base to help stop a late inning rally.

Giants 11, Red Sox 4: Giants top players: Kevin Grant 1 rbi, Nathan Lopez 1 rbi, Justin Wheeler had 2 singles; Red Sox top players: Josh Morano 4 outs at 1st and great tag at 2nd, Drew Kardy 2singles 2rbi, Karl Meyers - 2 singles, 1run

Giants 12, Red Sox 8: Giants top players: Diesel Sorgdrager-Dreher hit a home run, Robert Avelar hit his first home run, Rya Jones fielded a hard ground ball and threw the runner out at first. Red Sox top players: Justin Torres - 3 singles, 2 RBI and 3 runs, Ryan Martinez - 2 singles, 2 double, 3 RBI, Josh Morcenzo - 2 single, 2 double, 1 run

Giants 12, Dodgers 7: The Giants and Dodgers played a competitive game. For the Dodgers, Nick Mammaog was 2 for 3 at the plate and scored twice. Joe Salcido was 3 for 3 and Derek Thompson was 3 for 3 with two singles and one double, scoring two runs. The Giants came out ahead with Ryan Jones having a great catch and out at second and going 2 for 3 at the plate. Jack Sommers had a strong hit to the shortstop and scored. Robert Alvear had a great pop fly catch as pitcher and an awesome out at the home plate to end the game.

Red Sox 10, Cardinals 0: Red Sox highlights: Josh Morano hit a monster triple, a single, a double, two runs and 3 RBIs. He was the player of the game. Justin Torres came through again with 3 base hits and two runs. Jacob Gundersen had a single, a double, 2 runs and 2 RBIs. Cardinals highlights: Matthew Thompson caught a fly ball for the 3rd out in the 5th inning. Wilder Mann hit a double in the 2nd inning. Joseph Pyle connected for 2 hits and earned the game ball.

T-Ball: Indians vs Red Sox: Red Sox top players: Joey Bielski, Noah Penn, Xavier Thorpe; Indians top players: Josh Ramon, Alex Piscotty, AJ Cook

Yankees vs. Padres: Yankees had one



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Foothill High School Falcons junior varisty built up a 9-2 lead at the half then finished the game with 13-9 win over Granada High to open East Bay Athletic League play.

throw out at 1st base, 3 run down force outs at 3rd, and 3 hits that made it to the outfield. Padres had one throw out at 1st base Top players: Yankees: Hayden Rago, Josh Raborn, Caden Sullivan; Top players Padres: Braeden McRae, Elijah Stewart, Zach Peeso

Indians vs. Cardinals: Indians top players: Griffin Sutton, Alex Okronglis, Mateo Bullis; Cardinals top players: Tyler For-gatsch, Bailey Tripod, Lauren Higgins.

Livermore National LL

Livermore National Little League highlights:

AAA Division: Diamondbacks 15, Padres 10: The Diamondbacks were led by Jordan McCullar who pitched a great game and made a nice catch at 3rd base in the 2nd inning. Kyle Winkler had a solid single and scored a run in the third. Mason Smith was on fire, he had a triple and a double and drove in 3 runs to lead the Diamondbacks to victory. The Padres Matt Fiedor made a great catch when Mason Smith smashed one out to center field. Then his twin brother Josh Fiedor, not to be outdone by his brother, got a double after hitting one out to left center field. Another great hit was made by Nate Findley who hit a long triple to center field.

A Division: Giants vs. Rockies: For the Giants: Lukas Stifter got the Giants' season off to a good start, pitching a scoreless first inning. Matty Sciascia got on base each time at bat and caught a line drive at first base, for which he received the first game ball of the season. For the Rockies: Riley Scott and Gavin Powers each had two strikeouts and contributed RBIs in a strong defensive and offensive effort by the entire Rockies team in their season opener.

A's vs. Padres: Both teams readily took the field for the first game of the season. Gabriel Emfinger and Patrick Curulla demonstrated that the A's pitching was something to watch out for. Padres battled back with pitchers Jay Hawkins and Jackson Nystrom. Padres player Rope Schreffler skillfully fielded a grounder at shortstop. Alex Sheldon made an impressive catch at first base. A's player Cody Franco batted in the only run

of the game. Christian Grenier hit a notable double and caught a defensive pop-fly. All player were impressive offensively and defensively. For the Padres: Good pitching: Jay Hawkins and Jackson Nystrom

A's vs. Giants: When it rains, go indoors. That is exactly what these teams did - they played their game at Cabernet Sports. A's pitcher Jason DeSantis powered the ball into center field bringing in a run. Landon Ratinho showed his speed when he outran a throw to first base and he played great defense as catcher. Garret Gomes had a great night of hitting including a double. Anthony Molleson was impressive on the pitcher's mound with multiple strike-outs. Giant's player Aiden Montalvo had powerful hits every time he was up at bat. Ben Rho had a great night on the pitcher's mound throwing multiple strikes. Matthew Sciascia closed out the game with exceptional pitching.

A Division: Diamondbacks vs. Rockies: The Diamondbacks came out swinging and made several notable hits and great plays throughout the game. Nathaniel Perez & Jesse Trinta were MVP's for the Diamondbacks showing off their fielding skills and solid offense. The Rockies shone with great offense and made good plays as well. Rockies MVP Sam Buttler made outs at second base and hit well. Noah Roe and Kyle Johnson hit well

and made the home team fans cheer. Overall a great day of baseball for Div A.

T-Ball: Cardinals vs. A's: Outstanding performance in the field for the Cardinals by Elijah Chappell. Awesome offensive power for the Cardinals supplied by Aiden Clarin. For the A's, great defense was played throughout the game by Nathan Graber. Josh Graber powered the A's with 3 great hits.

Cardinals vs. Dodgers: Outstanding performance in the field for the Cardinals by Danielle Hanley. Awesome offensive power for the Cardinals supplied by Ryan Loader. For the Dodgers, great defense was played throughout the game by Carson Kolte. Hayden Hobbs powered the Dodgers with 3 great hits.

Amador Swimming

It was a record setting day for the Amador Valley High School JV boys at the Dougherty Valley JV Invitational Swim Meet on Saturday. Amador not only won the meet by over 200 points they set six meet records in the process.

The Dons started off the meet on the right foot by winning the 200 medley relay behind the swimming of Evan Lee, Copeland Green, Alec Gauthier, and Reed Daniels.

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SPORTS NOTES



Taylor's Martial Arts team members pictured are (back row) Vince Aying, Joseph Vitale, Jed Lipp, Sifu Wade Taylor; (middle row) Kyle Ford, Jaden Husser, Ariyana Walling, Hector Flores, Hannah Lipp, Katrina Curbelo; (front row) Vida Nocilla, Helena Macias, Kristin Ford, Paul Curbelo; not present for photo Alexis Aying, Brandon DeBorba, Isabella Vitale, and Joseph Ventura.



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



Pleasanton Seahawks at Ohio State Grand Prix are left to right (back row) Jason Chen, Nick Silverthorn, Head Coach Steve Morsilli, Katie Woods, Moriah Simonds, Marissa Brown, Allison Brown; (front row) Kristine Doan, Celina Li, Rachel Knowles, and Marissa Bergh.

The record setting, however, waited for the third event of the meet when Perry Jia won the IM in 1:03:74.

Following on Jia's heels was Steven Cox who broke the 50 free record, held prior by former Don Joey Silva, by .05 seconds with a 24.73 effort. Michael Brooks finished second in the event and would have to wait for the 100 free for his turn to break one of Silva's meet records.

Parker Brown continued the record breaking by winning the fly in 27.16 and Brooks followed by breaking the record in the 100 free. No record was broken in the 500 free, but Dons Kennet Pipe, Chris Azuma, and Manas Abhyankar finished 3-4-5. Pipe had also placed third in the 200 free.

Kevin Yan then won the backstroke with Parth Subramanian in third and Gauthier in fifth before Amador's Green broke the record in the breaststroke.

The final record of the meet fell in the last event, the 400 free relay. The Dons' Brown, Brooks, Jia, Green brought home the record.

Amador also had several other top five finishes: Joey Lindley took fourth in the 200 free. In the IM Jeff Wang took third and Jerald Kagele took fifth. Tyler Bermann also took a fifth in the 50 free. Kagele (fourth) and Gauthier (fifth) followed Brown to the wall in the fly while Cox followed up his record breaking effort with a third in the 100 free.

Cox, Brown, Kagele and Green took second in the 200 free relay to round out the top five scoring for Amador.

The Amador Valley JV girls swim team started out the Dougherty Valley JV Invitational meet with a record breaking performance in the medley relay and continued the trend by breaking all three relay records and three individual records to win the meet by 152 points over host Dougherty

Valley. Amador dominated the meet, placing multiple swimmers in the top five of every event.

Anika Kilkenny, Natalie Cook, Lexi Venema, and Lindsey DeWilde got the Dons off to a great start by winning the medley in a record time of 2:09:23. In the first individual event of the meet, the 200 free, Morgan Ingram finished second while Stephanie Jeffrey finished third. Ingram would later win the 500 free. Following Ingram in the 500 free were Kelsey Guzulek in second and Shilpa Krish in fourth.

Paris Sinclair, DeWilde, and Kylie Copenhagen followed the 200 with a 2-3-4 finish in the IM and the Dons broke their first individual record of the meet when Olivia Gonsman led a gaggle of Dons to the wall. Going 2-3-5 behind Gonsman were Lexi Ewanich, Megan Banke, and Caitlin Newman. Four Amador swimmers also placed in the top five in the fly. Erin Walsh was second, followed by Kaitlyn Schnierer, Elise Cox, and Sinclair. In the 100 free Walsh finished first with Elise Cox in second and Ali Gonsman fourth. Amador then got record breaking swims from Kilkenny, DeWilde, Walsh and Sinclair in the 200 free relay and followed that by also breaking records in the final three events. Kilkenny and Ali Gonsman both broke the record in the backstroke with Kilkenny just getting to the wall first. Cook and Venema went 1-3 in the breaststroke with Cook's time of 1:19.73 setting a new standard for the meet.

Finally the Dons' 400 free relay team of Venema, Cox, Walsh, and Sinclair set a new record to cap the meet.

Also posting a top five time for the Dons was Stephanie Jeffrey who finished third in the 200 free.

WCOGA Gymnastics

West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Acad-

emy optional and compulsory gymnasts competed at the Golden State Classic at Technique Gymnastics in Rancho Cordova, CA on March 10 and 11, 2012.

Optional Gymnasts Highlights: Level 9: Isabella Orecchia finished in 2nd place on vault and beam, and 5th place all around with 33.325. Level 8: Anna Siebel finished in 12th place all around with 33.075. Level 7: Brittany Bates finished in 5th place on bars and floor, and 4th place all around with 35.025. Rebecca Yen finished in 2nd place on bars. Jessica Yen finished in 3rd place on bars. Megan Quinton finished in 6th place on beam.

Compulsory Gymnasts Highlights: Level 6 (younger): Sara Ling finished in 3rd place on vault. Jasmine Saucelo finished in 3rd place on beam. Level 6 (older): Abigail McKeag finished in 2nd place on floor and fourth place all around. Corrine Jackson finished in 3rd place on beam. Level 5 (younger): Lauren Swenson-Lemox finished in 2nd place on beam and 3rd place all around. Allison Reilly finished in 4th place on vault. Capri Gavino finished in 7th place on vault. Level 5 (middle): Lydia Muentz finished in 4th place on bars. Julia Arnold finished in 9th place on vault. Level 4 (older): Audrey Ong finished in 2nd place on floor, 3rd place on vault and bars, and 2nd place all around. Claire Volkman finished in 1st place on floor and 3rd place on beam. Phoenix Cabuay finished in 2nd place on vault and 3rd place on floor. Level 4 (middle-A): Amelia Liao finished in 2nd place on floor, 3rd place on vault and 2nd place all around. Naomi Evans finished in 3rd place on beam. Deanna Chang finished in 2nd place on vault. Mia Reeve had personal bests on bars and beam. Level 4 (middle-B): Mariah Murphy finished in 1st place on vault, 2nd place all around. Kamryn O'Reilly finished in 3rd place all around.

In 3rd place on bars. Shelby Bates finished in 2nd place on bars. Level 4 (younger): McKenzie Meyn finished in 1st place on vault and floor, 2nd place on bars and beam, and 1st place all around. Juliette Gosselin finished in 3rd place on beam and 3rd place all around.

Team Results: The Level 4 Team finished in 2nd place. The Level 5 Team finished in 4th place. The Level 6 Team finished in 3rd place. The Level 7 Team finished in 5th place.

Karate Tournament

Taylor's Martial Arts in Livermore sent 17 of its students to the C.B.L.L. March Madness Karate Tournament in Ripon, California on March 10, 2012. The following students competed and placed in the tournament:

FORMS/KATA: 6-7 yr old Beginners Forms: Helena Macias - 1st place; 8-10 yr old Beginners Forms: Paul Curbelo - 1st place; Kristin Ford - 2nd place; Vida Nocilla - 3rd place. 11-13 yr old Beginners Forms: Ariyana Walling - 1st place, Jaden Husser - 2nd place, Katrina Curbelo - 3rd place. 11-13 yr old Intermediate/Advanced Forms: Hannah Lipp - 2nd place, Hector Flores - 3rd place. 14-17 yr old Black Belt Forms: Jeddiah Lipp - 1st place.

SPARRING: 6-7 yr old Girls Beginners Sparring: Alexis Aying - 1st place; 8-9 yr old Girls Beginners Sparring: Kristin Ford - 1st place; 10-11 yr old Boys Beginners Sparring: Paul Curbelo - 3rd place; 10-11 yr old Girls Beginners Sparring: Ariyana Walling - 1st place; 10-11 yr old Boys Intermediate/Advanced Sparring: Hector Flores - 1st place; 10-11 yr old Girls Intermediate/Advanced Sparring: Hannah Lipp - 2nd place; 12-13 yr old Boys Beginners Sparring: Kyle Ford - 1st place; 12-13 yr old Girls Beginners Sparring: Jaden Husser - 3rd place.

12-13 yr old Girls Intermediate/Advanced Sparring: Isabella Vitale - 1st place; 14-17 yr old Boys Intermediate/Advanced Sparring: Joseph Ventura - 1st place; Joseph Vitale - 2nd place; 14-17 yr old Girls Intermediate/Advanced Sparring: Tanya Sharetzkaya - 1st place; 14-17 yr old Boys Black Belt Sparring: Jeddiah Lipp - 1st place; Brandon DeBorba - 2nd place; 14-17 yr old Boys Black Belt Continuous Sparring: Brandon DeBorba - 1st place.

The team was coached by Sifu Wade Taylor, Vince Aying and Jed Lipp.

LAZERS Water Polo

The LARPD LAZERS 14 & Under water polo athletes hosted their first tournament of the spring season last weekend at the RLCC pool in Livermore. The LAZERS won 3 of their 5 games. While all the athletes gave their best efforts, standouts were the following:

Luca Cappelletti - during Luca's first game he scored 6 goals in the hole set position.

Gianna Paden - played great defense, and scored several goals.

Harry Yee - awesome goalkeeping, Harry worked hard to prevent the other team from scoring.

Scott Ragatz - in addition to some great saves he made while in the goal, Scott scored on a half-court shot.

The LAZERS next tournament will be held at the RLCC pools in Livermore on April 14.

Pleasanton Jr. Football

Pleasanton Junior Football League (PJFL) is now taking registration for the 2012 Contact Football, Flag Football and Cheerleading season. PJFL offers contact football and cheerleading for boys and girls in the 2nd through 8th grades, as well as flag football for boys and girls in the 2nd through 12th grades. Everyone plays in PJFL. There are no tryouts and there are no cuts.

Contact Football registration includes a uniform and all necessary equipment and contact players practice 3 times per week beginning in early August and play games on Saturdays at the Pleasanton Sports Park beginning in early September.

Flag Football registration includes a jersey and all necessary equipment and flag players practice 1 time a week beginning in mid-August and play games on Saturdays at Hart Middle School beginning in mid-September.

Cheer registration includes a uniform and training and cheerleaders practice two times per week beginning in late June and cheer on Saturdays at the Pleasanton Sports Park beginning in early September.

For more details and to register a player visit PJFL.com. Follow PJFL on Facebook at Facebook.com/PleasantonJuniorFootballLeague.

Jr. Football Expands

Due to its success over its five-year existence and the support of LARPD and the high school football programs, Livermore Junior Football League (LJFL) is expanding to include all children aged 7 through 14 (as of August 31, 2012.) Football participants will learn the fundamentals of contact football in a safe and positive environment and play regardless of talent level or ability. Cheer participants will learn the fundamentals, cheer at games and compete locally. All games will be played in Livermore at the high schools. All practices will take place in Livermore. The season begins on August 1 and concludes in early November.

Online registration is open at www.LJFL.org.

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

Rock and Roll Custom Cars Featured at Goodguys Get-Together at Fairgrounds

Rock and roll royalty will be well represented at the Goodguys 30th All American Get-Together March 24 and 25 at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. The custom cars of Metallica front man James Hetfield as well as three time Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee Eric Clapton will be on display throughout the weekend in Pleasanton.

The 30th annual Goodguys All-American Get-Together is California's largest two-day automotive event. It features indoor and outdoor car shows with over 3,000 hot rods, custom cars, classics, trucks, muscle cars and street machines of all years, makes and models, a giant automotive swap meet and cars for sale corral, vendor exhibits, Goodguys Auto-Cross road course, kids play area, live entertainment & more.

Over the last decade, Metallica's James Hetfield has jumped into custom cars with the same enthusiasm that carried him and his world famous heavy metal band into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2009. The bay area musician has built five ground scratching custom cars since 2006 with

stylist and partner Rick Dore. Their latest effort, a 1937 Lincoln Zephyr named "Voodoo Priest" might be their best yet. With low, sleek lines and full fender skirts, the car blends a sinister flair with concourse elegance. The paint is ruby red metallic, the rear fenders have been stretched, the top features a subtle chop and under the hood rests a gleaming, completely polished and plated flathead Ford V8. Dore and Hetfield plan on gunning for the Goodguys 2012 Mother's West Coast Custom of the Year award, which is presented at the All American Get-Together, with "Voodoo Priest."

Eric Clapton's 1932 Ford Victoria 4 door: Built by Roy Brizio Street Rods in South San Francisco, Eric Clapton's metallic brown 1932 Ford Victoria 4 door is a "phantom" car. Ford never produced one. The Ford Victoria sedan in 1932 was always a two-door model with a hump back rear trunk. That is the magic of this particular car. Starting with a 1932 Ford four door sedan, Brizio and his talented team of fabricators literally scratch-built the hump-back nor-

tion of the rear of the vehicle and shortened the overall length of the vehicle by several inches. The finished product is stunning, with a factory look guaranteed to stun the most observant historians. Brizio related that "Eric wanted a sedan for the family but liked the Victoria styling. When told the car never existed, he said to me 'let's make one.'" This is the 6th custom car Brizio has built for Sir Eric.

On Sunday, March 25th a special "Flashback Sunday" promotion will be held in honor of the 30th annual event. Cars from 1983 (the event's first year) will be given a special parking area, while a special 1980s playlist will fill the event airwaves. Attendees are being asked to wear 1980s garb to help celebrate.

Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are general admission \$17, kids 7-12 \$6, tickets available at event or online at www.good-guys.com.

For information, contact Goodguys (925) 838-9876 www.good-guys.com



Clapton 32 - The 1932 Ford Victoria of Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Member Eric Clapton will be exhibited throughout the weekend. Built by South San Francisco stylist Roy Brizio, Clapton's hot rod is the latest addition to his personal stable which includes 6 customs built here locally in the Bay Area. Photo courtesy of Goodguys Rod & Custom Association

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SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN - NEW ROMANTIC COMEDY

Next Classics Nights
THE GODFATHER II - Mar. 22 @ 7pm
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD - Apr. 12
PULP FICTION - Apr. 26

Tri-Valley Rotary Fundraiser:
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This Sunday March 25

A Fun Event:
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SALMON FISHING IN THE YEMEN
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Megan Fox, Maya Rudolph, Kristen Wiig, Edward Burns, Adam Scott & Jon Hamm
FRIENDS WITH KIDS
Fri - Sat: 12:00 2:20 4:45 7:15 9:20
Call for Sun - Thurs Showtimes - (925) 447-2546

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THE HUNGER GAMES (PG13) DLP THX	12:45 1:30 4:00 4:45 7:15 8:00		
THE HUNGER GAMES D-BOX (PG13) DLP		12:00 3:15 6:30 9:45	
THE HUNGER GAMES (PG13) DLP		11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00	
21 JUMP STREET (R) DLP	12:20	1:15 3:00 4:25 6:10 7:05 8:45 9:40	
DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX (PG) DLP		11:45 2:00 4:10 6:20 8:30	
DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX 3D (PG) DLP		12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00	
JOHN CARTER 3D (PG13) DLP			9:20
JOHN CARTER (PG13) DLP		12:45 3:45 6:45 9:45	
A THOUSAND WORDS (PG13) DLP		12:10 2:25 4:55 7:10 9:30	
ACT OF VALOR (R) DLP		1:05 3:50 6:30 9:00	
THIS MEANS WAR (PG13) DLP		11:55 2:20 4:40 7:10 9:35	
THE VOW (PG13) DLP		1:20 4:15 6:55 9:30	

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SHORT NOTES

Docents Needed

Docents are needed to help run the new Livermore Historymobile. All of the artifacts and posters from the old Historymobile are in the new version. The time commitment could be as little as a few days a year. No previous teaching experience is required. Training will be provided. The month of May is the time most of the schools are ready for this subject and they have already begun scheduling dates.

Anyone interested is asked to contact Nancy Mulligan at 443-3076 or n.mulligan@comcast.net. Once there are several docents, there will be a field trip to see the new Historymobile and become familiar with the artifacts. A training session will be scheduled.

Water-Wise Workshop

A free water-wise workshop will provide information on ways to reduce water waste and pollution causing practices, and still maintain a beautiful garden and yard.

The Water-Wise Gardening workshop will be held this Saturday, March 24 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton. The session is sponsored by Zone 7 Water Agency.

Call 925-454-5015 to find out more.

Bugs and Blooms

Bugs and Blooms is the topic of the March 25 program presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff. Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 8 a.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

Have you ever seen a sleeping bee? Most people haven't, but here's your chance. Gorgeous native bees spend the chilly nights wrapped in the closed petals of poppies and other flowers. Get an early start and peek in on them while they are still asleep. Bring your cameras and prepare to be awed. The full hike will be about four miles and last about three hours, but you can turn back early if you begin to tire. Canceled if raining heavily.

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

Easter at Stoneridge

Simon mails and Universal Studios Home Entertainment are encouraging families to get hopping to Stoneridge Shopping Center for a series of special Easter festivities.

Stoneridge Shopping Center invites Pleasanton-area kids and parents to attend a family-friendly Easter Photo Experience event, taking place from now through April 7. Kids will have the chance to visit with the Easter Bunny and get ready for the Blu-ray™/DVD release of HOP from Universal Studios Home

Entertainment on March 23, the all-new comedy about candy, chicks and rock 'n' roll.

For more information about the Simon Kidz Club and Universal Studios Home Entertainment Easter events, visit www.simon.com/kidz-its or <http://www.facebook.com/events/120728188053630/>.

Parent Project Classes

Axis Community Health and the Dublin Police Department are teaming up to bring the nationally acclaimed Parent Project program to Tri-Valley parents. The program gives parents the tools they need to prevent or change problematic adolescent behavior. Registration is now open for the 10-week course, which begins April 4 at Valley High School, 6901 York Ave., Dublin.

"Raising strong-willed or rebellious adolescents presents serious challenges, ones that often negatively impact everyone in the home," said Amie Sousa, Teen Drug and Alcohol Program Coordinator. "Through the Parent Project, parents acquire the skills needed to combat these destructive behaviors, including poor academic performance and drug and alcohol use." Solution-focused and activity-based, the Parent Project has step-by-step strategies for identifying and preventing destructive behaviors. School attendance and performance improve; gone for good are the arguments and anger.

The Parent Project's weekly three-hour sessions include a strong support-group component that instills in parents a sense of hope. At first, such optimism is often sorely lacking, as many participants arrive for the initial Parent Project session stressed and suffering from a sense of isolation. As they meet other parents facing the same situation and begin working together to complete the Parent Project's interactive lessons, however, those feelings diminish. Bonds deepen each week as parents share their experiences in applying Parent Project lessons. They come to understand that, while initially met with resistance, they are addressing their adolescent's issues and improving the quality of life in the home.

Parent Project sessions are scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays starting April 4 at Valley High School, 6901 York Ave., Dublin. Cost for the 10-week course is \$100 per person or \$150 per couple. Parents can register now by calling (925) 201-6210.

Pets and Their People

ultra-spective photography has created and published a book entitled, *Pets and Their People*. The book features the story and photographs of over 120 participants and showcases how animals are an important part of people's lives. Several Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) rescue animals are featured in the book as well as animals from other rescue organizations and family pets such as horses and even a turtle.

To date, the sale of the book has raised just over \$2000 for TVAR. *Pets and their People* cost \$49 to

purchase. Profits from the sale of the book go directly to the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, Inc. (TVAR), a nonprofit organization run solely by volunteers dedicated to ending the unnecessary euthanasia of homeless animals. The only expense deducted from the profit is the printing cost with ultra-spective photography donating all other services to produce and sell the book.

"We are thrilled to be supporting and benefiting from such a thoughtful project," said Sue James, president of the board of directors for TVAR. "A book celebrating the many wonderful aspects of pet ownership communicates TVAR's message beautifully in an artistic and impactful fashion."

"This project is an awesome opportunity for the staff of our portrait studio to fulfill our creative desires while helping an important local cause. We are so thankful for all the volunteers that participated and helped support this book project," said Anna Vickroy, founder and photographic artist at ultra-spective photography.

To purchase the book or for more information about the book, please contact ultra-spective at 925.449.9879 or email: info@ultra-spective.com. Visit their website at www.ultra-spective.com.

For more information about Tri-Valley Animal Rescue and the board, visit: www.tvvar.org.

Jr. Ranger Program

Mount Diablo State Park has announced that registration is now available for the Spring 2012 Junior Ranger Program. This annual program includes topics on: prehistoric times, California Indians, wildlife, geology and other areas. Hosted by a park docent, each session includes presentations, hands-on activities and a hike.

Children, ages 7 to 12, plus one accompanying adult are eligible to participate. Sessions will be held at various locations in the Park. The five weekend sessions begin April 28th and conclude June 3rd. Each session runs from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Registration is limited to 15 children, plus one parent per child. While there is no charge for the program, payment of the Park's entrance fee is required.

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

Prior to arrival, participants with disabilities who need assistance should contact Ranger Dan Stefanski at 925-855-1730

Summer STEM

Applications are now being accepted through April 15 for the United States Naval Academy Summer STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program 2012. The Summer STEM Program is held in three sessions: June 4-9 for

rising 8th-9th graders; June 11-16 for rising 10th graders; and June 18-23 for rising 11th graders.

The academy's Summer STEM Program is an overnight academic program designed for rising 8th-11th grade students in good academic standing who have an interest in math and science.

Approximately 480 total students from around the U.S. will be accepted to STEM. All students selected to participate pay approximately \$200 for this academic summer program and are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

For more information about the Summer STEM Program and the application process, visit <http://www.usna.edu/Admissions/stem.html> or call (410) 293-4361. Applicants will be notified of their application status in the month of May.

Fair Pay Activist

As part of Chabot College's celebration of Women's History Month, fair pay activist Lilly Ledbetter will speak at 12-1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29, in the Reed L. Buffington Visual and Performing Arts Center. The event is free and open to the public; donations are welcomed. Parking permit is \$2.

In January 2009, newly-inaugurated President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act while Ledbetter and several other dignitaries witnessed the historic event.

Ledbetter sued her employer, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, for pay discrimination when she discovered that she had been earning considerably less than her male colleagues. She won in the lower courts. However, the U. S. Supreme Court reversed the decision.

Following her presentation at Chabot College, Ledbetter will be signing copies of her new book, "Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay at Goodyear and Beyond;" books will be available for purchase. The event is sponsored by Dr. Jennifer Ong; the Chabot College Associated Students, Inter-Club Council and Office of the President; and the Las Positas College Campus Change Network.

For more information about the event and college programs, please visit the website at www.chabotcollege.edu.

Chabot College is located at 25555 Hesperian Boulevard in Hayward.

Business Mini Grants

The StopWaste Partnership Business Mini-grants provide up to \$5,000 to kick-start new recycling and waste prevention projects at work.

This StopWaste Partnership Business Mini-grant Program is open to all StopWaste Partnership clients and other Alameda County businesses — private firms, public agencies, and institutions that have at least two (2) cubic yards of weekly garbage collection service.

The proposed project must be in

the area of waste prevention, reuse, recycling or market development and have an impact in Alameda County, California. Typical projects are for start-up/one-time expenses to start or expand a workplace waste reduction program.

The minimum Mini-grant award is \$500, and the maximum is \$5,000. For organizations that generate less than 10 cubic yards of garbage per week, the maximum Mini-grant award is \$3,000, unless otherwise approved. Applicants are encouraged to contribute at least some amount of matching funds to the project.

To apply, fill out either the Microsoft Word or PDF application and email it to partnership@stopwaste.org.

For more information please email us or call 510-891-6500 and ask for the StopWaste Business Partnership team. Applications are due by March 30th.

Mini-grant recipients are required to sign a funding agreement/contract and provide proof of insurance. A short summary is due at the conclusion of the project (approximately one year later), and 10% of the grant funds are withheld until the summary is received. Schools serving K-12 children are not eligible for funding from this program, but may be eligible for the general Agency Mini-grants.

Summer Seminar

Applications are being accepted through March 31 for the United States Naval Academy Summer Seminar (NASS) 2012. NASS is designed for students who will have just completed their junior year of high school in the summer of 2012. This program is a fast-paced, six-day experience for high-achievers who may be interested in pursuing an appointment to one of the nation's service academies and serving as a military officer after graduation. NASS is held in three sessions: June 2-7; June 9-14; and June 16-21.

Summer Seminar introduces students to the opportunities at the Naval Academy where academics, athletics, and professional training play equally important roles in developing our nation's leaders. Students will live in the dormitory, Bancroft Hall, eat in the dining facility, King Hall; participate in academic and leadership workshops; and experience a variety of other activities at the academy. Students will have an opportunity to see first-hand what the academy has to offer through its exceptional academic, athletic, extracurricular activities and leadership training programs.

Students with questions about NASS and the application process should call 410-293-4361 or visit www.usna.edu/admissions. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2012. Seminar fee is \$350.

Nature Programs

Save Mount Diablo is offering the following programs:

Wonders of Pine Canyon, Sat., March 24, 10 a.m. to noon, Kirk

and Patrick will lead. This leisurely two hour hike with 75' elevation change provides an opportunity to see some of the most spectacular rock formations on the Mountain - Castle Rock. All ages are welcome - restroom facilities are available at the park. Meet at the entrance of Castle Rock Park, 1700 Castle Rock Rd, Walnut Creek. From Ygnacio Valley Rd head south on Oak Grove Rd, continue through the round-a-bout, Oak Grove becomes Castle Rock Rd, follow to the end of the road. Bring: Comfortable shoes, water and wear sunscreen. RSVP: Required to smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org or (925) 947-3535.

Join Save Mt. Diablo and REI for a volunteer service project along a section of Marsh Creek in Clayton, in celebration of Earth Day, April 15, 8:30 a.m. to noon. This project is an opportunity to enhance this habitat for diverse plants and animals, by restoring the streamside woodland area to its original state. Work will entail removing invasive (non-native) plants, as well as watering up to 500 native plants previously planted. Our staff will provide training and project supervision. All ages and abilities are welcome; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers and wear long pants, long-sleeved shirt, sturdy closed-toe shoes, and a hat/visor. Check in at 8:30 am and enjoy morning snacks and juice. 40 volunteers needed. Heavy rain cancels.

Meet at 3240 Aspara Dr. Clayton. Bring: Sunscreen, and a water bottle (with water) along with gloves and a trowel for weed removal if you have them. For more info and to register, visit www.rei.com/concord. Contact April Rovero, REI Concord Outreach, with questions at 825-9400.

Wine, Women & Shoes

St. Rose Hospital Foundation's Fourth Annual Wine, Women & Shoes fundraising event will be held at Casa Real in Pleasanton. Featuring some of Napa and Livermore Valley's top varietals and accompanied by gourmet foods, this event will help pair the perfect wine with favorite shoes in an upscale and elegant atmosphere. Last year, 500 guests attended the event raising more than \$150,000 for St. Rose Hospital's Women and Children's services.

Wine, Women & Shoes features an evening of fashion and compassion including a marketplace filled with delectable wines and more than 2,000 pairs of gorgeous shoes, handbags, accessories, and jewelry. There is a fashion show and live auction.

To attend this fun & sassy event which includes designer shoes, handbags and accessories, contact the St. Rose Hospital Foundation at 510-264-4007 or visit us online at www.srhca.org and click on "Make A Gift" to register for the event. General admission is \$100 per person. For more information, contact Renee Snyder at 510-264-4203 or visit the hospital's website at www.srhca.org

OBITUARIES

Dorinda "Rindie" Chase

6/19/1940 - 3/14/2012

Resident of Livermore for 27 years Dorinda passed away on March 14, 2012, in her home in Livermore.

She was preceded in death by her son Peter. She is survived by Lloyd, her husband of 43 years, son Patrick Chase, grandsons Nicholas Tucker-Chase and her daughter-in-law, Jen Tucker, of Carlsbad, CA. She also has many friends and relatives who will sadly miss her and fondly remember her.

Rindie was a vivacious and energetic person who brightened the lives of her family, friends, fellow musicians, and music students. She was born in Toledo. She was a National Merit Scholar and earned a BA degree from Indiana University School of Music and a MA degree in music from Duquesne University. She taught music in the Pittsburgh schools while at Duquesne. She was an active member and leader of Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI) honorary for 52 years, Berkeley Piano Club, Etude Music Club, Senza Ritmo Music Club, the Performing Arts Society of Contra Costa County, Bloomington Symphony Orchestra in Bloomington Indiana, Prometheus Symphony Orchestra in Oakland, and Castro Valley Ski Club. Rindie taught music at all levels from elementary schools in Pittsburgh, PA and Pleasanton to St. Elizabeth

College in New Jersey.

In the Pleasanton schools she founded a district honor band and directed a "super band" of elementary school musicians. She founded youth music competitions in Bloomington, Indiana and the Felix Khuner Youth Concerto Competition of the Prometheus Orchestra, which she arranged for 23 years. She received numerous awards and accolades for her music activities over the years. Rindie also worked for five years as a computer programmer for Bell Labs in New Jersey and the Computer Center at Indiana University. She was a member of St. Charles Borromeo church and music ministry.

Rindie led an active and adventurous leisure life. She was a world traveler who hiked, and often sailed, on every continent. She was an avid hiker, skier, sailor and gourmet cook. She lived with her family for a year in Oxford, England in 1976 and a year in Paris, France in 1983.

A celebration of Rindie's life will be held on Saturday, March 24 at 12 noon at St. Charles Borromeo Church at 1315 Lomitas in Livermore and a reception will follow at the church facility. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Tri-Valley Haven Food Pantry, 418 Junction Ave., Livermore, 94551.

James B. Bailey

May 19, 1933-March 13, 2012

Resident of Dublin, CA

After years of illness and pain, Jim was happy to be released from this world to live in the next. Unable to do things he loved including travel, golf and dance, Jim had a wonderful life and accomplished all the goals he

set out to do. A Christian man, he was happy to meet his Lord.

He was born in Fairfield, Iowa to James Boggs and Viola Bailey. In life he faced his fears and dared to live adventurously.

He entered the U.S. Navy in 1951 and reached the rank of Bosun. He served in the Korean conflict. He served aboard the USS Epperson D.D. - 719 and was the ship's swimmer, rescuing men overboard and taking part in air-sea rescue. He was also the ship's boxer, which made him well respected. He was honorably discharged in 1953.

In civilian life, he became manager of Payless in San Jose, managed truckers for Kroger's in St. Louis, then went to Roundy's Food Corp., where he became vice president. Then he returned to what he loved most, which was exploring the world. Loving history and travel, he became a director for Maupentour, a worldwide tour company.

He met Joy Kinsey and after a few years, they wed. Married for nearly fifteen years, they enjoyed traveling the world, playing golf, singing, dancing and taking part in patriotic endeavors. They

enriched each others lives. He loved his and Joy's families and was loved in return. He will be sorely missed.

Jim is survived by his wife, Joy, brother, Clyde and his wife Maria, a sister Juanita Baker and her daughter Kathleen Minser, sister Lorraine Boyd, stepchildren Rick and his wife Marge, Kathy and her husband Glenn, step-grandchildren Chris and his wife Caresse, Candace, and many great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Services were held March 20 with burial at Memory Gardens with military honors.

Let's celebrate Jim's life with color and flowers. Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Biruta J. Balanda

April 23, 1917-Feb. 26, 2012

Biruta J. Balanda, 94, of Livermore died of natural causes on February 26, 2012 in her home. She is survived by her three children, Barry Balanda of Livermore, Bonnie Balanda of Fremont, and Brenda Balanda, wife of former Livermore Councilman Tom Reitter, of Inverness, four grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Biruta retired from Sandia National Laboratories in 1979 and enjoyed a long retirement with her husband, John, who died in 2004. They moved to Livermore in 1956 when Hillcrest Avenue, where they bought their home,

was the eastern border of the city. Between 1981 and 1992, they lived in Greenbrae, where they sailed the trimaran vessel John had built. They returned to Livermore for their remaining years.

Biruta's curiosity continued until her last month of life. She read avidly on archeology, molecular biology, and scientific frontiers, and followed national politics with some dismay.

Patricia Keyser (McCarty)

Patricia Keyser (McCarty) a long time resident of Livermore, CA, passed away in the early morning of March 15, 2012. She was born in Oklahoma City November 26, 1935, then moved to San Diego, Ca, as a young girl, to be raised by her mother Alaska Gorden (deceased) along with her 3 sisters and 1 brother.

On October 26, 1956 Patricia wed James M. Keyser in San Diego.

Patricia was preceded in death by her father Jack McCarty, brother Billie McCarty and sister Imaleta Spencer (McCarty). She is survived by her loving husband James M. Keyser, sisters Evalue Shepard (McCarty), and Letrice Vaughn (McCarty); her children, daughter Debra S. Galvan (Keyser) and son Timothy Keyser, her grandchildren Marie Boyd, Garnett Boyd, Jaime Perez (Keyser), Patrick Galvan, Amylisa Galvan and great grandson Adrian Perez and many nieces and nephews.

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Time to Bring Out Your Best: TVC Competition Call for Entries

by Laura Ness

Wineries, it's time to shine. The Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) is holding its third annual Livermore Valley "Uncorked!" wine competition on April 29, 2012. This is a unique competition that accepts only wines grown and produced here in the Livermore Valley with a goal of showcasing the exceptional quality of premium Livermore wines to the top wine buyers who control purchasing for wine shops, wine bars, restaurants and other retail distribution points.

Wineries who make wines from Livermore Valley fruit are invited to submit their best examples: up to five wines per winery. Let's make this the best competition ever and really put the judging panel to work.

Judging will be conducted by a 16-person panel, all qualified wine judges, including local wine buyers and winemakers, as well as prestigious wine press, using a blind, consensual, numerically-based procedure to ensure competitive integrity. Awards will be given only on a merit basis.

The judging will be held on April 29th at The Wine Steward, Pleasanton, California. (The judging is not open to the public.) The major awards to be given are: Best of White, Red and Dessert; plus Best in Show.

Entries will be accepted no later than Friday, April 20, 2012, delivered to Tri-Valley Conservancy in Livermore along with a completed entry form. TVC's office is open Monday - Friday; 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please contact the Tri-Valley Conservancy to receive the full details regarding the competition rules and entry forms. We can be reached at (925) 449-8706 or by email: LVuncorked@trivalley-conservancy.org, and our office hours are 9 am - 5 pm Monday through Friday. Make sure your wines are a part of this historic event. As my husband constantly reminds me, you can't win the lottery if you don't buy a ticket.

THE BEAUTY OF LIVERMORE IN SPRING

The recent rains have turned the East Bay hills all manner of emerald hues. The blossoms on all the flowering fruit trees have turned the sidewalks into dewy petal-coated slicks. Driving to the Valley last week on a blustery day, I couldn't help but smile at the glorious beauty of it all: the shimmering sheen of green on the slopes, the just pruned vines with wildflowers popping up at their feet and the dazzling dose of orange-gold from the poppies popping up all over in the thick grass.

I also noticed a flock of turkeys, trotting in single file through a pasture as if they were being chased by the Border Patrol. What struck me was how tall they are with necks outstretched like the nose of a 727. Ironically, Candice and Richard Dixon, with whom I was visiting, cited turkeys as one of their most problematic pests in the vineyard. "They are just tall enough to reach the fruiting wire," says Richard. "And they're huge!" adds Candice. "They have a 6 foot wingspan!" They're voracious eaters, are deterred by nothing short of Thanksgiving, and consequently, wreak havoc on the vineyard, especially in the last couple of years where the fruit hung even longer and was more vulnerable, not just to disease but to turkey pestilence.

The Dixons have an adorable shepherd, named Rhone, who has been designated as the turkey patrol. He gives them chase, but not being very large or a bird dog per se, is not quite as effective as a .22. Richard explains that everyone has a job at Les Chenes, and he keeps score, noting, "On our refrigerator, there is a score card with entries for Richard, Rhone, Noir (the black cat) and the pool, with tallies for gophers, turkeys and mice. Ironically, the pool won for gophers last year." Rhone, who is a sweetheart, would probably rather play with the turkeys than kill them, and frankly, Noir is the real birder in the family, but is hardly large enough to tackle a pair of drumsticks. Maybe they need a couple of Aussie border collies?

PINOT MEUNIER? TWO TO SAVOR

Have you met the sister of the bride? The bride being Pinot Noir, the sister being Pinot Meunier. One might be the designated star of the show, but the sister, well mister, don't miss her, because she's as beguiling as a spring day and will take your breath away. Oft relegated to the province of sparkling wine, Pinot

Meunier is not commonly found in California. Thankfully, Steven Mirassou was able to source some from the Four Sisters vineyard in Sonoma to create the 2010 La Rochelle Pinot Meunier. This bright, beautiful in the glass wine is surprising and captivating, right from the first sniff.

It whisked me back to my mother's late summer kitchen, overflowing with aromas of fresh picked berries simmering their way into gleaming glass jam jars. Ahh, the sweetness of red raspberries commingled with the fleshiness of strawberries and the tangy-density of blueberries: nothing like it.

The flavors of this wine are equally intriguing, combining the sweet lightness of apricot divinity with the warm spiciness of a ginger cake roll filled with raspberry mousse. Pinot Meunier is naturally higher in acidity than pinot noir, making it a dashing food wine, with a silky smooth finish. Everything about this wine is pure delight, like walking into a bakery where everything truly does taste as good as it looks. Buy some of this wine. You deserve it.

If you're curious how this varietal translates into other climes, you're in luck. Rocco has a 2009 Saint Gregory Pinot Meunier from Mendocino county on the tasting bar at Swirl, made by the amazingly versatile winemaker, Greg Graziano. This is way earthier than the La Rochelle example, with a touch more heft, and definitive notes of wild mushroom soup. I caught a bit of rosemary and a hint of cinnamon buns, like driving by a Sunday morning bakery.

Speaking of Swirl, rumor has it that the new 3 Steves tasting room arrangement at Swirl is off to a head-spinning beginning,

with great traffic, much interest and good sales.

Steve Burman is quite impressed with the number of cases they are selling through and was gratified by all the interest in the wines by winemakers, consumers and tasting room personnel from other Livermore wineries, seeking another spot to send their guests. What's not to love about Swirl's location, what with the food options within an easy walk in Blacksmith Square? These three guys named Steve are making some really tasty wines at very reasonable prices, and it's clear they are serious about their craft.

When I had the opportunity to taste with two of the Steves - the third is always conveniently missing, leaving me to wonder whether there really is another Steve - I was suitably impressed with the entire lineup.

Of all the wines they currently offer, I would handily take a case each of the unoaked Chardonnay and the Zinfandel, and I am not even a Zin fan. It bristles with acidity, and gets out of its own way, leaving none of that annoying Zin grapey jammy residue to clog your tonsils. Truly, this is the old world style of Zin, meant to cut through the cheese and tomato-laden cuisine of southern Italy. With their two polar opposite Chardonnays, they get bookends on the consumer market, with the oaky Dolly Parton bombshell on one hand, and the elegant, yet to the point Gwenyth Paltrow style, on the other.

Can't wait to barrel taste the ingredients for the forthcoming Bordeaux style blend they were excitedly talking about.

More on that down the whirlwind-swept road to fame, glory and potential profitability.

Local Casting Call for Major Film Falls Short

By Carol Graham

When Sunol native Nathan Harvey walked into the casting call in Pleasanton, casting coordinator Maryellen Aviano eyed his heavy mutton chop sideburns and asked, "How attached are you to that facial hair?"

"Not at all," said Harvey. "I'm in a stage production called 'The Rogue of the Railway' that ends next week. Then it's all coming off."

Aviano accepted his application with the added note, "Okay with shaving."

The casting call for extras, held Saturday, March 17 at the Courtyard by Marriott, asked for clean-cut types. "I'm looking for a total of 30 to 40 people who, if they weren't in our costumes, would look like business people," said Aviano. "We're not going for any Bohemian looks."

The big surprise was that only about half that many people showed up. "I'm not sure what happened with the casting call. We thought we publicized pretty well," said Aviano of the public service announcements she'd placed in local newspapers and on the radio. "We have not had the outcome I hoped for. I think it has to do with this being Saint Patrick's Day and everyone's in Dublin at the festival."

Aviano quickly moved to Plan B. After posting an online submission form on the Livermore Valley Film Commission's website, she filled the necessary slots. "Normally I love an in-person casting call. But with internet submissions - when you have to do it, you have to do it."

The lack of attendance may also be attributed to the secrecy surrounding the project. Every

actor and member of the production crew have signed confidentiality agreements to ensure that no unwanted previews are leaked on the internet before the film is released in 2013.

"With a film of this magnitude, the producers want to keep it under wraps so it isn't spoiled for the public. To protect our project, all extras also sign a confidentiality agreement," said Aviano. "It states that you are hired as an employee of the company, so you will not talk about, write about, blog about, Facebook about, or take pictures of anything to do with your employment on the project."

What is known is that extras will work locally on May 1 and May 8 - and possibly a day or two in between - and will be paid \$75 for the first eight hours, and time and a half after that. Work days typically run 12 to 14 hours.

"Doing extra work is a good learning ground, whether someone's just curious, or wants to be in the acting profession, or is interested in filmmaking in any capacity," said Aviano. "They are exposed to so many elements of filmmaking that it's an incredible opportunity."

During her 30 years as a casting coordinator, Aviano has worked on such blockbusters as Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol, The Muppets, Inception, The House Bunny, National Treasure: Book of Secrets, Star Trek, Bewitched, Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle, and the Transformers series.

She started out in 1979 as a double for Catherine Bach (Daisy) on the TV show "The Dukes of Hazzard." When the series ended six years later, Aviano stayed with the produc-

tion team. "I went a few different directions," she said. "Then I got into casting almost accidentally because I was working on a production where the director said, spur of the moment, 'I think I'd like to have some people in this scene. What are we going to do?'"

"I said, 'Why don't we go back to the restaurant and ask the waiter and the people that work there to do it.' I had a knack. I found my niche."

One of the perks of her job is working in different locations. "It's a chance to live places and with people you'd never have a chance to any other time for four or five months," said Aviano. "It's just enough time for you to think, 'I want to come back and retire here.' It's pretty great. I live like a gypsy."

Livermore Valley Film Commission president Dale Kaye said, "It's great for the entire Livermore Valley when a major feature comes to town to shoot. When they do, it's usually because of the extraordinary cooperation with our community partners. This film, when it is public, will prove just how friendly this area is."

The most surprising thing to extras working on a film set is, "They cannot believe how much work goes into filmmaking," said Aviano. "It's intense. It's a long, hard, monotonous, sometimes boring work day. Even movies like the Transformers - there's no glitter and no glamour."

A 12-hour day could be on-screen for less than 30 seconds. "We film five months to make a less than two hour movie," said Aviano. "You just don't know which element of that 12-hour day is going to be the best five seconds of the movie."

Livermore Man Says To Keep Eye Out for E-mail Scams

What started as an offer by a Livermore man to sell a surplus toilet on-line through a classified ad exchange turned into an apparent scam.

The resident, who did not want his name used for this story, said that the only respondent to his ad was apparently a woman with a fairly common English surname.

But his e-mail respondent could well have been any woman or man, since the real intent behind that e-mail was to separate the man from \$1840 of his money, he said.

The Livermore man sent several e-mails, but did not respond to the specific instructions from the would-be buyer, and eventually e-mails no longer arrived.

Instead, the man got in touch with the Independent, and told his story as an example of what people should look for in potential e-mail scams.

The would-be buyer, named "Kate," said that she would buy the toilet, and would pay with a cashier's check. She asked him for his name, address and phone number. She was even going to throw in \$20 more so that he would refuse the sale to anyone else who would respond subsequently to the ad.

"Kate" had just moved "here" (she didn't say where) from Cardiff, in Britain, and would send the cashier's check via courier service overnight.

"Kate" was going to have her own mover come to Livermore and pick up the toilet as soon as the seller had the check cashed, so that he did not even have to worry about shipping, says a copy of her e-mail.

The would-be buyer asked for the man's name, home address and cell phone number, so they could be on the payment. He responded with an e-mail containing that information. He later told The Independent that he was not worried about identity theft from that information, because the data are available fairly widely.

He also told "Kate" that he could accept only cash or a U.S. Postal money order. "My bank tells me that, with a bank check, it may take a couple of months to be certain that there are not problems with it," he wrote.

Suddenly a problem developed at Kate's end of the transaction. She wrote that she made out a cashier's check for \$1945. It covered not only the toilet, the bonus \$20 for holding the purchase just for her, but also the amount of money that her mover said that she owed, because she was in arrears on her account.

So her plan was to send him the cashier's check for \$1985, have him cash it, deduct the \$125 plus \$20 that she promised him. The remaining \$1840 would be sent back to her mover the same day via Western Union. In other words, cash would be wired, there would be no delay in the transaction.

Since the cashier's check could take weeks or even a month or more for final verification, it could bounce long after "Kate's" mover received the \$1840 cash wired to him, said the man. The mover would have been an accomplice of "Kate," said the man. That sums up the scam.

The man said that the ad service on-line sent him a standard form that warned that users should be "wary of a distant 'buyer' responding to your ad. Many sellers receive replies from scammers hoping to defraud them through schemes involving counterfeit cashier's checks and/or wire transfers."

"These checks will clear the bank, but the person cashing the check will be held responsible

when the fraud is discovered," says the warning.

The Livermore man said that people should be on the alert if large amounts of money are being dangled before them. Another sign is that no address or phone number is offered. There is only an e-mail address.

D.A. OFFICE WARNS ABOUT SCAMS

County Deputy District Attorney Teresa Dresnick, a spokesperson for the department, said that the office always advises vigilance when anyone is buying or selling in on-line ad services, as well as newspaper or magazine classified ads.

"You should never arrange for a meeting face-to-face in a secluded or dark location, or a

location that is not clearly a safe one," said Dresnick.

In on-line services, the DA's office sees ads where someone selling a car invites the would-be buyer to an address, and says to come with \$1000. Complying with that suggestion sometimes ends up as a robbery, said Dresnick.

If there has to be a meeting, it should be in a public place that is well-lit, and well-traveled.

"Another piece of advice that we provide is that if an offer seems too good to be true, it probably (isn't true.) An example would be \$150 court-side seats (at an NBA game) for \$10," said Dresnick.

People should report the crimes to the police department

where the crime occurred, not to the DA's office, which would prosecute if there were enough evidence. Mail fraud crimes are prosecuted by the federal government.

The office also warns about identity theft. That can come from many sources, such as stolen traditional mail and computer hacking.

Credit cards that some credit firms mail out trying to entice customers to join up can also create problems. Don't throw them away in the trash, without first cutting them up, and destroying all printed references to names and addresses.

There are people who go through dumpsters to find such information, and create bogus credit cards, said Dresnick.

What Our Readers Are Saying...



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The Independent illuminates local issues and provides details that our foundation uses to make informed decisions that will affect the community for generations to come. Information we gain from The Independent helps us to assess ever changing community needs and determine how we can best utilize our limited resources to assist those who are truly in need."

David Rice

President, Tri-Valley Community Foundation, The Rotary Club of Pleasanton

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The following person(s) doing business as: Connoisseur Music Group, 1721 Morning Glory Rd., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Patrick C. Anderson, 2179 Chestnut St., Livermore, CA 94551 (2)Kyle T. Cecil, 1721 Morning Glory Rd., Livermore, CA 94551 (3)Randall Chase Thomas, 1995 Monterey Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 (4)Carlos A. Velazquez De Leon, 689 Moraga Dr., Livermore, CA 94551 (5)Shawn D. Zak, 1848 Newport Ct., Tracy, CA 95376
This business is conducted by a General partnership
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on February 16, 2012. Signature of Registrants/s: Patrick C. Anderson
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 16, 2012. Expires February 16, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3197. Published March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 462177

The following person(s) doing business as: Nature Days Family Child Care, 5294 Felicia Ave, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Heather Lorraine Day, 5294 Felicia Ave, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on February 9, 2012. Signature of Registrants/s: Heather L. Day
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 28, 2012. Expires February 28, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3199. Published March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 462511

The following person(s) doing business as: Altamont Beer Works LLC, 2402 Research Dr, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Altamont Beer Works LLC, 2402 Research Dr, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by a Limited liability company
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
Signature of Registrants/s: Stephen Sartori, Managing Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 6, 2012. Expires March 6, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3200. Published March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 461354-55

The following person(s) doing business as: (1)Bay Area Family Fitness Centers (2)Personal Best Family Fitness, 65 W. Hamilton Ave., Suite 4, Campbell, CA 95008, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bay Area Family Fitness Centers LLC, 65 W. Hamilton Ave., Suite 4, Campbell, CA 95008
This business is conducted by a Limited liability company
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on February 1, 2012. Signature of Registrants/s: David Morrison, Managing Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 8, 2012. Expires February 8, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3201. Published March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 461487

The following person(s) doing business as: Time Saver Quilts, 5926 Cypress Point Dr, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Hollie Peel, 5926 Cypress Point Dr, Livermore, CA 94551
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on January 1, 2011. Signature of Registrants/s: Hollie Peel
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 10, 2012. Expires February 10, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3202. Published March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 462588

The following person(s) doing business as: Town Cab, 3211 Leahy Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Faizanullah Amin, 3211 Leahy Way, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on March 7, 2012. Signature of Registrants/s: Faizanullah Amin

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 7, 2012. Expires March 7, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3203. Published March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2012.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 9th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612 **MANDATORY PRE-BID SITE VISIT AND MEETING - RFP** Project #12015 Hazardous Materials Abatement and Building Demolition, Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 1:30 PM - 2:00 Fairmont Drive, San Leandro, CA **Attendance at the Mandatory Site Visit is required Response Due by 2:00 pm on April 18, 2012** County Contact: Jason Garrison at (510) 208-9520 or via email: jason.garrison@acgov.org Information regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

CNS-2279148#
THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3205

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

NOTICE is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, 9th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612 **MANDATORY PRE-BID SITE VISIT AND MEETING, S. County - Project #12014 EOC Video System Upgrade**, Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 2:00 PM - Alameda County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Services, 4985 Broder Boulevard, Dublin, CA **Attendance at the Mandatory Site Visit is required Response Due by 2:00 pm on April 17, 2012** County Contact: Michael E. Cadrecha at (510) 208-9589 or via email: michael.cadrecha@acgov.org Information regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org.

CNS-2279586#
THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3206

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 461700

The following person(s) doing business as: Neera Natural Health, 2468 Armstrong St., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Supreme Joy Distributors, Inc, 2468 Armstrong St., Livermore, CA 94551
This business is conducted by a Corporation
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
Signature of Registrants/s: Anita Thompson, President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on February 16, 2012. Expires February 16, 2017.
The Independent Legal No. 3207. Published March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2012.

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Millennial Generation Impacting Real Estate Market

By Cher Wollard
A new generation of Americans is moving into the real estate market. However, unlike their parents and grandparents - or even their older siblings - today's 20-somethings are looking beyond white picket fences.
Millennials, born between 1982 and 2000 (or 1977 to 1995, according to some experts), are 81 million strong, the largest generation in U.S. history. Also known as Echo Boomers, Gen Y, Generation Next or Generation Me, they grew up in a world of instant global 24/7 communication.

"Plugged in, online and connected," is how Seth Mattison of BridgeWorks, an expert on generational issues, describes them.

This generation is comfortable with diversity and greater equality between the sexes. In fact, Millennial women may be the first generation to earn more than their male counterparts, due to increased college graduation rates.

The sluggish economy has hit young people especially hard, with low employment and high college-loan debt - student loan debt has doubled in the past five years to \$750 billion. Experts estimate that 40 percent of adults under 30 are barely getting by.

Many have moved back in with parents or grandparents. Others are renting, contributing to overall shortages in rental housing and higher rental costs.

Mattison predicts that this generation is likely to delay purchasing a home until their late 20s or even 30s. When they do consider buying, it will be cautiously, aware as they are of the mortgage problems of the recent past. Gen Y'ers understand the value of financial planning and will work hard to achieve their goals.

Despite all the obstacles, the oldest Millennials are beginning to enter the real estate market. Some take advantage of first-time home-buyer programs that can make purchasing a home more affordable.

Some receive assistance from their Baby Boomer parents, with whom they tend to have close relations, Mattison said. Polls indicate that about two-thirds of Boomer parents want to help their children and grandchildren purchase homes, perhaps by loaning or gifting them with funds for down payments or closing costs.

At the least, they offer guidance, which Millennials tend to value, including referrals to Realtors and other service providers.

When Millennials do decide to buy homes, here's what they want: connectivity, convenience, efficiency.

Here's what they don't want: formal living rooms, soaker bathtubs, dependence on a car. In other words, they don't want their parents' homes, according to the National Association of Homebuilders.

Millennials seek out pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use communities with restaurants, theaters and fitness centers. They care passionately about the environment, and want their homes to be energy-efficient and convenient to mass transit. Many Gen Y'ers prefer urban settings to the suburbs they were raised in.

"They want to be close to each other, to services, to places to meet and to work. They would rather walk than drive," according to John McIlwain of the Urban Land Institute, in his recent report "Housing in America: The Next Decade."

Fully 88 percent of Gen Y'ers surveyed said they would like to live in an urban environment. About one-fourth indicate they would be willing to pay 5 percent to 10 percent more to live within a 10-minute walk or bike ride, or a short car trip, of work or retail services.

But most are priced out of the best areas in large cities. In response, smaller towns and cities are becoming more urban.

"They don't want to be in a cookie-cutter type of development," notes Melina Duggal, a real estate adviser with RCLCO. "The suburbs will need to evolve to be attractive to Gen Y."

McIlwain agrees. "The coming decades will be the time of the great re-urbanization as 24/7 central cities grow and suburbs around the country are redeveloped with new or revived walkable suburban town centers," he said.

The Tri-Valley already displays evidence of these trends, with the development of vibrant, walkable downtowns in Livermore and Pleasanton, and transit villages in Dublin.

Millennials tend to postpone marriage and parenthood, so their social interaction focuses on night life, rather than entertaining at home.

They are satisfied with condos, small housing units or houses on small easy-care blocks of land with patios for entertaining. Zero-lot-line housing - developments of detached homes on very small lots, often with shared driveways - are made to order for these buyers.

According to research by the Concord Group, Millennials want their homes to offer open floorplans, big kitchens (though they eat out more than their elders) and garages. They have little interest in formal dining rooms, home theaters, game rooms, or landscaping that requires extensive maintenance.

Instead of spaciousness, give them nice glass and metal features, aluminum joinery, bold colors, lofts and lots of light. Get rid of the tub and enlarge the shower stall. Make room for the Wii in front of the television and provide high-speed Internet access for this, the most sophisticated media generation ever.

Amenities such as nearby fitness centers and community centers are also important.

They want to spend their weekends going out with their friends, not mowing big lawns and cleaning pools.

"They are willing to live in a smaller space in order to be able to afford this lifestyle," McIlwain said.

In fact, having a good work-life balance may be the most important thing to them, according to William Strauss and Neil Howe, authors of "Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation."

Millennials are generally less interested in climbing up the corporate ladder than previous generations. They want their jobs to accommodate their personal lives.

Flexibility, telecommuting options and the ability to go part time or leave the workforce temporarily when children are in the picture are at least as important as salary and benefits, according to a study by Diversified Investment Advisors.

Millennials expect to be fairly mobile, not staying in the same job, or even the same field, their entire careers.

All that mobility could translate to multiple home purchases and sales in their lives.

Given the size of this generation, their preferences will have a strong effect on home building and community development for decades to come.

Livermore Police Chief to Address Real Estate Group

Livermore Police Chief Steve Sweeney will be featured speaker at the March 22 meeting of the Real Estate Alliance of Livermore. Guest speaker at the March 29 meeting will be Alexis Summerfield, a specialist in feng shui.

The group is open to all Realtors and professionals in affiliated businesses that serve Livermore. Meetings are held Thursday mornings at First Street Alehouse, 2106 First Street
Doors open at 8 a.m. for networking and light refreshments. The meeting runs 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Admission is \$4. For more information, see www.realestateallianceoflivermore.com.
Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore.

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Hindu Community and Cultural Center Awards \$32,000 in Grants

By Carol Graham

Representatives from 37 local humanitarian organizations stepped forward to accept grants from Livermore's Hindu Community and Cultural Center (HCCC) on Sat., March 17.

Granting about \$30,000 yearly since 1987, the ceremony is the HCCC's crown jewel. "Our human services portfolio is one of our main focuses," said temple president Anand Gundu. "Our motto is 'Service to mankind is service to God.'"

Among the honorees in attendance were California State Senator Mark DeSaulnier, 7th District; Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Livermore Chief of Police Steve Sweeney, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Battalion Chief Jane Moorhead, San Francisco's Consul General of India Shri N Parthasarathi, and Livermore School District Trustee Anne White.

The ceremony began as eight and nine-year old girls performed a graceful and lively classical Indian dance dressed in brilliant orange dress, adorned with bells, gold and sparkling bangles.

The grants, ranging from several hundred to several thousand dollars, totaled \$32,000 this year. All monies were raised through donations by temple devotees. "We have a great community that believes in giving," said Gundu. "We don't expect anyone to believe in our religion; Hinduism doesn't preach that you have to



Dancers entertained those in attendance at the annual awarding of grants.

convert anyone. The spirit of Hinduism is a way of life: don't do harm to others, be nice to people, and treat people the way you would like to be treated."

After receiving 50 applications for grants, the human services committee chose 37 recipients, based largely on the HCCC's desire to help the underserved: youth, the elderly and abused women.

"I accepted their contribution for the district's Character Education activities and materials," said White. "East Avenue Middle School will use its grant for the annual Diversity Week Program."

"We are delighted to receive the support of the HCCC. I'm encouraged by the wide range

of other recipients who support our children outside of school so students can come to school fed, rested and ready to learn."

Other recipients of grants include Autism A to Z, Del Arroyo 4 H Club, Good News Bears, Legal Assistance for Seniors, Geeta Society, People to People Foundation, Hospice, Celiac Disease Foundation, Assistance League of Amador Valley, Interfaith Sharing, Yuva Bharathi and the American Legion.

"The thing I was most impressed with was how open and giving the people at the temple are," said Bill Bergmann of the American Legion's Livermore Post 47. Bergmann said the Legion's award will be used to fund multiple scholarships for veterans attending Las Positas College.

"Funding is needed because new education benefits do not cover time when classes are not in session," said Bergmann. "Young veterans do not have the

resources to cover periods during holidays or breaks. Las Positas College has over 350 veterans enrolled each term - one of the largest concentrations of veterans at any community college in the region."

The HCCC's Shiva-Vishnu Temple was founded "In 1977 by a group of like-minded people who came together to have a place to worship the 13 Hindu gods and goddesses," said Gundu. "It's the biggest and most authentic temple in this part of Northern California."

"The current number of registered devotees is around 17,000," said Suman Jain, Chairperson of Human Services, adding around 2,000 devotees attend weekly.

"We call ourselves the Google or Microsoft of Hindu temples here," said Gundu, who has served 11 months of his one-year term. "It's been great to manage a temple of this magnitude. There is a connectivity here between the idols and the people who attend. They feel that positive energy that keeps them going."

"If you have to come back to a place again and again, there should be some magnetic power there."

The structure itself is an ornate and stunning temple offering traditional worship to devotees dressed in an eclectic mix of traditional Indian garb and everyday American clothes. Set off the street, the temple is located at 1232 Arrowhead Avenue in the Springtown area of Livermore.

Its purpose is not only to provide a place of worship, but to be a symbol of Hindu heritage, a resource for youth and education, a center for cultural gatherings and an incubator for human

services.

Benevolent projects carried out by HCCC include providing, in conjunction with the Rotary Club, dictionaries for all of Livermore's 3rd graders, offering perpetual scholarships for graduating high school students, sponsoring bone marrow drives (to date, they've signed 1,500 donors), providing a bus shelter in Springtown, donating money and materials to victims of natural disasters, and offering a wealth of healthcare opportunities.

At the annual Health Fair, to

be held September 29 this year, doctors determine blood pressure, bone density, sugar levels and provide a host of other medical assessments. "We are open to everyone, not just to members of the temple," said Jain.

Gundu added, "The temple is here for the community at large. We work with organizations that provide food, clothing, and shelter. Whatever way we can extend our help, we will reach out to all."

For more information, visit livermoretemple.org.

Dublin Looking for Volunteers to Participate in Annual Pride Week

The City of Dublin will hold the annual "Dublin Pride Week" event Saturday, April 28th through Saturday, May 5th. The city is seeking volunteers to assist with several activities planned for this year. Dublin Pride Week is an annual event that seeks to demonstrate ways in which individuals or groups can act to improve the community and to work to improve the world through environmental awareness and volunteerism.

In 2011, approximately 350 volunteers assisted on projects throughout the community, ranging from helping seniors with household maintenance and yard work, to elementary and middle school beautification projects, such as painting and landscape work. Additionally, volunteers participated in a number of clean up projects around the City.

"Dublin Pride Week is a great tradition that speaks to the very character of our community," said Mayor Tim Sbranti. "This program demonstrates that, through volunteerism and environmental stewardship, residents can truly impact and make a difference in the City."

The program encourages youth participation and hosts an annual poster contest to engage youth in the event. This year's Dublin Pride Week posters will feature the artwork of Farhan Karuvally, a 2nd grader at Dougherty Elementary School, whose artwork is titled - "Planet Dublin, Heaven is a Place on Earth." Additionally, several faith-based groups and service organizations

will assist in providing volunteers and support for the event.

Residents and groups interested in volunteering can visit the Pride Week website at www.dublinprideweek.com or call (925) 833-6650.

The following events and activities will be occurring this year throughout Pride Week:

"Volunteer Day" - Saturday, April 28th from 8:00 am - to 12:00 noon. Volunteers are needed to help with Senior Assistance, School Beautification, Parks Beautification and Creek Cleanup projects. Volunteers will be invited to a BBQ at the Heritage Park following all volunteer activities from 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm. Docent led tours of the Dublin Heritage Park and museums will also be offered.

Food Drive at Volunteer Day on Saturday, April 28th.

"Water Conservation Zone Booth" at the Dublin Farmers Market opening night, Thursday, May 3, from 4-8 pm, in which residents can apply for money-saving rebates, enter a water-efficient landscape contest, and take home free, practical information on water-wise living from Dublin San Ramon Services District and Zone 7 Water Agency.

Free Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection and Compost Give-a-Way Day, Saturday, May 5th.

Flat Tire Repair Clinic on Saturday, May 5th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the intersection of Amador Valley Boulevard and the Ironhorse Trail.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Weekend festivities in Dublin began with the Annual Firefighter's Pancake Breakfast at Fire Station. Green was the color of the day. Diners wearing it and chowing down on green pancakes.



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Art, Community, & Education

Capturing Wildlife with a Camera

By Carol Graham

For Dave Harper, stalking, capturing and shooting are just part of the exhilaration.

The real thrill when photographing local wildlife comes from “Arriving home with a close-up photo of an interesting animal; capturing something that lasts forever,” said Harper. “Unlike a hunter, who brings home his prey, I come home with the subject caught in its wild habitat. The best part is that the animal is still out there.”

Twelve years ago, Harper started taking pictures of wild animals with a basic video camera. “The pixels were bad, but I became obsessed,” he said. “Salmon running up local creeks, golden eagles on the wing. I was done for.”

Since then, Harper’s photos have been featured in the Contra Costa Times and their wild life calendar, as well as on the web site of Gary Bogue, Bay Area News Group’s pet and animal columnist.

After retiring, Harper, 53, plans to pursue his passion for either photography or in an area that relates to wild animals. For the past 30 years, Harper has worked for Contra Costa County Public Works. “I’ve been a road crew supervisor for six years,” he said. “It’s probably unusual for a road crew worker to be an environmentalist.”

A Bay Area native, Harper takes many of his photos in and around Livermore, particularly throughout the Mines Road and Del Valle areas. “It’s amazing what this area

provides,” said Harper. “My specialties are burrowing owls, coyotes, black-tailed deer, red-tailed hawks, and Swainson’s hawks.”

Having become somewhat of an expert on birds of prey over the years, Harper said he’s learned to identify raptors even from great distances by their wing shape, tail size, and number of wing beats.

“I respect all wildlife and try not to play favorites, but I will drop everything to go after a golden eagle,” he said. “They represent all things wild to me. Their relationship with Native Americans intrigues me as well.”

Tribal leaders and warriors used golden eagle feathers to adorn their headdresses and garments, which, along with the golden’s larger-than-bald-eagles size, resulted in their being called ‘the war eagle.’ The highest density of nesting golden eagles in the world lies in southern Alameda County – near the Del Valle Regional Park and reservoir.

“I have always been amazed by wildlife and have little interest in photographing anything else,” said Harper who admits wildlife photography can be extremely challenging. “It’s not like being a wedding photographer who sets the proper lighting and has people stand where he wants them.

“With wildlife photography, you get what you get. Many times you have only a split second to react.”

As with any passionate pursuit, bittersweet memories of ‘the one



Burrowing Owls

that got away’ can linger. “Many lost shots haunt me,” said Harper. “Like a large king snake fighting a red-tailed hawk on a country road, or several hawks flying with snakes in their talons. I once saw a golden eagle sitting on a dead coyote just 20 feet away. As I went for my camera, I heard the flapping sound of an 8-foot wingspan unfolding and flying away.”

Conversely, Harper’s work can lead to extended interaction with his subjects. “I’ve caught and taken

many sick and injured animals to the Lindsey Wildlife Museum (a multi-purpose facility in Walnut Creek that operates the largest rehabilitation hospital in the United States).” His rescues include barn owls, ferruginous hawks, turkey vultures and great-horned owls.

Yet Harper is not above being fooled by the animals he so loves. “Once I came upon an old red-tailed hawk. First I thought it was sick as I was able to sit and visit with the bird,” he said. “I called

animal control and waited for them to arrive.

“In the mean time, the hawk took off, dove for a mouse, and then landed on my car. He was dirty, but okay. When the animal control officer arrived, we both photographed the bird a while and then said good bye.”

It appears to be Harper’s gift

(continued on page 3)



Golden Eagle



"Slurp"



Dave Harper

Beyond Boundaries: An Exhibit of Contemporary Cuban Artists



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Artists prepare for the opening of their show.

By Patricia Koning

The Figurehead Gallery this week opened "Beyond Boundaries," a new exhibit featuring the work of contemporary Cuban artists Eira Arrate, Grettel Arrate, and Estela Estavez. On Friday, March 23 from 6 to 9 pm, the public is invited to meet these three women at an Artists' Reception that will include live Cuban music and a

reading of Cuban poetry.

The artists were part of the 5th annual *La Semana Cubana* (Cuban Culture Week) festival, which took place at Los Positas College (LPC) last week. The festival, directed by LPC Foreign Language Coordinator Catherine Suarez, is meant to bring Cuban cultures and traditions into the Tri-Valley by celebrating the country's art, music, and dance.

"When Catherine first showed us this work, we were captivated with the bold colors, shapes, and dynamic movement," says Victoria Ball, co-owner of the Figurehead Gallery with her husband Ken. "We saw it was something recognizably different and fresh. After a little time to reflect, we noticed that the work had begun

to grow on us. We decided that we wanted to bring this vibrant work to the Livermore community. The work is really something that is worth coming to see."

Before *La Semana Cubana*, the work of Eira Arrate, Grettel Arrate, and Estavez was display at the Bankhead Theater in conjunction with a performance by the Luna Negra Dance Theater. The exhibit at the Figurehead Gallery focuses on new works not yet seen in the United States.

For Grettel Arrate and Estevez, this marked the first time their work was shown in the United States. While Eira Arrate's photography was shown in the 2011 Cuban Culture Week, this is her first visit to the United States.

"Beyond Boundaries" will run through Saturday, April 15 at the Figurehead Galley, located at 2222 2nd Street, Suite 21, in Livermore. Gallery hours are noon to 6 pm on Tuesday through Friday, noon to 5 pm on Saturday, and by appointment.

The Figurehead Gallery is Livermore's newest art gallery, opened in November by Ken and Victoria Ball. In addition to rotating special exhibits, many arts classes are held at the gallery during the week. For more information, visit figureheadgallery.com or call 925-337-1799.

For more information on *La Semana Cubana*, visit www.semanacubana.org. Next year's *La Semana Cubana* will be held on March 11-15, 2013.



Angela Johal Best of Show

Spring Art Show Opens March 31

The Livermore Art Association (LAA) annual Spring Art Show is coming to The Barn at 3131 Pacific Avenue, Livermore on March 31 and April 1. This is the largest exhibit of the year for the Livermore Art Association. It is open to the public and free to attend. Hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. Most artwork is for sale. There will be an additional sales room with original art, crafts, cards and prints.

The Livermore Commission for the Arts will be selecting seven works, one from each category, for a City of Livermore Special Award. After the show, these works will be displayed in City Hall for one month. This year also brings a change for the artists. Instead of a single judge for the show, all the entrants will be judging themselves. Every artist will vote for his or her favorite in each category. Awards will be based on popular vote.

The public is invited to a festive reception on Saturday, March 31st, 7 to 9 p.m. There will be appetizers, local wines and live music. The awards ceremony will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Concert Theme Of 'Springtime In Italy'

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will perform at the Firehouse Arts Center on Sunday March 25, 2012 from 2:00 pm to 3:15 pm.

The theme of the concert is "La Primavera- Springtime in Italy." The program will include music by Rossini and Verdi along with themes from great Italian movies.

For further information contact Director Bob Williams at 925-846-5897 or go to www.pleasanton-band.org.

Storyteller/Musician Bill Harley Adds New Adult Show

The Firehouse Arts Center will host the return to Pleasanton of Grammy-winning storyteller and musician Bill Harley on Saturday, March 31, 2012. Harley will perform two shows, a 2 p.m. matinee for families and an 8 p.m. evening show for adults.

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

Both shows examine human foibles and simple pleasures in vignettes about school, family and parenting. According to Harley, the adult show observes the world at a deeper level with a more complex series of songs and stories, still humorous and poignant, but from an older perspective. "Adults experience the performance through a double filter of past and present," he explains.

Harley is a two-time Grammy winning singer-songwriter, au-

thor, monologist and a regular commentator on National Public Radio's (NPR) All Things Considered. He is considered by fans as well as peers to be one of the best storytellers in the country for his celebrations of commonality and humanity through narrative songs and confessional spoken works.

The Los Angeles Times wrote, "Harley delivers an uninhibited performance with wry sense of humor and a love of life we can all share."

Tickets for the 2:00 p.m. matinee are adult \$10, \$15 and \$18; child \$6, \$9 and \$12. Tickets to the 8:00 p.m. evening show are \$14, \$20 and \$24. Tickets 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



Bill Harley

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.

Oscar Wilde's Comic Masterpiece 'The Importance of Being Earnest' at the Bankhead

The Aquila Theatre of New York returns to Livermore in March with a production of Oscar Wilde's incomparable comedy of manners, "The Importance of Being Earnest."

Treasured for its wry humor and underlying social commentary, Wilde's masterpiece of twisted truths and entangled lives is considered to be as irresistible today as when it was written. Aquila Theatre brings creative staging and a sparkling flair for language to this production.

"The Importance of Being Earnest" will be presented in a single performance at the Bankhead Theater on Wednesday evening, March 28, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$29 to \$51 for adults and \$14 for students.

"The Importance of Being Earnest" made its debut in London in 1895 to great success. It remains Oscar Wilde's best known and most often staged work. The story centers around Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, two young members of the fashionable British upper class, who have taken to bending the truth to add a dash of excitement to their lives and to escape the demands of the domineering high-society matron, Lady Bracknell. Jack has invented an imaginary brother, Ernest, whom he uses as an excuse to escape his dull home in the country to frolic in town. Algernon has concocted an imaginary friend, Bunbury, who provides him with a convenient reason to run off for adventures in the country. Their complicated deceptions eventually cross paths, resulting in a series of hilarious discoveries that threaten to spoil their romantic pursuits.

Wilde once characterized "The



Cast rehearses.

Importance of Being Earnest" as "a trivial comedy for serious people." Written at the peak of his career, the play's elegant wit and romantic banter masks a biting sharp viewpoint that skewers the social pretensions of the upper class and keeps the play as relevant today as ever.

Based in New York, Aquila Theatre is critically acclaimed worldwide for their reinterpretations of classic plays. Founded in 1991 by artistic director Peter Meineck, the group strives to make the live theater experience more accessible to all audiences and to share a deeper understanding of the great plays – from ancient Greek dramas and the works of Shakespeare, to new American classics. In addition to their regular season in New York, Aquila Theatre members tour extensively and have received awards for their creative, multi-disciplinary educational programs and their outreach to underserved audiences in both rural and urban communities.

Aquila Theatre's presentation of Oscar Wilde's comic masterpiece on March 28th ushers in a spring season filled with comedy at the Bankhead Theater. The impromptu standup comedy of Paula Poundstone takes the stage on Friday, April 13, 2012. Comedy group Capitol Steps, whose members include former Congressional staffers from both sides of the aisle, makes its annual return to the Bankhead Theater on Tuesday evening, May 8 for an election year extravaganza filled with bipartisan political satire. Tickets for all three events are available now at the Bankhead Theater box office.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHER

(continued from front page)

to earn animals' trust. "I am not a great photographer, however I believe I have a talent of getting close to wild animals, and finding them based on experience that I've gathered observing them," he said.

"His knowledge of and fondness for all things wild is what shows up in his pictures," said Livermore rancher Thom Reinstein. "He's like one of those early Delta blues players who were perhaps not technical with their guitar or their voice, but when they played and sang, it moved people

in a deep and profound way."

Reinstein recalls one particularly memorable Harper photo shoot. "I was loading hay and noticed movement a few bales away," he said. "It turned out to be three baby barn owls hissing and swaying back and forth telling me not to come too close. I called Dave who got some really great shots. Then we moved to another hay stack till the chicks were old enough to fly away.

"I'd be surprised to find anyone in our area shooting such great and

passionate works of wildlife."

Harper sends out photographs in a monthly email to anyone who shares his interest in wildlife. "Sometimes people are surprised by pictures of animals that they did not realize were around here, like roadrunners in Livermore, and rough-legged hawks in Brentwood.

"It's the love of the subjects that keeps me out there – always thinking, "This could be the spot and time for something fantastic."

To join the mailing list, email Harper-David@comcast.net.

BANKHEAD THEATER

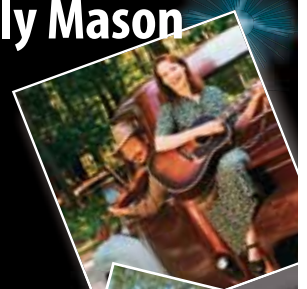
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FREE PARKING!

The Dunwells Make Firehouse Stop on Their First Major U.S. Tour

British pop/rock group, The Dunwells will make a stop in Pleasanton, on their first major United States tour. The group will perform at the Firehouse Arts Center on Friday, March 30, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Playing together formally since 2009, The Dunwells were signed by American recording company, Playing in Traffic Records, and recorded their first album, "Blind Sighted Faith" in 2011. Their sound is a blend of acoustic and electric roots music highlighted by vocal harmonies by all five members.

All five The Dunwells musicians are natives of the same Leeds, England neighborhood and entertained as solo musicians in local pubs and clubs before uniting as a band. Brothers David and Joseph Dunwell grew up in a home filled with the music of their father's extensive record collection, The Beatles and Fleetwood Mac, as well as many other classic musical acts from the 1960s and later. Both brothers began playing guitar and writing songs at an

early age, inspired by their father, a talented classical acoustic player. They became known individually at open mic nights in and around Leeds. When a booking agent suggested that they unite as an act they agreed it made sense.

The brothers were joined by bassist Rob Clayton, a long-time friend, and drummer Jonny Lamb, Clayton's cousin. Guitarist Dave Hanson heard Joseph Dunwell sing in a pub and eventually began playing with him. "We all made music for a living before we became a group," said Hanson. "Ours is not just a band that formed. It's organic and comes from sharing the same roots, everybody growing up, listening to and learning music together."

The Dunwells first appeared in America at the 2011 International Folk Alliance conference. "Anyone that's seen them has just been 'Oh My God!' They're mind boggling!" raved Folk Alliance Executive Director Louis Jay Meyers to Voice of America radio. "The quality of the songs, the quality of the playing, the quality of the vocals, the harmonies. Man, they're like Mumford and Sons times 10."

Tickets are \$12, \$15 and \$18.



The Dunwells

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.

Piano and Organ Combine for Evening of Unique Musical Experience In A Valley Concert Chorale Presents! Event

Valley Concert Chorale Presents! will offer the community a unique musical experience when the talents of concert pianist Daniel Glover and organist Jerome Lenk combine to perform duets in "Of Piano and Organ."

The performance will be at 7:30 p.m. on Fri., March 23 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore.

Glover and Lenk's performance will feature works originally composed for piano and organ duo including Franck's meditative Prelude, Fugue and Variation, Op. 18, and Marcel Dupre's Variations on Two Themes, Op. 35. In addition they will perform Liszt's hair-raising Totentanz in their own arrangement, in celebration of the composer's 200th Birthday.

Lenk will play Liszt's Variations on Bach in its original organ version. Daniel Glover will perform various solo works for the piano.

Tickets are \$25. Advance tickets may be ordered by visiting the Chorale's website at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or by calling the Chorale's information number at (925) 866-4003 to order tickets. Tickets may also be purchased through Brown Paper Tickets online at www.brownpapertickets.com.

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

Pianist Daniel Glover, who has been the Valley Concert Chorale's accompanist since 1998, has performed in 42 states and 25 countries throughout Europe, Asia, North America, South America and the Caribbean. Mr. Glover has trained with such luminaries as Eugene List, Abbey Simon, Jerome Lowenthal, Nancy Bachus and Thomas LaRatta. He holds a master's degree from New York's Juilliard School, where he was a scholarship student. Among his numerous competition awards is first prize in the prestigious Liederkrantz Competition in 1990.

Jerome Lenk serves as Director of Music and Liturgy, and principal Organist for Mission Dolores Basilica in San Francisco. He has performed recitals and conducted the Basilica Choir in California, Mexico, and Italy. His extensive experience as an accompanist includes appearances with the San Francisco Opera Merola Program, Western Opera Theatre, San Francisco Symphony Chorus, San Jose Symphony, Golden Gate Men's Chorus, San Francisco Concert Chorale, San Francisco Lyric Chorus, The Choral Project



Daniel Glover

of San Jose, and the Valley Concert Chorale, as well as collaborations with Robert Shaw, Eugene Butler and Jörg Demus.



Jerome Lenk

of San Jose, and the Valley Concert Chorale, as well as collaborations with Robert Shaw, Eugene Butler and Jörg Demus.

By Sarah Bobson

On December 8, 1980, I remember walking past Roosevelt Hospital in the evening and seeing a throng of people outside. I asked a man standing next to me, "What's going on?" He said, "John Lennon's in there." I asked, "Is he sick?" The man said, "He's been shot."

Shot? I couldn't understand why anyone would want to shoot one of the Beatles. Through their songs, they sought peace and brotherhood.

As I stood outside the hospital, hoping to catch some hint of news, titles and lyrics from Beatles' songs like "Let It Be" and "Give Peace a Chance" kept playing in my mind. After an hour, numb to the bone from the winter chill, I left, dazed, and walked one block to Roosevelt Hospital staff housing, where I lived.

The next day, Walter Cronkite, on the CBS nightly news, confirmed my worst fears.

"Good evening," Cronkite said. "The death of a man who sang and played the guitar overshadows the news from Poland, Iran, and Washington tonight. John Lennon, former Beatle who was 40, was shot and killed last night outside his luxury apartment in New York. The alleged killer is an unemployed security guard and printer who had lived in Hawaii. News of Lennon's death touched off a wave of shock and mourning around the world."

News clips showed crowds gathered at the Dakota apartment building where Lennon, his wife Yoko Ono, and their young son Sean lived. They showed Roosevelt Hospital, with the word "Emergency" in blood red letters, and a gurney with the singer's lifeless body being wheeled inside.

I knew I had to visit the Dakota, within a mile of where I lived, not so much to see the scene of the crime, but to "be" with other fans, to share our disbelief and grief. Many times, I had walked past the building, built between 1880 and 1884, and later designated a U.S. Historic Landmark. It cut an imposing figure, a big, square monolith with haunting Gothic details of helmeted gargoyles and serpents wrapped around the heavy black wrought-iron gate. The building's dark exterior, especially the monsters 'guarding' it, reeking and oozing of a paganism that could just as easily attract as repel the dark forces, scared me.

Stories of ghosts in the building were urban legends. Well-known actress of the 40s, 50s, and 60s, Judy Holliday, a former tenant, claimed to have seen an apparition of a boy in a Buster

Yesterday into Today

The Assassination of John Lennon

Brown suit with the body of a man and the face of a child. That was years before the 1968 release of the demonic horror film "Rosemary's Baby," which Roman Polanski shot at the Dakota.

The Dakota had been built around a central courtyard that had an arched entrance large enough to accommodate horse-drawn carriages so their passengers could disembark and still be sheltered from the elements. It was in front of that entrance that Mark David Chapman shot Lennon in the back with five hollow point bullets from a .38 as the Beatle returned from a recording session for the *Double Fantasy* album that would have heralded his comeback, years after the Beatles had busted up and Lennon had become a house husband holed up in his apartment. Earlier in the day, Annie Leibovitz photographed John and Yoko for the January 22, 1981, cover of *Rolling Stone*, in the iconic pose of nude John clinging in a fetal position to fully dressed Yoko, who he called "Mother."

Shortly after the shooting, the police arrived, handcuffed Chapman, who was still holding his copy of *Catcher in the Rye*, and whisked him away. In 1992, Barbara Walters interviewed Chapman at Attica prison in upstate New York. She asked why he shot Lennon, and he said he thought by doing that he would acquire the Beatle's fame.

When I arrived at the Dakota the day after the shooting, I saw flowers stuck in the wrought-iron fence, hand-written signs saying "John Lennon lives on," and pictures of Lennon. The street was littered with flowers, paper, beer cans, and coffee cups. The police kept the crowd, chanting "Give peace a chance," behind sawhorse barricades.

I hung around in the chill wet air, watching the sun descend, the dark Dakota glowering in the low light like a gothic nightmare. I remember thinking: Lennon will never live to see his 5-year-old grow to manhood. Years later, words from "Beautiful Boy," which appears on the *Double Fantasy* album, the song Lennon wrote for Sean, still haunt my soul: "I can hardly wait to see you come of age. But I guess we'll both just have to be patient." Lennon himself would not grow older. Back in 1967, when the Beatles released the *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*

album with "When I'm Sixty-Four" on it, 64 seemed so old, an improbable age: "When I get older ... many years from now ... Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?" The lyrics that once seemed irrelevant

no longer do.

On December 14, a silent vigil was held where for 10 minutes fans thought of Lennon. On March 26, 1981, the Strawberry Fields memorial, 2.5 acres in Central Park across the street

from the Dakota, named after the Beatles tune, was dedicated.

Some years later, I took my parents there.

"This is Strawberry Fields," I said.

My parents stared back blankly.

"It's dedicated to John Lennon, the Beatle who was murdered."

"More blank stares."

"We watched the Beatles when they appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. Remember?"

Their eyes lit up.



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"I Feel Fine" Foothill Guard performance.

Foothill Hosts Annual Winter Guard, Percussion and Drum Major Event

The Foothill High School Band Boosters will host the annual Winter Guard, Percussion, and Drum Major Competition on Saturday, March 24 at Foothill High School in Pleasanton.

This event traditionally showcases the region's top talent. The top finishers in the competition typically dominate the awards podium at Championships the following weekend. Over 100 performances, including teams from Dublin, Livermore, and San Ramon are scheduled for this day-long event. The Foothill Percussion Show performance called

"Vodun," but pronounced Voodoo. The Guard's performance is "I Feel Fine."

Drum Majors start the day at 8:30 a.m. in the stadium with awards at 2:00. In the large gym, the Percussion competitions begin at 8:30 followed by Winter Guard at 1:00 and awards at 5:45. Proceeds from this full day of artistry, music and motion benefit the FHS music program. It is one of the Boosters' major fund-raisers. There will be souvenirs, food and vendor court featuring Coldstone Creamery, Sweet and Sour Candy and the Wyld Guyz fleece apparel.

Registration Opens for Annual Ravenswood Victorian Tea

The 16th annual Ravenswood Victorian Tea is set for Sunday, April 29.

The tea is presented by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and the Ravenswood Progress League at the Ravenswood Historic Site in south Livermore.

The 1890s restored Victorian country estate provides an idyllic setting for tea both inside the historic home or outside on the covered, wraparound porch. Ravenswood Historic Site is on the National Register of Historic Places, is a State of California Historical Point of Interest and is a City of Livermore Historic Preservation Landmark Site.

Elegant sweets and savories, a selection of teas, sparkling wine and sparkling juice will be served. This event is open to adults and children ages 8 and older. A special

menu is set; special food requests cannot be accommodated. Docents will be dressed in Victorian-era costumes as they serve the tea. Live background music will be on hand as well.

The tea is set for 2 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 29, at Ravenswood, 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Two seating locations are available: inside the home or outside on the covered porch. Tickets are \$37 per person. All donations benefit the Ravenswood Historic Site Furnishing Fund, an ongoing project of the nonprofit Ravenswood Progress League that supports restoration and public programs at the site.

Reservations are being taken now until the event is full. For more information, call 925-443-0238. Reservations forms are available online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

Legendary Singer Rita Coolidge Brings Her Distinctive Voice to the Bankhead

Known for her clear tone and pure vocal elegance, the legendary Rita Coolidge will open an early spring weekend with an evening of favorite music at the Bankhead Theater on Friday, March 30, 2012.

Coolidge, who soared to fame in the 1970s with such chart-topping hits as "All Time High," "I'd Rather Leave When I'm in Love" and "We're All Alone," has turned her smooth voice in recent years to fresh interpretations of jazz standards, as well as new takes on old favorites. Long credited as one of the most versatile singers of the rock generation, she has successfully traveled through nearly every genre from rock, pop and R&B, to country, folk and world music.

Tickets to hear Rita Coolidge on March 30th are selling quickly and range from \$29 to \$51 for adults with \$14 student tickets available.

Music was truly a first language for Coolidge who was born near Nashville, Tennessee and grew up singing with her sisters in the church where her father served as minister. After earning a bachelor's degree in art and before embarking on her planned career as a teacher, she decided to take a year and see where a life in music might take her. With her lovely voice and liquid styling, Coolidge soon secured a job as a backup singer and subsequently moved to Los Angeles, where she sang with such greats as Eric Clapton, Stephen Stills and Joe Cocker, before scoring her own recording contract. Her career was already taking off in 1970 when she met and married singer/songwriter Kris Kristofferson. Uniting his raw country style with her smooth pop vocals resulted in sold-out concert tours and a string of hit songs, including two Grammy Awards for Best Country Duo over their decade-long marriage. Coolidge truly broke out as a solo artist with her album *Anytime, Anywhere*, and for the next decade, her hits consistently reached the top of the charts.

In recent years, Coolidge has brought to the forefront her long-standing affection for the world of jazz. She has always loved the work of jazz singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney and especially Peggy Lee, whose songs she loved as a child. Coolidge sees this as the ideal time in her career to explore the genre. "Jazz singers are not limited by age," she says but are instead increasingly revered as their voices mature.



Rita Coolidge

Coolidge brings all the insight and experience of her varied career into her present work. With songs she made famous, such as "We're All Alone," as well as such beloved jazz standards as "Save Your Love for Me" and "Sentimental Journey," Coolidge proves she still has what *The New York Times* called an "elegant, post-hippie glamour" backed by an unmistakably genuine feel for swing.

Coolidge has had the opportunity to explore a wealth of musical styles, including that of her Native American Cherokee heritage through the band *Walela* she formed with her sister and niece. She is also strongly committed to social issues and has used her music to raise awareness and help combat teen suicide, AIDS and homelessness. Regardless of the style or genre of the music before her, Coolidge is a master vocalist with a secure and self-assured styl-

ing that captivates audiences and leaves them eager to hear where she will take them next.

The evening with Rita Coolidge at the Bankhead Theater in March will be followed in May by a female vocalist who has bridged more than one musical genre. Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Shelby Lynne is known for her powerful voice and deeply personal music. Tickets are available now to hear Shelby Lynne at the Bankhead Theater on Tuesday evening, May 1, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

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.



The Atlantic Brass Quintet to perform at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

The Atlantic Brass Quintet Plans Varied Program

The Del Valle Fine Arts Concert series continues March 31 with an 8 p.m. performance by the Atlantic Brass Quintet at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Andrew Sorg and Stephen Banzaert play the trumpet, Seth Orgel the horn, Tim Albright the trombone, and John Manning the Tuba.

The Quintet was founded in 1985. It is widely acclaimed as one of the world's finest brass ensembles. The quintet has performed throughout the United States and internationally and has received critical acclaim for its distinctive sound, impeccable ensemble playing, stunning virtuosity, and inviting stage presence. Winner of six international chamber music competitions, Atlantic Brass has been the resident brass quintet of Boston University, the Tanglewood Institute, and the Boston Conservatory.

Fanfare stated, "This award-winning quintet, whose technique is flawless and musicianship impeccable, offers some of the most enjoyable chamber music there is."

The program will include music by J.S. Bach, selections from The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book II; Alberto Ginastera, Danzas Argentinas, Op. 2; Eugene Bozza, Sonatine; Ben Monder, Luteous Pangolin; Alan Ferber, Kopi Luwak; Leonard Bernstein, Dance Suite; and traditional Balkan Brass Band music.

Tickets are \$35, \$29 and \$23. Free youth tickets and reduced price student rush tickets are available on the day of the performance.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets may be purchased at the box office, at 373-6800 or online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

'Lights, Camera, Sing-along' with Chorus

Broadway Chorus will perform "Lights...Camera...Sing-along" on March 30 - April 1 at the Amador Theater in Pleasanton. Breaking from tradition in which the audience sits passively, in this production the audience is encouraged to sing-along on some of the songs with the chorus.

The music should be familiar to anyone who has some exposure to your favorite movies. Songs such as Moon River, Swingin' on a Star, and Hakuna Matata are well known to many people. Singing is not required; those not familiar with a particular number can simply enjoy the show.

The show will also feature the Broadway Kids Chorus, made up of local children in grades 1-8. It is directed by Jenny Matteucci and Glen Riggs. The audience will even get a chance to sing along with the Broadway Kids.

The show is directed by Jenny Matteucci, accompanied by Daniel Lockert, and produced by JoAnn Loitz.



Broadway Chorus performs "favorite songs."

The three performances will be held on Friday, March 30 at 8 PM, Saturday, March 31 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 1 at 2 p.m. at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton.

Tickets are available online at www.trivalleyrep.org or at the Amador Theater box office on the show days. Ticket prices are adults

18+ \$20, seniors 60+ \$17, juniors under 18 \$10. There is a 10% discount when tickets are purchased at the door for those who hold a Broadway Chorus "business card" available from any Broadway Chorus member. For more information visit the chorus website, www.broadwaychorus.org, or call 925.462.2121

Granada Grad in Livermore for Concert

Laura Hamilton, member of the New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and former Livermore resident, comes home to play the Mendelssohn violin concerto with the Livermore Amador Symphony (LAS) on March 24 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

Hamilton is a graduate of Granada High School. She is now the principal associate concertmaster for the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

While living in Livermore, she

studied with local teachers Marion Clark and Robert Jacobson, and Daniel Kobiak of the San Francisco Symphony. She performed with LAS in 1976 as a winner of the Symphony's Competition for Young Musicians and played the Tchaikovsky violin concerto with the orchestra in 1983.

During her 24-year tenure with the Metropolitan she has led hundreds of performances and has been concertmaster for live international high-definition video transmissions of Salome, Carmen, Madama Butterfly, and Nixon in China. Hamilton was previously a member of the Chicago Symphony and appeared with that orchestra as concerto soloist with Sir Georg Solti conducting.

Hamilton has performed in the Marlboro, Manchester and Bard Festivals, in summer festivals in Norway and Greece, and on the Met Chamber Ensemble series at Carnegie Hall with James Levine and colleagues. She was featured in the 1986 issue of Musical America as a "Young Artist of the Year" and has received numerous awards and competition prizes. Her instrument was made in 1732 by Carlo Tononi of Venice, Italy.

Mendelssohn's famous composition ushered violin concerti repertoire into the Romantic era with



Laura Hamilton's yearbook photo.

its lyrical intensity and structural innovations and has long been a standard by which violinists are measured.

The March 24 concert opens with the Richard Wagner's overture to his comic opera Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg and concludes with Antonin Dvorák's Symphony No. 6.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. with a Prelude talk from 7-7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:45 p.m.).

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore.

Tickets may be purchased at the Bankhead Theater box office, by phone at 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.

Academy Celebrates Sondheim's Birthday

In honor of Stephen Sondheim's birthday on March 22, Pleasanton's New World Music Academy will hold two open houses. The open houses are Saturday, March 24 11am - 3pm and Sunday, March 25 1-4pm at 4430 Willow Rd. Suite M in Pleasanton - directly across the street from Hart Middle School. The event is free.

"This is a great opportunity to show the academy's diversity while paying tribute to one of the great songwriters of 20th Century," says academy director Mark Anderson. "This is an event that will most definitely have something for everyone."

Specifically for this event, the

academy will offer free voice and stage presence coaching with Melanie O'Reilly, an internationally renowned singer/songwriter and recording artist from Ireland on Sunday between 1 and 3pm. Melanie will be introducing a new 7 week summer course called the Art of Auditioning for voice students. Melanie will be working with other classical/operatic singing professionals on this course to bring a well-rounded curriculum to this program.

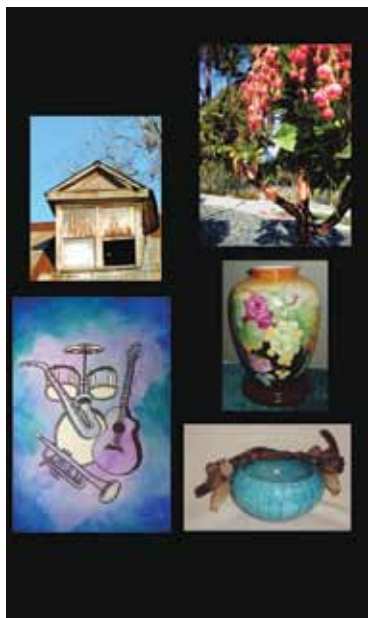
Other Academy instructors who will be on-hand for free lessons and to answer questions include guitarists Mike Ramos and Didier Bouvet, soprano Cass Panuska,

flutist Joanna Tse, cellist Leslie Meeks and more. The event will last two days. Instructors will be attending as their schedules permit. It is recommended that visitors call ahead for instructors' availability for the event. Many of the instructor performances will focus on the music of Stephen Sondheim such as the hits "I Feel Pretty," "Send in the Clowns," and many more.

New World Music Academy is located at 4430 Willow Rd. Suite M in Pleasanton.

More information about New World Music Academy classes and instructors can be found at www.NewWorldMusicAcademy.com

ART & ENTERTAINMENT



The Pleasanton Art League's show, **Imagination Expressed**, is being hosted by the Museum On Main in Pleasanton from March 7-April 29. The address is 603 Main St. The museum hours are Wed.-Sat. 11-4pm and Sun. 1-4pm. Admission is free. There are over 100 pieces of art created by local artists. For more information call (925) 462-2766.

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

"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 9pm 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.

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. 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.

Open Call@Harrington Gallery, 2nd annual open juried art exhibit. May 30-June 30. Reception: Saturday, June 2, 2012, 1:00-3:00 pm. This exhibit is open to artists 18 and over who reside or work in the greater Bay Area. For prospectus, information and entry form, go to library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102050517351-254/Prospectus+and+Entry+Form%2C+Fresh+Works+Spring+2012+Exhibit+at+FAC+pdf. Deadline for submittal is April 10, 2012. Juror is award-winning Berkeley painter, photographer and video artist Kim Anno.

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.

Make It & Take It, 2nd Thursday Nights, with guest artists and demos. April 13 "MosaicIris" only \$15 Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglassstudio.weebly.com.

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

WINERY EVENTS

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 29 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.

Murrieta's Well Vineyard Tour & Tasting with Sergio Traverso, Sat., March 31, 1 to 3 p.m. tour and tasting, 3 to 4:30 p.m. bottle signings. Murrieta's Well co-founder Sergio Traverso will explain the seasonal changes in the vineyard. Taste some of the most popular wines and learn how the unique terroir makes Murrieta's Well wines so special. Space is limited for this exclusive event. Silver Spur Members, \$10 each, limit 2 tickets per membership. All other guests, \$20 each. 925-456-2395. 3005 Mines Road, Livermore.

Ruby Hill Winery, Ruby Friday, last Friday of every month from 6:30pm to 9:00pm in the Ruby Hill Winery tasting room. The cost is \$10.00 for Gem Society members & \$15.00 for non-members; \$10 for anyone under 21 years of age. Price includes a glass of wine, 2 barrel tastings, 1 complimentary slice of pizza, light snacks and Smores by the fire pit - (weather permitting). Additional wine and pizza will be available for sale. www.rubyhillwinery.net/, 400 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton.

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.

Garré Winery, Champagne Easter Brunch on Sunday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Grand Pavilion at the winery, 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. Information at www.garrewinery.com (925) 371-8200.

Charles R Vineyards Annual Tax Day Dart Board. Saturday, April 14 from Noon to 4:30 p.m. 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.charlesrvineryards.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

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 Dunwells 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.

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

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.

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. 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

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.

Staged reading of "Looking for Normal" by Jane Anderson. The second in Douglas Morrison Theatre's (DMT) new Bare Bones series, edgier pieces by contemporary writers. April 3, 2012, 8 p.m. 22311 N. Third St., Hayward. \$10 open seating (510)881-6777; www.dmtonline.org

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.village theatreshows.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.

Arsenic & Old Lace by Joseph Kesselring, directed by Matthew Goff. The Fetterly Playhouse, 3467 Sonoma Blvd., Suite 10, Vallejo. General admission: \$15/\$12 senior. Call (707) 649-1053 reservations or visit www.bayareastage.org. Dates and times: April 20, 21, 27, 28, May 4 and 5 at 8 p.m.; April 22, 29 and May 6 at 6 p.m.

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.

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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Wesla Whitfield Presents Program of American Classics at the Firehouse



Wesla Whitfield

Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center will welcome the return of Cabaret Series songstress Wesla Whitfield on Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 2 p.m.

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

Whitfield, accompanied by the Mike Greensill Trio, will celebrate her newest recording, "The Best Things in Life," which features familiar classics along with "new" selections such as "Walkin' After Midnight," "Mad About the Boy" and the title song, "The Best Things in Life Are Free."

Whitfield's numerous albums, concerts and cabaret appearances are known for honoring the

heritage of theater music and the American Popular Songbook with works from composers Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, and others. She has performed from New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center to the White House by invitation of Hillary Clinton to annual engagements at San Francisco's RRAZZ ROOM.

Whitfield has been featured in People Magazine and was the subject of a "Phenomenal Woman" story in O Magazine. She has appeared in concert with such notables as Michael Feinstein, George Burns and Frankie Laine. Her television appearances include Live! With Regis and Kathie Lee, Charles Osgood's CBS Sunday Morning and repeat appearances on Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion and The Charles Grodin Show.

Whitfield's husband, pianist and arranger, Mike Greensill, is a two-time winner of Outstanding Jazz Pianist by the San Francisco Council on Entertainment. Together, the duo entertained a sold out audience at the Firehouse Arts Center last season.

Tickets are adult: \$15, \$20 and \$25; child: \$12; senior: \$20. 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.

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,

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 context. 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. The three great film directors featured in this year's series are Howard Hawks, John Ford and Alfred Hitchcock. Refreshments are served. A complete list of the "Three Great Directors" films is available at the Pleasanton Public Library. Movies will be shown the first Thursday of each month through June 7, 2012. No registration required. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

CHORAL

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

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, Pinstrippers Brush Bash and Auction. For more information visit www.allamerican-gettogether.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.

Zydeco Music Session Features Performance, Dance Lessons

The Bothwell Arts Center holds its first Live Zydeco Dance on March 31, featuring Motordude Zydeco.

Starting at 6 p.m., professional Zydeco dance teacher Ted Sherrod (Zydeco Ted) teaches a group Zydeco dance lesson; at 6:30 p.m., Motordude Zydeco performs live. Sherrod gets participants up on their feet again during the band's break. The event runs until 10 p.m., complete with a no-host Gumbo, Beer & Wine bar. Admission is \$15; Doors open at 5:30. The Bothwell Arts Center is located at 2466 8th St. in Livermore. Info can be found at www.bothwellartscenter.org.

Zydeco ("snap beans") is a form of American roots music that evolved during the late 1800s from the multiracial French speaking Creoles of southern Louisiana. Fast-paced and dominated by accordion and washboard (known as a rub-board or frotoir), Zydeco music was originally created at house dances where people gathered for socializing.

Now, since the San Francisco Bay Area has become one of the largest populations of Creole and Cajun peoples outside of Louisiana, Zydeco has been flourishing throughout the region.

EBRPD Announces Youth Art Contest

The East Bay Regional Park District invites creative teens to enter the District's first Get Active! Youth Art Contest, now through May 15, 2012. Winners will be eligible for cash and gifts from contest sponsors, in addition to publication and exhibition opportunities.

The Get Active! contest asks youths ages 12 to 18 in Alameda and Contra Costa counties to create



Motordude Zydeco to perform.

Zydeco Ted travels extensively to Texas/Louisiana; teaches basic Louisiana style Zydeco dancing in New Orleans and has taught at numerous venues throughout California and Gator by the Bay Festivals. He has a smooth Creole style; check him out at www.twoleftfeetca.com.

Formed in 1989, Motordude Zydeco creates a distinctive yet roots-oriented music blending traditional zydeco with original songs

and rhythm and blues. The group's irresistible rhythms are guaranteed to pack any dance floor. Check them out at www.youtube.com.

This is the first in a series of Zydeco at the Bothwell; the second is on May 19 with Mark St. Mary and the Delta Blues & Zydeco Band, with future dates tba. The Bothwell Arts Center is a project of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, a not-for-profit corporation.

posters, rap, spoken word/poetry or video skits, showing how they get active in any public East Bay park. The winning entries will be displayed at the Healthy Parks Healthy People Festival at Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area (Fremont) on June 23, 2012, and at the visitor center in Tilden Regional Park in the fall.

"Parks play a vital role in the health of teens, their families and

communities," said Park District Board President Carol Severin, who will serve on a panel of judges for the contest. "There's really something for everyone in East Bay parks, from hiking, camping, boating or sports. We can't wait to see the creative projects East Bay youths dream up!"

For contest details visit www.getactivecontest.com or call 1 888 327-2757.

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

Sing-a-long to the songs from the movie "Grease" on Sunday, March 25 at the Vine Cinema in Livermore. Pre-event social will

The Livermore Hook and Ladder Company, No. 1, was organized on October 12, 1874 with about 30 members. They elected J.H. Mahoney president and Anton Bardellini vice-president. The company purchased a hose cart and uniforms from San Francisco. They probably at some point also bought a hook and ladder apparatus. In 1875, a two-story firehouse was built on the south side of Second Street between K and L, where the Wells Fargo parking lot is now located. They paid \$75 for a 500-pound fire bell, hung it in the cupola of the building on July 15, and broke a bottle of champagne over it. They celebrated further by sharing a "fine" keg of beer. By the end of 1881 they were down to 17 firefighters under foreman Wendell Jordan.

Apparently, another fire bell, this one weighing 1,000 pounds, was purchased and first used at the site in 1885. However, this bell, according to the drawing on the 1889 panoramic map of Livermore, hung in a high tower next to the building on Second Street now used as a town hall. The fire station was still housed in the first floor; upstairs the Justice Court met and town trustee meetings were held. The ring of the fire bell not only signaled volunteer firefighters but also served as a curfew bell to warn children to go home.

The second company in Livermore was the Niagara Fire Engine Company, No. 1, organized on July 12, 1876. By 1882 these firefighters numbered 52, with officers C.W. Bradshaw, foreman; W.S. Smith, first assistant; and Norris D. Dutcher, second assistant. Their uniform included red shirts with the num-

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan
Livermore City Historian



Livermore Fire Department: 1874-1920, Part I

ber one on the front. They held their bi-monthly meetings at the town hall. The company owned a double-decker hand pumper which they purchased from the Stockton Fire Department in 1876 for \$500.

In January 1882 the town bought the firehouse and its lot for \$1,200. In October of that year, Steven's Mill was completely destroyed by fire. It was on land to the east of the Independent newspaper building. Two years later, the two original fire companies combined to form the Livermore Fire Department. The list of personnel was limited to 50, including the chief engineer, two assistant engineers, and 47 active firefighters. I had thought that the firefighters were volunteers, but their individual pay was \$12 per year, subject to fines (absence from drill \$1; absence from fire \$2). Certainly, however, not a career in which someone could become rich. In June 1889 the town bought a new hook and ladder truck that contained two ladders that could telescope to create a 45-foot ladder. The truck also included two other ladders and four hooks; the purchase price was \$650. If we could see it, this "truck" would seem strange to us—the hooks and lad-

ders rested between four wheels, and the whole outfit was pulled by hand. The old hook and ladder apparatus was sold to Pleasanton for \$200. In November the town trustees voted against buying a steam engine—the town had a problem with scarcity of water, and the cost was too high.

In 1896 a disastrous fire in downtown Livermore destroyed a tailor shop where the flames began, plus the Cosmopolitan Hotel, and Day's Livery Stable. By the next year Livermore had one hand engine, some 1,200 feet of hose, two hose carts, the hook and ladder truck, and 25 fire hydrants and a promise of five more. A number of fire extinguishers had been placed in convenient boxes around town. The introduction of electric lights that replaced gas and kerosene helped to keep the fire danger down. In 1900 the existing hydrants were not near the Valperga's cottage in the Northern Addition. The firefighters had to use a bucket brigade to extinguish the blaze at the cottage. The town had a law that firefighters could tell residents to help them. If the residents did not comply, they could be fined. I imagine that the Valpergas and their neighbors were helping with the buckets.

Livermore purchased the brick building on the southeast corner of McLeod and First for a town hall in 1905. In May of that year, the *Echo* published a list of the Livermore Fire Department: chief engineer, Peter J. Murray; assistant chief, Chas. E. Beck; secretary, Geo. W. Beck; foreman of engine, Geo. Beck; foreman hosecart #1, Henry Seeband; foreman hosecart #2, Ben F. Budworth; foreman hook and ladder, J.H. Dutcher, plus a contingent of 43 other men. A year later, after selling the old town hall building on Second Street to the Dania Society for \$805, the Livermore trustees used the money to finance an addition to the east side of the new town hall to house the town's fire engines. The fire department in 1906 donated its entire year pay, \$600, to the relief fund for the sufferers from the San Francisco earthquake and fire.

The Fourth of July celebration always included hose cart races. In 1901 the hose-cart tournament between Pleasanton and Livermore took place on L Street. Livermore made the fastest run but lost the \$50 prize because of its slowness in coupling the hose to the fire hydrant. In May 1910 as a part of their regular drill, three Livermore teams competed. They started at the hydrant at Fourth and J and their objective was the hydrant at First and Lizzie (now Livermore Avenue). The winning team of eight men ran 300 yards with their hose carts, let out 150 feet of hose and had water running in one minute, 17 seconds. Of course, the competitions often ended with a water free-for-all, which delighted the audience.

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

Mohr Elementary Student Earns Award of Merit

Julia Kang, second grader from Mohr Elementary School in Pleasanton, has received an Award of Merit at the State Level of the National PTA Reflections Art Program for her literature entry. Seven Pleasanton students were chosen to advance to the California State level of the program at the Peralta District (Alameda County) Reflections Art Recognition Ceremony on January 14, 2012 at Ruby Bridges Elementary School in Alameda.

As an Award of Merit Winner, Julia will receive a certificate and a commemorative medallion. In addition, her entry will be displayed at the California State PTA Convention, which will be held in Anaheim from May 9 - May 12, 2012.

The following are the additional Pleasanton students who had advanced to the State level of the program and will receive letters of participation from the California State PTA. These students' entries were selected from 22 entries that had been chosen to advance to the District level on December 13, 2011 at the Pleasanton PTA Council's Reflections Ceremony at the Firehouse Arts Center. There were a total of 284 Reflections entries submitted by Pleasanton students this year in the six categories: photography, visual arts, literature, musical composition, dance choreography, and film/video production.

Photography: Anuja Joshi, Amador (10th Grade)

Literature: Meera Popli, Vintage Hills (4th Grade)

Visual Arts: Amanda McKenzie, Harvest Park (8th Grade)

Film/Video Production: Raniya Fatteh, Hearst (2nd Grade), Esther Forest, Walnut Grove (4th Grade), and Varsha Ramakrishnan, Harvest Park MS (8th Grade)

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. It provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by this year's theme, "Diversity Means. . ."

The Pleasanton PTA Council began in 2003 as an umbrella group for all PTAs in Pleasanton. The mission of the PTA is to represent their members and to empower and support them with skills in advocacy, leadership, and communication to positively impact the lives of all children and families. More information is available at www.pleasantonpta.org.

Collectible Teddy Bear Sale Benefit for Good News Bears

Good News Bears, a Livermore based charity, is holding its first ever Collectible Teddy Bear Sale on Saturday, March 24 from 10 am - 2 pm.

The group has an abundance of handmade artist and desirable collectible bears and bunnies they will be selling. All money raised will be used to purchase new teddy bears appropriate for gifting to medical, emergency, and social services to provide comfort. Hawthorne Suites, 1700 N. Livermore Ave (behind Jack in the Box) is hosting the free event, and invites everyone to stop by between 10 am - 2 pm. Refreshments will be served. There will be information about the Good News Bears.

Good News Bears has been in operation since 1996. It has

steadily increased its donations every year. In 2011, the club set a record year of gifting over 14,000 critters. The stuffed animals have been distributed to local police, fire, ambulance, hospitals, shelters, and individuals through the Bay Area and beyond. "Membears" have delivered bears and other stuffed animals throughout the United States, including New York, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and more. Bears have also been sent to international destinations. Bosnia, Turkey, and New Guinea are some of the places our world-wide traveling bears have been to. In cooperation with Operation SAM and Blue Star Moms, soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan have been receiving

stuffed animals in their care packages. They are welcome to keep them for comfort themselves or pass them on to local children. More than 65 organizations are on a regular distribution list for the club. In addition, individual bears are given to those who have been ill, traumatized, or are lonely. The stuffed animals and teddy bears are purchased with monies from Good News Bears' fundraising efforts, grants, and donations. The club also accepts new or very gently used animals to pass on.

Donations from the community in the form of cash or stuffed animals help the club meet the requirements of the many organizations and individuals needing comfort. In addition to donating

stuffed animals, membears frequently visit senior care homes to do a program on the history of the teddy bear, share trivia about teddies, and let the guests choose a stuffed friend to keep.

Membears of the club are all volunteers who realize the value of "stuffed love." Every membear has car stock that they keep with them at all times. The individual bears are given to those friends, family members, co-workers, neighbors, and even strangers that find themselves in need. No one is ever charged for a bear, and no questions are asked.

For more information about the Collector Bear Sale or on the non-profit organization, please call Jeanie at 925-373-7982, or log on to www.goodnewsbears.org.

Milestones

Community

TurningWheels for Kids Charity Expands to Tri-Valley

For the past seven years TurningWheels for Kids, a Silicon Valley based 501(c)3 non-profit has made underserved children's dreams come true by providing new bicycles at Christmas-time and throughout the year. In 2011 the non-profit, along with approximately 900 volunteers and support from area corporations, purchased, assembled and gave away 2400 bicycles. This year, the Tri-Valley Chapter launches with an aggressive goal of purchasing and assembling 400 bicycles to give to local charities in the Hayward, Castro Valley and Tri-Valley communities.

"After helping at the San Jose build for the last several years, I kept thinking of how great it would be to do something like this in my own community", stated Cathryn Griggs one of the board members

for the newly formed Tri-Valley Chapter.

"In addition to forming partnerships with local corporations to raise the funds, a venue is needed to host the build on December 1, 2012. We approached the Alameda County Fairgrounds and they loved the idea of helping us out and have donated the use of one of their buildings" said Rich Sims, another of the volunteers on the team.

TurningWheels for Kids Tri-Valley is a new, local chapter of an already proven, 501(c)3 organization under the auspices of the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Foundation. We are a group of local individuals from different backgrounds with a common interest ~ kids and bikes! We are grassroots and look eagerly for opportunities to serve the children of Hayward, Castro Valley, San Leandro and the Tri-Valley Areas.



Florence Bondonno, a resident of Heritage Estates, celebrated her 100th birthday with friends and family on March 16. She received a letter from the White House congratulating her on the milestone.

Education

Two local residents were named to the Dean's list for academic excellence for the fall 2011 semester at The Johns Hopkins University. To be selected for this honor, a student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale in a program of at least 14 credits with at least 12 graded credits.

Kristyn Hayashi of Pleasanton, is the daughter of Richard and Koren Hayashi and attended Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, Calif. Kristyn Hayashi, who is majoring in molecular and cellular biology, will graduate in May 2012.

Daniel Naito of Pleasanton, is the son of Barton Naito and Wendy Samiljan and attended Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, Calif. Daniel Naito, who is majoring in electrical engineering, will graduate in May 2013.

The following students made the Seattle Pacific University 2011 Autumn Quarter Dean's List. Students on the Dean's List have completed at least 12 credits and attained a 3.50 or higher grade point average: Katja Darlene Ibsen, Ethan James Moody and Katie Jeannette Thralls, all of Livermore.



Livermore Junior Football League (LJFL) Competition Cheer Team won first place at the USA Jr. Nationals Championship for the second year in a row. LJFL Cheer competed against eight (8) other teams from the West Coast in the "Midget Open Show Cheer Novice" category, at the USA Jr. Nationals on March 3, 2012, held at Disney's California Adventure in Anaheim, CA. The team was coached and choreographed by Taylor Zentner, and assisted by LJFL Cheer Coordinators, Michelle Adams and Jennifer Granada. The team is comprised of 23 girls from Livermore and Pleasanton. Plans for next year's trip to USA Jr. Nationals are already underway; the team's next fundraiser will be a Cheer Clinic at Livermore High School on April 21, 2012. For more information about LJFL Cheer visit us at www.livermorejuniorfootball.com or on Facebook at "LJFL Cheer." Pictured are (front row) Sierra Hippel, Bethany Lange, Hannah Ulrich, Coach Taylor Zentner, Shelby Granada, Carli Loge, Katie Orlando, Trinity Nuddleman, Caitlin McCool, Kaitlyn McDonald; (back row) Gabriella Custodio, Isley Lopez, Sierra Rantz, Emily Dennis, Coordinator Michelle Adams, Nicole Adams, Alexia Gunn, Calli Rombouts, Keri Gibson, Taylor Stephenson, Emily Ilharreguy, Amanda Czapkay, Madison Jackson, Madison McCallister, Ally Christensen and Coordinator Jennifer Granada.



Kenneth Billheimer, Au.D.
Audiologist/Hearing Aid Specialist
Jacquie Pedraza
Hearing Aid Specialist

*Are You Hearing
And Understanding
The Sounds of Life?*

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BULLETIN BOARD

(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board or email information to editmail@compuserve.com. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.)

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m. at Alisal School's multipurpose room 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. This is a change from the usual meeting date. Nicholis Staddon of Monrovia Nursery will speak about new plants for the year with plant samples and door prizes. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Bev at 925-485-7812 or visit www.lavgc.org.

Duck Races, Sat., April 21 in the Arroyo Mocho at Livermore's Robertson Park, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fund-raiser for Livermore schools and nonprofit groups presented by the Livermore Lioness Club and the Livermore Y's Men Club. Over \$5000 in cash prizes; Little Duckie Races. Need not be present to win. Information, 449-1315 or 321-1123. Each duck has a number attached and assigned to a number on each entry form. Entries are \$5 each and are available from some Livermore school PTAs or write Livermore Duck Races, PO Box 48, Livermore, CA 94551.

Drop-in computer tutoring, Need help with downloading E-Books from the library to your E-Reader, sending E-mail attachments, social networking, blogging, general internet questions, or??? Pleasanton Library offers programs Thursdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Questions? Ask at the Reference Desk or call 925-931-3400 (press 7 for Ref. Desk). Library programs are free and open to everyone. Call Merry Luskin at 925/931-3400 for information.

Activities & Academics Booster Club (AABC) of Foothill High School is offering 6 scholarships of \$500 each to Foothill High School seniors. The application is on Foothill website on AABC page under Scholarship info: http://foothillfalcons.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=45888&type=d&pREC_ID=57650, click on AABC (first item on the left) and then Scholarships (on the right). The applications are due on Monday, April 20th with Mrs. Bing in Foothill counseling office. Only Foothill HS seniors are eligible to apply.

Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated Club presents California Assemblyman Tim Donnelly, 59th Assembly District, and founder of the largest Minute Men chapter in California. He will discuss problems that over-regulation poses for businesses, the restrictions on business growth, and his roles on the Appropriations, Rules, and Legislative Audit Committees. Thursday, April 12, 2012, 6:30 p.m., Cattleman's Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore. For reservations and dinner selections: Phyllis Couper, 462-4931 or email couplan1962@pacbell.net. Guests \$30, members \$26.

Christensen Middle School at the Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore. CMS PTA hosting a night of Bingo, Saturday, March 24. Doors open at 4:00, play begins at 6:30. Arrive at 4:30 to learn to play. Complimentary nachos, desserts and coffee will be available for all players. Door prize drawings will be held. Proceeds from this night will help support programs at CMS which help our students achieve their best. Future CMS nights at the Bingo Ranch: April 21st, May 19th. Contact Deanna at bingo4cms@gmail.com for more information.

Valley Spokenmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., March 24, 46/74 miles, conditioning ride for Cinderella Classic, 8:45 a.m. at Dublin High School, Karin Ball, 404-406-2286. Sun., March 25, 57th birthday ride, two route options, 9:30 a.m. 45+ miles, 10 a.m. 20 miles, meet at Bollinger Park and Ride, Francie Cushman and Jim Duncan, 209-1369 or 719-2256. Wed., March 28, 40 miles Lafayette to Pinole, meet 9:30 a.m. at staging area on Olympic Blvd., Alberto Lanzas, 510-825-9581. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on what to bring and where to meet.

Swap Meet, Valley Spokenmen Bicycle, Sun., April 1, 1 to 4 p.m. Dublin High School cafeteria, 8151 Village Parkway, Dublin. Swap, sell or just plain look, bicycle swap meet. Information, call Bonnie Powers, 828-5299. Free admission.

Tri-Valley Triathlon Club (TVTC), Information on 2012 programs and memberships, training philosophies and schedules, and all things TVTC, an all inclusive triathlon/marathon/endurance training program. www.trivalleytriclub.com.

Overeaters Anonymous. No weigh-ins, dues or fees. Meetings Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 - 8 p.m. St. Barts, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Call Nora for further information at (925) 447-1676

Conversational German for Intermediate Students, 3/20/12 to 5/29/12, 10 sessions Tuesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Livermore Adult Education. Reactivate the German you learned in high school, college or when you were a child. Grammar in context, but communication in everyday German situations is the goal. New students are welcome. www.livermoreadulted.org.

Conversational German for Advanced Students, 3/21/12 to 5/30/12, 10 sessions, Wednesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 pm Although this is an ongoing class, focus is on a new theme each session and new students are welcome. More advanced points of grammar are reviewed as needed in conjunction with the current theme, but effective communication is the primary goal. www.livermoreadulted.org

Hope for Crohn's, giving from the heart dinner, dance and silent auction fund-raiser, Sat., April 21, Veterans Memorial Bldg., Pleasanton, 5 to 11 p.m. RSVP at 1-855-RAB-HOPE or info@hopeforcrohns.org. Information at www.hopeforcrohns.org.

GNON (Girls Night Out Networking) presents WIGS (Women In GNON Seminars) Mon., March 26, 5:30 p.m. Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave., Pleasanton. Susan Larik will be providing an overview of the college application process. RSVP by March 23 to gnoners@gmail.com. Free for GNON members, \$15/pp for nonmembers. www.gnontrivalley.com.

Recruitment Grant, Livermore-Pleasanton Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, International Women Educators' Honor Society, announces the availability of a \$500 recruitment grant for a female student pursuing a career in education. Eligibility: female graduate of a Dublin, Livermore, or Pleasanton high school, current enrollment in a credential program as of Spring 2012, good GPA. Deadline is March 31, 2012. For an application, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Susan Canfield, PO Box 3268, Livermore, CA 94551. The recipient will be notified in early May.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA, Happy hour in Pleasanton, March 29, 5 p.m., RSVP by March 27 to Kathy, 398-8005. Lunch in Pleasanton, March 31, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by March 27 to Marge, 828-5124.

East Bay Singles Charity Ball, Saturday, March 24, 2012, 8 p.m.-midnight, at the Marriott Hotel Bishop Ranch, 2600 Bishop Ranch Drive, San Ramon. 100% of the donations will go directly to the Sight Project of The Seva Foundation, located in Berkeley. A donation of \$20 at the door is requested, which is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. The Ball features dancing to today's hottest hits and the greatest songs of yesterday. Adults of all ages are welcome. The Ball is co-sponsored by Society of Single Professionals, Singles Supper Club, Wine Socials, BayAreaSingles.com, MatchYourKey, East Bay Singles Over 45, Doctors of San Francisco Meetup, and many other organizations in the Bay Area. Anyone wishing more information about this and many more events for singles may visit www.ThePartyHotline.com or call 415/507-9962.

Spring Break SAT Prep Class in Livermore - LARPD is offering an intense SAT prep class April 2 -5 from 9 am - noon each day. Classes will be held at Robert Livermore Community Center 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. Register at larpd.dst.ca.us or 373-5700, or go to susanprep.com for additional information.

Scholarships available for Amador, Foothill and Village seniors: In 1965 a group of Pleasanton educators and business people got together for the purpose of raising money and awarding scholarships to graduating seniors. 47 years later Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. has awarded \$469,000 in scholarships. Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. awards its general scholarships as well as 8 memorial scholarships to

graduating seniors from Amador, Foothill and Village High Schools. Applications for the scholarships can be downloaded at www.amadorvalleyscholarshipsinc.org

Livermore July 4th fund-raising, Thurs., March 22 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center - Cresta Blanca Room, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. Tickets are \$20 at the door. Roger Kardinal will provide entertainment. There will be light appetizers, wine and beer tastings. A raffle will be held for gift baskets and autographed sports memorabilia. Donations may also be mailed to: Livermore Fireworks c/o LARPD Foundation, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550 Make checks payable to LARPD Foundation with "FIREWORKS" noted in memo space LARPD Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information email livermorefireworks@gmail.com or call 925 963-8019. Join Livermore Fireworks on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/Livermorefireworks>), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/livfireworks>), and visit the Livermore Fireworks website (<http://livermorefireworks.org/>). Meetings are held each Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, Peaceful War Protest on the fourth Wednesday of the month, March 28, between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Questions?? Call Cathie Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net. www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

Spring Boutique, Our Savior Lutheran Ministries will be hosting a Spring Boutique on Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will take place in the gymnasium at Our Savior, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue in Livermore. Everyone is invited to attend. Spring into shopping for Easter, Mother's Day, graduations, weddings and more. Please contact the church office with questions, 925-447-1246.

American Legion Post 237, is looking for new members. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Veterans Hall, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. Bring a copy of discharge document DD-214 to a meeting. Mailing address is Amer. Leg. Post 237, P.O. Box 823, Pleasanton, Ca. 94566.

Livermore Lions Club, 2nd Annual Crab (renewal) Feed or Corned beef and cabbage (for non-crab eaters) on March 24. The event is being held at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Avenue, Livermore. The \$45.00 ticket(s) is good for all you can eat Crab or Corned beef and cabbage. The ticket also enters the purchaser in a change for a door prize of a Nook reader. During the event various other fund raising functions will be held (50/50, raffle). Dessert will be provided for a donation to the Livermore Lion's Club. The event runs from 5:30 PM to 9 PM with food served during event by the Lion's and the Leo's. The proceeds of the event go to support the Livermore Lion's services to the community. Ticket purchases contact Lion Ben Barrientos at 925 449 9974 or bbarrientos@earthlink.net. Livermore Lions' 87 years and still in support of the Livermore community. Some tickets may be available at the door.

Bingo in Livermore has a new night with a Progressive Jackpot game. Tuesday Night Bingo has come to the Bingo Ranch at 3070 Pacific Avenue Livermore. Cash prizes from \$175 to \$1199. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Follow us on Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/85lyedm>. As a reaction to the state education budget and funding, schools have resorted to creative fundraising in order to keep programs afloat. LVCP High School is hosting the weekly Tuesday Bingo game at The Bingo Ranch.

Free income tax help, Feb. 1-April 14. AARP tax aide volunteers, trained and certified by IRS. Serving seniors and low-middle income taxpayers. Available at Livermore Library, Dublin Library and Pleasanton Senior Center. For information on schedules go to aarp.org/taxaide or call 1-888-227-7669.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the second floor conference room at Heritage Estates Retirement Community. The address is 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore All are welcome. Contacts are: Sandra Grafath 443-6655 or Lee Parlett 292-9280.

Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: Registration for the

Eighth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, which will take place on Sunday, May 6, 2012 from 10 to 5, is now open. This free, award-winning tour features 45 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60% or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at www.bringingbackthenatives.net/ A companion event, the Native Plant Sale Extravaganza, will take place throughout the weekend of April 30 and May 1.

Writing Club for Young Adults, ages 12-21, are invited to join The Writing Club at the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center. The Writing Club will meet once a month on Thursdays, March 29, and April 26, 2012, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., for a fun-filled evening of writing with author J.L. Powers. This free event will take place in the Storytime Room of the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Learn about publishing your works and how to expand writing horizons. Write and edit each other's work. For more information, please visit TEEN SPACE on the library's website: www.livermorelibrary.net, or contact Sandy at 925-373-5500, extension 5583.

Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military" is a 501(c)3 non profit military support organization based in Livermore. S.A.M. has been in operation since January 2004. It is dedicated to the continued support of deployed troops. Preparation of comfort packages takes place every other week - all year long. Providing morale support for those deployed. All information provided is confidential and is not shared for security purposes. To submit a name and address, inquire about donations or helping, please visit www.operationsam.org, email operation-sam@comcast.net or call 925 443-7620 for more information and the calendar of events.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter, meets 9:30 a.m. first Saturday of the month from September to May at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. DAR is a women's service organization. Members are descended from a patriot of the American Revolution and are dedicated to patriotism, preservation of American history, and securing America's future through education. Contact Maris at 443-3087 or mhl3frog@yahoo.com.

D.A.R. Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter, Pleasanton. Meetings first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Group is comprised of descendants of Patriots of the American Revolution. It is a service organization that provides contests, awards and scholarships and events celebrating American history. For members, prospective members, and information on meeting location, contact Ann 510-507-5509 or anarisco@comcast.net.

RELIGION
Unitarian Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Information 447-8747.

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Information 931-1055.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (csjo.org). Information, Rabbi Judith Seid, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, 485-1049 or EastBaySecularJews.org.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Livermore, has services at 10 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday School for students (ages 3-20) is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. The church and reading room are located at Third and N Streets. The Reading Room, which is open to the public, features books, CDs and magazines for sale. For information, call (925) 447-2946.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Information, 447-8840.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 8:30 a.m. worship (semiformal); 9:45 a.m. adult Bible study/ Sunday school; 11 a.m. worship (informal). For information, call 925-447-1246.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743

East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Information 447-1950.

Calvary Chapel Livermore, Sunday Services 10:30 am and 6:00 p.m. 545 N. L Street Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvalrylivermore.org.

St. Matthew's Baptist Church, 1239 North Livermore Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Prayer each Wednesday at 7 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7:30 p.m. 449-3824.

United Christian Church, celebrating 50 years in the Tri-Valley. 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; workshops on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The community is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. Call 449-6820 for more information.

Bible Study, offered Wednesdays, 7:30 to 8:30 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6100 Paseo Santa Cruz, Pleasanton. Refreshments served at no cost. 925-305-9468.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Concanon Boulevard, Livermore. Services: Sunday school - 9:45 a.m.; worship service - 11 a.m. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462, services on Saturday: Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.livermoresda.org/ All are welcome.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Interspersory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Bible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scala at 447-9800.

Stepping Stones on Grief Journey workshop, bimonthly event. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. 2nd and 4th Thursday at 7:30 p.m. March 22, 2012. No preregistration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerty at 925-846-5377 for more information.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blended-style with choir and band, family worship. 10:30 a.m. contemporary led by band, Sunday School for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org; 925-846-4436.

St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. For details please see our website at www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. Leo Arrow-smith at 456-0845.

Adult Inquirer's Class, St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, adult inquirer's class, Sunday mornings January and February. Learn about the Episcopalian faith. Rev. Carol Cook will be the guide. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802. Sign up on the church kiosk or on the web site: www.stclarespleasanton.org.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Services on Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. All are welcome and worship, whether or not you feel called to participate in any other way in the community. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Children's Sunday school during the 10:30 a.m. service. For more information call the church office at (925) 447-3289 or SaintBartsLivermore.com.

St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church follows the traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer. 193 Contractors Avenue, Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. Sunday school provided. For information, contact Fr. Ben Brown at 925/906-9561.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ at 4481 East Avenue, Livermore, worship service 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Sundays, all are welcome. 925-447-4333 (a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)