



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Tulips are in full bloom at Asbury Church in Livermore.

Poetry, Prose and Arts Events Open to Public

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) and City of Pleasanton Civic Arts invite the public to participate in a variety of free activities on Saturday afternoon, April 4, during the 8th Annual Poetry, Prose, and Arts Festival. The weekend-long festival is being held at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton, April 4 and 5.

Activities that are open to the public include a fine arts exhibition by Pleasanton Art League, an authors' reception and book signing, and Literary Row from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided by classical guitarist Jim Steinke.

In addition to the public activities, the complete festival for registered participants will feature 17 workshops, including three-session mini-courses and individual workshops for adults, youth and teens and a poetry and prose awards banquet with music by harpist Dominique Piana.



Irvin Mayfield

Bankhead Celebrates Jazz in April

The Bankhead Theater initiates Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) in the Tri-Valley with Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra All Stars and the Marcus Roberts Trio. Launched in April of 2002 by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, JAM was created to bring public attention to the amazing heritage and history of jazz and the importance it holds in American cultural heritage by being America's only indigenous music. Jazz Appreciation Month is also intended to fuel the current jazz scene by encouraging people to interact with jazz through concerts or the radio.

Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra All Stars perform Sun., April 5 at 7 p.m.

Appointed by the U.S. Senate, Congress and other governmental agencies as the cultural ambassador for both the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans in 2003, Irvin Mayfield's name has become synonymous with the still-unfolding legacy of America's only indigenous music and its unique, celebratory style. Mayfield is a Grammy nominated, Billboard Award winning trumpeter and composer and has submerged himself in the essence of jazz, making his name synonymous with the music he holds a passion for and its individual style. He has established himself as one of the most deco-

(See JAZZ, page 2)

Pleasanton PE Teachers Pioneer a Curriculum

By Ron McNicoll

A new physical education curriculum for K-5 that is oriented toward state standards is so coveted by other districts that it had the Pleasanton school board talking about having it copyrighted.

However, school districts can't copyright such things, but trustees' comments on the new curriculum were a high form of compliment to the 13 district PE teachers who cooperated on forming the new curriculum.

The board approved the curriculum unanimously at its meeting March 24.

The district could have pur-

chased a ready-made curriculum, whose proponents claim meets California standards, but in fact did not meet them, said Terri Drain, the PE specialist at Vintage Hills elementary school.

The new curriculum coordinates various exercises with the kinds of physical development that children need to attain to have healthy bodies as they move up through the grades. It also has five levels of focus in each grade, in order to increase the depth of development and instruction, instead of using many more areas, but not focusing as deeply, said Brent Miller,

who is the PE specialist at Valley View elementary school.

Trustee Jim Ott said, "Can we syndicate this? Can we sell this?"

Drain responded, with tongue in cheek, "Yes, we should copyright it, not give it away." Drain said that when she had the new curriculum materials at a table at an education conference not long ago, educators from other districts were trying "to snap them up. We had to guard them."

Trustee Pat Kernan facetiously said that he liked the idea of copyrighting the program, since the district is looking for more revenue. On a serious note, Kernan said, "You (the PE teach-

ers) are on the cutting edge."

Kernan said he was waiting for the board meeting and adoption of the curriculum so that he could e-mail it to the two sports teams that he represents. Both the San Jose Sharks, and the San Jose Stealth soccer team work with school districts around the Bay Area to foster good PE programs that help combat childhood obesity. The Stealth team is owned by Bill and Denise Watkins, who founded a fundraising organization to help supplement the district's programs.

Board president Chris Grant said that with the serious youth

obesity problem in the United States and the world, it's good that Pleasanton has come up with a program that "is cutting edge for the rest of the state, and perhaps for the rest of the country." Grant noted that PE has grown from "dodge-ball games" when he was a youngster to the current approach that also includes nutrition, physiology and biology.

Trustee Jamie Hintzke said that PE scores may become part of the API standardized testing, and "we will be so ahead of the game. Even if that doesn't happen, we'll still be ahead of the (See CURRICULUM, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Fallen Oakland Police Officer Sgt. Mark Dunakin, his family and procession passed through Pleasanton and Livermore from the Oakland memorial service. Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department and Alameda County Fire provided a "final" tribute for the fallen officer by presenting a static display of apparatus and uniformed personnel at I-580 overpasses. The Alameda County Fire Department provided additional coverage to overpasses outside of the Tri-Valley Region. Crews lined up, with Code 3 lights activated, and saluted the fallen officer from the time the procession approached until it passed.

Buchanan Considers Run for Tauscher Seat

It's a big step from San Ramon Valley School Board to State Assembly, but other, larger steps loom for Joan Buchanan.

Barely two months into her first term representing the 15th Assembly District, Buchanan is considering the extraordinary range of opportunities created when Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher was nominated for a State Department job. Tauscher's expected confirma-

tion and departure will create an opening in her centrist Congressional district.

Will Buchanan go for Tauscher's seat against well known Democratic colleague like State Senator Mark DeSaulnier? Is she content to stay where she is? Or suppose DeSaulnier wins Tauscher's seat. Would she aim to replace him as senator?

For now, Buchanan is making no commitments. She is aware of reports that Tauscher and Rep. George Miller support DeSaulnier and says she respects their friendship. However, she continues to receive encouragement to compete for the position, and a recent poll shows her leading DeSaulnier if she does. In fact, the poll shows her gaining

(See BUCHANAN, page 4)

Pleasanton Quality of Life Will Continue

"The Pleasanton we know, with its high quality of life we so enjoy, will continue." That was the message delivered by Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman during her annual state of the city speech.

The presentation was hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Hosterman noted that Pleasanton is not immune to the current economic downturn. "We face the greatest economic challenges most of us have seen in our lifetimes. The economy globally has a direct effect on us locally." The city businesses have experienced lost jobs.

There have been home foreclosures. While real estate values have dropped, the drop is not as great as in other areas. Sales tax revenues are down, continued Hosterman.

She expressed confidence that through the sound fiscal manage-

(See PLEASANTON, page 2)

Regional Theater Design Approved by Council

The design for a proposed regional theater in downtown Livermore was approved by the Livermore City Council at its Monday session.

Mayor Marshall Kamena commented, "I think this is a significant step forward."

The council also approved changes in the city's General Plan and Downtown Specific Plan and certified a subsequent environmental impact report that studied impacts of the proposed changes.

The vote was 4 to 1 on the theater design. Councilmember Doug Horner was the dissenting vote. He gave no explanation.

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) is the developer of the regional theater.

One issue Horner did bring up was LEED certification. He was concerned LVPAC would not go through the audited process.

The city only requires a silver level of LEED points without certification.

LVPAC plans to meet and potentially exceed the city's requirements. Architect Steve MacCracken, on Tuesday, said LVPAC had received notification late Monday for LEED project registration. "We will go through the certification process with USGBC for private commercial buildings for a LEED silver certification. We have been researching possibilities for some time. We're looking to go for a higher certification. The city will provide the audit."

The amendments to the General Plan and Downtown Specific Plan approved 5 to 0 by the council will increase the size of a proposed regional performing arts theater from 1,500 seats to 2,000 seats; increase the number of movie screens from 12 screens to 15 screens (already built); increase the number of hotel and bed and breakfast rooms in the Downtown Area to 300 rooms; increase the amount of commercial development from 855,000

(See DESIGN, page 4)

Wente Vineyards to Help Fund Regional Theater

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) today received a unique challenge from Wente Vineyards -subject to certain conditions, Wente Vineyards will donate four 20-acre vineyard estates whose value could provide a significant financial contribution towards LVPAC's twenty million dollar fundraising campaign. Proceeds from this pledge will support a variety of goals, including the construction of the proposed Regional Theater, while advancing the redevelopment of the historic Beyer Ranch, a 243-acre parcel located on Tesla Road within the boundaries of the South Livermore Valley Area Plan.

The Wente proposal would require the formation of a group of civic-minded equity investors interested in seeing the Regional Theater become a reality by funding the revitalization of the Beyer Ranch through the creation of 12 twenty-acre vineyard estates. This cooperative project would bring back to life one of the largest fallow vineyard sites along the Valley's premier wine growing corridor. The proposed vineyard estates would provide a significant opportunity to enhance the burgeoning Livermore Valley wine industry by expanding potential winery sites and new single vineyard ownerships on a historic ranch long known

(See WENTE, page 4)

Pleasanton Parcel Tax Measure Warming Up

By Ron McNicoll

Pleasanton's discussion about whether to pass a school parcel tax is coming into clearer focus with several developments.

Ballot arguments have been submitted to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters office for the election June 2.

There are pro-measure G arguments. They repeat what has been extensively reported locally about the need to save as many jobs and programs as possible. With state financing collapsing, it's important for local people to control the destiny of local schools, they say.

There are also anti-G arguments on the ballot. They are written by residents who say they are not urging a "no" vote. However, they do feel that the district is not providing a complete picture of how the financial crisis can be dealt with, without first trying a

parcel tax.

The anti-G argument authors say the school district is not telling the full story of how to balance the school budget. They maintain it can be done without having to rely on a parcel tax.

The authors of the argument against the tax also say that not every segment of the educational community has made the sacrifice that Pleasanton residents would make by paying the parcel tax. They have singled out such things as superintendent John Casey's \$1000-per-month car allowance, which is more than twice that of city manager Nelson Fialho.

Casey told The Independent, when he was hired, the \$1000 a month car allowance was not unusual. He explained that the figure includes some non-transportation allowance for such

(See PARCEL TAX, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

First grade classes of Mrs. Ornelas and Mrs. Galvin at Smith Elementary School in Livermore put on a performance of songs from "The Sound of Music." In the photo, the students are singing "So Long, Farewell."

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PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Sheba, a stunning and exotic black cat with piercing green eyes. She is friendly and talkative, always looking for company. To meet Sheba, come to Valley Humane Society's Kitty City, open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM. Visit the web site www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656 for more info. Garden Tour tickets on sale soon! Visit our web site for more details.

PLEASANTON

(continued from page one)

ment, implemented by staff, Pleasanton will remain strong. "Pleasanton is one of a handful of municipalities with solid, healthy reserves and a strategy to move forward," Hosterman declared. No city jobs have been lost.

Various departments are trimming budgets in ways that should not affect services, Hosterman stated. Some capital improvement projects will be put on hold and replacement of equipment will be deferred. To date, the city has made adjustments of just over \$9 million in its budget.

Hosterman declared that stimulus money is an opportunity for Pleasanton to finance infrastructure projects. The city has already received \$1.5 million, which will be used to repair and repave about 13 miles of roads. The city will pursue additional stimulus funds to help with housing, transportation, public safety and economic development, where "clean energy opportunities can create jobs and improve the health of the environment."

Hosterman listed some of the projects approved or in the planning process, including housing in the Hacienda Business Park, the new BART station, and Staples Ranch, "which has all the makings of a signature project that will positively impact generations to come." She also said the general plan update would be completed this year.

Hosterman praised her fellow city councilmembers and staff for their efforts. "Pleasanton has a long history of success and together we accomplished much in

this past year, even in a sputtering economy," she noted.

Among them is the start of construction of the Firehouse Arts Center and the Bernal Community Park, the opening of the Alviso Adobe Community Park, the formation of the Committee on Energy and the Environment, kickoff of the Solar Cities program in conjunction with Livermore and Pleasanton, and the addition of new services.

New services include an on-line campaign finance system, sports field status, and registration for city programs. Non-emergency incidents can be reported on-line. In environmental actions, the city launched a battery recycling program and is working to keep fats, oils and grease out of the sewage system. An e-waste weekend netted enough electronics to fill eight tractor trailers and four bobcat trucks.

To help address the loss of jobs, the city co-hosted a series of small business works and sponsored a Tri-Valley Employment Fair.

"And even in these tough times, we have our very own local stimulus package. At 12 acres, Staples Ranch is the largest commercial development project currently underway in Pleasanton, and perhaps one of the last, as the city approaches buildout," Hosterman stated.

She brought up the issue of the Stoneridge Drive extension, which is now part of the Staples Ranch development plans. "We can't build a project that has no road to it. I recognize that not all councilmembers agree with this position," she added, noting that

there is expected to be a challenge to the road.

(A lawsuit was filed on Friday that argues that the environmental impact report did not address the impacts that would occur if Stoneridge Drive were extended. The lawsuit also challenges the adequacy of review and mitigation for a variety of species found on the property.)

Traffic congestion remains a big concern, Hosterman continued. She mentioned carpool and HOV lanes planned and under construction on I-580 and a high occupancy toll road planned for I-680. She and others continue to pursue other projects to help reduce congestion.

"While we will continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce on providing meaningful forums to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and a green economy, I expect the chamber to be at the table with me, along

with our regional partners, to finally design, fund and complete State Route 84. Completing Stoneridge Drive is key to congestion relief for the region. Completing Highway 84 is the key to congestion relief in Pleasanton," said Hosterman.

Working with the Chamber is just one partnership that has helped to improve Pleasanton. "This community is built on a solid foundation of partnerships," she stated. The school district, the Pleasanton Downtown Association, and the Tri-Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau and others, "all are working towards the common goal of making this an ever better place to work, live and raise families."

"The Pleasanton model of a community that shares its resources and ideas to help each other during good times and bad will sustain us through this period," she concluded.

NIF Project Certified by NNSA As Completed

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Tuesday certified the completion of the National Ignition Facility, the world's largest and most powerful laser. Located at Lawrence Livermore National Lab, NIF will allow scientists to explore nuclear weapon physics under conditions that are impossible to achieve in any other way in the laboratory.

NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino said NIF will ensure "the continuing reliability of the

U.S. nuclear stockpile without underground nuclear testing." It will also enable researchers to do unprecedented studies in such basic sciences as astrophysics and explore possible approaches to generating fusion energy.

All 192 NIF laser arms were fired in late February, and laser output exceeded 1 million joules in early March. Certification by NNSA was an expected but necessary milestone signifying the formal start of the facility's productive experimental life.

JAZZ

(continued from page one)

rated and recorded jazz musician of his generation by becoming an accomplished trumpeter, bandleader, composer, arranger and recording artist.

The Marcus Roberts Trio will be highlighted on Thurs., April 9 at 8 p.m.

Marcus Roberts is known as one of the most diverse artists in jazz. He has a deep respect for the contributions and achievements of the great masters of jazz and classical music. His highly innovative and original piano style as well as his philosophy of jazz improvisation is a merging of his love for great music from every era with his own creative imagination. In his words, Roberts says, "Every time I sit down

to the piano, I draw spontaneously from as much of the history of great music as I have at my fingertips. That's why I never stop studying great music. It just gives me more to draw on in my improvisations." When Roberts performs, the contributions of Joplin, Jelly Roll Morton, Ellington, Monk, John Coltrane, Ahmad Jamal, McCoy Tyner and others are integrated with his own perspective to create a thoroughly modern sound.

For tickets call 925.373.6800, or go online at www.bankheadtheater.org, or at the Bankhead Theater ticket office, 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore.

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Apr 9 • 8pm \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students

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David Kennedy Pulitzer Prize Author
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\$40/\$30/\$20/\$15

The American String Quartet
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Apr 4 • 8pm
\$29/\$24/\$19/\$11

California Independent Film Festival
Opening Night Screening of "How To Be"
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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Funds for Camp Parks

Congressman Jerry McNerney announced last week that the Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area in Dublin is the recipient of over \$8 million in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, commonly referred to as the stimulus package.

The funds will finance two projects, both of which will improve the lives of soldiers stationed at Camp Parks. Approximately \$4.7 million will be used to renovate barracks for soldiers who are on short-term training assignments at Camp Parks. Another \$3.2 million will be dedicated to renovating housing for personnel assigned to Camp Parks on a more permanent basis.

"At a time when increasing demands are being placed on our troops, we need to make sure their housing needs are met," said Rep. McNerney. "The soldiers at Camp Parks are often far away from their families and homes. These funds will help make sure they are provided for while serving our country."

The funds made available to Camp Parks Reserve Forces Training Area were allocated from the stimulus package signed into law on February 17, 2009 and are administered by the Department of Defense.

Speeders Targeted

The month of April is Speed Enforcement month. The Livermore Police Department will be intensifying its enforcement efforts against speeders throughout the City of Livermore.

Two of the three 2008 fatal collisions in the City of Livermore were caused by unsafe speed. Unsafe speed was the primary collision factor in 29% of the 265 injury collisions for the same year. Speeding drivers, however, are not only a local problem, but a problem across the nation.

In the State of California, collision statistics are collected by the California Highway Patrol's - Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System, also known as SWITRS. Per SWITRS, for the year of 2006, unsafe speed was the primary collision factor in 16% of the fatal collisions and 29% of the injury collisions.

Among drivers involved in fatal crashes, young males are most likely to have been found speeding. In fact, during 2005, 38% of male drivers ages 15 - 20 who were involved in a fatal crash were speeding at the time of the crash.

Speeding motorcyclists are also over represented in crashes. In 2005, 34% of all motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash, compared to 22% for passenger car drivers, 18% for light-truck drivers and 7% for large-truck drivers.

During this crackdown on speeders, officers will be aggressively targeting and ticketing speeding drivers.

The Livermore Police Department would like to remind drivers to stay alert and to watch for and obey all posted speed limits. Drivers need to remember that there is a reason posted speed limits exist.

Call 2-1-1 for Assistance

Most people know to dial 9-1-1 when their lives are being threatened and to dial 4-1-1 when they want to locate the nearest restaurant or pharmacy. People are now hearing about and dialing a new N-1-1 number, 2-1-1, to get access to the myriad of community services in their area.

During its first 20 months of operation in Alameda County, 2-1-1 Resource Specialists handled over 90,000 phone calls and provided over 144,000 health, housing, and human service referrals to the people of Alameda County. Currently, 2-1-1 is handling up to 6,227 calls a month.

By dialing 2-1-1 or 1-888-886-9660, callers are connected to a live Resource Specialist who has immediate access to thousands of health, housing, and human service programs throughout Alameda County.

2-1-1 is a toll free number that anyone can call 24-hours a day, 7-days a weeks to obtain information and referrals in over 150 languages to local community resources. Information is provided about government programs, housing-related services, community services, support groups, educational opportunities, job training programs, or any other human service that is being sought.

School Board Approves 7th and 8th Grades at Joe Michell

By Patricia Koning

At a meeting that was centered on budget cuts and layoffs, the trustees of the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District unanimously approved a new program—the expansion of Joe Michell School to seventh and eighth grade.

Michell Principal Angela Ehrlich said she was thrilled with the Board's decision. "I'm so elated for the Michell community," she said. "The parents wanted a K-8 school in our community and they got it."

Michell began the current school year as a K-6 school, the result of about two years of discussions and planning. The proposed expansion cost about \$75,000.

Seventh grade will be added in the 2009/10 school year, with enrollment priority given to current Michell sixth graders. Eighth grade will be added in the 2010/11 school year. There is a cap of 60 students per middle school grade level.

The addition of seventh and eighth grade will not require additional funding. The current fa-

ulty has sufficient capacity for the new students, but will require some reconfiguration.

In the 2010/11 school year, one or two special education classrooms may need to be relocated to another site. The move would not incur any additional cost as in-house District maintenance staff would perform the work. Currently, Michell has six special education classrooms, a disproportionate number compared with other school sites.

Assistant Superintendent Kelly Bowers said the seventh and eighth grade program would be comparable to that of other middle schools in the District, except with fewer electives. Michell has boys and girls basketball teams, band, and art, chess, and book clubs. The other middle schools have invited Michell sixth graders to join some of their sports teams.

In their discussion of the item, the trustees expressed concern that parents would ask for improvements to the Michell campus to bring it more in line with other middle schools.

"I was going to vote against

this item, but I received so much input from the community that it made me rethink my decision," said Board president Kate Runyon. "There is a saying in business that you don't invest in something that eats. I don't want to prevent this option for families but in this funding environment we are not equipped to provide anything but what we already have at the school."

Trustee Stu Gary suggested a written affidavit to be signed by each family and kept in the student's file, an idea that several members of the audience disagreed with. Ehrlich responded that parents would find such a requirement discouraging.

"Our goal is not to mimic Mendenhall or East Avenue, but to create another opportunity for choice," said Michell teacher and parent Katie Cortez. "We are Joe Michell."

"We're not Sunset or Smith and we don't want to be Mendenhall," said Richard Crampton, parent of a kindergartener and second grader at Michell. "We want to be a

school that keeps it simple. This is a family environment where children can be very comfortable."

Superintendent Brenda Miller also suggested that forcing parents to sign a program disclosure document would not accomplish the Board's goals. "You can ask parents to sign in blood, but they'll still come back and ask for more money," she said.

Livermore Education Association President Kathleen Reardon also raised concerns that the school's discipline methods are not adequate for middle school students. "Do you have a time out room? A second disciplinary plan?" she asked. "It won't take long for middle school students to begin running the school. You need to have a proactive plan to keep the kids in line."

Ehrlich responded that Michell follows the same discipline policies as other middle schools.

Parents interested in the program should contact the school at 925-606-4738.

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LILLIAN COZART	925.580.4549
1061 EL CAMINITO	\$479,000
Single Family. 4 Bed 2 Bath. 1,790+/-SQFT. Sunset West.	
ANGELA ADAMS	925.580.4513
3450 EAST AVE	\$498,000
Residential Income. 2 Units 1 Lot. Detached Garages.	
THOMAS BRAMELL	925.583.2180
795 JUNCTION AVE	\$499,000
Duplex. 2 Units. Garage. Across from Park. Walk to Downtown.	
ANGELA ADAMS	925.580.4513
564 ANDREA CIR	\$659,000
Single Family. Brookmeadow. 4 Bed 2 Bath w/ Pool. 1,986+/- SQ FT.	
TOM E. CHANCE	925.487.6360

LIVERMORE REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

2752 CHABLIS WAY	\$855,000
Single Family. Just a 10 min. walk to town. 4 Bed 2.5 Bath.	
ANGELA ADAMS	925.580.4513
635 TRAVISO CIRCLE	\$878,000
Single Family. 6 bed 5.5 bath. 4,100+/- sq ft, 10,800+/- sq ft lot.	
COREY GREEN	925.899.6011
5665 VICTORIA LN	\$899,000
Single Family. Sharp horse property located on a private road.	
REBECCA LYNN EVANS	925.784.2870
1817 BUENA VISTA AVE	\$995,000
Single Family & Land. 2.4+/- Acres. 1,300+/- SQFT. 2 Bed 1 Bath home.	
VICKIE KELLER	925.371.0771
10834 TESLA RD	\$1,495,000
Single Family & Land. 5 Bed 3 Bath. 3,000+/-SQFT. Acres 5.12+/-	
LILLIAN COZART	925.580.4549
000 HANSEN ROAD	\$1,499,000
Lot & Land. Wine Country Unique Opportunity. Lot Acres Apx 3.23	
THOMAS BRAMELL	925.583.2180
1651 QUAIL CT	\$1,550,000
Single Family. 4,480+/- SQ FT. 6 Bed 3.5 Bath. 40,700+/- SQFT Lot.	
LILLIAN COZART	925.580.4549
2620 OLD 1ST ST	\$1,665,000
Lots and Land. Lot Acres Apx 0.50. Downtown Livermore.	
COREY GREEN	925.899.6011

PLEASANTON / SUNOL REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

2558 SECRETARIAT DR Pleasanton	\$499,000
Duet. 3 Bed 2 Bath. 1,400+/- SQFT. Built 1979.	
STACI ARMARIO	925.251.2526
6045 ACADIA CT Pleasanton	\$549,950
Single Family. Court location. 3 Bed 2 Bath. 1,380+/-SQFT.	
TONNI CHANDLER	925.788.7788
2274 VIA ESPADA Pleasanton	\$759,950
Single Famil. Del Prado. 4 Bed 2.5 Bath. 2,120 SQFT.	
KELLY PATTERSON	925.200.2525
3748 SELVANTE ST Pleasanton	\$868,000
Land. Ruby Hill. Incredible Views of Mt. Diablo and Pleasanton Hills.	
COREY GREEN	925.899.6011

EAST BAY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

4101 RECREATION RD Castro Valley	\$1,299,000
Single Family. Canyon Views 6 Bed 4 Bath. 3,170+/- SQFT.	
MICHAEL J. DUFFY	925.251.2523
4407 FLEETWOOD RD Danville	\$919,000
Single Family. Bettencourt Ranch. 4 Bed 3 Bath. 3,340+/- SQ FT.	
CATHY DEAN	925.200.4130
7157 HANSEN DR Dublin	\$589,000
Single Family. West Dublin home features 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths.	
SUSETTE CLARK WALKER	925.251.2547
11601 ALEGRE DR Dublin	\$645,000
Single Family. Silvergate. Fantastic Home. Court. 2,400+/- SQFT.	
JOHN MITCHELL	925.251.2534

EAST BAY REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

36041 CAXTON PL Fremont	\$639,000
Single Family. 4 Bed 2 Bath. 1,700+/- SQFT. Built 1971.	
MADLEINE WALKER	510.703.8080
42200 VARGAS ROAD Fremont	\$2,700,000
Single Family & Land. Horse Ranch. 56+/- Acres. 4 Bed 1 Bath Home.	
KRISTY PEIXOTO	925.251.2536
44763 AGUILA TER Fremont	\$2,999,000
Single Family. 5 bdrms, 5 Bath. 5,660+/- SQFT. Mission San Jose.	
DENISE IVALDI	925.846.7997
771 PRADERA WAY San Ramon	\$749,950
Single Family. 3 Bed 2.5 Bath. 2,535+/- SQFT. 7,000+/- SQFT Lot.	
PENNY CHRISTENSEN	925.730.5262
2024 FEATHERMINT DR San Ramon	\$975,000
Single Family. 4 Bed 3.5 Bath. 4,558+/- SQFT. Built 2003.	
DAVID AZIMI	925.251.2580
1432 GREENWILLOW WAY Tracy	\$200,000
Single Family. 3 Bed 2.5 Bath. 1,572+/- SQFT. 3,950+/- SQFT Lot.	
LILLIAN COZART	925.580.4549
160 W BEVERLY Tracy	\$249,000
Single Family. OVER 1/3 ACRE LOT. 2 Bed 2 Bath. Built 1946	
EMILY HUNTER	925.785.3795
2144 W ALBERT DRIVE Tracy	\$449,950
Single Family. 3 Bed 2 Bath. 1,600+/- SQFT. 1.83+/- Acres.	
CAROLYN FORSBERG	925.447.9062

Information was supplied by reliable sources. J. Rocketcliff Realtors believes this information to be correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy.

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EDITORIAL

Salamander Ranching

Family ranching in the Livermore-Amador Valley can survive and thrive, but some innovation may be necessary. That was one of the points made at a recent tour organized by the Alameda County Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Sunol rancher Tim Koopman hosted the tour, whose attendees included public officials and agriculture people. The program gave a frank picture of the problems faced by local ranchers, but was upbeat in looking to the future.

"This area has one of the most extraordinary climates in the world. It is conducive to growing almost anything," Livermore vintner Phil Wenthe observed.

And almost everything has been grown here at one time or another, he said —tomatoes, broccoli, lettuce, roses, walnuts, sugar beets, etc., etc. Wenthe said the area has some 40,000 acres conducive to agriculture. Only about 1% of the world's land mass is similarly blessed, he said.

Tim Koopman shared his experience; he has preserved his family ranch with the help of conservation easements. One of these easements is helping to protect a 30-acre salamander pond.

"The salamanders are the most lucrative livestock we've ever raised," Koopman said.

It was a good tour. The image of local family agriculture is all but gone; the only way the rural lands of the Valley can be preserved is by parkland acquisition. The tour showed that real ranchers still exist here and haven't given up. Some of them may be grazing salamanders, in addition to cattle, but it helps save both the salamanders and ranchers and remains in the best tradition of ranching.

BUCHANAN

(continued from page one)

against him as prospective voters learn more about both.

While she considers the future, she is concentrating on the job at hand. There are plenty of issues to work on, from the ailing economy to long-postponed investment in infrastructure to problems with education and health care.

Buchanan clearly knows the pain felt by many of her constituents. She grew up in San Francisco with three siblings, raised by their mother. Neither of her parents graduated from high school, and she herself is the mother of five, all of which may help to explain her intense interest in education. She served on the San Ramon Valley School Board for nearly 20 years, including four terms as president.

Education, as she sees it, is part of the investment that society needs to make for future health of all kinds, including economic health. She points to Ireland as a country that, despite recent downturns, has committed to education as a path to future strength. She feels this is an essential commitment in California as well, and worries that California's per capita education support will drop to the lowest in the nation as the economy continues its decline and legislators remain seriously divided in Sacramento.

The economy is the foundation on which so much else depends. "We face unprecedented challenges" in dealing with it, she points out in quiet understatement. High unemployment, pegged at 10.5 percent and expected to move nearer 12 percent next year, means that increasing numbers of Californians have to draw on government assistance, while fewer are able to contribute to the economy and help generate state revenues.

She objects to the wide gap between low-paid workers and those at the top, claiming, "We have the greatest income disparity in 20 years." Without blaming the Bush Administration by name, she clearly hints that its policy of giving particular tax breaks to the wealthy was part of the problem: "Government works best when it works for all the people, not just those at the top."

In California, the rule requiring two-thirds of the legislature to approve taxes and budgets is not only a procedural obstacle but anti-democratic, she believes. It has the effect of enabling a minority to block what the majority wants. She would support efforts to change the rule "Everyone's vote should count equally," she says.

Whether or not that rule can be changed, she thinks legislators can do a better job of making the budget process transparent and reaching early agreement on the values of various programs before undertaking to pin down numbers.

On another topic, she would like to see universal health care and more emphasis on disease prevention. Recognizing the potential conflict between the reducing costs and maintaining quality, she says, "We need reimbursement levels high enough for doctors to want to practice medicine." However, she resists the idea of setting up a government-financed program to pay for health care for fear that "we

would borrow from it as we do from Social Security."

The southern part of Buchanan's 15th District includes Livermore and parts of Pleasanton and Dublin. She speaks positively of her interactions with the Tri-Valley. She admires the downtown renovation in Livermore and has spent time with representatives from Lawrence Livermore Lab.

On a specific topic, she has joined State Senator Loni Hancock in co-sponsoring SB 27, a bill to remedy a substantial Livermore sales tax problem in which the city is losing upwards of \$2 million in revenue per year. The issue is the diversion of sales tax paid by Owens and Minor, a Fortune 500 medical supply company with some 120 employees in Livermore, to the Ventura County city of Fillmore, which has only a small Owens and Minor sales office.

SB 27 is widely supported and likely to pass. In fact, the same bill last year passed, but was vetoed by the governor along with all other pending legislation during debates over the state budget. However, it will not recover losses that Livermore has suffered since late 2007. For those losses, Livermore is seeking remedy through the state Board of Equalization, which regulates taxes and fees.

Buchanan clearly admires President Obama for taking on "a lot of tough issues" at once. Does she worry about solutions that add to the national debt? Yes, but she believes that it's not fair to place blame on the current administration. At least part of the problem is that many of the costs should have been spread out over past years. It's hard to avoid the conclusion that she might be speaking for the State of California as well.

Buchanan said of the efforts to boost the economy, "We are paying for decades of poor decisions, and drastic measures are called for. There was no way we could allow our system to collapse."

CURRICULUM

(continued from page one)

game."

OTHER ACTION

The board also honored the civics teams from Amador Valley and Foothill High schools, who finished first and second, respectively, in state competition. Amador Valley will go on to Washington, D.C., for the national competition, where the team has scored very high in recent years. The team is launching a campaign for donations, with a goal of \$45,000.

The board also heard teachers union president Trevor Knaggs state how important the statewide election on May 19 will be for the district. If Proposition 1A is passed, \$9 billion will be used to pay back education. Prop. 1B will pay back schools the money they are owed from the state's budget promises. Prop. 1C will also help education.

If it fails, "there will be a \$5 billion hole in the budget," said Knaggs. The other budget propositions are not directly linked to education, but if they fail, there will be less money for education, said Knaggs.

PARCEL TAX

(continued from page one)

things as taking a group of teachers out to dinner. He said he will be donating \$250 back from the allowance.

Trustee Pat Kernan, who was on the board when Casey was hired, said it was part of a salary package designed to make sure Pleasanton beat out the competition for Casey, who had other offers. Casey drives many miles to Sacramento, and throughout the district each month, Kernan said.

TEACHERS GIVE UP MONEY

The district's teachers voted last week by a 69 percent majority to dock their own pay for two days in the next school year by giving up two teacher preparation days, for which they are paid.

Trevor Knaggs, the teachers' union president, said the move was made in the spirit of sacrifice to join people who would be paying the parcel tax. If the tax does not pass, the teachers will not give up the money, since they would not then be a burden to share with property owners, said Knaggs.

If the tax does pass, teachers living in Pleasanton, will really

WENTE

(continued from page one)

for producing outstanding Zinfandel, Merlot and Chardonnay.

Under the terms of the pledge, the equity investors would work with Wenthe to obtain appropriate land use entitlements to create the individual estates on the Beyer Ranch parcel, improve these estates with roadways, vineyards and utilities and thereafter donate 4 vineyard estates to LVPAC. This effort, to unfold over the next several years, would help, among other things, to provide the key private funding needed to allow construction of the theater to proceed, ensuring the continued economic revitalization of Downtown Livermore while enhancing the region as a visitor destination and energizing the entire Livermore Valley Wine Country.

In commenting on the Wenthe proposal, Phil Wenthe said, "Never has it been more critical for our community to embrace creative and innovative concepts that benefit a broad range of businesses and provide striking results for both visitors and residents. The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's Bankhead and Regional Theaters are projected to attract over 375,000 attendees each year and will generate an annual economic impact for the Valley of more than twenty-five million dollars. Twelve new vineyard estates will create over two million dollars in annual economic activity and add significantly to the capacity and productivity of our growing wine country. Together they add up to a significant boost to the prestige and economy of the greater Livermore Valley."

David Dial, LVPAC's Executive Director, characterized the Wenthe offer as "one of the most exciting proposals that we have seen in support of our plans to construct a major performance venue for Livermore and the Valley. We are exceptionally grateful to the Wenthe family for this generous expression of their unwavering support for LVPAC, our activities at the successful Bankhead Theater and our vision for the realization of the Regional Theater."

Jay Davis, Chair of LVPAC's Fund Raising Committee, welcomed the Wenthe pledge. "We are pleased that Wenthe continues its support of our mission to bring world-class arts and entertainment to the Valley. With this thoughtful and inventive proposal, Wenthe heads our current list of major donors, which includes the Kent, Madden, Seppala, Smith, Tishman and Watkins families and others, who, in addition to the \$12.75 million already raised for the Bankhead Theater, have together pledged over eight million dollars toward the second phase of our fundraising campaign. We are truly grateful for these early and extremely generous endorsements. When combined with the proposed Wenthe donation of four vineyard estates projected to sell for \$5-6 million over several years, we will have the potential to reach thirteen to fourteen million dollars or nearly 70% of our twenty million dollar campaign goal."

Wenthe's announcement drew applause from those in attendance at the council meeting.

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena suggested that perhaps the regional theater could be named for the Wenthe family.

Wente replied, "Let's get it built first."

The proposed 2000-seat Regional Theater, currently in its final design stages, will present touring Broadway shows, world-class classical artists and ensembles and well-known popular performers.

be paying twice, said Knaggs. They will pay the parcel tax, but also lose their own pay.

Knaggs said the range of pay loss would be from \$652 to \$1059, depending on one's position on the pay scale. It will save more than \$700,000 for the district next year, he said.

Pleasanton teachers with no experience start on the bottom of the pay scale at \$60,000 annually. They top out at \$98,000. However, the pay does not include medical or dental benefits, which must be paid out of teachers' pockets. This policy was enacted a few years ago, so that teachers who were using spouses' medical benefits could take the money equivalent of their benefits, which would be useless to them.

Knaggs said that amounted to about \$8000 more for a teacher at that time. Further, the cash increase has also built a higher base for teachers' state pensions.

The teachers would drop a staff development day before classes begin in August, and also another one on Oct. 30.

BROZOSKY TALKS ABOUT MEASURE G

Eight people signed a ballot argument against the measure, and a rebuttal to the pro-G side's argument. One of the signers, former school board member Steve Brozosky, said, "There are people who feel this is not the right time for a tax. They want to inform the community about that. However, you won't see signs 'No on the tax.' We're saying, look at the information first, before you vote."

The San Ramon Valley school district is at the same high level of academic achievement as Pleasanton, but it has less money by \$184 per pupil, than Pleasanton, even though San Ramon has a parcel tax already. Pleasanton should look at what San Ramon is doing in the way of efficiencies to see why they get more for

their money, said Brozosky.

Brozosky asked the district administration to look into that while he was on the school board. There was no report by the time he left the board a few months later. It was not completed afterward, either. The anti-G argument says that Pleasanton receives \$717 per pupil more from local and state taxes than San Ramon.

The pro-Measure G people say that the number is wrong. They say that San Rmaon receives only \$182 more from those sources than does Pleasanton. Casey confirmed that amount. That includes all money including categorical funding.

The anti-G argument talks only about property tax revenue.

The anti-G argument says that Pleasanton doesn't need to pass a parcel tax, because "one trustee (Valerie Arkin) has shown how these programs can be funded with no tax increase by cutting other, less essential areas." Arkin wrote out a proposal and presented it at a school board meeting last month. It would keep all of class size reduction, counselors, and reading specialists, including the Barton reading program. Feedback to the district was strongest on retaining those programs and people.

Arkin's plan would have cut administrative positions, and worked to cut the \$15,000 in annual cell phone bills and the \$12,000 in car allowances for administrators. It would also keep the district's reserve at the state-mandated 3 percent.

Arkin offered the plan as a starting point for discussion. Although other trustees said they liked the initiative she showed, they didn't act on them. Kernan that night said that with up to 249 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions seen as possible layoffs, it was time to place the tax on the ballot June 2. Even with the tax, only about one-half of the FTE's would be saved, he

said. (The anti-Measure G argument says that the FTE numbers are inflated. The district has said that with state funding a moving target now, the lay-off numbers are likely realistic, and things could get even worse.)

Arkin voted with the other trustees to put Measure G on the ballot. She told the Independent this week that her plan could have saved many jobs in the district this year. However, the prospect for next year, and probably beyond, is so gloomy, that a parcel tax will be needed in subsequent years.

Arkin said that it is still important, to look at anything that can be cut away from the classroom, including the cell phones and car allowances, even if the parcel tax passes. As for management, administrators are giving up voluntary days this year, and will have five mandatory give-back days in the next school year. This year, \$40,000 will be saved. Next year, it will be \$129,000. Mileage stipends are being reduced, saving \$85,000.

RESIDENTS ALREADY PAYING FOR MEASURE B

The anti-G argument also points out that district residents already are paying an average of \$866 per parcel for Measure B, passed in the 1990s to raise funds. Adding \$233 parcel tax to it, would increase the average property owners' burden by 27 percent.

The Support Pleasanton Schools organization, which backs Measure G, will have its first town hall meeting to dispense information about the measure. It will take place at 7 p.m. April 8 at the Pope John Paul Activity Center at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive.

Laursen said this week that the list of endorers of Measure G is about 1000. The campaign will start walking precincts on April 4.

Bothwell Park Changes Move Forward

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors approved the plans for Bothwell Park and authorized the District to go out to bid for the construction improvements. Construction is anticipated to begin this summer at the two-acre park.

The project adds distinct play areas for school-age and preschool-age children, sand and water play features, a circulation path, picnic and seating areas, new planting, new irrigation and electrical and a new park sign. Bocce courts were included as an "add alternate" bid item that could be added if funds were available.

The overall cost of the renovation is estimated at \$930,000, which includes design and consultant fees.

DESIGN

(continued from page one)

square feet to 1,000,000 square feet; increase the amount of office development from 217,000 square feet to 356,000 square feet; include a new second parking structure within the Downtown Core Area; and move the theater from the Mill Square Park site to the former Lucky site bounded by Railroad Avenue/South Livermore Avenue.

The EIR found the Lucky site to be the preferred location for the regional theater. All of the speakers during the public hearing agreed with the finding.

Speakers raised concerns about traffic and parking. The EIR review found little impact created by traffic going to and from the theater. The wait time during peak traffic at the intersection of Murrieta and Stanley would increase from 50 to 51 seconds. The EIR identified an existing surplus of 900 parking spaces in the downtown. The theater would require 720 spaces. At build-out of the downtown, additional parking would be required. To help meet the demand, a 500 space parking garage and additional surface parking are planned.

Tom Reitter, a former councilmember and an LVPAC board member, stated that the EIR provides for mitigation of parking and traffic impacts.

Reitter added, "No one has suggested an alternative that would have the cultural and financial impact this theater would have," he commented.

Don Tishman, a developer, told the council that the proposed changes make the downtown a destination and differentiates it from other downtowns in the area. Merchants will benefit. He called the theater, "a fantastic design. I think it will become a historic building."

Clark Streeter said he believes the impacts from the theater will be substantial. He saw them as positive in that the theater would provide a place where world class performances could

Director Steve Goodman commented, "This has been a long time coming. I appreciate the fact that we are finally going to make it happen."

The park has been shaped by much input from the park's neighboring residents. Located at 2466 Eighth St., Bothwell Park is LARP's only downtown park, other than Carnegie Park. Youth teams, who previously have used the softball field at Bothwell Park, have already relocated to renovated fields at May Nissen Park and at Smith Elementary School, adjacent to Max Baer Park.

Also during the meeting, the Board of Directors honored recipients of the LARP Employee Service Awards. Meritorious Service Awards recognize employ-

ees who have taken an innovative or unusual approach to a project or an assignment or shown exceptional service during the past year. Winners were Steve Sommers, senior recreation maintenance technician for aquatics; Stacey Wyatt, administrative assistant for the Robert Livermore Community Center; and Sandra Kaya, Friendship Center activity director.

Awards of Excellence honor employees who have demonstrated overall excellence and a spirit of cooperation along with exceptional service to the community. Winners were Mike Davi, senior recreation maintenance technician; Lynn Loucks, administrative assistant for finance; and Dana Messa, senior recreation leader for Senior Services.

Two other winery owners at Blacksmith Square were concerned that construction of the theater would eliminate all of the parking in the Lucky center, creating a negative impact on their businesses. James Frost said if there were no parking, he would go out of business.

City engineer Cheri Sheets said that not all of the parking will be removed during construction of the theater. There will be several 100 spaces available. Sheets also addressed another concern, a loading zone for the businesses. She said the city is looking into the loading zone.

Ken Bradley was supportive of the new location. However, he agreed with Hickman that the council should place the theater on the ballot to allow for Livermore residents to vote on whether they want the theater or not. He added that despite the findings of the EIR, he believes that parking will be inadequate in the downtown if the theater were built.

Architect Michael Bocchicchio, an LVPAC board member, said the goal was to make sure that the theater would be contextual. The form, color and texture of materials will make it compatible with other buildings, he stated.

The theater provides a sense of place, another factor, with the plaza oasis where people can gather. Another measure to consider is whether the design will become dated. Bocchicchio said, "The form reflects the function of the building. I find no gimmicks in the design." The final factor is whether the building will create a memorable experience. He felt that it would become an icon of the city.

Carolyn Lord had a different view. She felt the design, like that of the Bankhead Theater, was too industrial.

On the other hand, Walt Davies described the theater design as, "truly beautiful and powerfully iconic."

Barbara Hickman was most critical of the height. She stated, "The building is beautiful. The fly is too tall for Livermore." She suggested there be a public vote, perhaps one that is non-binding.

Nancy Bankhead asked, "Isn't the 96 feet where Tinkerbell will live? It's where the magic is and you need the magic."

Glória Retzlaff Taylor, who operates a wine tasting room in the nearby Blacksmith Square, felt the height was appropriate for a city. "The theater will change the atmosphere. It's wonderful. It adds trees, shade, and a lawn to create a place where people can meet."

Town Hall Meeting Provides Opportunity to Hear Answers about the Regional Theater

Parking and traffic were two areas of interest during a town hall meeting hosted by the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) and Friends of the Regional Theater.

The meeting, which was attended by well over 400 people, was an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed regional theater. Other questions related to financing and programming.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Director David Furst commented at last week's LARPD board meeting about the town hall meeting. "Much to my surprise, the theater was nearly full. A variety of people asked questions. It was a very constructive meeting."

Several people asked how parking would be provided given the development taking place in the downtown.

Tom Reitter, former councilmember and LVPAC board member, said that city studies indicate that the total spaces in downtown, 4427, would exceed demand through 2030. There is adequate parking to accommodate the regional theater. He said that the city plans to add new surface parking adjacent to the current parking structure, and restriping streets would add additional spaces. A 500 space parking structure will be built at L Street as part of the Livermore Village mixed use development. A new parking structure would be needed by 2030 at the time downtown Livermore is projected to complete its buildout.

Len Alexander, former executive director of LVPAC and now a consultant, pointed out that even with the movie theater and Bankhead Theater, the current parking garage has never been full. "There is excess capacity."

Traffic was an issue. Dorothy Bishop noted that between 3 and 7:30 p.m. traffic is already congested. "Given that, I would be amazed if crowds were able to arrive at the theater on time."

Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who serves on a variety of Bay Area transportation commissions, said that work is underway on efforts to reduce congestion on nearby highways. "Over \$1 billion is available to build improvements on I-580. I haven't given up on the notion of bringing BART to Livermore," said Haggerty. He said his goal is to

construct a transit center near Greenville Road where ACE, BART, eBART and the high speed rail would converge.

Alexander pointed out that people don't arrive at the theater at the same time. Some will come early and eat dinner in the downtown.

Reitter added that the environmental impact report finds only two places would be impacted by theater traffic. The EIR assumes that 930 cars would arrive between 4 and 6 p.m. The current 50 second delay at Murrieta and Stanley would increase to a 51 second delay. The Portola off-ramp would also be impacted. However, since the off-ramp will close when the Isabel-I-580 interchange is built, that impact will go away, perhaps by the time the theater is built.

Disabled parking was another issue. It was noted that accessing the Bankhead Theater is very difficult for someone with a handicap.

Reitter agreed. He said that the EIR specifically calls out that point. There will be an effort to improve access.

Questions related to finance included potential credit, current finances, and the economic impacts.

Chamber of Commerce executive director Dale Kaye wondered how the \$20 to \$25 million per year positive impact was determined.

Bob Gamble, Public Finance Management, said about \$5 million is generated by direct spending on operations, another \$3 million spins off from theater activities, and the remainder comes from economic activity generated around the theater. "The regional theater would act as a catalyst driver for the local economy."

Jay Davis asked how opening a regional theater would impact the Bankhead Theater.

David Dial, LVPAC executive director, said since the theaters are to be operated in tandem, there is an opportunity to coordinate programming. There will be occasions when events are occurring at both theaters. The likelihood those are appealing to the same audience is very small. The Bankhead aims to showcase local talent in resident companies. "Their success is very important. We won't book to compete with them directly," Dial

commented.

Programming for the regional theater can be accomplished through a group such as California Presenters. This allows theaters to work together to bring in top acts that would be beneficial to all of the theaters. "At times, acts will reduce their fees in exchange for smart routing," said Dial.

The regional theater is designed for headline artists. Part of the strategy will be for LVPAC to move its presenting programs to the regional theater in order to provide more time and space for mid-level or mid-career artists. Over time, we will get into more experimental, modern forms of art at the Bankhead, said Dial.

The economic impact on nearby businesses during construction is a concern, mainly because of what they see as the loss of parking. However, it was pointed out that there will be several hundred parking spaces available on the Lucky site during construction. Dial said it would take about 22 months to build the regional theater. The city is negotiating with two developers to redevelop the remainder of the old Lucky site. The timing for the projects has not been determined.

Several asked about the finances of LVPAC and the Bankhead Theater, including the impact from the downturn in the economy.

Dial said that the biggest impact occurred in mid-October 2008. However, the current numbers show that attendance and ticket sales to date are similar to those of 2008.

He added that the actual numbers for the total operation were just 5 percent off of projections.

TJ Gilmartin questioned how LVPAC expected to finance its share of the regional theater construction.

Gamble said it is anticipated that \$7 million would come from ticket surcharges. Money from the Vasco Landfill will provide an additional amount. LVPAC has \$6.5 million in hand.

Sheila Cooper wondered how the economy was impacting the arts in the Bay Area.

Alexander said that the arts are going through difficult times as with any business. The losses range from 5 to 30 percent around the country. "Arts expand in

good times and contract in bad times. The goal is to live within our means." Livermore arts activity is counter-intuitive to other areas, in that it has remained at a high level, Alexander stated.

The potential to gain funding from the stimulus package was discussed.

Dial said that only those groups who had received an NEA grant over the last five years are being considered for arts grants.

Haggerty, who just returned from a briefing with Vice President Joe Biden regarding the stimulus package, stated, "It's my impression that anything goes. The administration is listening to everything." He suggested there would still be opportunities to apply for stimulus money to aid with construction of the theater.

Whether construction costs were going up or down was questioned.

The reply was that the economy has impacted the construction market. The 2009 market is definitely descending. There is a market starving for work. "2009 offers an unprecedented opportunity, if a project can be funded, to go forward and build it. I believe costs will begin to increase in 2010," said Jerry Barclay, construction manager.

Could LVPAC obtain the needed credit, another person asked.

Nikolai Sklaroff, managing director of the San Francisco office of Loop Capital Markets, replied, "When credit for the Bankhead was sought, there were skeptics. We had to convince the marketplace the group could do a project. Now we can show a terrific track record." He explained that LVPAC would obtain a letter of credit. "Based on the letter of credit, the principal investors will be money market funds. With a strong letter, LVPAC should have no difficulty selling bonds."

Brett Wayne, a self described outspoken critic of the project, said much of his frustration comes as a result of the fact there has been no debate on whether Livermore residents should have or even want a regional theater. He felt that presentations tap-danced around impacts of the theater. For example, downtown businesses already have existing parking problems.

Haggerty stated, "There are

things that make a community. Some people may not want to come to the theater, many will. It is my job to provide as many options for activities as possible

to help a community thrive. That's why I am involved with the theater project." He added, "We need something the last speaker can do."

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SPORTS NOTES

Youth Soccer

Pleasanton Ballistic Soccer Club U14 competed in the Norcal State Cup Bronze Division quarterfinals over the weekend. Ballistic United won a hard-fought game against Napa, 2 to 1, moving into the semifinals on Sunday, March 29, where they defeated Atletico Santa Rosa with a solid performance winning 2-0. The game was onto the finals, Sunday, May 9. It was an outstanding team effort by Brandon Ruiz, Cody Hall, Danny Glascock, Graham Lindgren, Eric Rogstad, Oliver Castillo, David Busch, Thomas Janjigian, Connor Silcox, Eddie Castillo, Bruno Andres, Matt Klei & Nate Evans.

The Ballistic United U19 Blacks hopes for a CYSA Association Cup Championship fell short in a hotly contested match with the Selma Galaxy. The Pleasanton side had several early chances that ended up wide of the goal or saved by the Selma keeper. Selma scored 17 minutes in for a 1-0 lead taking advantage of a communication break down that led to a breakthrough. Ballistic keeper Niko Lecco made the initial save but the ball took an unlucky bounce that the Galaxy striker easily rifled into the net. Linus Gehring, David Norton, and Stephen Lacomare all had scoring chances turned aside in the first half of play.

In the second half Ballistic came out determined to get a goal and continued to threaten the Selma net. Midfielder Julio Gomez had a strike deflect off the post and David Norton beat the keeper only to have his shot cleared off the line by the Galaxy defense. Linus Gehring's free kick just missed finding the upper corner. A questionable non-call for offsides led to the second Selma goal. Thinking 3 to 4 Galaxy players were off-side the Ballistic defenders hesitated for a minute allowing Selma to pressure the Pleasanton goal inside the 18. The defenses attempted clearance resulted in an own goal and 2-0 Selma lead.

With 20 minutes left in the game and desperate to a goal Ballistic pulled a defender and went with four forwards up top. Shortly after this change of tactics the Galaxy got a one on one with keeper Lecco. Lecco got to the ball but was the recipient of studs up challenge that injured the keepers arm and head. The referee showed red and sent off the Galaxy player. The remainder of the contest was played with Pleasanton having the man advantage but unable to break down the well organized Galaxy defense.

Although the loss was a tough won the Ballistic Black U19s completed one of the finest seasons in Ballistic United's 40 year history. The team won their group in every tournament they entered and scored 123 goals. Some of their accomplishments for the 2008-2009 season include: Overall Record of 32 wins, 5 losses, 4 ties; CYSA Association Cup Semi Finalists; District III League Champions (Record 10 Wins-1 loss-1 tie); Folsom Cup Champions; Ballistic Fall Harvest Champions; Shasta Winter Classic 2nd Place; Ballistic Summer Classic - 3rd Place; Roseville Summer Classic - 3rd Place; San Jose Tom Radisic - 3rd Place.

2008 - Ballistic Black U19s: Forwards: David Norton, Justin Dorsey, Stephen Lacomare, Jonathan Ramirez; Midfielders: Linus Gehring, Tyler Copeman, Nick Navarin, Brian Johnson, Julio Gomez, Mason Ridgway; Defenders: Aaron Lek, Eric Burnett, Austin Richwood, Patrick Yee, Kevin Phillips, Brandon Lee, Stephen Rackowski; Goalkeeper: Niko Lecco.

Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks Swim Team turned in a blow up performance at the San Ramon Junior Olympics Swim meet March 27 - 29. Many new Far Western cuts, best times, and strong swims were accomplished. New Far Western cuts included the following: Analiese Chinn - 200/500 free, Chloe Bantock - 500 free, 100 fly, 400 IM, Cate MacGregor - 100 free, 400 IM, Lillian Sun - 500 free, Maggie Woods - 1000 free, Chris Dourou - 500 free, Jason Chen - 50/200 free, 100 back, 100 fly, 200IM, Brandon Chandler - 200 back, Frank Hoppel - 400 IM, Sonny Zhang - 100 breast, Bridget Moran - 1000 free, and Alex Wang - 200 fly.

Lifetime best swims were achieved by Tony Shen - 6 lifetime best, Nick Johnston 6 lifetime best, Bernadine Martin - 100% lifetime best, and Elise Cox 100% lifetime best.

The entire Pleasanton Seahawks J group completed strong performances including: Kayla Lindsay, Adrian Roemer, Maxime Roemer, Naorah Chan, Eva Chung, Hannah Folmar, Maggie Kaufeld, Rachel Knowles, Katie Woods, Regis Lachance, Jon Ong, Roshni Nair, Brian Lee, Kevin McLaughlin, Caleb Wang, Cassidy Bove, Kristine Doun, Chelsea Finn, Catherine Fong, Krissy Stroud, Natalie Wong, Caitlin Dourou, Tim McLaughlin, Pete Huang, Kyle Lindsay and Anna Parker.

Youth Basketball

The Livermore Mystics traveled to the south bay to compete in the 9th Annual San Jose Scholars Great American Shoot Out Tournament. The varsity team played for the championship in only their second tournament of the season. The team had a balanced offensive attack and kept the defense of their opponents working hard. The defense was superb making their opponents earn every point made.

The Mystics JV squad won the championship in their division. The JV team beat the Sebastide State team in the final game on Sunday securing an undefeated record for the tournament. Saturday morning the JV team beat the Watsonville Flames. On Saturday afternoon they had to battle in overtime to beat the Santa Cruz Quakes. Racking and attacking for the JV team were Sierra Casells, Sara Marquez and Lexi Martin. The defense was fierce with Krissy Rollins, Caitlin Barnes, Alyse Kline and Jennie Hamman leading the way. Claudine Seriani, Shaude Salari, Kelsie Bowles and Ellyse Tedford worked hard on defense to stall the opponents offense.

The Livermore Mystics 7th grade team played some tough competition and had to raise their level of play. Putting forth a great offensive effort were Brielle Preece, Madeline Glaviano and Rebaka Johnson. Putting the brakes on the opposing teams offense were Claire Hyde, Gabby Parker and Ashleigh Pettit. Sinking some timely buckets from the charity line was Skyler Kritz.

The Mystics 6th grade team had a great tournament. Leading the scoring were Dana Annex and Rachel Hernandez. Rachel Braun, Amanda Montana, Samantha Trask Delaine Gill played outstanding defense. Crashing the boards were Gabby Parker and Kelly Brandon. 5th graders Mariana Garza and Shastina Wilson contributed to the cause with quality play off the pine.

West Coast Gymnastics

The West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy (WCOGA) Girl's Optional Team competed at the Level 8-10 Norcal State Championships this past weekend (3/27-3/29). All four of the competitors qualified to compete at Regionals which will be held in Sacramento on April 17-19.

Level 9: Irja Age Group: Patricia Aubeil: Vault 8.750 (9th), Bars 9.525 (2nd), Beam 9.375 (3rd), Floor 9.05 (5th), AA 36.7 (4th).

Level 8: Irja Age Group: Patricia Aubeil: Vault 8.750 (9th), Bars 9.525 (2nd), Beam 9.375 (3rd), Floor 9.05 (5th), AA 36.7 (4th).

Granada Little League

Junior 80s: Granada Twins 11, LNLL Padres 1. The Twins offense came to life against the Padres. The Twins pitcher Lyndon Moreland dominated allowing 1 run with 8 strikeouts over 5 innings. Zack Blair led the Twins offense with a triple and a double. The Padres pitched Mike Q and Alex C. Todd L led off the game with a solid single and scored the Padres lone run.

San Ramon 9, Granada 8: San Ramon scored three runs in the bottom of the 7th inning to take the win. Granada started the scoring off by putting up one run in the 1st inning with a Damian Gan single and a run scoring double from the bat of Anthony Olmo. Granada put up two more in the second. Rob McLeod led off with a single, followed by a Nate Preece single that sent McLeod to 3rd base. Preece quickly stole second base. With two men in scoring position, Jordan Thraikill shot a single to left-center to score both runners. San Ramon countered by scoring three runs in the 2nd to tie the game. Granada put up another run in the 3rd when Ryan Flayler walked, McLeod was hit by a pitch, David Russell walked and Scott Emrich grounded out to second to score Flayler. San Ramon tied the game. Granada put up two more runs in the 5th when McLeod doubled and Russell doubled to knock in McLeod. Emrich capped the inning by driving Russell in with a sharp single making the score 6 to 4 in Granada's favor. San Ramon tied the game in the 6th. Granada mounted an attack when Preece walked and Russell got on by a third base error. Both men moved up a base on a wild pitch and both scored when San Ramon errored on a Thraikill grounder. San Ramon scored three runs in the bottom of the 7th for the win. Top Hitters: Jordan Thraikill 1 for 5, 4 rbi's; Rob McLeod 2 for 3, 1-2B, 1 hit by pitch; 2 runs scored; Scott Emrich 1 for 3, 2 walks, 2 rbi's; David Russell 1 for 3, 1-2B, 1 walk, 2 runs scored, 1 rbi; Nate Preece 1 for 3, 1 walk, 2 runs scored; Anthony Olmo 1 for 3, 1-2B, 1 walk, 1 hit by pitch, 1 rbi; Damian Gan 2 for 5, 1 run scored.

Granada 5, San Ramon 1: Top Hitters: Alex Davis 2 for 3, 2 walks, 1 run scored, 1 rbi; Damian Gan 1 for 2, 1 walk, 2 hit by pitches, 1 run scored; Ryan Flayler 2 for 4, 1 run scored, 1 rbi; Rob McLeod 1 for 3, 1-2B, 1 walk, 2 rbi's; Trevor Bondoc 1 for 2, 1-2B, 1 walk, 1 hit by pitch, 1 rbi; Anthony Olmo 1 for 3, 1 walk, 1 run scored; Jordan Thraikill 2 for 5, 1 run scored; Top Pitchers: Ryan Flayler (5 innings, 5 hits, 1 run, 5 walks, 7 strikeouts), Alex Davis (2 innings, 2 hits, 0 runs, 2 strikeouts).

Majors - Phillis 4, Angels 3. Strong pitching from Devin Sturgill (Phillis) and Devyn Kelly (Angels) in which both pitchers recorded 10 strikeouts apiece. Phillis hitting: Matt Santos - 3B, 2RBI; Dominic Mintione - 1B, one run scored; Devin Sturgill - 1B, 2RBI, one scored. Angels hitting: Devyn Kelly - 2B, 1RBI, one run scored; Isaiah Mendez - 1B, one scored; Kyle Emrich - 1B.

Minor AAA - Giants 7, Padres 4. Top Hitters: Gianis - Jordan Buranis - 1 3B, 1 1B, 2 RBI; Seth Kuhn - 2b, 1B; Brandon Cuy - 1B, Padres - Erik Martin 2 1B; Greg Moreland 1 2B, 1B; Top Pitchers: Gianis - Seth Kuhn & Brandon Cuy, Padres - Michael Steim & Jason Campbell. Gianis off to a quick 3-0 lead in the 1st. Steim's curve ball held Gianis scoreless in the 2nd. Padres rallied back in the 4th & 5th Brandon Cuy came in the 6th to close the game. Giants 7-4 over Padres.

Phillis 13, A's 13. Top Hitters: Phillis - Jack Lutz 1-1B, 1-RBI, 2-Runs; Matt Benavidez 1-1B, 1-RBI, 1-Run; Max Pruet 1-1B, 3-RBI's, 2-Runs; Top Hitters: Angels - Trey Cortez 3-Runs; Wesley Katz 1-1B, 1-3B, 1-RBI, 1-Run; Adam Padilla 1-2B, 2-RBIs, 1-RBI; Top Pitchers: Phillis - Matt Benavidez 2-Innings, 1-Hit, 3-Runs, 2-Strikeouts. John Bailey 2-Innings, 1-Hit, 5-Runs, 4-Strikeouts. Top Pitchers: A's - Wesley Katz 3-Innings, 2-Hits, 8-Runs, 4-Strikeouts; Lucas Aninos 3-Innings, 1-Hit, 4-Runs, 1-Strikeout.

Minor AA - Angels 12, Phillis 12. Top offensive players for the Angels: Cade Shortridge 2 1B, Mitchell Rocoereto 1B, Michael Thaeet 1B. Angels defensive players: Marie-Lynette, Cade Shortridge, Mitchell Rocoereto. Top offensive players for the Phillis - Nate Single RBI, Riley Van Trease 2 3B, 2 RBIs, Jason Snell 1B, Johnny Cauty 2B, 2 RBIs. Top defensive player for the Phillis - Gabby Vargas.

Rays vs A's. Top Offensive Players: Rays, Connor Sweeney, Nolan McCormick, Dylan Tompkins. A's, Trey Emmett, Brian Cuy, Rudy Ayala. Top Defensive Players: Rays, Samuel Miller, Dillan Martinez, Sean Croghan. A's, Adrian Ayala, Dominic Giuliano, Connor Deltelsen.

Minor A - A's vs Giant's. Offense A's - Tamur Asar, Grant Borjion, Andrew Choumas. Defense A's - Matt Hargrave, Robert Sandoval, Cameron Schrader. Offense Giant's - Kinaar Desai, Ethan Dreger, Harry Rose, Defense Giant's - Nathan Kam, Gabriel Parrish, Devin Shah.

Yankees (offense) Cameron Moghadam, Jacob Morton, Jonathan Nguyen; (defense) Michael Gauch, Jacob Eijansantos, Jaren Eijansantos; (offense) Grant Borjion, Garrett Bona, Malini Tai; (defense) Vinnie Dixon, Andrew Choumas, Tamur Asar.

A's (home) vs Red Sox. Offense Red Sox: Logan Finch, Trevor Kirby, Ryan Lortie. Offense A's: Matt Hargraves, Robert Sandoval, Cameron Schrader. Defense Red Sox: Colton Morlan, Wyatt Moseley, Cole Niemeyer. Defense A's: Westley Gladen, Jason Wigginton, Andrew Choumas.

Phillies (offense) The Savino, Alex Northrop, Greyson Hubbs (defense) Aaron Udoutch, Scott McPherson, Ethan Lux; Padres (offense) Benjamin Kuth, Ethan Payne, Joshua Collom (defense) Angel Becerra, Christopher Irwin, Jordan Collom.

Farm - Giants (offense) Kaegan Nelson, Xavier Hernandez, Paimon Goulart (defense) Ethan James, Jaxen McLaren, Nathan Woolsey.

Yankees vs Angels. Top 3 offensive players Yankees: RJ, Ryan Stear, Dominic Shepherd. Top 3 defensive players Yankees: RJ, Derek Martinez, Brent Young. Top 3 offensive players Angels: Daniel Bobosky, Jacob Keeler, Ryan Wenzel. Top 3 defensive players Angels: Ryan Van Bladel, Christopher Perez, Cody Ward.

Angels (offense) Jennifer Edwards-Estrada, Drake Small, Cody Ward; (defense) Ty Marks, Christopher Perez, Max Weasner; Rays (offense) Katherine Frost, Andy Hankins, Austin Overton, (defense) Skyley Ferguson-Rosa, Jade Overton, Mason Eyster.

Padres vs Giants. Giants (offense) Ben O'Connor, Seth Lundin, Aiden Lewis (defense) Connor Campbell, Gavin Carreira, Kyle Rodgers; Giants (offense) Chris Schonoltz, Kaegan Nelson, Paimon Goulart (defense) Spencer Rodriguez, Nicholas Raab, Nathan Woolsey.

T-Ball - Rays (offense) Josh Henninger, Austin Melendez, Ben Sears (defense) Dylan Corker, Jackson Newkirk, Logan Wright. Phillis vs Angels. Phillis Offense: Skyler Steele, Jordan Bailey, Seth Mills. Angels Offense: Jordan Fritz, Yash Hammond, Nicholas Lydon. Phillis Defense: Cale Salinas, Neil Shah, Erin Schrader. Angels Defense: Connor Perkins, Brandon Pillion, Bobby Zepeda.

The A's (offense) Reggie Wade, Dillon Levine, Christian Silva (defense) Michael Anolin, Cooper Meyer, Natan Sax: White Sox - (offense) Ozy Cervantez, Shane Waechler, Antonio Sotka; (Defense) Joshua Johnson, Eduardo Angeles, Jared DiPaola. Both teams played a Great game.

Youth Lacrosse
The Warriors overran the Pleasanton

Tornado 7 to 5 in 14-year-old boys' lacrosse league action. Goals by Michael Roeder, Devin Bell, Jake Ackman, and Alex Acosta, with shots on the goal also by Joseph Chacon, Justin Garcia, and Kevin Costello. Grounders picked up by Jordan Can, Devin Bell, Justin Gibson, Logan McHone, Alex Olguin, and Andrew Natsch. 3 faceoffs won by Michael Roeder. Conner "The Cyclone" McFarlane made 20 saves.

The Pleasanton Twisters, girls U-15 lacrosse team battled hard for two back to back wins on Saturday in Davis. In the first game against El Dorado Hills, the Twisters won 15-2. Offensively, Lynnea Flaherty, Tori Larsen, and Evan Murphy led the team. On defense, Olivia Deutchshman, Haley Brodnick and Molly Grozier kept pressure around the crease and controlled El Dorado Hills drives to the goal. Lindsey Kail led the team with assists and turnovers. In the second game against Davis Crossfire, Pleasanton prevailed 11-8. Hannah Stapp, McKalee Mooney, Cambi Cukar, and Kira Ewanich led the team offensively, while on the other end of the field, the defense showed its determination with great plays by Madison Steele, Sabrina Ehler, and Lexi Nicholas.

Livermore Phantom Lacrosse U13 B were unable to hold on to their winning streak this past weekend against two highly competitive A level teams. On Saturday, March 28, Livermore Phantom vs. Pleasanton Monsoon went into a sudden death overtime match. Livermore was quickly in the lead for the first half of the game with goals from K. Christoff and A. Martin. T. Christoff and G. Gomes assisted on these goals. In the second half C. Frieders and K. Christoff scored with assists from G. Gomes and A. Jessick. Goalie S. Waelde had 5 saves throughout the game to hold back the Monsoons. Score was tied after the 4th quarter and the game went into sudden death overtime. Monsoons were able to score and won the game 5 to 4.

On Sunday, March 29, Livermore Phantom took on South Bay Crusaders, and was up for the challenge. The Phantom defense did an outstanding job holding back the Crusaders and Goals 15. Waelde did a fantastic job by saving 24 goals in the game. The Phantom's three goals were scored by A. Jessick, and K. Christoff assisted by K. Christoff and T. Christoff. Although the Phantom was outnumbered by the Crusaders large team, who eventually wore them down, and were able to defeat them 10 to 3, the Phantom's teamwork made this a tough victory for the Crusaders.

Pleasanton Girls Lacrosse U15 Mariah prevailed with a 9 to 1 win over the Folsom Cordova Ravens on Sunday during wet and windy conditions at Hart Middle School. Leading the offense with two goals each were Kayla Bouchard and Meghan Serrano. Goals were also scored by Jennifer Gubner, Lindy Castro, Victoria Barnes, Haley Traynor, Samantha Kim, and Mallory Manzano. The Mariah defense did an awesome job. Mallory Manzano was our awesome goalie, and Jessica Young Kaylee Udinski, and Alaina Thomas were relentless against the Ravens offense.

Pleasanton Monsoon Wins Sudden Death Overtime 5-4 Against Livermore Phantom: Having lost a pre-season scrimmage and motivated to stop undefeated Monsoon. Monsoon had good individual plays with Imhof winning a hard-earned faceoff, great defense moves by Sereda and Johnson, save after save by goalie Watkins, fast-dodging footwork and smart teammate blocking by Brawley, a wicked check from behind by Zatorski, and interceptions by Beston and Burnap. Steiner began a trend of always being in the right place at the right time, and assisted Klahr to the first Monsoon goal right before the half for a score of 1-4 Phantom. The second half began with Smedley doggedly pursuing the ball, kicking and golfing for possession to score one for Monsoon. Baylor, Picone, Beston, Klahr Viacos and Gorzier set up some great attempts, Angst intercepted with an incredible flying lay and Smedley scored his second goal unassisted. Superb team-wide defense followed before Burnap got possession and tied the score 4-4. Acosta got the faceoff, Roeder scored a groundball and DeMaria had a one-handed deflected that saved a goal. Game went into overtime and Fey go possession and ran the whole field. Sereda and Brawley showed how to hold the line against Phantom offensive drives with stick, foot and teamwork and Burnap dodged and scored the tiebreaker to end a close contest at 5 - 4 Monsoon.

Livermore Girls Softball

Livermore Girls Softball Association highlights:
Senior (High School): Pleasanton Chaos 8, Livermore Blackout 7. 2B - Jennifer Lackey (B), 2 RBI - Lackey (B).
Pleasanton Lucky Charms 9, Livermore Driver Impact 4. 2B - Katelyn Krueger (1), 2 RBI - Krueger (1).

Middle School Black: Brent Bowen Photography Lady Tek-No 10, Rachel Tabaracci Family BAD 9. Lady Tek-No held on for victory behind clutch hitting from Mia Volpatti, who knocked in four runs with two singles, and Courtine Fields who smashed a two-run double. The defense was highlighted by a nice running catch in right field by Brandi Meyer.

DA Crew 7, Outlaws 4. For DA Crew, Hailey Schultz had a great burst for a RBI, a stolen base along with a run scored, Shannon Melrose pitched three strong innings with four strikeouts along with a hit and run scored, and Alex Villazon had a solid hit, a run scored and a RBI.

Rachel Tabaracci Family BAD 10, DA Crew 3. For DA Crew, Taylor Lange was an assist on a throw out of a runner at home. Meg Mannering threw out the runner at first from right field, had a hit and scored a run, and Erica Serrano made a spectacular play at home catching a short hop and held on to the ball in a home-plate collision for the inning-ending out.

Devil School Red: Red Hots 16, Black Widows 13. Lots of Black Widow hits, but not enough for win. Morgan Corcia got a single - her first hit of the season, Morgan Peterson made a great stop at second getting a player out at first, and Samantha Schwartz also had two hits and contributed to the Black Widows' run count.

G.R. Dahl Construction Base Raiders 11, Carl's Jr. of Livermore, The Force 9. The Base Raiders held on for a victory led by Kayleigh La Grutta who singled in two runs, reached on a dropped third strike, and tagged out a runner overrunning a base. Corrina Dias singled and scored, and Ogai Zemariala reached base twice and scored once.

G.R. Dahl Construction Base Raiders 10, Earth Safety Dynamics The Stealers 1. The Base Raiders played one of its best around games, led by Christy Bryant, Britt Reposa, and Lauren Huitzer, all of whom reached base every time at bat. Reposa played a solid first base, and Huitzer made a nice putout from second base to end the game.

10-Under: Thomas Marcel, DDS & Kolka Furniture Lil' Devils 7, Livermore Police Officers Association Valley Villains 3. The Lil' Devils won a hard fought game against the Valley Villains. Sierra Freeland, Morgan McMahon, and Alex Winkler each

had a hit and a RBI for the Lil' Devils. Both teams played a strong defensive game as well. Despite the loss, Valley Villains showed great defense with great pop fly catches by Jamie Followill and Lauren Bueno, and Nicole Puleazzo had a great hit that helped the Villains score some runs.

KMS Interiors Blackout 15, AP Concrete Xtreme Heat 11. For the Blackout, Madeline Hyde had an awesome double, Maggie Kilday had two great hits, and good defense by catcher Mia Nikiewicz who threw in first base for a putout. In a close battle, the Xtreme Heat kept it close due to a great effort by Audrey Cordisco, Sadie Smith and Mariah Dias.

Nummi Red Hot Sliders 10, Haque Chiropractic Lil Rebels 5. For the Red Hot Sliders, Megan Halliwell hit two-run double, Gianna Beluomini hit a three-run triple, and Cassidy Kovisto drove a run in to end the inning.

AP Concrete Xtreme Heat 11, Livermore Police Officers Association Valley Villains 8. Thanks to strong pitching by Shelby Rosero, a double by Miranda Lima, and a great game behind the plate for catcher Brianna Lima, the Xtreme Heat was able to hold on for victory.

8-Under: Austin Precision Bubble Gum Girls vs. Nummi Scorpions. Coaches' selections - Jenny Stoner, Nicole Fairbanks, Sarah Wentel (BBG); Abby Andrews, Jordan Beakey, Emily Montalvo (B).

Austin Precision Bubble Gum Girls vs. Abraham & Thaeet, LLP Xtreme. Coaches' selections - Juliana Santos, Olivia Tabor, Megan Shehab (BBG); Isabella Addington, Tori Borgna, Lauren Moore (X). Abramson & Thaeet, LLP Xtreme vs. MyGar.com Supergirls. Coaches' selections - Christina Castaneda, Shelby Clark, Jason Husser (X).

Nummi Scorpions vs. Brian Emrich, DDS Black Widows. Coaches' selections - Sierra Deane, Maya Pillion, Haley Thompson (S). Hot Tamales vs. Chili Peppers. Coaches' selections - Audrey Curtis, Carly Schindler, Julia Rocha (HT).

Hot Tamales vs. Cottage School The American Girls. Coaches' selections - Jennah LaVerne, Rachelle Stone, Rebecca Anderson (HT). Classic Images Dare Devils vs. William D. Thompson The Mighty Tigers. Coaches' selections - Karissa Hatfield, Courtney Hayes, Jennifer Kovisto (DI); Lilly Ackerman, Brooke Anderson, Cassidy Bates (MT).

Classic Images Dare Devils vs. All Pro Mortgage Shooting Stars. Coaches' selections - Madison Kunke, Sierra Marshall, Brianna Winger (DD); Amber Thomas, Ellie Deuell, Marissa Franks (SS). Nummi Scorpions vs. William D. Thompson The Mighty Tigers. Coaches' selections - Emily Montalvo, Camille Best, Jordan Beakey (S).

T-ball: Brent Bowen Photography Firecrackers vs. Real Virtue Ultra Bugs, Coaches' selections - Hanna McDougall, Sabrina Perica, Graciana Ratto (F).

Pleasanton American LL

Pleasanton American Little League highlights:
T-Ball: Orioles vs. Yankees: The Orioles displayed some great hitting and showed off their fielding skills. Haison Park was a hard hitter who crushed the ball past second base twice during the game. Michael DeLucia also exhibited his batting skills and smacked a few base hits. Elan Murray showed some great defensive moves in the outfield with several outstanding catches. Yankees' Jared "J man" Pugh hit the ball and ran his heart out around the bases. Zachary "the Mac" Woodall and Ethan "the Big E" Gray swung the bat so hard that they smacked the ball far into the outfield. Outstanding Players: Jared "J man" Pugh; Zachary "the Mac" Woodall; Ethan "the Big E" Gray

Farm B: Yankees vs. Red Sox: Yankees played the rival Red Sox an evening game. Noah Lee and Mason Fenzl had a series of great hitting and running. Samuel Wade had an exceptional inning at first base.

Yankees vs. Red Sox: Yankees played the second game in the series against the Red Sox. The game was well played with some great stops and throws in the infield. Paul Pries, Ian Kapsalis, and Matthew Kenning were notable for their consistent hitting.

A's vs. White Sox: The A's had another exciting game against a hard hitting White Sox team that peppered the field with hits in every inning. Eric's ab showed up with heavy bats and scored 6 first inning runs despite starting into the blazing morning sun. Zack Moresco and Ryley Purnell hit first pitch fly balls toward 3rd base and Cooper Smith finished inning with a chopper up the middle. Cameron Reed had the hot glove on defense in the inning recording two outs with crisp fielding and accurate throws to 1st base. Jude Magann got the A's off to a good start in the 1st inning with a sharply hit lead off single. The ball exploded off A's bats for the rest of the inning with four fly balls and a barrage of sizzling grounders. Daniel Zhai was the defensive giant in the 2nd retiring 3 batters by pouncing on ground balls and snapping accurate throws to 1st base ahead of the speedy White Sox runners. In the 3rd inning Sean Choi sent a rocket pop to the catcher for a strikeout and Tyler Rocha, Griffin Bean and Alex Bentzo gave the ball a work out with high fly balls to the edge of the outfield.

Farm A: Angels started the day with powerful hits from the starting line up but when Peter Montini was up to bat, there was no surprise. He hit the ball hard into left field just to be denied by a surprised centerfielder. Later in the game, Will Carlos hit the ball with great determination that it flew beyond the players in center field and he was not going to be denied. When a pop fly is caught in the infield, can you over commit for a double play? Not today, Akio Fujita and Daniel Jorgenson simultaneously took a lead off their base but quickly returned back to avoid a double play for the A's. Joshua Anderson started the defense with a great pop fly catch at 2nd base with other contributions from Akio and Tyler Lopez combining for multiple outs which prevented the runners from advancing beyond 3rd base.

Minors AA: Angels 7 vs. Athletics 6: The Angels scored five runs in the fourth with strong hitting and great base running including a spectacular sprint around third by Devin Campbell after a strong at bat. The Angels defense continues to be the difference maker. Several players combined to pitch a great game. In the field, Sean Orphanopoulos and Cameron McMullen both recorded run saving catches holding off a strong Athletics team.

Red Sox 14 vs. Indians 2: The Red Sox kept the momentum going on Tuesday 3/24/09. Noah Moreno controlled the game with awesome pitching. Salomon Nery hit a double to center field. Blair Bettencourt made a great stop and threw the ball to first to get the runner out. Kushaan Bahl, Matthew Beltran and Ryan Rudolph all had good hits.

Minors AAA: Yankees 1 vs. A's 5: Yankees were defeated again on Monday 3/23 by the tough contender, the A's. Sean Sullivan was credited in the 3rd inning with an RBI for our only run in the game. Great defensive plays by Jared Fletcher (3B) and Tanner Strangmeyer (Catcher) on a steal at home for an out. Yankees pitching shutdown the A's after the 3rd inning preventing any further runs scored. Monday's Pitchers: Ryley Shields, Sean Sullivan, Tanner Strangmeyer, and Nick Perez. Catchers: Tanner Strangmeyer and Tyler LaCourse

to the end. David Kozuch started the White Sox off with a fantastic snow-cone catch deep in center field. Braeden Fitzgerald, Jack Miller, and Nathan Hebert each had nail biting slides to home in the fourth along with Andrew Liggett who stole home. In the end, it was Matt Dickenson's pitching that held off the Red Sox for the White Sox win, 11-9.

Indians 12 vs. White Sox 12: Blake Tucker had 3 hits including two doubles as part of a powerful offensive assault as the Indians battled the White Sox to a tie. Tyler Moniz added a double and a fine running catch in left field that prevented two runs. Denver Schlag chipped in with an important base hit and an RBI. Ben Spears contributed mightily with a base hit, stolen base, and run scored, and he had two incredible defensive plays including a diving catch in right field.

Majors: Yankees 5 vs. White Sox 4: The Yankees stepped up their game and got the job done in a spectacular fashion on Saturday evening in a nine inning game against the White Sox. Scores were neck and neck until the tie turned when Nick Lemmon hit a double to bring the Yankees ahead in the fourth. The Sox took the lead in the sixth with 2 more runs, but Justin Goodman and Colin Burke each hit massive doubles to bring in another run and grab it away. With the score tied, James Kozuch made a game saving catch at the top of the seventh and Chase Barkuld put the ball in play on the game winning play. Cameron Clark was the winning pitcher and made some great plays at first base.

A's 3 vs. Indians 0: On Tuesday March 24th the Major A's beat the Indians 3-0. Outstanding pitching by Kevin Crispell and Jake McIntosh led the team. The defense backed them up with memorable catches in the outfield being made by Parker Moberg and Cole Morrell. The infield contributed with a double play involving Jake McIntosh, Kevin Crispell and Ronnie Jones. Parker Moberg made an out at home plate thwarting an attempted squeeze play. Also showing marked quickness in making defensive plays were Jacob Kinney, Cole Morrell & Jack Gezer. The offense was led by Kevin Crispell with a home run and Jake McIntosh with a double.

A's 7 vs. Yankees 1: On Thursday March 26th Ron Jones coached the A's to their 6th straight victory when they defeated the Yankees 7-1. Grant Huggins was hitting well with an exceptional double in the 5th inning. The A's definitely came on strong with their bats, with a home run by Michael Bretones (triple), Connor Mays, Ronnie Jones, and Cole Morrell, among others. Defensively, the pitching was strong, with Michael Bretones, Jacob Kinney and Jake McIntosh on the mound. The game ended with strong plays by shortstop Jack Geasa, 3rd baseman, Ryan Myers, and 1st baseman, Ronnie Jones. The A's held the Yankees to only 1 run, a solo home run made by Collin Burke.

Foothill Little League

Pleasanton Foothill Little League highlights:
AAA Division: Nationals 12, Rockies 11: The Nationals were fired up and ready to play Saturday. Every player made it to base and scored at least one run. Nationals also had 16 stolen bases to go with a season-high 9 hits. Both our pitching and hitting improved significantly as Nats pitchers struck out 12 batters but Nats batters only struck out 4 times. It was still a nail-biter that required a clutch grand slam by Griffin Dees late in the game and a courageous pitching effort by Jose Garcia to close out the win. Other notable efforts included Will Brendel going 2 for 2 with a key RBI, Ryan Wilson with a key sacrifice fly/RBI with Eric Shields tagging up. Bobby Fjerstad "took one for the team" getting hit by a pitch and stealing around to score our first run and punching an RBI single in the 3rd. Final score, 12-11, Nationals.

Rockies 12, Nationals 7: Rockies jumped out to an early and commanding lead thanks to the strong pitching of Chase Hunter and Jack Sanderson. Impressive and consistent hitting and provided by Michael McDonald and Eric Doppe. But the Nationals fought back in the last 2 innings making the game close until Eric "the close" Doppe shut them down in the 6th inning to seal the win for the Rocks. Top Offensive Player: Michael McDonald; Top Defensive Player: Eric Doppe.

Tigers 9, Orioles 8: The PFL AAA Orioles lost an exciting game to the Tigers by only one run. William Hammer from the Orioles pitched 3 innings and secured 8 strike outs. Jake Van Wagoner pitched one inning and made 3 strikeouts and hit the team's second homerun for the season. Keaton Steuben, Anthony Steller-Harter, and Adam Jue combined an impressive offensive effort for 17 advanced bases (steals and bases on passed balls) and 5 runs scored. Top Offensive Players: Jake Van Wagoner; Top Defensive Players: William Hammer.

A Division: The Mets had a fantastic game against the Defenders. Spirits were high as the Mets took the field. Out on the field Joshua Robinson had two separate outs against the Defenders. One as pitcher and the other on first base. R'mani had a huge hit to the short stop that just couldn't be stopped. The Mets player of the game was Robbie Miller. He had two powerful hits to the outfield in the first and third. Then in the fourth he had a grab and tag out on first base leaving dust flying. Top Offensive Player: Robbie Miller; Top Defensive Player: Joshua Robinson.

Red Wings vs. Defenders: The Defenders had a slow start, but once they got warmed up they could not be stopped. Alex Paul was given the game ball for having a great game at bat and in the field. Dylan Ogolin, Danny Serrano, Joseph Lunderback smashed the ball every time they were at bat. Maximilian Maratsos, Vincent Marcelino and Demetre Aaron all dominated in the infield. Aaron had a double play from second.

The Cubs took on the A's in a close game early Saturday morning. Arnav Koul had a big lead off DBL in the top of 3rd that sparked the team and later pitching in the bottom of the 5th struck out the side. Carter Person made a great play in bottom of the 3rd tagging out a runner on his way to 2nd to end the inning. Top of the 4th with bases loaded, Kevin Wiest's sacrifice fly bought in 2 RBIs to tie the game. With the game tied at 2 apiece in the bottom of the 6th, the A's came up with a clutch hit with 2 out and bases loaded to win the game.

T-Ball: Mud Cats vs. San Gnats. After a great week of practice, The Mud Cats came ready to play as they faced the Sand Gnats for the first time this season. Jayden Payne came out swinging, hitting two homeruns. In the third inning, Ben Robinson cleared the bases with a homerun of his own. On the defensive end, Sam Buck repeatedly fielded ground balls with his excellent defense. Holden Meyer and Isaac Bauman also played outstanding defensively. Top Offensive Players: Ben Robinson, Jayden Payne, Holden Meyer; Top Defensive Players: Isaac Bauman, Sam Buck, Holden Meyer.

SPORTS NOTES

Pleasanton Girls Softball

Pleasanton Girls Softball League highlights:
T-Ball: Williams Witter Real Estate vs. Liberty Mutual: Williams Witter Real Estate: Great fielding and batting by A.J. Molina and Meaghan Penrice. Excellent focus by Megan Kovira. Liberty Mutual: Good fielding and batting by Nina Balestrieri. Jessica Simonson and Bailey Pierce showed great enthusiasm for their team. Top players: Williams Witter Real Estate - A. J. Molina, Meaghan Penrice, Megan Kovira; Liberty Mutual - Nina Balestrieri, Bailey Pierce, Jessica Simonson

Micro Division: Cardinal Jewelers vs Valley Plumbing: A screaming line drive by Valley Plumbing's Audrey Alavi to Cardinal Jewelers' Sarah Green at short started the game. Kyla Harris pounced on balls at the plate as catcher. Big hits from Valley Plumbing's Mary Tincher. Emily Tincher was strong at pitcher and beat out several runs at the plate. Cardinal Jewelers' Marley Diligent made a slick play at second to record the out. Top players: Cardinal Jewelers - Marley Diligent, Sarah Green, Kyla Harris; Valley Plumbing - Audrey Alavi, Emily Tincher, Mary Tincher

City Beach vs. California Car Sounds Inc.: Both teams came ready to play even though we had an early 8:30am start! For City Beach, Stephanie Silva made 2 outs (almost 3) in one inning. Brooke Delaney had a hot bat, and Hannah Swain hit hard and made an out playing 2nd base. For California Car Sounds Inc., Samantha Brown and Hailey Benner were strong out hitters that were in the zone and Bella Segundo was an all star short stop. Top players: City Beach - Brooke Delaney, Stephanie Silva, Hannah Swain; California Car Sounds Inc. - Hailey Benner, Samantha Brown, Isabella Segundo

Cardinal Jewelers vs. Res-Com Insulation Inc.: Finally, the sun was hot and so were the players of Cardinal Jewelers and Res-Com Insulation Inc.! Grace French made a great throw from 2nd base to record the out at first. Big hits by Alyiah Baxter and Shannon Van Wagoner. Cardinal Jewelers' defense had to step up their game against the power hitters of Res-Com Insulation Inc. Top players: Cardinal Jewelers - Alyiah Baxter, Grace French, Shannon Van Wagoner; Res-Com Insulation Inc. - Courtney Beaudin, Audrey Emmett, Jordana Martin

Borg Fence vs. Valley Plumbing: Borg Fence's Marissa Fredricks slammed a fly ball into the outfield while batting in a run. Alyssa Orphanopoulos had a nice base hit to send in one runner at home and Tara Daley assisted in an out at 2nd. Valley Plumbing's Amanda Dilger hit in two runs. Hunter Faria had a nice line drive to 3rd while Siena Sorochak slammed a fly ball into left field. Top players: Borg Fence - Tara Daley, Marissa Fredricks, Alyssa Orphanopoulos; Valley Plumbing - Amanda Dilger, Hunter Faria, Siena Sorochak

Richert Lumber Co. vs. Friends of PGSL: Richert Lumber played a great game against the challenging Friends of PGSL. A huge hit by Jillian Brugaletta into left field was the highlight of the afternoon. Great base running was seen by Allison Casey and Emily Sanchez as they scored offensively. PGSL defense. Top players: Richert Lumber Co. - Jillian Brugaletta, Allison Casey, Emily Sanchez

Mini Rec Division: Eddie Papa's vs. Zaballos Construction: For Zaballos Construction Jessica Cole went 2 for 3 with a run scored. She had a great defensive play in the field also. Evvie Morehead went 1 for 2 for Zaballos Construction making a great hit off Eddie Papa's pitcher Katie. Carly Moresco pitched a fabulous inning with two strike outs. She also went 1 for 2 with an RBI. Claire Armstrong played a great catcher for Eddie Papa's making three outs herself. She took some good cuts at the balls while at bat. McKenna Shaffer pitched the last two innings for the hometown striking out two of her opponents. Maddy Harmon went 1 for 1 with an RBI for Eddie Papa's while hitting off the pitcher for Zaballos Construction. Nadine. Top players: Eddie Papa's - Claire Armstrong, Maddy Harmon, McKenna Shaffer; Zaballos Construction - Jessica Cole, Evvie Morehead, Carly Moresco

Clearpath Business Advisors vs. Ogden Costa Creative Group: Top players: Ogden Costa Creative Group - Teresa Colberg, Amber Doyle, Celia Portugal

Farmers Insurance Group vs. Clear Path Business Advisors: Top players: Farmers Insurance Group - Speedy, Speedy; Clear Path Business Advisors - Krista Beecher, Kathryn Lee, Jenna Viera

TSI vs. Farmers Insurance Group: A solid game was played by both teams. Farmers Insurance Group opened the game with a hit, only to see a double play turned by Grace on the next pitch. Claire Bear had a solid hitting performance for Farmers Insurance Group. Farmers Insurance Group also had a strong defense with Flash outstanding pitching and Sage made two solo outs in the field. TSI had some strong hitting with Hannah and Natalie getting a double each and Charisa and Juliet getting multiple hits. Top players: TSI - Grace Gundermann, Natalie Lambros, Hannah Myers; Farmers Insurance Group - Flash, Sage Stafnick, Claire Wagner

CTS vs. Assist Tel-Com: CTS had their highest scoring game thus far and continued to pitch well and play good defense. For Assist Tel-Com, Sophia Ross had a hit and pitched well, Emily Gervolino had an RBI with Cassidy Rowen also pitching very well. Top players: CTS - Kaeli Arellano, Calleigh Sanders, Nicole Witters; Assist Tel-Com - Emily Gervolino, Sophia Ross, Cassidy Rowen

Pulte Homes vs. CTS: Pulte Homes' Mia Battilega had 4 Strikeouts's, 3 in one inning. Juliana Pribela had a RBI Single. Grace Nielsen crushed a base hit to the outfield. CTS's Katelyn Young had great defensive play. Taylor Noval had 2 hits and Sarah Mirr also had a good hit. Top players: Pulte Homes - Mia Battilega, Grace Nielsen, Juliana Pribela; CTS - Sarah Mirr, Taylor Noval, Katelyn Young

ACC Environmental vs. Bauer's World-wide Transportation: Excellent pitching skills Bauer's World-wide Transportation's Courtney Dinelli, Isabella Mora, and Kiley Grundstrom. Double hit by ACC Environmental's Natalie Tarantino, fly ball catch by Kara Haynie and a great tag out 1st by Brittany Barrowcliff. Top players: ACC Environmental - Brittany Barrowcliff, Kara Haynie, Natalie Tarantino; Bauer's World-wide Transportation - Courtney Dinelli, Kiley Grundstrom, Isabella Mora

Mini Upper Division: John Rocha Remax Accord 6, J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines 5; John Rocha Remax Accord: Excellent pitching and double RBI by Danielle Williams. Great catching and RBI by Sofia Molina. Rachel Shockley provided excellent fielding for an exciting catch from Sofia Molina for an out at second base to stop a steal, great hitting RBI. J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines: Great pitching by Jessica O'Neal, good fielding at first base by Lauren Hermes, good hitting and fielding by Jenna O'Neal. Top

players: John Rocha Remax Accord - Sofia Molina, Rachel Shockley, Danielle Williams; J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines - Lauren Hermes, Jenna O'Neal, Jessica O'Neal
Minor Rec Division: Pilates on Spring vs. TransPak Inc.: Kate Miller had a single in left field and on offense caught a flyball in the outfield and pitched well. Samantha Dondero had a single in left field. Alexis Bianco pitched well. The TransPak, Inc. team dominated at bat and played excellent defense throughout the game. Hanna Stevens went 3 for 3 at bat. Top players: Pilates on Spring - Kamryn Brown, Charli Faris, Kate Miller; TransPak Inc. - Summer Harris, Sky Homer, Hanna Stevens

TransPak Inc. 9, CPU Tech 2: Olivia Gonsman and Marissa Mancebo both scored runs for CPU Tech. Bailey Beamland had a great throw to Tori Palma at first base for an out. Top players: CPU Tech - Bailey Beamland, Olivia Gonsman, Marissa Mancebo

AMS9, Precision Auto Repair 4: Kristen Fung hit well for AMS, Serena Camona-Hester pitched well and Samanta Coufal had a great catch in left field. Kelley Dixon pitched an excellent inning for Precision Auto Repair and Bryanna Schreiber got a base hit. Top players: Precision Auto Repair - Kelley Dixon, Bryanna Schreiber, AMS - Serena Camona-Hester, Samantha Coufal, Kristen Fung

Minor Upper Division: E Squared Automotive 9, Four Star Erectors 1: E Squared Automotive's pitcher, Dani Hammer, allowed no runs. Nalani Scates hit a line drive for 2 RBI's. Crash on Four Star Erectors, scored their only run on a single and two stolen bases. Top players: E Squared Automotive Home - Dani Hammer, Nadia Firoozmand, Nalani Scates; Four Star Erectors - Courtney Gonzaga, Katey More

E Squared Automotive 10, Chase Electric 7: Great pitching by E Squared Automotive's Maddie Gallagher. In the 2nd inning E Squared Automotive scored 5 runs. Katie Jefferies stole 3 bases to score. Paige Heacock RBI's. Top players: E Squared Automotive - Maddie Gallagher, Katie Jefferies, Paige Heacock; Chase Electric - Jenna Crawford, Tori Larsen, Megan Shackley

TG Information Systems 3, E Squared Automotive 2: E Squared Automotive's Dani Hammer pitched for 7 great innings. Maddi Gallagher made an amazing foul ball catch. Lauren Blach scored on a steal at home. TG Information Systems' Janelle Tanis hit a double, triple and scored twice. Maddie Warren hit several RBI's. Top players: E Squared Automotive - Home Top Player 1 - Lauren Blach, Maddie Gallagher, Dani Hammer; TG Information Systems - Nicole Gilbreth, Sammie Salustri, Janelle Tanis

Major Rec Division: Hyatt Summerfield Suites vs. Machi Construction & Development Inc. 0: The game was officially forfeit as Machi Construction & Development Inc. had several player fall ill and an unexpected family emergency took our twins away from the game. We played the game anyway for fun with seven players and hung tough with Hyatt Summerfield Suites, but in the end they were just too much for us and we fell "unofficially" 9-8. Top players: Machi Construction & Development Inc. - Megan Akacos, Rachel Bench, Cassidy Butler; Hyatt Summerfield Suites - Abigail McDowell, Madison Lingenfelder, Alyssa Lubow

Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning 6, Tim McGuire of Alain Pinel Realtors 6: Highlights: This was a great Saturday morning game with a couple of lead changes. Both teams battled offensively and defensively ultimately ending a 6-6 tie. Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning's Kendall D'India made a great catch in left field. Kendall Moore was awesome at 2nd base and pitchers Malory Masajlo and Julia Petros did a great job on the mound. Top players: Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning - Kendall D'India, Kendall Moore, Julia Petros; Tim McGuire of Alain Pinel Realtors - Nicole Bardakos, Hannah Stoik, Katie Bindert

Senior Division: Sallman, Yang and Alameda 10, Livermore Team J7's: Katherine Friesas pitched 5 strong innings for Sallman, Yang and Alameda. Phoebe Santos led the offense with a single and a triple, and scored three times. Eileen Adams played a solid game at catcher and scored twice. For Livermore J7, Katelyn Krueger scored, and hit a double. Victoria Rowell singled and scored, and Casey Pereida singled and scored and played great defensively at shortstop. Top players: Sallman, Yang and Alameda - Eileen Adams, Katherine Friesas, Phoebe Santos; Livermore Team J7 - Katelyn Krueger, Casey Pereida, Victoria Rowell

Livermore American LL

Livermore American Little League highlights:

T-Ball: Dodgers vs. Giants: Dodgers: Great defense from Michael Beardon; Strong offense from Connor Toland and Logan Ruiz. Giants: Superb defense from Cameron Winter and Alex Echeverria; Strong bat from Thomas Cowles. Top players: Dodgers: Michael Beardon, Connor Toland, Logan Ruiz; Top players: Giants: Thomas Cowles, Cameron Winter, Alex Echeverria

A's had their best performance of the season so far Saturday in their game against the Rays. Lots of great hits and outstanding plays in the field. Top players included Samantha Newton, Declan O'Hara, Brittany Pettit and Daniel Waxman

Single A: Red Sox 10, Yankees 7; Red Sox - great hitting by Wes Edwards, Evan Capurro, and Logan Church to score key runs. Awesome defense in extra 7th inning by Wes Edwards to hold the lead. Top hitting and scoring by Yankee sluggers Olivia Kohndrow, Olivia Tabaracci, and Dalton Johnston. Red Sox top players: Wes Edwards, Logan Church, Evan Capurro; Yankees top players: Olivia Kohndrow, Olivia Tabaracci, Dalton Johnston

Rays 10, Phillies 8: For the Rays offense, Jordon Flores hit a double and 2 base hits with both James Wilcox and Tyler Griffith batting well with a hit each and Wilcox did well defensively at the catching position. For the Phillies offensively Zachary Burke had a triple and a base hit and Alejandro Cabassa had 2 nice hits. Jeremy Davis played well on defense.

Braves 15, Mets 15: Two of the Mets top offensive players were Ryan Grace and Jacob Zayas. Grace made three strong hits and scored in the second inning. Zayas also had a hit in the second inning adding to a high scoring inning for the Mets. Cole Ruter led the defense with a great catch in the third inning from the pitcher's mound and an excellent throw to first. Jackson Brown from the Braves started a powerful lead in the first half of the game for the Braves with some powerful batting. Brown batted two game triples. Aidan Taylor also knocked a double, as well as having his best defensive game to date playing second base. Great plays were also made by Braves Parker Hughes and Trystan Lemas.

Orioles 9, Mets 8: The Orioles' Matt Crivello showed some really nice defense play at first base. Sean Brooks got a RBI

which some solid hitting and William Steinberg did a nice job catching as well as hitting. The Mets' Alec Ciriana played a strong game both offensively and defensively with turning a double play as well as getting a base hit in the 4th inning earning a RBI. Colby Newton showed strong defense catching a fly ball in the 1st inning. Andrew Lent played a great game at catcher fielding several balls at home plate. Orioles top players: William Steinberg, Sean Brooks and Matt Crivello. Mets top players: Alec Cirina, Colby Newton and Andrew Lent

Red Sox 10, Phillies 8: For the Red Sox, Jake Engemann brought out his best game with hits in every at bat. Carson Neu had a strong lead off single to start the 3rd inning in which three runs eventually scored. Joseph Fields had a big 4th inning hit to score the two go-ahead runs. Joseph Fields and Jake Engemann played excellent defense in the 5th inning, including a back-handed snag by Jake to hold the lead. For the Phillies, Jayden Hurskin hit a powerful home run. Jake Hager had 2 doubles and an RBI. Alejandro Cabassa did a great job at third base as well as getting several hits including a double with RBIs. Red Sox top players: Jake Engemann, Carson Neu, Joseph Fields, Phillies top players: Jayden Hurskin, Jake Hager, Alejandro Cabassa.

AA Division: Indians 4, Diamondbacks 1: Diamondbacks: Jack Perry (2B, RBI), Scott Stafford (3 IP, 5K), Tyler McMahon (3 IP, 6K);

Top Indians players: Bo Cole (3 B, R), Braeden Jackson (2 1B, R, RBI), Bradley Archer (Defense). A couple of timely hits in a 3rd inning rally made the difference for the Indians in a 4-1 win over the Diamondbacks in recent LALL action. Tigers 1 - Reds 3: Tigers - Grant Murphy - pop fly catch off 3rd base foul line, Ryan Carlson and Carson King a great pitching duo. Reds - Luke Foscalina and Brendan McCafferty had great pitching. Gerardo Cabassa with great team support!

Diamond Backs 11 Pirates 3: Pirates catcher, Ryan Mitchell threw the ball down to 2nd for the out in a great attempt to hold the Diamondbacks. Cole Fairhurst and Kevin Lee each with a double assisting their team in the scoring of 3 runs. But the Diamond Backs would not let up with Clay Boghosian, hitting 2 for 3 and Max Puls' 3 RBI's with a triple line shot to deep left. Pitchers Tyler McMahon and Jack Perry kept the Pirates in check with multiple strike outs. Top players: Pirates - Ryan Mitchell, Cole Fairhurst, Kevin Lee. Diamond Backs - Clay boghosian, Max Puls, Tyler McMahon.

Cubs 6, White Sox 5: Cubs top players: Austin Brown, Wesley Williams, Michael Honeycutt; White Sox top players: Julian Chavira, Kaine Montez, Julian Stroud. Chavira belted a home run in the top of the first.

AA Division: Cardinals 2, Rockies 3: Rockies were down 2-1 in the bottom of the 6th, then scored a run to tie the game 2-2. The Rockies then scored a run in the bottom of the 7th for their first win of the season. Top Players Rockies: Shawn Cox, Cody Skinner for clutch hitting for stellar defense, Zach Hardwicke for great catching. Top Players Cardinals: Trevor Chapman for scoring single, Alan Conrad and Carter Fisher for stellar play.

White Sox 9, Reds 8: The White Sox played an exciting two-part match against the Rockies. On 3/10 the two teams went head-to-head, with the lead alternating almost every inning. The Sox' Sam Ogunfunmi (1 double and a single) made an amazing double-play with a couple of lead changes. Both teams battled offensively and defensively ultimately ending a 6-6 tie. Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning's Kendall D'India made a great catch in left field. Kendall Moore was awesome at 2nd base and pitchers Malory Masajlo and Julia Petros did a great job on the mound. Top players: Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning - Kendall D'India, Kendall Moore, Julia Petros; Tim McGuire of Alain Pinel Realtors - Nicole Bardakos, Hannah Stoik, Katie Bindert

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AA Division: Athletics 5, Mariners 4: The Athletics had many key players help to pull off the win. Logan Koch hit a single for a RBI. He also tagged a runner out at home plate to prevent the Mariners from scoring. Will Mohler hit a double for a RBI, a single and ended up stealing home. Will made an unbelievable line drive catch while playing 2nd base. Jacob "JT" Tidwell hit a single and had an outstanding day on the mound. He struck out the last batter with bases loaded to end the game and clinch the win.

Angels 20, Padres 8: The Angels were able to win this game with their aggressive offense and defense. Bryce Disbrow put the Angels ahead with two triples and Basim Elmashni kept it going with his base hit. Ethan Shang played strong defense. The Padres offense was led by Conner Parkerson with his triple and Austin Birdwell with three base hits. Eric Pinon also hit and scored a run. The five inning game ended with the Angels taking the win 20 - 8. Angels top players: Bryce Disbrow, Basim Elmashni, Ethan Shang. Padres top players: Conner Parkerson, Eric Pinon, Austin Birdwell.

Angels 8, Mariners 2: The Angels took their seventh straight win with this game. Lucas O'Brien (aka Sugarbutt) had an awesome game with the Angels, leading them with his precise pitching for 5 straight innings and great defense. Carter Dickson played tough defense with his running catch in the outfield and Bobby Cantelino played aggressive offense hitting three for three in this game. Mariners top players: Great defense Justin Hill; RBI double Mauricio Zavala; Double Nathan Tabaracci. Angels top players: Lucas O'Brien, Carter Dickson, Bobby Cantelino.

Mariners: Yankees 5, Giants 4: In an early season classic, the Yankees beat the Giants 5-4. Mike Kostalnick pitched 3 innings to earn the win and started the Yankees off in the 6th with a 2 out walk. Nathan Julku who went 3 for 3, moved Mike to 3rd base with a double, his 3rd hit in 3 at bats. This set up the dramatic walk off line drive single by Ryan Ball to win the game. The Giants put up a great fight with David Harrison slamming a base hit and making a great catch in the field. Sean Staver gave a solid pitching performance and his battery-mate Conner Jones was solid behind the dish and added an RBI double. Yankees top players: Ryan Ball, Nathan Julku, Mike Kostalnick. Giants top players: David Harrison, Sean Staver, Conner Jones.

JR 80 House Division: The LALL Jr 80's Giants remained undefeated at 5-0 by squeaking out a 10-9 victory of the San

Ramon A's. The Giants were led by Joshua Davidson who had two doubles, a triple and four RBI. Also leading the hit parade were Michael Brown, Clayton Stanek and Junior Wilkins with two hits each. J.T. Mahler pitched four solid innings while Michael Brown nailed down the crucial last outs and secured the save by striking out three of the last five batters he faced. The big inning for the Giants was the third where they strung together seven hits and four runs.

The LALL Jr. 80 Giants rallied from a 7-0 deficit to win 14-10 over the LALL Padres. Joshua Davidson started off the 6th inning with a fence-clearing homerun. Other strong bats were brought by Jonah Maranon and Clayton Stanek who added a triple. Michael Brown shut the door on the Padres with strong pitching in the late innings.

The LALL Jr. 80 Giants continued their winning streak with an 8-5 win over the GLL Braves, bringing their record to 7-0. The team had two double-plays with Javon Williams and Clayton Stanek playing great defense. Kyle Christopher pitched four strong innings allowing only 1 run. Key hitting came from Joshua Davidson with an in-the-park-run-three-run homer. Also strong at the plate were Trevor Escover, Clayton Stanek, Javon Williams, Jonah Maranon.

JR 90s Division: LALL 190s Red Sox 13, Granada 190s Dodgers 6: The Red Sox great hitting and solid pitching led to victory over the Dodgers. Sean Amaral hit two singles for two RBIs, Chris DiPeso hit 2 singles and a sacrifice fly for three RBIs, and Jacob Velasco had an RBI single in the sixth inning. Kyle Wallbrige made another great start at pitching, hurling six strikeouts in four innings. Chris DiPeso pitched mid-relief for two and two-thirds innings with three strikeouts. Jacob Velasco closed with a game ending strike-out with the bases loaded in the seventh inning. Keeping the Dodgers scoreless in the seventh, Jeremy Edwards made a great running catch in center.

Amador Swimming

Although, they split the first place finishes with Livermore High seven to five, Amador Valley Boys Varsity swimming and diving team's depth proved too much for the Cowboys. The Dons posted a 109-74 victory going 1-2 or 2-3 in eight of 11 swimming events to take the bulk of the event's points.

After going 2-3 in the medley relay to start the meet, Amador went 1-2-3 in the 200 free with Jake Bahls, Kyle Surber and Scott Arellano doing the honors. Eric Gates and Stefan Hall then went 2-3 in the IM followed by a 2-3-4 in the 500 free from Jason Cunningham, Scott Arellano, Edward Zhang. Tyler Pullen had, in a previous meeting, taken first in the 100 yard freestyle and the Dons led 42-33 at the rest break.

Andrew Seitz and Brian Zhang went 1-2 to start the second half of the meet strongly for Amador. After the 100 free, the Dons went 1-2-3 in the 500 free behind the efforts of Krishnan Rajagopalan, Hall, and Brian Zhang.

Seitz and Surber won the final two individual events of the meet, 100 back and 100 breast respectively, before the Dons 400 relay teams of Bahls, Gates, Brian Zhang, and Jack Payan; and Rajagopalan, Cunningham, Edward Zhang, and Hall went 1-2 to close the meet.

A deep and talented Amador Valley Varsity Girls Swimming and diving team proved too much for Livermore, swamping the Cowboys 160-35. The Dons won every event in the meet and went 1-2 in all but one event.

Leading the way with three first place finishes was Catherine Breed who won the 200 free and was a part of the winning 200 and 400 relay teams. Also swimming on the relay teams were Rachel Miller, Cassidy Booe, and Theresa Martin (200); and Kelly Avon, Lyndsey Baxter, and Miller (400). Martin also won an individual event, the 100 fly.

Jenn Docto, Natalie Wong, and Tory Houston participated on the winning medley relay team and also won individual events. Docto took the 50 free, Wong the 500 free, and Houston the 100 breaststroke. Also participating on the winning medley relay team was Emma McGuinness. Rounding out the first place finishers for the Dons were Marie Schmidt in the 100 free, Danielle Sticker in the 100 back, and Chelsea Finn in the IM.

The Dons diving team also joined in the party with Alexa Hernandez, Lisa Grau, and Emma Rigl going 1-2-3.

The Amador Valley JV girls turned in a complete sweep of Livermore High in the swimming and diving, taking first in every event, sweeping five events, and going 1-2 in three others. The final score was 149-38. Kayla Miller turned in a pair of individual wins taking the IM and the 500 free. Also posting two wins, one individual and one relay, were Sarah Turner (100 free, Medley), Lani Cohen (50 free, 200 relay), Michelle Schirle (100 fly, 200 relay), and Erica Efigenio (100 breast, Medley).

Posting individual wins were Katherine Lai (200 free) and Nicole Martin (100 back). Other members of the winning relay teams were Elle Surber in the medley relay and the 400 free relay, Emily Truax and Sophie Lair in the 200 free relay, and Elizabeth Lopez in the 400 free relay.

In diving results posted previously, the

Dons went 1-2-3 with Marina Mihov, Nicole George, and Alex Nottingham doing the honors.

It was a completely dominating performance for the Amador Valley JV boys swim team against Livermore. The Dons took first place in all but one event, swept four events, and went 1-2 in three other events recording a 139-41 victory.

Eric Hildebrand led the way with two individual firsts (50 free, 100 fly) and two relays (Medley and 200 Free). Not far behind were Joey Silva and Ben Sorsens who turned in one individual first and two relay first. Both were on the winning 200 and 400 free relays with individual wins in the 100 free (Silva) and the 200 free (Sorsens). Silva also took a second behind Hildebrand in the 50 free.

Matt Sun, won the 200 IM for Amador, while Alec Psnakis won the 100 back, and Alec Iniguez took the 100 breaststroke. James Cheney and Alec Groetgut participated in two winning relays (Medley, 400 Free). Other participants in the winning relay teams were Sneharth Mukherjee in the medley relay and Mahir Kalra in the 200 free.

Middle School Wrestling

Junction Avenue Middle School sent 27 wrestlers to the Harvest Park Tournament on Saturday, March, 28th and brought home 17 medals, 8th grader Alec Shenk won Most Valuable Wrestler of the tournament while the 8th grade girls took 2nd place overall in the tournament 7th Grade Boys Results: 116 lb Peter Cable 2nd, 118 lb Josue Medina 3rd, 202 lb Artimio Fennoy 3rd.

7th Grade Girls 114 lb Sara Gelb 3rd, 88 lb Gissel Manzann 3rd, 118 lb Josue Medina 3rd, 124 lb John Madrugra 2nd, 202 lb Artimio Fennoy 3rd.

8th Boys 76 lb Anthony Dumag 1st, 76 lb Curtis Agness 2nd, 83 lb Brandon Olsen 4th, 96 lb Jason Stanley 1st, 160 lb River Sandoval 4th, 163 lb Travis Head 3rd, 185 lb Keane Anderson 3rd.

8th Grade Girls 90 lb Brianna Hevle 3rd, 104 lb Summer Johnson 3rd, 137 lb Alex Schenk 1st, 142 lb Megan Parker 3rd.

The Mendenhall Middle School Mustangs had a good showing at the tough Harvest Park tournament as Mendenhall sent three wrestlers to the finals. 7th grader, Brian White won the 120lb class by pinning all his opponents. Dominex Kovacs wrestled well in the 105lb division to claim 2nd. Nick Campiotti wrestled his way to a 4th place finish in the 90lb class. For the 8th grade division, Kyle Campiotti won three matches before falling in the championship at 120lbs.

In the 125lb 6th grade division, Jonathon Davis lost his first match by a score of 7-3 and battled back to win his next three and come home with a bronze. The Harvest Park tournament is one of the toughest wrestling tournaments and all the Mendenhall wrestlers performed great.

East Avenue Middle School won the combined 6th-7th grade team championship at the Harvest Park Wrestling tournament last Saturday. The eighth-grade team finished third.

East advanced 15 wrestlers to the championship finals, claiming 3 gold medals. Seventh-grader Corbin Cofer (180 lb) and Dominik Luzader (115) led their team winning the gold medal in their weight class. Brandon Untalan (70), Thomas Lovett (85) Bryce Stovall (90), James Martin (95), Vince Volpatti (140), Shawn Hamby (150) and Matt Neale (HWT) took second place. Brandon West (105) took third and Bernadette Allen (150) took fourth. The team won the title with 64 points, edging out Caesar Chavez Middle School (63) and Albany (51).

Tyler Rardon (125) led the eighth-grade team winning the gold medal in his weight class. Nick Lang (105), Thomas Lovett (100), Roman Gerhard (130), Zac Byers (140) and Andre Flores (160) took second place. Mac Morgan (140) and Nick Vickers (115) took third and Gage Loge (120) took fourth.

Posting individual wins were Katherine Lai (200 free) and Nicole Martin (100 back). Other members of the winning relay teams were Elle Surber in the medley relay and the 400 free relay, Emily Truax and Sophie Lair in the 200 free relay, and Elizabeth Lopez in the 400 free relay.

In diving results posted previously, the

Seitz and Surber won the final two individual events of the meet, 100 back and 100 breast respectively, before the Dons 400 relay teams of Bahls, Gates, Brian Zhang, and Jack Payan; and Rajagopalan, Cunningham, Edward Zhang, and Hall went 1-2 to close the meet.

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In diving results posted previously, the

Overall, the team brought home 20 medals. Nick Vickers had the fastest pin for the team pinning his first opponent in 29 seconds.

Football/Cheer Signup

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

This is a full contact football league that has been established for 36 years. LYFandC's emphasis is on proper technique and fundamentals, responsibility, accountability, and most importantly being a good person and teammate.

All coaches are required to attend coaching clinics each year to strengthen their knowledge of the game.

Registration will be held April 16 from 6-8 pm at Round Table Pizza 1024 East Stanley Blvd. Discounts are available at January and February dates. Information go to website www.eteamz.com/lyfc or email lyfc@onebox.com

The league is currently accepting applications for both football and cheer coaches for the upcoming season.

Gymnity Gymnastics

Valentina Barbalinaro competed for Gymnity Gymnastics this past weekend at the Norcal Level 9 State Championships held in Visalia.

Barbalinaro placed 4th on vault and 6th on bars on her way to an 8th place all-around finish. Her all-around score was high enough to qualify her for Regional Championships. She will travel to Sacramento on April 17th to 19th to compete against the best level 9's from California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

Jr. Football Signup

Registration is underway for the upcoming Livermore Junior Football League (LJFL) season.

Due to its success over its two-year existence and the support of LARPD and the high school programs, LJFL is expanding to all children aged 9 through 14 (as of December 31, 2009).

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

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

For additional information, visit: www.LivermoreJuniorFootball.com.

Soccer Registration

Livermore Youth Soccer League is taking registration for the upcoming season. Registration can be accomplished on-line at Three Methods Available www.lysl.org. There will be a walk-in event Sat., April 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Livermore High School student union. Registration is also available by mail. Instructions will be available on the website after April 4. LYSL P.O. Box 881 Livermore, CA 94551; (925) 461-7570; www.lysl.org.

Zone 7 Graduated Flood Fee To Aid Developments

By Ron McNicoll

The Zone 7 board of directors has approved increases in the flood control fee for developers.

Acting at their board meeting March 18, directors voted to approve a graduated scale of increases. The vote was 6-0, with director Dale Myers absent.

Directors had been ready last year to impose a fee of \$1.82 per-square-foot of impermeable surface, all in one sum. (The fee is based on impermeable surface, because development's driveways and roofs bring more storm-water run-off.)

However, Livermore and Pleasanton complained that imposition of the fee would scare off major commercial developers who have projects in the pipeline. They asked for a phased-in approach, and argued for a lower fee. Dublin, also with growth on the horizon, joined them.

After a second look at the study for the fee revision, Zone 7 agreed to lower the fee to \$1.42, a fee that the cities still are not happy with. They want it to stop at \$1.10, and contend that Zone 7's estimates and formulas created a fee that is unrealistically high.

Because of the cities' continued concern, Zone 7 agreed that both sides will meet in 2012, after the fee goes up to \$1.10, and take another look at the fee schedule. The cities are hoping that specific information available at that time will allow a lowering or elimination of the remaining two increases after 2012.

Zone 7 is willing to look at that, but said that fees just as well might be put higher, if changing factors dictate that. Director John Greci said the new fee schedule is "a good resolution. It's the right thing to do. It may not please everyone. We have the responsibility to protect you."

Board member Dick Quigley agreed with Greci about cooperation, stating that the work on flood control projects would be accomplished "at a reasonable cost."

CRITICISM FOR PHASE-IN

The adopted fee schedule drew criticism at the public hearing March 18 from former Zone 7 board member Margaret Tracy.

Tracy said that the phase-in amounts to "a long postponement" of the fee. She said, "It's not yet the full fee which the studies show is necessary now. Why the delay?"

Don Miller, a representative of Citizens for Balanced Growth, couldn't attend the meeting. Tracy read his comments to the board. Miller's statement also opposed the phase-in. He said, "Zone 7 needs to represent the interests of people who live in the Valley. They do not want to subsidize growth."

Zone 7 staff member Brad Ledesma told the Independent later that with the slowdown in building, Zone 7 is not worried about failing to collect enough fees near the beginning of the five-year period. "The potential for a huge discrepancy (between collected fees and money to be spent) is fairly low. In 2012 we'll undertake a revision (of the analysis). The fee could go up or down," said Ledesma.

Tracy also quoted Miller as suggesting that the cities could pay the flood control fees for the developers, and be reimbursed later.

Ledesma told the Independent that the Zone 7 staff did bring up the idea of having the cities front the money. However, the cities didn't go for it. He said they talked about how it would add more of a burden to staff. The timing is also poor, coming as it does at a bad time for cities' general funds.

Sunol was represented unofficially at the hearing by resident Tom Harland, who lives next door to Sunol Glen elementary school. He said that in one past year, the Arroyo de la Laguna overflowed its banks, and flooded a part of the school's lawn. Harland said that Zone 7 has neglected Sunol. He and other letter signers, including the Sunol Glen school board, support the fee increase. "It's necessary to give our agency the funds to ensure our safety," Harland said.

Since the water at Sunol

comes from the three Valley cities, "we intend to hold Zone 7, and the cities of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton responsible for any future damage to our school, property and homes," said Harland.

Greci said that Zone 7 has held a lot of dialogue about Sunol's arroyo problems. "We haven't shoved it under the carpet. I've been on this board for 15 years. We have been very cooperative," he said.

DEVELOPER TALKS ABOUT CHALLENGE

Jim Pollart, vice president of land acquisition and planning for O'Brien Homes, told the Zone 7 board that putting the last two years of the fee-increase scale into the ordinance that was adopted may make it impossible to challenge those projected later-year rates in 2012.

Pollart cited a 120-day window after passage in which development fee ordinances can be challenged. He asked that the final two years be left out of the ordinance, so that O'Brien Homes would not have to challenge it now, but could wait three years, if it were found to be necessary then.

Zone 7 staff counsel Amy Naamani told the Independent that whether the 120-day statute of limitations is applicable or not, depending on various legal decisions over development fees, she is confident that Zone 7 would prevail in a lawsuit. The crucial point is that Zone 7's consultant has shown the nexus between the fee scale and the cost of the improvements, she said.

Pollart told the Independent that he and other developers don't really want to sue Zone 7. He said they will talk to Zone 7 board members and staff, and see if there can be some movement on the current status, so that there could be a capping of the fee at \$1.10 in 2012.

LATER FEE COLLECTION ADVOCATED

At the Zone 7 meeting, Pollart also raised the idea of having Zone 7 collect the flood control and water connection fees at the time a certificate of occupancy is issued to home-buyers. Currently, it is collected at the time a building permit is issued. The change would enable developers to pay out of the cash from

the home sale. Now, the money comes out of the upfront funding earmarked for developing the home, which has to be included in the finance package a developer gets from its lender. The sug-

gested change can help the developers' cash flow.

Pollart told the Independent. "If the cash flow were less burdened, a developer could build

more homes per month. Building more homes per month would produce more connection fees for Zone 7 each month, and help the agency's cash flow."

LPC Hosts Spanish Speaking Community

For the third time, Las Positas College will reach out to the Spanish-speaking community with Learning to Triumph III/Aprendiendo a Triunfar III on Saturday, April 4 on the college campus in Livermore.

The event is designed to showcase higher education opportunities to the Spanish-speaking community. This is a family event. All ages are welcome.

Jeff Baker, LPC Dean of Student Services, will welcome those attending. The day will include

both presentations and workshops on immigration, and English-as-a-Second Language. There will also be interactive workshops in science and photography for school age youth. The college will offer supervised activities and childcare for children 7 years of age and younger.

The day will begin with registration and refreshments outside of Building 2400. The program will begin at 10 a.m. in Building 2400, Room 2420. The event will conclude with lunch

in Building 1700. There is no charge to attend. Families are encouraged to attend and all ages are welcome. Please note, if you are driving to the campus please park in Lot E.

For further information, please contact Gilberto Victoria, Counselor/International Student Advisor at (925) 424-1477 or email him at gvictoria@laspositascollege.edu.

The college is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

LARPD Offers Special Programs

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District offers recreational activities for adults and young adults ages 15 and older who are developmentally disabled. Now in its second year with the District, the RADD (Recreation Activities for the Developmentally Disabled) program offers people a social outlet not previously available in Livermore.

LARPD added RADD to its programs in October 2007. Featured are day trips, dances and group activities. Since then, more than 80 people have participated in the program.

"We're trying to give people with developmental disabilities an opportunity to socialize and gain some independence," Recreation Supervisor Julie Lange said.

In addition to providing activities, RADD can also serve as a respite for caregivers. Participants may attend alone or with a caregiver if they need help getting around, eating or using the restroom. It is not necessary to be a Livermore resident to participate.

Upcoming offerings with LARPD's RADD program include: Oakland Zoo field trip, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday,

April 25; \$15. Karaoke Night, 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 15; \$10. Make-Your-Own-Pizza Night, 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 29; \$15.

All programs are rated on a scale of 1 to 10, based on the exertion level, in order for

caregivers to determine appropriate activities. Preregistration is required for all events. Look for the summer brochure for a continued list of activities. For more information on RADD, visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us or call 925-373-5721.

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OBITUARIES

Diane Marie Dibble

Diane Marie Dibble was born March 31, 1944 in St. Louis, MO, to Robert and Inez Earl and entered into rest March 23, 2009 in Livermore.

Diane was born and raised in St. Louis, MO, and attended Cleveland High School. She moved to California with her parents and sister in 1962. Diane married Russ Dibble in 1964. They began their family a year later. She enjoyed traveling, camping, listening to music, and spending time with her family and friends. Diane was a devoted and doting wife, mother, sister, and grandmother and a dear friend and confidant to many; she will be deeply missed.

Diane is survived by her husband of 45 years Russ Dibble, son and daughter-in-law Stephen and Laurie Dibble of Rocklin, CA, daughter Katherine Junnilla of Walnut Creek, CA, sister Cynthia Earl and her family of Ceres, CA, brother and sister-in-law Kenneth and Linda Earl and their family of Nashville, TN, and her 5 grandchildren.

A Catholic Chapel Blessing was held Monday, March 30 in Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Peter Tololi

Peter Tololi died March 24, 2009. He was born July 1, 1972. He was a resident of Tracy.

Pete was a devoted husband, father, and friend to be missed by many. He enjoyed being a loving father and spending time with his children. Anyone who met Pete, quickly grew to love his dynamic personality and warm spirit. He was truly a loyal friend.

He is remembered by his many friends for always being there in good times and in bad.

He enjoyed going to Raiders games with his wife, kids, and friends and golfing on Sundays with his father. His friendship, personality and BBQ will be forever remembered by many friends, families, and fellow Raiders fans.

Pete is survived by his wife of 2 1/2 years Lisa Tololi, his children Peter Jr. (16), Rocco (18 months), and daughter Liana (3 months); his loving parents, Bill and Kathy Tololi; his siblings Rachel Tololi, William Tololi, Lima Tii, and Naomi Laban; his Aunt Theresa and many nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends; his mother and father-in-law Bruce and Becky Robinson. All

who were in his life were family to him.

Memorial services were held Tuesday March 31, 2009 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. He was laid to rest at the Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 3873 East Ave following the service. Celebration of his life continued immediately following at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to The Peter Tololi Memorial Fund at Uncle Credit Union a/c 2241788.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Michael A. Corniola

Michael "Mike" A. Corniola died March 27, 2009. He was born Nov. 20, 1931 and grew up in Oakland, CA.

He served two years in the army during the Korean conflict, earning two Bronze Stars. During his life, he loved to hunt and just spend time with his family. He especially loved hearing his wife play the piano and listening to Italian music.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Gloria, his children Carla Nuccio of Brentwood and Nick Corniola of Discovery Bay; grandchildren, Michael, Sebastiano, Krista and Nicole, nieces Doreen and Janice Corniola, great-nephews Nico and Marco and great-niece Noel. Mike is resting in peace with his parents, brother and beloved granddaughter, Dina.

Friends and family are invited

to a funeral service at 11 a.m. on Thurs., April 2 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton. Burial will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Mission Blvd., Hayward.

Geneva Faith Haynes

Livermore resident and California native Geneva Haynes, age 85, died peacefully on Sunday March 22, 2009.

Her youth was spent in Ridgefield, WA, where she graduated from Rainer Vista High School before returning to California. As the loving wife of Robert Haynes, they made their home in Hayward, CA, where they raised her sons, John and Steve. Geneva moved to Livermore in 1998. Geneva loved music, played the organ and had a beautiful singing voice. She was multi-talented, enjoyed crafts, cooking, sewing, and crocheting. Geneva enjoyed watching sports as a Raiders and A's season ticket holder.

The friends and family Geneva leaves behind will miss her happy, caring, generous nature. The family thanks Silver Oaks Manor for their tender care of Geneva the last years of her life. Memorial contributions may be made to The Alzheimer's Association.

James Richard Mann

May 21, 1929 - March 25, 2009

Jim Mann, 79, passed away on March 25, 2009 in Manteca,

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Fraternal Order of Eagles Support Eagles Projects

Saturday, April 4, 2009 • 9 am-4pm
527 N. Livermore Avenue

Free Recycle

televisions • monitors
laptops • flatscreens
cell phones • iPods

\$5 Recycle

CPU's • keyboards • printers
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SUNDAYS, 9AM-1PM

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MAY 14, 4PM-8PM

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SHORT NOTES

Nature Programs

Join the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District rangers for the second wildflower hike of the season. This time the group will get an early start. Meet 8 a.m. on Sat., April 4 at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park.

By pecking into the mule's ears and mallow blooms before the morning chill has faded, participants may catch some of the incredibly beautiful native bees bivouacked down against the cold. Bring a camera. There will likely be other wildflowers to admire along the way. The full hike will be about five miles with some moderately steep sections. If this sounds like a bit much, please join anyway, and feel free to head back when you begin to tire. The hike will last about two hours.

A Sp-Egg-Tacular will be held Sun., April 5. Join this program to discover just what the egg has going for it. Meet Ranger Dawn Soles at 10 a.m. at the group picnic area at Veterans Park.

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

School Honors

Pleasanton California resident Paul Beinar received the National High School Honors Distinction along with two previous awards from John Hopkins University where he placed in the top 2% of U.S. High School students in the seventh grade. In addition to track and wrestling, Paul has also studied classical piano with Irina Antipova where he received Level 6 performance Certification although his favorite instrument is the electric guitar.

The National High School Honor Society announcement was made by founder and Chairman Claes Nobel senior member of the family that established the Nobel prizes.

Nobel stated, "On behalf of NSHS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice and commitment that Paul Beinar has achieved to this exceptional level of Academic excellence."

Scholarships Available

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

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

Essays submitted by regular first-class mail must be postmarked by April 22 and sent to the address indicated on the website. Essays submitted by email must be sent no later than April 24 to jmpersco@comcast.net. Questions should be directed to that email address. Winners will be announced May 1.

Alisal Earth Week

Alisal Elementary School in Pleasanton is celebrating "Earth Week" from Monday, April 6 through Thursday, April 9, on campus at 1454 Santa Rita Road at Black Avenue.

The purpose is to further develop and celebrate the students' awareness of recycling

and other environmental concerns. This year's topic is plastic bag pollution and solutions. There will be two main areas of focus this year—a classroom educational campaign and lunchtime events on campus. It is being sponsored by the *Go Green Initiative* Committee at Alisal comprised of students, teachers, the principal, and parent volunteers.

On Mon., April 6 there will be a kick-off event 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. featuring "Educational Booth Displays with Community Partners."

All students will receive an "Earth Week Invitation" which includes an information page inviting them to participate in Earth Week's daily activities. Then at lunchtime, students experience hands-on educational interaction with a booth fair of community education partners including Pleasanton Garbage Service, Inc., Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, Alameda County Health and Vector Control, Foothill Worm Ranch and others. Students will also visit a display in the library created by our Go Green Club of 4th and 5th graders educating them on the plastic bag theme.

Tues., April 7, the topic is "The Plastic Bag Food Chain" and "Go Green T-Shirts for Sale." *Go Green Initiative* t-shirts made especially for Alisal Elementary School will also be on sale in the lunch area for \$9. Students will be encouraged to wear them on Thursday for Go Green Spirit Day. In the classroom, students will study about the many negative impacts of plastic bags on our world.

"Bag It!" Journaling/Writing and "Litter-free Lunch Day" is the theme of Wed., April 8. Students will bag the idea of using plastic bags forever and come up with a list of alternative choices for: grocery shopping, mall shopping, packing lunches, trash can liners, and anything else they can think of. As a fundraiser, Alisal will sell unique, reusable, washable sandwich wrappers which are the latest and greatest invention for packing a litter-free lunch.

Go Green Club Lunchtime Theater Skits and "The Climate Project" will be held Thurs., April 9. Fourth and fifth grade students from the Go Green Club will perform a "lunchtime theater" skit about lunch waste, recycling trash, and what happens to our trash. (See insert box below for interesting facts and websites.) Students will also compete to create "Reusable Eco-Designer Shopping Totes" and winning classes will receive fiber-reinforced, reusable bags donated by Trader Joe's of Pleasanton. The day will end with an assembly presentation by "The Climate Project" organization based on the famous environmental awareness work done by Al Gore.

The event is open to students of Alisal. However, the information learned and materials received will go home with each student and be shared with family, neighbors, and friends. This is the fifth year Alisal has sponsored the Earth Week program and the *Go Green Initiative* Committee sponsors this event annually. For questions or more information about Earth Week at Alisal, contact our principal Amy Simone at (925) 426-4200. For information about the Go Green Initiative that Alisal participates in, contact the Director, Jill Buck, at www.gogreeninitiative.org. For general information about Alisal Elementary School, visit our website at www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/alisal/.

Springtown Library

Springtown Library will offer a drop-in Springtime Craft Program on Thursday, April 9, any time between 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

On Saturday, April 11, the program at 11 a.m. will be "We Love Our Pets." Special guest Leslie Haas, from Tri-Valley Animal Shelter, will talk about choosing the right

pet. John Weaver will entertain everyone with cute stories and songs about pets.

Baby Storytime is at 10:30 a.m. and Preschool Storytime 11 a.m. every Thursday through May.

These programs will take place at the Springtown Branch of the Livermore Public Library, 998 Bluebell Drive, just off I-580 at the Springtown exit, next to the duck pond. Open to the public. Free of charge.

Call (925) 373-5517, or drop by the Springtown Branch Library, for more information.

Immunization Clinics

Axis Community Health has scheduled its free spring immunization clinics for children on April 4, May 2 and June 6, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The clinics will take place at Axis' Pleasanton Clinic only located at 4361 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

Saturday Immunization clinics are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Parents should bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations.

Immunization appointments are also available at (925) 462-1755.

Student Exchange Program

The Livermore Yotosukaiko Sister City Organization (LYSCO) provides the opportunity each October for Livermore students to travel to Yotsukaiko, Japan. Students live with host families for 8-10 days, attend school in Yotsukaiko, and participate in many other cultural experiences.

Students eligible to apply for this opportunity are current 7th grade students (8th grade students in October 2009) who reside in Livermore. There will be a mandatory introductory/informational meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00PM in the East Avenue Middle School Library for those interested. Students, parents and/or guardians will learn about the application process, how the program works, and will have the chance to ask questions to some of the past students and chaperones. At least one parent or guardian must attend with each student.

Sleep Expert

The Las Positas College Psychology Department welcomes back sleep researcher Dr. William Dement. Dement, who opened the first sleep center more than 30 years ago at Stanford University, will speak on the topic of Sleep and Dreams at Las Positas on Thursday, April 2 from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. in Building 2400, Room 2420.

Dement is considered the "father" of modern sleep medicine and was the first researcher in his field to recognize Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep as a distinct biological state with unique properties including vivid dreams and muscle paralysis.

He is also the author of the definitive textbook on the diagnosis and treatment of sleep disorders, founding co-editor of the scientific journal Sleep, and has written or co-authored more than 500 scientific publications including the best seller The Promise of Sleep. He is the Director of the Stanford University Sleep Research and Clinical Programs department.

Admission to the event is \$5 and tickets may be purchased in the Las Positas College bookstore.

For more information please contact Ernie Jones, Department of Psychology, at (925) 424-1217.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Amador Valley Quilt Guild will meet on Sat., April 4, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Avenue, Pleasanton. The meeting will feature Ellen Edith speaking about her Funny Story Quilts. Please note this meeting is one week earlier than usual. The guild is a non-profit educational association for quilters of all skill levels. Anyone interested in quilting may attend. For further information about the guild or upcoming speakers, please visit our website, <http://amadorvalleyquilters.org>.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA. general meeting April 14, 1:30 p.m. Dublin Library. Table topics in Dublin, April 5, 1 p.m., RSVP by April 2 to Jeanne, 361-6110. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Sheraton Hotel, April 17, 5 p.m., RSVP by April 15, Lorraine, 463-3330. Opera night and dinner in Oakland, Colombo Club, 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., RSVP to Gino, 243-1282. Friendly bridge and optional lunch in Livermore, April 18, 1 p.m., RSVP by April 15 to Harriet, 447-8229.

Alameda County Tri-Valley chapter of the National Organization for Women (ACT NOW) will hold its monthly chapter meeting on Wednesday, April 8th at 7pm at the Round Table Pizza, 540 Main St. in downtown Pleasanton. Our speaker will be Nola Brantley, Executive Director of MISSEY, (Mentoring, Inspiring, Supporting and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth). Speaker will start at 7:30pm, child care will be provided. For more information, call (925) 462-1776.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sun., April 5, 25-35 miles from Dublin to Sunol, meet 10 a.m. at Dublin High School, Peter Rathmann, 828-1973. Swap meet, Sun., April 5, 1 to 4 p.m., Dublin High School, 8151 Village Parkway, Dublin - free admission. Wed., April 8, 35 miles Fairfield to Wooden Valley, meet 10 a.m. at Budweiser Factory, Barbara Wood, 707-745-6353. Any-one planning to go on a ride is asked to contact the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, sponsoring a candlelight vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton, on Wed., April 8, at 7 p.m. Participants will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Call Cathie Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mj7882@gmail.com; or kdowing@pacbell.net.

Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated will host guest speaker David Wolfe, Legislative Director of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, at a dinner meeting starting 6:30pm on Thursday, April 9, at La Vite Restaurant, 3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Discussion topics will include the effects of parcel taxes and the substance of Proposition 1A. \$26 for members, \$30 for nonmembers. Advance reservations are required by April 5. Call (925) 846-5944.

Introduction to Yoga, Cosmic Dog Yoga is offering an introduction to yoga workshop on April 5th from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Sign up online at www.CosmicDogYoga.com or call us at (925) 456-YOGA.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network, meets 7 p.m. Mon., April 20, program on organic gardening. Shawn Seufert, owner of Terra Bella Farms in Pleasanton will offer information on how to evaluate soil; how to amend soil; when to start planting; what produce does the best; and organic pest control, all just in time for planting season. Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St.,

Pleasanton. This meeting is free for members, as well as for first time visitors to Tri-Valley HMN. For further information, please visit www.holisticmoms.com.

2009 Northern California Firefighter Recruitment Fair, sponsored by CFFIAC Commission to Recruit Women for the Fire Service. Meet fire department recruiters. Open to women and men interested in a future in the fire service. Saturday, May 2, 2009, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CPAT Testing Center, 526 Commerce Way, Livermore. For more information: call 916-648-1717, or visit <http://www.becomingafirefighter.org>.

Free computer classes, Livermore Library: Google and Beyond, Saturday, April 4, 10:15 - 12:15pm.; Introduction to Microsoft Word, Saturday, April 18, 10:15 - 12:15 pm.; E-mail Basics, Saturday, April 25, 10:15 - 12:15 pm. Participants will receive help in setting up an e-mail account in Google Mail Classes are hands-on, first come, first served and take place in Community Room B at the library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. For more information call 373-5505.

Mount Diablo Rose Society, meets 7:30 p.m. Wed., April 8 at the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza. Guest speaker Rose Lovall will discuss companion planting for roses. Meetings are free and open to the public. Information, contact Vicky Shore at 200-6972.

Lock & Key Dance Party in Pleasanton, Fri., April 3, 8 p.m. to midnight. Marriott Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Rd., Pleasanton. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. <http://Lockandkeymatch.com>. Single professionals of all ages are invited. Every female receives a lock and every male gets a key upon arrival to the party. you then have to find a lock that matches the key or vice versa. Each time a lock and key match both guests are entered into a raffle to win top prizes.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club, luncheon 11:30 a.m. April 16 at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. Nursery owner Jacquie Courtright-Williams will present a talk on kitchen gardening. 735-6483.

Senior Health Fair, Ridge View Commons, 5200 Case Ave., Pleasanton. Sat., April 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission. Health professionals will be on hand to answer Medical and Health questions. If there are any questions please call ore-mail Lucile Granica, Activity Chairperson, at 925-462-6298 or lgranica@yahoo.com.

43rd Annual Pancake Breakfast, hosted by Sunol 4-H, Sun., April 26, 8 a.m. to noon, Sunol Glen Elementary School. Also a bake sale, plant sale and silent auction. Proceeds benefit 4-H group projects. Adults \$6, children \$4. For more information, or for advance tickets, contact a Sunol 4-H member or call, Paulette Hartkopf (510) 862-6247.

Armed Travelers, Livermore Civic Center Library, Thurs., April 9, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Bob Coomber a.k.a. Four Wheel Bob will share digital photographs of his White Mountain ascent. Coomber's ascent is the first known wheelchair ascent of White Mountain, the third highest peak in California. Adults are invited to this free program on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Rooms of the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 373-5500.

Senior Travel, Pleasanton Senior Center VIP Club offering three trips. For reservations or more information, contact the VIP travel desk at 931-5370. Monterey Movie Tour, Wed., April 22, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. guided tour of the area and lunch at Pebble Beach, \$123, reservation deadline March 20. Ironstone Vineyards and Murphys, Wed., May 13, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. tour, tasting, lunch and organ concert at Winery; shopping in Murphys. \$79/\$81.

Rabbit Adoption and Education, sponsored by Dublin Tri-Valley SPCA, House Rabbit Society, Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary, and Martinez Rabbit Rescue, held at

the Dublin Tri-Valley SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive, Dublin on the 1st Saturday of each month, 11am - 4pm. Meet abused or abandoned bunnies who are looking for new homes; get answers to all your rabbit care questions; find out if a rabbit is the right companion for you; bring your bunny in for a date; buy toys and treats for your critters; or just come play with the bunnies! For information, go to www.eastbayspca.org/ or contact Karen Johanson at kjohanson@menke.com or 510-727-1589.

RELIGION

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Palm Sunday service 9 a.m. Maundy Thursday service Thurs., April 9, 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service, April 10, 7:30 p.m. Easter Sunday sunrise service at 6:30 p.m., Easter celebration at 9 a.m. Information 447-1950.

Community Good Friday service, Fri., April 10, noon at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1020 Mocho St. Livermore. Special ecumenical service featuring a combined choir, pastors from six congregations, and a remembrance. All are invited.

Dealing with grief, support group for those who have lost a loved one. Sessions Thursdays starting April 16 to June 4, 7:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Preregistration is required. Space is limited. A \$15 donation is requested. Meetings open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Call Mary, 846-5377 with questions.

Discovering the grace in chaos, Jim Curtan will lead a session to explore the tension between the perception of Chaos and the presence of Grace through the Three Columns of Caroline Myss's work, "Sacred Contracts." The workshop will be held at the San Damian Retreat Center, Danville on April 18 (9:00 am - 9:30 pm) and April 19 (9:00 am - 3:00 pm). Registration deadline is 3/30. Cost is \$250 for both days, including lunch. Contact Beth Pasqualina at (925) 208-1559 or bpasqualina@comcast.net. Jim Curtan is a faculty member of the Caroline Myss Educational Institute (CMED), a certified Spiritual Director, retreat leader and motivational speaker.

Potluck Passover Seder, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will hold a community potluck on Sat., April 11 at 5 p.m. at the Bothwell Center, 2688 8th St. in Livermore. The seder features the reading of a Secular Progressive Haggadah. The Haggadah is the traditional retelling of the exodus from Egypt, which the Secular Humanistic Jewish movement expands to a celebration of freedom all over the world. The seder is child-friendly. The potluck is not kosher-for-pesakh. The suggested donation for non-member adults (over 13) is \$10. For reservations, call Jamie at 510 888 1404 or e-mail reservations@Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org.

Studies of St. Paul the Apostle, 5 week Bible study series hosted by the St. Charles/St. Michaels' Bible Study Group beginning Monday, April 20 and running through May 18 from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in Borromeo Hall, 1315 Lomas Ave., in Livermore. The presenter for this series is well known scripture scholar Fr. Tom Bonacci. This is a study that is open to all faiths and ages. A donation of \$5/evening for the speaker would be appreciated. Julie at upcatholic@aol.com or 925-447-4549 ext114.

Valley Christian Schools has open enrollment now. Pre-school to high school. Call for a private tour. 925-560-6200. Website www.dublinvctour.org. Also accepting enrollment for summer camps including football camp with NFL players, soccer, volleyball, basketball and more.

New location - Tri-Valley Unity church now meets at 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon, for weekly Sunday services at 10 a.m. The theme for Palm Sunday is "Preparing the Way: Becoming Willing to Accept God's Will for our Lives." (925) 998-0038.

EASTER SEASON SPECIAL SERVICES



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4th Street at South L Street, Livermore, CA
925/447-2078 www.fpc-livermore.org

PALM SUNDAY, April 5, 2009

Worship at 9 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.

(ASL interpreting at 10:30 a.m.)
Children lead us into worship with a procession of waving palm fronds. Special music by Sanctuary and Children's Choirs.

Pancake breakfast 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 9, 2009

(Communion)

Soup supper 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Worship service at 7 p.m., sanctuary

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

1315 Lomas Ave., Livermore (925) 447-4549 www.stcharlesborromeo.org

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 9

7:30 PM: Mass of the Lord's Supper & Adoration of the Eucharist

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10

1:30 PM: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion • 7:30 PM: Stations of the Cross
Presented by St. Charles Youth Ministry - All are Welcome

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 11

8:30 PM: The Great Vigil of Easter

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM: Beautiful Music at all Services



Tri Valley
Foursquare Church

Sundays 10 am, Wednesdays 6:30 pm
931 Larkspur Dr. (Springtown hall) Livermore
925-292-0955 • www.therocktvfc.org

United Christian Church

Where God is Still Speaking

1886 College Avenue (at South M), Livermore
Sunday Worship at 10:30 am

Progressive • Open • Welcoming • Listening

Sunday Worship & Children's Program 10:30 am

Celebrating Spring - Explore New Life

Palm Sunday, April 5: 10:30am Worship
Maundy Thursday, April 9: 6:30pm Soup Supper
7:00pm Service of Remembrance & Communion
Easter Sunday, April 12: 9:30-10:30am Continental Breakfast
10:30am Worship, Easter Egg Hunt after worship

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A partnership church of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Our Savior
invites you
to worship with us:

PALM SUNDAY

April 5

9 a.m. (classic), 11 a.m. (contemporary)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9, 7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 10, 7 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 12

9 a.m. (classic), 11 a.m. (contemporary)

*Join us in the gym for Easter brunch anytime between 9:30 a.m. and noon.



OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES
1385 S. Livermore Avenue
Livermore • (925) 447-1246

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COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE
VICTORY YOU CAN HAVE
THROUGH JESUS THE CHRIST!

CHILDRENS EASTER EGG HUNT

FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday School Starts at 9:00am

Easter Morning Worship Starts at10:30am

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THERE'S A NEW CHURCH IN TOWN



The "Everything New" Easter Celebration
New Church • New Facility • New Time
New Life in Jesus

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH - 10 AM
at 1040 Florence Road, Livermore
(formerly Arroyo Mocho School)

Info: Luke Brower (925) 337-5581 or
luke@livermorealive.org

It's a perfect chance to check us out
if you missed our Grand Opening



The Low Ding ZoneT to perform.

Handbell Concert Slated for Sunday

The Low Ding ZoneT has been invited to perform a non-traditional handbell concert at Livermore's Asbury United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m.

The concert is open to the public at no cost. The Low Ding Zone is the world's first bass-only handbell ensemble. They perform traditional music with tongue planted firmly in cheek to the delight and entertainment of their audiences. In addition to the ensemble works, there will be two solos performed by "Artistic Figurehead," Larry Sue,

and choir member, Lisa "Ring-leader" Arnold.

The Low Ding Zone was established in 2006 as an experiment as a bass bell ringing ensemble by members of the Area XII handbell conference at Belmont. It officially became part of the Handbell Ventures organization in December, 2006. They restrict the range of notes to those at or below middle C, which opens up new possibilities by restricting their musical operating space. They explore and stretch the musical, technical and theatrical envelope of bass ringing to demonstrate that

the "impossible" is merely "demanding, but doable."

The public is invited to attend the concert at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue in Livermore which will start at 7:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend. There will be a free-will offering which will go to support further concerts by the Low Ding Zone, and for Asbury's own handbell choir music program.

For more information, please contact Asbury United Methodist Church at (925) 447-1950 or Thomas Petty at (925) 980-8164.

California Independent Film Festival – A Deal is a Deal

By Leonard Pirkle

The next feature film for your consideration is, "A Deal is a Deal," also known by its UK title as "Three and Out." It is a story about Paul (Mackenzie Crook), a tube driver (think BART), who within a few weeks has two fatalities happen while he is driving his train. This creates the film's premise, that if he has a third fatality within a 30 day period he will be paid 10 years salary and retired from his job. Paul really wants to be a writer and move out of London to a small secluded house on an island in rural Scotland. He begins a search for someone considering suicide, in order to encourage them to make his train their last act of choice.

Paul's time is running out and after a few mishaps with potential candidates, he finds his willing volunteer, Tommy Cassidy (Colm Meaney) in the process of jumping off an overpass into oncoming traffic. What unfolds is not a comic romp or slapstick adventure but a "buddy film" that rolls comedy, drama and ro-



Clip from film.

mance into a nice package. Never certain when the film will be funny or sad, the viewer is kept wondering what can happen next. Paul and Tommy embark on a final weekend journey into unfinished business and resolutions of past mistakes as Tommy tries to right a few wrongs before stepping in front of Paul's train at 10:06 am on Monday morning.

What develops over the weekend is a friendship and dependency on each following through with their agreed upon actions – when as things change and intentions are tested, Tommy reminds Paul, "a deal is a deal." We discover that Tommy was never one to stay long and left

behind a wife and daughter 8 years ago without any word. The strained relationships and Tommy's desire to do "something right" before his time is up brings a few heartfelt moments to the film and begins to eat away at Paul's detached approach to someone ending their life while he is behind the wheel.

The film is directed by Jonathan Gershfield and written by Steve Lewis and Tony Owen. The subject matter is touchy, but the film does a good job of dealing with rationalizations and motivations to do things that at first blush would seem extreme or absurd. The acting is very good with the main cast all very established actors who know how to deliver the lines and make you believe in the characters. Tommy's estranged daughter Frankie is played by Gemma Arterton who was Strawberry Fields in the latest James Bond film, A Quantum of Solace.

I strongly recommend this film, especially to those fans of British humor. The subject matter is very adult. There is strong language and some nudity, so this film is not appropriate for anyone under 17. The film will be screening at the Vine Cinema on Saturday April 18th from 10 am until 11:30 am.

The California Independent Film Festival holds its annual film festival in Livermore; this year is the Festival's 11th anniversary and the 8th event held in Livermore.

The Festival will be held April 16th through the 19th in downtown Livermore with screenings at the Vine Cinema and the Livermore Cinemas, both on First Street. Check out our schedule of events at www.caindiefilmfest.org and keep reading The Independent for more California Independent Film Festival news and information.

Program of 'Music by Request' Planned

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band returns to the Amador Theater for its 34th Annual Spring Concert on April 5. This year's theme is Spring Potpourri -- By Request.

The Band will play selections requested by Band members and supporters including Concert Piece No. 2 for 2 Solo Clarinets featuring Foothill High School student Tara Najim and Joe

Bonfiglio on clarinets, a tribute to Benny Goodman, Caucasian Sketches by Ippolitov-Ivanov featuring Livermore High student Alex Curtis on English Horn, and Victor Herbert's Gold Bug March. Rounding out the program will be favorites of the audience requested over the years.

The concert will start at 2:00

p.m. on Sunday, April 5, 2009 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton.

The concert is free, although donations are appreciated. The Amador Theater doors will open at 1:40 p.m.

For more information call 925-846-5897 or go to the Pleasanton Community Concert Band website at www.pleasantonband.org.

From Spanish Gypsies to Danish Kings

By Nancy O'Connell

"Overtures in the earlier periods of opera were meant to quiet down the members of the audience while they were still eating their dinners and talking. The music was meant to grab their attention," Dr. Art Barnes told the audience in the pre-concert talk on March 28th. The Livermore-Amador Symphony played to a full house on that night at the Bankhead Theater. After Dr. Barnes spoke, the flute soloist, Jeff Pelletier talked about the challenges he faced in playing the Khachaturian Violin Concerto. Since it was originally composed for the violin, Jean-Pierre Rampal arranged the solo part for the flute, while the orchestral part remains unchanged. One of the biggest difficulties is that the flutist cannot play double stops or more than one note at a time, so all of those passages had to be altered.

The concert opened with Mozart's Overture to *Cosi Fan Tutte*, K.588. Composed in 1790, it is the last of the three operas written with the librettist, Lorenzo da Ponte. It has a humorous theme of men trying to prove that women are inconstant. The music is superb. The overture is tightly woven, hinting at many of the melodies to be heard in the opera. There was a beautiful oboe solo played by Alex Curtis, who is still in high school, followed by a question and answer section between the oboe and the flute which was accompanied by the full orchestra. In the strings, with their delightful harmonies, there was uniform bowing.

The Concerto for Flute and Orchestra by Aram Khachaturian was heard after Mozart's gem. The Armenian composer, Khachaturian, lived from 1903 to 1959 and did not begin to study music until he was 19 years old! Born in Tbilisi, Georgia, he became steeped in folk music, and like Bartok and Kodaly, he became known for using as his inspiration some of the Armenian folk songs. In the first movement, the *Allegro con fermezza*, Jeff's flute soared over the orchestra in a long solo passage accompanied by 'celli pizzicato. Jeff surmounted all of the technical difficulties with seeming ease, and the orchestra had demanding parts as well with tricky rhythms. The theme returned towards the end of the first movement with the first oboe and the solo flute. Then a long, intricate cadenza was heard. Dr. Barnes gave a very clear cue to the orchestra at the end of the cadenza. Everyone entered and there were sorrowful sustained passages with an Eastern sound. One could close one's eyes and see the steppes of Russia or Siberia as the village theme returned.

In the second movement, the *Andante sostenuto*, Jeff in his lecture suggested that we think of the flute as the hero. He is really working at hard, physical labor. Then a mysterious section follows when he is recalling his good friend, who may be in a prison camp in Siberia, and afterwards the hero returns to his labors. The *Andante* opens with a duet between the bassoon and

clarinet, which is given to the solo flute. He has an ascending passage and a subdued accompaniment in the strings. A lyrical melody is introduced by the viola section. Strange rhythms lead to a fortissimo climax with all of the brass and full orchestra. Then it drops down to the solo flute with quiet, subdued strings, and the movement ends in a whisper.

In the third movement, fireworks ensue with all of the percussion enthusiastically entering plus the full orchestra. The solo flute's notes flew above the other voices. Dr. Barnes had full control, and the orchestra never drowned out the flute. His beats were always sure and definite. Syncopation and difficult rhythms led to a grand finale with several cadences and the whirlwind of a fast-paced dance.

After the intermission, Jean Sibelius's *King Christian II Suite* began with the 'celli introducing a mournful melody. Rich sonorities in all of the strings were heard throughout the first movement. Bassoons and winds joined in with the second movement in a jolly, rollicking tune. The story told, however, is a tragic one of this 16th century king who spent the last 27 years of his life in prison. In the *Ballade* intricate passages are interwoven with running notes in the violins. There is a fugal pattern with all of the different sections of the orchestra facing equally demanding parts which lead to an exciting and vibrant conclusion.

Bizet's *Carmen Suite No. 2* closed the program, and the stage was suddenly filled with musicians. The strings from The Las Positas College Orchestra, as trained by Cindy Browne Rosefield, joined the group already seated, and there were ten 'celli rather than six, many more

violins and violas, and three extra basses who were hidden by the configuration of the stage for those of us seated on the right side.

Familiar to all, the beginning was well played. The instruments substitute for the voices in the most popular arias. The concertmaster, Kristina Anderson, had a beautiful solo which was answered by the French horns. The famous Toreador song was played brilliantly by the first trumpet, Michael Portnoff. Later a trumpet fanfare was contrasted with a piccolo, high and transparent above the orchestra. A flute and piccolo melody was accompanied by the lower strings – the violas, 'celli, and double basses being plucked – a long pizzicato passage which allowed the high voices to be heard. A frantic, driving pace led to the grand cadences which brought the work to a rousing end.

The audience enjoyed the exciting and familiar conclusion to the program, and it made a satisfying end to a musical evening. To begin and end a program with the familiar is probably successful programming. The two less well-known works were sandwiched in the center, and the brilliant musicianship of the flute soloist, Jeff Pelletier, will be long remembered. How fortunate this community has been to have Dr. Art Barnes travel to Livermore from the Stanford campus all these many years (45!) every Tuesday night through rain, hail, storms, and traffic, to encourage the players, who are primarily volunteers between the ages of 14 to 90! He has given an inspiring continuity to the musical community of the Tri-Valley. Save the date of May 16th for the next concert of the Livermore-Amador Symphony, titled "Along the Rhine" led by guest conductor Joshua Cohen.

LAA Annual Spring Show This Weekend

Livermore artists are putting the finishing touches on their artworks for the annual Spring Art Show. It will be held April 4-5 at The Barn on 3131 Pacific Avenue, Livermore.

The show is presented by the

Exhibit of 'Christ Centered Art' Open to Public

Trinity Baptist Church in Livermore is hosting an arts festival entitled, "A Celebration of Christ Centered Arts," on Sat., April 4 and Sun., April 5.

The public is invited to view the works of 16 artists from the Tri-Valley displaying works based upon the theme of Holy Week. Three special guests will present lectures/demonstrations: Gary McCoy from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley; Father Leo Arrowsmith, an icon painter and priest of St. Innocent Orthodox Church in Livermore; and David Robinson, an artist from Mill Valley.

The art festival is open to the public Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 3 p.m. The church is located at 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. For additional information, call 447-1848.

Livermore Art Association. It is free and open to the public. Hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

A festive reception will be held on Saturday April 4 from 7:00pm - 9:00 pm. Hors d'oeuvres and local wines will be served. The band, Jeff Reed and Friends, will provide music. Judges will present awards at 7:30 pm. The public is invited to attend.

Most artwork is for sale. There will be a fine arts and crafts sales room with additional art, cards and prints. Artists, there is still time to enter. The entry application and more information can be found at www.livermoreartassociation.org.

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW			
MONSTERS VS. ALIENS 3D (PG) 3D	11:50	12:50	2:00	3:00	4:10
	5:20	6:30	7:30	8:40	9:40
FAST & FURIOUS (PG13) DLP	12:00	1:15	2:00	2:45	3:50 4:35
	5:30	6:30	7:10	8:15	9:00 9:45
ADVENTURELAND (R) DLP			1:00	4:05	6:40 9:25
HAUNTING IN CONNECTICUT (PG13) DLP				12:10	2:30 4:45 7:05 9:20
I LOVE YOU, MAN (R) DLP	12:15	2:40	5:00	7:20	9:40
KNOWING (PG13) DLP		1:40	4:30	7:15	9:50
DUPLICITY (PG13) DLP		12:45	3:45	6:45	9:35
RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG) DLP	12:05	2:20	4:40	7:00	9:15
TAKEN (PG13) DLP	12:40	2:50	5:10	7:25	9:45
12 ROUNDS (PG13) DLP		1:20	4:00	6:50	9:30

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE presents

WORKING

A musical based on the book by Studs Terkel

Adapted by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso

Songs by James Taylor, Stephen Schwartz, Craig Carnelia, Micki Grant, Mary Rodgers and Susan Birkenhead

March 27, 28 · April 3, 4, 17, 18 | 8 pm
April 5, 19 | 2 pm

Produced and Directed by Ken Ross

General Admission \$15 | Seniors \$12 | Students \$10
Tickets: Las Positas College Bookstore & Fine Fretted Friends (Downtown Livermore)

Advance Reservations (925) 424-1812 | Show Information (925) 424-1166

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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

The City of Livermore cordially invites you to an

OPEN HOUSE

for the Livermore Regional Performing Arts Theater
on Monday, April 6, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.
in the City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue

The purpose of the Open House is to provide an opportunity for questions and answers regarding the estimated financial capacity of the Redevelopment Agency, the proposed structure of the financing for the Regional Performing Arts Theater and the operation and use plan for the Theater.

For more information, please call the City of Livermore Planning Division, at (925) 960-4450.

'Working' at Las Positas College is Terrific

by Susan Steinberg

WORKING. Everybody does it, but does anyone else care? Who wants to interview an ordinary working stiff? And who would be crazy enough to sing and dance about these everyday drudges?

WORKING. Studs Terkel's book of interviews with folks from factory workers to chief executives won a Pulitzer Prize and international acclaim. Creative artists like James Taylor, Steven Schwartz, and Mary Rodgers (daughter of composer Richard) put heart and soul into a musical that brings the book to vibrant life (and rocks the socks off the audience).

"WORKING, THE MUSICAL." It's a fast-paced kaleidoscope of America by the acclaimed "Walt Whitman of the 20th Century" and some of the best in showbiz talent. Tunes ranging from sentimental to brassy accompany imaginative choreography, from the panto-mimed assembly line routines to sassy big band dance numbers.

Everyone has a story, and even those in the most menial jobs are human beings, aching to be heard, to be noticed - to MATTER! In this show, as in the book, EVERYONE MATTERS, and is given one shining moment to take a stand, make a statement, BE SOMEBODY, not just a nobody, to the rest of the world.

We meet people one sees every day: the waitress, secretary, grocery clerk, meter reader. Others we usually don't see also find a voice in this extraordinary pantheon of ordinary souls: the steel-worker, cleaning lady, farm laborer, stonemason.

Can these individual stories really provide a compelling evening's entertainment? The tears and cheers of an enthusiastic audience testified to the show's tremendous impact at the opening weekend of Las Positas College's new production.

What is the secret of its popularity? Each stage character seems to represent someone familiar, or even to strike a respon-

sive chord within ourselves. Their stories evoke feelings and memories we've personally experienced - as employees, bosses, children, parents, workers, retirees.

Everyone understands the need to earn a living, and the daily drudgery required - often not in the profession of our choice. And everyone has felt the pain of not being fulfilled, appreciated, or even noticed on the job. Many have also dreamed of what they might have been, might have done if life had gone as planned.

So you've never been a cop or a firefighter, but the raw emotion of these heroic professionals and their pride in a job well done is moving and meaningful. But what about the "first name only" cleaning woman, "faceless" among people who look through her and talk around her as if she doesn't even exist?

Would you know her family's history (three generations of woman down on their knees scrubbing floors), or the dreams for her daughter's better future? That small window on her life will change forever the way you see someone mopping up a spill in Safeway, or sweeping floors at Longs.

The young migrant worker dreams of his mother some day being able "to live in the same place all the time." He wishes for a million dollars to bus people out to see where their salaries come from, and view the horrific lives of the pickers. His simple words add a whole new dimension to every grape or strawberry you eat.

The factory worker's struggle to support her three children touches the heart as she laments, "I've been a fool to let the factory use me like a tool! A YOUNG GIRL OUGHT TO STAND A BETTER CHANCE! Now it's me and my machine for the rest of my morning, and my afternoon, and my life..."

Is every worker so frustrated and depressed? Not by a long shot! The show's creators have included many who love their jobs, or have made them seem special, both to themselves and

others. There's the waitress who proclaims proudly "I give service, but I'm not servile," and views her customers as the audience for her public performance. Although she admits that "there's no work that's so trying," she loves it because "it all needs to be stylish and smart - being a waitress, it's an art!" And she does a classy, sassy stage routine to prove her point with delightful moxie.

The grocery checker, despite aching feet and varicose veins, is also proud of her performance skill ("I never have to look at the keys") Her irrepressible energy turns a routine job into a jazzy little bump-and-grind to the peppy tune of "Movin', Movin'", conveying the spirit of someone happy in her work and comfortable in her own skin. As she puts it, "Whoever looks down on me, they're lower than me."

Even the paperboy sees the bright side of his job (he loves to hurl a paper into the bush, and watch it go "SPOING" (a word he and his friends illustrate with exuberant body gyrations.) And a sizzling "Grease" - type number with slick dance routine allows "Lovin' Al" to strut his stuff as proud parking-lot car-jockey and ladies' man.

What's the difference between the disgruntled and the satisfied workers? The mind-numbing or back-breaking toil in a factory or produce field is hard to celebrate. But the worst part seems to be the lack of human connection, of validation that their work is worthwhile and meaningful to others.

A fireman can leave a horrendous day's work and say, "We saved two lives today, I can look back and say that I've done something with my life on earth." The contented stonemason can walk by a house he built with his own hands and observe "thirty years later, it still stands."

Others are depressed by the world's scorn of their work. "I'm just a housewife - somebody's wife, somebody's mother. What I do is out of fashion, out of date, unfulfilling according to the radio and TV shows," laments one

woman. Some are annoyed that their profession stereotypically brands them as "stupid." A summer temp from college spots a steel-worker with a book in his back pocket. "You read?" he asks incredulously. "It's the non-recognition that gets you down," observes the steel-worker. Even the successful executive, stung by epithets like "bloodsucker", is moved to defend the famous Robber Barons. "They made America great by building its big cities and industries, creating huge charities, and donating libraries and parklands to the public."

Disparate as all these characters may be, they share some universal human need to be appreciated as special people, doing a good job, and having "something to point to, something to be proud of" for their years of work.

LPC can be proud of their accomplishment in bringing this complex, uplifting work to us. There are no weak links in the script or in the talented performers who bring each character to life with equal vividness.

Hats off to Ken Ross for always presenting such intelligent, entertaining, off-beat shows to an appreciative Valley audience through LPC's Drama Department. Thanks to the hardworking cast and amazing musicians who practiced for so many months to produce such a polished performance. It's a rare ensemble of excellent talents that no one should miss. Go see it and you too will want to thank everyone involved.

"Working" will play in LPC's theater, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, at 8 PM April 3, 4, 17, and 18, and at 2 PM April 12 and 19 (Sundays). Tickets are \$15 general, \$12 seniors, and \$10 students, and can be reserved at 925-424-1812 or purchased at the LPC Bookstore or Fine Fretted Friends in downtown Livermore.

Ken Ross advises that the show contains some adult scenes and strong language. This reviewer found it pretty tame compared to many nightly TV shows. Parental discretion, of course.

Sneak Peak of 'Ramona Quimby' Offered at Library



Pleasanton's Civic Arts Stage Company presents excerpts from their upcoming Amador Theater production of Ramona Quimby at a special preview planned at the Pleasanton Library on Sat., April 11.

The 2:00 p.m. program will feature scenes from the play performed by youth cast members, all drawn from the Pleasanton community. Stage director Paula Wujek will speak about author Beverly Cleary, who wrote the children's books upon which

the play is based, followed by an audience question-and-answer period with the director and cast members.

This free program is best suited for children ages 5 and older. No registration is required. The full stage production of Ramona Quimby will be performed April 17-19 and April 24-26. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.civartstickets.org or call (925) 931-3444. For information on additional library activities and events, visit the library website located at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library/ programs or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 extension 8.

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Laura Brooke Smith, 5643 Charlotte Way #37, Livermore Ca 94550

This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 421595

The following person(s) doing business as: OPUS Mobile Technologies, 2192 Grape Leaf Lane, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christophe Therene, 2192 Grape Leaf Lane, Livermore Ca 94550

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The following person(s) doing business as: Ethereal Designs, 2076 Vintage Lane, Livermore CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Shelley Buchberger, 2076 Vintage Lane, Livermore Ca 94550

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 422056

The following person(s) doing business as: ProTrade Investments, 1908 West Lagoon Road, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Chao Jung Li, 1908 West Lagoon Road, Pleasanton Ca 94566

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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>/s/Jasmin L. Koester</p> <p>This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>/s/Jasmin L. Koester</p> <p>This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>/s/Jasmin L. Koester</p> <p>This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>/s/Jasmin L. Koester</p> <p>This business is conducted by an individual Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.</p> </div>

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Simplifying the Homebuying Process: Part I

By Cher Wollard

You are ready to buy a home. You know the time is right: Prices are good, interest rates are low, there's plenty to choose from, and now the government has issued a "limited time special offer" \$8,000 tax rebate. But the process is overwhelming. Where do you begin?

1. Choose an agent.
A good real estate agent will not only show you property, he or she will negotiate on your behalf with sellers and walk you through the labyrinth homebuying process, usually at no cost to you. In our area, sellers typically pay agents' fees. The best way to find an agent is through referrals from friends or family members who have had successful real estate dealings. You can also stop by open houses, workshops or other real estate events to meet agents, or check online. You may want to interview several agents before choosing the professional who will represent you.

The important thing is to find an agent you like enough to work with and trust to do a good job for you. If the agent you are considering using is not well known to you, check his/her credentials at www.dre.ca.gov. You can also ask the agent for references.

Some agents will ask you to sign a buyer-broker agreement. This contract sets out in writing the rights and responsibilities of both parties, and ensures you have a working relationship based on mutually agreed upon principles.

2. Obtain pre-approved for a mortgage.
Sherry Barto, a Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home, Livermore, said the first thing she asks prospective clients is, "have you been approved by a lender?" "If not, you may miss out on the opportunity to get the house you want," she said.

You can obtain a pre-approval letter through bankers or mortgage brokers. If you don't know a good loan specialist, ask your agent or friends and family to recommend someone. That letter tells you exactly how much home you can afford, and lets home sellers and their agents know that you are a serious buyer who will be able to complete a transaction.

"My lender can usually pre-approve them in 24 hours," Barto said. "Then let's go shopping! I can show them any kind of property they want within their price range."

3. Look for property.
Many buyers prefer to survey the landscape thoroughly before beginning their property search in earnest. If you are one of these buyers, you might start online, searching for homes in your price range on sites such as realtor.com, trulia.com, realestate.yahoo.com or your agent's site. Many sites will let you sign up for e-mail alerts on properties that meet your criteria. Your agent can also send you listings via e-mail.

This overview will help you narrow down which neighborhoods you can afford. You can then drive through those neighborhoods on your own or with your agent to determine more precisely where you want to live.

"When they start looking for houses, they know what they want, they just don't know where to look," Barto said. "I help narrow their search. It makes it easier." This process will also give you greater understanding of prices, so that when you find the property you want, you will be prepared to make a reasonable offer.

3. Make a reasonable offer.
When you find the home you love, your agent will help you write an offer on it. Price is important, but so are other terms such as who pays for inspections and repairs, will the seller help with closing costs, and when can you take possession. "They learn the process as we go. I try to explain things to them, but once they find a house they want, they are ready to listen," Barto said.

With your agent's help, you write the offer at the price and terms you want and that you think will be accepted. Your agent will submit your offer with your pre-approval letter, a promise of an earnest deposit, and possibly a letter of introduction.

An earnest deposit is money from the buyer held in escrow until the transaction closes. It generally equals 1 percent to 3 percent of the sales price, and serves as a guarantee that the buyer will adhere to the terms of the contract. This deposit may be applied toward downpayment and closing costs, or returned to the buyer after close of escrow.

The seller has a certain amount of time – usually three days – to accept or reject your offer, or to write a "counter offer" with terms more to their liking. The art of negotiation involves give and take on both sides.

"I explain this is what we want, this is what they are asking for. The sellers don't have to agree to anything," Barto said. "If they counter, it's up to the buyer to decide if they'll accept it."

4. It's a deal!
You are in contract once both parties have signed the contract and any counter offers, and the last party to make an offer has initiated receipt of acceptance. The buyer's agent then opens escrow.

Escrow is an account with a neutral third party in which funds for the transaction are held. These funds include the earnest deposit, down payment, closing costs and payments to third parties such as inspectors and tax collectors. The escrow company will disperse the funds according to instructions from both agents when the transaction closes.

In Northern California, escrow is held with title companies. In Alameda County, buyers usually pay all title and escrow fees, and are entitled to choose the title company.

Sometimes – notably on new construction and bank-owned properties – sellers will indicate preferred title companies for the transaction. Your agent can help you determine whether or not you want to accept their choice.

If you do not have a preferred title company, your agent can recommend one.

5. Inspections, disclosures and repairs.
Once escrow is open, you have a certain amount of time to check out the property and the neighborhood, read the sellers' disclosures, obtain insurance and get final approval on your mortgage.

"I start ordering all the reports – home inspection, roof inspection, chimney inspection. I want to make sure the buyer will be there so the professionals can tell them about the house they are buying," Barto said.

The default timeline in the California Association of Realtors purchase agreement is 17 days, but you may have negotiated different time periods.

The sellers have five days to get disclosures to you. Seller disclosures – including everything from remodels to leaky pipes to noise in the neighborhood – are contained in a hefty stack of forms your agent will go over with you.

The sellers will have filled out most of these forms themselves, but they may also have ordered a Natural Hazards Disclosure from a company that specializes in information about such things as earthquake zones, fire hazard zones and protected wildlife zones.

The title company will send you a Preliminary Title Report, which provides information about who legally owns the property and if there are any mortgages, liens or other encumbrances on it, and if the property taxes have been paid.

You will likely also want to order inspections. Terminate inspections are fairly standard these days and some lenders require them, plus many people want home, roof, chimney, pool and other inspections performed by professionals.

If you do not know of good inspectors, your agent can recommend professionals he/she has worked with. The inspectors will write reports about their findings. Except for home inspection reports, they will usually include estimates for the cost of repairs.

Sometimes sellers have already obtained inspections. You always have the right to see those reports. You may also want to get your own inspections, however, especially if it has been a few months since these reports were completed.

"We go over the inspection reports and disclosures together," Barto said. "I try to highlight anything I think they should see, but I encourage them to read the whole thing. Everybody's in a hurry these days. But I say, 'Read it. This is important. It's your house.'"

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home, Livermore. Next week: Repairs, signing documents and close of escrow.

94550
This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Dale C. Garren. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 20, 2009. Expires March 20, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2470. Publish March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 421837

The following person(s) doing business as: DGM, 798 Gamay Court, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dominick Gary Mazotti, 798 Gamay Court, Pleasanton Ca 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on February 4, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Dominick Mazotti. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 5, 2009. Expires March 5, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2471. Publish March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 422198

The following person(s) doing business as: Fastek Technical Services, 4479 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. C, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Fastemps, Inc., 4479 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. C, Pleasanton Ca 94588. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on July 1, 1989. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Mari Ghazey. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 12, 2009. Expires March 12, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2472. Publish March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 422297

The following person(s) doing business as: B.B. buckles, 830 Keystone Way, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Judy Tweten, 830 Keystone 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 1, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Judy Tweten. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 16, 2009. Expires March 16, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2474. Publish April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 422331

The following person(s) doing business as: Production Specialties, 2338 Sheffield Dr., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): William K. Arnold, 2338 Sheffield Dr., 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 January 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/ William K. Arnold. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 20, 2009. Expires March 20, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2475. Publish April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2009.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 398868

The following person (s) has (have) Abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: Edward S. Walsh, 812 North Vasco Road, Livermore Ca 94550. The fictitious business name statement was filed on July 25, 2007. Cortix Water Products (US) Inc., 1160-1188 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC V6E4A2. This business is conducted by a Corporation. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Hamish Cumming. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 16, 2009. Expires March 16, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2476. Publish April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 422299

The following person(s) doing business as: Machado Design, 2354 Tapestry Drive, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Michael Machado, 2354 Tapestry Drive, Livermore Ca 94550. This business is conducted by Husband and wife. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on 1983. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Michael Machado. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 16, 2009. Expires March 16, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2477. Publish April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 422786-422787

The following person(s) doing business as: 1)Arts Unlimited Advertising, 2)Livermore Printers, 383 South I Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Loni Jean Frankland, 1170 Larkspur, 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 March 20, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Loni Jean Frankland. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 27, 2009. Expires March 27, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2478. Publish April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2009.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No. RC080381525
1225 Fallon Street Oakland, CA 94612-4280
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Aaliyah Samar filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Aaliyah F. Samar Proposed Name: Frenetta Y. Hendrix
2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING a. Date: 5/11/2009 Time: 11:00AM Dept: 31 Room: 201 b. The address of the court is: 201 13th Street, Oakland, CA 94612
3.a. A copy of this Order To Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county. The Independent Dated: March 13, 2009 /s/ Yolanda N. Northridge Judge of The Superior Court The Independent Legal No. 2461. Published March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 2009.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 422789-422790

The following person(s) doing business as: 1) Livermore Printers, Design & Sign, 2) Livermore Print, Sign & Design 383 South I Street, Livermore, CA 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Loni Jean Frankland, 1170 Larkspur, 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 March 20, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/ Loni Jean Frankland. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 27, 2009. Expires March 27, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2479. Publish April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2009.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No. RC080381525
1225 Fallon Street Oakland, CA 94612-4280
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Aaliyah Samar filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Aaliyah F. Samar Proposed Name: Frenetta Y. Hendrix
2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
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Livermore Middle School Students to Compete in California Independent Film Festival

By Patricia Koning

The advent of digital cameras has brought filmmaking within reach of many people—including middle school students. For the second year in a row, the California Independent Film Festival (CIFF) will feature the work of Livermore middle school students.

"Anyone with a digital camera can make a simple film that might be quite good," says Dave DiBiase, CIFF school outreach director. "And film can be a good medium for young people to express themselves, even better than traditional materials for some kids. It's a great addition to school curriculum and something kids love."

Last year Teresa Gilman Attree, a parent at the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS), had an idea that middle school students could create films for the CIFF. Working with DiBiase, CIFF festival director Wendy Madden, LVCS middle school art teacher Regina Levy, and LVCS principal Tara Aderman, she created the middle school film competition.

In 2008, 150 LVCS seventh and eighth graders created films for an in-school competition. The top three were screened for the students at the Vine Cinema and entered in the Danville International Children's Film Festival.

This year, over 200 LVCS students, including sixth graders, have created films for the school's competition with names like "Triple Dare," "Homework," and "Godzilla in Training." LVCS served as a testbed for a mentor program with film students from Las Positas College.

Students from Junction Avenue Middle School are also joining in the fun. Technology teacher Erik Taylor had students in his two advanced technology classes create films for two different assignments. The first was a music video to John Mayer's "Waiting on the World to Change" and the second was a modern retelling of one of Aesop's fables.

The Junction students viewed the 25 or so films that they created in class and voted to deter-



Las Positas students John Hale and his son David (both seated in the middle of the table) share their film making tips and tricks with LVCS middle school students and their art teacher Regina Levy.

mine the four films to enter in the competition. "The kids were really excited," says Taylor. "They took a lot of pride in what they created."

This was his first time teaching film making. When his principal Susan Sambuceti contacted him about the CIFF opportunity, Taylor says he was more than happy to give it a shot. "The California Independent Film Festival was very helpful with giving us ideas and storyboards," he adds. "Hopefully next year we can work with mentors."

Three film students from Las Positas College spent about two weeks working with the LVCS students on their films. "It was great experience for everyone involved," says Deanna Horvath, an instructor in the LPC photography and video production department. "My students really had to shift gears from student to teacher mode and think about their knowledge and how to express it."

The LVCS students wrote, directed, and acted in their films

and the LPC students helped with the technical post-production work such as editing, voice-overs, and sound-dubbing. David Hale and his father John were two of the LPC mentors.

"Being a mentor taught me that I know less than I thought I did," he says. "I also learned that every production, no matter the scope, faces the same types of problems. These kids kept a great attitude and had fun through the whole process."

Attree says there was great synergy between the LPC mentors and the LVCS students. "Teaching someone else solidifies what you've learned," she adds. "And for the middle school students, it's great to get a different point of view from their primary teacher."

The goal is to involve more middle schools in the CIFF next year and possibly expand the mentoring project to other schools. "My vision is to expand access to film making to all students, from elementary school on up," says DiBiase. "As a former

teacher, I'm excited about the potential of film-based curriculum."

Next week students from both LVCS and Junction will take a special field trip to the Vine Cinema to see their films on the big screen and meet with an expert from the movie industry. Last year the LVCS students saw sneak previews from the independent film *The Flyboy*, and had a Q&A session with the film's director Rocco DeVilliers. The entire school was treated to a special visit by teen movie stars Alison Stoner, Taylor Lautner, and Dylan McLaughlin.

The middle school films will be screened in the School Showcase and Awards program on Friday, April 17 from 4 to 6 pm at the Vine Cinema. After the screening, awards will be given to the top films, which will also be shown at the Danville International Children's Film Festival. The CIFF School Showcase and Awards program is supported by a grant from the City of Livermore.

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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Amador Theater Volunteer Orientation. Pleasanton's Amador Theater is hosting an open meeting for new and returning volunteer ushers and snack bar attendants. This is a great opportunity to support the arts, learn a little interesting local history, and even enjoy some great theater events "on the house." Must be at least 16 years of age, and have an occasional evening or afternoon free. Tuesday, April 7, at 7pm in the Amador Theater Lobby. Please RSVP to: Larry Valenzin or Jane Onojafe, 925-931-3472, or lvalenzin@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

Winemaker Dinner. Thursday, April 9th, 6:30pm - 9:00pm, Murrieta's Well. The dinner will be hosted by Philip Wente, founder and Sergio Traverso, co-founder & consulting winemaker for Murrieta's Well. Their desire was to create wine treasures linked only to this old and historic estate vineyard. These handcrafted wines, linked to the heritage of the surrounding vineyards, are produced in small quantities. Space is limited. Call 925-456-2390 for reservations. \$90 for Silver Spur Members, \$100 for public.

The Wild Vine Gallery will feature the abstract figurative paintings of local artist, Linda Ryan, for the month of April. There will be a reception, which is open to the public on April 16, from 7-9 p.m. at the Wild Vine Art Gallery and Wine Lounge, 2187 First St., Livermore

Friday Night Open Mic for teens April 3 at 7:30 p.m. This special event is open to all teens. Veteran's Memorial Building located at 301 Main Street, Pleasanton. City of Pleasanton's Parks and Community Services Department will host the program. All performers must be under the age of 18 and will be required to show proof of age. Performers must sign up between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Friday April 3, on a first come, first served basis at the Veteran's Memorial Building. For a full list of performance guidelines, please visit www.ptown411.com and click "What's New." The fee is \$5 per person for students with a valid student ID, or \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door for general purchase. Tickets can be purchased online at www.civicartstickets.org or by calling (925) 931-3444.

The Magic of Music, the annual fundraising event for the Amador Friends of Music, the parent booster organization supporting the Music Department at Amador Valley High School. Evening includes champagne, hors d'oeuvres, a 3-course dinner with wine, both silent and live auctions, raffles, games, and dancing to live music as performed by the Amador jazz bands. Saturday, April 4, at the Pleasanton Hilton at the Club. The festivities begin at 6:00 pm.

Cocktail attire is suggested. Tickets are \$75 per person and must be purchased in advance by contacting Pam Sangiacomo at (925) 846-7634.

Easter Egg Hunt at Tesla Vintners on Sat., April 11 at 1pm. Find the "special" egg and win a prize. Arts and crafts, coloring contest with prizes for the kids. Live music and entertainment by The Singing Winemaker. Bring a picnic lunch, taste wines from the three small boutique wineries. Event fee is \$5 per child. RSVP required and space is limited. For more information or to make a reservation call Patty at 925-606-WINE(9463). Tesla Vintners, 5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore.

Wood Family Vineyards, Thurs., April 2, 6 to 8 pm, pouring wine at First Street Wine Company in Livermore. Wine will be the newly released 2006 Syrah, Madden Ranch along with other favorites.

Great Performances: A free series of classic films hosted by Candace

Klaschus, Professor of Media Studies at Las Positas College. She presents a talk about each film prior to the viewing. Programs begin at 7 p.m. April 2. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Copenhagen, science, politics and controversy, performances April 2-26, Bothwell Arts Center Theater, 8th and H Streets, Livermore. Tickets 1-800-838-3006, Shakespeare's Associates production.

A Tale of Three Cities, Thurs., April 2, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Livermore Speakers Series features David Kennedy, Pulitzer Prize winner, speaking on how the US won WWII. \$40 and \$30. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.
The American String Quartet, April 4, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts concert, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

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BRAD SLABAUGH 583-1111



Livermore \$729,000
Court location in South Livermore. 5bd/2ba plus office 13,800+/-sf lot. Pool/side yard access and 2nd garage/workshop. Must see!

MARK LAFFERTY 583-1111



Livermore \$629,950
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Young Scientists & Engineers Shine

Nearly 250 prospective young scientists and engineers displayed their science projects to judges and the public last week in fields ranging from acoustics to astronomy, from nutrition to microbiology, from human behavior to global warming.

The event was the annual 13th Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair, held at Robert Livermore Community Center. Sponsors included Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Labs, Livermore Valley Education Foundation, Kaiser Permanente and many others.

Students from grades seven through 12 in Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and Sunol presented 180 science projects. They were eligible to compete individually or in teams either in the Senior Division (9th through 12th grade) or the Junior Division (7th and 8th.)

More than 90 local judges - science teachers, engineers and scientists - walked among the students and their displays, taking notes and learning how well they could explain their work.

Cash and other prizes, such as scholarships, were available to winners at various levels, including the opportunity for senior division sweepstakes winners to compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair, to be held this year in Reno, May 10-15. More than 1,400 students from more than 40 nations will compete at the international event. Grand Prize there is a \$50,000 scholarship.

Here is a sampling of the projects on display last week in Livermore:

Halie Sonnenschein, a 7th grader at Sunol Glen middle school, wanted to know whether sugar-free drinks are a healthy alternative to high sugar drinks, dentally speaking. She immersed baby teeth that had been saved by her mother in three kinds of

Coca Cola for 72 hours. Measuring three symptoms of damage - disintegration, where the tooth literally falls apart; discoloration; and enamel decay - she found that Coke Zero was the most damaging, regular Coke less damaging, and diet Coke least damaging.

Her conclusion: Sugar-free drinks are not necessarily less damaging to your teeth.

Tristen Thalhuber, an 8th grader at Christensen middle school in Livermore, was interested in how the performance of magnets changes with temperature. He took three magnets whose pull strength he measured at 1.8 kilograms (about 4 pounds) at room temperature, using a fish scale. Then he measured pull strength after freezing the magnets and after immersing them in boiling water. The colder temperature raised magnet strength slightly, to 2 kilograms, the higher reduced it by half, to 0.9 kilograms. His conclusion is that higher temperatures tend to weaken magnets, lower temperatures tend to strengthen them, and the warming weakens them proportionately more than the cooling strengthens them.

Sumana Rallapalli, an 8th grader at Pleasanton middle school, investigated how light can be generated by friction. This is a phenomenon, called triboluminescence, that has been known for centuries and is familiar to anyone who has seen sparkles when chewing Wint-O-Green Lifesavers in a darkened room. She became particularly interested after reading that UCLA researchers had detected very brief X-ray pulses when pulling adhesive tape apart in a vacuum. Sumana developed home methods of pulling rolls of cellophane tape apart at consistent speeds and photographing the results. She was able to record a clear glow in a darkened room. She concluded that that

the effect is real and can be observed in everyday circumstance.

Motivated by the terrible Gulf Coast destruction of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, senior Amanda Johnston of Livermore High School investigated the possibility of Delta levy failure. This is a topic of great importance to California because massive failure might contaminate fresh water supplies to some 20 million people in Southern California as well as to major parts of the East Bay. Not long after Katrina, in 2006, Amanda began visiting the Delta to make detailed measurements of levy segments by such factors as age, physical deterioration and height above water level. She conducted a comparison study earlier this year, observing levy subsidence since her previous visit. She found that Sherman Island and Bethel Island have increased in stability, but Twitchel Island has fallen apart. She notes that the levy problem is serious enough without the effects of global warming, but it will be made far more serious by this century's anticipated 4 to 5 foot sea level rise.

Brigitte Eder, a senior at Granada High School, became interested in how bacteria respond to antibiotics last year after her brother contracted an extremely rare and potentially deadly bacterial disease, Lamiere's syndrome. Symptoms were so similar to common viral infections that doctors declined to prescribe antibiotics, which don't combat a virus and can generate bacterial resistance if prescribed unnecessarily. In time, the doctors diagnosed and treated her brother correctly, and he recovered. Brigitte decided to study in detail how low level antibiotic exposure can in fact encourage antibiotic resistance. She gave low levels of the antibiotic ampicillin to strains of three different bacteria, grew them through several genera-



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Nick Williams, a retiree from the Lab and docent at the Visitors Center views the award winning project developed by Vicki Hsieh.

tions, and found that two of the three strains could no longer be killed by the normal lethal dose of ampicillin. It took five times the ampicillin dose to stop these two strains. The conclusion was that resistance can be induced in bacteria by the use of antibiotics.

Harikrishna Rallapalli, a junior at Amador High School and a sweepstakes winner last year, developed a fast, low-cost detector for the chemical bisphenol-A, or BPA, that is widely used in plastics but known to be toxic to humans. While there is scientific debate about the levels of toxicity, many consumers would like to know how much BPA is leaching out of bottles and cans into the food and drink that they are consuming. State of the art monitoring equipment can cost \$30,000. Using equipment that is available in local stores, Harikrishna designed and built a

detector that, for \$120, has sensitivity comparable to commercial detectors. Components other than a xenon ultraviolet light source are inexpensive. He had to develop his own circuit board to modify the light source. He considers the device a work in progress. Beyond the Science Fair, he is continuing to refine it for practical use and perhaps patenting.

Science fair winners: After a review by more than 90 judges, two Sweepstakes winners in the Senior Division were chosen. One was Amador High School's Harikrishna Rallapalli (see story above), who was also a sweepstakes winner last year, for his project "Fast Low-Coast Bisphenol-A Detector." The other was Vicki Hsieh of San Ramon's California High School for her project, "From Nature to Solar Cell: Optimizing the Tobacco Mosaic Virus Coat Protein Scaff-

old for Organic Light Harvesting."

Winning in the junior division were Carina Salcedo, an 8th grader from Livermore Valley Charter School, for "Feeding My Flock;" and Sumana Rallapalli, an 8th grader from Pleasanton Middle School, for her project "Tribo-Light" (see story above.) She is the sister of senior sweepstakes winner, Harikrishna Rallapalli.

In addition, 47 special awards in the form of scholarships, cash prizes and other nonmonetary recognition, were distributed from scientific, professional, industrial, education and government organizations.

Senior division sweepstakes winners of the fair will go on to compete in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, May 10-15, in Reno, Nev. Junior division winners are eligible to compete at the State Science Fair.



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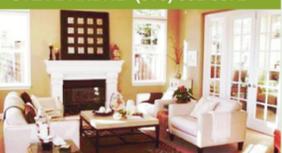
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