

Art, Community, & Education



Find Out What's Happening

Check out the second section

Section II is filled with information about arts, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board list

Pleasanton Plans A Month of Earth Day Events

Prior to 1970 factories spewed clouds of toxins into the air and dumped tons of toxic waste into nearby waterways. This activity preceded the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act, the legal and regulatory mechanisms established to protect the environment. In spring of 1970, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day as a way to "force this issue onto the national agenda." In 2011, more than 200 countries will participate in Earth Day activities.

Pleasanton joins the nation and the world in this effort as the Pleasanton Public Library hosts a Family Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April, 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will feature informational booths with "green" information about composting, energy, and kid-sized carbon footprint calculators. Kids can also make recycled art and natural birdfeeders at craft tables. There will be free bicycle safety checks.

City Naturalist Eric Nicolas will be on hand to provide short interpretive lessons about the natural world.

Free entertainment is also on tap. As the concluding event at Pleasanton's Family Earth Day Festival, Doug Nolan of Rock Steady Juggling brings a lively mix of environmental education, juggling, comedy and audience participation to the Pleasanton Library on Saturday, April 16. In "Eco-Tainment" learn about reducing-reusing-recycling, water conservation and pollution prevention like you never have before! No registration is required for this 45 minute program, which is for children ages 5 and older. The performance will begin at 3:00 p.m. Free admission tickets will be distributed at the Children's Desk beginning at 2:30 p.m. Doors will be closed to late arrivals once the program begins.

Library visitors are also encouraged to view an art exhibit of works produced by Pleasanton students based upon a "green" theme. Ongoing short films created as part of "The Story of Stuff" project will also be shown throughout the day.

For more information about the Family Earth Day Festival please call (925) 931-3400, extension 8.

Other Earth Day activities planned throughout April include:

Sunday, April 10, 2 p.m. Author and College Professor Scott Lankford discusses his book *Tahoe Beneath the Surface* in the Library Meeting Room

Friday, April 15, noon to 5 p.m. Free E-Waste Event at the Alameda County Fairgrounds (enter at Gate 12, Valley Avenue)

Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free E-Waste Event at the Alameda County Fairgrounds (enter at Gate 12, Valley Avenue) In addition to e-waste items, unused or expired pharmaceutical drugs will also be collected today only

Saturday, April 16, 11 a.m. to (See EARTH DAY, page 12)

New Plan Removes Worst of Altamont Turbines

By Ron McNicoll

Regulation of Altamont wind turbines, with an eye toward reducing bird deaths, has moved ahead.

Twenty-four turbines that pose the highest risks to raptors must be removed by April 25. Four high-risk turbines owned by ESI Energy will be kept, in exchange for having removed 10 other turbines, at a little lower risk count.

The highest risk-turbines are

in categories 9 and 10. The 10 turbines already removed as part of the swap with ESI were at 8.5 and 8.0.

More turbine removal must be completed by Feb. 15, 2012, after an Alameda County-established Scientific Review Committee (SRC) determines on-the-ground conditions of high-risk turbines ranked at 8.5. No number is listed in the new Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) that governs the conditions, because the SRC must

complete its report on it first.

The East County Board of Zoning Adjustments (BZA) unanimously approved the AMP at its meeting March 10. That date started the clock ticking for the wind-tower removal deadlines.

The plan resulted from the settlement of a suit by the Golden Gate Audubon Society and the state Attorney General's office against the county and three wind-power companies in 2005. The lawsuit demanded a 50

percent reduction in avian mortality by November 2009, figured on a baseline of 1300 bird deaths annually, as found in an earlier study. The SRC found that the goal was not met by November 2009.

Instead, re-powering the Altamont, by replacing old turbines with new ones, will be the solution, says the settlement and the AMP. The new turbines are much larger, so fewer of them are needed to produce the same amount of power. That is expected to lower

the number of birds killed.

Mike Lynes, conservation director for Golden Gate Audubon, said, "Overall, we are very pleased with (the agreement). The Audubon chapters decided to support repowering, provided that the new ones are put in with proper siting, and are monitored."

Rich Cimino of Pleasanton, who is conservation chair for the Ohlone Audubon, added, "The local Audubon has been involved



Foothill High School in Pleasanton held its annual multi-cultural festivities last week. Thurs., March 31 was Documentary Day. A film about bullying was shown. During Assembly Day on April 1, students were entertained by a variety of cultural performances. The presentations were by Foothill students. This was the 24th year a multi-cultural week was held at Foothill High. Pictured are Korean fan dancers.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Sandia Uses Gaming, Simulation To Model Border Security

Using funding from the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP), researchers at Sandia National Laboratories have developed a high-fidelity simulation and analysis program that aids policy and decision-makers tasked with making key procurements and funding choices.

The Borders High Level Model (HLM) uses a serious gaming platform known as Ground Truth, a force-on-force battle simulation tool called Dante™, and the work of several collaborating organizations.

"There's a lot of debate going on in the government concerning the technology and infrastructure investments that need to be made along the border," explained Jason Reinhardt, who serves as the Borders HLM project manager at Sandia. "How much fence do we need? What kind of fence?"

(See SANDIA, page 4)

Livermore BART Extension Ranked 2nd in Measure B Survey

A BART extension to Livermore ranked as the second most supported project to fund with Measure B monies.

The Alameda County Transportation Commission is in the process of preparing a Transporta-

tion Expenditure Plan (TEP) that identifies the funding priorities for an extension of the existing transportation sales tax, known as Measure B. The TEP includes transportation infrastructure projects like roadway maintenance,

bicycle, pedestrian, transit and paratransit improvements; and programs supporting biking, walking, transit and paratransit operations.

The measure will be on the ballot in November 2012. A

two-thirds majority is needed to approve the extension.

A telephone survey was conducted to determine the support for extending the tax, as well as for a variety of projects. The survey results were separated

by overall, central county, east, north and south.

Of those interviewed, 72 percent favored extending the tax. There was no opposition above one-third in any region.

(See BART, page 5)

Pleasanton Man Killed in Action in Afghanistan

Army specialist Jameson Lynn Linskog, 23, of Pleasanton, was killed in action March 29 in Afghanistan.

A medical technician, Linskog was fatally wounded while attempting to provide aid to fellow soldiers during combat. Linskog is the first Pleasanton soldier to be killed in Afghanistan.

Linskog's body brought to Pleasanton on April 5. The family requested privacy.

A public memorial is tentatively scheduled later this month, likely at the Pleasanton Veterans Hall, said Doug Miller,

post commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6298 in Pleasanton.

Miller said, "We are very grateful to the family that they have designated us to be the recipient of donations in remembrance of Jameson. The family has asked us to use the money in support of current service members from the area."

All U.S. flags at City of Pleasanton buildings and facilities were directed to be lowered to half-staff for three days, beginning on April 5.

Linskog was assigned to the

2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear has ordered all flags on state buildings there to be lowered to half-staff on the day of interment for Linskog, and for two other soldiers killed in the attack.

Rep. Jerry McNerney, who lives in Pleasanton, said, "I'm deeply saddened by the passing

(See AFGHANISTAN, page 2)

Charter School Heads for New Site With City Approval

The new campus for the Livermore Valley Charter School north of Interstate 580 has planning approval from Livermore.

The K-12 campus will occupy a 30-acre site already developed for offices near North Canyons Parkway. The parcels are at 3090 Independence Avenue and 3196 Constitution Drive.

Bill Batchelor, the CEO and COO of the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS), said the school would like to move both its K-8 school and high school this fall. However, it is likely that only the K-8 will be ready then.

The high school has only 9th

graders this year. They attend classes in the former Portola Elementary school, and "we may stay another year," said Batchelor. The K-8 school is in the former Sonoma Avenue School.

The new campus is located in a flight zone where planes taking off from the airport, which is less than 1000 feet away, make a right turn, and head east to such destinations as Sacramento and Stockton. An estimated 6 percent of the airport's flights go through this zone.

Concerns about safety led to a 4-2 vote in the Livermore planning commission's approval Feb. 1. Voting for the motion to

approve were commissioners Harriet Cole, Todd Storti, Darrell West and Wenbo Yuan. Voting against were Michal Lea and Tony Sarborario.

Sarborario, Yuan and West are no longer members of the commission. They reached term limits.

Lea told The Independent that she voted "no" because she didn't think it was appropriate to have elementary school children on the site. High school students are treated like adults. There are adults working in the business park around there.

(See CHARTER, page 2)



The annual Cinderella Bicycle Tour was held last Saturday. The annual event is hosted by the Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club. It is open to women and girls only. A portion of the proceeds from the event are donated to women's organizations.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

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PET OF THE WEEK

If Lowkee looks familiar to you, that is because he was shown on Animal Planet's "Confessions: Animal Hoarding." Lowkee was the last cat to be rescued from a home in Kings County with more than eighty other animals. He is about six years old and very sweet. Although he is shy at first, he warms up to people quickly. To learn more about Lowkee and all of his friends in Kitty City, call 925-426-8656 or visit the website www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Tues.-Sat. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Site 300 Clean-up

The U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration has completed an Explanation of Significant Difference report for nitrate treatment at the Building 829-Source ground water extraction and treatment facility in the High Explosives Process Area Operable Unit at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Site 300.

As required under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, an Explanation of Significant Difference is required because a significant, but not fundamental change is proposed to the final cleanup remedy for the High Explosives Process Area Operable Unit described in the Record of Decision for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Site 300.

The Explanation of Significant Difference documents a change in treatment technology for nitrate in ground water at the Building 829-Source ground water treatment facility located in the High Explosives Process Area Operable Unit. The Explanation of Significant Difference explains the decision to use ion-exchange treatment media to remove nitrate from extracted ground water rather than the existing bio-treatment unit. This change is being implemented because:

1. The ion-exchange media is effectively removing nitrate to meet effluent discharge limits, rendering the bio-treatment unit unnecessary.
2. The bio-treatment unit is impractical under the operational conditions at the facility.
3. Elimination of the bio-treatment unit is expected to increase the overall operational efficiency of the treatment facility.

The change in the nitrate treatment technology will not alter the protectiveness or outcome of the remedy (i.e., expected time to achieve cleanup objectives.) Approval of the Explanation of Significant Difference allows this remedy to continue until the ground water at this location is remediated.

The final Explanation of Significant Difference report is available to the public at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Environmental Repository in the Tracy Public Library, 20 East Eaton Avenue, Tracy, CA 95377 [tel. (209) 835-2221]; the Laboratory Discovery Center, Greenville Road at East Gate Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, [tel. (925) 422-4599]; and online at <http://www-envirinfo.llnl.gov/>

Interchange Changes Traffic

Significant rerouting of traffic for construction of the new Isabel Avenue/I-580 interchange is scheduled to take place on April 16.

Traffic will be impacted on State Route 84 at the intersection of Kitty Hawk Road and Airway Boulevard. Eastbound Airway Boulevard traffic will be limited to southbound right turns; Westbound Airway Boulevard thru movements will be prohibited. When completed early next year, the new interchange will provide an improved connection between Interstate 580 and State Route 84 and enhance access to the businesses and Las Positas College north of I-580.

For information on the Isabel Avenue Interchange project, call Roberto Escobar at (925) 960-4500 or visit the City of Livermore web site at www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/cd/eng/road-work/isabel580/default.asp.

Livermore Moving Forward With City Council Priorities

The City of Livermore has made progress on all six of the city council's priorities.

City Manager Linda Barton reported that there has been excellent success in the top goal, to become more business friendly and generate jobs. The main success has been establishing i-GATE. On May 1 the incubator will open with three confirmed tenants and four in negotiations.

The annexation of the national laboratories was approved by the council, including the 110 acre Livermore Valley Open Campus. The annexation will go to LAFCO in May. The land is eligible for development for a variety of corporations who may want to move near the Lab.

Other accomplishments reported by Barton are approval of the regional theater and Paragon outlets. Groundbreaking on Paragon is anticipated in June of this year.

The second goal was to complete and improve local and regional transportation. Under this topic, an extension route for BART was selected, with Measure B extension the most likely source of funding. The extension of Jack London Boulevard to El Charro is expected to begin in June.

The third goal was infra-

structure rehabilitation. Barton said that federal stimulus funds have helped to address long term needs.

Open space preservation is the fourth priority. "The most significant accomplishment is the purchase of 513 acres in Doolan Canyon," said Barton. The city contributed \$2 million towards the \$6.4 million purchase price paid by the East Bay Regional Park District. The \$2 million comes from the Altamont settlement fund.

A fifth goal is to establish a sustainability budget. Barton reported that the current budget is stable. "We have made significant progress towards sustainability." There is some decline in property taxes, a small increase in sales tax revenues, and an increase in development activity. The city will be negotiating will all of the unions in 2011-12. The outcome of those negotiations, Barton said, will be a piece of the sustainability package.

The final goal was state re-

form. The approval of Prop. 22, which prevents the state from taking local money, was the main accomplishment.

"I think we have gotten a lot done. By the end of the two year cycle, we will have a positive report on the six goals," Barton declared.

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LPC/Lab Seminar Looks at Improving Health Care Through Technology

The new Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL)/Las Positas College Science and Engineering Seminar Series, designed to enhance the partnership shared by the two Livermore institutions, provides a forum for laboratory scientists and engineers to share their broad range of basic and applied research with the college's scientific community of students, staff, and faculty. The series is entitled, "Theory to Practice: How Science Gets Done."

The April 7 seminar will explore the topic, "Bridging the Gaps: Improving Health Care through Technology."

The seminar title is "State of Health Monitoring in Traumatic and Harsh Environments: Engineers and Health Care Providers Merge Efforts to Develop New Medical Devices," presented by John Chang, Ph.D., Engineer and

Christine Paulson, M.S., Electrical Engineer.

"The series offers a way to look at how science is done," said Biology Instructor Nan Ho. "A unique feature of the series, especially for a community college, is the focus on the 'big science' that LLNL does that requires cross-disciplinary expertise."

The presenters describe their presentation as follows: "Advancements in miniaturized electronic circuitry and Micro-power Ultrawideband Impulse Radar (MUIR) technology have allowed for the creation of a compact, non-invasive device that may permit never before possible portable state of health diagnosis and monitoring of life threatening traumatic injuries."

"We will describe LLNL's efforts in applying this technology to different fields of medicine and

healthcare. We will describe the technology, the partnership required to pursue medical device development, medical studies, and field experiences."

As a public service, Las Positas College invites interested members of the community to attend the seminar on campus. It will be held 6-7:15 p.m. in the Multi-Disciplinary Building (Building 2400). The seminars are free. Parking is \$2; permits can be purchased in the parking lots.

Registration is not required; seating is first come, first served. For more information about the series, please visit the website, www.laspositascollege.edu/news/scienceSeries.php.

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

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REACH Extends to Help More Special Needs Adults

By Ron McNicoll

REACH, a group that helps adults with special needs maintain their independent living, is spending its 20th anniversary year dedicating a new residence for three women.

The home in Pleasanton is the sixth established by REACH (Resources, Education, Activities, Community and Housing) in that city. Three other homes are in Livermore.

Most of the other homes are occupied by men, so it was time to open up another one for women, said Julie Testa, who has been volunteering in REACH for four years.

So far, there are two occupants. REACH is interviewing applicants for the third spot. Applicants are screened for their compatibility with potential roommates, as well as their degree of independence.

At the official opening of the new house last month, there was an informal gathering, where parents of several school-age children with special needs dropped

by.

The parents said that they were encouraged to see that after their children leave school, there could be a place for them to maintain their independence, especially as the parents grow older, said Testa.

Peter McDowell, a Pleasanton realtor who helps find the houses that become REACH homes, said at the open house, "I could see the faces of parents who are looking to the future. Some have kids in grade school. Here is some hope for the future."

Another volunteer, Vince McNamara, who owns a Pleasanton restaurant, said the parents of adolescents who attended "found it eye-opening. They don't have to think that their offspring must be in the bedroom next door for the rest of their lives," he said.

Living there isn't free. Rent is charged, just as is with any rental share anywhere. Tenants usually have government-sponsored disability funding support, and some of them work at part-time jobs as baggers in grocery stores, or at

other places.

Although REACH volunteers take care of any problems that might arise about fixing things, they do not manage the adults at the house. Each adult is on his or her own, and checks in only with the special needs organization that refers them to REACH.

Some tenants need very little physical support from a caretaker, maybe a few hours a week. Others need it around the clock. There are a wide range of disabilities, including cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, autism, and diabetes. Many have more than one disability.

REACH has managed to acquire its nine houses with both cash donations and federal and state grant money, as funneled through the two cities.

The organization definitely won't be selling any of its houses. As the population continues to grow, so does the need. REACH figures say that special needs adults are 3 percent of the population. Translated to the Tri-Valley, it means more than 1000

people, says the organization's web page.

Housing is only one focus area for the non-profit organization. REACH's activities are summed up by its full name: Resources Education Activities Community and Housing for Special Adults in the Tri-Valley.

REACH sends athletic teams to Special Olympics, and has three volunteer coaches. REACH has also worked with a city program that sponsors recreational opportunities for special adults.

The operational level of REACH runs on volunteer labor and donations, both cash and such things as furniture and various household goods. REACH is seeking more of that support, through its new sub-group REACH OUT, and welcomes contacts from interested parties at its web site at <http://www.trivalleyreach.org/>.

REACH has one big fundraiser every year. This year it will be a golf tournament at the Sunol Country Club in August, with both silent and active auctions of donated items.

Livermore Chamber Honors Dreammakers And Risktakers

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce's second annual Dreammakers and Risktakers was held last week.

The keynote speaker was Wil Agatstein, formerly of Intel and now the Executive Director of US Davis Center for Entrepreneurship. Throughout his career he has shown a passion for bringing innovative ideas to market and believes the power of technology can make the world a better place. At Intel, Wil was the head of the company's Emerging Markets Group. One of the products he helped develop is the Intel Powered classmate PC a small rugged and personalized laptop for children in the developing world.

The awards went to the following:

- Terry Johns and Lennie Klebanoff from Sandia National Laboratories for the Fuel Cell Powered Mobile Lighting Project – a prototype system developed in public private consortia that features a fuel cell running on pure hydrogen, a zero emission and very quiet electric power source.

- Bill Watkins, CEO of Bridgelux, the first, new US based light emitting diode (LED) manufacturer in the past 20 years. Bridgelux's focus is bringing innovation to light by providing high power,

energy efficient and cost effective LED solutions. Accepting for Bill was Karl Chicca, Bridgelux's Chief Financial Officer.

- John Dulchinos, CEO of Adept Technologies a global leading provider of intelligent, vision-guided robotics system and services. Adept is the largest US based manufacturer of industrial robots. John is also a member of Innovation Tri-Valley steering committee, a business led initiative that would make the five Tri-Valley cities an interconnected hub of innovation by bringing in new companies and helping existing companies scale up.

This year the Chamber presented awards to the next generation – the generation who will define the future.

The Dreammakers Social Innovation award went to Chris Henry, Austin Blaylock, and Avela Hendrix – Granada High School Video Productions Team who were asked to make a 30 second public service announcement about the ramifications of bullying in school.

The Las Positas College/Sandia Student of the Year, went to Takeo Hiraki and the Livermore Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year went to Sheila Fagliano, from Livermore Sanitation.

ABAG Unveils Initial Vision Scenario

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) has unveiled an Initial Vision Scenario for the Sustainable Communities Strategy mandated by the 2008 passage of state Senate Bill 375.

The initial scenario shows Livermore adding 12,138 new households and 18,595 new jobs by 2035. In 2010, there were 28,662 households and 28,485 jobs in Livermore. Pleasanton is projected to add 9,785 households and 17,382 jobs. Pleasanton had 24,034 households and 52,775 jobs in 2010. Dublin's numbers are 16,644 new households and 15,342 jobs. In 2010, Dublin had 15,572 households and 18,058 jobs.

The SB 375 requires the Bay Area and other California metro areas to develop integrated regional land-use and transportation plans to meet state targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks.

The release of the Initial Vision Scenario provides a starting point for conversations with local governments and Bay Area residents about where new development should occur, and how new long-term transportation investments can serve this new growth. This effort will culminate in 2013 with the adoption of a new long-range plan for the nine-county region. The plan, to be known as Plan Bay Area, will detail a 25-year transportation investment and land-use strategy for 2015-2040, and will be the region's first such plan to incorporate a Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The Initial Vision Scenario focuses on the location of growth areas around the Bay Area and outlines a future development pattern. It assumes a strong economy in which the region

will add some 1.2 million jobs by 2035 and will need 903,000 more housing units than currently are available. The scenario assumes sufficient funding for affordable housing and supportive public infrastructure investments, but is not a forecast for the region.

MTC Planning Director Doug

Kimsey noted, "The vision projects that 97 percent of all new households will be accommodated in already urbanized areas, and particularly in cities where residents have access to frequent public transit service. Under this scenario, 70 percent of the growth, or 632,100 new

households, will go into places that have been designated 'close to transit' by local jurisdictions. And the Bay Area's biggest cities get even bigger, with San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland together accounting for nearly one-third of all new housing units."

BART

(continued from page one)

East Alameda County showed the lowest support at 68 percent. Republicans were the only group below two-thirds, at 51 percent in favor. Fifty-four percent favored making the tax permanent.

Overall, the topped ranked project was reducing traffic on I-880 by extending carpool lanes and using technologies that improve traffic flow. Second was extending BART to Livermore. The extension was ranked highest in Eastern Alameda County. Fourth on the list was improving and expanding ACE train service. Ranked 8th on the list was widening route 84 between I-580 and I-680.

In third place was extending commuter trains over the Dumbarton Bridge; fifth place, completing bicycle commuting corridors; and seventh, improving and expanding ferry service from Oakland and Alameda to San Francisco.

The level of support for public transportation was asked. Of those interviewed, 71 percent said they strongly agreed or somewhat disagreed that they would use public transportation if it were faster and more reliable. Fifty seven percent said that improving public transportation would have a significant impact on reducing traffic. Moving cargo by train rather than trucks was seen by 59 percent as a way to improve traffic.

Those surveyed were asked to rank programs by priority. The top priority, 85 percent, was keeping public transit affordable for those who depend on it including seniors, youth and people with disabilities. Ranked second, 78 percent, was making it easier to get to school and work using public transit.

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Trails Conference Set for April 11-13

Bringing trail experts, enthusiasts and advocates together for intensive learning and sharing opportunities, the California Trails and Greenways Conference: Engaging Youth and Diversity is accepting registrations for its April 11-13, 2011 at www.parks.ca.gov/trails/conference. This year's conference will be held at the San Ramon Marriott located at the base of Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County.

Beginning with six interactive, all day workshops on Monday, April 11, participants can learn about evaluating roads and trails for management planning; mechanized trail maintenance; Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) and High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HET-AP); design and construction of narrow multiuse trails in parks; building and interpreting the Anza National Historic Trail; and the Iron Horse Regional Trail

Bicycle Tour.

During the Conference, over 90 seasoned trail professionals will deliver over 35 concurrent sessions and workshops. The April 11 evening keynote speakers are renowned recreation and trails leaders. Nina Roberts, Director of the Pacific Leadership Institute, is a dynamic educator and respected leader, having successfully blended her passion for natural resources and cultural/ethnic diversity into a crucial field of expertise. The April 12 evening keynote Thomas F. Stienstra is the outdoors writer for the San Francisco Chronicle. In 2008, he won first place for best outdoors column in America. As a full-time outdoors writer for 30 years, Stienstra has made it his life's work to explore America — searching for the best of the outdoors and writing about it.

The 26th California Trails and Greenways Conference is spon-

sored in part by the California Trails Conference Foundation, East Bay Regional Parks District and Trails Forever — Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, hosted by the California State Parks. With attendance having doubled over the last five years, post conference evaluations reflect 94% of trail professionals and advocates indicating complete satisfaction with their 2010 conference experience.

The Conference was developed by California State Parks and the California Recreational Trails Committee in 1984 to address the needs of trail managers throughout California. In 1995, the California Trails Conference Foundation [a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation] was formed to assist State Parks in carrying out the goals of the Conference with funding provided through sponsorships, exhibit and registration fees.

was awarded Medals of Valor and three Purple Hearts for injuries sustained in battle. Lewis was honorably discharged in Dec. 1969. He then completed a 2-year degree in chemistry and was employed as a building engineer, and later worked as a counselor for those in need.

Lewis was preceded in death by his beloved daughter, Renee Poggi and his three siblings. He is survived by his daughter Narcissie Oryall, four grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He will be greatly missed for his humor, courage under fire, determination and helping hand for the younger generation.

Lewis was laid to rest at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Santa Nella, CA, near his brother Allen Oryall on March 21, 2011.

Saint Stroud Walmsley

"Saint" (Helene Ruth St. Denis) was born July 9, 1929 in

Chicago, to parents Charlotte and Albert St. Denis. Growing up in Hazel Crest, Illinois, she worked for Eastman Kodak Chicago in film processing, and attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

She married John Stroud in 1950, during his time with the U.S. Navy, stationed in China Lake CA. This was the birthplace of her first two children; Paul Denis Stroud and John Daniel Stroud. In 1955 the family moved to Livermore CA, where soon Thomas Christopher Stroud and Megan Leigh Stroud came along, rounding out the family of six.

Saint was very active and popular in Livermore, with numerous interests and activities, including painting, piano, singing, cooking, bridge, church, entertaining, designing and decorating. She did a lot of writing, and also created a local catering business.

She married Donald Walmsley in 1981, continuing her varied interests, and also earning her Ph.D. at UCSF to become a Psychotherapist. Following more years in the Livermore area, Saint and Donald spent winters in Florida, and summers at their beach house in Smith River CA. They relocated to Redding CA in 2004, to be near daughter

Megan.

Saint passed on March 30, 2011 of natural causes. She is survived by husband Donald, children Paul Stroud of Denver, John (Robin) Stroud of Folsom, Tom Stroud of Portland and Megan (Stu) Crandell of Redding; stepchildren Bob, Jody, Toby and Don Walmsley, and grandchildren Kelli Stroud, Kevin (Jessica) Crandell, and Kimberly Crandell.

Mary Josephine Lindner (Murray Family of Livermore)

Mary was born in San Francisco, California on June 29, 1908 and passed away at her residence in San Diego on Sunday, March 27, 2011. She was 102 years old.

Mary joined the US Navy as a registered nurse where she served from 1936 to 1959 retiring as a Commander in the Nursing Corps. She attended George Washington University and Columbia University where she earned advanced degrees in Nursing. Mary served on the USS Hope which was one of the first naval hospital ships. While at school in Washington she was invited to a high tea with Eleanor Roosevelt at the White House before WWII and was honored to meet her again in New Guinea during the war. Mary also worked with VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) in the 1960's.

Mary was a descendent of one of the founding Livermore pioneers; the Murray's settled here in 1851 and started their ranch in the 1860's where her mother was born. Mary was raised in Santa Maria where her father was a baker, but spent a lot of time on the family ranch in Livermore. She was deeply involved with St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in San Diego, which she considered her family. Mary is survived by many cousins.

A Chapel Blessing was held Callaghan Mortuary Chapel, 3833 East Ave., Livermore. Interment followed the service at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery in Livermore with full Military Honors.

Mary was a descendent of one of the founding Livermore pioneers; the Murray's settled here in 1851 and started their ranch in the 1860's where her mother was born. Mary was raised in Santa Maria where her father was a baker, but spent a lot of time on the family ranch in Livermore. She was deeply involved with St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in San Diego, which she considered her family. Mary is survived by many cousins.

A Chapel Blessing was held Callaghan Mortuary Chapel, 3833 East Ave., Livermore. Interment followed the service at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery in Livermore with full Military Honors.

William Walter Williams Jr.

Bill passed away in his sleep from heart failure on March 19, 2011. He was born June 28, 1918, the sixth of eight children born to William and Eliza in Greeley, Colorado.

He was 8 years old when they moved to Livermore, Ca. where he lived the rest of his life married to his high school sweetheart. He

Easter Sunrise Service Request: A Gentle Horse?

The traditional Easter Sunrise Service at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park will take place on April 24. This year a special drama will be reenacted from General Pleasanton's era in the 1800's To establish authenticity, the General (portrayed by Rev Meek of the Trinity Bap-

tist Church) would like to be mounted on a 'Gentle Horse' that would not be spooked by some group singing.

If any of your readers would be willing to provide such a worthy horse for the short drama please give the hosts a call or E-mail them: Harry Briley at

455 6089 (briley1@llnl.gov) or Howard Neely@462 3346 (hwee@att.net).

This year's service will run from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. Parking is free along with coffee and donuts. Sponsor is Pleasanton Centerpointe Presbyterian Church.

Pleasanton to Hold Free E-Waste Event

The City of Pleasanton will host a free E-Waste collection on April 15 and April 16, 2011 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The public may drop off items between 12:00 Noon and 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15, and from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 16. Please enter the fairgrounds at Gate 12, off Valley Avenue.

On Saturday, April 16 only, unused or expired pharmaceutical drugs will be collected at the same location, co-hosted by the

Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD). All prescription and over-the-counter drugs will be accepted. For more information about the pharmaceutical drug drop-off, please call (925) 828-0515.

All types of electronic equipment can be dropped off. There is no limit to the amount of qualifying items, although residents are encouraged to take an inventory of their E-Waste items intended for disposal. A full roster of items

that will be accepted can be viewed at <http://noewaste.com/calendar/event-display.php?114>. For more information, please call toll free (866) 335-3373.

Among the items that will be accepted are computer components, digital cameras, power cables, toner cartridges, video game systems, MP3 players, keyboards, DVD, and other electronic items, as well as household batteries and fluorescent light bulbs.

OBITUARIES

County Counsel Richard Winnie

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors announced at last week's meeting that County Counsel Richard E. Winnie passed away on Monday, March 28, 2011 after a long illness.

Board President Nate Miley asked his colleagues, the County Administrator, department heads and staff to join in a moment of silence and announced that County flags had been lowered in his memory.

Richard E. Winnie served as the County Counsel since his appointment by the Board of Supervisors in 1998, and headed a staff of approximately 35 attorneys. He was a trusted legal advisor and counselor to the Board of Supervisors, County Administrator and to Countywide elected and appointed agency and department heads. His strong presence and valuable advice will be greatly missed.

Prior to his appointment as County Counsel, Richard E. Winnie served for many years as City Attorney for the City of Oakland and was later a partner with the Wendel Rosen Black & Dean LLP law firm in Oakland. He was very active in the local community and served on many boards including the Oakland Housing Authority Board of Commissions, AC Transit Retirement Board, General Counsel to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Finance Corporation and CalTrust and the Board of Directors of the California County Counsels' Association.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty said, "Over the years, Richard guided the County through a wide range of legal challenges, doing so with great intelligence, strategic vision, diligence and good humor."

Donna Ziegler will lead his office as Chief Assistant County Counsel pending the Board of Supervisors formal consideration of an interim appointment.

Planning is underway for a public memorial service for Richard E. Winnie in April.

Lewis Edward Oryall

Lewis Edward Oryall, a ten year resident of Livermore, passed away on March 1, 2011 after a long battle with illnesses caused in part by radiation exposure during his Marine Corps service at the Nevada Atomic testing sites in the early 1950s.

Mr. Oryall was a native San Franciscan who was born in 1929 to Floyd and Mary Oryall. There were fourteen children in the close knit family. He attended Catholic schools and graduated from Commerce High School in S.F. He then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1947. He served in Indo-China and Korea. He had a break of service and returned to civilian life to work in envelope manufacturing. Lewis then reenlisted in the Marines in 1961. He served three tours of duty in Viet Nam in reconnaissance, where he



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Interment at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery

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was also a Marine and fought in the battle of Guadalcanal during WWII. Bill retired from Kaiser Sand and Gravel in Pleasanton in 1981, where he worked as an electrician. He was proud of being a member of IBEW for 57 years.



His hobbies were his ham radio (W60ZU), playing his guitar, listening to old time country music, and traveling in his trailer. He was also a pilot and in his younger days he loved flying his Biplane and Cessna.

He is survived by his wife Catherine of 70 years. His daughter Catherine of Livermore, his three grandchildren, Christine Massey of Livermore, Sandra Amaral-Bistor (Ed) of Tracy, Darrell Amaral of Livermore, his dog Dakota, and 10 of his 13 nieces and nephews. He will be missed very much.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Elizabeth Marie Schaffer

Elizabeth Marie Schaffer, 86, a resident of Kailua, Hawaii passed away March 7, 2011 of natural causes.

A longtime Livermore resident, she was preceded in death by her husband Charles D. Schaffer.

She is survived by her three children, daughters, Carol L. Lerseth, and Cathy L. Cheadle, and son John R. Schaffer.

Floyd Welton Hugoboom

Former Livermore, California resident, Floyd Welton Hugoboom, age 88, of Grants Pass, Oregon, died Sunday, March 20, 2011 in Corpus Christi, Texas after traveling for over four months through the Southern states to Key West, Florida. He was returning home when he needed emergency surgery for a bowel

obstruction.

A viewing will be from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Friday, April 8, 2011 at Hull & Hull Funeral Directors.

A memorial service will be at 9:30 a.m., Friday, April 8, 2011 at Spring Meadow Retirement Community, 1357 Redwood Circle, Grants Pass, Oregon. Interment with military honors will be at 2:00 p.m., Friday, April 8, 2011 at Eagle Point National Cemetery, Eagle Point, Oregon. Pastor Ron Marsh will officiate at both services.

Please sign the family guest book at www.since1928hull.com.

Floyd was born January 30, 1923 in Littleton, Colorado to Ross & Margaret Hugoboom. When he completed his schooling, the family moved to San Pedro, California. After commercial fishing and joining the United States Coast Guard, he met his wife, Audrey Moskovita and in 1942 they married. In 1946 he received his honorable discharge and in 1947 they moved to the Grants Pass, Oregon area. From 1947 to 1972 he worked in various occupations including Cave Junction Feed Store manager, owner of his 76 Service Station at 6th & J Street and worked at Southern Oregon Plywood, Wilke Oldsmobile, and Western Auto and then became an audiologist opening the South-

ern Oregon Hearing Center. He also enjoyed working as an EMT for Medford Ambulance from 1965 to 1972. In 1972 Floyd & Audrey moved to Redwood City, California to operate large foster boys homes. They later opened Samaritan Ranch in El Cajon, California which they operated from 1975 to 1978 completing over 20 years of foster care for up to 36 boys at a time.

They then managed Senior Housing in Livermore, California for 10 years until their retirement in 1992 when they returned to Grants Pass and along with several of their friends from Parkway Christian Center joined RV MAPPS, a mission program which took them over many states and Canada doing construction work on churches and teen challenge centers until 2004. They lived at the Bridge Assisted Living for several years until Floyd was widowed in 2010 and he moved to Spring Meadow Retirement Community. At Spring Meadow he met Maggie McGall and Floyd intended to joyfully spend the rest of his life with her.

Survivors include his wife, Maggie McGall; and two sons, Floyd Gareth Hugoboom and William John Hugoboom.

He was preceded in death by his wife, of 69 years, Audrey Hugoboom and a grandson, Brent "Woody" Hugoboom.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen
Film crews were on site in North Livermore shooting a battle scene for the production of "Hemingway and Gellhorn," an HBO movie. The property was set up to depict a Spanish Civil War battlefield, complete with a vintage old tank and luxury car. Action scenes included soldiers running back and forth amidst smoke and mock explosions. The story covers the relationship of Ernest Hemingway and Martha Gellhorn, both war correspondents during the Spanish Civil War and World War II. Clive Owen and Nicole Kidman play the starring roles. Reportedly, it is Gellhorn who



inspired Hemingway to write "For Whom the Bell Tolls." Francisco's Oscar-nominated Philip Kaufman. The film is produced by James Gandolfini and directed by San

Free Ride Wednesday for Foothill Students

The City of Pleasanton, Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) and Foothill High School, are sponsoring Free Ride Wednesday, beginning April 13 until the end of May, where students may board Wheels Routes 602 and 604 for free every Wednesday. The goal of the campaign is to increase ridership and awareness of these designated school tripper routes which serve Foothill High School.

The event sponsors are working together to encourage individuals to try public transportation to school as a healthy, fun, inexpensive and environmentally-friendly alternative to driving. Route 602 begins in the Mission

Drive/Sunol Boulevard area and continues on to serve those living in the Del Prado Park, Valley Trails and Parkside neighborhoods. Route 604 begins service in the Fairlands neighborhood and continues on to serve those living in the Hacienda Business Park and the Muirwood Park neighborhoods.

The main objectives of Ride Free Wednesday are to help reduce traffic congestion on Foothill Road and to alleviate safety hazards and congestion associated with the drop-off and pick-up of students at the high school. The campaign aims to recognize and reward students for positive behavioral changes

towards the use of public transit. Students are encouraged to participate and will be entered into weekly raffle drawings to win food, entertainment and movie gift cards as well as grand prize drawings at the end of each month for an Apple iPod.

The Ride Free Wednesday campaign is a collaboration of the Foothill High School ASB Leadership Club, City of Pleasanton and LAVTA, with partial funds through the Alameda County Transportation Commission Transportation Fund for Clean Air. For more information, contact Lisa Adams, City of Pleasanton at (925) 931-5039 or Ladamos@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Comments Sought on Lab Site-Wide EIS

A draft supplement analysis of the 2005 Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for continued operation of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has been prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA). The National Nuclear Security Administration is the Federal agency primarily responsible for oversight of the Laboratory.

Public informational meetings will be held on the draft supplement analysis on April 14, 2011 at 1:30-4:00 p.m. and 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore.

At the meetings, representatives of DOE/NNSA will explain the draft document and the process involved and answer questions.

A supplement analysis is prepared the fifth year after a site-wide environmental impact statement is published. The supplement analysis will allow DOE/NNSA to properly evaluate whether it is necessary to supplement or replace the 2005 Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement, or the 2005 document remains adequate for the next five years. The 2005 Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement evaluated the potential environmental impacts of existing and proposed operations at the Labo-

ratory from 2005-2014.

"The 45-day public review period regarding the draft document evaluating the adequacy of the 2005 Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the next five years will begin March 30," said NNSA Livermore Site Office Manager Alice C. Williams. "The public is encouraged to review and comment on the draft supplement analysis."

Members of the public may submit written comments by mail, in the box provided at the public informational meetings, and via email. The supplement analysis process does not provide for oral comments.

The draft document is avail-

Win Prizes by Recycling

StopWaste.Org announced the launch of the Ready Set Recycle Contest, which gives Alameda County residents a chance to win prizes for keeping their trash free of recyclables and compostables.

During regular garbage collection days from April through June, 2011, the Ready Set Recycle Prize Crew will select random garbage bins and separate the contents into three categories: recyclables, compostables and garbage. Households with the least amount of recyclables and compostables in their garbage relative to the whole bin will be declared the winners.

Multiple winners will be announced each week and will receive cash or prizes. The best of all the winners – the households with the least amount of recyclables and compostables in their garbage overall – will receive prizes of up to \$500.

The Prize Crew will notify residents that they are eligible by leaving a hangtag on their garbage bin with information about how to participate in the contest or decline participation if desired. A hangtag signals that the route has been randomly selected; only a percentage of bins on that route will be sorted and have the opportunity to win.

Alameda County residents can also participate in the contest and win prizes by taking the "I Recycle" Pledge online at www.ReadySetRecycleContest.Org. The website also offers helpful recycling tips, resources and a quiz to test residents' recycling IQ.

On the website residents will be given the option to volunteer their home for a garbage sort. This does not guarantee their garbage will be sorted but it will be entered into the random selection process as if they had received a hangtag.

"Alameda County has already reduced the amount of materials it sends to the landfill by about one third since 2000," said Jeff Becerra, Senior Communications Manager at StopWaste.Org. "Ninety-three percent of our residents report that they recycle regularly."

"But we won't stop here. Alameda County residents set their own voter-mandated goal of diverting 75 percent of all waste from county landfills, and the Ready Set Recycle Contest aims

to inspire residents to realize – and ultimately surpass – this goal. We hope participants will share recycling tips and encourage friends and neighbors to properly sort their waste – not just putting recyclables and compostables in their respective bins, but also keeping these bins free of trash contamination."

To learn more about the contest and to make an online pledge do your part to reduce waste

by recycling and composting, visit www.ReadySetRecycleContest.Org.

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EARTH DAY

(continued from page one)

4 p.m. Family Earth Day Festival at the Pleasanton Public Library. Booths, exhibits and craft tables with a "green" focus, bicycle safety checks

Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m. Climate: What's Love Got to Do With It? Free presentation at the Pleasanton Public Library by Doug Grandt of The Climate Project. Best for middle school age +

Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m. The Pleasanton Public Library

presents a free screening of the movie "Dirt!" at the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton.

Friday, April 22, 7 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day at the Pleasanton Public Library with a free screening of the film "Tapped," which examines the bottled water industry with stunning revelations. Held in the Library Meeting Room

Saturday, April 23, 2 p.m. The Pleasanton Public Library

will host Uncle Jer's Bee Show, featuring a traveling honeybee hive and an engaging presentation about bees and beekeeping.

Best for ages 5+. No registration required. Free admission tickets distributed at the Children's desk at 1:30 p.m. on show day.

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DODIE STEVENS

'All New Best of Doo Wop' Show: A Tribute to the 1950s Era

Audiences at the Bankhead Theater will take a trip down memory lane on April 9th as they revisit favorite songs of the 1950s and 1960s in the "All New Best of Doo Wop" show.

Featuring The Tokens, Dodie Stevens, and the Flamingo Tribute Group, this evening will pay tribute to the music of the era with such hits as "Lion Sleeps Tonight," "Tan Shoes and Pink Shoelaces," "I Only have Eyes for You" and dozens of other familiar songs. Hosted by comedian Scott Wood and accompanied by the Flashback Band, these entertainers will bring back the tuneful, toe-tapping melodies of the Doo Wop era in a single performance at the Bankhead Theater on April 9, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

Formed in Brooklyn, New York during the early 1960s, The Tokens helped popularize the American Doo Wop sound worldwide with their 1961 rendition of "Lion

Sleeps Tonight." The song jumped to number one on the Billboard Hot 100, where it stayed for three weeks, and remains one of the best known and most beloved songs of the era. The Tokens released nine more hit songs in that decade including "Tonight I Fell in Love" and "Portrait of My Love." Musician and singer Mitch Marlo, who was just 13 years old when "Lion Sleeps Tonight" was recorded, and his older brother Phil Marlo have continued to perform with the group, while expanding into other aspects of the music industry. In 1998 The Tokens again reached number one – as the first group to sing the National Anthem in every Major League ballpark during a single season, a feat recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Vocalist Dodie Stevens began singing at age four and soared to popularity in the late 1950s with the catchy tune "Tan Shoes and

Pink Shoelaces," which launched her onto the Billboard Hot 100 while she was still in her teens. The hit became her signature song, although she went on to record a number of other popular singles including "Yes, I'm Lonesome Tonight" and "Merry, Merry Christmas Baby."

Stevens regularly appeared on American Bandstand and toured with stars such as Bob Hope, Paul Anka, Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello. For more than a decade she performed extensively both as a singer and dancer with entertainer Mac Davis. Renewed interest in the music of the 1950s and 1960s has brought Stevens back on tour, charming audiences around the country with her upbeat singing style.

Also appearing with The Tokens and Dodie Stevens at the Bankhead Theater will be the Flamingo Tribute Group, celebrating the hits of

(continued on page 2)

Grammy Award Winner Performs at the Firehouse

Grammy Award-winning Latin jazz percussionist Poncho Sanchez will bring his "musical kaleidoscope of hot colors and bright lights from both sides of the border" to the Firehouse Arts Center on April 22.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

Sanchez' Latin jazz interpretations contain fragments of swing, bebop, salsa and other music from his youth that inform his creativity today.

Born in Laredo, Texas to a large Mexican-American family, Sanchez was raised in suburban Los Angeles, Calif. on an unusual cross section of sounds — straightahead jazz, Latin jazz and American soul. By his teen years, his musical consciousness had been solidified

by the music John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Cal Tjader, Mongo Santamaria, Wilson Pickett and James Brown. Along the way, he taught himself to play guitar, flute, drums and timbales, but eventually settled on the congas.

An invitation to play one set with his idol, Cal Tjader, resulted in Sanchez' addition to the ensemble, where he played a crucial role as "conquero" until Tjader's death in 1982.

Sanchez went on to produce 19 albums for the Concord Records label, eventually won a Grammy award, and received the 2010 Jazz Tribute Award from the Los Angeles Jazz Society.

Sanchez is respected as one of the top American percussionists. He performs frequently in venues varying from concert halls to lo-

(continued on page 2)

PONCHO SANCHEZ



'High Art for Low Brass' Sotto Voce Quartet Performs

Del Valle Fine Arts features The Sotto Voce Quartet on Saturday, April 16 in an 8 p.m. concert at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Paul Flight, countertenor, will accompany them on several pieces, a first for the Bankhead Theater.

The program will include the following: Western Fanfare, Eric Ewazen (b. 1954); Benediction, John Stevens (b. 1951); Falstaffiade, Jan Koetsier (1911-2006); Bridge, Mike Forbes (b. 1973); Take This Hammer, Steven Snowden (b. 1981); Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms, Simone Mantia (1873-1951); Three Latin Pieces: Libertango, Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992); Danzón, Paquito D'Rivera (b. 1948); Fortitude, Kent Eshelman (b. 1980), Viva Voce, John Stevens

"High Art For Low Brass" best summarizes Sotto Voce, America's premiere low brass chamber music ensemble, made up of two euphonium and two tuba virtuosos. The group appeared here during the 2005-2006 season of Del Valle Fine Arts and is being brought back because of its popularity with the audience. Certainly a novelty group because of the unique instrumentation, audiences find most novel that their large instruments can be played so effortlessly and with flamboyant technique. The warm, mellow sound that the quartet can create is unlike what most audiences have heard from tubas in the past - a diverse repertoire that spans musical styles from Elizabethan Consort Music to Frank Zappa.

The ensemble began its life as a college group but quickly realized it had something special to offer when it won prestigious prizes at competitions for low brass and gained reputable status at world-renowned chamber music competitions such as the Fischhoff and Concert Artists' Guild. The group has performed for over 12 years throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Sotto Voce is regularly invited to perform at International



SOTTO VOCE QUARTET

Tuba/Euphonium Conferences and to serve as the quartet-in-residence and head-judges at these and other tuba related symposia. Sotto Voce has three recordings on the Summit Records label: *Consequences*, *Viva Voce: The Quartets of John Stevens*, and *Refractions: Old & New Music for Low Brass*. See http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zClj_sWujxo for a piece by John Stevens from *Viva Voce*

DOO WOP

(continued from front page)

the Doo Wop group from Chicago known for their sweet harmonies in such songs as "I Only Have Eyes for You."

Providing his own comic touch as he serves as host for the evening will be "Mr. Punchline," Scott Wood. Over the last two decades, Wood has kept audiences laughing on television and in theaters across

which will be featured in this concert, along with several traditional American folk and work songs.

The artists who make up the quartet have widely diverse careers in music and are regularly in demand as performers, composers, and clinicians. Demondrae Thurman is the Assistant Professor of Tuba/Euphonium at the University of Alabama and maintains a very active solo euphonium career. His

solo CD *Soliloquies* is available on Summit Records and his new recording, *Songs of a Wayfarer* is due out this month also on Summit. Demondrae also appears regularly with the Atlanta Symphony and Brass Band of Battle Creek. Mark Carlson is an Assistant Professor of Music at Mt. St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD where he teaches music history, low brass and directs the instrumen-

tal ensembles. Mark is an active proponent of Italianate baroque performance practice and contemporary Scandinavian repertoire. Kent Eshelman is the Assistant Professor of Tuba/Euphonium at Baylor University in Waco, TX. He has won a myriad of competitions including the artist and student divisions at the Falcone competition as well as the tuba division of the Jeju (Korea) International Brass Competition. Mike Forbes is perhaps best known for his many compositions and arrangements and is a composer for Carl Fischer and Kendor Music. He teaches low brass and chairs the theory and composition area at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Mike was a member of the U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own" from 1998-2002. Today, he maintains an active freelance career and his solo CD *Forbes Plays Koetsier* is available from Summit Records.

Tickets are \$33, \$27 and \$21. Students through high school are admitted free although tickets must be obtained at the box office, 2400 First Street in Livermore.

Purchases may also be done online at the following www.livermoreperformingarts.org or by calling 925-373-6800.

The theater is located at 2400 First St., Livermore.

JAZZ

(continued from front page)

cal jazz festivals. His 2005 CD, *Do It!*, features the iconic funk band Tower of Power as well as South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela.

"There's room for a lot of different sounds in our music," Sanchez says. "I think people have come to know that that's what Poncho Sanchez is all about. We put it all together in a pot, boil it together and come out with a big stew. These are the sounds I grew up with. So when I play this music, I'm telling my story. This is the real thing."

Tickets are \$30, \$38 and \$45. Group discounts are available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.

the country with his rapid-fire comic one-liners. He won the Improv Comedy Club's talent search for funniest comedian in 2003 and has since appeared on cable television's Comedy Central and other stations. With zany antics and impeccable comic timing, Wood blends his own style of insightful humor with a remarkable ability to mimic voices in an extensive repertoire of celebrity and pop singer impressions. Tickets for the "All New Best of Doo Wop" on Saturday, April 9th range from \$39 to \$62 for adults and are \$12 for students.

The "All New Best of Doo Wop" is part of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's "LVPAC Presents" series featuring acclaimed performers in music, dance and other performing arts across a wide range of musical styles and genres. Next in the

series will be the unique theatrical entertainment of the Flying Karamazov Brothers, known for their master juggling skills, rhythmic sense and engaging comic wit. Their new show "4Play" combines a variety of ordinary props and musical instruments with their own extraordinary stage presence to create a fresh and exuberant performance. The Flying Karamazov Brothers will appear at the Bankhead Theater for one night only on Friday evening April 15, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. On performance days the ticket office remains open through intermission. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org

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Dancers to Perform Benefit Shelter in India



"The Way She Moves: A celebration of womanhood," will be staged on Sun., April 17 at the Amador Theater in Pleasanton, 4 to 7 p.m.

Dances will be presented by award-winning performers representing Zimbabwe (the Chinyakare Ensemble), Spain (Melissa Cruz - Flamenco), and India (Nrithyollasa Dance Academy).

The proceeds of the show will be used to provide basic amenities, security guards, vocational training, and counseling to these women who live in an area where 64% of women experience abuse on a day to day basis. A portion of the event will also be allotted to recognizing local Bay Area domestic violence shelters.

There are several ways for you to support the cause and get involved:

- Attend the event and buy tickets. Prices range from \$10, \$25, \$50, and \$100.

- Donate to the cause by writing a check to Friends of Seva Mandir or donating at friendsof-sevamandir.com

The goal is to raise \$10,000 with the hope to substantially improve the conditions of the shelter and give these women another chance at life. The funds support Seva Mandir's domestic violence shelter in Rajasthan, India.

For tickets, call 417-1897, 408-272-5307, 368-3519, or 510-623-8230.

The Amador Theater is located at 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton.

Author of 'Tahoe Beneath the Surface' to Present Program in Pleasanton

Scott Lankford, author of *Tahoe Beneath the Surface: The Hidden Stories of America's Largest Mountain Lake*, will present a program at 2 p.m. on April 10 at the Pleasanton Library.

Lake Tahoe transformed America, and not just once but many times over—from the earliest Ice Age civilizations to the mysterious death of Marilyn Monroe. It even played a hidden role in the American conquest of California, the launch of the Republican Party, and the birth of John Steinbeck's first novel. Along the way, Lake Tahoe found the time to invent the ski industry, spark the sexual revolution, and win countless Academy Awards.

Raised in Colorado, Scott Lankford got lost en route to Stanford University and spent much of the next ten years as a maintenance man, musician, and mountaineering guide at Lake Tahoe. After joining the 1985 American Everest West Ridge Expedition, he completed a Ph.D. in modern thought and literature with a dissertation on John Muir. He is currently a professor of English at Foothill College.

Towne Center Books will sell *Tahoe Beneath the Surface* at the event. For presale, please call 925/846-8826.

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

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



LAKE TAHOE

BANKHEAD THEATER

The Vagina Monologues

Performances Benefiting Tri-Valley Haven

Fri Apr 8 8pm, Sun Apr 10 2pm
Adult \$27.50/\$32.50/\$42.50



All New Best Of Doo Wop

Relive Great Times and Timeless Music

Sat Apr 9 8pm
\$39/\$51/\$62/\$12 Students

The Flying Karamazov Brothers

A Marvelous Mix of the Max Brothers & Monty Python

Fri Apr 15 8pm
\$29/\$40/\$51/\$12 Students



Sotto Voce Quartet

Del Valle Fine Arts

Sat Apr 16 8pm
\$21/\$27/\$33/Students Free



All Shook Up

Inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

Apr 22-May 8 8/2pm
\$37.50/Senior \$35.50/
\$27.50 Students



David Rakoff

Award Winning NPR Humorist and Astute Observer

Rae Dorough Speaker Series
Thu Apr 28 7:30pm \$30/\$12 Students

Paws to Read Taking Sign-ups at Library

Paws to Read, a popular program, in which children read to dogs, will begin its Spring season April 20.

Paws to Read, a program sponsored by the Livermore Public Library and the Valley Humane Society, is based on studies which show that reading with trained therapy dogs can improve a child's self-esteem and confidence, as well as encourage a child to read more.

This program has proved to be very popular with youngsters perfecting their reading skills.

The Spring program series will take place on Wednesday evenings, April 20 through June 8, 2011 with two sessions between 7 and 8 p.m. Sessions will be approximately 25 minutes long and will be held in the Livermore Public Library Civic Center Storytime/Craft Room. Registration begins Monday, April

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

For more information or to register, please call the Livermore Public Library's Children's Desk at 925-373-5500, ext. 5504.

TICKETS 925.373.6800 or www.bankheadtheater.org
2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore



Tim Dangan is the featured artist at Wild Vine during ArtCrawl on April 9 from 1-4 p.m. He works in Graphite and oil. A formally trained illustrator, his interest in what the human eye perceives and not what a camera sees, with the result being a combination of information from the reference material and the emotion or feelings for the subject not caught in the lens. During Art Crawl, exhibits will be peppered throughout downtown. Pick up a map at Wild Vine, Panama Bay, Ryan Fine Art, Main Street Designs, or Art Glass Studios on April 9. Additional information is available by contacting at Linda Ryan, 925-337-0567 or www.lindaryanfineart.com. There is no charge for this event.



Livermore Art Association Gallery is exhibiting Carolyn Ramsey's watercolor images for the month of April. Carolyn was born in Alhambra, California, but has spent her adult life in Livermore. She paints local landscapes, featuring hills and oaks and sycamores. The LAA Gallery is at the Carnegie Building at 2155 3rd Street in Livermore, CA. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is free. For more info call the Gallery 925-449-9927.

Foothill Students to Display Artwork

The Foothill Art Department invites the public to attend the 2011 Foothill Art Show to be held April 11-15. The works of talented art students will be on display all week during school hours in the Foothill library. In addition, there will be a reception on April 13 at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be available. Music will be provided by the Foothill Music Department at this special reception.

Art teachers have selected the most advanced pieces from introductory to AP art classes to appear in this year's show. A wide variety of artwork will be on display including not only drawings, paintings and photography but also mixed media pieces, ceramics, and digital and literary art.



Foothill High School is located at 4375 Foothill Road in Pleasanton. For information, call (925) 461-6600. The school is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

'The Essential Nude' Exhibit at the Bothwell Arts Center

The Livermore Art Association and Bothwell Arts Center are sponsoring an unusual art exhibit. "The Essential Nude," a collection of fine figurative art by local artists, will be on display from April 15th - 17th at the Bothwell Arts Center.

This collection takes a fresh look at the human form in all its glory. Meet the artists, and enjoy

food and wine at the opening reception on Thursday, April 14th from 7:00-9:00 pm. The show will be judged by artist Brian Keith.

Exhibit hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Bothwell Arts Center is located at 2466 Eighth Street, Livermore.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the website livermoreart.com.

County Arts Commission Offers Opportunities for Artists

The Alameda County Arts Commission is offering new opportunities for Alameda County artists to have their artwork considered for the *Alameda County Art Collection*.

Professional artists who make two-dimensional or low-relief, wall-mounted artwork are invited to apply. More than \$90,000 is available to purchase existing artwork and to commission artists to create new works of art. Through the Artwork Purchase Program existing artwork will be acquired and installed at County buildings for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public.

The Small-Scale Artwork Commission Program will commission artists to make new works of art to be installed at the Ashland Youth Center. This is an opportunity for artists who make youth-focused artwork; are interested in youth empowerment and working with diverse communities; and artists who want to create artwork that contributes to safe, supportive, and healing environments and is positive and uplifting. The Ash-

land Youth Center will open in late 2012.

Selection panels appointed by the Arts Commission and comprised of community representatives, and arts professionals, and County staff will select the artists and artwork. The final selections must be approved by the members of the Arts Commission. Applications for these opportunities must be submitted online through the CaFETM website, www.callforentry.org (search for "Alameda County").

The deadline for the Ashland Youth Center Project is May 12, 2011 and the deadline for the Purchase Program is June 10, 2011. These opportunities are open to practicing, professional visual artists who live, are permanently employed, or rent/own an artist's studio in Alameda County. Further details about these opportunities and eligibility requirements are available at the Arts Commission website www.acgov.org/arts or by contacting the Arts Commission Office at (510) 208-9646.

Museum on Main Reading Time Topic is Eggs-tra Special

The Museum on Main invites preschoolers and their families to meet at the Museum on Main for M.o.M.'s Reading Time: *Eggs-tra Special* Springtime on April 13 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

M.o.M.'s Reading Time is a free monthly preschooler pre-literacy program on the second Wednesday of each month from 10:00 am to 11:00 am introducing youngsters to books and activities about the unique people, places, and events in the community. Book reading begins at 10:00 am with theme crafts immediately following.

This month will feature the theme of spring time and eggs with books and hands-on craft activities. Children will make and take home their own paper nests and decorated egg along with tulips made from egg cartons cups.

Admission is free. Donations are always appreciated. No reservations are required. Large groups or playgroups please call in advance: 925.462.2766 or email: education@museumonmain.org. For more information on M.o.M.'s Reading Time contact Jennifer Amiel, Director of Education at (925) 462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org.

The Museum On Main is located at 603 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566, www.museumonmain.org, Tel: 925-462-2766, Fax: 925-462-2779. Regular hours of operation: Wednesday through Saturday 11:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

Political Issues Book Club Launched

The Livermore Public Library has formed a third book club - the *Political Issues Book Club* - in addition to the *Historical Fiction Book Club* and the *We're Talkin' Books! Club*. All clubs meet at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. Registration is not necessary to attend these book clubs - simply stop by.

The *Political Issues Book Club* meets the 4th Tuesday of each month and reads books about issues and trends that are driving current affairs in both the national and international arenas. Topics that have been covered include politics, governance, economics, military affairs, history, sociology, science, the climate, and religion.

This year the *Historical Fiction Book Club* is focusing on dramatic fiction written about life and love during World War II and examines common themes in these books, such as the use of family histories, the changing cultural and geographical settings and the varying perspectives on the actual historical events of the War. No background in World War II history required - just read the featured book and come ready to share your opinions.

The *We're Talkin' Books! Club* is a member-centered book group led by a small group of book club veterans, with reading selections based on member recommendations and consensus. No homework required - share your insights or just listen in! "When you discuss a book you've read with others, it adds a level of enjoyment and perspective that you're not likely to get on your own. Book clubs are just about encouraging reading," says Susan Edgar-Lee, one of the facilitators.

For a schedule of book club meetings, visit the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net or call 925-373-5505. Contact Rich (872-7923), for further questions about the *Political Issues Book Club*, Carol (449-7860) about the *Historical Book Club*, and Susan (337-1282) regarding the *We're Talkin' Books! Club*.

Local Graduate a Presenter at National Conference

Janie Pyle, Ph.D., daughter of Mrs. Pauline Floyd, long time resident of Livermore, will be a presenter at the National School Boards Association Conference at the Moscone Center in San Francisco on April 11, of this year.

Her presentation is entitled, "Program Evaluation: Assessing Impact on Student Performance and the Budget."

Pyle currently serves as Associate Superintendent of the Raytown C-2 School District in Raytown, Missouri. The district serves approximately 8800 students in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and Pyle is in her third year with the district.

"Dr. Pyle is recognized as a leader in curriculum, instruction, and assessment," Allan Markley, Raytown Superintendent said. Pyle presents nationally on a variety of educational topics and programs and recently organized and facilitated the Associate Superintendent's Academy for the state of Missouri.

Pyle is a 1975 graduate of Livermore High School and has been in education for 30 years. She has lived in Missouri since 2000, is married and has ten grandchildren.

Review

'A Life in the Theatre' Presented by Shakespeare's Associates and Dedicated to the Memory of Garret Boer

By Susan Mayall

An eager crowd filled The West End Theatre at the Bothwell Arts Center on Friday night. It was the opening performance of David Mamet's play "A Life in the Theatre", produced by Shakespeare's Associates.

Many in the audience were friends and family of Garret Boer, whose wife Joan had sponsored the show in memory of her husband. She and Garret had been founders and active participants in the old theater group "Cask and Mask" back in the seventies. Garret in particular acted in and produced many plays in the Tri Valley area, even playing the part of Robert in "A Life in the Theatre" on one occasion.

So it was particularly appropriate that this play should have been chosen, and perhaps even more so in that it relies almost entirely on characterization, and this, Joan told me, was Garret's great strength as an actor.

"A Life in the Theatre" was first produced in New York City in 1977. It consists of a series of short scenes alternating between the onstage and offstage interactions of an older, experienced actor, Robert, and a young 'up and coming' colleague, John, played here by William Wolak and Joseph Salazar. The onstage scenes reflect the types of drama an actor's life may include, from Shakespeare to modern American plays. The offstage scenes are set in the characters' dressing room, where they share makeup, comment on each other's performances, and gossip.

This is a play that benefits from a small, intimate environment like the Bothwell's. The set is basic, - a curtain in the background, which the actors face when they are performing, a table in the foreground which becomes a dressing table where they face both the audience and an imaginary mirror while they're between onstage scenes.

The proximity of audience to actors means that one can clearly see the expressions on their faces. So often in a larger theatre one gauges the meaning of the words mainly from voice tone and body language. In this performance facial expressions become an im-

portant part of the action. In the very first scene, where Robert and John are discussing their recent roles onstage, one can immediately see in their faces the way their relationship will proceed. Robert's (Wolak's) face shows the pleasure and excitement that he feels at John's flattering comments, until John (Salazar) mentions a small criticism. Robert's reaction is reflected in Salazar's face, showing John's realization that he can't be quite frank with the older actor, and has to change tactics.

Both Wolok and Salazar convincingly depict the progress in Robert and John's relationship, showing it as not only a life in the theatre, but as a metaphor for life in general. Wolok brings out the pride in achievement, the sadness of a career drawing to an end, the occasional sweetness of Robert's character. He also shows the often irritating aspects of aging - the desire to instruct, the wish to impress, the indulgence in endless musings. Salazar makes us feel with John when he finally says "Shut up!" But we also learn, as does John, of the loneliness of an actor's life, introduced in the first scene, when Robert angles for an invitation to join John for a meal.

Despite Robert's repeated advice to John that he needs a life outside the theatre we - and John - realize that Robert himself has none. Does John see this future for himself? Perhaps - but in his delight at the prospect of moving on to a more visible career than that offered by a small repertory company one feels that he is facing a similar destiny.

This is not, however, a gloomy play. It's full of humor - the best sort of humor, which always has a slight underlying pathos. The dressing room scene where John tries to fix the zipper on Robert's fly is pure buffoonery, as is the stage scene where Robert discovers he's the father of his young colleague's wife's baby, but mostly the humor is more subtle, found in Robert's musings, in altercations over shared greasepaint, in remarks saying one thing and meaning another.

The part of Robert is the more interesting, but John's character

provides the necessary foil and offers the possibility of showing growth towards maturity and understanding. Wolok and Salazar present us with entrancing pictures of an actor's life, and do full justice to Mamet's wonderful dialogue.

One more thing - the incidental music is superb and perfectly suited to the performance. Director Eric Fraisher Hayes deserves congratulations on a great production. All in all, "A Life in the Theatre" provides a truly entertaining and thought provoking experience. I recommend that you rush to get tickets. The theatre only seats 60!

Future performances take place April 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23; Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth Street, Livermore, CA. Tickets from \$25-\$35 by calling 1-800-838-3006 or www.LivermoreShakes.org. For more information visit www.LivermoreShakes.org or call 925-443-BARD (2273).



William Wolak and Joseph Salazar in David Mamet's A Life in the Theatre make a costume change. (Photo - Kenneth Alexander)

Alameda County Transportation Commission • www.alamedactc.org



Thursday, April 21, 2011 East Alameda County Transportation Forum

Hear About:

- Development of Countywide Transportation Plans
- Route 84 Expressway Update
- I-580 Corridor Update
- Alamo Canal Trail Update
- WHEELS Transit Advancements



at Dublin City Hall

100 Civic Plaza, Dublin, CA 94568
For Transit Access call 511 or visit 511.org.

Schedule:

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Open House
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
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April Showers Us With New Releases

By Laura Ness

By now, you've read, heard about or even contributed to the flaming blog by Steve Heimoff of Wine Enthusiast, who recently published a misguided piece of opinion that would have been best shared with a good friend over a drink, instead of in a public forum, called "Livermore: Trying to Rescue A Failing Appellation." Let me say this about that. First, there's nothing failing about Livermore except its failure, until now, to live up to its true potential. I think most of us might be guilty of this in our own personal lives, except for those few rare people who are always on fire with the next burning desire to create perfection. Secondly, if those with skin in the wine game, who happen to call Livermore home, want to slough off the dead epidermis of past perception, they have to do a little dermal abrasion and have the courage to expose what truly lies beneath.

As many of the respondents to Steve's ill-conceived diatribe pointed out, there is much noteworthy winemaking going on in Livermore, and to judge the region as a whole based on its mindshare dominance of the Big Two (a big story, but not necessarily the most intriguing), or on its lack of Steven Kent clones, is a grave mistake.

An appellation is not defined by a single winery or brand.

Thirdly, to cast judgment on a region's viability or vitality based on its lack of geographic penetration is like saying that the only reason Monarch butterflies are beautiful is because they migrate a thousand miles to Mexico. Seriously, if a butterfly is beautiful in your bush, do you care where it came from or where it's going?

We should all thank both Steve Heimoff and Steven Mirassou, to whom the former apparently gave some advice that one hopes didn't cost more than lunch, for providing this opportunity to mount a campaign to finally show off the secret cellar treasures of Livermore.

Remember that biblical quote from Luke about hiding your light under a bushel? ("No man, when he has lighted a candle, puts it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick...") I always thought that part about the bushel (basket) was a fire waiting to ignite. Take the bushel and throw it back at the naysayers. It's time for Livermore to shine.



Nottingham Cellars & Occasio Spring Forth With New Beauties

A bright shining light can be found on Vasco Road, where some of the best new wineries are consistently getting it right. Both Nottingham Cellars and Occasio will be releasing some exciting new wines to celebrate the rites of spring.

First, to celebrate the first day of April, and perhaps one of the warmest days of Spring thus far, Occasio hosted the Public Release of the 2010 Del Arroyo Vineyard Pinot Noir Rosé. This wine literally exemplifies the beauty of a spring day, and will spice up many an upcoming spring and summer picnic. Winemaker John Kinney is particularly excited about this one, as it brought back a taste memory for him.

"My appreciation of dry rosé began during a business trip to Nice, France. The purpose of the trip is forgotten, by my memory of the wines is as if the trip were yesterday. The dry Rosé wines of Provence were a beautiful pink color, and the fruit and acidity complemented the wide variety of foods that define Mediterranean cooking. In fact, my favorite wine memory is from that trip; a simple meal at a street side bistro with a glass of the local Rosé, all while watching the sun set over the Riviera coastline." I'd agree with John that this refreshing and vibrant wine should be the beginning of a wonderful series of taste memories for you this year. You'll be surprised at how fruity, yet zippy and lively with acidity this wine is, and if you think you can't drink pink, do, please, think again.



Collin and the rest of the Nottingham posse will hold a "Spring White Wine Lovers" event on April 9, featuring perfectly spring-time selections. The event is free for members, \$10 to the public, and will focus on Collin's winemaking philosophy, with special emphasis on vineyard partners. Each wine will be paired with food, and the selections will include the 09 Chardonnay, 09 Chard Reserve, and then a barrel tasting of the 2010 Chard Reserve. Futures will be available for the 2010. The highlight will be the new 2009 Viognier, which makes its debut that weekend. This is a deftly made wine, creamy, peachy and floral, with lovely notes of Asian pear and coconut. At 14.4%, it has a lovely balance of ripeness, richness and enjoyable acidity. With only 125 cases made, it's going to fly out the door like a bird set free from a cage.

The new Nottingham Cellars 2009 Petite Sirah will be released Easter weekend, April 23 and 24. This is also Club pick up weekend, and the 09 Petite will be part of the shipment. This lovely wine will be available exclusively to club

members from April 23 through the end of May, at which point it will be made available to the general public. On Saturday, the 23rd, they will have live music and appetizers available in the cellar, and club members will get to taste the 2010 in barrel to get an idea of what the future vintage holds.

Feel like chowing down on chowder and kicking up your heels? McGrail is throwing a Rockin' Chowder Dinner Party, Saturday, April 9, from 4pm til 7pm. Grab your dancing shoes, appetites and friends and get ready to party. Dinner choices are lobster rolls, pulled pork sandwiches, fish & chips, and more, plus 2 glasses of wine. Top Secret Band will be playing. Buy your tickets now, limited seating. \$50/person, \$65 non-members.

Fenestra's "Rhone Experience" takes place April 9 from 4pm til 6pm. Winemaker Brent Amos will be explaining the fine art of varietal blending and giving actual demonstrations. Guests will be able to ask questions learn helpful hints and facts on blending and even taste samples of actual blends. Club members can RSVP via email at info.fenestrawinery.com, or call 925 447 5246. Limit 50 guests, \$20 pp.

Rodrigue Molyneux is holding a "Let's Talk Cab Class," Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17, 2011. For Wineaux Wine Club members only, this all about Cabernet Sauvignon class is taught by certified sommelier, Lindsey Roffey. Taste over 15 different Cabs from different parts of the world, including Livermore, Napa and Bordeaux. Create your own Bordeaux blend. Compare and contrast different styles of Cab. Learn all about the Cabernet Sauvignon grape. This class will run approximately 2 hours and is \$30 per person to cover the cost of wine.

Taxes have you in the mood to throw things? It helps to have a safe target and non-explosive weaponry. Charles R is holding their annual "Tax & Dart Board Day," April 16 & 17, 12:10 til 4:30, and will release their new Pinot Noir as well.

Fed up with trying to figure out standard deductions and alternative minimums? Cedar Mountain feels your pain. Their "1040 Soup Kitchen" will be open April 16 from 12 til 4pm. Join us in the

tasting room between 12:00-4:00 for a cup of the famous U.S. Senate Restaurant Bean Soup, and give something back to our friends at the IRS! This is an annual event, compliments of Cedar Mountain. Tasting fees apply.

Wente Celebrates Earth Day, Sunday, April 17. Whether you had to give green back to Uncle Sam, or you have some slated to arrive in your bank account like manna from heaven, the folks at Wente want you to keep thinking green thoughts. Make plans to celebrate this auspicious day at the Wente Event Center on Tesla, from 1pm til 5pm on Sunday, April 17.

Earth Day is a time to reflect on promoting respect for life and encourage awareness of air, water and soil pollution. Wente Vineyards is celebrating the day to highlight their ongoing sustainability efforts and green initiatives.

Join fellow Earth Day observers for an afternoon of great food from The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards, The Grill and Catering at Wente Vineyards, wine and live music all day long. Taste wines from Wente Vineyards, Tamas Estates and Murrieta's Well. Wine tasting passes are just \$15 per person, and \$10 for members at Wente Family Estate, Murieta's Well and Tamas Estates. Call the Wente Vineyards Tasting Room at 925-456-2405 for tickets.

Take a tour of the property, or go on a Chef's Garden Tour with Master Gardener Diane Dovholuk at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. Or you can check out the recently re-awarded Audubon Sanctuary at The Course at Wente Vineyards at 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. Afterwards, why not dine at The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards, and enjoy a special three-course menu featuring garden ingredients? Make sure you save room for the amazing desserts by Pastry Chef Leena Hung, who is rumored to be making some special cupcakes for the Earth Day celebration.

April is overflowing with a shower of wine-related events here in the Valley, but don't forget to mark your calendars for the Wine Auction, May 7, to be held at the Wente Event Center.

Please note that the Easter Bunny will be taking the day off at both Occasio and Mitchell Katz wineries on Easter Sunday, so those wineries will be closed in observance of the holiday.

Gala Finale A Fitting Farewell Tribute

By Susan Steinberg

A brilliant performance by Archetti Baroque Strings closed this year's popular Early Music Series at Las Positas College on a high note last Saturday.

The performance was a fittingly inspired tribute to Philip Manwell, retiring Dean of Academic Services for Arts and Communication. An outstanding educator at the college, he was selected Teacher of the Year several times, received 3 Chancellor's Awards, and was honored by Alameda County as a "Champion of the Arts."

With music diplomas from the Julliard School and the Paris Conservatoire, he has performed all over the world, including Notre Dame Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Carnegie Hall, and the White House. From directing the original Valley Choral Society to being an active Shakespeare's Associates board member, he has nurtured all the arts throughout the Tri-Valley.

Marilyn Marquis, the one-woman dynamo who conceived of the Early Music Series, and brought it into being, paid eloquent tribute to Dr. Manwell for his encouraging advocacy of her project, and his administrative support at every performance.

Now in its 6th year, this Concert Series has attracted a steadily growing audience, with its final performance filling the auditorium of the new Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, which is another of Manwell's impressive accomplishments.

Following two outstanding earlier concerts, Archetti (Italian for "bows") closed the season with an audience-winning performance of Italian Baroque Concerti for Multiple Violins. A pre-concert conversation between Archetti co-founder John Dornenburg and Philharmonia Chorale Director Bruce Lamott revealed the fascinating story of the ensemble's formation and operating principles.

Dornenburg and co-founder Carla Moore have assembled a roster of accomplished Bay Area musicians who love this period music, and are willing to compromise on specific performance styles and play without a conductor/dictator. "It's a very democratic process as we discuss each person's approach to a work and arrive at a consensus" Dornenburg explained.

An enlightening outline of Baroque concerti grossi traced the development of this musical form long before a "concerto" came to mean today's big theatrical solo

piece with symphony orchestra, performed by a famous musician who, as Dornenburg wryly noted, "gets paid more than the whole orchestra combined."

The late 17th Century saw the evolution of ensemble playing, beginning with Torelli's use of the ritornello, a statement-and-response formula that would be utilized in many countries, especially in Italy.

From Torelli, Corelli, and Vivaldi flowed a long list of seminal works, and many young European composers dutifully traveled to study in that musical venue. Only Bach was "grounded" by his job, family, and poverty. Fortunately his employer traveled to the music-printing houses in Amsterdam, bringing back the latest Vivaldi works for Bach to transcribe.

Dornenburg pointed out the noticeable shift in Bach's musical style after his exposure to the Red Priest's imported compositions, very obvious in the Bach program piece, the popular Concerto in D Minor for Harpsichord and Strings, BWV 1052.

The soloist in that work, Davitt Moroney, Professor of Music at U.C. Berkeley, also serves as University Organist and Baroque Ensemble Director. A world-famous performer with a list of over 60 CDs, he has been accorded the French "Grand Prix du Disque," Germany's "Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik," three British "Gramophone Awards" and other prestigious international honors.

It was exciting to hear this great virtuoso in the Valley's newest concert hall, and a hushed audience followed his flying fingers with rapt attention and awe.

Bach's first movement demanded clarity, precision, and an almost superhuman agility to master its "perpetual motion" drive. The continuous cascade of notes, resembling many of Bach's organ works, seemed a natural emanation

from Moroney's controlled intensity.

What a rare treat to hear the harpsichord take center stage, supported by Archetti's spare continuo accompaniment, rather than the more common reverse, especially with such an impressive soloist!

The Adagio presented a completely different style, with simple extended melodic line, delicately delineated. Given a pensive thoughtful reading, it evoked the exquisitely moving quality of a slow Vivaldi movement.

The closing Allegro, briskly paced, picked up momentum as every musician swung into the tempo, none more happily than the soloist, obviously pleased with the results of their collaboration. Again, Moroney's solo passages were immensely demanding, complex, and insistently-pulsed.

A usually polite audience demonstrated their lively appreciation with a prolonged ovation. This reviewer, among the enthusiastic applauders, checked in with renowned early music harpsichordist Yuko Tanaka, who confirmed my opinion that this work is indeed "punitive" for the performer, but a joy for the audience.

Other works on the program highlighted the virtuosity of all the string players, and their extraordinary ability to achieve a perfect unity of attack and tone after only forming a group in 2009. John Dornenburg explained that much of the difficulty is finding 3-hour blocks of rehearsal time for such busy artists and teachers, but that their experience made for the quick group dynamic they already exhibit.

Other program selections ranged from the earliest work by Giuseppe Torelli (1658-1709) to the almost classical transition composer, Dutch master Pieter Hellendaal (1721-1799), whose concerto included a surprising near-Mozartean "March" move-

ment.

Throughout most of the pieces, a delightful airiness, sometimes even a light bounciness, surprised many concertgoers, who had expected a more ponderous performance, citing memories of "heavy Handel" experiences. As if to dispel such memories, the evening opened with Handel's Concerto Grosso in A Major, Op.6/11.

Archetti co-founder Carla Moore, leading the ensemble as "first among equals," launched the initial theme with affectionate warmth, and the "returns" of the others echoed her enthusiastic style in a spirited game of musical catch. A later fugal passage had instrumental phrases chasing each other playfully across the group, which performed like a finely-honed string quartet.

A sonorous Largo displayed a lovely lyrical seriousness, sounding like a stately court dance. Again, Carla Moore's lead violin wove formidably intricate tracers over the group's short phrases, with everyone joining in the buoyant lilting gracefulness of the final passages.

The Allegro became even more playful in spirit, like an impromptu game of musical hide-and-seek, with jaunty statement and response motifs that almost sounded like the inspiration for Ottorino Respighi's "The Birds." As one listener stage-whispered, "This is just too much fun!" And it was!

Torelli's early Concerto Grosso harked back to earlier stylistic effects, beginning with such a solemn introduction that one could almost hear the colon after it. Jolianne von Einem played a strong lead in the heavily-accented

Allegro, whose lively "landler" (a rustic country dance) became a popular symphonic component from Beethoven all the way up to Mahler.

The program finished with a characteristic Vivaldi Concerto in D Minor for Two Violins and Cello, op.3/11. His signature hard-driving rhythms and spiccato passages sounded very similar to those in "The Four Seasons" in this classical High Baroque work. Once again, Carla Moore magically tossed off the "perpetual motion" runs with playful verve, despite the persistent pulsing intensity it demanded.

The musicians' smiles during the performance showed their enjoyment of their effort, but John Dornenburg was beaming with satisfaction throughout, relishing the beautiful results of his vision of such a Baroque ensemble coming to life for this enthusiastic audience.

Another smile of satisfaction belonged to Marilyn Marquis, founder and chief architect of this wonderful series. She has watched her own dream come true over the past six years of year-round hard work, grant writing, schedule arranging, fund-raising, and guiding every detail of each season, while making it all seem effortless.

A newly-initiated audience of Early Music fans joined with the crowd of series regulars to acclaim her accomplishment, express their appreciation, and encourage her to continue bringing such exceptional musical events to our Valley. This reviewer joins their applause, proclaiming Marilyn Marquis to be an Important Cultural Asset to the community. Brava!

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Chabot Performs Award Winning 'Grapes of Wrath'

Valley Humane Society website, www.valleyhumane.org.

Saturday Salon at 4th Street Studio, final salon, 7:30 p.m. April 16. Theme "It's a sing to kill a mockingbird kind of night." Everyone's a featured writer. Bring a friend. Bring a nosh and drink to share. Information, 456-3100. Salon at 2235 Fourth St., Livermore.

Rosalind Creasy, author of "Edible Landscaping," April 17, 2 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Authors and Arts Series. Creasy's expertise on edibles and how to incorporate them in beautifully designed outdoor environments was first showcased in the original edition of *Edible Landscaping*, hailed by gardeners everywhere as a groundbreaking classic. Books will be available for sale and signing. No admission charge. 373-5505

Museum on Main, 2011 Ed Kinney Lecture Series. Wednesday, April 20, 7 p.m., *Strike it Rich: The California Gold Rush*. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. No reservations are required. Tickets are available at the door on a first come first served basis. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$5 members and seniors, \$3 students/teachers with ID. Information, contact Jennifer Amiel, Director of Education at (925) 462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org.

David Rakoff, two-time recipient of the Lambda Book Award for Humor, David Rakoff is a regular contributor to *Public Radio International's This American Life* and *The New York Times Magazine*. His latest book of sharply-observed essays is entitled *Half Empty*. Thurs., April 28, 7:30 p.m. Rae Dorrough Speakers Series, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.livermoreperformingarts.org or 925.373.6800.

Artist Flea Market, Sat., April 30, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. DeLucchi Park, First Street at Neal, Pleasanton. Information, www.pal-art.com.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, sneak peek, Sat., April 30, 1 p.m. For ages 5 and older. Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. No registration required. Scenes from the upcoming live theatrical production at the Firehouse Arts Center, and meet the cast members & professional staff. For more information, call the children's desk at 925-931-3400 x8.

7th annual Magic of Music Event hosted by Amador Friends of Music on Saturday, April 30, 2011, 5:30-11 p.m. The evening will feature dancing to the music of the Amador Jazz Bands, dinner, both live and silent auctions, and will be held at the Sunol Valley Golf Club 6900 Mission Rd. in Sunol. All proceeds benefit AVHS Music Programs. Tickets are \$65 per person. Attendees should RSVP by April 12. Purchase tickets online www.amadormusic.org. Those who need to pay by check can mail their payment to: AFM/Magic of Music Tickets, PO Box 602, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Ticket purchase includes arrival champagne and appetizers; dinner choice of chicken cordon bleu, New York steak or tortellini primavera; salad, dessert, coffee and fresh baked rolls. Two bottles of wine will be provided per table, donated by Morse/Il Gioiello Wines. There will also be a no host bar throughout the evening. The VIP table adds premium seating near the dance floor, additional table wine and two complimentary bar drinks per person. For more information, contact Linda Truax 925-462-8490 or MoMTickets@amadormusic.org



Chabot College students Scott DeMerritt (left) and Alex Skinner perform in the upcoming production of the Tony Award-winning play, "The Grapes of Wrath," featuring songs, dance, and folk music performed on period instruments. (Photo - Rachel LaPell)

Chabot College will present Frank Galati's Tony Award-winning play, "The Grapes of Wrath," with songs, dance, and folk music performed on period instruments. Performances are April 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. in The Little Theater, Building 1200.

Tickets are available at the door for \$15, general admission, and \$10, seniors and students with I.D. Parking is \$2.

The play is adapted from John Steinbeck's 1939 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about the Joad family and their hardships, migrating from Oklahoma's Dust Bowl to California's migrant camps during the Great Depression. The socially and politically charged American classic, which features iconic

characters and themes, also was made into an acclaimed 1940 film directed by John Ford and starring Henry Fonda.

Theater Arts students participating in the producing include Alex Skinner, Sam Chaires, Youssef Riahi, Robby Wagoner, Lucinda Jackson, Janelle Aguirre, Tara Simmers, Scott DeMerritt, Tony Azevedo, Tyler Gauthier, Eduardo Delacruz Jr., Vince Gabrielson, John Turman, Jaime Ramos, Kelvin Rama, Emilio Garcia-Sanchez, Patrick Sweet, Monica Bonilla, Sandra Harris, Nicole Torres, and Seveonno Palizzolo.

For more information about Chabot's College's production and the theater arts program, please visit the website at www.chabotcollege.edu.

Pleasanton Begins Search for New Poet Laureate

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications for its seventh Poet Laureate to serve as a public advocate for the appreciation and advancement of the literary arts. The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2011. The person selected will hold the honorary post from July, 2011-June, 2013.

Pleasanton's next Poet Laureate will succeed Deborah Grossman, who holds the post currently. He or she will be called upon to provide poetry at civic events such as dedications and public ceremonies, coordinate readings and other literary events and serve as an active member of the Poetry, Prose & Arts Festival planning committee. In addition, he or she will act as a resource and liaison between the City of Pleasanton and local schools, literary and community organizations.

Candidates for the Poet Laureate

ate position must be Pleasanton residents who have published poetry deemed appropriate by the Selection Committee. They must demonstrate affiliation with local schools, literary organizations and other entities associated with the advancement of the literary arts and they must be prepared to serve a two-year term without compensation.

Pleasanton residents may apply for the Poet Laureate post by submitting the following: Four poems; A one-page letter of interest; A letter of support from two other poets; A resume indicating active participation in promoting the literary arts in the community; and An outline of their vision - goals, projects, activities - for the Poet Laureate Program during your tenure, July 2011—June 2013.

A selection committee comprised of a Civic Arts commissioner, a representative of the

Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council and members of the literary community will review all application packets.

After a preliminary screening, selected finalists will be invited to present their poems and visions to the Selection Committee in person in May. A recommendation will be forwarded to the Civic Arts Commission for approval and the final appointment will be made by the Pleasanton City Council.

All application packets must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29, 2011. Postmarks will not be accepted.

They may be mailed to Michelle Russo, Theater Arts Specialist, Department of Parks & Community Services, City of Pleasanton, P.O. Box 520, 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566. For more information, applicants may call Michelle Russo at (925) 931-4847.

Decorate a Bicycle Wheel

As part of the celebration of the Stage 4 Start of the 2011 Amgen Tour, the City of Livermore is offering bicycle wheels to artists of any age to decorate. Wheels will be distributed until they are all gone. Finished wheels needs to be returned to the city no later than April 22.

The wheels will be exhibited in the store front windows along the route in Downtown Livermore during the Wine Country Festival

weekend April 30 and May 1 and will remain through race day, May 18. There will be a silent auction with proceeds going to benefit the local organization committee responsible for the state 4 start event.

Contact Catherine Hagebusch, Livermore Economic Development Manager, 960-4477, or Theresa Delavega, Economic Development Specialist, 960-4049.

Livermore Accepting Ideas to Paint Utility Boxes

The City of Livermore Commission for the Arts has allocated \$150 per program box for its UrbanArt Mural Program and is inviting all artists to apply and submit their proposals.

The Commission has initially set aside a total of \$750 for murals on 5 utility boxes. Sponsors have come forward to provide funds for the installation of additional murals on utility boxes throughout the City of Livermore.

The Commission for the Arts developed this utility box mural program because it supports multiple blight elimination efforts, beautification, job creation, and promotion of civic pride. The first

boxes to be painted will be utility boxes in Downtown Livermore as these boxes had been hit by graffiti the most.

The UrbanArt Mural Program Request for Proposals (RFP) and Sponsorship Forms are now available on the City of Livermore's website www.cityoflivermore.net. Interested applicants may also obtain a copy of the RFP and sponsorship form by calling the City of Livermore's Economic Development Department at (925) 960-4140. The deadline for submission of proposals is April 29, 2011 at 4 p.m. For more information, please contact Theresa De La Vega, Economic Development Specialist at (925) 960-4049.



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Livermore Rotary Club Mini-Grants Awarded

Livermore Rotary Club meeting Rotarians Jim Hannon and Mary Anne Rosza along with Vicki Schellenberger of the Livermore Valley Educational Foundation (LVEF) presented Mini-Grant awards to 8 Livermore organizations with dollar-for-dollar matching grants awarded by LVEF to educational organizations. Mini-Grants are awarded four times per year, limited to \$500, and awarded to deserving groups and individuals for projects, activities, and/or materials that benefit the Livermore community.

Each award proposal is paired with a Rotary Club sponsor. The awards are summarized in the table below with the recipient organization's name, the award recipient, and the Rotary Sponsor.

In total the Livermore Rotary Club awarded \$2,495 and the

Livermore Valley Educational Foundation awarded an additional \$1,995.

LARPD: Sharon Grant, Jacquie Williams Courtwright, \$500. LARPD wants to provide swimming and water safety lessons for low-income families, ethnic minorities, and families suffering financial difficulties. This would address the second leading cause of unintentional deaths and non-fatal injuries in the 1-14 yr. age range.

Altamont Creek Elementary School: Mary Dugger, Kelly Bowers, \$245 + LVEF. Fifth grade teachers want classroom books and CDs to use in a new English Language Arts program that sets up individual goals and allows each student to learn at his or her own level.

Christensen Middle School: Jeffrey Hale, Keith Cariveau, \$250 + LVEF. 7th and 8th grade science teacher wants laboratory equipment to teach students DNA extraction and electrophoresis.

Christensen Middle School: Tasia James or Amy Robbins, Jim Hannon,

\$380 + LVEF. 8th grade history and English teacher (CORE Program) wants to purchase electronic dictionaries to capitalize on remedial students' enthusiasm in using this technology to look up words as they write and read.

Christensen Middle School: Mary Jeanne Tenret, John Gordon, \$120 + LVEF. Physical education teacher wants yoga mats and hockey sticks for the school's fitness program.

Granada High School: Johnna Thompson, David Lowell, \$250 + LVEF. Math teacher wants document camera to display printed and student-generated geometric figures to work in geometry and other classes.

Jackson Ave. Elementary School: Meg Swant, Kathy Streeter, \$250 + LVEF. Reading teacher wants a Read Naturally software program that will provide student reading material and allow her to track student progress, focus instruction, and capitalize on the students' interest in technology.

Marilyn Ave. Elementary School: Christina Pomykal, Mike Thompson & Lori Souza, \$500 + LVEF. Science specialist wants microscope slides and a microscope cleaning kit to augment lab activities in biology and ecology for grades 1-5.

Annual Duck Races Set for April 30

The 19th Annual Livermore Duck Races will be held Sat., April 30 on the Arroyo Mocho at Livermore's Robertson Park.

Festivities will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. near the Rodeo grounds.

This is a fund-raiser for Livermore schools and nonprofit groups. Over \$5000 in cash prizes will be awarded to lucky duck sponsors.

There will be Little Duckie

Races for kids 12 years and younger. The race is free with a parent present. Prizes will be awarded complements of Livermore McDonalds.

The races are presented by the Livermore Lioness Club and the Livermore Y's Men Club. Each duck will have a number attached and assigned to the number on each entry form. The winning duck entries eligible for cash prizes will

be announced at the conclusion of each race. Individuals are not required to be present to win.

For more information, call 449-1315 or 321-1123. Tickets printed by Camino Press are five dollars per entry. They are available from some Livermore school PTAs or write to Livermore Duck Races, PO Box 48, Livermore, CA 94551.

Community



Tyler Joseph (T.J.) Morin

Eagle Rank Attained

Tyler Joseph (T.J.) Morin of Livermore was awarded Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Boy Scouting, on March 27. The Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony was held at the Elk's Lodge in Springtown, where he was recognized not only for completing the Eagle requirements but also for the gift of leadership that he shared with his fellow Scouts. Many spoke of T.J.'s friendly and upbeat personality.

T.J. joined Troop 924 in 2006 at age 13. In his second year of Scouting, he took on the role of Patrol Leader. In this position, he discovered he had a gift and a passion for leadership, and over

the next two years, he worked his way up to Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader.

For his Eagle project, T.J. organized a non-holiday food drive to fill the food locker at St. Michael's Church. The project was a success, and T.J. was very pleased with the generosity of the Springtown community.

T.J. considers the time he spent with Troop 924 a privilege and something he will remember fondly for the rest of his life. He is extremely grateful to all the troop leaders, family members and friends who guided him on his journey to becoming an Eagle Scout.

Information for Section II should be submitted by e-mail to edit-mail@compuserve.com.

The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.

What Are You Doing This Week?



The Independent's online Cultural Arts and Community Events Calendars have events this week, this month and this year.

PLUS

Websites for 32 cultural organizations and 183 other community, government, recreation, service and business organizations, churches and wineries....

See what's happening in The Valley. Go online to the calendars at

www.independentnews.com

Milestones

Community



The Las Positas College Talk Hawks bring home tournament awards. Bottom row from left to right: Melanie Johnsen, Katie Johnson, Megan Sinclair, Lanea Warren. Top row from left to right: Adam Neylan, Jordan Adelman, Salim Razawi, Janet Brehe Johnson (Director of Forensics), Brandon Rogers.

Talk Hawks Keep Winning

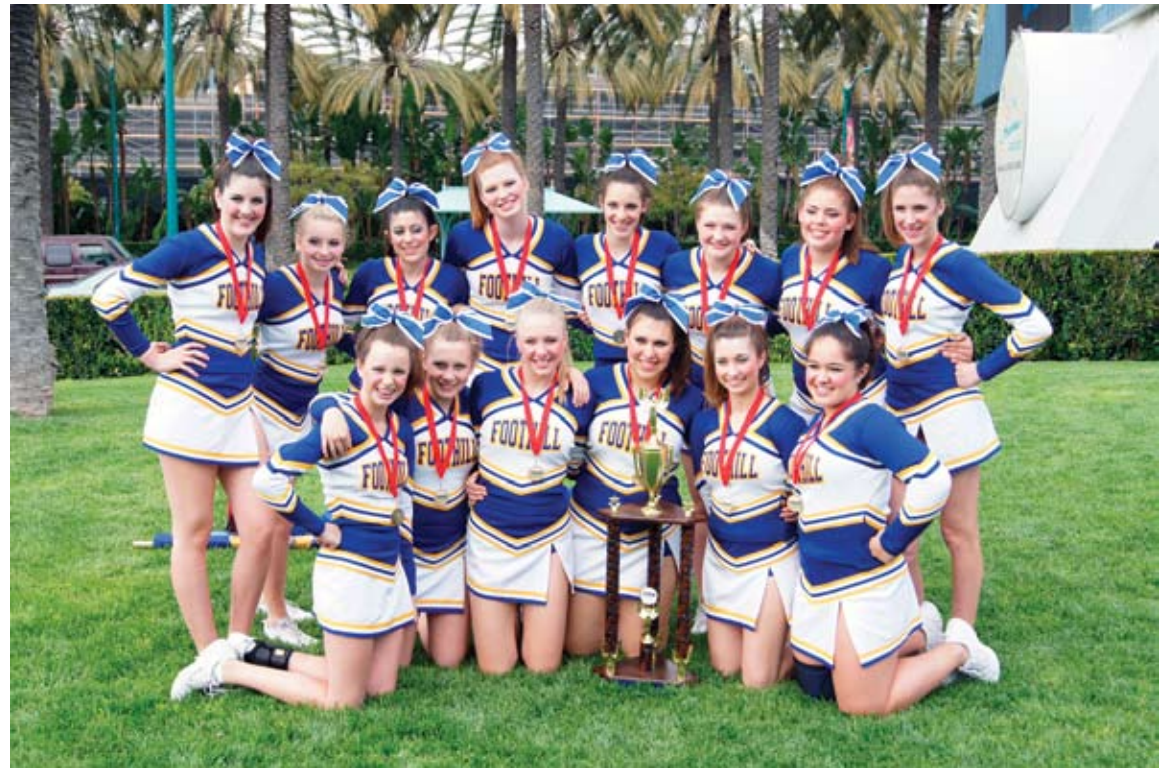
The Las Positas College Talk Hawks forensics team was ranked the number one Northern California team of both small and large school divisions at the California Community College Forensics Association's State Championship Tournament held March 16-20 in Woodland Hills, CA. A highlight of the tournament was the top Gold Award won by Katie Johnson and Brandon Rogers for their Duo Interpretation program.

"I'm incredibly thrilled by the team's success at this tournament. They truly represented Las Positas College well, not only in talent, but also in character," said Janet Brehe Johnson, Las Positas College director of forensics. The speech team won Second Place Sweepstakes in the small school division at the tournament which featured 32 California community college

teams. The Talk Hawks will travel to Greenwich, CT for the Phi Rho Pi Community College National Championships, April 10-17.

Following is a list of the championship winners: Jordan Adelman, Livermore, Bronze Award in Readers Theater; Melanie Johnsen, Livermore, Bronze Award in Informative Speaking; Katie Johnson, Livermore, Gold Award in Duo Interpretation, Bronze Award in Programmed Oral Interpretation, Bronze Award in Readers Theater;

Adam Neylan, Livermore, Silver Award in Programmed Oral Interpretation, Bronze Award in Oral Interpretation of Prose, Bronze Award in Readers Theater; Brandon Rogers, Livermore, Gold Award in Duo Interpretation, Bronze Award in Readers Theater



The Foothill High School JV Competition Cheer Squad placed 2nd in the United Spirit Association (USA) Spirit Nationals competition last held on March 25-27, 2011 at the Anaheim Convention Center, in Anaheim, CA. Foothill was one of two teams in the Small JV Show Cheer Intermediate division to qualify for finals on Saturday, competing against nine other teams from the west coast. Sunday they competed again and captured the 2nd place trophy. This same team took home the USA California Spirit Championship title in February. Coached by Kim DeJoy and Karen Maurice, the JV squad includes Amanda Arnold, Haley Bowers, Caressa Duarte, Michelle French, Diane Hadley, Camille Hamlin, Hayley Jefferies, 'Alakoka Kailahi, Emily Palange, Natalie Pearce, Taylor Sanchez, Summer Shelton, Natalie Wright and Haley Zattero.

Authors to Discuss 'Tri-Valley Trails' During Livermore Library Program

Local residents and authors Nancy Rodrigue and Jacky Poulsen will share their hiking expertise and discuss their new book *Tri-Valley Trails* at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

There is no charge for this event. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Tri-Valley Trails: Hiking Adventures in the Greater Livermore, Amador and San Ramon Valleys features over 60 hikes in ten different parks in the Tri-Valley area of the San Francisco East Bay. Many of the parks are in the East Bay Regional Park District while others are local parks. The book includes an overview of each park as well

as detailed descriptions of each hike. These descriptions include a difficulty rating, approximate mileage and altitude gain, as well as hike highlights. The book targets hikers of all levels from novice to advanced. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Longtime residents of Livermore, Nancy and Jacky have hiked extensively throughout the Tri-Valley for many years.

They wrote the book with one objective in mind: to introduce residents of the area to the many wonderful hiking opportunities the Tri-Valley has to offer. For both of them, this was a true labor of love. They have hiked every trail in the book, and have been working on this project for several years. Even

though there are numerous books published about hiking in the Bay Area, and even the East Bay, this is the only book written extensively about the Tri-Valley.

Nancy and Jacky say that they wish this book had existed for them when they first arrived in Livermore. They will present a brief description of each park in the book, share some photos, and discuss special features and historical points of interest.

The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten this program as part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series.

For additional events, check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

Education

Christine and Tim Petro of Pleasanton announced their daughter Mallory Brown, Amador High School Class of 2006, is graduating with Honors in May from Chico State, and once again made the Dean's List with a 4.0 GPA.

Jacob Thomas Siewert of Liver-

more, Calif. (94551), was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2010 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Siewert is a graduate of Harvest Christian Academy in Calistoga, Calif., and is enrolled in the university's Olin Business School.

