



See Inside Section A

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

City Asked to Look at Other Ideas for Pleasanton Economic Zone

By Carol Graham

The Pleasanton City Council and Planning Commission held a joint workshop on April 12th to review the proposed Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone, receive public comments, and provide City staff with direction. More than 200 residents attended the workshop held at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

The Johnson Drive Economic Development Zone (JDEDZ) involves a proposed change to existing land-use policies and regulations for 40 acres of mostly underutilized land (including 20 acres left vacant by Clorox's departure) that primarily front Johnson Drive, near Interstate 680 and Stoneridge Drive.

"Staff is exploring the idea

of replacing the 'light industrial and office' zoning for a portion of Johnson Drive with zoning that allows for a wider range of commercial land uses, including club retail (such as Costco) and hotel uses," said Director of Community Development Gerry Beaudin. "By changing the General Plan and zoning in this area, the City is looking to achieve two key

goals: to transform the area into a thriving commercial corridor that capitalizes on its location at the intersection of I-580 and I-680; and to create opportunities for new land uses and services in the community to broaden the city's economic base, which could generate new tax revenue to support myriad City services and programs."

(See ECONOMIC, page 4)

Measure J Funds Would Update, Repair Local Schools

Measure J on the June 7 ballot asks voters to authorize the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to issue \$245 million in bonds to finance school facilities projects.

The measure requires a 55% vote to gain approval. The tax rate required to be levied to fund the bonds is estimated at \$48 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

An independent citizens' oversight committee will be established to monitor the spending.

Co-chairmen of the "Yes on Measure J" committee, Chuck Oien and Jerry Yalon, reported to the school board last week. "The good news is that there are no arguments against the measure."

Yalon pointed out that the measure is a reasonable request to improve and correct conditions in schools. "The schools are well

(See MEASURE J, page 9)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The 2016 Pleasanton Run for Education took place last Sunday. The start and finish was at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. The race celebrates running and fitness while raising money and awareness for the Pleasanton Partnership in Education (PPIE). The funds support and re-establish district-wide programs for students threatened in recent years by state budget cuts, and to fund projects enhancing educational excellence for all students.

Rubino Named Superintendent for Pleasanton School District

Rick Rubino has been named superintendent of the Pleasanton Unified School District. He will begin his term July 1.

The board was unanimous in its choice at its April 19 meeting.

Rubino has been superintendent for four years in Gridley, located north of Sacramento in Butte County. He previously held administrative positions in the Martinez and Mt. Diablo school districts. In addition, he has been an elementary school principal, and served as a resource specialist for students with learning disabilities.

Board president Jamie Hintzke said in a news release, "Rubino has demonstrated success in the implementation of new instructional technology initiatives, as well as creating high-functioning teams. These were critical factors in our selection. He is a proven

(See SUPERINTENDENT, page 5)

Creativity Thrives Where Culture Embraces Risk

By Jeff Garberson

Managers who want to nurture the creativity that exists in their workers should look to emotional processes, not intellectual ones, according to a scientist who heads a famously creative laboratory in Silicon Valley.

Workers must be encouraged to try wildly imaginative projects and be rewarded when those projects fail, as they will nearly all the time, he said.

The organizational culture that develops from this approach will be far richer in creativity and excitement and therefore far more efficient than at a conventional

company, he added.

The speaker was Astro Teller, head of Google X, the laboratory that has developed self-driving cars, computerized eye glasses and contact lenses, and a balloon-based project to provide internet to remote populations.

He spoke last week at Livermore's Bankhead Theater as part of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series.

Teller is the grandson of the late Edward Teller, the famous physicist who helped found and later directed Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. His given first name is Eric; the nickname

(See CREATIVITY, page 2)

By Ron McNicoll

The two people who oversaw the finances of the Tri-Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC) have resigned.

The resignations of John Zukoski and Vivian Tran were submitted April 18 to Interim CEO Lynn Lysko. Zukoski, former Acting CEO of TVLC, resigned that position March 30, and went back to his previous position as Director of Finance.

Tran was serving as Director of Finance when Zukoski resigned his Acting CEO title. For a short period, TVLC had two Directors of Finance.

Director of Compensation and Human Resources Cheryl Weaver has taken over the Director of Fi-

nance duties.

Finances have loomed large at TVLC in recent months. The corporation missed two important fiscal deadlines in December. One involved a second interim report, which all public schools must submit to their County Offices of Education. The other related to the external audit, required annually of all public schools as a routine matter. TVLC missed the deadline by several months.

The failure to produce a timely audit resulted in a loss of thousands of federal subsidy dollars for TVLC's Acacia schools, which serve low-income students in Stockton.

Both financial failures were included in Notices of Violation (NOV) sent to TVLC by two

school districts. The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) supervises the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) and the Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory (LVCP) in Livermore. The Tracy-based New Jerusalem Elementary School District oversees TVLC's two Acacia charter schools in Stockton.

The lack of money to finance paving of the dirt parking lot at LVCS has triggered another financial concern. Until that work is completed along with related traffic improvement, the City of Livermore won't issue occupancy permit for the Charter Prep. The Charter Prep currently holds classes at the former Portola El-

(See TVLC, page 5)

Youth Oriented Health and Wellness Center Recommended in Livermore

The Livermore School Health Initiative (LSHI) has recommended the establishment of a youth centered space for wellness and leadership near or at a school in Livermore.

The data found the most relevant school health findings to be these: some disparities in aca-

ademic success based on income, language, and ethnicity; high rates of behavioral health issues (depression, suicidal thinking, bullying, and hospitalization); and current rates of obesity and overweight among students. In addition, behavioral health, dental care, primary care, and food/nutrition

services were identified as priorities, especially among low-income and non-English speaking families.

The initiative involves the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), the City of Livermore, the Office of County Supervisor Scott Hag-

(See YOUTH, page 2)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore Heritage Guild president Jeff Kaskey led the Questers on a tour of the historic Hagemann Ranch. Following the tour, the group, an international organization of lovers of antiques, collectibles, and history who encourage preservation and restoration of historical landmarks, donated money to the Heritage Guild to help with the restoration of the 1915 garage at Hagemann Ranch. The Amador Chapter of Questers meets the 4th Tuesday monthly from September to May.

(See 4th DISTRICT, page 8)

Incumbent, Challenger Vie for County Supervisor in 4th District

By Ron McNicoll

The 4th District of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors extends from East Oakland and Montclair, through Fairview, Ashland and Cherryland, and Castro Valley into all of Pleasanton.

Incumbent Nate Miley is winding up his fourth term, and faces

one challenger, Bryan Parker, in the June 7, 2016 primary. Both live in Oakland.

Candidates were asked their views on the county's open space and agriculture, preserving Measure D, the South Livermore Valley Area Plan, traffic congestion in the Valley, and the Livermore BART

extension.

Other questions were about the proposed county ordinance to control fracking, the county's start of a process that might result in Community Choice Aggregation of Power, solutions to the homeless problem, and social services and

(See 4th DISTRICT, page 8)



PET OF THE WEEK

As beautiful as a full moon, Luna is serenity in motion. At five years old, she shines with a quiet, friendly personality that will soothe the galactic swirl of your life. Luna will radiate peace and happiness while orbiting you constantly. With one giant leap you can visit her today at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, Tuesday through Saturday from 10am - 4pm. For more information, visit valleyhumane.org or call (925) 426-8656.

Photo - Valley Humane Society/K. Jacoby

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CREATIVITY

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came from friends in high school who compared his hair style to AstroTurf.

He is known around Silicon Valley as "Captain of Moonshots," which Hertz Foundation President Robbee Kosak called "the coolest job title on the planet" in introducing him.

The Foundation, based in Livermore, provides generous support for outstanding candidates in graduate science education. Teller was a Hertz Fellow from 1995-1999, pursuing a PhD in artificial intelligence at Carnegie Mellon University.

In the world of high tech, a moonshot suggests an imaginative, high risk project that has little likelihood of producing profits in the near term, if ever.

Whether moonshots would benefit all technology companies can be debated. However, Teller has little patience for organizations that won't even try. In an interview following his talk, he said that he is often ap-

proached by people from organizations that say, "Only you can do moonshots."

Teller continued, "Small companies say, 'We don't have the money to do moonshots; that's what big companies do.'

"Big companies say, 'We can't take risks; we have quarterly earnings reports, only small companies can take those risks.'

"The government says, 'We used to do moonshots a long time ago, but we don't have the money now.'

"Everybody's got a 'good reason'! I understand that there are challenges, but I don't think any of those reasons are legitimate."

Teller said that many people talk about innovation and business books have chapters on it, but none of them tell you why it doesn't happen.

Clinging to routine daily work reduces the effectiveness of most companies, he said. "Almost everything is wired to the path of least

resistance where you sit around without getting much done."

To break out of this pattern, he believes it is essential to give employees a workplace that nurtures their creativity, where they are encouraged to set "audacious" goals and feel proud of their difficulty, cheerfully acknowledging if they do not meet them.

He told the Bankhead audience that everyone is a "rock star creative person," but most don't work in an environment that allows them to live up to their potential.

Ninety-nine out of 100 projects will fail to become successful moonshots, he said. Efficiency demands that the mediocre and even the very good be weeded out quickly to make room for the brilliant.

This is not a top down process, he emphasized. If the boss personally selects successes and failures, the creativity of the workers is

being ignored or suppressed rather than harnessed.

The trick, he said, is to get the workers themselves to make the choices, to be willing to recommend against continuing their own projects. "Why would they do that?" he asked rhetorically. "Wouldn't it mean looking bad to the supervisor, being embarrassed in front of fellow workers, getting no bonus this year?"

Continuing in a rhetorical vein, he asked, "What if, when we kill your project, I bring you and your team up on stage. What if I say, 'This team, by killing their own project, has done more to further innovation than any of you sitting there working hard on your own projects'?"

Teller said that at Google X, now simply called X, workers are rewarded in just this way. They are encouraged to set their goals extremely high and acknowledge failures. They receive bonuses and public recognition for recommending the cancelation of their own projects if it is clear that they do not meet company standards.

It's a process that he called "emotional," not "intellectual." It starts with acknowledging an imaginative idea as "beautiful" and seriously exploring it, even if weaknesses become apparent.

He cited as an example a worker's suggestion that they try to harness the energy from avalanches, a project that would face overwhelming challenges because of the difficulty of knowing when and where an avalanche would occur and how powerful it might be.

What was important, he said, was not the project itself but the excitement that the worker felt first because of the idea and then for being recognized. She then worked with her supervisor to explore the idea. Together, they decided to kill it. She was recognized for that as well, he said.

"Amazingly, if you do it right, she gets brownie points for bringing the idea up and brownie points for killing it – like double-dipping!"

At X, he said, project workers get up on stage to tell fellow workers – not just the boss -- what their goals were for this quarter, whether they came close to

achieving them, and what their goals are for next quarter.

Their goals are encouraged to be audacious, almost certain not to get done. "They should be 'proud of how high (they) have set their sights,'" he said. "It's your goal and you own it; now be proud of it."

Revised Maps of Bay Trail Project Available

Commuter routes and recreation destinations for walkers and bicyclists are showcased on the San Francisco Bay Trail Project's revised map cards at www.baytrail.org. The San Francisco Bay Trail Project is a non-profit organization administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

Laura Thompson, San Francisco Bay Trail Project Manager, says, "The updated map cards are key to discovering recreation along the San Francisco Bay Trail, which spans 47 shoreline cities, nine counties, and 130 parks and wildlife preserves, reinforcing the connectivity between cities. The Bay Trail also serves as an alternative commute corridor connecting to public transit and employment centers." The new map cards were made possible through a State Coastal Conservancy grant.

The boxed set of 25 cards includes detailed maps, trail descriptions, and one large fold-out map featuring points of interest along the shoreline. The San Francisco Bay Trail maps are now available for purchase at retailers and at www.baytrail.org for \$14.95. Companion online and mobile phone ap-

"Across many, many presentations, not a single one comes close to achieving their goals. Why do that? Why set yourself up to fail to achieve your goals?"

"It's because they're excited; they own it, and they're in a community that understands these things."

plications are also available through the website.

When completed, the Bay Trail will encircle the entire San Francisco Bay, linking all nine Bay Area counties and 47 cities, and crossing seven toll bridges. The San Francisco Bay Trail Project provides funds and technical assistance for trail planning and construction to local jurisdictions, enlists public participation in trail-related activities, and publicizes the Bay Trail and its region-wide benefits as part of its mission to plan, promote, and advocate for implementation of the Bay Trail.

Pathway completion to Yerba Buena Island is expected at the end of 2016. Check with Caltrans regarding intermittent pathway closures <http://www.bay-bridgeinfo.org/path>.

YOUTH

(continued from page one)

gerty, the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, and Kaiser Permanente.

The recommendation follows two years of polls, surveys and focus groups conducted by LSHI involving students, staff, parents and providers.

The study looked at assets and strengths of health and wellness programs. It found that the majority of students surveyed never used many of Livermore's existing health and wellness services. Partnerships emerged as a strength with 29 partners and programs identified as providing services directly on school campuses. These include Horizons, ESS, Axis, and Tri-Valley Haven.

According to the report presented to the Livermore School Board last week, priorities surfaced in four distinct areas, behavioral health, physical health, specialty medical care and youth wellness center.

Behavioral health was the most likely to be ranked among the top 5 health concerns. This area looks at depression, drug or alcohol use, teasing and bullying, and family stress or conflict. Physical health issues were often associated with social and emotional concerns such as headaches and stomach aches. There were impacts from short term illness, asthma, being overweight and not enough physical activity, and lack of dental care resulting in chronic absenteeism.

One of the students quoted during the survey commented, "Depression is hard to get out of. Kids feel like adults don't know how many kids are depressed. And, there's not as much help as there should be."

The top recommendation to come out of the two years of work was to create a youth centered space for wellness and leadership. It should be located near or on a school site where students would have a safe place to receive services and seek information on health and wellness. The center should develop youth leadership that creates resiliency. There was general agreement that it should include peer and young adult staff.

Director of Student Services Scott Vernoy told the board, "Youth were pretty clear that such a center would be successful if there were a warm, aesthetic, welcoming environment where students could hang out and staff that could relate to and mentor students. There

should be a mix of wellness and enrichment activities available.

He added, that youths who were interviewed expressed interest in participating in the design of the center.

The second recommendation from the LSHI involved expansion of universal health access. This included such areas as expanding same day appointments and low cost services.

A third recommendation involved construction of a comprehensive district wide school based behavioral health system. Vernoy said, "One exciting proposal would be a peer education initiative. Students would be trained to have a better understanding of behavioral health issues so that they could educate other students and offer peer support."

Fourth on the list looked at strengthening high quality culturally competent practices. Vernoy noted that as the city becomes more diverse, there will be a need to increase provider training with cultural competency training, and increase language capacity by providing translation and interpretation in native language. The work force should be reflective of the cultural and linguistic demographics.

The final idea focused on implementing a well coordinated system of school health and wellness. Those interviewed expressed a lack of knowledge concerning available services and programs. Use would be enhanced by creating awareness of what is available.

School trustees offered input. Kate Runyon raised concerns over what she saw as a new area for the district to fund and oversee. She suggested that rather than launch a new program, consideration should be given to expanding programs at Axis Community Health or to having a community institution. "I get the need. I don't know why you would put the center at a school."

Chris Wenzel also commented that there are funding issues. "We need to be aware of sustainability."

Chuck Rogge wondered what would happen on weekends and evenings if the facility were attached to a school. "I don't see how we can support it financially and administratively. I do need to see some examples."

Board President Craig Bueno said he has seen such centers work well in other communities.

Vernoy noted that there are 29 such youth health centers at schools in Alam-

eda County. None of them are located in the Tri-Valley.

It was explained that the school district would not be the provider. The idea would be to bring community resources to the schools. There would be no additional expectation on the part of school staff.

Superintendent Kelly Bowers said, "This is the beginning of a conversation. We are facing these issues, but not really dealing with them because we don't have the resources. There are models that have worked in other communities. Rather than reactive, the idea is to be proactive in dealing with student health. This is about a partnership with the community."

Bowers suggested that board members visit a facility to see what would be possible, to see what has been done.

Next steps include a meeting in June involving LSHI. The discussion would include securing financial support for the center and developing a business plan to run it.

A grant from the city has been approved to initiate planning to pay for the predevelopment and cost to create the center.

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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

The City of Livermore is beginning to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Isabel Neighborhood Plan under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As part of the CEQA process, the City is hosting a Scoping Meeting to collect comments regarding preparation of the EIR – such as specific issues to consider during analysis of potential impacts.

Isabel Neighborhood Plan - EIR Scoping Meeting
Tuesday, April 26 at 6:30 PM
Robert Livermore Community Center, Cresta Blanca (North)
4444 East Ave, Livermore, CA 94550

The meeting will begin with a presentation on the background of the BART to Livermore project and a comprehensive overview of the Isabel Neighborhood Plan process. The discussion on the scope of the EIR will begin at 7:30 PM. The meeting is a great opportunity to learn about the project and get involved, especially if you have not yet attended an outreach event on the Isabel Neighborhood Plan!

The City is also collecting written suggestions on the scope of the EIR through May 31, 2016.

Please email BART2Isabel@cityoflivermore.net or mail to:
City of Livermore Planning Division, Attn: Lori Parks,
1052 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550

000The feedback received at the Scoping meeting and during the comment period will build upon input received on the Isabel Neighborhood Plan to date. The public will have additional opportunities to comment throughout the planning process. For additional information, please visit: www.cityoflivermore.net/BART.

Isabel Neighborhood Plan FULL BART to LIVERMORE

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Drug Take Back Day

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the US Drug Enforcement Administration, is participating in National Drug Take Back Day.

The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked on Sat., April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In Pleasanton, drop off is at the Gale-Schenone Hall of Justice/Courthouse, 5672 Stoneridge Drive #D, Pleasanton.

The public will have an opportunity to rid their homes of potentially-dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs, thereby helping to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft. This can also include unused pet medication.

Excellence in Financial Reporting

For the 20th consecutive year, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) has earned the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence Award in Financial Reporting. This award was received for LAVTA's excellence in financial reporting in their 2015 Comprehen-

sive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) established the award to encourage government agencies to exceed the minimum requirements in preparing their annual financial report.

"This award demonstrates that LAVTA has shown great responsibility and transparency in its use of federal, state, regional, and local taxpayer resources," says Don Biddle, Chair of the LAVTA Board of Directors. "Having received it for a 20th year in a row shows commitment to our fiduciary duty."

For a copy of LAVTA's financial report, visit the agency's website at www.wheelsbus.com, under the About Us tab, Reports, CAFR 2015. For more information on GFOA, visit www.gfoa.com.

Isabel EIR Scoping

The City of Livermore is in the process of preparing a preferred land use plan for the Isabel area adjacent to the proposed BART station.

The planning team is also beginning to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Isabel Neighborhood Plan. As part of the CEQA process, the City is hosting a Scoping Meeting to collect comments regarding preparation of the EIR – such as specific issues to consider during analysis of potential impacts.

The scoping meeting will be held starting at 6:30 p.m. on Tues., April 26 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

The meeting will begin with a presentation on the background of the BART to Livermore project and an overview of the Isabel Neighborhood Plan process. The discussion on the scope of the EIR will begin at 7:30 PM.

The City is also collecting written suggestions on the scope of the EIR through May 31, 2016. Email them to BART2Isabel@cityoflivermore.net or mail to: City of Livermore Planning Division, Attn: Lori Parks, 1052 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550.

For more information, go to www.cityoflivermore.net/BART



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

After five years of planning and work, Rotary Club members in Livermore presented the city with the new Rotary Bandstand at Carnegie Park. Members of the Rotary Club of Livermore and the Rotary Club of Livermore Valley came up with a plan for the bandstand. More than 100 volunteers and donors took part in creating it. The bandstand can be used for Farmers' Market entertainment, concerts, public ceremonies, theater and weddings. The celebration last Thursday, including musical entertainment. More information about the bandstand and the two clubs' Rotarian Foundation can be found at www.RotarianFoundation.org/

Wheels to Hear from Public On Bus Route Changes

Wheels has proposed changes in its routes. A public hearing to take comment on the changes will be held May 2 at 6:00pm at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore.

Dennis Mochon, Sr. Marketing and Communications Specialist, explains that the changes to the Wheels routes are designed to create a more easy-to-use transit system that reduces duplication of services, meandering routes, and inconvenient loops. In addition, more frequent service will be provided to key destinations, such as Las Positas College and the BART and ACE stations in the Tri-Valley."

Highest priority projects involve improved access to the East and West Dublin/Livermore BART stations. Ten new and modified routes will serve BART, including two routes that will operate on a 15-minute Rapid frequency all day on weekdays. This includes re-routing the Rapid to serve Las Positas.

A new Route 580X will operate from the Livermore Transit Center/Downtown Parking Garage directly to BART using the new I-580 Express lanes during the commute times on weekdays. Time to reach the BART station is projected to take approximately 15-20 minutes.

For Las Positas College, the Rapid service will operate with premium hybrid buses with enhanced passenger amenities, such as upgraded seating and real-time information. In addition, free wi-fi will be available to passengers. A connection between ACE and the college will also be provided giving an option to the nearly 30%

of LPC students who commute from the central valley.

For the City of Pleasanton, proposed changes include operating Rapid service on route 10 every 15-minutes all day on weekdays, streamlining service in Hacienda Business Park, and providing new service to Stoneridge Creek Retirement facility. The 15-minute service on Santa Rita Road on Route 10 would mean that over 6,000 households would have a 5-minute walk to a route that meets every BART train.

For the City of Dublin, proposed changes include eliminating unproductive routes and implementing a demonstration project for the City of Dublin that would utilize real-time dynamic ridesharing in partnership with Transportation Network Companies as an

alternative to operating a large bus.

Wheels will provide bus service to and from the hearing on May 2. Wheels will be extending the operating hours of several of its routes to ensure that passengers that exit the meeting by 8PM will be able to complete their trips home.

Translation services are available with 72 hours advance notice by calling Wheels at (925) 455-7555.

Full details about the proposed bus service plan can be viewed at: www.wheelsforward.com. Paper copies of the plan are available at LAVTA's administrative offices at 1362 Rutan Court, Suite 100, Livermore, or at the Livermore Transit Center at 2500 Railroad Ave, Livermore. Paper copies can also be requested by calling LAVTA's administrative office at: 925-455-7555.

Supervisors Will Hear Appeal on Wind Turbine Replacement

The East County Board of Zoning Adjustments' (BZA) 2-0 decision on March 24 approving Sand Hill Wind LLC's 12 new turbines to replace 433 old-style turbines has been appealed to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Darryl Mueller, who lives in the vicinity of the turbines, filed the appeal. The project would be located in three areas totaling 875 acres near Grant Line Road and Interstate 580. The item has been set tentatively for the supervisors' May 10 agenda.

The project is planned to produce up to 36 megawatts of power. The Sand Hill Wind LLC application represents a modification of an earlier stage of the application, which asked for 24 wind turbines. Dialogue between stakeholders such as East Bay Regional Park District and the Audubon Society brought about the 50 percent reduction.

Mueller opposed the

project when the BZA approved it. He commented then that the search area for dead birds was too small for the new turbines. Turbines can be as tall as 495 feet, depending on the model selected by Sand Hill Wind LLC.

Mueller said that the smaller search area could harm the data that a scientific panel examines to see whether the siting and design of the turbines meets goals in reduction of bird deaths in the Altamont. Mueller contends that future bird deaths are estimated too low.

Another problem seen in computer simulations of the wind towers relates to the flickering light from the blade motion that will fall on some homes, said Mueller.

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TVLC

(continued from page one)

elementary School, a site that lacks enough space indoors and outdoors for high school activities.

When acting as CEO, Zukoski gave the board an account balance sheet that showed there was not enough money to cover the estimated \$400,000 and \$1 million to pay for parking and traffic improvements.

Zukoski said a few months ago that negotiations were underway with California Preparatory Academy (CPA) to cover the cost. So far, nothing has happened.

CPA manager Bill Batchelor told The Independent

last week, "We are progressing (on the parking lot financing). I'm still confident that we will be able to move into the facility this fall."

The annual rent on the new quarters will be \$2.1 million, to be split between the Charter Prep and CPA. Some parents at both LVCP and LVCS see that bond debt as ominous, with an ability to put both schools out of business. A loan default would put the financial responsibility on TVLC, if CPA were unable to meet its obligation.

The private school cannot occupy the building until the

parking lot work is completed, so the revenue stream from tuition is closed. CPA maintains a reserve fund, which can be used, said Batchelor. It would more than cover the first year of debt, he said.

The enrollment at the private school has not been announced. The number of students is important. Tuition, room and board had been set at \$29,500 on a web site posted three years ago. Now the amount is not certain. Batchelor had no comment.

Some parents attending board and school council

meetings didn't like the idea of the "handshake deal" between CPA and TVLC. They want to see change on the TVLC board, which they say has been lax when it comes to accountability and transparency.

Julie Weingart resigned from the LVCP Site Council April 11. Weingart said that the corporation is putting the schools at risk. She said that TVLC should uncouple itself from CPA, and find another way to move into the building at 3090 Independence Drive.

Directors welcomed two new board members in their first meeting held at an Acacia school on April 14. They are Stacy Harrison, a self-employed realtor, and Catherine Lewis, a special education teacher employed by the Stockton Unified School District.

Answering a question from site council member Kristin Kohn, Lewis said that she would not have a

conflict of interest with her job in the Stockton district. The board approval for both candidates was unanimous.

TVLC OKAYS DRAFT ON DIVERSITY

The board also approved the draft of a policy to work toward bringing more diversity to enrollment at LVCS. A lottery is currently used to fill slots. LVJUSD said that the lottery has not succeeded in redressing the imbalance of minority and low-income students.

The LVCS site council met with principal Tara Aderman. Outreach was recommended to meet the required numbers. Staff and council are working hard to conduct more recruitment. If the recruiting process were not successful, then LVCS will consider redoing its lottery preference, said Kohn.

The first step would be to improve outreach efforts to include pre-schools, food pantries for low-income contact, channels to reach

Spanish speakers, and town hall meetings, which would include translators.

If that were not successful, there would be a change in the current preference categories in the lottery would be made. First preference would still go to siblings of kids in school. However, the children of faculty and staff would be bumped down to third place, replaced as second priority by children who qualify for Title 1 money. Because of court ruling, the school must approach changes in diversity preferences carefully, said board attorney Austin.

The third action would include giving preference to children at Marylin Avenue and Junction Avenue K-8 schools, which have a high concentration of Title 1 students.

TVLC will send the draft plan to LVJUSD for comments, receive it back, and approve a final plan to be submitted to LVJUSD for its final approval.

SUPERINTENDENT

(continued from page one)

leader committed to building strong community relationship and collaboration."

Rubino said, "I look forward to working with the board of trustees and the entire district leadership team to continue the greatness of the district."

The board also appointed new principals for two schools. Michael Williams, who has been vice principal for two years at Amador

Valley High School, will become interim principal. He replaces Principal Thomas Drescher who will be taking a leave of absence through June 30.

Chris Connor, interim principal at Walnut Grove School since January, will become the principal on July 1. He has been vice principal at Fairlands, Vintage Hills, and Mohr elementary schools, and taught in ele-

mentary school for 11 years.

The board appointed Beth Cutter as the new Assistant Director of Adult Education. The newly restored department provides beginning and intermediate English as a Second Language courses. Cutter began her career at Amador where she taught science for seven years. Afterward, she took on the role of vice principal at Granada High School in Livermore for two years.

Sandia Agrees to Develop New Concepts and Capabilities for Emergency Response and Planning

Sandia National Laboratories and the California Fire and Rescue Training Authority (CFRTA) signed a memorandum of agreement to develop new concepts and capabilities for emergency planning, exercise and response.

The agreement was signed by Marianne Walck, vice president of Sandia's California site and the Energy & Climate program, and by Ruben Grijalva, executive director of CFRTA, which includes the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

and the Sacramento Fire Department.

"The strong relationship between Sandia and the CFRTA is yielding a number of benefits," Walck stated. "The partnership provides Sandia with operational partners to help transition technology to emergency managers and first responders. At the same time, the CFRTA is gaining access to technologies that can enhance preparedness across the state."

The California Exercise Simulation Center (CESC), an exercise and research facility operated by the CFRTA, helps prepare first responders and incident commanders by simulating catastrophic and complex emergency scenarios at low cost. The CESC serves as a satellite facility of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Exercise Simulation Center network, which enhances regional preparedness.

This agreement builds on

a recent \$50,000 grant from the state of California to Sandia to build three emergency response scenarios for the state and the CFRTA on wildfire, chlorine tanker release and radiological dispersal device. The nine-month project will begin next month.

To develop the scenarios, Sandia will link a set of models and data for California to simulate the spread of hazards from wildfires, toxic chemicals and radiation. Based on predictions of areas that could be affected, the models will estimate potential impacts on population, infrastructure and the economy. Once the basic scenario has been created, emergency managers can evaluate a wide range of possible outcomes by varying key scenario conditions, such as weather, size of a chemical spill or response options. The scenarios will help emergency managers better prepare for a broader set of incidents.

Annual Duck Races Scheduled

The 24th annual Livermore Duck Races will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 15 at the Arroyo Mocho in Robertson Park. The Granada High School pool will be an alternate location is water at the park is undesirable. Race times at Granada would be 1 to 2 p.m.

This event is a fundraiser for Livermore schools and local non profits. Over \$5000 in cash prizes will be given out to duck sponsors. Tickets will be available at the event.

There will be Little Duckie Races for kids 12 years and younger. These races are free with a parent present. If the event is held at the swimming pool, the Little Duckie Races would be cancelled.

Granada High swimmers will be helping with the flotation of the ducks in the pool and then dive for the lucky winners. Boy Scouts from Troop 942 will then help net and bag the plastic ducks.

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 an entry form. The winning duck entries eligible for cash prizes will be announced at the conclusion of each race. Individuals who submitted the winning entries are not required to be present. They will be notified by phone.

For more information, call Betty Harvey 449-1315 or Jim Travis 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, POL Box 48, Livermore, CA 94551.

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Dublin Seeks Input from The Arts Community

As part of a Cultural Arts Needs Assessment, the City of Dublin seeks input from the arts community at stakeholder meetings April 26-28.

Both individual artists, performers and independent arts educators, and arts organizations and businesses are encouraged to participate. Gathering input from the arts community is the first step in the study, which will also include a citywide survey of Dublin residents in late May. Results from the study will help inform the city council and staff regarding future arts facilities and programming.

Meetings for individual artists and performers in all genres and independent arts educators will be held Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m., at

City Hall, and Wednesday, April 27, 8:30 a.m., at the Dublin Senior Center.

Meetings for representatives of arts organizations and arts-related businesses are Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m., at the Shannon Community Center, and Thursday, April 28, 8:30 a.m., at Dublin Heritage Park's Sunday School Barn.

RSVP to Cultural Arts and Heritage Manager Tegan McLane at tegan.mclane@dublin.ca.gov or (925) 556-4565. Members of the arts community who are unable to attend one of the stakeholder meetings are encouraged to contact the Cultural Arts and Heritage Manager to request updates on future opportunities to participate.

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SPORTS NOTES



Fusion U9 Boys' Maroon team shown are (back) Coach Francisco, Nicolai Barron, Seth Raborn, David Zarco, Kaleo Jones, Nolan Locey, Chris Thomas; (front) Sammy Lara, Gerardo Macias, Jorje Ramirez, Griffin Lee, Sean Gavin, and Alex Ramirez.



Livermore Little League Major Royals' Xavi L. went 2 for 2 sparking the Royals to a 4 to 1 victory.



The Mavericks' 04 travel team finished 1st in USSSA 12U "Red Rooster" Silver Bracket in Martinez this past weekend. The outcome was led by outstanding pitching from Jenn Morrison, Kathryn Piscotty and Lindsey Wilson on Sunday. The offense was led by Eva Chamberlain going 6 for 10, Jessy Hall going 5 for 11 and Makayla Munoz going 6 for 9. Players pictured are Madison Braswell, Eva Chamberlain, Raegan Chioino, Amie Dempsey (not shown), Sydney Gutierrez, Allison Gould, Jessy Hall, Kate Hankins, Sofia Lamiero, Anahi Morales, Jenn Morrison, Makayla Munoz, Kathryn Piscotty, and Lindsey Wilson.



Granada High School boys JV volleyball team chalked up another win, this one against Livermore on their cross-town rivals home court. The match was played on April 12 with game scores of 25-16 and 25-17. In game 2 action, Josh Harris #8 is hitting the ball while Josh Murray #9, Luke Ebbinghaus #12, and Emory Larson #2 are ready if the rally continues. The team continued its winning ways versus California High of San Ramon on April 14. The Matadors had a good match against a tough team with game scores of 25-17 and 25-22.



Joe Tenca, the manager of the Livermore Little League's Single A Giants was thanked by the A's Team Mom who said, "I just wanted to thank you for showing our parents and kids how the opposing team's coach should act. Watching you and your coaches interact with our kids and high fiving them too made a huge difference. My son is ready to quit baseball and he made a great play on first. You went over and acknowledged him. Watching my husband interact with you and your players reminded us, that this is what it's all about. We may have lost, but we walked off the field with our heads up."



The Phantoms U9 Black lacrosse team played a spirited game against the San Ramon Eagles B9 team on a hot Sunday afternoon. Pierce Arizpe played an outstanding defensive game blocking 3 attempts as goalie, as well as playing tough defense on the field. Archer Bailiff, Rodger Mayhew, Jordan Phillips (#77 in photo) and Brody Arizpe displayed offensive teamwork allowing only 2 opposing goals. Braham Weintraub, Eljay Shellenberg, Roman Zuanich and Zack Neely led the team in scoring for the Phantoms.



Pitcher Justin Gilliam prepares to throw the ball to first as Antonio Rivalie races down the line and catcher Mikey Christian looks on. This took place in a Granada Little League game between the Cardinals and the Rockies in the Majors division. Photo - Bill Nale



The Fusion U11 Boys Gold continued their strong Spring League start with their second win in as many games. Fusion jumped on the scoreboard early against Castro Valley with a nice goal by Basheer Khairie. Anish Dhakal added a second goal prior to half. A strong defense led by Marc Sorensen and Josh Eichelberger and Chaz Patterson in goal kept Castro Valley at bay until late in the game. Kyle Hoopes put the game away with a super effort on a breakaway goal. Nathan Thompson turned in commanding play throughout helping key the 4-1 victory and their 2-0-0 start. In the photo is Tyler Kardy on the ball with Andrei Gran and Nathan Thompson adding support



Phantom U11 Purple got back into the swing of things after a break by beating the always tough Danville Scorpions 8 to 6 on Sat. 4/16/16. Goals were scored by Zach Agrella with 2, Brandon Niermeyer with 3, and Charles Jorgensen, Nikolai Mirra, and Nathan Strong with one each. Assists were by Luke Leary and Charles Jorgensen. Strong defense by Aidan Andre, Dylan Gunderson and Bryce Moy, along with fantastic saves by keeper Andrew Kramer, kept the Scorpions from taking the lead.



The Livermore Phantoms U11 White had another busy weekend as they played the Diablo Scorpions on Saturday. The Scorpions came out of the gate quickly and held the lead through halftime. The Phantoms mounted a comeback as James Foulk and Jack Hansen scored goals in the 1st half. Then, within 4 minutes of the 3rd period, Andres Bostrom and Alexander Operin scored goals to tie up the match 5-5. The Phantoms' defense held strong throughout with contributions from Chase Parker, Jacob Salhoff, Jonathan Van Essen and Ryan Gill. A couple of late goals by the Scorpions sealed the Phantoms' fate as the Scorpions won 7-5. The Phantoms also played the Pleasanton Blast on a very warm Sunday in Pleasanton. The Blast came out strong and kept the pressure up all day as the Blast ended up winning 12-2. Pictured is defensive player Chase Parker (#5).



The Livermore Phantoms U13 Black team traveled to Elk Grove on Sunday to take on the Pleasant Grove Eagles. The Phantoms were very stingy on defense allowing just 2 goals in the 10-2 win, bringing their record to an impressive 13-1 on the season. The offense and middies were on target once again, scoring ten goals and winning the battle for ground balls. Pictured is Phantoms' player, Dane Winslow, dodging Eagle defenders in front of goal.



Monique Reil and Alivia Ganz of the U14G West Coast Wave celebrated the 3rd goal scored off a cross and finish.



West Coast Wicked defeated Alliance 6 to 2. The game was tied at the half, 2 to 2. Wicked came out in the second with more passing and teamwork to finish the game with 6 goals. This was Wicked's second win starting the season off in style. Pictured is Leslie Mangskau, who scored 4 of the 6 goals.

Livermore Phantoms

The Phantoms U13 White played two games this weekend. On Saturday they took on the San Ramon Bay Hawks. Cassandre Hamel scored the first goal and Logan Pelkey added two goals, but they did not pull out a win. On Sunday, the Phantoms went to Pleasanton and played the Vortex. Despite four goals in this game by Logan Pelkey, the team suffered another loss. Sunday's game proved that the Phantoms could indeed play physical and win battles, including good checks and blocks by many players, including Nathan Rivera whose block saved a goal late in the 2nd period to keep the game close. This game showed good goaltending by both Logan Wright and Daniel Moy who both battled hard to keep the Phantoms in the game.

The Phantoms U-11 Black had a very busy weekend. Sunday morning the team played a masterful game against cross-valley rivals the Pleasanton Cyclones B11B team on their home field, winning 8 to 5. Jack Littauer was the lead goal scorer with 3 points with assists by T.J. Newcomb, Andrei Gran and Lucas Wallin. Ben Wojewski made 2 scores with assists by Andrei Gran and Lucas Wallin. Tate Rosburg, Andrei Gran and Lucas Wallin all made unassisted goals. Ella Coltrin, Josh King, Nick Swartzendruber, Jason Kitahama and Blake Wilkinson played great mid-field lacrosse and waged some epic battles for the ball. Ryan Doko saved 4 goals with helpful defense by Grady Roffey and Teagan Bailiff. Ben Castillo was injured in the first few minutes and sat out the rest of the game. The previous morning, the team played the very strong Danville

Scorpions, losing 2 to 8. Despite heroic efforts by Ryan Doko who made five saves, and scores by Ben Wojewski and Jack Littauer.

Pleasanton Softball

Pleasanton Girls Softball League results:

6U Division: Summit Financial Group, LLC vs. AuPair Care: Summit Financial Group, LLC played against AuPair Care headed by Coach Donna Barpal and Coach Mike Harris respectively. The top 3 players of Summit Financial Group, LLC: Peyton Lew who showed off consistent hits without tee and strongly defended 1st base. Alexa Sponcel still shines through despite missing a few games. Peyton and Alexa continue to be the strongest players of the team both defensively and offensively. Mikayla North played her best at this game as the pitcher's helper. The top three players of AuPair Care are Paloma Spencer and Mia Harris who are most consistent with hitting the ball without tee. The 2 girls seem to be the best asset of the team. Paloma played wisely as a pitcher's helper and Allie Steele could hit well with and without the tee. Top Players: Summit Financial Group, LLC - Peyton Lew, Mikayla North, Alexa Sponcel; AuPair Care - Mia Harris, Paloma Spencer, Allie Steele

7U Division: Renewal by Anderson vs Al's Roofing Supply: Renewal by Anderson's Claire Yung, Julia Wanis, Lauren Wood, and Malana Schreiber all showed impressive hitting skills. Julia Wanis made a beautiful slide into the 1st base in the 1st inning. Malana Schreiber and Ilisha Sharma played solid defense, producing a couple of outs each in the 2nd inning. Meanwhile from Al's

Roofing Supply, Emily Evans, Payton Whitehouse, Grace Berberich, and Riley Costello hit really well throughout the game. Charlotte Santana was on fire defensively in the 1st inning, outing 4 players. Top Players: Renewal by Anderson - Malana Schreiber, Julia Wanis, Claire Yung; Al's Roofing Supply - Cameron Brown, Emily Evans, Charlotte Santana

Beeline Bikes vs. Al's Roofing Supply: Beeline Bikes versus Al's Roofing Supply was another action packed game with great plays by both teams. Excellent fielding and hitting were accomplished by Beeline Bikes' Paige Nelson, Ashley Srouji, and Rowan Tuite. Al's Roofing Supply were tough competition with some amazing hits by Charlotte Santana, Jesse Dowling, and Brooke McDonough. Other notable hardworking players in this game were Beeline Bikes' Carys Shannon, Brooke Stedman, Mady Kim, Saira Fakhiri, and Lydia Frey, and Al's Roofing Supply's Cammie Garcia, Cameryn Brown, Amelia Hom, Gabby Casteneda, Grace Berberich, and Wescott. Top Players: Beeline

Bikes - Paige Nelson, Ashley Srouji, Rowan Tuite; Al's Roofing Supply - Jesse Dowling, Brooke McDonough, Charlotte Santana

Renewal by Anderson vs Handles Gastropub: Renewal by Anderson's Elizabeth Foster, Isabella Wyrrough, Julia Wanis, Gianna Gutierrez, and Haley Madsen all hit the ball with consistency and control in the game. It was beautiful to watch Julia Wanis and Haley Madsen bat the ball out of the field. Jensen Goodell, Haley Madsen, and Isabella Wyrrough played solid defense, each contributing at least one out in the game. Meanwhile from Handles Gastropub, Elsa Knudtson, Mak Gallagher, Tessa Daquisto, Maya Ching, and Chloe Barrios hit really well throughout the game. Maya Ching hit the ball way out of the field in the 2nd and 3rd inning. Chloe Barrios and Caitlyn Ramirez showed marvelous defense in the 2nd inning, each producing at least two outs. Top Players: Renewal by Anderson - Jensen Goodell, Haley Madsen, Julia Wanis; Handles Gastropub - Chloe Barrios,

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 The following person(s) doing business as: (1) Adobe Sales & Marketing (2) Adobe / CMC Sales & Marketing, 137 East Airway Blvd #145, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Adobe Sales Company, 137 East Airway Blvd, Suite 145, Livermore, CA 94551. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above on 9/5/2001. Signature of Registrants: /s/ Thomas L. Oneto, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 6, 2016. Expires April 6, 2021. The Independent Legal No. 3936. Published April 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 2016.

Rhea Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Rebecca Jackson, 561 Rhea Way, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant has not yet begun to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above. Signature of Registrant(s): /s/ Rebecca Jackson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 15, 2016. Expires April 15, 2021. The Independent Legal No. 3937. Published April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 2016.

The registrant began to transact business using the fictitious business name listed above on 3/16/2011. Signature of Registrant(s): /s/ Joan Seppala, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 13, 2016. Expires April 13, 2021. The Independent Legal No. 3938. Published April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 2016.

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'Finley Ball' Gives a Behind the Scenes Look at the A's Baseball

By Carol Graham

When the phone call came, Nancy Finley was just two years old. It had nothing to do with her, and, of course, everything to do with her. It would change the color and texture of her life, peopling it with larger-than-life personalities and offering her a unique vantage point from which to observe a magical era in baseball.

"My personal life was intimately mixed up with the Oakland A's when my Uncle Charlie owned it and my dad managed it," recalls Finley. "Over the years, I realized that the remarkable achievement of the World Series championships had been virtually forgotten, so it became a matter of bringing those years back to life for baseball fans."

Finley does just that in her new book, "Finley Ball: How Two Baseball Outsiders Turned the Oakland A's into a Dynasty and Changed the Game Forever."

On Sunday, April 24, Finley will be signing books from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Hacienda Crossings' Barnes & Noble in Dublin, the city she now calls home.

That first call, in 1960, had come from Finley's Uncle Charlie (technically her father's cousin) and was the beginning of a persistent campaign led by Charlie O. Finley to recruit his cousin to help him run a big-league baseball team. Never mind that the two had no experience. It was a simpler time, unencumbered by the 24/7 machinations of media and marketers.

"I enjoyed writing about the interactions between Uncle Charlie and my dad, Carl, who I call 'the unseen hand' because history missed the important role he played in the success of the team," says Finley. "The book also tells some of the human, roguish things they did together. Those rascals loved each other, and shared so many events."

When Charlie bought the team, it was the Kansas City Athletics. He was an insurance businessman in Chicago. He began a relentless series of phone calls urging Carl, a high school principal in Dallas, to quit his career in education and help run the team.

"Charlie appreciated Dad's composure and education," says Finley. "Charlie wanted Dad, period. The phone calls were daily and persistent."

And, effective. Carl signed on, proving an organized, steady counterbalance to Charlie's colorful showmanship. They moved the team to Oakland in 1968, where



Nancy became a "dugout daughter."

"Dad had the final say on everything day-to-day at the coliseum," says Finley. "He didn't settle with one title - he did whatever was best suited for the occasion: vice president, general manager, director of public relations, ticket supervisor, and operations manager."

Finley Ball tells the story of a losing baseball team that became a 1970s dynasty, thanks to the unorthodox strategies of the two very different, but equally gifted men. With legendary players like Reggie Jackson, Catfish Hunter and Vida Blue, the Finleys' Oakland A's won three straight World Series (1972, 1973 and 1974) and riveted the nation.

With her first-person viewpoint, mounds of memorabilia and access to legal documents, Finley reveals the story behind her family's winning legacy.

"Oakland had a new team, but we didn't have cable, the Internet, or clothing outlets to put our name in front of the public," says Finley. "I remember all the brainstorming sessions. Charlie spoke to Dad about most if not all decisions. Charlie liked, and seemed to need, others' feedback. Conversations often started with, 'What

would the fans like to see?' or, 'Do you think this would make the fans happy?'"

In the context of the kitschy '60s, Charlie used outrageous promotions to advantage. There was Hot Pants Day in 1971, Milking Contest Night, "moustache bonuses," and a mascot mule named Charlie O that allowed Charlie to use the line, "If you want to be my friend, kiss my ass."

"Charlie and Dad put the fans first - they were #1," says Finley. "They tried to make it as economical as possible for fans to attend a game, and refused to make a profit on the backs of the fans. Now things seem reversed; fans can hardly afford a ticket to a game, and players are making mega-millions."

Additionally, Finley Ball offers insights into the Andrews Affair, the Kansas City midnight meeting, and, naturally, the saga of orange baseballs.

"Major league baseball is very conservative," says Finley. "We tried to get them to adopt orange baseballs for better visibility - after all, tennis balls are yellow. But it didn't happen. I remember how people laughed at our orange balls; now I'm often asked if I have any to sell."

Through researching a genetic condition her daughter has, Finley discovered the likelihood that Charlie also had synesthesia, a neurological phenomenon in which stimulation of one sensory or cognitive pathway leads to automatic, involuntary experiences in others.

"The secret, inherited mental faculty that Charlie had may explain his love of colors, as well as his amazing intuitive sense about the game," says Finley. "It's how Charlie managed the team, and it allowed him to almost see the game as a 3-D chess set."

However, the best part for Finley was writing about her dad and setting the record straight about many misconceptions surrounding the Oakland A's that have prevailed for decades.

"My dad was a wonderful human being and a great father. I knew so much from personal experience and coming of age in the Oakland Coliseum amid the dramatic baseball history of those years," says Finley. "I suppose I want readers to understand that, unlike many MLB franchises then and now which own teams as business investments, the Finley men were totally focused on building a great team. That's what baseball is all about."

To learn more, visit www.OaklandAthleticsHistory.com.

Local Schools Achieve Gold Ribbon Status

Local schools have been recognized as California Gold Ribbon Schools. The announcement was made last week by the California Department of Education.

The California Gold Ribbon Schools Award was created to honor schools in place of the California Distinguished Schools Program, which is on hiatus while California creates new assessment and accountability systems. Nearly 6,000 elementary schools were eligible to apply this year. Twenty-nine were selected in Alameda County and 772 statewide.

In the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD), Lydiksen Elementary School was selected.

Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District schools chosen were Altamont Creek, Emma Smith, Joe Michell K-8, Marilyn Avenue and Rancho Las Positas.

Dougherty Elementary School, Green Elementary School and Murray Elementary School were selected from the Dublin Unified School District.

PLEASANTON

Pleasanton Interim Superintendent Jim Hansen stated, "This is a strong testament to the work being done by our school community towards preparing our students for college and career. We congratulate Lydiksen Elementary for this well-deserved distinction."

Lydiksen Principal Jacob Berg added, "Lydiksen is very proud to receive this award. It shows the hard work our staff, students and parent community have done to implement instructional technology into our classrooms over the past four years."

The Gold Ribbon distinction is awarded based on a model program or practice a school has adopted that includes standards-based activities, projects, strategies, and practices that can be replicated by other local educational agencies.

Lydiksen's recognition underscores its success in supporting both teachers' and students' use of technology to develop 21st century skills through science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) instruction.

LIVERMORE

Superintendent Kelly Bowers said, "These designations as California Gold Ribbon Schools, are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and students, as well as the support and partnership of our District's families and community."

In Livermore, each school's application highlights a specific program that is representative of the excellence throughout the school. Marilyn Avenue Elementary School highlighted the Data Team process for using formative assessments

to drive instructional practice. Dedicated teaching staff devoted many hours to honing the data team process. Altamont Creek Elementary School remains a pioneer in Project Lead the Way Launch curriculum and their application focused on its innovative and engaging Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program.

Emma C. Smith Elementary School's application highlighted their Counseling Enriched Program, which provides unique and specialized counseling in two Special Education classrooms serving students from four local districts. Rancho Las Positas Elementary School's application showcased their Reading Intervention Program which is providing highly effective supports for students to achieve in English Language Arts. Joe Michell, which is authorized as an International Baccalaureate World School, highlighted its International Baccalaureate Programme of Inquiry. Teachers have gone through extensive training to become authorized to teach the International Baccalaureate's specialized curriculum.

DUBLIN

Dublin Superintendent Stephen Hanke commented, "We are proud of Murray, Dougherty and Green Elementary schools for their ongoing work to improve student learning. Recogni-

tion as Gold Ribbon schools is a validation of the outstanding efforts of teachers, support staff, parents and students. We congratulate the three schools for receiving this prestigious award."

For Dougherty Elementary, this is the second significant honor in the last two years. James Dougherty became Dublin Unified's first National Blue Ribbon School in 2015, honored by the U.S. Department of Education. Dougherty was also named a California Distinguished School in 2012.

Dougherty principal Brett Nelson said, "James Dougherty is proud to receive the Gold Ribbon Award. It is the commitment of the staff to serve every child through our 'Response to Intervention' that has translated to a significant increase in our most at-risk students."

Green Elementary principal Joe Romagna expressed appreciation for the honor. John Green was named a California Distinguished School in 2012 as well. "It is truly an honor to have John Green recognized as a Gold Ribbon School," Romagna said. "This award is the di-

rect result of the hard work and dedication of students, staff, and the community of our school."

Murray Elementary was most recently named a California Distinguished School in 2008. "Magical Murray is honored to be a recipient of the Gold Ribbon Award"

said Murray principal Carrie Nerheim. "We will continue our commitment to every student to serve their educational, social and emotional needs."

The schools will be recognized during a ceremony on May 5 in Santa Clara, California.

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Works include (clockwise, starting upper left) Gerald Barnes' Number Series 35; Ed Lucey, "A Great Race;" and Helen Bellavar's Clarinet.



in art, science and history in a variety of multimedia formats. He is a practicing artist (represented by Hesperia Gallery in San Francisco) and has taught studio art at several colleges. Regarding his many hats, Ric notes that his "only unchanging part of the workday is having a can of soup for lunch, as Andy Warhol reportedly did throughout his life."

Harrington Gallery Director Julie Finegan crunches the numbers, "There were 181 artists who submitted a total of 505 works for consideration this spring. Fair Oaks, Emeryville, Santa Cruz, Carmel, Los Gatos, San Jose, of course Pleasanton, Livermore, and the greater East Bay Area all have great representation in this year's show." She notes, "We have many new artists to the Harrington Gallery this year, which is great."

Thomas Coleman, Kurt Fehlberg, and Laurie Moffet-Fehlberg are a few local artists who might be familiar to Tri-Valley art-followers, but new to the Harrington show.

A sampling of some of notable Bay Area names includes: Gerald Barnes from Fair Oaks, Kaethe Bealer from Emeryville, Santa Cruz artist Glenn Carter, local artist David Goosman, Meisha Grichuhin from Saratoga, and Ed Lucey of Los Gatos. Interestingly, Holly and Ashlee Temple of Carmel, daughters of Brook Temple (who was recently featured in *The Figure* in

(continued on page 2)

6th Annual Fresh Works Exhibition Opens in Pleasanton

The Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center announces the opening of Fresh Works 6th Annual Open Juried Exhibition on April 30. Fresh Works has become a Bay Area "go-to" exhibit for established artists as well as new talent. The show includes an interesting and eclectic variety of pieces, including paintings in oil, watercolor, and acrylic, drawing in pencil and other media, sculpture, collage, and photography.

Forty-eight artists were accepted this year from throughout the greater Bay Area and Northern California. All 63 works are original, completed within the last two years, and not previously exhibited in Pleasanton.

The exhibition opens Saturday, April 30 with

a gala Artists' Reception from 1:00-3:00 p.m., and runs through June 4. The Artist's Reception will offer an opportunity for guests to chat with artists about their inspirations, processes, and influences. An Awards Ceremony will begin at 1:45 p.m. This year's special guest juror Richard Ambrose will give a short talk. Light refreshments will be served. Reception and exhibit are free and open to the public. Donations are always gratefully accepted.

Richard Ambrose, current Executive Director of the Richmond Art Center, is a widely respected artist, curator, teacher, and mentor. Over the last twenty-eight years, Ric has managed or curated more than 200 exhibitions

Best of the Best Raises Funds for Las Positas College

Food, wine, entertainment and fun await guests at the Las Positas College (LPC) Foundation's Best of the Best celebration. Held annually as a fundraiser for the LPC Foundation, the Best of the Best gala will highlight local eateries, including Posada Contemporary Southwestern restaurant and Casse-Croûte Bakery, and Livermore Valley wineries while showcasing students in LPC's dance, theater, vocal, music and interpretive speaking departments.

The festivities will take place on campus on Saturday, April 23 from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

At the black tie optional event, guests will also have the opportunity to vote on the People's Choice Award for their favorite food item and wine before enjoying student performances and capping off the evening with champagne and dessert.

"Each year our Foundation Board, comprised of community leaders, dedicates many volunteer hours planning for our signature fundraising event. This year's Best of the Best will bring together some of the area's finest wineries and restaurants allowing guests to savor cuisine from throughout the Tri-Valley," said Ken Cooper, Executive Director of the LPC Foundation. "We're also looking forward to highlighting our excellent academic programs at Las Positas College. Students from our Performing Arts program will wow attendees with numbers from the musical "Chicago" and guests will also hear how our faculty and staff provide innovative programs to increase LPC student success."

LPC President Barry Russell noted, "The funds raised from The Best of the Best are so important because we use them to address the most critical unmet needs in our college community. That includes scholarships, innovation grants and support for programs that provide truly exceptional educational experiences for our students and campus community."

Ticketholders and the community are invited to participate in an online auction at www.biddingforgood.com/auction/auctionhome.action?vhost=LPCfoundation.

Bidders have the opportunity to win tickets to the Battle of the Bay (San Francisco Giants versus Oakland Athletics), two Disney Resort one-day park hopper passes, two season passes to the Mertes Center for the Arts and a Castlewood Golf Package, among other fantastic auction items that include winery, restaurant and excursion packages. All auctions close Friday, April 29 at 10 p.m. and gala attendance is not necessary to bid on auction items.

In addition, Wells Fargo donated two suite tickets to the upcoming Carrie Underwood concert, which

(continued on page 2)

Dublin High School Staging the Musical, "In the Heights"

The Dublin High Drama Department is producing its first musical in eight years, with "In The Heights," a hit Broadway musical created by Lin Manuel Miranda, who is currently one of the biggest stars in theater after creating the smash "Hamilton".

"In the Heights" opens on Thursday, April 21 for a four-day run in the Dublin High Center for Performing Arts and Education. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at DHSdrama.com.

DHS Drama Director Scott DiLorenzo talked about the months of preparation that have gone into a show that he believes will be the best ever done at Dublin High.

Q. How did it come to be that the department would do "In The Heights"?

A. When I started in the fall, they came to me and asked, "Would you be willing to do a musical?" and the first thing I asked was how many weekends do I have, and they said one. So I knew it had to be something that would draw people with great content.

Originally, we looked at a lot of children's pieces, like Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," or "Seussical" or "Cinderella." The rights were really difficult to get for those. We originally looked at "Shrek – The Musical" or "Seussi-

Art and Wine Intertwined This Weekend at the Bankhead

The second "Art & Wine Intertwined" event will be held at the Visitor's Center and Gallery at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore on Saturday afternoon, April 23 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The casual wine tasting will include local offerings from Fenestra, Bent Creek, and Big White House Wineries. Attendees can stroll through the Visitor's Center and Gallery where the Bothwell Arts Center's current exhibit "In Good Company" is on display through the end of the month. Light appetizers will be served and live music provided by local jazz band, Secret Tattoo, throughout the afternoon. Events held at the Visitor's Center such as "Art & Wine Intertwined" support the goals of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) to build awareness and share visual and performing arts with the community.

A juried art exhibit, "In Good Company" is a joint presentation of LVPAC and Silicon Valley Women's Caucus for Art. More than 50 works in a wide variety of art forms reflect the creativity, diversity and resourcefulness of women artists through painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, collage, assemblage, mixed media and fiber art sculpture. The expansive exhibit represents the work of artists from throughout the greater Bay Area.

Run by LVPAC, the Visitor's Center and Gallery is located in the Bankhead Theater lobby at 2400 First Street and presents art curated by the Bothwell Arts Center. It is open to the public seven days a week from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Visitors can view art exhibits and speak with staff members about activities at the Bankhead Theater and Bothwell Arts Center, or find out more about the City of Livermore.

cal" but another local company was doing it. We couldn't get the rights. I met with Ms. Lopiano and Mr. Everts and our choreographer and we asked ourselves, "What do we really want to do?"

I went to the Advanced Drama class and put some choices on the board and asked them. And the kids pretty overwhelmingly wanted to do "In the Heights"?

Q. What is it about this show that the students connected with?

A. Lin Manuel Miranda is the hottest name on Broadway right now and they were really excited for the opportunity to perform something he wrote. Plus the themes are so relevant to high school students in regards to family and finding out where belong, the hardships of college, finding yourself...it really is a perfect thematic HS piece with contemporary lyrics and language that the kids really dive into.

Q. How daunting is it to do a musical after eight years?

A. To an extent, it's the most daunting because nobody knows what is needed. When I went in and said, "We have to rent the sets." They asked how much and I said \$12,000, the reaction was "Whoa." We've never spent that before. But with the new theater, you have to. The rights for musicals are normally about 10 times as much as producing plays. So we definitely have to earn the money to do this. It's taken a lot more fundraising, and a lot more stakes on the line if it doesn't succeed.

It's a new theater, and a lot of things that weren't there. For example, we had no wireless mic system. If you do a musical, you need a wireless mic system or else you will get drowned out by the orchestra, so we were able to work with the district and they were able to get us a wireless system for the theater.

Q. How many students are participating?

A. There are 43 kids in the cast, 10 doing tech, 7 student instrumentalists in the orchestra. There are probably another 20 kids selling concessions and ushers and all of that.

The kids have embraced this way more than I thought. I was scared because I knew that "In the Heights" is a very difficult show. In my 10 years, it's the most difficult show I've ever produced. Musically and with the choreography, it's intense. I am comfortable saying, it's the best show I've ever directed. I feel like this is close to semi-professional.

Q. Are there kids participating outside of the drama department?

A. We have a lot of choir kids. Not as many dancers as we would have liked, but we have some amazing dancers who came out for the show. We hope that as visual and performing arts grows at Dublin High, there will be more people coming out for future shows, especially in regards to dance.

Q. How has it been working in the new theater with a production of this scale?

A. The fact that we have this theater, with the lights and sound, is going to be leaps and bounds, bigger and broader than anything this school has ever put on.

Q. How can our community support this production and our students?

A. People can get tickets at www.dhsdrama.com. There's a big button that says "Buy Tickets" and it will direct you to the Vendini site to purchase tickets.

We have invested a lot in this production. The kids have put in 5 months work for one weekend. I would love to see the community support our arts programs. This isn't just drama. It's drama and choir and band and dance. The entire performing arts department is involved.

It's going to knock people out. I love when people come out of show and say "I can't believe that was a high school show. They are going to say that here."

BEST OF THE BEST

(continued from front page)

were presented to LPC Foundation Executive Director Ken Cooper (also pictured). The concert prize package was given to a winning registrant who purchased their tickets before March 31.

With the goal of raising at least \$100,000, proceeds from the Best of the Best will benefit the students, staff, faculty and community, which LPC serves by supporting students who would otherwise be unable to afford many of the expenses of attending college including textbooks, living costs, and family support. All food, wine, liquor and auction items for the event have been donated and the

lighting, decorations and rentals for the event have been provided at or below cost to minimize overhead and ensure the maximum funds reach student beneficiaries.

The event will be held in the Mertes Center for the Arts at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore.

Tickets at \$125 per person include gourmet food and local wine. LPC Performing Arts faculty and students will provide entertainment. Tickets are available thorough <http://www.lpcfoundation.org/bestofthebest>. Purchase seven tickets and the eighth gala ticket is free.

EXHIBITION

(continued from front page)

Place exhibit at the gallery), have a collaborative work accepted. And Helen Bellaver, a San Jose artist, had several assemblages accepted that are made using recycled musical instruments.

The Young@Art session for this exhibit will be held on Thursday, May 12, from 4:30-5:45 pm. Kids ages 5-11 will visit the exhibit and discuss how artists use line in their work. Then students will go upstairs to the art studio and create some art projects focusing on lines, using a variety of

media. Parents can register their children for this event by visiting www.pleasantonfun.com and typing in the code 61642.

The Harrington Gallery is located inside the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton, Calif. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 12:00-5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., and also one hour before most performances and during intermissions. Admission for this exhibit is free, and donations are gratefully accepted.

Cimarrón to Perform the Dance Music of 'Joropo'

... melodies and rhythms that combine Andalusian, Indigenous Indian and African roots



Cimarrón in concert.

Grammy-nominated Colombian ensemble, Cimarrón, will perform the dance music of “joropo” at the Bankhead Theater on May 18, 2016 with special funding provided by the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation. Described as “percussive, passionate and gorgeous” by KEXP Seattle, Cimarrón entertains audiences with a virtuoso display of rippling melodies and rhythms that combine Andalusian, Indigenous Indian and African roots. Their music is immersed in the sounds of “los llanos” and the musical fireworks created by harp, bandola, cuatro, bass, cajon, maracas and high-pitched voices.

Cimarrón is a special addition to the LVPAC Presents 2015-2016 season made possible through “Southern Exposure:

Performing Arts of Latin America,” a program of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation (MAAF) in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. Southern Exposure’s goal is to promote a greater understanding and appreciation for the contemporary and traditional performing arts and culture of Latin America. Support from MAAF, in addition to other funding, will help underwrite a special mid-day performance for students and will allow the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center to offer a \$20 ticket price for all seats at the general public performance on Wednesday evening, May 18th.

Hailing from the cattle rearing, Llanos Orientales region of Colombia, Cimarrón seeks to expand and experiment with their

rich cultural heritage, while retaining the essence of the musical traditions of joropo. Harpist Carlos Rojas, who created the group in 1986 and has led it ever since, sees Cimarrón as looking both backward and forward in time, with music that is fundamentally linked to dance. In rural social occasions, the sound of the dancers’ feet serves as an essential part of the musical whole. When performed on a concert stage, the music typically loses the sounds of the dance and becomes “joropo chamber music.”

Rojas has evolved the basic musical ingredients of the joropo, bringing rhythmic dance roots and harmonic accompaniment to the forefront, and using a rhythm box (cajón) to evoke the sound and spirit of the dance. Rojas says

this creates “a new balance, a new relation among the acoustical weightings of percussion, strings, and voices within the joropo sound.”

Rojas’ musical innovations have found an enthusiastic audience worldwide. Cimarrón has performed at the WOMEX world-music showcase in Seville and London, the biennial flamenco festival in the Netherlands, the Shanghai Exposition, and on tour in Europe and the United States. The most accomplished llanera group in Colombia, Cimarrón’s Smithsonian album “Si Soy Llanero” was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2005, and their most recent album, “Cimarrón! Joropo Music from the Plains of Colombia,” won Best Album, Latin Category at the Independent Music Awards in 2011.

The grant received from Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation includes an educational outreach component that provides for a free performance at the Bankhead Theater for Tri-Valley students. One adult ticket is paired with each student ticket, so a parent or family member can also attend. “In addition to exposure to the dynamic music and culture of Columbia, the special performance offers younger audiences a valuable opportunity to experience and enjoy a professional theater setting,” said Denise Bridges, development officer for LVPAC. As part of the educational event, the members of Cimarrón will speak with students about the cultural origins of

joropo, the instruments they play, and answer questions.

Tickets for Cimarrón’s public performance and all other remaining events in the LVPAC Presents 2015-2016 season as well as other programs are avail-

able now through the Bankhead Theater ticket office, 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore, by phone at (925) 373-6800, online at www.bankheadtheater.org or via the LVPAC mobile app.

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<p>925.373.6800 LVPAC.org 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore</p>	

Review **A Glittering Gatsby**

By **Susan Steinberg**

The glitz and glamor of the Jazz Age lights up the stage at Danville's Village Theater, where Role Players Ensemble is presenting "The Great Gatsby" through May 1.

F. Scott Fitzgerald's famous novel has been the source of several extravagantly over-the-top movies in which the elaborate décor upstaged the human drama. The most recent version filled the screen with glitter, bubbles, fireworks, and crowd scenes that often resembled a three-ring circus, numbing the senses.

Paring away the Hollywood effect, the play focuses on the problematic characters. Behind the brilliance and carefree appearance of these super-rich New Yorkers there is the ugly reality of criminal activity, hedonistic pleasure-seeking, and callous disregard of human feelings and even life itself.

Into the mad whirl of parties and illegal booze walks a naïve young Midwesterner, Nick Carraway, hoping to make his fortune in finance. He rents a cheap little cottage on the grounds of a huge Long Island estate where the wealthy owner, a mysterious Jay Gatsby, throws fabulous parties for the Manhattan glitterati.

Across the Sound sits another great estate, home of Daisy Buchanan, who loved Gatsby before the Great War and promised to wait for him. But, like so many other sweethearts, she finally married a handsome, rich, but horribly domineering brute named Tom, whose main interests center on polo, his horses, and a stable of fast women. Using Daisy's cousin Nick as his intermediary, Gatsby now schemes to win Daisy back.

The miserably humiliated Daisy is quickly re-won, but complications arise. Tom challenges his rival, unwilling to lose such a prized possession as his

trophy wife and mother of his child. Daisy, a self-indulgent Southern belle who has never really grown up, still loves Gatsby, and is thrilled by his loyal passion, but lacks the courage to face her husband's terrible rage and power.

Gatsby can be single-minded and strong, striving desperately to cancel out their "lost years" and return to the blissful "Golden Time" of their first love. Daisy, addled by indecision, conflicting loyalties, and too much alcohol, shrinks from angry confrontation with Tom, precipitating a final shocking crisis that ends Gatsby's romantic dreams of reclaiming a Paradise now lost to him forever.

An enthusiastic first night audience filled the theater with rave responses for the whole cast, with special praise for the outstanding women: a wonderfully kaleidoscopic Stephanie Neuerburg as Daisy, Samantha Behr as her morally compromised friend Jordan, Tiffanie Moore as Tom's adulterous mistress Myrtle, and local favorite Cynthia Logodzinski in several other roles.

Kyle Goldman, the impressive young Eben Cabot in the O'Neill Festival's "Desire Under The Elms", was Tom Buchanan to the life. Switching effortlessly between icy politeness and cutting invective, smooth social behavior and the violent outbursts of a wild animal, he exhibited an exceptional dramatic range.

Fresh-faced Dallas Carter made a believably shocked young Nick Carraway, finally realizing the amorality behind even his sweet cousin's smiles, and the heedless depravity of her carelessness society. Newcomer Adam Niemann showed the deeply romantic soul of Gatsby, hidden in public by his façade of casual nonchalance. Aaron Mahlberg contributed a veteran turn as the shadowy

but finally sympathetic mob figure Meyer Wolfsheim, a troubling symbol of the extreme anti-semitism of the age.

Fitzgerald also introduces the touchy subject of eugenics: the weeding out of inferior human types to improve the population. This terrible doctrine was the theme of a nationally-popular book of the time, referenced by Tom, about the need to preserve the "Nordic Race" from "mongrelization" by Jews and blacks. Not merely the creed of red-neck racists, it was a highly respected social science theory of the elite Harvard faculty, including then-president Conant, and promulgated in the upper echelons of government. Horrifying to hear it endorsed so casually in polite society, when it was to become the "scientific" basis for Hitler's efforts to "purify" the Aryan Race.

Once again the RPE crew created miracles: Lisa Danz with her flair for eye-catching costumes, Rob Evans with a great period sound-track, Christian Mejia with evocative lighting, Durand Garcia for fight coordination, and Robert I. Wagner for the set design.

Making a smooth narrative of the highly episodic plot was a feat in itself, but even viewers unfamiliar with the original story clearly followed the amazing twists and turns of the plot and loved it.

Overall direction by Eric Fraisher Hayes produced a well-coordinated show that covered the wide-ranging tale with a quick series of linked scenes.

To see this show is to understand Fitzgerald's importance in chronicling the vibrant era of jazz, Prohibition, and post-war recklessness known as "The Roaring Twenties" and its Lost Generation. Tickets are available at www.roleplayersensemble.com or 925-314-3400.

Yesterday into Today

By **Sarah Bobson**

BIG SUR

Hippies flooded to Big Sur in the sixties. Some have remained, with their crystals, crafts, back-to-the-earth simplicity, and New Age preoccupation with meditation and expanded consciousness. But the area in general has changed. Where hippies once lived off the land or bought cheap parcels, today property values have skyrocketed.

I first heard of Big Sur back in New York City in the early 1980s. A colleague of mine at a small office in the tony East 70s told me of her experiences at Esalen. The impression I got was that she attended "far-out" workshops, ran around nude, and smoked a lot of pot.

In the mid 80s, I made my own pilgrimage to Big Sur, not to groovy Esalen (I wasn't quite ready for that), but to Hearst Castle at San Simeon. Highway 1 had recently washed out with sliding rocks and mud, leaving the road impassable from the south. My friend and I had to take 101 to Carmel and then head south on 1. We were fascinated by the opulence of Hearst Castle, now a state park, where William Randolph Hearst is said to have entertained many Hollywood movie stars.

After I moved to the Bay Area in the late 80s, I visited Big Sur again. This time, I wanted to see the area where Henry Miller had lived. I had first heard of him in a roundabout way when I had read Gertrude Stein's memoir of her Paris days. The book, with the curious title of *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*, talks about the literary salons the Oakland native

held, attended by many of the writers, artists, musicians, and philosophers of the day, one of whom was Henry Miller.

Miller left Paris in the early 40s, trading the crowded city life for the uncrowded natural magnificence of Big Sur. During the period 1944-1962, he wrote several books there, including *Big Sur* and *The Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch*, which is about his life and the artists, writers, and gifted society dropouts he knew in Big Sur.

A few weeks ago, I paid Big Sur and the Miller Library another visit. Driving south of Monterey on Highway 1, I truly felt the effect of the land meeting the sea, which had made a big impression on Miller. In *Big Sur* and *The Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch*, he had written, "From the ocean depths there issued strange formations, contours unique and seductive. As if the titans of the deep had labored for aeons to shape and mold the earth....Here the redwood made its last stand. At dawn its majesty is almost painful to behold. That same prehistoric look. The look of always. Nature smiling at herself in the mirror of eternity." Perhaps it was this look of the cosmic always that attracted the hippies in search of oneness with the universe, those "dreamers, outlaws, forerunners," as Miller labeled earlier pilgrims, "advancing toward the other world of long ago and far away, the world of yesterday and tomorrow. The world within the world." I was listening to "Blowin' in the Wind" from The Free-wheelin' Bob Dylan album

as I drove. One line stood out: "How many years can a mountain exist until it is washed to the sea?" I wondered: Would the behemoths of Big Sur, the Santa Lucia Mountains, what Miller called the "backs of the drugged rhinoceroses," ever wash away to the sea, taking with them the view that attracts thousands of visitors each year.

Visitors were there in droves that brilliant day when the sky was bluer than robins' eggs, as Joan Baez sings in her song "Diamonds and Rust," when a white quivering net of seagulls headed toward the western horizon and the white caps of the Pacific bobbed up and down and swirled in eddies around black boulders. Miller describes them as "the half-submerged beast-like mountains that rise up out of the ocean bed to bask in the sun."

The drive would have been peaceful, a communing with nature sort of thing, were it not for the long, harrowing drive on the two-lane road of switchbacks and the tourists jockeying for parking positions at the small turnouts. These pilgrims of a different sort jumped out of their cars, stood on rocks with their backs to the famous Pacific, waved to whoever back wherever, then jumped into their cars and drove to the next turnout so they could begin the process all over again. I found this same big-city-type of congestion at pit stops along the way.

I tried to picture what Big Sur must have been like back in the 60s and 70s. An article in the May

(continued on page 9)

Author to Talk at the Library about Book Dealing with Courage in the Holocaust



Marty Brounstein

Author Marty Brounstein will be at the Livermore Library on Saturday, April 30, 2016, 1:00 pm.

Brounstein will talk about his book *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*. Robin Fahr, host of TV30's *Conversations*, will give a special introduction. This event is free for everyone. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

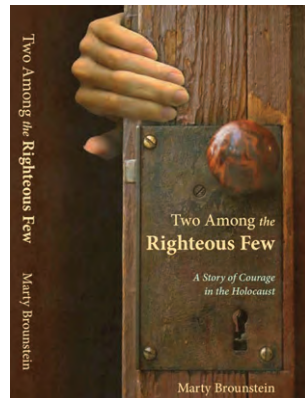
This program honors International Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah in Hebrew) which will be observed on Thursday, May 5, 2016.

The courage and compassion to do the right thing; that's a major theme that resonates with audiences when they hear San Mateo, CA-based author Marty Brounstein talk on his book *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*. Since 1991 Brounstein has led the consulting firm The Practical Solutions Group, serving a wide variety of clients on issues of leadership and organizational effectiveness. Through this work, he has written eight books, from contribut-

ing author to sole author, including *Communicating Effectively For Dummies* and *Coaching and Mentoring For Dummies*.

But his ninth book is quite different and special. It has put Brounstein in the interfaith business, as he has a story of a Christian couple, Frans and Mien Wijnakker, who saved the lives of over two dozen Jews in the Netherlands during World War II and the Holocaust. This book takes Brounstein back to his early career as an educator, when he taught history including the Holocaust. This true and remarkable story of rescue also has a meaningful personal connection, which Brounstein reveals in his engaging storytelling presentations.

Brounstein has been on quite an unexpected journey of sharing this special story with audiences. He is now into his fifth year of this journey, completing 400 events and counting. The events have occurred throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, his home base, and in 11 other cities, with New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and



Seattle among them. The engagements have been in such places as churches, synagogues, community centers, social service organizations, people's homes, Rotary Clubs, bookstores, schools, universities, libraries, book clubs, a Holocaust museum, a history museum, professional conferences, and workplaces. Plus in March 2014 at the invitation of the Dutch Consulate General he gave his presentation to an appreciative audience there. April 2015 he was the keynote speaker for a Holocaust Remembrance event in Seattle and will be in New York for Holocaust Memorial Day in spring 2016.

In baseball lingo, Brounstein is batting .1000 in terms of positive audience response. So the journey to share this special story continues. Due to audience encouragement, efforts are under way to turn it into a feature film. For more information about the author and the book, visit www.martyabrounstein.com.

This program is part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series, supported by the Friends of the Livermore Library. For additional events, check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

The Civic Center Library is located at 1188 So. Livermore Avenue.



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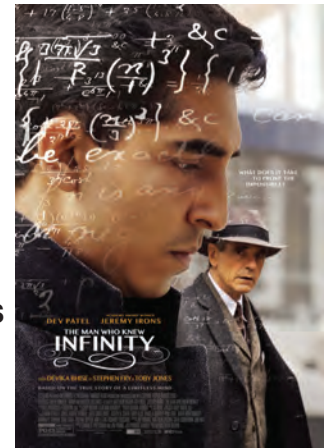
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Reception to Honor Ed Kinney Community Patriots

Friends and family members are invited to a champagne reception 5:30-7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 25, at Museum On Main in Pleasanton to honor this year's recipients of the Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award: Bob Butler and Margene Gerton Rivara.

Now in its eleventh year, the Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award honors the memory of the former mayor, who also was the Master of Ceremonies for "Celebrating Freedom and its Evolution since the Revolution," the all-volunteer Fourth of July celebration held in Lions Wayside Park. The planning team for that event, plus the past recipients of the award, select each year's awardees.

"Ed was an inspiration to those of us who worked with him on this and other projects," said W. Ron Sutton, founder of the Fourth of July community celebration. "He exemplified loyal service in the development of his community, both as an elected official (former mayor and city council member) and as an everyday citizen volunteer — a community patriot.

"One of the ways we wish to honor Ed's memory in perpetuity is by annually presenting the Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award to individuals who have exhibited the service behavior entitling them to be called Community Patriots," Sutton explained, adding, "Remember, it is individuals, not organizations, who change the world."

Each year, Ed Kinney Community Patriots also are honored at the Independence Day celebration, held mid-day in Lions Wayside Park.

Complimentary portraits of the awardees were taken by Christina Gray of Bella Luna Studios. At the reception, Brad Hirst will introduce Bob Butler, and David Wright will introduce Margene Rivara. Master of ceremonies will be Ron Hyde, himself a past recipient of the award. Sponsor for the event is Gina Piper, Realtor. The awards program is under the auspices of Make A Difference, Today & Always (501C3).

Special guests at the event will be Roberta Kinney, Ed's wife, and their two sons, Brad and Scott.

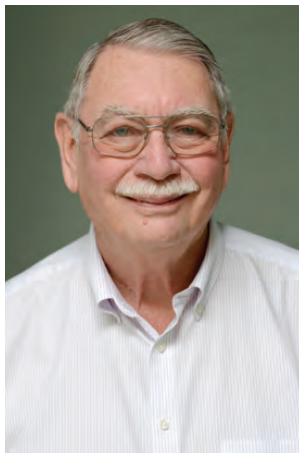
Museum On Main is located at 603 Main Street, on the west side of the Pleasanton arch sign.

BOB BUTLER

If Pleasanton is known as "The City of Planned Progress," Bob Butler is one of the individuals who can be credited with making that slogan an action plan through his three decades of community service.

Butler served on the planning commission for four years (1974-78), the Local Agency Formation Commission for 12 years, the city council from 1978-1992, and as mayor from 1980-81. Of the many changes that city government brought about in that era, Butler is proudest of the Stoneridge Shopping Mall and the Hacienda Business Park. "Those two projects had the biggest impact on our community," he said, adding, "There was long-standing planning before we came along. I think that was huge, those folks who had the foresight back in the 1950s." Both developments provided a tax base that far exceeded what was generated by a largely residential community before then.

During Butler's time on the council decisions and actions taken, include: the Stoneridge Drive freeway interchange; the North Pleasanton Assessment District; Main Street rehabilitation; Signature and Koll centers' business developments; elimination of gravel truck traffic on First Street; Ruby Hill residential development; the senior center and library facilities; and taking title to 105



This year's recipients are Bob Butler and Margene Rivara.

acres from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for what is now known as the Ken Mercer Sports and Recreation Community Park.

All this was accomplished while Butler was working full-time at his 35-year career with GE Vallejos, exploring how isotopes could be used for medical diagnoses. In fact, Vallejos made him their liaison with Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, where he served on the board of directors and with their political action committee.

"I will never forget my first planning commission meeting," Butler said with a laugh. "Foothill Road ridge development was on the agenda. The meeting lasted from 7:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. My wife got so worried when I did not get home by the middle of the night that she called the police."

Bob and his wife Mary Ann first came to Pleasanton in 1960, right after graduating from University of Ohio. However, they quickly departed for Oklahoma, where Butler served two years of active duty in the United States Army. Although the Butlers returned to Pleasanton in 1962, Bob had "another career," continuing in the Army Reserves for 28 years. His reserve duty was with the Army Nuclear Agency at the Pentagon.

Butler has performed with the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, playing trombone, saxophone, and percussion. He is one of only two remaining charter members in the community band, having joined in 1975. Bob also has performed with Valley Brass Quintet and the Livermore-Amador Symphony.

Bob's 1995 retirement from Vallejos did not last long: For 21 years he has been preparing people's tax returns. With three careers, four children, and five grandchildren, Bob has managed to complete a variety of community service projects. "It's just giving back to a community that's been a great place to live," he explains. "I've always thought that everyone should do their part."

MARGENE GERTON RIVARA

Margene Rivara fell in love with the City of Pleasanton when, as a teenager from Denver, she visited her Uncle Bernie Gerton's family. "I loved the friendliness, the scale of things, the people, and the fact that it was so easy to get involved." Upon her return home, Rivara urged her family to visit at Christmas. They, too, fell in love with Pleasanton and decided to move.

While a student at Amador Valley High School, Rivara realized that if she saw a need, she could get involved and

move things forward. Since there was no ballet class in town, Rivara, who had taken advanced ballet classes in Denver, started the first ballet class.

Later, in 1968, Rivara became involved when her church, along with three other churches, accepted the challenge to build Pleasanton Gardens senior housing. When it was finished, she helped seniors move in and saw that they were comfortable. Then a few years later she was a founding board member for the construction of Pleasanton Greens, a 132-unit housing project for seniors and low-income families.

In 1976 on a rainy, chilly January day when Rivara was working in Dr. Long's office in Pleasanton, there was a tragic auto accident on Bernal Avenue involving four Foothill High students. One accident victim had already died and another was pinned under the car. Dr. Long was not there, but Rivara went with the police to do what she could.

Rivara served on the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council (PCAC) Board for 16 years, bringing the membership from 20 to 80. Rivara believes the arts have a lasting positive influence on the community and she is dedicated to "providing children with an opportunity to experience art in their lives as an influence encouraging them to persevere and achieve their goals."

In 1985, as a joint project between Pleasanton and its sister city, Tulancingo, Mexico, Rivara, along with five other artists, donated her time to paint the mural that is on the Pleasanton City Council Chamber's rear wall.

Rivara served for 10 years on the Pleasanton Civic Arts Commission, a body created by the PCAC, and was one of the four founding members of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation formed to raise money to convert the old Firehouse downtown to the Pleasanton Firehouse Arts Center. The Foundation Board inspired four other people to join, and with their own donations as seed money, they were able to attract a \$250,000 foundation grant.

As part of "Orchestration," a Firehouse fundraiser, Rivara designed, built and donated a stained-glass guitar, "Days of Wine and Roses," which was auctioned for \$28,500. Rivara also designed and donated the stained-glass window installed over the front door to the Museum on Main.

Rivara wholeheartedly supported reinstating the strings program in the fourth and fifth grades of all Pleasanton primary schools, advocated hiring a full-time music teacher, and donated instruments to the program.

Rivara served on the Advisory Board for the Cantabella Children's Chorus and acted as costume designer for the Children's Opera in Pleasanton in 2010.

For years Rivara advocated and researched the "Big Draw" Chalk and Art Festival, which was held from 2013 to 2015 in Pleasanton.

Rivara is now in the process of writing stories for children that she says, "will teach them self-esteem and self-achievement through kindness, service, and a respect for nature."

Rivara, an award-winning realtor, and her husband Lou designed and built their home in downtown Pleasanton to accommodate both their mothers with private apartments within the house. Rivara believes, "Everyone's life is enriched when they get involved in serving others." She loves meeting people and looking for their unrecognized possibilities. Her goal is "to encourage people to live up to their full potential—being everything they can be."

Living the Wine Life on Leisure Street

by **Laura Ness**

Tucked into an industrial zone, flanked by a new housing development and as close to the freeway as you can get, you will find the Livermore Valley's two newest wineries and their brand new tasting rooms. Leisure Street Wines and McKahn Family Cellars, are now open weekends, from noon til 5pm, at 503 Leisure Street, just off Vasco. You can access it by turning onto Preston Street from Vasco. When you leave, however, don't go out Preston, as you can only turn right on Vasco, which takes you to the promised land of 580.

Walk in the door and you will see the tasting bar for Leisure Street Winery. This is also the office for the owners, Rick and Kelly Volpatti, who many of you already know as insurance brokers. Their office used to be downtown, but they discovered this space while looking for a spot to land their winery, and the new brewery that will eventually be operational in the back of the building.

The Volpatti's owe a good deal to their wine friends, the 3 Steves, Mark Clarin, Jim Frost, Collin Cranor and Rhonda Wood (among others), all of whom helped them in understanding the scope of the winemaking endeavor and in crafting their current set of wines.

Perhaps they didn't quite have the measure of the enormity of the task when they jumped with both feet into the business, but that's certainly not unusual. One thing led quickly to another when Kelly and Rick decided to forego the office space they had been leasing downtown for a much larger space on Leisure Street where they could store barrels, buy their own equipment and open a tasting room. They were like kids discovering how to make their own candy.

Kelly says she's always loved wine, especially a rich Cab or Syrah, but when Steve Burman of the 3 Steves approached her and asked if she'd like to make her own wine, she jumped at the chance, bought half a ton of Chardonnay and asked Mark Clarin for help. Now they've got a big cellar where they hope to crush between 16 and 20 tons, and where they are storing 62 barrels, of which 31 were procured from Thomas Coyne. They've also been sourcing Merlot fruit from Thatcher Bay which they plan to bottle soon, along with more "Quest." They will leave their 2013 Cabs, one from Thatcher and one from the 3 Steves estate vineyard, in barrel a bit longer, as well as the Syrah they have resting in French and Hungarian. They plan to source some Barbera this harvest from Amador.

On the bar, you'll find a 2014 Chardonnay from Napa, which is very much like an apple cinnamon pop tart with a butterscotch finish. The 2013 GSM is ripe and ready to drink, as is the 2013 Zinfandel, done in American oak. The port style wine, thanks to master Tom Coyne, is terrific. The Volpatti's are off to a good start, with a little help from their friends.

Through the door past the Leisure Street tasting bar, you will discover the tasting room for McKahn Family Cellars, complete with high bar seats and framed by another good example of that chalkboard art that has

become so virally popular throughout the wine country of Livermore. But, despite the fact that winery co-owner and tasting bar manager, Denise McKahn, is the controller at Concannon, you won't find any wines from Livermore here. Along with Denise's long affiliation with the wine industry here (she started at Wente in 1990), her son, Chuck, is the real reason the label exists.

Denise and husband, Kevin, recognized the talent and dedication their son, Chuck, had to the wine business. At 26, he's already head winemaker at William Harrison up in Napa. Says Denise of the family partnership, "What's so awesome is that I bring knowledge of the business side and he brings the production side. He's already won a Gold medal at the 2016 Chronicle competition for the 2014 Knights Valley Chardonnay!"

With a current inventory of 555 cases, the McKahn wines are all produced and bottled up in St. Helena where Chuck works. Hence, the wines are mainly sourced from Napa, although the Zinfandel is from a Potter Valley in Mendocino.

You're likely to be pleased with the entire lineup, beginning with the Knights Valley Chardonnay, which has no malo and is graced by Bartlett pear and lemon peel and lime zest. It's easy to see why this won a gold medal.

The 2014 Mendocino Zin, done in 40% new American, is cram-packed with candied apples, pomegranate, cherry and a hint of pepper that makes Zin so interesting. The tannins are well-behaved and the finish delivers cinnamon and cardamom. This is Zin you can drink and enjoy: it's a modest 14.5% alcohol.

Last up is the "flagship" wine, Syrah, which is Chuck's passion. The 2014 McKahn Syrah, done in 40% new French oak, hails from the Ballantine vineyard in St. Helena. It opens with a great nose of bacon and plum jam, two things Syrah can deliver like no other grape. With its slightly saline quality on the palate, this wine is meaty, with flavors of prosciutto, but also has an intensity that can only be described as high voltage. This is really good stuff.

For 2016, the McKahn Family label hopes to add more Rhones to the stable, including Viognier, Grenache and hopefully Petite Sirah from Livermore.

OTHER HAPPENINGS IN WINE COUNTRY

Retzlaff is kicking off a fun new event called "It's Just a Taste," aimed at singles who might enjoy mingling over a glass of wine. The next one is Saturday, May 7, from 5 – 8 p.m.

Says Salome Taylor, "Great wine makes for great conversation and who knows what else... Get off line, come as you are and meet some like-minded people!" There will be dating games, blazin' fire pits, s'mores and more! She recommends that you dress warmly, as it's rain or shine.

Up Tesla Road past Greenville, Cedar Mountain is happy to now be open regular hours, meaning every Friday through Sunday from noon to 4. Make them a destination out on East Tesla while the grass is still greener on the other side of town.



Kevin McKahn in the barrel room at McKahn Family Cellars.



Kelly Volpatti at Leisure Street Winery

Public to Decide on Items for Library of Things

know more specifics about what items are needed. Beginning April 15, 2016, access an online survey at livermorelibrary.net

Top categories in the first round of surveys were Board Games, Educational Toys, Musical Instruments, Sewing Machines, Tools, and Telescopes.

What items would you like to see made available at the Livermore Public Library? Let us know at livermorelibrary.net. For further information about the program, please call 925-373-5500, or visit the library's website www.livermorelibrary.net.

Autism A to Z to Present Awareness Event with Local Writers

Autism A to Z will host a free autism awareness event this weekend. Local writers Connie Post, Anne K. Ross, and Cynthia J. Patton will read poetry and prose dealing with autism spectrum disorder. They will be joined by Marilyn Kammeln reading selections from *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Raising Kids on the Spectrum*.

Post was the Livermore Poet Laureate from 2005 to 2009, and is the author of *Floodwater*, *When The Sun Drops*, and *Trip Wires*. She hosts the Valona Deli Poetry Series in Crockett, CA.

Ross is an award-winning writer and school psychologist. She recently published *Beyond Rain Man: What One Psychologist Learned Raising A Son on the Autism Spectrum*.

Patton is a writer, speaker, attorney, and autism advocate. Her poetry collection, *Across An Aqueous Moon: Travels in Autism*, will be published in June. She is the founder of Autism A to Z and hosts the monthly Whistle-stop Writers Open Mic in downtown Livermore.

The free event will take place on Saturday, April 23, 2016, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street in Livermore, CA. A book signing will follow the reading. Proceeds from the event will benefit Autism A to Z.

Autism A to Z is a Tri-Valley nonprofit organization that provides resources and services to autistic individuals and their families. It was incorporated in 2012 and is tax-exempt. To learn more, go to AutismA-Z.org or call 925-890-6045.



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Libraries can offer more than just books. The Livermore Public Library plans to take borrowing to a whole new level by loaning out “things” people want and need, however may not want to own.

The library would like the Livermore Public Library community to decide what these items will be.

During the first round of surveys, the community suggested what the top categories should be, in the Library of Things. Once again, the library would like input from the community to select the items to purchase, by letting us

BIG SUR (continued from page 4)

2009 issue of *Smithsonian Magazine* quoted old-timers who remembered the young people living in cars and under bridges, their naked children running around. The article's author, James Conaway, recalled a trip he had made in 1963, the time between the demise of the Beat Generation and the beginning of San Francisco's Summer of Love in 1967. “Scattered across the land were random clusters of wooden cottages, a few stores and campgrounds, a couple of bars and a gas station or two ... shaggy figures not yet labeled as countercultural ... on the roadside, hooking their thumbs in clear, dry air.”

Henry Miller, living then on a writer's nonexistent income, stayed in a ramshackle cabin until his neighbor offered him and his family the free use of her home on top of Partington Ridge. Miller spent his time there writing, reflecting, entertaining guests, and scrambling down the hillside to soak, at no charge, in the thermal waters. Today, one can soak in the hot tubs at Esalen, the world-famous resort that charges prices for weekend and week-long workshops and lodging packages that many of us would consider “out of sight” (although bathing is open to the public between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m.). Likewise, a night's

stay at most of the local inns and spas is much more than Miller or the hippies could have afforded.

The Henry Miller Memorial Library, which stands as a monument to the time the author spent in Big Sur, is free. Not far from the Nepenthe Restaurant, it contains Miller memorabilia, including his old upright Underwood typewriter, some of his books, and the books of other authors who influenced the Beats and the hippies, such as Richard Brautigan, Allen Ginsberg, Laurence Ferlinghetti, and Jack Kerouac. It also offers plenty of events, including a music series, a film festival, and readings. Visiting the museum, which is in a modest wood-frame house recessed from the highway, nestled in the quiet and shade of redwoods, is truly a walk back in time to the 60s and earlier, and a welcome relief for those of us who would like to escape the caravans of minivans.

St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Uncorked Celebration, Taste, enjoy & honor winning local wines from Tri-Valley Conservancy competition, April 14, 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Avenue, Pleasanton. 6 p.m. taste of the competition, 7 p.m. winners announced. Tickets and information at www.trivalleyconservancy.org

Diablo Trails Challenge, 5K, 10K, half marathon, 50K, Sun., April 17, Hosted by Brazen Racing, this fund-raising run for Save Mount Diablo showcases just a fraction of the Diablo wildernesses' beauty. The 5K, 10K and Half Marathon will all begin and end at Castle Rock Recreation Area in Diablo Foothills, Walnut Creek. The 50K, traditionally a point to point run, will this year be a loop from Castle Rock Recreation Area. All races will be professionally timed. The 50K starts at 6:30 am and all other races will begin taking off at 8:30 am. All runners receive medals and T-shirts after the race. Visit Brazen Racing for more information, www.brazenracing.com.

55th Annual Mt. Diablo Iris Show & Plant Sale, Saturday, April 23rd and Sunday, April 24th. Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. There will be plants available for purchase. The show is open to the public. There is no admission fee. For additional information, call Mary Sincic at (925) 606-0355.

1st Wednesday Street Party, May 4, 6 to 9 p.m. downtown Pleasanton. Cinco de Mayo celebration. Pleasanton

Downtown Association, www.pleasantondowntown.net

2016 Spring Faire, Saturday, May 7, from noon to 5:00 p.m., Heritage Park and Museums, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin. Free admission. Springtime blooms in the park, one-of-a-kind arts and crafts, live music, and enjoy great food with a glass of wine or champagne. There are plenty of children's activities as well. www.dublin.ca.gov/1501/Spring-Faire

76th Annual Pleasanton Rose Show, Sat., May 7, Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. Exhibitors registration 8 a.m.; judging 10 a.m.; show open 2 to 5 p.m.; awards ceremony 2:30 p.m. Information, call Alain Pinel office and ask for Leslie, Joyce or Marti, 251-1111. Co-sponsored by the City of Pleasanton and Alain Pinel.

An Evening With... John C. Harper, Tuesday, May 10, 7 pm. Museum on Main Ed Kinney Speakers Series, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors (65+)/students (with valid ID), \$5 members. Tickets may be purchased online at www.museumonmain.org. at Museum on Main during regular operating hours or by phoning the museum at (925) 462-2766. For more information on the Ed Kinney Speakers Series visit www.museumonmain.org or phone Museum on Main at (925) 462-2766.

Livermore Valley Film Festival, May 13-15, 2016. “Where Science Meets Art.” The three-day event will showcase independent and feature films in downtown Livermore. Information and tickets: www.bankheadtheater.org.

All Invited to Sing-Along with 'Mamma Mia'

Tri-Valley Evening Rotary Club will present a Sing-Along of the popular movie musical “Mamma Mia” (starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, and Amanda Seyfried) on Thursday, May 5 at The Vine Theater in Livermore, 1722 First St. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the film screening begins at 7 p.m. There will be a Raffle held as part of the evening.

Those attending are invited to come in costume. Sing all the hits from the movie, including: “Dancing Queen,” “Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!” “Take a Chance on Me,” “I Have a Dream,” “Mamma Mia” and many more.

Tickets are \$15 and are available on the Tri-Valley website at: www.trivalleyrotary.org.

Group ticket sales of 10 or more purchased at the same time, will receive a \$3 discount.

Proceeds benefit Tri-Valley Evening Rotary's annual Livermore VA Hospital Veterans' BBQ, Annual Coat Drive, Rotary International's End Polio Now and other local and international projects.

For more information: contact Sharon Xavier de Sousa at 510-366-3343 or sxdesousa@aol.com or info@trivalleyrotary.org



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Students at Marylin Avenue Elementary School in Livermore were treated to a performance by the California Theatre Center of "Miss Nelson Is Missing." In this lively musical comedy, the kids in Room 207 are misbehaving again. The kind and clever Miss Nelson masquerades as the infamous Viola Swamp, a very colorful and nasty substitute, in order to teach her unruly class just what a good and fair teacher she is. The program was sponsored by the Livermore Commission for the Arts as part of the Arts in the Schools program.

Bicycle Safety Festival on May 1

Pleasanton will present the Bicycle Safety Festival, a multi-agency collaboration that will take place on May 1, 2016, from noon to 3 p.m. at Amador Valley High School, located at 1155 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton.

Youth cyclists are invited to ride their bikes through an obstacle course to learn how to start and stop properly, use hand signals, avoid hazards and more. In addition to the Obstacle Course, there will be a Pedestrian Safety Course, Bike Safety Trivia Wheel and Bike Blender, bike tune-ups, helmet fittings, car seat inspections, prizes and more.

Helmets are required for all riders and all activities will be led by trained instructors.

Pleasanton was awarded

the Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community award by the League of American Bicyclists

Food will also be provided at the festival, courtesy of the Pleasanton Police Officers Association and the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation. Other partners include the Pleasanton Unified School

District, the Pleasanton Police Department, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, Bike East Bay, Alameda County Transportation, Safe Routes to Schools, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

For a full list of events, go to www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/bikeevents

Whistlestop Writers Event Set

Whistlestop Writers will host another open mic for writers of all genres on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Swirl on the Square, 21 South Livermore Avenue, in downtown Livermore.

Cynthia Patton, the event's host, says, "It's an evening of great food, great wine, and great writing. You won't be disappointed."

The Whistlestop Writers Open Mic will continue on the fourth Wednesday of each month. For more information go to <http://facebook.com/WhistlestopWriters> or call 925-890-6045.

BULLETIN BOARD

(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board or email information to editmail@compuserve.com. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.)

Mount Diablo Rose Society 28th Annual Spring Rose Show, Sunday April 24th at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., in Dublin. Free admission. Enter roses for competition 7 to 10 am. Open to the public for viewing 1 to 4 pm. Hundreds of blooms and arrangements on display! Contact Lou Evans (510) 331-6115 for more info.

Garage sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 21 to benefit the Feral Cat Foundation. What is described as a "huge" sale will be held at 8801 Davona in Dublin (off of Alcosta Blvd.). A \$15 donation to Feral Cat Foundation will get the donor a Dickey's BBQ sandwich (choice of brisket or chicken) and sides (coleslaw, chips, water and cookies) between 11 am and 2 pm. Feral Cat Foundation is a non-profit cat rescue organization, volunteering in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, working with feral, stray and abandoned cats. This consists of humane trapping, spaying and neutering, vaccines, finding homes for tame adults and tamed kittens, and feeding those not tamable after returning them to their colonies, thereby greatly reducing the number of untamed cats sent to shelters for euthanization.

Tri-Valley Rotaract Club's Clear the Shelters event will take place Saturday, May 7 from 11 am to 4 pm in the plaza in front of the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore. There will be adoptable dogs; local vendors and family activities. All Valley Humane Society adoptions will be fee-free that day, both at the event and at the adoption center.

Livermore Duck Races, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 15, Arroyo Mocho at Robertson Park, Livermore. Over \$5000 in cash prizes. Free Little Duckie Race for kids 12 years and younger with a parent present. Sponsor a duck, tickets \$5 each, call 449-1315 or 321-1123. Benefiting Livermore schools and Valley nonprofit groups. Presented by the Livermore Lioness Club and Livermore Y's Men Club.

"Where to Invade Next" will be shown Sat., April 30, at 7:15 p.m. at the IBEW Hall; 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. This is Michael Moore's most recent film showing how other countries seem to have taken the American Dream away from us; so, he's invading to supposedly bring parts of it back. This unaffiliated event is free (\$3.00 donations accepted), unaffiliated, and wheelchair accessible. Anyone is free to bring flyers, paperwork to place on a table or to make announcements about local events. A meet & greet potluck starts at 6:30 PM and a discussion follows the film, for those interested. For further information, call 925-462-3459 or email flickknight@gmail.com.

Primavera Dinner Dance, hosted by the Italian Catholic Federation Br. 285, May 7, St. Michael's Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. Bar opens 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. catered by A Tasteful Affair. Dance to the music of The Mellotones. \$35 per person,

reservations required by May 2, call Bobbie 361-7088. Raffle prizes. Proceeds benefit Tri-Valley Scholarship Program and other ICF charities.

Tri-Valley Group of Sierra Club will host an annual members meeting on April 26, 7:30, at Livermore Civic Center Library (1188 S. Livermore Ave). This is an opportunity to find out what issues your local group is involved with. Foremost will be a presentation by Friends of Tesla Park regarding the recently released Environmental Impact Report which recommends that Carnegie Off Road Vehicle Park expand into the 3,400 acre Tesla Park greenbelt.

Girls Night Out Network (GNON) Heads to Macy's Monday, May 2, 5 to 7 p.m. Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton. \$10 members, \$15 nonmembers. Prepayment required by April 29, www.gnon.org/rsvp.html or call 487-4748.

Futsal team openings, Hispanic Heritage Center invites boys and girls from 7 - 11 years old to join a futsal team. Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays in Junction Ave K-8 School 7-9 years old (6:00 - 6:45 p.m.); 9-11 years old (7:00 - 8:00 p.m.). Fast and exciting style of soccer where a lot of goals take place. Each team has 4 players, a goalkeeper and a few alternates For more information, contact: Orlando Perez (925) 858-4601 titl10@yahoo.com or Alicia Calonico (925) 784-4258 aliciacalonico@gmail.com

Tri-Valley Haven's Spring Pace for Peace, 8 am. on Sat., April 23. The 5K/10K Hope Run will go through the Livermore Valley wine country. Race day registration starts at 7:00 am at 3663 Pacific Avenue in Livermore or to register online follow the link at www.trivalleyhaven.org. All proceeds go to local survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and homelessness served by Tri-Valley Haven and to our abuse prevention programs. For more information and to download pledge forms, visit The Haven's website: www.trivalleyhaven.org or contact Lisa at (925) 667-2728. Proxy pledge donations or sponsorships may be sent to: Tri-Valley Haven - Pace, 3663 Pacific Ave, Livermore, CA 94550.

Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (Tri-Valley CAREs) monitors nuclear weapons and environmental clean-up activities throughout the US nuclear weapons complex, with a special focus on Livermore Lab and the surrounding communities. All are welcome at our monthly meeting at the Livermore Civic Center Library Thursday, April 21st from 7:30pm to 9pm. For more information call Tri-Valley CAREs at (925) 443-7148 or visit our website at <http://trivalleycares.org>

Grief workshop, Although there is no right or wrong path, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey. Eight (8) Thursday nights at 7:30 pm starting April 7th, through May 26th, 2016 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. A one-time donation of \$15 is requested. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Please call Eleanor Flatley at 925-846-8708.

Cake4Kids members bake and deliver birthday cakes for foster children and at risk youth, who wouldn't otherwise have a birthday celebration. Each year, Cake-Off 4Kids contest is held to raise funds. It is open to Cake4Kids volunteers and the gen-

eral public (no professional bakers). Bakers can choose from various categories. The winners receive cash prizes. The event includes refreshments, kids' activities and a silent auction plus unlimited cake tasting of all the contest cakes. The cake contest entry fee for bakers is \$15 Attendee tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for kids aged 7-14 and kids under age 7 are admitted free. The event will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. on June 11 at the Danville Community Center, 420 Front Street, Danville. For information, go to www.cake4kids.org. To learn more about the competition, go to <http://www.cake4kids.org/events/>

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA. April 24, 12:30 p.m. lunch in San Ramon. RSVP by April 21 to Marsha, 830-8483.

6th annual Golf Tournament, to benefit the Livermore High School Alumni Association. Fri., May 20 at Las Positas Golf Course. Reservations due by May 10. For more information, or to help with this event contact: Kristin Waters-Meyer, skmeyer24@comcast.net; Simon Meyer, skmeyer@comcast.net; or Jim Perry, jperry23105@aol.com.

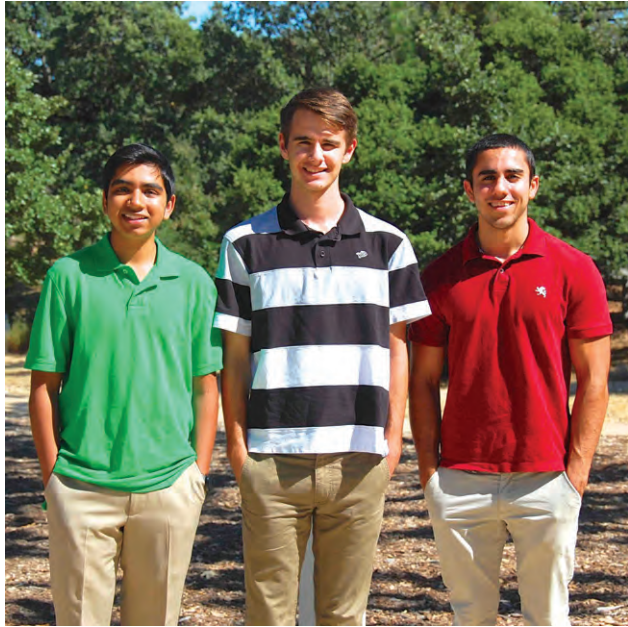
Twelfth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: Registration for the Twelfth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, on Sunday, May 1, 2016 from 10:00 to 5:00, is now open. This free, award-winning tour features thirty Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, water-conserving, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60% or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from five acre lots in the hills to small parcels in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Bluegrass, blues, flute duets, Renaissance music, and more will be performed at various gardens; children's activities will be offered at two gardens. Pre-registration for the tour is required. <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net>

Harlem Wizards Basketball Fund-raisers Flying Dunk Sponsor Livermore Dental Care and the Livermore Valley Educational Foundation present the Harlem Wizards vs Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Staff and Students plus Community and Business Leaders at Livermore High School on Thursday, April 21, 2016, and Granada High School on Friday, April 22, 2016. Both games start at 7 p.m. These must-see games will celebrate LVEF's 25th year anniversary and provide fantastic entertainment for all ages. Proceeds benefit LVEF. Student tickets start at \$12/ticket, general admission starts at \$14/ticket. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit LVEF.org or email info@lvef.org

ClutterLess Self Help Support Group, nonprofit, peer-based, self-help, support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not an organizing issue. New meeting location: Parkview, 100 Valley Avenue (main entrance), 2nd Floor Activity Room, Pleasanton. Mondays except some holidays 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Come or call a volunteer at (925)289-5356 or (925)922-1467. More information at: www.clutterlesseastbay.org

Writing club for young adults, Whether a seasoned writer or just starting

Milestones



Pictured are (left to right) Vansh Gandhi, James Kozuch, and Rameen Mashoon.

Former Students Develop App

James Kozuch and Rameen Mashoon, former Foothill High School DECA members and current alumni, recently developed an innovative app that lets people buy and sell easily through a fun and unique interface. The app already has several hundred downloads with little effort.

Bakkle works by giving the user items and services for sale in their community. The user can also pick how far they want to go for an item. They swipe left on their screen to show interest in a product. They can also easily start a chat with the seller to ask any questions on the product. To place an item on the app, the seller takes a picture, enters in a few details, and the picture automatically gets posted for other people in the vicinity to see.

James Kozuch, founder and CEO of this app, currently attends Indiana University: Bloomington, where he is enrolled in the Kelley School of Business. He was a competitive DECA member throughout high school and even served as a club officer his junior year. Rameen Mashoon was also a competitive member and officer of DECA and currently attends Santa Barbara Community College. He has learned many business skills in DECA, which enabled him to be a valuable team member of the Bakkle project.

On March 17, James Kozuch visited students from Foothill High School DECA and talked about his experience with the Bakkle project. He stated that his next step is to refine the app and begin a marketing campaign to get more users on the app. He also wants to add categories to make the items shown more catered towards the preferences of the user.

Pleasanton Resident to Lead Sempervirens Land Trust

The Board of Directors of California's oldest land trust, Sempervirens Fund, has appointed Sara Barth as its new Executive Director. Barth leads the 116-year-old land trust in protecting and caring for the redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains – a mission the organization continues since its initial protection of lands that became Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

Barth brings to Sempervirens Fund a strong record of

conservation innovations and accomplishments, extensive experience in organizational leadership, and political savvy. She comes from a leadership role with The Wilderness Society where she spent twelve years working to protect our nation's wildlands, including successfully preserving over 1 million acres of land in California and she just wrapped up a major climate adaptation project.

Barth oversaw regional conservation programs at The Wilderness Society, working around the country as well as serving as a member of the national leadership team. She previously worked on conservation efforts for World Wildlife Fund and National Wildlife Federation, and was an environmental advisor to U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer in Washington, D.C., working on a broad range of natural resource

issues in California and nationally.

Barth holds a master's degree in environmental science from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and the Environment and an undergraduate degree in biopsychology from the University of Pennsylvania. Barth lives in Pleasanton with her husband and two children.

More information can be found online at www.sempervirens.org.

Harvest Park Students Shine at Destination Imagination

Harvest Park Middle School students captured 2nd place at the state finals Destination Imagination.

The team has qualified to enter the Global Finals at Knoxville TN from May 25th 2016 to May 28th 2016. Attendees from 45 U.S. states and 14 countries are also expected to attend.

Destination Imagination (DI) is a world-wide, volunteer-led, after school program. "The Destination Imagination program is a fun, hands-on system of learning that fosters students' creativity, courage and curiosity through open-ended academic Challenges in the fields of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), fine arts and service learning."

The four member team from Harvest Park Middle School,

Pleasanton "Team Unavailable" includes 8th graders Ishaan Alva, Aditya Bhaskar, Vasudha Iyer and Suraj Rajan. With their hard work and guidance from the team manager Mrs. Bhuvana Rajan the team made it to state level finals after they won the First place at the Regional Best of the Bay competition held in Dublin. They also received the Renaissance Award for the engineering and design of their props.

At the State Level competition in Riverside, "Team Unavailable" won second place in their category "The Meme Event." The team took the Project Outreach/Service Learning Challenge. Coming up next for "Team Unavailable" is the Destination Imagination Global Finals at Knoxville TN in May 2016.

Madeline Burchard Joins LVEF Board

Madeline Burchard has joined the Board of the Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF).

Madeline is a native of the East Bay. She is an alumna of Deer Valley High School where she earned the distinction of National Hispanic Scholar from the College Board. She went on to earn a degree in Molecular Environmental Biology from U.C. Berkeley and expects to graduate in 2017 with a Master's degree in Organismal Biology, Ecology, and Conservation from San Jose State University.

Since teaching Introductory Biology as a graduate student, Madeline has held various roles in the field of informal education, especially with under resourced youth. Before joining Sandia, Madeline ran afterschool STEM-themed programs in East Oakland high schools and coordinated nature-themed field trips for Title 1 schools across the East Bay.

Madeline currently serves as the Community Relations Officer for the California site of Sandia National Laboratories. Even though she is no longer working daily at schools,

supporting education is still her passion.

"I come from a family of teachers and professors," she says. "My grandmother taught high school Spanish in San Francisco. I have an aunt that is an elementary teacher, an uncle that is a UCSF professor, and the list just goes on and on."

"My family raised me to see quality education as a civil right and as a pathway for empowering yourself and your community. They also pushed me to see education as not just what you do while you are in the classroom. Education is a lifelong dedication to expanding yourself intellectually. It goes beyond the school day."

Madeline started working with LVEF as part of her capacity as the Sandia/California Community Relations Officer and fell in love with LVEF's commitment to funding innovative and high-impact educational programs.

Madeline lives in Dublin with her wife, Kathryn Hunts, and her rescued mutt, Roxie.