

Don't Miss It!



The Independent now comes in two sections.

Section II is filled with information about arts, entertainment and special events. There are education features, as well as the arts and entertainment and bulletin board listings.

Pleasanton Rose Show This Saturday

The 69th annual Pleasanton Rose Show will be held Sat., May 9 at the Pleasanton Library.

Theme for this year's show is "Days of Wine and Roses."

Rose show exhibitors bring their entries to the library between 7:30 and 10 a.m. Judging will take place until 12:30 p.m.

The show will be open to the public for viewing from 1 to 5 p.m. There will be an awards ceremony at 1:30 p.m.

The show has been dubbed, "the people's show," because it features home grown roses.

It started at a Pleasanton bank in the 1930s when Harry Harding gave his customers rose bushes to show his appreciation for their patronage. His customers brought in blooms they had grown. Harding was inspired to start the rose show.

The event is sponsored by Alan Pinel Realtors and the City of Pleasanton.

For more details, visit www.PleasantonRoseShow.com.

The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Avenue.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Spring rains and sunshine have produced brightly colored blooms throughout the valley.

AAUW to Host Panel Talk by Muslim Women

Three Muslim women from the Livermore Mosque will be the guest speakers at a panel discussion hosted by the American Association of University Women, Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch, on Saturday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m. at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. This is an opportunity to hear about their experiences as Muslim women living in the USA and to learn what they wish non-Muslim people knew about them and their lives. Following the panel discussion, there will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions.

Ameena Jandali has delivered hundreds of presentations in schools, colleges, universities, churches, and other venues on Islam and related subjects. She has appeared on numerous television and radio programs speaking on a variety of topics relating to outreach, family and Islamic behavior. She received her M.A. in Near Eastern Studies from UC Berkeley and currently teaches a class on Islam at SF City College.

Souhella Al-Jadda is a television producer and journalist. Her (See PANEL, page 12)

Saving Energy Saves Money, Says Lovins

By Patricia Koning

Anyone worried about global warming or energy insecurity can take comfort in the message that Amory Lovins presented on Thursday, April 30 in the final lecture of the Livermore Valley Performing Art Center's Rae Dorrough Speaker Series.

He opened his talk with what he called the stupid multiple choice test. "Would you rather die of a) climate change, b) oil wars, or c) nuclear holocaust?" he asked the audience. "The answer is none of the above, if we use energy in a way that saves us

money. Efficiency is cheaper than buying fuel. Economists who say climate protection is costly have the sign wrong."

Lovins is the cofounder and chief scientist at the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). As a consultant experimental physicist, he advises governments and major firms worldwide on advanced energy and resource efficiency. His work has been recognized by the Blue Planet, Volvo, Onassis, Nissan, Shingo, and Mitchell Prizes; a MacArthur "genius grant" Fellowship; the Benjamin Franklin and Happold

Medals, and ten honorary doctorates, among many other awards and honors.

In 2004, RMI released *Winning the Oil Endgame: Innovation for Profits, Jobs, and Security*. Co-funded by the Pentagon, the report is a blueprint for making the United States oil free within a few decades.

In his talk, Lovins provided examples of large corporations that have embraced energy efficiency as a way to cut operating costs. Lovins described how Walmart, one of RMI's clients, has saved millions by increasing

its truck fleet's fuel economy. Boeing turned itself around by redesigning its airplane to be lighter, more energy-efficient, and less expensive to manufacture, features that have translated the upcoming 787 Dreamliner into the fastest selling airplane in history.

Instead of searching for elusive oil in the arctic wilderness and other domestic locations, Lovins said that better automotive design and use of advanced materials could save so much gas it would be like finding "a Saudi Arabia under Detroit." Noting

that three-quarters of the fuel used is weight-related, he advocates making cars slippery and light.

RMI designed a concept SUV, the Hypercar, using carbon fiber composite—the same material Boeing uses in its 787 Dreamliner—that gets 100 miles to the gallon and has just 14 parts, most of which are so light they can be lifted with one hand. The Hypercar's biggest problem might be that auto thieves could simply pick it up and walk away with it, Lovins quipped.

(See ENERGY, page 5)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Alisal Elementary School in Pleasanton held its 1st Annual Jog-a-Thon on Friday, May 1, during the school day. In the photo, kindergartners and first graders took to the track. Students collected pledges from friends, family, and neighbors to raise money for the school. Money raised will go toward the school-wide running club. Students participating in the running club can earn a necklace and charms based on number of miles covered.

Pleasanton General Plan Ready for Review

The Pleasanton Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to take comments on the city's draft general plan and accompanying environmental impact report.

The new General Plan will guide development in Pleasanton for the next 10 to 20 years. By year, 2025, the city's population is predicted to be 78,200.

The meeting will be held May 13, 7 p.m. in the city council chambers, 200 Old Bernal Avenue.

The update of the general plan got underway in 2003. Points of controversy have delayed the completion. Among them is the housing element, which is out of compliance with state law in that the city has failed to rezone land where affordable housing could be built.

The city's housing policies have been challenged by Urban Habitat in court.

State Attorney General Jerry Brown said that the city's housing cap forces workers to com-

mute to the jobs in the city, taking a toll on the environment and California's infrastructure. He wants the city to raise the cap to make it easier for people that work in Pleasanton to live there.

The draft of the general plan update gives notice that the city will update its housing element in 2009. Housing Element law requires a city to plan for its fair share of the regional housing need, identifying sufficient sites at adequate densities to accommodate the need for homes as is-

sued by the State of California.

Impacting housing are the city's cap of 29,000 units. There are roughly 2,000 units left under the cap. However, an additional 600 second units are expected to be constructed. In addition, group living facilities will house approximately 1100 residents.

The city council's preferred plan for housing is one that disperses the units throughout the city. Some have argued that more

(See REVIEW, page 4)

Redevelopment Agencies Win Case Over Revenue

The Livermore Redevelopment Agency will be keeping \$321,237 in revenue this month, thanks to a decision in a state court in Sacramento.

Livermore is a member of the California Redevelopment Association (CRA), which sued the state Finance Department over a law that authorized the state to take \$350 million in one-time

money from the state's redevelopment agencies. It was part of the state's 2008 budget legislation.

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Lloyd Connelly ruled late last month that the CRA was correct in contending that the budget law provision was unconstitutional. The funds clearly were

(See MONEY, page 4)

New TVIN Makes It Easier to Start Up Companies

By Ron McNicol

The Tri-Valley Business Council (TVBC) has launched an organization that will help people with new ideas to put their visions to work as businesses.

Approximately 170 people, including entrepreneurs, investors, service providers, city officials and sponsors, attended a program at Casa Real in Pleasanton April 22 to hear about the new entity. It is the Tri-Valley

Innovation Network (TVIN). Its motto is "Where entrepreneurs come to grow."

TVIN's web site, designed by Pleasanton resident Sugata Sanyal, offers a confidential networking service. Entrepreneurs can make contact with funders and with service providers.

TVIN won't operate only on line. There will also be an ongoing program of seminars, workshops, roundtables and show-

(See START UP, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Las Positas College held a ground breaking for its new Child Development Center (CDC). The \$10,000,000 construction contract was awarded to Lathrop Construction of Benicia. The Center will be 18,000 square feet and accommodate 122 toddlers and pre-school children. It will also include two outdoor learning environments. Completion is expected by summer of 2010. Holding up a child-size souvenir shovel, in the photo at left, is Hal G. Gin, president of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees. The College also held a "Topping Off Ceremony" for the College Center for the Arts (CCA). The 54,000 square foot theater will seat 500. There is also a 1,500 seat outdoor amphitheater. Construction is expected to be completed by late spring of 2010, with the first classes to be held in fall 2010. Both buildings are Measure B funded and will be LEED Silver Certified.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Autumn is a feisty gal who is looking for a place where she can roam. She is independent, and would love to have a backyard to call her own. To visit Autumn, come to Valley Humane Society's Kitty City, open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Support homeless pets like Autumn and buy your Hidden Garden Tour tickets. On sale on the web site www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656 for more information.

Letter Carriers to Collect Food



Letter Carriers are handing out information about the upcoming food drive. They will collect the food this Saturday.

At the Alameda County Community Food Bank, statistics are being amassed by the pallet. Demand for emergency food increased by 44 percent in the first three months of 2009 compared to the same period a year ago. In March, nearly 2,700 households, comprised of over 9,600 people, sought out food via the Food Bank's 1-800-870-FOOD line. That shattered the 24-year-old organization's previous monthly record for demand by 21 percent. "The evidence is overwhelming," said Alameda County Community Food Bank executive di-

rector Suzan Bateson. Bateson and food bank executive directors throughout the Bay Area are pinning their hopes of relief on the biggest one-day food drive in the nation - the 17th Annual National Association of Letter Carriers' (NALC) Drive on the morning of Saturday, May 9. Gurjant Khosa has been involved in the letter carriers' effort since the drives inception in 1993 - the first 10 years as a Pleasanton letter carrier. "I take this drive very personally," said Khosa, who now serves as the postmaster for the Pleasanton

Post Office. "We've been very successful at this post office in producing increasingly more food for the Food Bank each year. I'm confident that we'll increase the intake in Pleasanton this year." Much of Khosa's optimism is linked to Pleasanton's track record for producing big in the NALC Drive; in 2008, residents contributed 13,000 pounds of food, over 11 percent of the total for Alameda County, which has 19 post offices participating in the drive. "The people of Pleasanton have been an exceptional partner in the fight against hunger," Bateson said. "Their actions have spoken volumes over the years." It was Pleasanton that Bateson identified as the test city for a biodegradable bag program to encourage even bigger donations for the May 9 drive. The blue bags features comic-page artist Bill Keane's Family Circus characters. Keane annually donates a drawing to promote the drive. The bags will be delivered to 20,000 Pleasanton postal patrons three days before the drive, Khosa said.

On the following day, postal patrons will receive a postcard reminder to fill up those bags for the Saturday drive. Pleasanton is the only community in Alameda County receiving the bags - residents elsewhere must supply their own packaging for their non-perishable donations of items such as peanut butter, rice, beans, pasta, spaghetti sauce and canned vegetables. The city's 65 letter carriers do the rest, transporting the donated food to the collections bins at the Village Parkway post office. From there, the food is trucked to Food Bank, where it is weighed, sorted and distributed to a network of 176 food pantries, soup kitchens and community agencies throughout Alameda County.

Livermore Student Finalist in Classical Star Search

Classical 102.1 KDFC has selected 8 finalists to perform at KDFC's Classical Star Search Grand Finals Event at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Monday, May 11, 7pm. The finalists were selected from 20 performers doing a "live audition" this past Sunday before a group of judges at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. The competition and talent was so phenomenal we had to expand the youth division to 5 finalists. Some of the best amateur talent in the country will be showcased at this one-time concert. Among the finalists is Austin Phillips (10, piano) of Livermore. He was 6 yrs old when he begged for piano lessons while he was learning the violin. Austin is home schooled and only listens to classical music. For hobbies, he likes to ice skate and is currently learning pairs skating. This is KDFC's Second Annual KDFC Classical Star Search, a Bay Area competition for amateur classical artists. The station received over 250 2-minute audition videos that were submitted on the KDFC website from

non-professional musicians who entered in one of two categories: Classical instrumentalist and vocalists between the ages of 10-20 (youth division) and Classical instrumentalist and vocalists, aged 21 and above (adult division). 102.1 KDFC is staging the live Grand Finals Event on Monday, May 11, 7pm, at the Hume Con-

cert Hall at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. This event is open to the public. Tickets are on sale now for \$25 at The San Francisco Conservatory of Music box office, 415-503-6275, or online at www.sfc.edu. A portion of the proceeds benefits the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

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Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009
Time: 7PM
Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza
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2nd floor Conference Room
Pleasanton
two blocks west of hospital

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Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The weekend rain didn't stop people from coming out to sample area wines during the annual Livermore Wine Country Festival. Visitors also enjoyed entertainment, shopping, dining, and activities for children. Pictured are Scott Harmon of Livermore and Joey Costello of Tracy.



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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Labor for Garamendi

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi enjoys strong support from key labor unions in the event he becomes a candidate for California's 10th Congressional district. That seat is presently held by Rep. Ellen Tauscher, who has been nominated to Undersecretary of State for Arms Control Policy; if and when she resigns, Garamendi expects to become a candidate in the special election.

"My friends in labor were the first to ask me to look at this unexpected opportunity," said Garamendi, "and I'm honored by their early pledges of support. I have stood with labor in many important struggles over the years, and one of my top priorities in Washington will be passage of the Employee Free Choice Act."

"With everything going on in the nation, it is crucial that we have someone with the knowledge of the lieutenant governor to replace the experienced leadership of Congresswoman Tauscher in Washington, D.C.," AFSCME Local 3299 President Lakesha Harrison said in a statement.

Here is a partial list of labor groups that have announced their support for Garamendi for Congress: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; California Nurses Association, California Federation of Teachers, United Food & Commercial Workers, California School Employees Association Laborers International Union of North America, International Union of Operating Engineers, and Communication Workers of America.

Historic Home Stroll

On Saturday, May 9 from 1 to 4 p.m., the Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools will be hosting a "Pleasanton Historic Home Stroll" to help citizens learn about the history of the town, and to raise money to support the campaign to approve the parcel tax initiative on the June 2nd.

This will be a self-guided tour of eight homes dating back to the 1890's. The tour starts at 4625 Second Street, where ticket holders are given maps to guide them to the homes as well as providing historic information on each. All homes are located near Second and Third Streets in downtown Pleasanton. Advance tickets are available for \$20. All proceeds directly support the Measure G campaign.

Tickets will also be available on the day of the tour for \$25.00. Docents will be present in all homes to answer questions. For information, visit www.savepleasantonschools.org.

New Lab General Counsel

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory has selected Paul J. Ehlenbach to serve as the Laboratory's new general counsel. The announcement was made by Lab Director George Miller.

Ehlenbach is a seasoned attorney with ex-

tensive experience in government contracts, corporate governance, litigation and compliance.

As general counsel and a member of the Laboratory's senior management team, Ehlenbach will lead the legal staff responsible for advising and representing the Laboratory on all legal matters arising from management and operation of a large R&D facility. Key responsibilities include advising Laboratory senior management on a broad range of legal issues; managing litigation arising from management and operation of the Laboratory; analyzing pending legislation and rulemaking affecting the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration and national laboratories; and reviewing and interpreting federal and state statutes and regulations, among other duties.

Ehlenbach comes to LLNL from The Boeing Company in Chicago, where, as vice president and assistant general counsel, he led the law staff responsible for managing resolution of the company's business litigation as well as conducting and responding to investigations and handling other compliance-related duties.

Flu Information

The City of Livermore and Police Department are collaborating with the Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to provide current information and assistance to citizens in preparing for and dealing with the health concerns related to H1N1 Flu (swine flu). The US Center for Disease Control urges a common sense approach.

For more information about the flu, visit the following websites: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.pdc.gov/h1n1flu/index.htm; Alameda County Department of Public Health, www.acphd.org; or Livermore School District, www.livermoreschools.com.

The City of Livermore website, www.ci.livermore.ca.us, has direct links to the above sources of information. Further information will be posted to the city's webpage.

Education Assistance for Veterans

Enrollment is now open for educational benefits available from the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, which was signed into law last year. Veterans who served on active duty beginning on or after September 11, 2001 are eligible to apply for educational benefits that cover tuition costs and provide stipends for housing and books.

"Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to the new generation of veterans that have served our country since September 11, 2001," reported Congressman Jerry McNerney. "The Post-9/11 G.I. Bill honors these brave young men and women for their service by providing much needed educational benefits."

Veterans can apply online for the benefits at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>. The Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing applications on August 1, 2009.

Park District Receives Awards

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District was recently honored with three awards recently. Two were announced during the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) 2009 conference on April 25 at Lake Tahoe. Both the Sycamore Grove Park 2009 calendar and volunteer Megan Bell received recognition.

The first-ever Sycamore Grove Park calendar received the District Award for Environmental Education and Interpretation. This award is given out to programs that sponsor education and interpretive programs for staff and the public that enhance appreciation for natural resources and support and an environmentally responsive lifestyle.

The Sycamore Grove Park calendar showcases the natural beauty of the District's largest open space park and educates the public about plant and animal life in the park. In addition, proceeds from calendar sales will benefit the park's native plant gardens by helping to fund interpretive signage.

College student Megan Bell was honored with the Outstanding Youth Award for her long-time volunteer work with LARPD. Now a freshman at the University of California, Davis, Bell began volunteering with the District when she was 8. She worked as a junior docent at Ravenswood Historic Site and has now gained enough knowledge to help with the guided tours as well as special events. Bell continues to work with District programs on her breaks from college.

LARPD General Manager Tim Barry received a recognition plaque for earning the Special District Administrator Certification from the Special District Leadership Foundation. The statewide program is offered through the California Special Districts Association.

Also at the conference, LARPD General Counsel Michael Kyle swore in the 2009 CARPD officers, which included LARPD Board President Maryalice Faltings. Faltings, who has served on the LARPD Board of Directors since 1994, is the incoming secretary for CARPD.

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EDITORIAL

Fair's Soul At Stake

In need of revenue, the Alameda County Fair faces major changes. Among them, the non-commercial exhibits at the Young California Building are to be dispersed to other buildings, opening space at Young California to expand the commercial booths.

The Young California Building, built in the 1970s, has represented much of the homespun spirit of the fair. This is the location of the peoples exhibits; this is where 4-H kids, Regional Occupational Program students and others proudly show the fruits of their labor.

Much of the heart and soul of the Alameda County Fair can be found within the walls of this building. We strongly protest the change.

We can understand the need to make the fair more profitable, but we expect fair officials to show some sensitivity to the heritage that is its foundation.

The fair should keep the non-commercial exhibits together at Young California and work to revitalize this slumping sector, rather than scatter it to the winds.

If this change is allowed to stand, the county fair will become irrelevant — just another venue among many venues offering superficial entertainment.

Optimism Voiced Over Livermore's Future

Livermore is in a position to grow and prosper.

That was the message delivered during last week's Livermore Chamber of Commerce Real Estate Roundup.

Mayor Marshall Kamena called Livermore, "a city of innovation, families, churches, and a place to do business. There is good food, good wine, culture, recreation and trails. The area is one of the last frontiers left in Alameda County."

Kamena listed some of the projects in the works that he says provide a bright future for the city. One, "the absolutely fabulous shopping center near El Charro is proceeding." Groundbreaking is expected soon on the Toyota dealership. A 2000 seat regional theater in downtown is moving forward. Plans to bring BART to Livermore are advancing. Planning is well into the environmental review stage.

"Remember the term photon valley," continued Kamena. "Silicon Valley will look pale in comparison." He said there are 1600 acres of property adjacent to the national laboratories where companies can spin-off technology developed at the labs. "Technology transferred will be used to revolutionize medicine and how we power our cities and cars." Energy research will be advanced using NIF, a major facility that will be dedicated May 29 at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

An educated workforce is needed to make that happen. Both Las Positas College President DiRionne Pollard and Livermore Director of Economic Development Rob White made that point.

Pollard stated, "Community colleges are potentially the most transformative entity in the United States. They do America's hard lifting when it comes to education." She referred to career and training in green technologies and health industries, among others. Fifty-nine percent of nurses in California received their training at a community college, she pointed out.

Las Positas has seen a record enrollment. There are now 9100 students. There has been a steady 10 percent increase in enrollment over the past five years. An education beyond high school adds to earning power. For example, Pollard said, a high school graduate can expect to earn \$1 million in his or her lifetime; a student with an AA degree increases income to \$1.6 million in a lifetime.

Pollard was proud that Las Positas is ranked seventh out of 110 California community colleges in having students transfer to universities.

The college also has an economic impact. Pollard estimated that it contributes \$8 to \$10 million per month to the local economy. There are 1000 jobs created directly and indirectly. "Las Positas is a vital partner with Livermore. The college provides intellectual, artistic, cultural and economic contributions to the life of the community," Pollard declared.

White noted that the city's goal is to maintain and expand a diverse economy, establish a stable fiscal base and retain jobs and housing to retain a good quality of life. Tourism, science and technology, and the cultural arts all contribute to the goal.

White mentioned some of the projects Kamena referred. The Toyota dealership is in the entitlement process. It is expected

to open in late 2010. "It will be a first rate facility with many services the Dublin dealership won't offer." The Prime Outlet project is anticipated to break ground in 2010 and be open in 2011, providing a huge retail base for Livermore.

When it comes to businesses, the emphasis is on science and technology. The city is in conversation with several large businesses in the green tech area, one manufactures batteries, another a hydrogen car. To fill jobs, the city is partnering with Las Positas and the Lab to develop the necessary workforce. The city is also looking to create a private university presence with a focus on green technology.

White noted projects such as the Livermore Village and regional theater are moving forward. Tourism and marketing have created a wine country destination. The cultural arts with a successful poet laureate, art in public places, the Bankhead Theater and regional theater, contribute to the city's "embarrassment of riches," stated White.

The potential for technology was the topic of Taber Smith of FocalPoint Energy. He called the current economic situation a great time to start a company. "Rent is cheap and good talent is available." When starting a business, he suggested to potential entrepreneurs, "Keep it simple. Be really successful at one thing and build from there."

Smith added, "Clean tech is the wild, wild west with tons of opportunities."

Jack Bariteau asked those attending the session to help bring a 4-star boutique hotel to Livermore. Plans are in the works for an 80 to 100 room hotel in downtown Livermore. "This is an opportunity to bring something to Livermore it doesn't have and desperately needs," he declared. A public-private partnership will be required to make it happen. At issue is funding. When money becomes available for such projects, it will be difficult to obtain. "Those with well thought out plans and local support will receive funding. We need corporations to say they are interested in a hotel and can occupy rooms. We are optimistic that it can happen. However, it will take time."

Pat Huffman, president of the Bay East Realtors Association, expressed optimism about the future. "There is still a demand for housing. People want to live in California and the Bay Area. Livermore is now a destination city. The new downtown amenities will help keep the city competitive with other cities when it comes to real estate. We are anticipating that sales activity will increase."

She noted that foreclosures vary from community to community. "Livermore was spared from a large number of foreclosures." For example in Livermore, there were 217 units on the market in April, 33 were foreclosures.

"Livermore has led in sales activity each year. Even though the median price is now \$488,540, that is still double ten years ago at \$242,000," she pointed out. Huffman added that it is a buyers' market. With lower prices and lower interests rates, more people can buy homes. There has been an increase in first time homebuyers. Currently, 37 percent of the population can afford a median priced home, compared to only 20 percent in the hot market years.

The first policy under energy is to reduce the city's demand for it.

A goal within the conservation and open space element is to preserve and enhance natural wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors.

Pleasanton School Board Looks at Speaking Up Concerning State Bills

By Ron McNicoll

The Pleasanton school board is considering taking a more active stance concerning legislation in Sacramento. They are considering discussing bills, and then voting on any they think that lawmakers should hear about.

Trustee Jamie Hintzke brought up the idea to superintendent John Casey, who initiated a discussion of it at the board meeting April 28.

Traditionally, the district itself has kept informed of significant legislation through various education professional organizations. Late trustee, Juanita Haugen, was very active in state and national educational organizations, and often gave the board a heads-up about what might be coming in state and federal policy changes.

Discussing bills at the board level, and possibly taking stands on them, would be a significant change, said board president Chris Grant. "It's an important issue. It's a turning point for the board, to take a policy position, before bills are adopted by the Senate and Assembly," said Grant.

Grant suggested the board could conduct two workshops each year on important bills. This month, the district could have the first, although the board will be busy with weekly budget sessions, he said.

Hintzke said the board should support a bill to require a 55 percent majority on parcel taxes, instead of a two-thirds vote. The district will be seeking a \$233 parcel tax on the ballot June 2 at the two-thirds requirement.

START UP

(continued from page one)

cases where entrepreneurs can obtain information. All they need to do is sign up at the website, www.trivalleyinnovation.com.

The web site outlines the five steps involved in the process of successful entrepreneurship and explains how TVIN can help. The first is to assess one's idea. Entrepreneurs will be able to learn 10 key questions that anyone will need to know to assess the idea.

A second step is finding needed resources. These include mentors, consultants, service providers, and investors. The TVIN web site's networking aspect will help with this. The third step is putting business plan tools together, including a template to help sort out what's needed. That's followed by the related fourth step, about how to build the plan. Knowledge will be available from TVIN, and the mentors who have signed up.

The final step is to find investors. TVIN will tell entrepreneurs how to successfully approach them, and what would be reasonable expectations in meeting with them.

One thing not to do in meeting a potential investor is to bring up funding too soon, said one of the launch's guest speakers, Randy Williams. He is founder and CEO of the Keiretsu Foundation, which has funded 220 entrepreneurs in its nine years.

Williams said that during the networking time before a launch event began, he was directly asked about financing a project. Don't ask too early. It's enough just to ask for a business card at that point, he said.

Williams provided tips on fund-raising. One is to "find a champion" who will become involved in the business. Furthermore, whether the funder is a

REVIEW

(continued from page one)

units should be placed in Hacienda Business Park in an effort to promote smart growth.

The plan has two main objectives: preserve Pleasanton's character and encourage sustainable development.

The new general plan identifies methods for improving public facilities and services and establishes a framework for implementing zoning, subdivision, and other government regulations.

The plan includes seven mandatory elements: land use, circulation, housing, public safety, conservation, open space and noise. Pleasanton has combined conservation and open space into one element. The city has added seven optional elements: public facilities and community programs, water, air quality, energy, community character, economic and fiscal, and sub-regional planning.

Each of the elements has goals, policies and programs.

For example, under community character, one of the goals is to preserve and enhance Downtown Pleasanton as a major focus of the community. Other goals include enhancing the appearance and usability of the arroyos and canals and improving the entrances to the city.

The first policy under energy is to reduce the city's demand for it.

A goal within the conservation and open space element is to preserve and enhance natural wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors.

Hintzke also referred to several bills that would affect physical education requirements in California. "It will have a huge effect," she said.

Terri Drain, a PE specialist at Vintage Hills elementary school, said that if the board were to take stands, she recommends opposition to those PE bills. The bills would allow such activities as marching band and ROTC to be substituted for physical education classes to meet state requirements. "It's incorrect to assume that physical activity, and physical education, which is a course of study," are the same, said Drain.

PE focuses on "skills, concepts and attitudes" to promote a "lifetime of good health," she said. Drain added that 15th District Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan, an Alamo Democrat who was on the San Ramon Valley school board, opposes the bills. Drain quoted Buchanan as saying that the Legislature shouldn't invalidate decisions of a local school board.

Trustee Pat Kernan said Hintzke's suggestion is "a great idea." He would like to hear from the public about it.

Pat Kernan noted that voters on May 19 will decide the fate of six propositions, some involving the schools. "We may not agree with the six. However, if they go down, we have a bigger problem. We at least have to provide information to the public. I don't know if we need to take a stand on the measures," said Kernan.

Kernan complimented Hintzke for bringing up the idea, saying, "It's a focus we haven't

had before." He added that Hintzke and the other new trustee elected last November, Valerie Arkin, "have brought so much to the board."

Board member Jim Ott expressed support for the idea. However, he noted that there are some questions about how to do it. "Taking positions is new territory. We may have community members who want to speak here. How will it work? Do we vote at the board? Do we direct staff about what to do? We may have our own positions," said Ott.

Ott said that with such groups as the California School Board Association and the PTA working "every day in the trenches (in Sacramento), is this something we should be focusing on?" He said he thought that a review a couple of times each year might be appropriate.

There was no action taken on Hintzke's suggestion, but the consensus was clear for staff to pursue the concept.

NEW PRINCIPAL FOR WALNUT GROVE

On another item, the board unanimously approved the appointment of Charles Young as principal of Walnut Grove elementary school. He will replace Bill Radulovich, who is retiring.

Young is the district's director of secondary education. Before that, he was principal at Valley View elementary school.

Grant said that he was worked with Young on the academic achievement committee. "He has a vision of what could be done differently, and better," said Grant.

Casey hailed Radulovich for his work at Walnut Grove. "He

has created a unique culture. Go back nine years ago, and it is a world of difference. Ninety percent of the faculty was hired by him. The school today is a testament to him," said Casey.

Radulovich, who chaired the district's eco-fair late last month, started the district's Go Green Initiative, with parent Jill Buck. It focuses on school recycling, and has caught fire worldwide, with 2 million members.

PRE-SCHOOL
The board approved a contract with Kidango to provide child care at the pre-school on the district headquarters property. The previous provider had given notice that it would close its program there April 30. The lease is \$4600 per month.

Kidango will start enrollment this month, and open some time in June.

At the board's usual recognition ceremony, Harvest Park middle school teacher, Bill Bowen, was in the spotlight for being named the California middle-level council advisor of the year. Casey said that Bowen runs a model program, and fosters leadership skills development.

Bowen stated, "It's not a one-person award. It recognizes 25 years of devoted staff, classified, certificated and administrative effort."

Also recognized was Amador Valley High School junior William Chin. He represented the district as the quarterfinalist in a national physics competition. Grant asked him what he hopes to do with science after high school. Chin replied he'd like to study economics, perhaps using his knowledge in local government.

An example of how the Lab is helping to bring a good product to the medical field is its work on a project to reduce the size and cost of a proton treatment machine for cancer. Only five hospitals use the equipment now, because it needs a huge room for its housing, and is very expensive. The Lab hopes that in four years, it will be able to bring to market a machine that is one-tenth the size and cost, with obvious benefit to cancer patients.

The Lab is hoping to move its security fence westward so that some firms can locate in the

resulting open space there. It would simplify security procedures for having the firms. "We are very interested" in the TVIN, said Werne.

SEMINAR SET

The first session in a planned TVIN Event Series has a theme of "getting started" focused on the entrepreneur. The seminar will be held Tues., May 12 from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the San Ramon Regional Campus, One Annabell Lane, Suite 11, San Ramon. The fee is \$35. For more information on the series visit www.trivalleyinnovation.com

MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Letter Policy: The Independent will not publish anonymous letters, nor will it publish letters without names. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed.)

Support Education Ken Mercer Former Pleasanton Mayor

Once again our community faces a shortfall of money for education. This is not unusual and we should be very proud of the fact that our citizenry has constantly supported high quality education.

It's difficult for me to understand why people in our city would not support our children and their education. Not supporting our kids is like punishing them for something they had nothing to do with. Our economic situation was not caused by our children or grandchildren, yet some people in the community want to punish them because of our situation.

The amount that is being requested is a nominal amount to continue our high level of education. Not approving the parcel tax will send a signal to all future homebuyers that we don't really care about education in Pleasanton, and so why would I want to buy a house here. Our property taxes will diminish by more than the parcel tax.

I have lived here for 40 years. I have seen the school system do nothing but get better. Now we have a group of people who think they know better and want to bring about changes and fool with a system that has been recognized as one of the highest ranking systems in the state.

If for one will vote to continue my grandchildren's education and I ask you to do the same.

Funding John Stein Livermore

It is worthwhile understanding the creative financing proposed for Livermore's Regional Theater:

The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center does not have money today for a down payment. Therefore, all \$70,000,000+ for the theater construction, as well as the land and permits, must be borrowed. To reduce startup costs for the first few years, there will be negative amortization and interest only payments. Because of today's historically low interest rates, it will be a 30-year adjustable rate loan. An expensive "letter of credit" will be needed for

the first few years adding to the costs.

For financing to succeed, lenders must share the Theater Group's vision that they will find enough large donors and their marketing strategy of "build it and they will come." The taxes that pay for the majority of the loan depend on a residential and commercial real estate market recovery. Financiers must agree with Livermore City Council's belief that the theater will attract 4000 to 6000 people to live in high-density multistory apartments and condos in a crowded and congested downtown.

Under the above plan, if the Theater Group cannot meet their payments Livermore could be left with an empty theater and struggling downtown. The redevelopment agency will have spent millions in taxes that could have been used to provide other downtown improvements. The Regional Theater is not too big to fail but it could be too expensive to save.

No on Measure G Kathleen Rueggegger Pleasanton

Many questions are being raised about Measure G — the four year, \$18 million tax for Pleasanton schools. Parents are outraged with threats of classes at 30:1, employees are receiving pink slips, and we must believe it will improve if we just vote for this source of "stable funding."

Was this caused by three years of large raises that required continued COLA increases and/or enrollment growth to remain sustainable? How much time would be afforded us now had the original goal for a 7% reserve not been abandoned or if money "designated for economic uncertainty" had been set aside? Why is this vote occurring before the district finalizes its budget on June 30? If the district needed this information sooner, why was June 2 chosen at a cost double of that for May 19? What about the \$2.1 million coming in federal funds or new state funding flexibilities?

Not withstanding the foregoing concerns, more important questions should be asked: what do we value and what, if anything, are we willing to pay? Are APs important at the elementary level (\$X); only at the largest elementary schools (\$X); counselors at 400:1 (\$X); merit pay? Would you vote yes if the tax were \$50/year? \$100? \$300? This is the conversation that is missing.

There are solutions that save staff and programs for at least a year. We need that time. Please vote no on Measure G and hold the district accountable with the same level of expectation they have for the community's children.

BALLOT

(continued from page one)

Prop. 1D would take \$608 million for fiscal year 2009-10 from early childhood education funds that have had a firewall around them, courtesy of the state initiative that created the fund. That figure would drop to taking \$268 million each year through 2013-14. Prop.

IE would shift \$230 million annually for expansion of mental health programs, and transfer it to offset the state deficit for two years. The revenue stream was established by Prop. 63 in 2004. Prop.

IF would freeze the pay of legislators, the governor and the statewide elected officials until they pass a budget. Estimates of savings to the state vary, depending on how much pay raise the Legislature votes for itself.

IMPACTS FOR EDUCATION

The California Teachers Association has endorsed Props. 1A and 1B. The union sees it as a way to restore cuts that local districts already have made in anticipation of the steep shortfall in the state budget.

In Pleasanton, the school district has sent layoff notices to employees who represent 249 full-time equivalent positions. That is predicated on the May 19 propositions passing. If the propositions fail, it's not clear what would happen, since the Legislature would have to go back to square one and negotiate a new budget.

Pleasanton already figures on cutting \$9.7 million from its budget, said superintendent John Casey. It does project \$3.8 million in reserves, which is the minimum 3 percent required by law, so those funds could be a help if the propositions fail, he said.

There is also the Sycamore Grove site fund at \$5.8 million that can be tapped on a loan, said Casey. There will be about \$2 million in federal stimulus money that the state is expected to pass on to the district. Also, a law change eight years ago allows a second layoff notice date, Aug. 15, provided that the state has a budget by then, and a district receives less than a 2 percent increase in revenue for the budget year.

Assuming there is a budget for 2009-10 before next Aug. 15, that rule could be used. However, the district does not want to lay off more people, said Casey.

The Pleasanton school board has not taken a position on the initiatives. Casey observed that passage of all of the propositions will back up the governor's promised budget. Education receives 40 percent of the budget. Failure of any specific proposition would cut off that much from the state budget, and therefore 40 percent of that amount from schools.

FAILURE MEANS HIGHER SHORTFALL

In Livermore, layoff notices went out to 24 teachers. However, a total of 134 employees will be affected. The district has a shortfall of \$5 million, with \$1 million of that being one-time expenditures, the remainder ongoing. About 50 of the 134 employ-

ees are temporaries, on one-year contracts, which would not be renewed.

If the propositions don't pass, and there are new budget negotiations, the district will have to cover another shortfall, said superintendent Brenda Miller. However, the district is expected to receive more than \$3 million in federal stimulus money for special education and low-income programs.

The Livermore district has a 4 percent reserve. Its board has been conservative in its approach to spending, said Miller. "We are conscious of making multi-year plans here. We look at money for the next two years," said Miller.

CITIES FACE NO THREAT YET

In city government, Livermore city manager Linda Barton said that it's not clear what would happen to cities if the propositions fail. "We hope they will structurally deal with the problem, and fix it," said Barton.

The city council has not taken a stand on the propositions.

In Pleasanton, councilman Jerry Thorne is an official of the Bay Area chapter of the League of California Cities. The league has come out in support of all six measures. However, that doesn't mean that all in city government support it, said Thorne.

He said that he personally is conflicted about Prop. 1A. He likes the fact it would cap future state spending. He does not like the fact that it enables a \$16 billion tax increase at a time when many people are hurting from the recession.

If the measures fail, it's possible that the state would invoke an earlier Prop. 1A, which enables the state to borrow money from cities, and pay it back with interest over a three-year period. This is called ERAF. In its earliest form in 1992, it took revenue from cities and counties over a period of years, and never gave it back. Prop. 1A changed that. Now the state can't grab it, but only tap local government for a loan, twice over a 10 year period.

So far the Legislature hasn't talked about an ERAF loan, said LARPD executive director Tim Barry. But if that does happen, LARPD would stand to lose about \$600,000 to \$800,000. Under the original ERAF, LARPD already loses about \$7 million per year, out of the \$14 million it should be getting now, said Barry. "Over \$60 million of our tax money has gone to the state," he said.

The park district was able to build a community center only because voters approved the Measure L parcel tax a few years ago. It was a joint effort, with the school district and city also gaining improvements. "We're concerned about (any ERAF loan). We are facing a deficit for next year. Property taxes are lower than in the past, because evaluations are coming in lower. Our (county) retirement system lost money in 2008, and we are being asked to make it up," said Barry.

If Prop. 1D passes, it will take money away from early child-

hood education. That will have an impact on CAPE, the non-profit that gives LARPD advice on how to organize better preschools for children, said Barry. "We don't receive cash for it, but that agency answers questions for our staff. There are also training dollars, about \$20,000, to train our staff in curriculum," said Barry.

STATE LAWMAKERS EVALUATE MEASURES

Barry said that Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi favors all six of the propositions. He heard her speak at a meeting of the California Area Recreation and Park District. Hayashi was unavailable for comment.

However, state Sen. Loni Hancock, whose district includes Livermore, definitely is not backing all of the propositions. She said that Prop. 1C is the important one to pass, because the lottery loan will bring in \$5 billion to support this budget, and not hurt the lottery in the long run. Hancock is strongly against Prop. 1A. "It would be a tragic mistake for the state. It's a permanent cap on spending. It would be very difficult to rebuild our educational system, roads, and all the things that make the state a good place to live, even when the economy improves."

On Prop. 1B, which is backed by the state's teachers unions, Hancock said that schools will be repaid money that already has been cut. However, "after that, it will be a long time before there is any new money. California is 50th in the nation on what we spend per child in public schools. We don't want to stay with a spending cap. It's wrong to tie the hands of future generations."

"Many I know, will vote yes on 1B. They want education to receive more money. Districts won't start receiving the funds until next year, for 2011, and afterward. So it won't save local jobs," said Hancock. Once the schools get back to the previous funding levels, the Prop. 1A cap would still be there. "That's why 1B is dangerous and unnecessary," she said.

PROP. 1C IS BIG FUNDING SOURCE

Hancock supports Prop. 1C because it delivers \$5 billion to the budget. "It's a huge amount. We won't have to cut existing services," she said.

Hancock doesn't like Prop. 1D. A portion of cigarette tax goes to early childhood education, and it should continue. The money should not be diverted to the general fund for five years, she said.

Prop. 1E borrows from a surcharge on incomes over \$1 million, for mental health service. The percentage to be borrowed hasn't been spent yet. "They say they will spend the money on children's mental health. It seems like it's OK," she said.

On Prop. 1F, which would freeze legislators' salaries until they pass a budget, Hancock said,

"It's fine. We don't want the money."

The far more important thing for mending California's budget process is to get rid of the constitutional amendment that requires a two-thirds vote in the Legislature, said Hancock. Only two small states, Rhode Island and Arkansas, require the same super-majority. Congress passes its budget with a simple major-

ity, as do 47 other states.

"California needs to join the 21st century, and put in place a budget process that provides what people of the state want. This crisis has opened many people's eyes," said Hancock. "People are fed up with stalemate, with having a solid majority of the Legislature held hostage by a minority party. It's not fair. It's not what democracy is all about," said Hancock.

OPPOSITION FROM OTHERS, OR NOT

Groups that have checked in on the propositions include the California Republican Party, which has urged a no vote, and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, which is opposed to Prop. 1A. The group doesn't like the tax increases.

The California Democratic Party's convention a month ago did not take a position on the propositions.

ENERGY

(continued from page one)

The slippery and light concept has a cascading effect on efficiency. A smaller engine can power a lighter car with the same performance as its clunky counterparts. Such a car requires a smaller, simpler power train. "When you make the weight savings snowball, parts start to disappear like the axils, starter, drive shaft, u-joints, and alternator," explains Lovins.

The cascade continues into the auto plants themselves. Lightweight parts mean the need for hoists, cranes, and other machines disappears. Molded parts can be assembled by snapping them together and then applying glue, rendering welding obsolete. The need for paint is also eliminated, as color can be added directly to the components as they are molded. These savings would far outweigh the additional material costs of carbon fiber, said Lovins.

While the common perception is that bigger, heavier cars are safer, the smaller, lighter chassis of a carbon fiber composite car allows for better packaging and crush space. To illustrate this point, Lovins showed a video clip of French race car driver Katherine Legge walking away from a 180 MPH crash that somersaulted her carbon fiber composite race car into the back corner of the track. Legge's only complaint was that she couldn't wear a dress to an awards ceremony that evening because her knees were bruised.

Lovins assured the audience that these cars of the future will be available to consumers soon. At the October 2007 Tokyo Motor show, Toyota showcased the I/X, a concept car that weighs one-third of the Prius and uses half the fuel.

"The biggest, least-noticed trend in the auto industry is light weight," he said. The Japanese company Toray, which already

supplies carbon fiber to Boeing for the Dreamliner, is establishing a factory dedicated to the manufacture of carbon fiber automotive and airline parts. The company is working with Toyota and other car companies and recently invested in a German advanced composite engineering firm.

These leapfrog advances aren't limited to the automotive and airline industries, and many of the changes aren't dramatic or revolutionary. "The low hanging fruit is mushing up around our feet," said Lovins. "And the innovation curve continues to dump more fruit on our heads."

He described how the Oakland Museum realized 75% savings in pumping energy just by redesigning its pipes to reduce friction. He showed examples of houses and buildings that by design don't require heating or cooling equipment at extra construc-

tion cost.

His house in Aspen, Colorado has been held up as an example of how far smart design can take you. Even though temperatures drop well below freezing, Lovins doesn't even have a furnace. He harvests bananas and other tropical fruit in his greenhouse atrium. Extra thick walls and windows, superior insulation, efficient appliances, and lots of windows to capture those sun-rays enable Lovins' solar panels to generate more than enough electricity.

"Energy is made of millions of tiny pieces," he said. "Millions of bad decisions have meant waste—but millions of good, small decisions can get us out of this mess."

For more, visit the Rocky Mountain Institute's website at www.rmi.org. To read or download *Winning the Oil Endgame*, visit www.oilendgame.com

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Cardiologist

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**Requests for Proposals (RFP) from
The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority
for
"I-880/Broadway-Jackson Interchange Improvement Project
Management and Project Alternative Evaluation Services"**

The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (Authority or ACTIA) is requesting proposals from qualified consultants with expertise in project management, consensus building and engineering assessments to perform Project Management and Project Alternative Evaluation Services for the I-880/Broadway-Jackson Interchange Improvement Project in Oakland.

RFP Schedule:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| - RFP Questions submission: | May 4, 2009 at 5 PM PST |
| - Pre-Proposal Meeting (ACTIA Office): | May 7, 2009 at 10 AM PST |
| - Proposal Submission Deadline: | May 27, 2009 at 3 PM Sharp |
| - Approval of Shortlist: | June 25, 2009 |
| - Interview: | Week of June 29, 2009 |
| - Board approval of top-ranked firms: | July 23, 2009 |
| - Approved contract commencement: | August 2009 |

Proposals are subject to the ACTIA Local Business Contract Equity Program. The ACTIA goal for professional services is 70% for Local Business Enterprise and 30% for Small Local Business Enterprise. For Program Requirements and Forms, [click here](#). Any contract to be awarded as a result of this notice will be awarded without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or national origin.

The RFP documents may also be obtained at the ACTIA office located at 1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612 or by contacting ACTIA staff at (510) 893-3347.

All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to ACTIA staff no later than May 4, 2009 at 5:00 PM PST. The sole point of contact for all purposes of this procurement shall be Arun Goel, Associate Transportation Engineer. The contact information is as follows:

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority
1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612
Contact Person: Arun Goel
Telephone: (510) 893-3347 x129 Fax: (510) 893-6489
E-mail: agoel@actia2022.com

SHORT NOTES

Lark in the Park

"Lark in the Park" takes visitors to one of Pleasanton's local parks one day each month where participants can explore the history that is part of the park.

The event is sponsored by Pleasanton's Museum On Main and led by a museum docent.

Participants begin each event at the designated park where the activities will take place.

This month is a visit to Kottinger Park, 1000 Kottinger Road on May 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The events include snacks, a walk or light jog around the park with a history talk, then arts and crafts for children.

An information sheet on each park will be handed out. Photos of the parks will be available for purchase, \$5 for one quality photo; \$1 for one photocopy. An activity related to that park's history will be presented. Yearly membership in the Lark in the Park is \$25 per person and includes passport, binder, and one photo of each park's special history.

Donations are gratefully accepted and a portion will go toward the Museum's Educational Scholarship Fund. The goal this year is to raise \$1,000 for a competitive scholarship between the two high schools. Next year plans are to have scholarship programs for both schools.

General admission to the museum is a \$2 per person requested donation. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Contact (925) 462-2766 or office@museumonmain.org, visit www.museumonmain.org.

Other programs in 2009: June 27, Moller Park; July 25, Veteran's Park; August 22, Delucchi Park.

Texas Hold'em

Livermore High School's safe and sober grand night will benefit from a Texas Hold'em tournament, "Grand Finale," to be held May 16 at Castle Rock Restaurant in Livermore.

Buy-in is \$40, re buy-in \$20, and add-on \$20. Prepaid reservations will receive \$200 extra in chips. Players must be 21 years old to participate. Cash prizes for top three finishers.

Sign in is at 6 p.m., first hand at 7 p.m. There will be a special menu and bar offering food and drink for purchase.

Reservations are due by May 9 at 5 p.m. For information, contact Patti Jo Coggin at patticoggin@comcast.net or 925-921-15. Walk-ins are welcome.

Wildflower Walk

"Another Wildflower Walk" will be led by Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff on Sat., May 9.

Meet at 10 a.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. The group will wander in search of Mariposa lilies, Lessingia (purple asters), Indian paintbrush, blowwives, clarkia, wallybaskets and more. The full hike will be about five miles with some moderately steep climbs. If five miles sounds too long for you, join anyway and feel free to head back when you begin to tire. The hike will last two to three hours.

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

Animal Rescue Reunion

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Happy Endings Reunion will be held Sunday, May 17th, from 1-4 p.m. at Memorial Dog Park off Bollinger Canyon Rd. in San Ramon.

Anyone who has adopted a pet or pets through TVAR over the past 17 years is invited to join the first TVAR Reunion.

The first 25 dogs receive gift bags; \$5 prepaid tickets include food, drink and a raffle ticket. To learn more go to www.tvavar.com.

Volunteers Needed

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is gearing up for the annual Livermore Scottish Games and Celtic Celebration and is looking for volunteers to help make the event a success. Coming up the weekend of May 16 and 17, the Scottish Games will feature Scottish and Celtic music and dancing, caber tossing and heavy athletics, a Children's Glen, Scottish food and drink and more.

Volunteers are needed to work the entrance gates, the Children's Glen and the parking area. Those who volunteer will receive free admission to the event, plus those who volunteer for more than one shift will receive free lunch. Shifts are scheduled in approximately three hour increments beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m.

The Livermore Scottish Games will be held at Robertson Park, 3200 Robertson Park Road, Livermore. To become a volunteer, call Katrina Hole at 925-373-5748.

Winemaker Tools

Winemaker Tools is the topic of the May 19 Quest for Excellence program.

The purpose of the Quest for Excellence series, presented by the Tri-Valley Conservancy and the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, is to assure the highest quality wine grapes and wines are produced by Livermore Valley winegrowers and vintners.

The May 19 meeting will be from 5:30 to 8:00 pm at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, Livermore.

The guided Wine Tasting and Discussion will feature Sauvignon Blanc, Roger Boulton - UC Davis; Jim Frost - Hidden Creek Wine, and Gerry Rowland - Rowland Cellars, will speak on the topic of *Winemaker Tools*.

Please RSVP online at www.lvwine.org by May 15. The session will have a participation fee of \$10.00.

Diabetes Self-Management

Marisa Castaldini, certified diabetes educator, will present a program with the theme "Introduction to Diabetes Self-Management" at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm on Wednesday, May 20. There is no charge for this event.

This one-time class will discuss the tools needed to take control of diabetes. It is for people of all ages who have, or know someone with, Type 2 Diabetes or Pre-Diabetes. Topics will include healthy eating, checking your blood sugar and the benefits of exercise. Please call 510-383-5185 to register.

The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten this program. For additional events, check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

Family Storytime

Make a craft for the troops and hear about other ways to show support from Terri Otzmann of Blue Star Moms. Storyteller John Weaver will also be at the Springtown Library with stories on Saturday, May 9 at 11:00 a.m. Springtown Branch Library is located at 998 Bluebell Drive near the duck pond.

Be ready to Go to Sleep at the Civic Center Library on Monday, May 11 at 7 p.m. John will be sure to dream up some fun at this bedtime story time. Civic Center Library is located at 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

All ages are welcome to these free library programs. Contact Youth Services at (925) 373-5504 for more information or pick up a storytime schedule at any one of the Livermore Public Libraries.

Del Arroyo 4-H

On the weekend of April 25-26, Del Arroyo 4-Hers helped out at the Livermore Spring Stampede by working the gates, and educating the public about the infinite possibilities 4-H has to offer. Some members brought their chickens, dog, even a guinea pig to show what types of animal projects we have. If you would like to learn more about 4-H, please contact Margaret Miller 447-6980.

Art Competition

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) announced that the 2009 11th District Congressional Art Competition will be held at Tracy's Grand Theatre Center for the Arts.

The competition and art showcase will be hosted at the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts on Saturday, May 9, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in partnership with the City of Tracy. The location of the Grand Theatre is 715 Central Avenue in Tracy.

The works of art submitted by students from throughout the 11th District will be on display to the public and Rep. McNerney will be on hand to announce the winner of the competition.

The competition is part of the nationwide annual Congressional Art Competition intended to showcase the artistic talents and abilities of students in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. territories.

Each Member of Congress hosts a competition among high school students in his or her district. The winning artwork from each district is then featured in a display in the busy corridor that connects the Cannon House Office Building with the U.S. Capitol, used daily by Members of Congress and visitors to Washington, D.C.

In addition to having his or her artwork on display in Washington, D.C., the grand prize winner from the

11th District also will be flown, with a guest, to Washington, D.C., to attend an awards ceremony on June 24, 2009.

For more information on the contest, contact Cheri Clasen in Rep. McNerney's Pleasanton office at 925-737-0727.

Teens and Cars

Teens are invited to attend a special program about easy car maintenance on Wed., May 20 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Livermore Library. Lyde Waitley, from Olsen's Automotive Repair in Livermore, will host this free special event at the Civic Center Library. Teens will learn how to care for a car, listen for car problems, detect wear and tear on tires, change windshield wipers and much more. A listing of references for car repair information will be available to take home.

Car and Driver Month at the Livermore Public Library, continues with "Parents and Teens Behind the Wheel." On Thursday, May 28, from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Craft Room of the Civic Center library, Officer Traci Rebiejo, Officer Steve Vail, and Don Neher from the Guardian Driving School will share important driving tips and update teens and parents on the latest information about new traffic laws. Attendees will learn about ways to have a more positive driving experience and will discover the benefits of safety driving "tools" for teens.

For more information about this and other programs, please visit TEEN SPACE at www.livermore.lib.ca.us or contact Sandy at 925-373-5500 extension 5583.

Scouts Scuba Diving

Students ages 14-20 who are interested in Scuba diving and marine biology are invited to join the New Scuba Venturing Crew, a program of the Boy Scouts of America. Participants will explore the marine environment through scuba diving.

Information about the group will be available at a 1st nighter meeting is set for 7 p.m. on May 20 at 1032 Serpentine Dr. Suite 108, Pleasanton.

Additional information is available by contacting Alex Peterson, Twin Valley District Executive, at (510) 318-2977 or (510) 577-9226. There is a \$10 registration fee.

Chicks with Sticks

Chicks with Sticks Golf Tournament will benefit Shepherd's Gate. The event will be held at the Poppy Ridge Golf Course on Tuesday, July 14.

The Chicks with Sticks Golf Tournament is a 4-person shotgun scramble. It begins at 1:00 pm. The day will include putting, chipping and longest drive contests, networking reception with other women who own or run a business, great raffle basket

prizes, golf goodie bags, box lunch, buffet dinner and a chance to meet and also hear powerful testimonies from some of the residents in the Shepherd's Gate program.

Each year, over 650 battered and homeless women and children come to Shepherd's Gate for a vital lifeline. Many of these women and their children have experienced severe abuse, extreme poverty, and addictions. They come to Shepherd's Gate, sometimes with just the clothes on their backs, seeking a fresh start.

One of the residents at Shepherd's Gate is 36-year-old Chantel. After fleeing horrific abuse, she and her children were forced to live in her car. Chantel had no one to turn to for help, until someone told her about Shepherd's Gate.

Chantel and her family have been living at Shepherd's Gate Livermore for 12 months and through the comprehensive programs, she is getting her life on track. Through professional counseling, recovery, and other components of the programs offered, she has been able to find hope for her future. She is currently attending courses at a local college, and is looking forward to getting an apartment.

The women and children that we serve have been through so much in their lives. Shepherd's Gate is a place where they can heal, and learn new skills so that they do not return to the homelessness and violence that they fled. We are grateful for this outpouring of support from Poppy Ridge and the community," said Lyn Kiernan, Shepherd's Gate Director of Business and Volunteer Relations.

For more information, visit www.shepherdsate.org; for sponsorship information or to donate raffle items, please contact Lyn Kiernan at (925) 443-4283 ext. 217 or lkiernan@shepherdsate.org.

Events on Mt. Diablo

Save Mount Diablo is offering several special programs this spring.

Save Mount Diablo offers a variety of hikes and events on and around Mount Diablo to raise public awareness, appreciation, and support to preserve natural lands on and around the mountain. They include the following:

Fri., May 8, 7:45 pm - 9:45 pm, Mangini Ranch Moonlight Hike (SMD). Leader: Dave Sargent; earlyrider@earthlink.net; Meet: MP #35 Galindo Creek - park on road at bottom at creek intersection with Riding & Hiking Trail. Moderate hike. Rain cancels. www.savemountdiablo.org

Sat., May 9, 9 am - 2 pm, Oyster Point from Curry Point Hike (Mt. Diablo Group & MDIA). Leader: Helene Crowley, (415) 974-2209, or crowh_8558@yahoo.com. Meet: MP #3 Curry Point parking area 1 mile past MDSP South Gate entrance. Rain cancels. Bring: Hiking poles, fluids, snack/lunch, sunscreen, layers. Fee: \$7at entrance kiosks

Sat., May 9, 8 pm. Moon Stalkers: Night Hikes in the Preserves (City of Walnut Creek). Location: Sugarloaf Preserve. Meet: At the end of Youngs Valley Rd. Bring binoculars and a

flashlight. Due to the popularity of these special hikes, Reservations required contact Ranger Bruce Weidman at (925) 944-5766. For information www.walnutcreekrec.org

Sun., May 10, 9 am, Lime Ridge Hike, Meet: MP #34; Lime Ridge Open Space - Montecito. No reservations are necessary unless you're bringing a group of five or more. Rain cancels. Contact: Ranger Art Janke at (925) 930-7731 or www.walnutcreekrec.org

Sat., May 16, 8:45am, Explore Morgan Territory on a Marsh Creek Wildflower Hike, Leader: Wildlife Biologists Jim Hale (925) 939-4304, Location: Morgan Territory Regional Preserve. Meet: Morgan Territory Staging Area. Biologist Jim Hale, will lead a 6-7-mile educational hike in the Morgan Territory Preserve. The hike typically goes no less than 5 hours and can go as long as 6 hours. RSVP required.

Sun., May 17, 9:30am, Join the Experts to Find Wildflowers at Corral Hollow (California Native Plant Society). All-day adventure to Corral Hollow. Corral Hollow is southeast of Livermore and southwest of Tracy, along Corral Hollow Road near Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area and is an East Bay botanical hot spot. Meeting place and hike location to be determined. Must RSVP contact Erin McDermott at 510-701-2890 or emcdermott@nomadecology.com.

A trail endurance ride will be offered Sat., June 27: 30/50 - AHA Region 3 Championship and AERC Sanctioned Save Mount Diablo offers its first recreational opportunity for equestrians. www.savemountdiablo.org for more information or to register.

Center for Excellence

East Bay BMW is a winner of the 2009 Center of Excellence Award. The awards recognizes those who have achieved sales leadership with the highest level of customer satisfaction among all BMW centers during the past year.

The dealership is located in Pleasanton.

Insomniac

Gayle Greene will speak on *Insomniac*, the book detailing her experiences with sleep deprivation and her research into the problem. The presentation will be May 17, 2 p.m. at the Pleasanton Library.

Part memoir, part scientific reportage and analysis, *Insomniac* offers a uniquely comprehensive account of this devastating and little-understood condition. Greene has traveled the world interviewing neurologists, sleep researchers, doctors, psychotherapists, and insomniacs of all sorts.

Greene is Professor of Literature and Women's Studies at Scripps College, Claremont California. She is a

member of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), a professional medical society for researchers and clinicians, and is the patient representative on the board of the American Insomnia Association, an organization within AASM.

This program was funded in part by a grant from Fit for Life, an initiative of Libraries for the Future and Metropolitan Life.

The program is free and open to all. No registration required. For more info regarding the program call Penny Johnson at 931-3405.

Stamp Give-away

Starting May 11, the Pak Mail center located at 51 Wright Brothers Ave., Ste. F will offer the public free two cent (2c) stamps as a convenient gesture to the postal rate increase.

The United States Postal Service has announced an increase in first-class postage from 42 cents to 44 cents effective May 11, 2009.

The "Stamp Give-Away" at Pak Mail is limited to 10 stamps per customer, while supplies last.

"We are offering the free stamps as a way to thank our loyal customers and to let new customers know that postal stamps are available at Pak Mail, along with our many other services for commercial and residential customers," said Cyndi McGhee, owner of Pak Mail in Livermore (in Airport 84 Plaza at the corner of Jack London Boulevard and Kittyhawk Road).

For more information, call Pak Mail in Livermore at (925) 456-0100 or visit our Web site www.pakmail.com.

Canine Cancer Awareness

It would be difficult to find one person whose life wasn't affected in some way by cancer. Having cancer, or knowing someone who has cancer is an unfortunate reality for many who are reading this.

Did you know that cancer also affects our furry friends? Team Rock "N Rollers of the 2009 Livermore 'Relay For Life' is sponsoring a K9 Hike for Life at Brushy Peak Regional Preserve. The hike will be Saturday, May 16 starting at 9 AM. Suggested donation for the two-legged types accompanying their furry pals is \$5. All dogs are free. Bob Coomber will lead the hike in his wheelchair. Each dog will receive a special homemade treat after our hike.

For directions to Brushy Peak Regional Preserve or other questions, please contact Vicki Tan (firstmeow@fantastictan.com) or Gina Coomber (skinny2bme@sbcglobal.net). If you are interested in joining the hike, drop a line to Vicki or Gina and they'll get you an EVITE.



Agricultural Heritage

Pleasanton Parade

ValleyCare in Pleasanton

Since our founding in September of 1963, *The Independent* has been dedicated to giving you, our Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol readers, the news and editorial support you need to create a great community.

The Independent's management and almost all of its writers have lived here in the Livermore-Amador Valley for the past 45 years. We've put down roots. We care about our readers and our community.

We take pride in offering the following in our pages:

We publish the most complete ongoing coverage of city councils, school boards, water boards, park and recreation boards and other public agencies.

We stood up for and spoken out on a series of grassroots referendums, initiatives and other citizen-driven campaigns, spanning the four and a half decades of our existence. We've consistently championed the community's grassroots citizen groups in their struggle against inappropriate development- Friends of the Vineyards, Save Our Sunol, Preserve Area Ridglands Committee, Citizens for Balanced Growth, SAVE, Friends of Livermore, and others.

After 45 years, the result is a greenbelt of parks, vineyards and open spaces encircling the Livermore-Amador Valley with urban growth boundaries in Livermore and Pleasanton and a

long-term planning campaign underway to revitalize the area's agricultural heritage.

Hand in glove with the campaigns to save threatened lands out beyond the city limits, *The Independent* has promoted redevelopment of the downtowns, with the idea of centering future growth in the city cores, with a "transit-oriented" focus and substantial affordable housing.

We carry the most youth sports news, with an emphasis on participation.

When the independence of our community hospital was threatened by a merger with John Muir of Walnut Creek, *The Independent* spearheaded a successful fight to keep the facility under local control.

The Independent devotes considerable space in every edition to news of the local arts scene, which is enjoying a renaissance.

Hand in glove with that, we've given all-out support to the rejuvenation of the Livermore Valley Wine Country. We've done more than merely report on it. Partnering with winery leaders in the early days of the rebirth, we launched an annual magazine celebrating the Harvest Wine Festival. It continues, serving as the September event's official publication, growing larger every year.

SPORTS NOTES



Photo Peter Lowe

The Amador Valley High School JV boys tennis team finished the 2009 season with a perfect 19-0 record. In pre-season, Amador defeated Deer Valley 5 to 0; Moreau 7 to 0; Irvington 7 to 0, Mission 5 to 3, and Alameda 2 to 0. In EBAL action the team recorded the following wins: Monte Vista 6-2, 7-2; Cal High 4-2, 5-1; Livermore, 1-0, 1-0; Granada 7-0, 4-0; Foothill 10-2, 9-0; San Ramon 4-2, 6-3; De La Salle 5-0-4-0. JV matches and formats are determined by coaches before competitions since every squad can be different in size. The team generally played doubles, but typically played up to three singles matches against larger squads like Foothill and San Ramon. Team members include: seated (left to right) Zach Lamson, Tanay Jaell, Chris Kim, Jacob Peinado, Grant Loud, Michael Giguere and Michael Lowe; kneeling: Rishabh Hatgadkar, Chris Amezcua, Sai Ramineni, Rahul Kulkarni, Monith Ilavarasan, Ray Zhou and David Hovanessian; standing: Coach Sandy Lowder, Michael Kang, Raj Dubal, Jeff Giguere, Ben Billings, Andy Billings, Chris Stiles, Zach Blaine, Manish Laxman, Brandon Martinez and Coach Linda Lamson. The team is comprised of 13 freshmen, 5 sophomores and 5 juniors.

Gymnastic Championships

West Coast Training Center in Livermore will host the State Acrobatic Gymnastics Championships, Acro California, on May 9 and 20 at Las Positas College in Livermore.

Admission is \$10 for one day, ages 13 and over, or \$15 for both days; youth 7 to 12, \$5 one day, \$8 for two days; children age 6 and under are free. On Saturday, there is a \$2 parking fee.

The campus is located at 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore.

Youth Soccer

The Livermore Elite Fury girls U13 opened its Norcal Spring League with games against the Manteca Arsenal and Modesto Ajax. Moving up to the Gold division this year, the Fury competed well in the first game against Manteca. In the first minute, Alison Pierson took a pass from Hannah Gooby on the left wing and directed a high ball beyond the reach of the Arsenal goalie for a 1-0 lead. Livermore continued to play solidly during

the half as defenders Sarah Wilkinson and Morgan Brandt made some nice one-on-one stops and Elyse Codioli had a couple of good runs to keep the pressure on the Arsenal defense. Manteca finally broke through before halftime on a well-placed long shot that eluded the Fury goalie. The Arsenal increased the pressure in the second half and took the lead midway through the half on a breakaway. The Fury battled hard to tie the game but Manteca held on for a 2-1 win.

Against a strong Modesto team, the Fury fell behind in the second half on a ball that deflected off keeper Kaitlyn Bulhoes. However, Bulhoes stopped the rest of the Ajax shots during the half and Livermore counter-attacked. Madysen Souza worked some nice crosses into the Ajax box and Jenna Hatch made a couple of strong runs, resulting in a shot that just went high above the goal. On defense, Amanda Fairclough had a couple of nice clears to stop the Modesto attack. The Ajax opened the second half with a quick goal for a 2-0 lead and dominated a tired Fury team the remainder of the game on its way to a 4-0 victory.

In a rematch against Manteca, both teams

played a spirited first half as they battled back and forth. Beth McCall dominated the midfield for the Fury with strong support and shots taken from Kylie Diaz and Elise Falgout. Ryley Landreth played excellently on defense and stopped Manteca's top forward on a couple of runs down the left side. Sarah Franklin also played well in the midfield in her first action for Livermore.

Manteca scored the only goal of the half in the 36th minute off a loose ball and added another two goals in the second half. However, the standout player of the game was Fury goalie Taylor Lennier. In her first game with the Fury, Lennier had several diving saves and she successfully challenged a breakaway to not only keep the game close, but to inspire her teammates. Down 3-0, the Fury played its best soccer the final ten minutes of the game, working the ball downfield to set up a couple of scoring chances for Rebekah Johnson, who just missed on a couple of shots.

The Pleasanton Rage U12 Orange team played a strong game in the pouring rain and defeated the home team, Fremont Fusion, by an impressive score of 8-3. The leading goal scorer was Malissa Shadle with

4 points. Individual goals were also made by Makenna Elias, Christy Jensen, Carley Robertson and Sophie Santos.

Youth Lacrosse

The resurgent Pleasanton Twisters under-15 lacrosse team dominated the Southern Marin Wolfpack to a 11-5 victory on Sunday in Marin. The Twisters displayed offensive confidence and a savvy defense. Cambrian Cukar, Lauren Hall, and Hannah Stappled the team with 2 goals each while Rebecca Dumanski and Brianna Armario worked hard at defense. Sabrina Ehler, Tori Larsen, Lynnea Flahert, Andrea Arden, and Olivia Deutschman each added a goal for the Twisters.

Granada Little League

Granada Little League highlights: **Junior 80's** - Granada Braves 11, Danville Tigers 1. The Braves improved their record to 8 and 4 behind strong pitching from Aaron Stoien who went 6 innings allowing just 1 run on 2 hits in the Braves 11-1 victory over the Danville Tigers. The Braves played solid defense behind Stoien who recorded 6 strikeouts and did not allow any walks to the Tigers. The top pitcher for Danville was Fallon who went 5 innings recording 7 strikeouts and allowing just 3 hits. The Braves top hitters were Marcus Bayless (2-1B, 3 runs scored, 1rbi), Ryan Mathia (1B, 1 run scored, 2rbi), Ian Clutter (1B, 2 runs scored) and Tyler Fitzgerald (1B, 2rbi). The Tigers top hitters were Stoker (1B, 1 run scored) and Lowney (1B, 1rbi).

GLL Braves 7, LALL Giants 4. GLL Braves got another win 7-4 over LALL Giants after an excellent effort from the whole team. Starting pitcher Brandon Jefferis went 5 innings with 4 strikeouts. Ian Clutter closed the game pitching 2 innings with 3 strikeouts. The entire Braves team turned in tough defense allowing only 3 hits in the game. Clutch hits from the Giants gave them the win with a single from Cesar Becerra, a walk and a single with one RBI from Ryan Mathia and a walk and a single with an RBI from Robert Carrillo.

Minor AAA - Angels 5, Padres 4. Top Hitters: Angels - Andrew Walker-2x1B, 1 run scored, Luke Hottinger-1x3B, 2 RBI, 1 run scored, Brandon Zaunbrecher-1x2B, 1 run scored, Garrett West-1x3B. Top Pitchers: Padres - Jason Campbell-2B, 1 run scored, Eric Martin-1B, 2 runs scored. Top Pitcher: Angels - Jack Walker- 6IP, 2H, 4R, 12K. Padres - Michael Steim-5IP, 6H, 5R, 8K. It was a tough, close game played well by both teams with great pitching.

Yankees 11, Rays 7. Top Hitters Yankees - Devin Parker 2 Doubles, 3 RBI, Weston Nale 2 1B, RBI, Austin McMillan 2 1B, 2B. Rays -Morgan Kelly 2B (power hit to left field), Connor Swadener 2 1B, RBI, Noah Steward 3 1B, 2RBI. Top Pitchers - Yankees Austin McMillan and Jordan Mello. Rays - Connor Swadener and Jason Frost. Rays had an awesome start with 3 runs in the top of the first but the Yankees brought in 3 runs of their own in the bottom of the first. The game

remained evenly matched until the 5th inning when the Yankees broke the tie by getting four runs started by Devin Parker's double gone wild with Rays' errors. It was an exciting, nail biter, with much ado caused by an in-field fly call.

Phillie's 9, Yankees 6. Top hitters Phillie's - Johnny Bailey 1-2B, 1-3B, 3-RBIs, 1-Run; Jack Lutz 1-1B, 1-2B, 1-RBI, 1-run; Max Pruett 1-1B, 2-Runs; Drew Kujacich 1-1B, 1-RBI. Top Hitters Yankees -Chandler Davis 1-3B, 1-1B, 1-RBI, 1-Run; Devin Parker 1-1B, 1-RBI. Top Pitchers Phillie's - Drew Kujacich 2-Innings, 3-Hits, 3-Runs, 2-Strikeouts; Matt Benavidez 2-Innings, 1-Hit, 2-Runs, 3-Strikeouts. Top Pitchers Yankees-Blake Downey 4-Innings, 4-Hits, 6-Runs, 7-Strikeouts.

Angels 7, White Sox 6. Top Hitters: Angels: Brandon Zaunbrecher-2B, 1B, 2RBI, 1 run scored, also defensive plays: 3 Fly balls In CF and 1 throw to home from CF to prevent a run. Chris Machi-1B. Runs scored by Nick Badders, Chance Manning and Ethan Aboumrad. White Sox: Max Wiggington-2 x 2B, 1RBI, 1 run scored, Ben Smith-2 runs scored, Nick McClendon-2 x 1B, 1 run scored. Top Pitchers: Angels: TJ O'Ferrall-2IP, 3H, 4R, 4K; Andrew Walker- 3IP, 1H, 1R, 3K. White Sox: Jarrett Leon; 3IP, 1H, 2R, 2K. A very close fought victory for the Angels. Great game for both teams!

Minor AA - Rays 12, Padres 1. Padres hitting was led by Chad Hemmig (1B) and Dimitrij Boyd (1B). Hector Salcedo scored a run. Defense for Padres included Jacob Duke with an awesome catch and Michael Silva with an unassisted out at third base. Rays offense was led by Dylan Tompkins (1B), Seth Street (1B), Dylan Martinez (1B, 1B), Colton Casey (1B) and Samuel Miller (2B, 2B). Rays defense included Nick Swanson with a nice throw to Seth Street at first for an out and some great pitching by Dylan Tompkins, Seth Street and Samuel Miller.

Minor A - Ray's (offense) Thomas Kello, Tyler Rene Enderlein, Ethan Arrowsmith (defense) Roberto Iacomini, Cameron McGee, Zachary Stewart. Giants (offense) Devin Shah, Josiah Knight, Nathan Kamf (defense) Ethan Dreger, Jordan, Muller, Harry Rose.

Phillies (Offense) Aaron Udoutch, Scott McPherson, Jeremy Adams (Defense) Andrew Hayley, Ethan Lux, Alex Northrop; Giants (Offense) Josiah Knight, Jordan Muller, Ian Rasmussen (Defense) Jarrett Jorgenson, Gabriel Parrish, Noah Van Atta. Yankees (Offense) Jeremy Dyson, Jacob Eijansantos, Max O'Connor (Defense) Thomas Vi, Spencer Williams, Brodie Wolf; Padres (Offense) Joshua Collom, Londen Billings, Thomas Stevenson (Defense) Christopher Irwin, Jordan Collom, Trevor White.

Farm - Pirates (Offense) Brad Mitchell, Sam Meier, Ben Morrisroe (Defense) Jesse Watson, David Meyer, Brad Mitchell. Giants (Offense) Spencer Morais, Ty Stewart, Xavier Hernandez, Jaxen McLaren (Defense) Ian James, Chris Shonholtz, Kaegen Nelson.

Yankees (Offense) Shlok Bansal, Tyler

Trudeau, Anthony Shepherd (Defense) Dominic Shepherd, Colton Trudeau, Ben Wiesner. Red Sox (Offense) -Anthony Sisenors, Hudson Steele, Alex Taylor (Defense) Luke Moylan, Kevin Plant, Max Silveira.

Angels (offense) Austin Lee, Ty Marks, Max Weasner, (defense) Jennifer Edwards-Estrada, Drake Small, Ryan Van Bladel. Athletic's (offense) Ryan Anderson, Jacob Gutke, Grant Thraillik, (defense) Matthew Gomes, Connor Hardesty, Calvin Fletcher.

T- Ball - Angels (Offense) Nicholas Lydon, Dylan MacDonald, Connor Perkins; (Defense) Andrew Bates, Jordan Fritz, Bobby Zepeda. Giants (Offense) Aden Clements, Ryan Hansen, Andrew Hofmann; (Defense) Samuel Morrisroe, Antonio Rivalie, Iliiza Shields.

Phillies (Offense) Skyler Steele, Ryan MacIntire, Colin McConnell (Defense) Cale Salinas, Danny Knight, RJ Little. White Sox (Offense) Antonio Sotka, Shane Waechter, Jake Addington (Defense) Riley Hargraves, Aidan Buenrostro, Ethan Branng.

Livermore National LL

Livermore National Little League highlights: **A Division:** A's vs. Cardinals. Both teams played their hearts out and had a lot of fun at the same time. The A's had Grant Ikeda, Ryan O'Neill and Jonas Lindquist playing strong for their team. Grant had really great at bats, and Ryan and Jonas helped their team with defense and made some great plays on the field. The Cardinals had a lot of great players too. Lewis O'Neill made a great play at shortstop, and Justin Pestana and Sean Pascual were playing hard on defense.

Dodgers vs. A's. Fighting off the first rainstorm of the season, The Dodgers and A's put on a show that was anything but wet. Mason Smith led the offensive charge for the A's with 2 shots in the gap. Right with him were Jeremy Theobald with a blast down the right centerfield alley and Blake Freeland with his bomb to the warning track. The Dodgers displayed some great hits of their own, with their dynamic duo of Adam and Eric Henke contributing at the plate. Defensively, Devante Campbell also showed great hustle.

Majors: Diamondbacks 13, Dodgers 1. In a shortened game, the Diamondbacks beat the Dodgers 13-1. The Dodgers opened the game with a double from Brennan Dillard who later scored on a groundout. That would be all the scoring for the Dodgers on this night as the Diamondbacks countered with 6 in the bottom of the first, and never looked back. For the Diamondbacks, Tim Harris and Billy Henderson led the offensive attack, each going 3-3. Tony Galindo was also perfect at the plate going 2-2, and Shane Silva went 2-3 with a 3 run blast over the centerfield fence.

On the hill, Tyler Silva pitched 3 solid innings, allowing only 1 hit and striking out 5.

Livermore Girls Softball

Livermore Girls Softball Association highlights (including playoffs):

Senior (High School): Livermore Blackout 8, Pleasanton Savage 8, 2B - Kathryn Erickson, Alyssa Cunningham (B), 3 hits Erickson (B), 2 hits - Cunningham (B), 4 RBI - Cunningham (B), 2 RBI - Erickson (B).

Middle School Black: Playoffs - first round - Rachel Tabaracci Family BAD defeated Da Crew; Brent Bowen Photography Lady Tek-No defeated Outlaws.

Winners' bracket final: Brent Bowen Photography Lady Tek-No defeated Rachel Tabaracci Family BAD.

Consolation bracket semifinals: Da Crew defeated Outlaws.

Middle School Red: G.R. Dahl Construction Base Raiders 10, Carl's Jr. of Livermore The Force 2. The Base Raiders went out to a quick lead and played great defense, led by Lauren Huizar who scored both times she reached base and made an unassisted double play, and Christy Bryant and Racquel Wilkins each walked and scored a run.

Playoffs - first round: G.R. Dahl Base Raiders 18, The Red Sox 7. The Base Raiders belted out 16 hits against the Red Sox, and were led by three girls who reached base all three times, including Taylor Dahl who tripled, scored twice, and pitched six strikeouts. Corrina Dias had a double and scored three times, and Rachel Wolf had a single and scored twice.

Other results: Bruce Bowen Photography Adrenaline d. The Black Widows; Earth Safety Dynamics The Force d. Carl's Jr. of Livermore The Force; Red Black Attack d. Red Hots.

Winners' bracket semifinals: G.R. Dahl Base Raiders 7, Bruce Bowen Photography Adrenaline 3. The Base Raiders avenged their only regular season loss by defeating Adrenaline. For the Base Raiders, Erica Smith reached base both times with a single and walk and played great at catcher. Lauren Huizar walked twice and scored both times, and Rachel Bryant pitched a solid first base.

Other result: Red Black Attack d. Earth Safety Dynamics The Force.

Consolation bracket - first round: Red Hots defeated The Black Widows.

Red Hots d. The Black Widows.

10-under: Thomas Marcel, DDS & Kolka Furniture Lil' Devils 8, Livermore Police Officers Association Valley Villains 6. The Lil' Devils defeated the Valley Villains in a hard-fought game. Taylor Hansen led the Lil' Devils with two hits, while Maddie Gannon made her pitching debut with a solid inning, and Kylie Martinez had a hit, scored twice and had a RBI.

Thomas Marcel, DDS & Kolka Furniture Lil' Devils 10, Kolka Furniture Lightning Bolts 5. The Lil' Devils defeated the Lightning Bolts to end the regular season in first place at 13-1. Emily Person pitched three innings of relief for the Lil' Devils, Tori Nicolo had three hits and three runs, while Sierra Freeland hit a deep double to left field.

Nunmi Red Hot Sliders 20, Haque Chiropractic Lil' Rebels 8. For the Red Hot Sliders, Erica Espinosa made her pitching debut and got a base hit, Caliegh Navarro had two base hits and an RBI, and Sue Vi hit a monstrous grand slam.

AP Concrete Xtreme Heat 7, KMS Interiors Blackout 4. The Xtreme Heat finished the regular season in fourth place by winning their last six games, including this win over Blackout. Highlights for the Xtreme Heat were singles by Zoey Bothwell-Zitlis and Miale Smith, and defense by Abby Paterson.

Burton Family Livermore Crew 4, WIN Home Inspection Hot Shots 3. The Crew held on to win a tight game with a double play by catcher Missy Nunes, and singles by Shannon Blockey and Mattie Thompkins helped bring in the winning run.

Playoffs - first round: Home Inspection Hot Shots d. Haque Chiropractic Lil' Rebels. Winners' bracket - second round: Red Hot Sliders 6, AP Concrete Xtreme Heat 5. For the Red Hot Sliders, Alyssa Ramirez hit a double with an RBI, Caliegh Navarro hit a double with an RBI, and Cassidy Kovisto got a single out with an RBI. In close game that went into a tie-breaker, the Xtreme heat battled hard but came up a run short. Key players for the Xtreme Heat were pitcher Shelby Rocereto with 16 strikeouts, a two-run double by Miranda Lima, and a double by Illexis Pereda.

Burton Family Livermore Crew 10, Livermore Police Officers Association Valley Villains 1. The Crew played an outstanding game with RBI's by Kamryn Farro, Jamie Wittmer and Makenzie Farro.

Other results: Thomas Marcel, DDS & Kolka Furniture Lil' Devils d. WIN Home Inspection Hot Shots; KMS Interiors Blackout d. Kolka Furniture Lightning Bolts.

Winners' bracket semifinals: Burton Family Livermore Crew 5, KMS Interiors Blackout 4. The Crew pulled one out in an incredible game. Carmen Best brought in 2 runs with a big bang to outfield, followed by a double by Laura Duterte, and a fabulous catch by Kaycee Bilke.

Thomas Marcel, DDS & Kolka Furniture

endent is changing...

Local News • New Mail Delivery



Bankhead Theater



Pleasanton Racetrack



Pleasanton Downtown



Lizzie Fountain

The magazine, meanwhile, has taken on a life of its own, spotlighting a different aspect of the Valley's cultural life — for example, Art & Entertainment, Giving and The West.

For 45 years, *The Independent* has worked to keep you informed and protect your quality of life...

The Independent is expanding its local news pages

With a change in format, *The Independent* will be able to provide two separate sections. News in the second section will focus on the arts, community and education. The main section will continue to provide readers with a strong focus on local news. It will include the editorial page, letters to the editor section, and sports.

Now there will be even more local news for you, delivered directly to your mailbox each week, in our new **FREE** subscription format.

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SPORTS NOTES

Lil' Devils 3, Nummi Red Hot Sliders 2. For the Red Hot Sliders, Savannah Vasquez hit a single, Su Yi got a double and made two putouts, and Calhoun Navarro had a base hit. Consolation bracket - first round: Livermore Police Officers Association Valley Villains d. Haque Chiropactic Lil' Rebels. **8-under:** Brian Enrich, DDS Black Widows vs. Austin Precision Bubble Gum Girls. Coaches' selections - Grace Masingale, Raegan Demo, Olivia Tabor (BBG). **Abramson & Thae, LLP Xtreme vs. Jack in the Box Red Hawks.** Coaches' selections - Shelby Clark, Lauren Moore, Taylor Stamps (X). **Nummi Scorpions vs. Chili Peppers Coaches' selections - Emily Montalvo, Sierra Deane, Chelsea Warner (S).** **MyGarter.com Supergirls vs. All Pro Mortgage Shooting Stars.** Coaches' selections - Sabrina Heinitz, Marissa Frank, Savannah Nelson (SS). **T-ball:** Daoust Electric Mighty Lady Bugs vs. Brent Bowen Photography The Firecrackers. Coaches' selections - Chloe Daoust, Aspen Stoffel, Zoe Potter (MLB); Graciana Ratto, Sarah Stear and Jessica Warren.

Amador Swimming

In a completely dominating performance, the Amador Valley High School Varsity Swimming and Diving team won 11 of 12 events in a 115-70 win over Foothill. **Jake Bahls and Andrew Seitz** took two individual firsts for Amador. Bahls won the 200 and 500 free while Seitz took the IM and the Breaststroke. Seitz got two more firsts in the relays, swimming with the winning Medley Relay team along with Edward Zhang, Krish Rajagopalan, and Kyle Surber, and the 400 free relay, with Scott Arellano, Zhang, and Eric Gates. Bahls picked up his first first place finish with the 200 free relay swimming with Arellano, Rajagopalan, and Surber. **On top of Arellano's and Zhang's** relay wins, they both took individual firsts. Arellano won the 100 free and Zhang took the Fly. Zhang also grabbed a second in the Backstroke and Arellano was part of a 1-2-3 50 free event with Surber getting first and Jack Payan taking third. **Amador** also went 1-2-3 in the 100 free with Surber and Gates finishing behind Arellano. **Tyler Pullen** won the diving event for Amador's 11th first place finish.

The Amador Valley Varsity Girls Swimming and Diving team started off with a big lead and outsourced Foothill in 9 of 12 events to post a 114-72 win. **The Dons** came into the swimming portion of the meet with a 12-4 lead based on the previously held diving event. In that event, Alexa Hernandez, Emma Rigl, and Lisa Grau went 1-2-3. Amador then won the 200 Medley relay, and followed with Catherine Breed, Natalie Wong and Marie Schmidt going 1-2-3 in the 200 free. After three events, the Dons had an early 35-7 lead from which they never looked back. **In a parade of Amador dominance,** Breed won the 500 free going 1-2 with Schmidt and Wong won the Fly with Theresa Martin and Alicia Brown going 3-4. Danielle Stieckler posted seconds in the 100 free and the backstroke while Jenn Docto won the 50 free and took third in the 100 back. **Tory Houston** posted Amador's other individual first place finish in the Breaststroke to go with her second place finish in the IM. **Capping the meet for the Dons** was the winning 400 free relay team of Wong, Schmidt, Houston, and Breed.

It came down to the last event of the meet to determine who would take bragging rights in the cross-town rivalry. With the score tied 86-86, the **Amador Valley JV girls** swimming and diving team went in and won the 400 free relay behind the swimming of Michelle Schirle, Kayla Miller, Elle Surber, and Lani Cohen to beat Foothill 94-92. **The Dons** came into the meet with a 12-4 lead thanks to the diving event held previously. Marina Mihov and Nicole George went 1-2 in the event with Alex Nottingham picking up a fourth place finish. Foothill chipped away at the lead, taking the lead after the 50 free despite the first place finish of Surber in the 100IM, and Miller and Cohen's second place finishes in the 200 and 500 free respectively. **After Foothill expanded their lead** in the fly to 51-43, the Dons' Surber and Miller went 1-2 in the 100 free to close the gap to two points 56-54. However in the next event, the 500 free, Foothill pushed the lead back to eight points. **With only four events left,** Amador's back was against the wall, but Amador went 1-3 in the 200 free relay, Schirle, Miller, Surber, and Cohen grabbing first, to get two points back, and saw Sarah Turner, Nicole Martin, and Larel Vandiver go 1-3-5 to gain four points in the back. Those events closed the score to 79-77 with two events left. **In the penultimate event,** Effie Efgenio and Lena Lane went 1-3 in the breast knotting the score and setting up Amador's exciting win in the 400 free relay. **Dominating the freestyle events,** the **Amador Valley JV boys** handily defeated cross-town rival Foothill 95-75. Joey Silva led the way in the free events for the Dons. Silva won the 50 and 100 free and also swam on the winning 400 free relay team. In the 200 free Amador went 1-2 with Ben Sornsen and Trevor Bielby. In the final free event, Nick Janota won the 500.

The Dons started the meet right winning the 200 medley relay with Alec Psinakis, Chris Mowry, Nick Wee, and Sornsen swimming. Wee later won the fly and finished second in the IM. Joining Silva in garnering points for the Dons in the 50 free were Janota (third) and Alec Grotegut (fourth). Grotegut also grabbed third in the 100 free. **Psinakis** won the back to keep Amador up by 12 points late in the meet and Mowry, Chris Iniquez, and Camren Chang then went 2-3-4 in the breaststroke to ice the meet. **Capping the meet,** Silva led off for the Dons winning 400 free relay team, followed by Grotegut, Sornsen, and Trevor Bielby.

Pleasanton Girls Softball
Pleasanton Girls Softball League high-

lights: **T-Ball:** Williams Witters Real Estate Team vs. DeMesa/Yu Dentistry: Williams Witters Real Estate Team: Annika Jerstedt, A.J. Molina, and Lindsay LeBlanc all showed excellent defense and great hitting. DeMesa/Yu Dentistry: Maya Morgenstern, Grace Haubner and Celeste Sadler showed determination and focus while playing. All the girls played well and kept their focus. **Top players:** Williams Witters Real Estate Team - Annika Jerstedt, Lindsay LeBlanc, A.J. Molina; DeMesa/Yu Dentistry - Grace Haubner, Maya Morgenstern, Celeste Sadler. **Hopyard Alehouse & Grill vs. Contra Costa County Public Auto Auctions:** Contra Costa County Public Auto Auctions got three outs in the third inning by making great throws and catches. Hopyard Alehouse & Grill smashed three balls past 2nd base for three RBI's. **Top players:** Kayla Galvez, Rachel Pilkington, Bella Shroff; Contra Costa County Public Auto Auctions - Hopyard Alehouse & Grill vs. DeMesa/Yu Dentistry: Both teams braved the cold weather and wind to play this game. DeMesa/Yu Dentistry had fantastic hitting and fielding. Hopyard Alehouse & Grill continued their incredible hitting spree lashing balls past the infielders into center field. **Top players:** Hopyard Alehouse & Grill - Zoe Alexander, Sierra Defreitas, Ava Stewart; DeMesa/Yu Dentistry - Sarah Cabral, Maggie Loll, Madelynn Riddle. **Hopyard Alehouse & Grill vs. Topdot:** Both teams were fired up for the big game and it showed on the field. **Topdot** players were hitting the ball hard at the Hopyard Alehouse & Grill infielders. Both teams recorded outs at 2nd base two times. **Top players:** Hopyard Alehouse & Grill - Allison Boyd, Lauren Loisele, Elisabeth Shin; Topdot - Kylie Fleshman, Emily Gossett, Mia Hildebrand. **Micro Division:** Big Island Rental Condos vs. Borg Fence: **Top players:** Big Island Rental Condos - Sammie Gray, Emily Pacific Dental Care vs. Big Island Rental Condos: Pacific Dental Care's pitchers Makena Densmore, Ava Mosley, Avery Long and Kristina Allard all threw some great pitches. Taylorn Low threw to Julia Gonsman to get the out at 1st base. Big Island Rental Condos hit the ball to pitcher Makena Densmore who threw it to Julia Gonsman for another out at 1st base. **Third inning** Julia Gonsman caught a fly ball at short stop for an out. Gianna Lyng almost caught a fly ball at 3rd base, but it went foul. **Outstanding hitting** by both Pacific Dental Care and Big Island Rental Condos. **Top players:** Pacific Dental Care - Makena Densmore, Julia Gonsman, Samantha Lipsker; Big Island Rental Condos - Ella Camp, Sydney West, Emily Yamasaki. **Pacific Dental Care vs. Big Island Rental Condos:** Top players: Elizabeth Kostalnick, Regan Mah, Kylie Stewart. **Pleasanton Glass vs. Valley Plumbing:** **Top players:** Valley Plumbing - Audrey Alavi, Amanda Dilger, Gracie Ryback. **Friends of PGSL V.S. Borg Fence:** Friends of PGSL had outstanding pitching from Julia Balesteri and solid hitting from Julia Camello and Kate Inman. Sonya Panwar ran the bases fast while Kate Reedy and Lacy Becker fielded well. Kealy Morrissey, Megan Bouchard and Charlotte Whiting led Borg Fence. **Top players:** Friends of PGSL - Julia Balesteri, Julia Camello, Kate Inman; Borg Fence - Megan Bouchard, Kealy Morrissey, Charlotte Whiting. **Friends of PGSL vs. Richert Lumber Co.:** Friends of PGSL were paced by Hailyn Park's and Lacy Becker's hitting, Kate Inman's pitching and great fielding by Addie Sciammas. **Top players:** Friends of PGSL - Lacy Becker, Hailyn Park, Addie Sciammas; Richert Lumber Co. - Allison Casey, Samantha Krier, Mackenzie Wiedel. **Mini Rec Division:** Eddie Papa's vs. TSI: **Top players:** Eddie Papa's - Allison Mercer, Karlee Schweitzer, Wynne Velzy; TSI - Natalie Lambros, Emma Long, Hannah Meyers. **Farmers Insurance Group vs. Accurate Impressions:** It was a close game with both teams putting up three run innings. Claire Wagner pitched miraculously paired up with Sarah Baxter at catcher who also made two great plays in the field for Farmers Insurance Group. Kiana Meagher turned a pop fly into a double play for Accurate Impressions. With Bonnie hitting three hard line drives backed by Hannah Yozzo with a great catch on a pop fly. **Top players:** Farmers Insurance Group - Sarah Baxter, Sarah Sullivan, Claire Wagner; Accurate Impressions - Bonnie, Kiana Meagher, Hannah Yozzo. **Ogden Costa Creative Group vs. Pulte Homes:** Not even the wet rain stopped both teams from playing a great game. Both teams had great pitching and hits that kept the fans so excited they hardly noticed the rain. **Top players:** Ogden Costa Creative Group - Sarah Costa, Inez Dennocourt, Callan Jackman; Pulte Homes - Emily Carroll, Juliana Pribela, Sammy Sadler. **Minor Rec Division:** TransPak, Inc. 11, Friends of PGSL 2: Amanda Valentine hit a stand up double driving in two runs. Hunter Garcia playing catcher threw the runner out at 2nd base. Molly Hamilton drove in a run. Jenna Orozco threw a couple of great innings. Hailey Morse made a number of great plays in the 1st inning. Allie Sweitzer playing shortstop made some hard hits and threw out a running player. **Top players:** TransPak, Inc. - Hunter Garcia, Molly Hamilton, Amanda Valentine; Friends of PGSL - Hailey Morse, Jenna Orozco, Alexandra Sweitzer. **Contra Costa County Public Auto Auctions 11, TransPak, Inc. 6:** Myranda was awesome pitching for 3 innings. Cade had a clutch hit and Hannah played great both in offensive and defensive. Christy Jensen had a triple play. Hunter Garcia had a lead off hit and Sammy's pitching was spot on! **Top**

players: TransPak, Inc. - Hunter Garcia, Christy Jensen, Samantha Rhoads; Contra Costa County Public Auto Auctions - Hannah Clingerman, Cade Florio, Myranda Marzocco. **Contra Costa County Public Auto Auctions 7, Precision Auto Repair 3:** Juliette Chabot caught two pop fly balls for outs! Mckenna Moura hit a double for Contra Costa County Public Auto Auctions. Taylor Gloyne from Precision Auto Repair had a great catch for the final out. **Top players:** Contra Costa County Public Auto Auctions - Juliette Chabot, Isabella Lopez, Mckenna Moura; Precision Auto Repair - Kelley Dixon, Taylor Gloyne, Alyson Isaacs. **Minor Upper Division:** Chase Electric 17, Four Star Erectors 7: **Four Star Erectors:** Siena Moca scored two runs, stealing home both times. Fiona Moreno had a base hit, 2 RBI's and caught a pop fly at 3rd. Emma Furr made first three outs in first inning, strike out, caught a fly, and a throw-out at first, she also got a base hit, RBI, and scored a run. Chase Electric: Lauren Pianin, Taylor Campbell and Jenna Crawford all played exceptionally well defensively and each got two hits. **Top players:** Four Star Erectors - Emma Furr, Siena Moca, Fiona Moreno; Chase Electric - Taylor Campbell, Jenna Crawford, Laura Pianin. **Major Rec Division:** California Car Sounds, Inc. 10, Jaguars 11, DPR Construction, Inc. 10: California Car Sounds, Inc. had to come from behind during the game to win on a 2 out bases loaded walk in the bottom of the 5th. DPR Construction, Inc. took an early 7 to 2 lead into the bottom of the third. California Car Sounds, Inc. roared back with 5 runs to tie the game. DPR Construction, Inc. scored 3 more in the top of the 5th to take a 3 run lead. California Car Sounds, Inc. battled back again and scored 4 runs to win. California Car Sounds, Inc. was led by Melanie Herbert who was 3 for 3. Carrigan James, Jenn Teittel, Meghan Fletcher, Jazzy Perez, and Cassidy Holmes all had 2 hits. DPR Construction, Inc.'s Emily Tsvikas made an awesome catch in right center on a 2 out bases loaded drive by Shelby Sarin. **Top players:** California Car Sounds, Inc. - Melanie Herbert, Jazzy Perez, Jamie Rinetti; DPR Construction, Inc. - Emily Tsvikas, Hollywood, Tigger. **California Car Sounds, Inc. 6, Hyatt Summerfield Suites 5:** California Car Sounds, Inc. won a close game with Hyatt Summerfield Suites, as Jillian Quintanal doubled home the winning run in the bottom of the 6th inning. The score sawsawed back and forth throughout the game, as the California Car Sounds, Inc. and Hyatt Summerfield Suites battled. Hyatt Summerfield Suites threw Jordan Brown out at the plate in the bottom of the 5th, as she tried to score from 2nd base. California Car Sounds, Inc. then threw out Aleece Hughes at the plate in the top of the 6th. With the score tied 5 to 5 in the bottom of the 6th inning, and one out, Chloe Connolly doubled. Jillian Quintanal followed with another double to score Chloe to win the game. For the California Car Sounds, Inc., pitcher Jazzy Perez struck out 10 batters in 4 innings pitched. For the Hyatt Summerfield Suites, Shelby Richmond was 2 for 2 with 1 run scored with 4 RBI's. Kaitlin Gallagher pitched 2 strong innings, only allowing 1 run. Kyra Costa also pitched a solid 4 innings. **Top players:** California Car Sounds, Inc. - Chloe Connolly, Jazzy Perez, Jillian Quintanal; Hyatt Summerfield Suites - Kyra Costa, Kaitlin Gallagher, Shelby Richmond. **Major Upper Division:** Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning 9, San Ramon Team #47: San Ramon Team #47 took an early 2 run lead in the first inning. Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning battled back in the bottom of the first scoring 5 runs. Malory Masajlo had a couple base hits as well as an at bat where she drew out a number of pitches from the pitcher, eventually getting a walk. Madison Jefferies made an awesome catch in left field to end an inning. Claire Berkeley stayed focused while playing 3rd. With bases loaded she caught a line drive and doubled up the runner at 3rd. San Ramon Team #47's Jessica Gillespie went 3 for 3 at bat and Katie Erickson had some key RBI's. **Top players:** Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning - Claire Berkeley, Madison Jefferies, Malory Masajlo; San Ramon Team #47 - Katie Erickson, Jessica Gillespie, Morgan Idso. **Senior Division:** Prestige Portraits by Lifetouch 14, Sallmann, Yang & Alameda 9: Chelsi Bias goes the distance in Prestige Portraits by Lifetouch's win. Chelsi Bias led the team to victory pitching a complete game and getting two hits. Kyra Esmeyer bunted and never stopped until she scored! Madison Hill caught the whole game, throwing a runner out at 3rd. **Top players:** Prestige Portraits by Lifetouch - Chelsi Bias, Kyra Esmeyer, Madison Hill; Sallmann, Yang & Alameda - Kelsey Butler, Alyssa Santiago.

Livermore American LL
Livermore American Little League high-

T-Ball: Pirates vs Giants: A freezing wind did not stop these kids from playing their best! Superstar Pirates of the day were: Jacob Arretche, Aidan Andrews, and Alex Siegel. Star Giants were: Connor Mercer, Thomas Cowles, Cameron Winter. **Pirates vs Brewers:** Even the rain could not keep these steadfast athletes from playing an intense game! The stars of this game were: Dylan Cole, Dominick Juarez, Giovanni Sandoval. **The A's** had a great game against the Marlins on a rainy Saturday morning. They had little use for the tee as every A got at least one hit off the coach. Leading the way with three hits each were Michael Grant, Crayton McCafferty, and Alex Jones. **Rangers vs. Dodgers:** Despite a very windy field, the Rangers came out swinging

the 5th, now 2-0. Morgan Vonderach (3rd base) also played great Reds offense. DBacks, Scott Stafford on the mound in the 6th made the final out, snagging a line shot up the middle, if you blinked you missed it. **Rockies 0, Indians 2:** Indians scored one in the first and one in the fifth, then hung on for the shutout win with solid pitching and defense throughout. The highlight came in the bottom of the sixth inning with great throw from the outfield to cut down what looked like a sure a run at home plate, extinguishing the Rockies momentum and sending the Indians fans into a frenzy. **Top Players,** Rockies: Andrew Scull for solid defense, Michael Hallock for a great pitching performance, and Zach Hrdlicka for great fielding and catching. **Top Players,** Indians: Sean Constable for 3 hits, including to doubles, Bo Cole for great defense, and Nick Tivey for an RBI single. **AAA Division:** Athletics 11, Padres 7: The Athletics' Logan Cole walked twice, but stole his way to score both times. Logan also pitched an excellent game and threw 2 Padres out while trying to steal. Gabe Rudy belted a double for 2 RBI's. And Jacob "JT" Tidwell helped his team by walking and hitting a double for 2 RBI's. The Padres had a top defensive game from Daniel Crisp who had an tag out while playing catcher. Justin Dalin who stopped two line drives. And Conner Parkerson who made a great play in the 3rd inning. **Athletics 6, Angels 5:** The Angels played a great game with strong hitting from Cole Escover. Bryce Disbrow played a good defensive game and pitched well. The Athletics Stephen Mohler had a good eye to walk twice. Logan Cole hit a single and while playing catcher, dove to tag a runner out and save the run. Logan Koch's bat hit a triple for an RBI. **Mariners 21, Giants 7:** Mariners played a solid game with great hitting and running on offense and great fielding on defense. Alex

Griffin of the Mariners bunted and tripled on a Giants error. Solid running and focus by Alex. Nate Tabaracci with a 2 RBI double; Justin Hill with a 2 RBI triple and Austin Breiz with a 2 RBI triple. Giants tried to come back in the later innings and wound up scoring 7 runs. **Mariners 10, Giants 9:** The Giants came back hard on the Mariners after their defeat four days before to the Mariners. The Giants hitting and defense were top notch; the Mariners struggled and trailed the Giants till the last inning. Jarod Heise closed out the Giants in their last at bat. On the bottom of the 6th Nathan Tabaracci slid home to tie the score. Then Justin Hill with a go ahead, slid into home to win the game. **Majors:** White Sox 2, A's 1: One of the closest games of the season and it went down to the wire. Both sides pitched very well but Cody King of the White Sox held down the A's with no runs yielded. With Ben Parker's RBI hit and Andrew Ruth's insurance run by stealing home avoided a comeback by the A's in the 6th inning. White Sox top players: Ben Parker, Andrew Ruth, Cody King; A's top players: John Christman, Demetris Wagner, Brandon Pereira. **Red Sox 12, Indians 4:** The Red Sox put a stop to the Indians 2nd half winning streak behind strong pitching by Dylan Guilan, and strong offense performances by Jesse Robles (3-3), Nick Penrod (2-2, 3 RBI), Kris Jones (2-2) and Dylan Guilan (1-2, 2 RBI). Dylan went the distance on the mound for the Red Sox scattering 6 hits and collecting 8 K's for the win. The Indians never gave up and had strong performances by Conner Cruz (2-3, 2b), Sammy Marco (1-2, 2b), and Thomas Brown (1-3, 2b). **Yankees 4, Giants 3:** On a rainy Saturday afternoon, an epic pitching battle between the Yankee's Garrett Smith and Daniel Cavalieri of the Giants was everything the game was expected to be. Cavalieri pitched into the 5th inning and was keeping the Yankees at

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SPORTS NOTES

bay. Pitching for the Yankees, the two Garretts, Smith and Torres held the Giants to just 3 runs. Cole Jacobs of the Giants, powered his team to an early 3-0 lead, with a double and stolen base, while Aaron Arndt contributed a solid single. The Yankees rallied for four runs in the bottom of the fifth to take their first lead of the game and Garrett Torres made the lead hold up with a perfect top of the sixth frame to end the game for the home team Yanks. Great pitching, great defense and timely hitting were ultimately the difference in the Yankee win. Top players for Yankees: Ryan Silva, Garrett Smith, Garrett Torres; Top players for Giants: Aaron Arndt, Cole Jacobs, Daniel Cavalieri.

JR 80 House Division: The LALL Jr 80's Giants remained in first place after a 13-2 blow-out against the visiting San Ramon Red Sox. The Red Sox jumped out to a 1-0 first inning lead. But that lead would not hold beyond the second inning when the Giants came roaring back for four runs highlighted by a bases clearing smash by Junior Wilkins, which placed three runs. Javonn Williams started the third with a single, promptly stole two bases and then scored on a J.T. Mahler single. Giants pitcher of record for the day, Trevor Escover, then knocked in Mahler with a scorching two-bagger to left. The Giants would put the game away for good in the fifth when they strung together six hits and five more runs. Shining in that fifth inning were: Jonah Maranon, Williams, Escover, Michael Brown, and capped off by an RBI double off the right field wall by Joshua Davidson.

JR 90s Division: LALL JR90's A's 10 vs SRV Cardinal's 4; The Cardinals started out with a couple of Home Runs, the first a 3-run shot in the first inning, and another solo in the 2nd inning. The A's hung tough and after giving up 3 in the top half of inning 1 they came back with 3 of their own to tie things up, and then again in the second after giving up just 1 run they managed to put 2 runs on the board and were leading 5-4 after 2 full innings. Matt Stobe came in to pitch for the A's in the 3rd inning. He kept the Cardinals off balance for the rest of the day and the A's cruised to a 10-4 victory. Josh McCall had a clutch base hit and ended with a couple of RBIs and Dhru Merrill had a solid day.

LALL JR90s Red Sox (away) 13, Danville Giants 2; The Red Sox keep their win streak going with a victory against the Giants. Alex Kohn had two singles for two RBIs and Sean Amaral had a double and a single for three RBIs. Kyle Wallbridge made a great catch in centerfield, robbing a Giant batter of an extra-base hit.

LALL JR90s Red Sox (away) 2, Pleasanton Cubs 3; Despite good pitching and great behind the plate play, the Red Sox came up short against the Cubs. Ryan Faulk and Kyle Walbridge combined for seven innings of good pitching. Alex Kohn caught a terrific game for all seven innings, throwing out two runners attempting to steal third and stopping one runner attempting to score on a pass ball. Devin McMahon and Trevor Houghton made nice stops at second and short, respectively, preventing Cubs base hits. Chris DiPesto got the offense going with an RBI single and a run scored in the fourth inning.

Football Little League

Pleasanton Foothill Little League highlights:

AAA Division: Orioles 12, Red Sox 11; The AAA Orioles and Red Sox played a very exciting and action packed game. Down by three runs, the Orioles were able to come from behind in the last inning to edge the Sox. With the bases loaded, Keaton Steuben sent a base clearing hit into right field to score three runs and win the game. Great pitching, hitting and fielding by both teams. Clutch hits for the Orioles by Thomas Gallagher, Jadon Gonzaga, Anthony Steller-Harter, Joey Hendricks, Daniel Choi & Keaton Steuben. Great fielding by Jadon Gonzaga, Anthony Steller-Harter, Adam Choi & Jake Van Wagener. Standout pitching by Keaton Steuben & William Hammer. Red Sox hits by Nick P., Joshua, Jairus, Trevor, Will, Nick D. Tommy & Matthew V.

Farm: Bulls vs. Scrappers: In 3 innings all the Bulls hit the ball. There were several outstanding hits by Joe Machi, Joe Recupero, Roy Mubarak, Patrick O'Neill, Tomas Kersulis, Andrew King, Jason Yetso, Nishant Jain and Justin Craven. Dakota Ruby and Giovannie Minnide did a great job hustling down to first base after their hits. Landon received the team ball for the best defense all season with 5-6 stops out in the field in this game alone. The Bulls are all improving with each game.

Bowling News

Friday Night Cheyenne bowler Mushy Machado rolled a perfect "300" game at the Granada Bowl in Livermore. Lee Pettus in the Getaway Fours league bowled 145 over series average with games of 222-251-233. Sam Cancilla, in the senior Sirs & Sirettes league, rolled 134 over series, 179-253-173, ending with a 605.

In the Getaway Fours league Louretta Agness bowled a 213. Some high scores were also found in the Balhorn/O'Dell Construction Match Point with Woody Manchester rolling a 245, Dave McGuigan & Gail Carroll both rolling a 243 game, Jason Barrett a 235 and Clint McFaddin a 229 game. Also in the same league Morgan Leder bowled 112 over series average with games of 142-141-147. Larry Clifton, in the Four Seasons Modified Guys & Dolls, rolled a 258 game. Keith Wilson in the Reno Getaways turned in a 227 and Rich Nickison a 223 game. Randy Aiello shot a 279 in the Cheyenne league, Scott Hylton and John Giambrone 247 games, and Ray Buzon a 235.

In the senior leagues, Don Tunison had another good week with a 247 game in the Monday Primetime Seniors league and a 631 series in the Sirs & Sirettes league including games of 200-221-210. Inge Kipp rolled 50 pins over her average in the Monday Primetime Seniors league with a 185.

Youth bowler Riehy Chin started off with a 259 game in the Friday Family Affair league. Not far behind was Alex Stuber with a 238 game.

Open Water Swim Group

A new open water swim group is starting up this season at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park in Pleasanton. Membership in this non-profit group is open to all qualified individuals. We will have day and evening swim times. The lake temperature can reach upwards of 75 degrees during the warmest months. If interested, or to sign up, you can check our website at shadowcliffswim.com. For further information you can contact Al DeGraw at (510) 414-7928 or John Bower at (925) 294-9050.

Soccer Registration

Livermore Youth Soccer League is taking registration for the upcoming season. Registration can be accomplished on-line at Three Methods Available www.lysl.org. Registration is available by mail. Instructions will be available on the website. LYSL P.O. Box 881 Livermore, CA 94551; (925) 461-7570; www.lysl.org.

New players must supply a photocopy of their legal passport or birth certificate at time

of registration. League registration is required for all players in all playing programs.

Phantom Board

The Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League is accepting nominations for its 2010 Executive Board of Directors. Nominations are to be made at the board's regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the Hyatt Summerfield Suites, 4545 Chabot Drive, Pleasanton. The meeting begins at 7:30pm. Voting will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2009. All adults 18 years of age and older who are associated with the League (i.e. player parents, coaches, board members) are eligible to vote. Ballots will be available on Saturday (5/16/09) at the Pleasanton SportsPark next to the Snack Bar by GSB 7.

Roller Hockey

Valley Roller Hockey is taking registration for the summer 2009 in-line hockey season.

The registration will be Sat., May 2 and Sat., May 9 from 10 a.m. at the rink, 298 Junction Ave., behind Junction Avenue Middle School in Livermore. The fee will be \$100 on these dates; after May 9 registration will be \$135.

All players of all levels of experience are welcome from ages 6 and under to 13 to 15. Players needing to borrow equipment can do so as long as they have their own skates & mouthpiece. Questions, call Beau at 925-443-1500

Cycling for Women

Cyclepath Pleasanton will be hosting a free after-hours cycling event just for women on May 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. The event will feature a trunk show highlighting the latest in women's cycling fashions from Luna Sport and MAVIC, among others. Guest speaker Katerina Nash, three-time U.S. short track mountain bike champion will share her racing experiences and tips for female riders. Nutritionist Darrin Freitas will give a brief talk on women's nutrition with tips and guidelines for eating for optimal energy. The event will also feature giveaways and prizes and complimentary food and beverages. Free childcare will be provided for children 3 and older who are potty trained (RSVP to joel@cyclepath.com).

Cyclepath Pleasanton is located at 337-B Main St (Behind the BoFA building) For more information call 925-485-3218.

Bocce Standings

Spring Leagues at Campo di Bocce of Livermore are going strong and the competition is heating up. The Monday night open play features the entry level bocce players. There are nine teams competing and the current standings as of 4/27/09 are as follows:

Tahoe Thunder staying strong, 12 and 2; Crazy Pallinos, 11 and 3; Rolling Stones, 10 and 4 with 155 points scored; Point & Shoot, 10 and 4 with 141 points scored; The Incrediballs, 10 and 4 with 155 points scored; Bocce Bangers, 5 and 9; Here for The Party, 3 and 11; The Grape Stompers, 2 and 14 and The BG's, 1 and 13.

Tuesday night PRV (Punto, Raffa, Volo style) includes the more advanced bocce players. Each team member has years of experience. There are 10 teams competing. Te current standings as of 4/28/09 are as follows: Napoli still holding on to first place, 9 and 1; Gung Ho II, 8 and 2; Son of a Bocce, 8 and 6; Montoni, 7 and 3 with 101 points scored; Point & Shoot, 7 and 3 with 92 points scored; Azzurri, 5 and 7; XXX, 3 and 7; Left Coast Bocce Club, 3 and 3; Bocce Bangers, 1 and 11; DeBocceRi, 1 and 9.

Wednesday is the newest bocce league, the winery league. The league has 8 teams competing. The standings as of 4/29/09 are as follows:

Wente Vineyards, 5 and 1 with 69 points scored; McGrail Vineyards, 5 and 1 with points scored of 67; Steven Kent Winery, 4 and 2; Cuda Ridge Winery, 3 and 3 with 66 points scored; Concannon Vineyards, 3 and 3 with 60 points scored; Wood Family Vineyards, 3 and 3 with 55 points scored; Ruby Hill Winery, 1 and 5; Page Mill Winery, 0 and 6.

Although league entrants are closed for the Spring Leagues; all are welcome to stop by Campo di Bocce of Livermore to take in some games. All games start at 7:30pm. For more information on leagues, visit www.campodiocce.com. Registration for Fall Leagues will be held later this summer.

Golf Tournament

Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill will host the 14th Annual Charity Cup Golf Classic on Fri., May 15.

The event benefits the Aldon Wright Fund

Play is at the Las Positas Golf Course in Livermore. The \$150 fee includes green fee, cart, tee prizes, lunch, dinner, on course refreshments, and awards ceremony. In addition, there will be a raffle prize give-away. The tournament will be 4-man scramble format (gross and net). Lunch begins at 11 a.m., shotgun start at 1 p.m.

Contact Beeb's 925-455-7070 for registration.

Football and Golf

The Granada Football Golf Tournament will be held Fri., June 26 at the Las Positas Golf Course in Livermore from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Granada High's football program is currently 200 players strong. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place, as well as longest drive & closest to the pin. Raffle prizes will be awarded at the dinner. Fee is \$115 per golfer, includes range balls, green fees, and full BBQ dinner; \$25 per person for dinner only.

Putting contest is at 12:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Go to www.granadafootball.com/articles/announcements.htm to download form.

Football/Cheer Signup

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

This is a full contact football league that has been established for 36 years. The goal is to teach the fundamentals of both football and cheer needed to make the transition into high school. The league works together with the local high schools to ensure its participants are learning the fundamentals needed for their very competitive football and Cheer programs. LYFandC's emphasis is on proper technique and fundamentals, responsibility, accountability, and most importantly being a good person and teammate.

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

Football and cheer squads have been very successful in the highly competitive Diablo Valley Youth Football Conference (DVYFC). Registration will be held May 26 from 6-8 pm at Round Table Pizza 1024 East Stanley Blvd. Discounts are available at January and February dates. Information go to website www.eteamz.com/lyfc or email lyfc@onebox.com/lyfc

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

Mavericks

Livermore Mavericks 14 softball is looking for one player and hosting age 10-8 under camps this summer. Information at LivermoreMavericks.com.

Taking Care of Canine Cops

By Patricia Koning

A police officer is shot, stabbed, or involved in a car accident in the line of duty. The immediate response is to administer on-the-scene first aid and send for an ambulance. What if the officer were a part of a K9 police unit—the canine half?

On Saturday, May 2, police officers from all over the Bay Area converged on the Livermore Police Department to participate in Emergency First Aid Training for K9 Handlers so they would know exactly what to do in those situations and more. The class was conceived of by Livermore Police Officer Cindy Moore, who last month retired Andy, her canine partner of the last eight years.

"I know how important these dogs are to their agencies and handlers," she explained. "However, most departments aren't properly trained or equipped for an emergency."

She approached Dr. Robert Lukas of the Tri-Valley Animal Emergency Center in Dublin, who has been an emergency veterinarian for over 20 years. "I was surprised to learn that police dog handlers do not have regularly scheduled first aid classes relating to their dog partners," he said.

Lukas brought together three other colleagues: Dr. Robert Stannard, president of Adobe Pet Hospital and the primary care doctor for Livermore's police dogs; Dr. Timothy Sellmeyer of Veterinarian Surgical Associates; and Dr. Rob Yelland of Berkeley Dog and Cat Hospital.

Stannard, an executive board member of the American Heartworm Association, covered preventative and routine veterinary care. One of his takeaway messages was that every dog, police or otherwise, should be on monthly heartworm medicine. "Heartworm infection can end a police dog's career, and it's utterly preventable," he said. "Police dogs are running through fields and going into unsavory places, so handlers need to understand how to look for and treat tick-borne diseases."

Sellmeyer, a veterinary surgeon, discussed the surgical needs of injured police dogs. Yelland, a veterinary dentist, ad-

ressed canine dental needs. Lukas covered heat stroke, rattlesnake bites, poisoning, bandaging, controlling bleeding, and canine CPR. The vets gave demonstrations of proper care on real and fake dogs, and the officers even got to practice CPR on a canine CPR dummy.

Each police officer went home with a trauma kit and personalized first aid bag containing bandaging and splinting material, a thermometer, hemostatic powder to control bleeding, saline for flushing wounds, antibiotic ointment, instruments to remove foreign objects and ticks, eye wash, lubricant, and other specialized items.

The veterinarians donated their time (the class fee paid for the trauma kits and first aid bags). "These men and women and dogs put their life on the line for society's welfare. It was no problem for me to give up a day for their benefit," said Lukas.

The response to the training was so great that Moore went well over the original class limit of 30 students. The Livermore Police Department hopes to offer another training session before the end of the year.

Moore was inspired to create the training because she took a similar class early in her career

as a K9 handler and because of two recent incidents involving police dogs. In the Sacramento area, a police dog was hit by a car and killed while in pursuit of carjacking subject. In Santa Clara, a suspect stabbed a police dog after being apprehended by the dog. That story has a happier ending—the dog never loosened its hold on the suspect and made a full recovery.

Police departments make significant investments in their K9 units. A good dog costs around \$7,000 and needs a specially outfitted patrol car with constant temperature control. Usually it takes several years of partnership for a dog and handler to reach their full potential.

Andy, Moore's German shepherd partner, was a patrol dog and trained for narcotics searches. He assisted her with high risk car stops, crowd control, and searches for narcotics and suspects. "A dog can move quickly into spaces a human can't easily get into," she explained. "We use the dogs to clear a suspect's car, to make sure we don't get ambushed."

Andy's main purpose, she added, was as a deterrent. "We want compliance," she said. "While police dogs are trained to apprehend, it usually doesn't get that far."

OPEN HOUSE

Visit our newly-opened senior care home facility located at 1542 Peridot Drive, Livermore CA 94550. Open House will be held every Sunday from 11:00AM - 4:00PM or view by appointment during the week by calling (925) 292-1176 or (510) 304-0663 (cell). For more information, visit our website at www.gigiguesthome.com.

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| GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (PG13) DLP | 3:50 4:40 5:30 6:40 7:20 8:30 9:10 9:50 | | |
| 17 AGAIN (PG13) DLP | 12:40 1:20 3:30 4:25 | | |
| OBSESSED (PG13) DLP | 6:30 7:10 8:50 9:30 | | |
| THE SOLOIST (PG13) DLP | 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:05 | | |
| MONSTERS VS ALIENS 3D (PG) 3D | 1:30 4:05 7:00 9:35 | | |
| EARTH (G) DLP | 12:50 3:55 6:35 9:25 | | |
| HANNAH MONTANA THE MOVIE (G) DLP | 12:10 2:25 4:40 6:50 9:10 | | |
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Lab Signs Employer Partnership Agreement

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Army Reserve to participate in the Northern California Employer Partnership Initiative. A signing ceremony took place Tuesday, April 21, at Camp Parks in Dublin.

The Employer Partnership Initiative was launched in April 2008 to formalize the relationship between the Army Reserve and the private sector, both of whom share the common goals of strengthening the community, supporting Army Reserve soldiers and families, and maintaining a strong economy.

"The Army Reserve looks for exemplary employer partners. LLNL has a great reputation, as being a great place to work and as an employer who will take care of soldiers and their families," said Richard (Phil) Stage, Representatives from eight

program support manager for the Employer Partnership Initiative.

The program is equally beneficial to communities, corporations and companies that participate, as well as soldiers in the Army Reserve. Stage explained. Partnering employers, such as the Lab, are given assured access to skilled and qualified soldiers serving in various capacities. Soldiers benefit from increased job opportunities and greater stability, resulting in continuity in their civilian careers and lives.

Lab Director George Miller said it is important for the Lab to participate in such a partnership. "Our Laboratory has always been supportive of those who answer the call to military service," Miller said. "This partnership not only supports our soldiers, but also provides access to individuals with skills of value to all the partners."

Girls Invited to 'She Shines' Event

Alameda County girls are holding an event designed to empower and motivate girls to shine. "She Shines," produced by the Alameda County Junior Commission on the Status of Women, will be held on Saturday, May 30, at Bishop O'Dowd High School, from 8:30am to 4:15 pm.

The program includes an historical slide show on the advancement of women emphasized by a fashion show underscoring the changes women experienced as the centuries pro-

gressed — from flappers to mini skirts to dressing for success.

Workshops will cover various topics that girls face today including relationships, stress, sexism, and breaking the barriers that continue today for young women coming into adulthood.

The event is free, and includes lunch, with advanced registration. To register or sponsor, call the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women at (510) 259-3871, or email LProvost@acgov.org.

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OBITUARIES

Nancy Herman

Nancy Herman died of cancer April 18, 2009. She was 73. Nancy was born in Chicago, Illinois. She had an older sister, Marjorie, who is deceased, and a brother, Richard of Texas.

Nancy graduated from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb with a teaching degree. She taught two years in Palatine, Illinois before adventuring across country in the summer of 1960 to teach in Pleasanton. She taught second grade at Alisal School until her retirement.

After retiring, Nancy continued to teach part-time in a reading program at Montesorri School in San Ramon. Later, she tutored students in the Pleasanton area.

Nancy liked to travel and did so in her early years of teaching. However, Nancy had a second life. She loved dogs. She bred and trained dogs; first Westies and later Dandie Dinmonts. She made many friends of like minded people. She won numerous ribbons at dog shows, including Best of Breed at the Westminster Dog Show in New York in the 1980s.

Over the years, Nancy rented rooms in her home and in later years became quite attached to two dear friends who lived with her: Roxanne Cecot and Nellie Tota. They were like her daughters.

A celebration of life party was given for Nancy prior to her death.

Donald D. Bevard

Donald D. Bevard died at his home on April 28, 2009. He was 80.

Bevard was a native of Denver, CO. and a longtime Pleasanton resident. He was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam, serving in the US Army, Navy and Merchant Marines, a life member of the Pleasanton and Orinda Masonic Lodges F&A.M the VFW Post 6298, American Legion, and NARFE.

He was the husband of Dorothy Horn-Bevard for 60 years, his children include Christina Bevard-Mateosian of Berkeley, Gregory Bevard of Lincoln, and Jay Bevard of Germany, grandchildren William Bevard and Esther Joi Mateosian. He was preceded in death by his grandson

Gregory Bevard, Jr., and his four brothers and one sister.

Private family services were held at the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Barbara Jane McWilliams

Barbara Jane (Metcalf) McWilliams 91, wife of former Pleasanton mayor, the late John L. McWilliams, died peacefully at Pleasanton Convalescent Hospital on Sunday evening, May 3. She had lived in Pleasanton since 1943. Barbara, born June 27, 1917, was youngest of seven children born to Alice (Taylor) and Arthur Metcalf of Loman, Minnesota.

Barbara's ancestors came from Hull, England and were one of the first European families to settle in northern Minnesota. She grew up on the family farm next to the Rainy River, which borders Canada. The local Chippewa tribe would often visit their farm seeking food and medical help. When Barbara was 16 she won a Minnesota State Declamatory Speech contest and was awarded a trip to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1933. She was a top student in high school and also president of a local youth group for the Lutheran League. She turned down an offer from a family friend for a college education in order to stay and help her widowed mother on their farm.

Barbara married John ("Jack") McWilliams in 1938 at St. Thomas Catholic Church in International Falls, Minnesota. In 1943 they moved to Kilkare Woods in Sunol with their young daughter Lynne. Soon after they moved to an apartment in Pleasanton above Edgren's Auto Dealership, which was located at the southern end of Main Street. In the late forties, the family moved to a home on Rose Avenue where they became more involved at St. Augustine Catholic Church, which was right across the street. During that time, Barbara joined the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and remained a member for over 50 years.

Barbara was a very dedicated mother to their five children. She was an excellent homemaker with boundless energy who always promoted a positive attitude. She was cheerful, helpful

to others and always had a twinkle in her eye. Barbara's children never heard their mother speak ill of anyone, nor repeat a secret told to her in confidence.

During the years Barbara's late husband John served two terms on the Pleasanton City Council (1958-1966; two as Mayor), Barbara supported him with style and grace. Her husband predeceased her on their 42nd wedding anniversary in 1980.

Barbara will be lovingly remembered by her five children: Lynne, Janis, John, Lee and Barbara Ann; six grandchildren: Christopher, Catherine, Jill, Erin, Mallory and Megan; and one great grandchild: Cooper. Barbara's eldest grandchild, Tiffani, preceded her in death in 2002.

Public viewing will be from 5:00 - 6:00 P.M. on Friday, May 8, at Graham Hitch Mortuary; a Vigil service and Rosary will follow at 6:00 P.M. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 9, at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. Internment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Barbara's memory may be sent to: Alameda County Meals on Wheels, 6955 Foothill Blvd, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94605 (www.feedingseniors.org), or to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, c/o St. Raymond Church, 11555 Shannon Avenue, Dublin, CA 94568.

Marjorie Ruth Koller

Marjorie Ruth Koller died May 4, 2009 in Dublin. She led a truly fascinating life. Born in Australia on April 3, 1917, she served as a civilian employee of the U. S. Army at American Headquarters in Sydney during World War II.

Marjorie immigrated to the United States on a military hospital ship after meeting and marrying Carl Duke who was serving in the Pacific in the U. S. Merchant Marine. After the war, she and Carl moved from his native Bakersfield, California home to northern California where they both became involved in real estate

and home building. Both became real estate brokers with Marjorie reportedly becoming one of the first female real estate brokers in the state. Together, they ran a small saw mill to produce lumber to build individual homes and later, sub divisions in and around the greater Sacramento area. It was at this time she gave birth to her daughter Carolyn. Marjorie was a proponent of housing rights and was responsible for many deserving families' ability to own their own homes.

In 1958 Marjorie purchased a horse ranch in the Tassajara Valley then known as "Valley Stream" and over the years developed the Yarra Yarra Equestrian Center, named in part for the river flowing through the heart of the Melbourne area. Marjorie continued to work in the real estate field while promoting equestrian competitions at Yarra Yarra representing numerous disciplines. She was well known and respected in the Arabian horse community as well as the dressage competitive community working with the now United States Equestrian Federation.

She championed and sponsored many otherwise underprivileged residents of the community, offering employment and shelter to those in need. Marjorie enjoyed travelling the globe when the opportunity presented itself, oftentimes taking her daughter Carolyn to such far-flung places as Egypt, India, Russia and other exotic environs. She was truly a citizen and a student of the world, loving life and all it offered.

She is survived by her daughter Carolyn, who lives with her husband and continues the horse ranch tradition of a new Yarra Yarra and a daughter Bonnie and two grandsons David and Peter, living in Australia.

Marjorie will be laid to rest at Memory Gardens in Livermore after a memorial service at St. Clare's Episcopal Church in Pleasanton on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 10:30 am. Donations may be made in her name to Hope Hospice, Dublin.

Arrangements by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

Stephen T. Parker

Steve passed away May 2, 2009, surrounded by his family, at the age of 48 from a long courageous battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He never complained and often offered comfort to those around him.

He was born in San Jose, CA May 19, 1960 and spent most of his life living in Pleasanton and Livermore.

He is survived by his wife, Debra, and children Jennifer and Thomas; parents Jack and Keville Parker of Pleasanton; brother David (Shelley) of Livermore and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and nieces. He will be missed by his in-laws the Zehnder family.

Steve was a graduate of Foothill High School and CSU Hayward. He was employed for 23 years by Enterprise Rent a Car, most recently as the Human Resources manager for the San Francisco area. Steve touched many lives personally and professionally. He had a knack for finding the positive in all that he did and the ability to make someone feel good about himself.

He was an avid Bay Area sports fan, enjoyed golfing, playing poker and supporting his children in their various sports endeavors. He made many life-long friendships through these activities.

A memorial service will be held Saturday May 9 at 1:00 pm at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167

First Street, Pleasanton. A celebration of Steve's life will take place immediately following.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to your favorite charity or to a scholarship fund that has been set-up in Steve's name. Send scholarship donations to PNR Foundation PO Box 1142 Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Diane Marie Shaughnessy

Diane was born on January 5, 1949 in Oakland, California and passed away on May 2, 2009 in Livermore, California after a long battle with cancer, she was 60 years old. Diane loved her Corvette club, gardening, cooking, and spending time with her family. Diane was deeply loved by her family and all who knew her and will be greatly missed.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Bill, sister Sandy and father Rollyn.

She is survived by her mother Helen Parrish-Sunderland and daughter, Christine Burnham of Livermore, brothers, Ron Parrish and his wife JoAnn of Manteca, CA, Greg Parrish and Joy of Twainhart, CA, granddaughters Valentina, Krystalina, Rhiannon and grandson Chancellor.

In honoring Diane's wishes a private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Donations are suggested to Hope Hospice in Dublin.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Families Get Look at New Play Yard

The public got a look at the new Gingerbread Preschool play yard during an open house last Saturday.

The preschool, which has had more than 8,000 young graduates in its 40-year history, is celebrating its first spring and summer season with an all new play yard following an 18 week construction period last year. The renovations mark the first major upgrades to the current Gingerbread site in 18 years.

The new play yard includes a concrete play/art terrace, trellis canopy, music wall, hand pump and water trough for water play, resilient play surfaces, sand box, slide, mud play area, garden area, a new tricycle path and tunnel, outdoor circle area, swings and climbing structure, a story telling circle, and more. The project also features a separate play area for the 'Gingersnaps' program, which caters to young children ages 21 months to 3 years of age.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 422830

The following person(s) doing business as: Petersen's PC Repair, 2170 Arroyo Ct. #4, Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Dean Petersen, 2170 Arroyo Ct. #4, Pleasanton Ca 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on March 18, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/Dean Petersen. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 27, 2009. Expires March 27, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2483. Publish April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423338

The following person(s) doing business as: DCM Crane Rigging Service Coordinator, 1268 Marigold Rd., Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): David C. Medeiros, 1268 Marigold Rd., Livermore Ca 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on April 1, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/David C. Medeiros. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 8, 2009. Expires April 8, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2484. Publish April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 422815

The following person(s) doing business as: SuzoRanDesigns, 5890 Arlene Way, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Suzanne Werner, 5890 Arlene Way, Livermore Ca 94550

This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on December 1, 2008. Signature of Registrant: /s/Suzanne Werner. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on March 27, 2009. Expires March 27, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2485. Publish April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423172

The following person(s) doing business as: Investors Institute, 39 California Ave. Ste 208, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): National Real Estate Investment Club Inc., 39 California Ave. Ste 208, Pleasanton Ca 94566. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on April 1, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/Masood Mike Sarwari. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 9, 2009. Expires April 9, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2486. Publish April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423580

The following person(s) doing business as: BB Property Management, 1841 Fourth Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Barbara A. Brenzel 2457 Wellingham Dr., Livermore Ca 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/Barbara Brenzel. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2009. Expires April 14, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2487. Publish April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423429

The following person(s) doing business as: Solar Hardware Consulting, 4440 Entrada Drive, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kristian Thomas Jernstedt, 4440 Entrada Drive, Pleasanton Ca 94566. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/Kristian Thomas Jernstedt. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 10, 2009. Expires April 10, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2488. Publish April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423477

The following person(s) doing business as: SM Soft, 6162 Homer Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94588 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Partha Ray, 6162 Homer Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94588. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on April 1, 2009. Signature of Registrant: /s/Partha S. Ray. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 13, 2009. Expires April 13, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2489. Publish April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423618

The following person(s) doing business as: Savvy Seconds Two, 2080 First Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jamie Davis, 720 Traditions Ct., Tracy, CA 95376. This business is conducted by a General partnership. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or

names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/Jamie Davis. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 15, 2009. Expires April 15, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2490. Publish April 23, 30, May 7, 14, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423336-423337

The following person(s) doing business as: 1) Bay Valley Insurance Brokerage, 2) Bay Valley Group of Companies, 1479 Chaparral Way, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Jesse W. Montoya, 1479 Chaparral Way, Livermore Ca 94551. This business is conducted by Husband and wife. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 3, 2003. Signature of Registrant: /s/Jesse W. Montoya and Tawnya R. Montoya. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 8, 2009. Expires April 8, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2492. Publish April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423569

The following person(s) doing business as: Skin Savvi, 239 Main St., Ste D, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Taia - Louise Lockhart, 410 Lagunaria Lane, Alameda Ca 94502. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/Taia - Louise Lockhart. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2009. Expires April 14, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2493. Publish May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423440

The following person(s) doing business as: Bay Valley Accounting Professionals, 1479 Chaparral Way, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Tawnya R. Montoya, 1479

Chaparral Way, Livermore Ca 94551. This business is conducted by Husband and wife. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on October 3, 2003. Signature of Registrant: /s/Jesse W. Montoya and Tawnya R. Montoya. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 8, 2009. Expires April 8, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2492. Publish April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423569

The following person(s) doing business as: Skin Savvi, 239 Main St., Ste D, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Taia - Louise Lockhart, 410 Lagunaria Lane, Alameda Ca 94502. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/Taia - Louise Lockhart. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 14, 2009. Expires April 14, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2493. Publish May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 424147

The following person(s) doing business as: Cheryl's Shoppe, 7 California Ave, Pleasanton

Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Cheryl Tear, 2892 St. Denis Dr., San Ramon, Ca 94583. This business is conducted by an individual. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/Cheryl Tear. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 28, 2009. Expires April 28, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2494. Publish May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423976

The following person(s) doing business as: ABC Music Source & Academy, 2156 First Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Stanley M. Houston, 767 Violet Court, Benicia Ca 94510. This business is conducted by Husband and wife. Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed. Signature of Registrant: /s/Stanley M. Houston. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 24, 2009. Expires April 24, 2014. The Independent Legal No. 2495. Publish May 7, 14, 21, 28, 2009.

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One More Reason to Buy a Home Now

By Cher Wollard

With housing prices down and interest rates at record lows, one might think first-time buyers would be scrambling to scoop up the deals of a lifetime. Some are. But others, concerned about their personal economic futures, are holding back.

The federal and state governments have introduced sweeteners in the form of tax credits to entice buyers into the market. Now the California Association of Realtors is trying something new: reducing the risk of buying a home.

Taking a cue from U.S. automakers Ford and General Motors, C.A.R. has introduced the Mortgage Protection Program to protect first-time homebuyers in case of job loss, disability or accidental death. The program is funded by a \$1 million allocation through the nonprofit C.A.R. Housing Affordability Fund with the goal of building confidence in consumers and reducing the fear of foreclosure.

The program is free for one year. Your Realtor® help you apply when you purchase a home.

The benefits include up to \$1,500 per month for up to six months to help pay mortgage payments in the event of involuntary job loss. A qualified co-buyer can also participate for monthly benefits of up to \$750.

The program also offers coverage for disability and a \$10,000 death benefit.

There are no limits on income or price of the property, but there are a few requirements:

- You cannot have owned a home in the last three years;
- You must close the transaction by the end of this year;
- The property must be your primary residence;
- The property must be located in California;
- You must be represented by a Realtor® — a licensed real estate agent who is a member of the California Association of Realtors;

- You must be employed with a W-2 (not self-employed);
- You will be eligible for benefits six months after the close date of the transaction, provided you have been on the job at least four months.

If you do receive benefits, you have to agree to use them to make your mortgage payments first. If there is money left over, you can use that any way you see fit.

Some or all of these benefits may be taxable. Will this program ease all of the trepidations first-time homebuyers may feel? Of course not. But it should provide at least some peace of mind.

Let's say you purchase a nice home in the Tri-Valley this week, and you are set to close on the property on June 15. Your agent — a California Realtor — submits your application for this insurance policy on July 1.

You meet all the requirements: you have not owned a home in the past three years; you intend to live in the property; you are not self-employed, under the definition of the plan.

You will have coverage for one full year — until June 30, 2010. Near the end of the coverage period, you may be offered an opportunity to renew the policy at your own expense.

More information about this program is available at www.car.org/aboutus/hafmainpage/carhaffmortgageprotection or from your Realtor.

Inventory Down; Interest Rates Steady
Fewer homes are available to purchase in the Tri-Valley. However, those on the market are a bigger bargain.

That's because, while prices have not moved much since the beginning of the year, the cost of borrowing has improved dramatically, making mortgages more affordable.

Livermore has a mere 221 single-family homes on the Multiple Listing Service, compared to nearly 600 a year ago. Prices on detached homes range from \$179,900 to \$4.79 million, with the median at \$639,000. Of those, 77 are priced below \$500,000.

In addition, there are 44 condos, townhouses and duets, priced from \$89,900 to \$499,000. The Pleasanton market is slower and pricier, and has not experienced as big a drop in inventory. There are currently 235 detached homes on the MLS — down from 360 last year. Current prices range from \$367,000 to \$10 million, with a median of just over \$1 million.

The 41 condos, duets and townhouses on the MLS start at \$149,000 and go to nearly \$750,000.

Meanwhile, the average rate on conventional 30-year fixed mortgages is holding steady at just 4.78 percent. This matches the lowest rates on record since Freddie Mac started tracking data in 1971.

One year ago, the average for this type of loan was 6.06 percent, still a historically good rate. (In 1971, mortgages were priced at about 7 percent. Rates escalated to double-digits in the '80s!) Rate changes can make a significant difference in monthly mortgage payments of more than \$100 per \$100,000 borrowed. For example, a loan of \$400,000 would have run \$2,414 last spring. It would now cost only \$2,094 per month.

Super conforming loans up to \$625,500 are priced slightly higher.

These excellent rates won't last forever. Plus, lenders are tightening guidelines, meaning loans that are available to folks with decent credit scores this month may only be available to those with superior scores next month.

And inventories are dropping, resulting in multiple offers at some price points.

It's a smart time to purchase property. Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home, Livermore.

Professionals Choice Real Estate Directory

Local guide to the Valley's Leading Real Estate Professionals & Services

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RED Day

Keller Williams Realty has created the first annual RED Day event to take place on Thursday, May 14. RED stands for Renew, Energize and Donate and it is our vision to coordinate a day of service with our 690 offices nationwide and in Canada. Livermore and Pleasanton offices have chosen to help senior citizens in local neighborhoods with tasks they can no longer manage on their own. Together with the Senior Support Program of Tri-Valley, agents will be helping seniors in need of fence repair, yard maintenance, carpet and gutter cleaning.

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Residents Concerned about Fire Danger Near Homes

Residents living near the arroyo in Livermore are concerned about the potential for fires in the area.

They attended last week's Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) board meeting to ask that dead vegetation be removed.

Don Milanese told the board that ten years of year-round water resulted in the growth of non-native vegetation. Three years ago, the water stopped. Without a steady stream flow, the vegetation died. It remains along the streambed. "There are dead trees and bushes. Enormous piles of vegetation are caught between dead trees. They are potential tinderboxes."

Milanese said the situation was brought to the attention of LARPD last year. Residents were told that the state Department of

Fish and Game had jurisdiction. LARPD had no authority to remove the vegetation. Milanese went on to say that apparently the City of Livermore and Zone 7 also have interests in the arroyo. Ultimately, it appears that the area is under multi-agency jurisdiction. In that case the responsibility to deal with issues goes to LARPD, which has title to Robertson Park. Homeowners are not authorized to clean up the area.

"We, as residents, are frustrated with the lack of progress in addressing this issue," declared Milanese. "The fire danger is not on our properties, but in the arroyo. There is no defensive space between the arroyo and our homes to slow the path of a fire."

Other homeowners also spoke to the issue. Milo Nurdyke em-

phasized that the decision to put water in the creek year-round significantly changed the character of the creek. Without the water, it has been significantly changed again.

Board president Maryalice Faltings responded that the board could not act on or discuss the issue, since it was not on the agenda. She said that she will have staff place the issue on a May agenda. "We have heard you."

In board action, LARPD approved a permit fee for jump

houses in area parks. The fee, which will cover the costs of permitting the use of the jump fees, was set at \$25 for Livermore residents and \$40 for nonresidents. If it is found district is not recouping its costs, the fee could be increased.

Previously, the fees were issued at no charge. The permitting process allows the district to designate where the jump houses can be located. The district can also monitor damage to turf areas, as well as noise from generators.

Janice Pementel
"Thanks Dad"
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TACOS AL CARBON • TAMALES

PANEL

(continued from page one)

opinion pieces have been published worldwide, including USA Today, The Christian Science Monitor and many others. She is also associate producer of a Peabody award-winning television news program, "Mosaic: World News from the Middle East", on Link TV, and produced the "Who Speaks for Islam?" series on Link TV.

Sobia Sultan has been practicing as a pediatrician since 2000. Born in Pakistan, she was reared in Saudi Arabia where her father, an Air Force officer, was deputed. Sobia did her pediatric internship and residency at Driscoll Children's Hospital, affiliated with Texas A & M University College of Medicine. After moving to the Bay Area she spent five years with a multi-specialty group before joining Kaiser Permanente in July 2005.

The public is invited to take advantage of this opportunity to meet and talk with three Muslim women having widely divergent backgrounds to learn more about their culture and daily lives.

Following the panel discussion, there will be a used book sale to benefit the AAUW-LPD Local Scholarship Fund. For further information, contact Elva Cooper at 846-2092.

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Art, Community, & Education

Mother's Day is May 10. See pages 6 and 7 for Mother's Day favorites.



Broadway Comes to Livermore

The Tony Award-winning musical comedy, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," is coming to the Bankhead Theater in Livermore, June 6 and 7, for four performances.

In this musical, six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. This tuneful, offbeat and at times heart-warming show offers audience members the

opportunity (strictly voluntary) to become part of the action as on-stage spellers.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is directed by James Lapine, the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winner (Sunday in the Park with George, Into the Woods) who also directed the Broadway production. The musical, conceived by Rebecca Feldman, with additional material written by Jay Reiss, features music and lyrics by Tony Award-winner
(continued on page 2)



Putnam County Spelling Bee . . .

(continued from page one)

William Finn (Falsettos, Elegies, A New Brain) and a Tony Award-winning book by Rachel Sheinkin. Scenic design is by Beowulf Boritt, costume design by Jennifer Caprio, lighting design by Natasha Katz, sound design by Dan Moses Schreier and choreography by Dan Knechtges.

"Can you spell i-r-r-e-s-i-s-t-i-b-l-e? Spelling Bee is riotously funny and remarkably ingenious. Gold stars all around," says the New York Times. In the Wall Street Journal, Spelling Bee was called, "perfect in every possible way - that rarity of rarities, a super-smart musical that is also a bona fide crowd-pleaser. An ingenious blend of simplicity and sophistication, it's not merely funny, it's wise."

Starring in "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" are Katie Boren (Marcy Park), Roberta Duchak (Rona Lisa Peretti), James Kall (Douglas Panch), Andrew Keenan-Bolger (Leaf Coneybear), Justin Keyes (Chip Tolentino), Kevin Smith Kirkwood (Mitch Mahoney), Vanessa Ray (Olive Ostrovsky), Eric Roediger (William Barfee), and Dana Steingold (Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre).

The play is based on C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, an original play by

The Farm improv group in New York City. Under the direction of James Lapine, SPELLING BEE officially opened Off-Broadway on February 7, 2005 at Second Stage Theatre, where it ran from January 11 through March 20, 2005. The show then moved to Broadway's Circle in the Square Theatre (where it continues its run), with previews beginning on April 15, 2005 and an official opening on May 2, 2005. Spelling Bee is produced by David Stone, James L. Nederlander, Barbara Whitman, Patrick Catullo, Barrington Stage Co. and Second Stage Theatre.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The theater is operated by the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800, or visit the LVPAC website www.bankheadtheater.org or go to the theater box office.

Pictured on the front page are "Spelling Bee" cast members: Katie Boren (Marcy Park), Roberta Duchak (Rona Lisa Peretti), James Kall (Douglas Panch), Andrew Keenan-Bolger (Leaf Coneybear), Justin Keyes (Chip Tolentino), Kevin Smith Kirkwood (Mitch Mahoney), Vanessa Ray (Olive Ostrovsky), Eric Roediger (William Barfee), and Dana Steingold (Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre).

Firehouse Arts Center Gala Offers Sneak Preview

By Elizabeth Campos Rajs

Local singers, artists and performers of all ages will share their talents with the community at a special entertainment and arts-themed benefit gala on May 16 at Castlewood Country Club.

"That's Entertainment" is designed to provide a sneak preview of the performing and visual arts that will be featured at the new Pleasanton Firehouse Arts Center when it opens next spring, said Debbie Look, campaign director for the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation.

"It's a jam-packed evening of entertainment," Look said. "We want people to come away from the evening with a sense of what you will see and experience when the Firehouse Arts Center opens."

Performances will be interspersed throughout the evening event. They will include children from the cast of the Pleasanton Civics Arts Stage Company's production of "Ramona Quimby," performers from Pleasanton's teen improv group called "Creatures of Impulse," and musical selections by "The Pleasantones," featuring Debra Knox, Nina Vieracullen and Paula Wujek. Live music will be performed during the cocktail hour.

"It will be a really fun, interactive type of evening," Look said.

Additionally, a silent auction will showcase 27 pieces of original art by Bay Area artists, many of whom will be on hand for an artists' reception before dinner. All of the artwork can be previewed on-line at the foundation's website, www.pleasantonartsfoundation.org by clicking on the link for the list of participating entertainers and artists.

The gala also will feature a live auction with a wide range of items including a box at the Golden State Warriors for 20 people, a wine tasting and tour of the Castello di Amorosa winery's 13th century-style castle in Calistoga, as well as weekend get-aways to Avila Beach, Tahoe and Napa.

"We're hoping to appeal to a wide range of interests," Look said.

The event begins at 6 p.m. at Castlewood Country Club. Tickets are \$140 per person. They are available by calling the founda-



Work is underway on the Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton.

tion office at (925) 846-1007. All proceeds from the gala will benefit the new Firehouse Arts Center.

Now under construction at the site of the historic Fire Station One on Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton, the 17,000-square-foot arts center will include a 240-seat flexible theater, a public art gallery and two art classrooms. Its grand lobby, which joins the theater and the gallery, will be a multi-functional space, allowing for guest artist events, gatherings of local art groups and other receptions.

Construction started last August with demolition of most of the fire station. The remaining portion of the historic firehouse has been reinforced and the roof is being rebuilt. Site preparation and foundation work has been completed and structural framing is starting to go up on the site, Look said. Construction is on schedule and estimated to be finished early next year.

The city has committed more than \$10 million to the project and the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation's goal is to raise an additional \$2 million to fully fund the facility, Look said. To date, the foundation has raised \$1.7 million.

The benefit gala is the second one the foundation has held. Last year's event netted \$60,000. In addition, the foundation held a family-style event at Wayside Park

last September, which attracted 1,000 people and raised \$13,000. The primary purpose of that event, Look said, was to have a fun event that raised awareness among families about the type of children's programming that will be available at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Currently, there are two ongoing fund-raising campaigns. The foundation is selling bricks for \$150 that can be inscribed with the names of individuals, families and children. The bricks, which measure 4" by 8", will be permanently installed at the Firehouse Arts Center.

"We're having a lot of success with the bricks. We're pleased so many members of the community are supporting the center," Look said.

The foundation is also offering community members the opportunity to buy a seat in the new theater for \$500. Donors will be permanently recognized as "seat donors."

Order forms for the bricks and the chair sponsorships are available on the foundation's website or by calling the office at 846-1007.

The foundation hopes to start offering hard hat tours of the construction site in the near future, Look said. Details of those tours, when they become available, will be posted on the foundation website.

Opera Launches Fund-raising Campaign

The Livermore Valley Opera reports on a successful production of, "The Marriage of Figaro." The house was 88 percent full across five performances, there were 352 new individual ticket holders; a 27 percent increase over the last production.

In support of the upcoming season Livermore Valley Opera is undertaking a \$25,000 campaign. LVO raises over 60 percent of its expenses from ticket revenue, which is high for an opera company. However, expenses have risen as well known directors and singers agree to perform. According to LVO, the desire to participate is influenced by the excellent quality of the Bankhead Theater, which allows singers and directors to connect with their audiences.

A \$5,000 individual donor launched the campaign. Dr. Susan Dupree attended last month's LVO board meeting to present a gift of \$5,000 to help with our Spring fund drive. Dupree is involved with Rotary International. She is very active with their IFRM music program and is an accomplished event fund-raiser herself. She is also a volunteer chorus member and appeared on stage in The Marriage of Figaro and Carmen.

Plans are underway for next season. "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci" will be performed in October 2009 and "Die Fledermaus" in March 2010.

Opera in the Vineyard is set for August 2 at Retzlaff Vineyards.

For information on donations, call Livermore Valley Opera, at 925-960-9210.

Sycamore Strings Perform Concert

Students from the Sycamore Strings Academy will present a concert on Sun., May 17, 6:30 p.m. at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Ct., Pleasanton.

The Spring Concert will feature students of all ages, from 3 - 18, performing classical pieces, folk music from Japan, America and Sweden, and chamber music ensembles. The new cello and bass program will also be introduced featuring the new cello and bass teachers and their students.

For more information see the website at www.sycamorestringsacademy.com or call 925-606-5818.



Peter Fletcher

Award Winning Guitar Player at Library

Classical guitarist Peter Fletcher will perform Monday evening, May 18 at 7 pm in the Pleasanton Public Library's meeting room.

Award-winning guitarist and Eastman School of Music graduate, Peter Fletcher has a repertoire that spans throughout the history of classical music, from the Renaissance through the 20th Century. Fletcher has performed repeatedly at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

This concert will feature selections from Fletcher's 2008 CD release on Tower Hill Records, Music of the Baroque. Other repertoire will include the E minor Lute Suite of J. S. Bach; Fletcher's transcriptions of Erik Satie and Edvard Grieg; Usher-Waltz, an unusual and intense piece by Russian guitarist and composer Nikita Koshkin; Andrew York's Sunburst and music of Weiss and Reusner. The concert will culminate with Koyunbaba, by composer/guitarist Carlo Domeniconi. This is one of the most unique and exciting works in the classical guitar repertoire.

The concert is free and open to the public. No registration required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

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Ballet Camps Take Registrations

Valley Dance Theatre will host two summer ballet camps for children, Lion King and Snow White. Both sessions will be held at the Valley Dance Theatre studio, 2247 Second Street, Suite B, in Livermore.

The first camp, Lion King, is scheduled from July 15-19, 2009. Children ages three to six years will meet from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Boys and girls ages six to nine years will meet from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

The second camp, Snow White, will run afternoons only from July 27-31, 2009, 12:30-3:30 p.m. This camp will include

boys and girls, ages three to nine years.

Both camp sessions will include dancing games, warm-ups exercises, crafts, snacks, a music lesson and more dancing. Each camp will culminate in a performance and reception for family and friends.

Camp fees are \$150 for one camp and \$275 for both camps. A 5% family discount is available for each additional child. To register, parents may sign up their children at the studio or call (925) 243-0925. Detailed information is available at the website: www.valleydancetheatre.com.

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Garry Krinsky's acclaimed program has toured the U.S. and Canada to rave reviews. This fast-paced, varied and dynamic program combines circus skills, mime, original music, and audience involvement in the exploration of the scientific principles of gravity, leverage, fulcrums, and simple machines. Toying with Science is part of LVPAC's World of Wisdom Series (WOW!) sponsored in part by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC.

May 17 • 2pm \$20/\$25/\$30/\$12 students

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

"Funniest Thing in Seven Consonants!"
-The Washington Post

How do you spell H-I-T? In the Tony-Award winning new musical comedy THE 25th ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE, six young people in the throes of puberty, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves, learn that winning isn't everything and that losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. SPELLING BEE has been hailed by the Wall Street Journal as "perfect in every possible way - that rarity of rarities, a super-smart musical that is also a bonafide crowd pleaser."

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www.bankheadtheater.org

THE VALLEY TIMES
107.7 KKKL
Tri-Valley Herald



Anthony Doheny



Josh Cohen

Symphony Performs Concert, 'Along the Rhine'

Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert on May 16 will offer music with the theme, "Along the Rhine."

The concert is at 8 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. A prelude talk will be offered from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Arthur Barnes, Livermore-Amador Symphony director of many years, will open the concert with Rossini's overture to *La Gazza Ladra*. A roll of drums followed by a majestic military march as an introduction is then followed by increasingly rapid tempo.

The featured violin soloist, Anthony Doheny, will create a different mood with his performance of Max Bruch's second violin concerto. While this concerto has been overshadowed in popularity by Bruch's first, it has been said to have been preferred by the composer himself. Doheny states, it is "violin music par excellence."

Australian-born Anthony Doheny has had a long and successful career in both performing and teaching both violin and viola in Australia, Canada and the U.S. He is also a composer who has several CDs to his credit. His educational background is phenomenal, and he has taught music at many levels. However, he says that the joy of making music and sharing it gives him the greatest satisfaction.

The guest conductor for the evening's symphonic piece is Josh Cohen. He will be conducting Schumann's Symphony No. 3 known as the "Rhenish" (although this nickname was not given by the composer). It was thought to have been inspired by the history, spirit and people living along the Rhine River. It opens with a powerful syncopated fanfare on a grand scale that is transformed in the second move-

ment to a theme that is rustic in nature with folk music and wine drinking song. Later follows a short solemn motif, which eventually returns to the jubilant opening theme and closes out on a joyful note.

Cohen is well-known in the Bay Area, and is also a familiar figure to long-time members of LAS. He has been involved in music as violinist, bassist, concert master, conductor and director. He has performed with countless groups in this area as well as performing with chamber groups and orchestras on an international basis.

The evening will include the presentation of awards for school and community musical activities to four high school seniors.

Tickets are available through the Bankhead Theater box office at 2400 First Street, Livermore, or on-line at bankheadtheater.org or by calling (925) 373-6800.

Livermore High to Stage Musical, 'Les Miserables'

Livermore High School will stage the musical, "Les Miserables," school edition.

Performances will take place on May 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16 at 8 p.m. or on Mother's Day, May 10, at 2 p.m. at the high school, 458 Maple St., Livermore.

The play recounts the struggle against adversity in 19th century France. Imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread, petty thief, Jean Valjean (Benjamin Hall) is released from his 19 year term and not only becomes an honest man, but the mayor of a prosperous town and a loving adoptive father—violating his parole in the process. The relentless Inspector Javert (Jordan Adelman), who makes a decent life for Valjean impossible, pursues him. Woven through Valjean's life are the Thenardiers (Jack Ortner/Katie

Johnson)—opportunists of the first order—and their daughter Eponine, who is in love with Marius (Skylar Jones).

Only years later after Valjean proves himself during a bloody student uprising and saves the life of Marius, who is hopelessly in love with Cosette (Krystal Carrero), his adopted daughter, does the ex-convict finally feel fully redeemed. The performance is supported by a cast of 36, 20+ musicians and a 9 person tech crew.

The play is originally adapted from Victor Hugo's novel, "Les Miserables." School Edition introduces a new generation to the story.

Reserved tickets are \$8 and balcony seats are \$5. Call 925-606-4812 x2446 for more information or to reserve tickets.

Maestro to Discuss Beethoven



Maestro Lawrence Kohl of the Pacific Chamber Symphony presents *The Man, the Music, and the Meaning – Beethoven's Fifth Symphony*

at 2pm on Sunday, May 17 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue. There is no charge for this event.

Kohl will discuss the creative genius of Ludwig van Beethoven and his struggle to render his psychological turmoil into music. Demonstrations of different musical interpretations of his great work, *The Fifth Symphony*, will be presented. Gain some insights into the man and the music, then enjoy the Pacific Chamber Symphony as they play the complete *Fifth Symphony* on Thursday, May 28 at the Bankhead Theater.

The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten this program as part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series. For additional events, check the library's website at www.livermore.lib.ca.us.

'Hands Across the Sea' San Ramon Concert

The San Ramon Symphonic Band will perform a concert themed "Hands Across The Sea" on Sun., May 17 at 2 p.m.

John Maltester, music educator, will conduct. The program features music from several countries such as "Florentiner March" from Italy, "Place St. Henri" from Canada,

"Swiss Folk Song" from Switzerland, "Forget Me Not" and "O Dearest Lord" from Germany, "El Camino Real" and "Amparito Roca" from Spain, "Satiric Dances" from Greece, "Gaelic Rhapsody" from Ireland, and finally "Amazing Grace," "Hands Across the Sea," and "Broadway Show Stop-

pers Overture" from the U.S.A.

The band in its 22nd season is made up of 75 talented musicians representing cities throughout the Bay Area, and is one of San Ramon's best-kept secrets.

The "Hands Across The Sea" concert will be held at Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center,

10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. Tickets are \$5 for adults, free for students with a valid ID or youth under 12. Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.sanramonperformingarts.com, by phone at (925) 973-ARTS, or the night of the show, one hour prior to performance.

Choral Groups Perform



Valley Concert Chorale Presents 'Movie and Musical Favorites'

The Valley Concert Chorale, will perform the music of movies and musicals and invite the audience to sing along in May.

The concert is Sat., May 9 at 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Livermore.

The concert will include choral excerpts from classic musicals such as *Oklahoma*, *Brigadoon*, *Carousel*, *The King and I*, the Disney movie *Pinocchio*, as well as today's Broadway hits including *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Miserables*, and many more. In addition, the audience will have a chance to sing along with several well-known songs including selections from *The Sound of Music*.

"It will be an evening of great family entertainment," declared John Emory Bush, the

Chorale's artistic director. "These songs carry memories for many people, tunes they've heard and known for years that will warm hearts."

A special feature of the concert will be the audience's opportunity to sing. "What makes this concert unique is that the audience can sing along with songs they love," stated Chorale president Doris Slater. "It will be a lot of fun."

Tickets are \$18 if purchased in advance, and \$20 at the door. Students age 18 and under are always free. Advance tickets may be ordered by calling (925) 866-4003.

More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available at the website www.valleyconcertchorale.org or by calling the general information line at (925) 866-4003.

Blackhawk Chorus Performs 'Tribute to Sinatra'

The Blackhawk Chorus presents "A Tribute to Frank Sinatra" at spring concerts on May 15 at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Dublin and on May 17 at the Leshar Center in Walnut Creek.

Under the direction of Diane Gilfether, the chorus will perform a series of songs associated with Frank Sinatra that include "A Day in the Life of a Fool," "Luck Be a Lady Tonight," "Someone to Watch Over Me," "But Beautiful," "They Can't Take That Away from Me," and "Dream."

A former opera singer and voice coach, Gilfether has been The Blackhawk Chorus director since its formation. The 130-voice Blackhawk Chorus has built a strong reputation for outstanding performances of great American song standards in challenging arrangements for a mix of male and female voices.

"There isn't a song in the great American songbook that Frank Sinatra didn't perform in his wonderful career," said Gilfether. "We've se-

lected songs that illustrate his extraordinary musical and emotional range, with arrangements for our 130 male and female voices that will light up the stage".

The Blackhawk Chorus' "Tribute to Frank Sinatra" will be accompanied on the piano by its assistant director, Stan Fong, who is leaving the Chorus after 10 years of outstanding service, and by Glenn Staller, guitar, Guido Fazio, saxophone/flute/clarinet, Pat Klobas, string bass and Kelly Fasman, percussion

In addition to the full chorus arrangements of Sinatra songs, the concerts will feature performances by the Blackhawk Jazz, a smaller group from within the Chorus, and by several solo performances.

The May 15 performance at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 7557 Amador Valley Blvd., in Dublin, is at 8pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and can be reserved by calling 925-828-1580. The May 17 performance is at the Leshar Center, 1601 Civic Drive in Walnut Creek at 4pm. Tickets are \$25, and \$17 for children under 11. Call

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Sign up for Wine and Travel Pairing

Through out the ages there has been a special relationship between travel, food and wine. To celebrate this special relationship, Vacation Discounters of San Ramon; Marketplace Travel of Dublin; and Livermore Travel of Livermore, are sponsoring the 2009 Tri-Valley Travel, Food and Wine Pairing Event to be held at the Stony Ridge and Crooked Vine Winery in Livermore, on Sunday, May 17.

This event will take place between 1:00 and 4:30pm.

"Good food, great wine and interesting travel destinations are a surefire recipe for an entertaining and informative afternoon" said Nancy Vinson, President of Vacation Discounters. "Guests to this event can discover the many outstanding vacations, tours and cruise options available to them while enjoying some fine food and award winning wines."

Travel experts from some of world's best cruise lines and tour companies will be available to answer questions and provide up-to-date travel information and present some incredible exclusive travel opportunities for the guest's next vacation.

"This is a great place for travelers to personally talk with the experts, look for new vacation ideas and do a little comparison shopping" said Angela Tarantino, President of Marketplace Travel.

"There will be a continuous program of travel seminars presented on a wide range of interesting worldwide vacation destinations and opportunities," added Tarantino.

Ticket prices are \$25 per person. They must be purchased in advance by calling: (925) 271-4585.

The Tri-Valley Travel, Food and Wine Pairing Event website is located at www.travelpairing.com



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Mother's Day Favorites

Author to Discuss Migrant Workers

The Spanish Department at Las Positas College will host a presentation by Francisco Jimenez, professor at Santa Clara University and author of *Cajas de Carta/The Circuit*, *Breaking Through/Senderos Fronterizos*, *The Christmas Gift/El Regalo de Navidad* and *La Mariposa*.

Jimenez writes for both adults and children. Two of the books featured are for adults and two are for children. The presentation will take place on Thursday, May 7th at 7 p.m. in room 2401 (Building 2400) at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for students of history, English, Spanish and ESL, and anyone who is interested in the life of California migrant workers of the past and present," says Catherine Suarez, foreign language department coordinator.

Jimenez will speak and answer questions and then be available to sign books. Some of his books will be available for purchase at the presentation. In addition to the presentation, the college will serve a traditional Mexican mini-meal. The event is free and the public is invited to attend. Parking is \$2 and tickets may be purchased from ticket machines in the parking lots. For information please contact Catherine Suarez at 424-1212.

Garage Sale Benefits Animals

Valley Humane Society will hold a fund-raising garage sale on Saturday, May 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3229 Curtis Circle, Pleasanton. All proceeds will benefit VHS animal care and adoption services.

The sale will feature a wide variety of donated items including furniture, home decor, household items, collectibles, books, jewelry, toys, and gently used children's and adult's clothing.

To donate items for the sale or for more information, call Vicki Zeigler at 925-484-1224.

Valley Humane Society is a private, nonprofit 501(3)c no-kill organization dedicated to ensuring the humane treatment of animals in Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon and surrounding areas. VHS is located at 3670 Nevada Street, Pleasanton. For information about Valley Humane Society, call 925-426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

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ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Art Shows



An art show, entitled, "The Claude Lorrain Project," will be on display in the Livermore Library Gallery from May 1 to 31. On display are collaborative works six 6 artists, including Livermore residents Myra Latkin and Phyllis Lasche, of the group "Kunstanke," which means "ArtThought" in Norwegian. Prints of the 17th Century artist's work have been transformed with collage, paint, ink, and wax. The original artworks and notecards of these pieces are available for purchase. The opening reception will be held on Wed., May 13, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Community Room A at the Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. There is no admission charge.

Retzlaff Winery will feature local artist Sherri Kelseour's recent oil paintings. She describes her work as a blending of realism and abstraction where color takes flight. The paintings will be on display through June. 25 So. Livermore Ave. at Blacksmith Square. Open W-F from 4 - 6 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 12 - 4:30 p.m.

The Wild Vine Gallery featured artist for May is Judy Chamberlain. She presents her richly symbolic abstract landscapes in oil. The artist's reception will be Thurs., May 14, from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Wild Vine Art Gallery & Wine Lounge, located at 2187 First St., Livermore.

Sympathy, new works by Livermore artist Joanna Crawshaw, exhibited May 1-31, 2009 Artist Reception May 9, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Panama Red Coffee Company, 2115 1st Street, Livermore.

District Art Show, Pleasanton school district art show will be held at the Veterans' Hall, Main Street, Pleasanton, on May 7 (5 - 7 p.m.). The event showcases works in a variety of 2-D and 3-D media created by students from every school in Pleasanton. Accompanying the visual arts exhibitions will be a variety of performances from groups including dances by the Valley View Elementary dual immersion students, music from both the Foothill and Amador Valley programs, and Pleasanton's Teen Poet Laureates.

Fusion Teen Zine deadline extended, Livermore teens: Send art, poetry, and short story submissions to the Livermore Public Library's *Fusion Teen Zine* by May 20, 2009. The first *Fusion Teen Zine* magazine will be published in July of 2009. To view the Submission Guidelines and download the Release Form, please visit Teen Space on the library's website: www.livermore.lib.ca.us. For further

information, please contact Sandy Fouts 925-373-5500 ext. 5583.

Charles R Vineyards is releasing the 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon, May 9 and 10, noon to 4:30 p.m. 8195 Crane Ridge Rd., Livermore. There is no admission charge. Information at 454-3040 or www.charlesvineyards.com. The 2006 Cabernet is described as, "well rounded with warm rich cherry and blackberry flavors, a touch of spice, and velvet finish." Bunches of wild flowers are on the hills. Bring your picnic lunch. Glasses wine are available on the patio. Remember mom on Mother's Day, May 10th, with a special dessert on the patio.

Rodrigue Molyneux Winery families invited to the winery on Mother's Day May 10th stroll the newly planted flower, vegetable and native California garden. Have a glass of wine or a picnic. All moms receive a flower and free tasting. Light food items available for purchase to have as a picnic or pair with a glass of RM wine. 3053 Marina Avenue, Livermore; 925-447-4280 www.rodriquemolyneux.com.

Wood Family Vineyards, Thurs., May 14, 6 to 9 p.m. Dinners Galore and More! Sip & explore! Prepare family dinners while sipping Wood Family Vineyards wines. Wood Family Vineyards wine will be poured. Call Dinners Galore 925-456-3257 or visit www.dinnergalore.com for reservations or information. Make reservation. A second event, Tues., May 21st, 5-8pm. at The Carvery at Harry's Hofbrau located downtown Livermore. Wood Family Vineyards will be sampling wines at the restaurant (no charge).

Audition, J & L Center Stage, world premiere of new drama, "Tough Love," by Pete Simms. Auditions will be held on May 11 from 6 - 9 p.m. Needed: One male-13-15 years of age; 3 males-30-50, One male-60 +; One female-30-50, one female-60 +. Cold reading from script and monologue may be requested also. Rehearsals begin in early June. Show runs July 24th, 25th & 26th at Front Row Theatre in Dougherty Valley Community Center, San Ramon. For more information or to set up an audition, please contact the director, Eric Fraisher at _efhayes65@yahoo.com or call: 312 286-9224.

Great Performances: A free series of classic films hosted by Candace Klaschus, Professor of Media Studies at Las Positas College. She presents a talk about each film prior to the viewing. Programs begin at 7 p.m. May 7, Kitty Foyle; and June 4, Sullivan's Travels. Free and open to all. No registration is required. The Classic Film Series continues every first Thursday of the month through June 4, 2009. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Three Tall Women, Role Players Ensemble, Danville. April 17-May 9. www.danvilletheatre.com.

That's Entertainment: A Gala Benefiting the Firehouse Arts Center, May 16, 6:00-10:00 pm, at the Castlewood Country Club with dining, live entertainment, an art sale and live auction. Tickets are \$140 each. www.pleasantonartsfoundation.org.

2009 Festival of the Arts, Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Fine art exhibit, April 25-May 14. Awards presentation/gala reception, May 6, 5 to 7 p.m. library at the college. 424-1100.

Speech Tournament, Fri., May 8, 1 to 5 p.m. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$10 general admission, \$7 students and seniors. 424-1100.

It's a Spring Fling, Downtown Pleasanton from 5-9 p.m. on Friday, May 8. Presented by the Pleasanton Down-

town Association. There is no admission fee. Shops, restaurants and businesses will celebrate Spring with appetizers, drinks, live entertainment, festive decorations, and lots of surprises. Look for a bouquet of balloons in front of participating locations. Volunteers dressed like Spring Fairies will be handing out programs throughout the evening. Drawings for gift certificates and merchandise at participating businesses. No purchase is necessary to enter the drawings. www.pleasantondowntown.net or call 925-484-2199, Pleasanton Downtown Association.

Movie and Musical Favorites, concert by Valley Concert Chorale. Sat., May 9, 7 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasanton. Tickets www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Niles Canyon Wine Train, The Livermore Rotary Club, will host the excursion will be Sat., May 9 on the Niles Canyon Railroad. Tickets include appetizers, dessert and one complimentary wine tasting for adults and one complimentary soda or water for youth. Entertainment features strolling musicians and the popular comedy of the "Gunfighters of the Old West." The train departs the Sunol Station at 6:30 p.m. and returns at approximately 8:30 p.m. The fare is \$20, which includes one complimentary wine taste and one free soda for the kids. The youth fare (under 21) is \$10.00. Additional wine tickets will be available at the station and on the train. Tickets for this event are available at "The Travel Bug" at 2269 Third Street in Livermore or at the station about one hour before the train leaves if space is available. All proceeds benefit the Rotary's Scholarships and Community Projects. For more information call Kathy Coyle (925) 606-7564.

Wonderland: A Circus Adaptation of Alice in Wonderland, May 9 and 16 at 2 and 7 p.m.; May 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. Created and Performed by the Clown Conservatory of the San Francisco Circus Center. Directed by Jeff Raz of Cirque Du Soleil. Front Row Theater, San Ramon. Tickets, \$14 www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com or 925.973.ARTS.

Diablo Symphony, Contra Costa Children's Chorus performs with symphony in a semi-staged performance of Imant Raminsh's "The Nightingale," a one act opera based on the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale. Orchestra will

play the score for the ballet, "The Three Cornered Hat," by Manuel DeFalla. 2 p.m. May 10, Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. \$12, \$18, \$20. 943-7469. www.lesherartscenter.org.

Vocal Jazz Concert, Fri., May 15, 8 p.m. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$10 general admission, \$7 students and seniors. 424-1100.

Songs for Gratitude, a benefit concert Tri-Valley YMCA, Sat., May 16, 7 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets, call 931-3444 or go to www.civicarttickets.org.

Instrumental Jazz Concert, Sat., May 16, 8 p.m. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. \$10 general admission, \$7 students and seniors. 424-1100.

O'Neill's One Act Play, Playwrights' Theatre performs, The Sniper, The Movie Man, and Shell Shock, plays dealing with the collateral damage of war. May 17, 3 p.m. at the Old Barn, Tao House, Danville. \$25 on sale at the Eugene O'Neill Foundation in Danville, 820-1818, taohouse@pacbell.net or www.eugeneoneill.org.

Hidden Gardens of the Valley, Sun., May 17, eleven private gardens open in Pleasanton, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fund-raiser for Valley Humane Society. \$35. www.valleyhumane.org.

Toying with Science, Sun., May 17, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents Garry Krinsky, who along with the audience delve into the imaginations of scientists who played pivotal roles in the exploration and discovery of concepts that define the world. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Amador Valley High School Presents, choirs, orchestra and jazz - a concert May 18, 7:30 p.m. symphonic band and wind symphony concert at 7 p.m. May 19. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. www.amadorband.org.

Dance Performance, Wed., May 20, 7:30 p.m. featuring Las Positas College students. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org. 424-1100.

One Act Plays, Wed., May 12, 12:30 p.m. and Fri., May 22, 8 p.m. Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Free admission. 424-1100.

Celebration at the Ranch, honors can-

cer survivors and their families. May 21 at Little Hills Ranch, 18013 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Hosted by the Picnic People and sponsored by the East Bay Cancer Collaborative. Lunch provided. Celebration begins at 11 a.m. and lasts until 4 p.m. Includes live music, dancing, games, swimming, bingo, ping-pong, foosball, volleyball, basketball, massages and games for kids. Those wishing to attend should RSVP to May at 934-3319 by Wed., May 27.

History lecture, May 21, "Meet the Museums." An event in the Ed Kinney Lecture Series. Presented by representatives from three area museums at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton. Cost: \$10 donation, \$5 for museum members. Reservations are recommended. For reservations call 462-2766. www.museumonmain.org.

Broadway Chorus, Pleasanton Playhouse presents, The Great Choruses of Broadway. May 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. and May 24 at 2 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at 462-2121 or www.pleasantonplayhouse.com.

Art in the Vineyard, May 24, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wentz Vineyards Estate Winery, Livermore. Art displays and demonstrations, wine tasting (fee), food booths and live music. No admission charge.

Oakland Ballet Company, directed by Ronn Guidi, will perform the full length ballet, "The Secret Garden," based on the Frances Hodgson Burnett's children's classic. May 23 and 24. At 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Bankhead Theater, Livermore Performing Arts Center, 2400 First Street, Livermore. Cost: \$24 to \$40. Information and tickets: www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Foothill Band Concert, featuring concert and jazz bands, Tues., May 26, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Final concert of director Bob Moorefield. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Beethoven's 5th, Thurs., May 28, 8 p.m. Pacific Chamber Symphony performs Beethoven's most well known work. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

One Woman Show, "Through the Eyes of Faith," a show about everything from generational ties, family secrets and what happens when a little girl mixes her Catholic faith with a black Pentecostal Church. May 29, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Cantabella Children's Chorus, Saturday, May 30. Spring concert entitled "Cantemus!" (Let Us Sing!) includes sixteenth century music by Bertaux and Purcell; choral art songs by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms sung in German; an Ecuadorian melody; traditional Native American lyrics; and American folk songs. A commissioned work sung in Korean will be premiered. Students in K-12 grades will perform, accompanied by pianists and other musicians, at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. First concert at 1:30 p.m. featuring Training and Performing Choirs; second concert at 4:00 p.m. featuring Performing Choirs only. Tickets \$10 at the door. More information at (925) 292-2663 and www.cantabella.org.

40th anniversary Pleasanton Art League, hosting its annual art exhibit May 29 through June 1 at the new Alviso Adobe Community Park. The exhibit, which will feature approximately 200 works of art as well as painting demonstrations and an art sale. Open to the public. No admission charge.



CLOSING WEEKEND - Chorus Line, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. May 8, 9, 10. 8 p.m. Fri. and Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets at 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Pictured is the grand finale.

Students Honor Teachers



Pictured are members of the student committee: front row: Ashley Amos, Natalie Dayton back row: Whitney Larson, Bowman Bagley, Michael McKinley, Jordan Last, Morgan Reedy

High school students from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Pleasanton and Dublin hosted the sixth annual Crystal Apple Awards ceremony on Sunday evening, May 3, 7 PM, at the Pleasanton Stake Center in Pleasanton.

This year's recipients were Jill

Battilega and Anne Johnson from Amador High School, Darren Tippit and Mark Wainwright from Dublin High School, JoAnn Koobatian and Scott Gorsuch from Foothill High School, and Liz Paz-Rumore from Quarry Lane School.

The Crystal Apple Award recognizes teachers and administra-

tors who have a particularly strong influence on students in the development of positive moral values and character traits. What makes this award unique is that the teachers are chosen by their students, who also plan the awards ceremony. This year's student steering committee consists of Whitney Larson, Bowman Bagley, Ashley Amos, and Travis Hoxie from Foothill; Chris Hair, Jordan Last, Jessica Schuler, Natalie Dayton, and Meghann Ranieri from Dublin; and Michael McKinley, Amy Black, Morgan Reedy, and Jon Ostlund from Amador.

Beef Ambassador Is Student from Livermore

The Alameda County CattleWomen announced that Livermore resident Malorie Bankhead won the state Beef Ambassador competition over the weekend along with a \$400 prize.

Eleven contestants ages 14-20 from eight counties competed for two titles in the statewide Beef Ambassador competition last Saturday in San Luis Obispo. Alameda County Cattlewomen sent two contestants to the contest; Katelynn Bradford, junior division and Malorie Bankhead, senior division, both girls are Livermore residents.

The contest challenged contestants knowledge of beef industry including beef production, nutrition, and current hot topics. Each contestant wrote a brief response to an industry article and answered questions and identified misinformation in the article.

Contestants were also judged on their ability to think on their feet by conducting a mock consumer promotion event. Contestants were judged on their ability

to educate the consumer and provide them with the appropriate information to answer their questions. Senior division contestants also participated in a mock media interview.

As winner in the Senior Division, Malorie will go on to represent California in Fort Smith Arkansas in October to compete for National Beef Ambassador. Alameda County CattleWomen will proudly co-sponsor Malorie's expenses to the competition. The top speakers at the national contest become part of a team which spends a year traveling and speaking about the beef industry. They also receive a \$1,000 cash prize as well as a \$750 scholarship.

Alameda County CattleWomen is an affiliate of the Contra Costa-Alameda Co. Cattlemen's Association dedicated to promoting the beef industry and agriculture education. For information about Alameda County CattleWomen, go to: <http://www.alamedacountycattlewomen.com>.

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New Restaurant Manager at Wenté

Wenté Family Estates announced today the appointment of Nicolas François to General Manager of The

Restaurant at Wenté Vineyards. François directs all front-of-the-house operations for The Restaurant at Wenté Vineyards, the nationally recognized wine country destination founded in 1986 by the Wenté family.

"Nicolas brings more than eight years

of experience in the fine dining and hospitality industry," said Executive Chef Arthur Wall. "His gracious, sophisticated sense of hospitality and his dedication to teamwork and flawless execution on the dining floor perfectly complements our commitment to creating outstanding cuisine from sustainably-grown ingredients."

François most recently held the position of Dining Room and Special Events Manager at Jeanty at Jack's in the Financial District of San Francisco.

François has also served in managerial positions at Le Bistrot and La Table in San Francisco, and The Lark Creek Inn in Larkspur. A native of France, François attended school at the prestigious Lausanne International Hospitality Management School in Lausanne, Switzerland. After finishing school, François relocated to the Bay Area, where he continued his training at The Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco.

The Restaurant at Wenté Vineyards is located at 5050 Arroyo Road in Livermore Valley.

Artist Invited to Participate

Carolyn Lord, a Livermore artist, has accepted an invitation to be part of the 11th annual Maynard Dixon Country in Mt. Carmel, Utah August 26 - 30.

Lord will join 30 other artists from around the country in the special event. She will present up to four new paintings in the fine art show that opens Friday at 5 p.m. She will also display new works painted during the week's stay in this southern Utah community. The 'wet painting event is 10 a.m. Saturday morning.

Part of the proceeds from these event go to the Thunderbird Foundation for the Arts to support artists retreats on the Maynard Dixon property, scholarships for high school students and art day camps for people with special needs.

For more information go to www.thunderbirdfoundation.com or call Bruce Bell at 801-533-5330 or

5,300+ clients through its 30 offices.

While APR is a regional company with offices only in the San Francisco Bay Area, it is the largest privately-owned and independent residential real estate firm in California and one of the top three in the country. Alain Pinel Realtors has been consistently ranked in the Top 10 firms in the United States. A locally owned family business, the firm was founded in 1990 by Paul Hulme, current Chairman and CEO, and is based in Saratoga, CA.

According to a recent research report produced by REAL Trends, the 500 largest residential real estate brokerage firms in the nation closed 1,891,368 home transactions with a value of over \$560 billion during 2008. The transactions represent close to 30 percent of all new and resale transactions completed by brokers during the year, yet the REAL Trends 500 represented less than three-fifths of one percent of all brokerage firms.

The 2009 REAL Trends 500 represents the most comprehensive collection of data assembled on the leaders of the residential brokerage industry. Numbers are documented by outside accounting firms. Due to 58 ties, there are actually 558 companies listed in the top 500. REAL Trends, Inc. is a research, publishing and communication company located in Denver serving the information needs of the residential real estate industry.

For more information about Alain Pinel Realtors, please visit www.apr.com.

Dancers Chosen for Summer Program

Johanna Lamboy and Shawna Stinson, students at Spotlight Arts Academy of Dance and Music, have been accepted into the Burklyn Ballet Theatre Summer Program.

The Burklyn Ballet Theatre program is for the 12-25 year old pre-professional dancers. This program offers weekly performance opportunities to all dancers in their 450 seat state-of-the-art theatre. Dancers take three classes daily taught by internationally acclaimed master teachers, and rehearse for the weekly performance. Compulsory seminars in stage craft, make-up, nutrition, Pilates, and career counseling are given weekly. Dancers audition within the 50 states for acceptance into this prestigious program.

Spotlight Arts Academy of Dance and Music is the home of two performance companies which perform competitively and for various community events. Spotlight Arts Academy is located at 6979 Sierra Court, Dublin, (925) 828-9722; www.spotlightaa.com

Alain Pinel Realtors

Alain Pinel Realtors (APR) was ranked the eighth largest real estate firm in the United States based on its sales volume in 2008 according to REAL Trends 500, a compilation of a nationwide study of leading residential real estate companies. The firm had a sales volume of \$5.7 billion in 2008 (\$1.1 million per transaction) and served

Coldwell Banker

NRTL LLC, residential real estate brokerage company, announced today that veteran real estate executive Rick Turley has been named president of one of its newly reorganized companies, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Turley most recently was president of the company's operations in the North Bay, San Francisco and the Peninsula. In his expanded role, he will now also oversee the East Bay, Silicon Valley and Monterey Peninsula. Turley will oversee the daily operations of 49 offices and more than 3,000 sales associates.

With more than 20 years in the real estate industry, Turley began his career with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in 1986. An award-winning real estate professional, he was promoted to manager of the company's Lakeside and Market Street offices in San Francisco. Over the years, he assumed increasing supervisory and operational responsibilities, including overseeing some of the company's most successful offices in San Francisco, Marin County and the Peninsula and recruiting top agents into Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

Turley said his goals for the San Francisco Bay Area region include leveraging the talents and deep experience of the company's office managers and nationally renowned agents, as well as continuing to recruit top professionals to help with future growth.

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Scholars Shine at Mendenhall Middle School Academic Olympics

By Patricia Koning

On the morning of Saturday, April 4, about 50 Mendenhall Middle School students and their families came to the school bright and early to compete in the 15th annual Academic Olympics.

"The District is so proud of the Mendenhall Middle School students who showed off their academic prowess in mathematics, science, history and language arts at the school's Academic Olympics this year," said Livermore School Superintendent Brenda Miller, who served as a judge for the event.

The students competed on teams of three, with one student from each grade level. They earned their spots on the teams by scoring well on tests on the various subjects given in the weeks leading up to the event. A total of nine teams competed in each hour-long event.

Science teacher Leslie Finn, who was the staff lead for the event, explains that the questions for each topic are chosen from the standards-based curriculum. The trickier math questions are similar to those used in the MathCounts program. The questions are deliberately chosen from each grade level's most challenging material.

"I volunteer to lead Academic Olympics because it is important to give students the opportunity to showcase their academic talents. I especially enjoy watching the teams debate while selecting their answer," she says. "I am proud of how the teachers, staff, and PTSA volunteers come together to make the event a success."

Judges for the event included Miller, Mendenhall Principal Helen Foster, Vice Principal Al Bernal, Curriculum Program Assistant Heidi Novell, and retired Mendenhall teacher Kaarin Brown.

Several students ended the night with multiple medals. Sara Cai, Alex Cyr, Ryan Stuart, and Jane Wu all came home with three medals each. A number of students were repeat winners, having earned medals in 2008, including Tyler Eckles, Jeff Katen, Julie Lee, Jeremy Martin, Justin Orlino, Christina Orlino, and Advaita Panchagnula. The winners of the 2009 Mendenhall Academic Olympics are:

Language Arts: Gold - Jeff Katen, Julia Lee, and Jane Wu; Silver - Alex Cyr, Sara Cai, and Ryan Stuart; Bronze - Tyler Eckles, Kayla Fitzgerald, and Enikoe Bihari.

Social Studies: Gold - Advaita Panchagnula, Sara Cai, and Taylor Cole; Silver - Alex Cyr, Morgan Brandt, and Jane Wu; Bronze - Zachary Carcelli, Sara Novell, and Ryan Stuart.

Science: Gold - Jeremy Martin, Karbi Choudhury, and Weston Nale; Silver - Josh Snyder, Anastasia Goold, and Kaylin Schirmer; Bronze - Justin Orlino, Sara Cai and Dakota Pena.

Math: Gold - Alex Cyr, Christine Orlino, and Jane Wu; Silver - (tie) Jeff Katen, Karbi Choudhury, Enikoe Bihari, Tyler Eckles, Anastasia Goold, and Ryan Stuart.

A New School Garden for Portola Elementary

"Teachers will also be using their individual garden plots to teach student responsibility and caring, which in turn reinforces what I teach in Science Lab."

By Patricia Koning

Students at Portola Elementary School can hardly wait until the corn, squash, beans, strawberries, carrots, herbs, and other fruits and vegetables in their school garden begin growing. The school now has seven fully planted raised garden beds with complete irrigation systems, seating in the garden, and flower boxes for each classroom thanks to a community effort that encompasses the school, Livermore School District's Campus Catering, Livermore BELIEVES, and the City of Livermore.

"This is really a great thing for the kids at our school," says Kim Farrand, coordinator of Livermore BELIEVES. "It was really a wonderful collaboration to get this project going, with lots of support from different agencies."

On Saturday, April 25 the school held Family Day in the Garden at which parents, children, school staff, Livermore Rotary members, Boy Scout Troop 2391, several Girl Scout troops, and community members worked together to reestablish the school garden. Farrand says the old garden was basically nonexistent since the school underwent renovation a few years ago.

"There's a lot of excitement about restoring the school garden," says Portola principal Maria Ramirez. "We're grateful for the community support, donations by local businesses, and Kim Farrand for making this project happen."

Portola science specialist Paula Glines says the school's Science

Lab will utilize the garden space in the fall for Life Science studies. "Teachers will also be using their individual garden plots to teach student responsibility and caring, which in turn reinforces what I teach in Science Lab," she adds. "Family Day in the Garden carries on our tradition of involving students, parents, and staff to work together in the spirit of community and 'Portola Pride' to make our school a beautiful place to learn and grow."

The garden project started with a \$2,500 Garden Grant from the California Department of Education, Nutrition Services Division in partnership with the Network for Healthy California office at the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE). In the fall, a Portola Garden Committee was formed with Farrand and Ramirez; Barbara Lee, Sally Reese, and Jamie Jessup from Campus Catering; and Frances Reisner and Tim Shurtleff from the City of Livermore's Housing and Human Services Department.

"As we began discussing the potential of the Portola garden, excitement really flourished," says Lee.

Joan May, one of the school's cafeteria workers, started growing plants from seed for the garden. Reese and Jessup along with some Portola parents attended Urban School Gardener training sessions offered by the ACOE.

On May 21, the regular ACOE Urban School Gardener training session will take place at Portola. "Other districts in Alameda

County that have been participating in the Urban School Gardener training will come to Portola to see what we have done and also help with planting for a hands-on learning activity," explains Lee.

She intends to use produce from the garden in Cooking Together classes next fall. Cooking Together classes are funded by a grant from the Kaiser Permanente Community Benefits program and produced by Campus Catering. Classes have been held at Portola and Marilyn, and this spring, at the Livermore Farmer's Market.

"The garden provides us another opportunity to encourage healthy habits and the benefits while teaching healthful cooking techniques. We are always open to partnerships that benefit the health of the students and build community," says Lee. "We are proud to be connected to a great project that will have short term and long term benefits for the students."

The Livermore BELIEVES program will care for the garden and incorporate it into their academic enrichment activities. Farrand says BELIEVES will use the garden for partner reading, art lessons, and studying insects and plants among other activities.

BELIEVES stands for Broaden Enrich Lives, Instill Educational Values, Encourage Students and is funded through a Proposition 49 After School Education and Safety (ASES) Grant. Both Portola and Marilyn have BELIEVES programs, which are free of charge and open to any student at the school.

Funds Go to Help Pediatric Cancer Patients

The 2nd annual Team KC poker tournament will be held Sat., May 9 at Mitchell Katz Winery in Pleasanton from 6 p.m. to midnight.

The tournament is in memory of Korrine Lannie Croghan. The goal is to raise money for pediatric

cancer patients and their families.

Buy in tickets are \$75, which includes dinner and game play, Texas Hold'em, and Casino games. There will be a silent auction. Drink tickets are 5 for \$25 at a beer and wine bar.

This event is open to individu-

als 18 years and older. The bar is open only to those age 21 and over.

For more information or tickets, go to the website: www.korrinecroghan.blogspot.com.

Mitchell Katz Winery is located at 1188 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will hold a **Garage Plant Sale** on Saturday, May 16 from 9am to 3pm at 336 Sycamore Road, Pleasanton (off Sunol Blvd.). Many annuals, perennials, vegetables and succulents will be for sale at low, low prices. These plants are tenderly grown by club members. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the club's community projects. For more information on this sale, please call Bev at 925-485-7812.

Grand Finale, May 16, Castle Rock Restaurant, Texas Hold'em Tournament. Benefit for Livermore High School Safe and Sober Grad Night. Sign in 7 p.m., first hand 7 p.m. Special menu and bar available for purchase. Cash prizes. Buy in \$40, re-buy \$20, add-on \$20. Prepaid reservations receive \$200 in extra chips. Reservations due by May 9 at 5 p.m., walk-ins welcome. Information at patticoggin@comcast.net or 294-9213.

On-line auction, Valley Christian Schools is planning the 4th Annual Children of Faith Auction. This year's theme is "Foundation For Your Future." The auction is on-line May 13-27. www.valleyauction.org.

The Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated will host guest speaker Steve Giraud, Director of the NorCal Minutemen Defense Corps, at a dinner meeting starting 6:30pm on Thursday, May 14, at Cattlemen's Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore. Discussion will focus on the Minutemen's efforts to secure the borders and coastal boundaries against the unauthorized entry of individuals and contraband. \$26 for members, \$30 for nonmembers. Advance reservations are required no later than Saturday, May 9. Call (925) 846-5944.

Essential Tremor, East Bay Essential Tremor Support Group meets 10 a.m. to noon the third Saturday of each month in Blackhawk A&B conference rooms at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Rd., San Ramon. Those recently diagnosed with ET or wanting to learn more about the most common movement disorder, welcome to attend. Information, call 487-5706 or email galexplor@comcast.net.

Free teen workshop, ways to keep busy, have fun and stay safe over summer vacation. Pleasanton Community Counseling Center will lead discussion of plans, goals, potential pitfalls, peer pressure and ideas for safety and support. Sat., May 16, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Pleasanton Library. Snacks and a \$10 jamba juice gift card for attendance. Call Jenny to register, 600-9762, ext. 7#.

Tri-Valley Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind meets Saturday, May 9, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Cafeteria Room 2 at Valley Memorial Hospital in Livermore, 1111 East Stanley Blvd. Do you know anyone who is blind or is experiencing vision loss? Our organization can help people to adjust. Any visually impaired or blind person is urged to attend. Call, Carl, 449-9362 for more info.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., May 9, 47 miles Shannon Center in Dublin to Castro Valley and Moraga Commons, meet 9 a.m. Peter Rathmann, 336-0973. Sun., May 10, 60 miles Livermore up Mines Rd. to junction, meet 9 a.m. at former Nob Hill parking lot, Steve Whelan, 831-8258. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Amador Valley Quilters meet at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 9 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Pleasanton. The meeting will feature the Annual Silent Auction. Items to be auctioned off relate to all aspects of quilting. Anyone interested in quilting is invited to attend. For more information visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

9th Annual Garden Tour, sponsored by the Danville-Alamo Branch of the American Association of University Women Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Four gardens in Alamo and four gardens in Danville. \$35 ticket except \$25 for seniors 65+. No

children under 12 please. Tickets with garden locations are at East Bay Flower Co., 206 Sycamore Valley Rd., W. Danville. Questions? Call Mary, (925)831-1784 or email gardentour@aauw-da.org All proceeds benefit AAUW's Educational Foundation which supports aspiring female scholars. More information at www.aauw-da.org.

Birds of Mt. Wanda, free morning walk Sat., May 9, John Muir National Historic Site. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the CalTrans Park and Ride, corner of Alhambra Ave. and Franklin Canyon Rd., Martinez. Bring water and binoculars. Wear good walking shoes, trail is steep. Heavy rain cancels. Information, 228-8860.

Free voice lessons, Pride of the Pacific, a women's a cappella chorus, offering free voice lessons for four weeks starting May 27, on Wednesdays 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. followed by rehearsal with the chorus. Aahmes Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. Information, www.prideofpacificchorus.org or 426-0266.

Garage sale for animals, Sat., May 9, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3229 Curtis Circle, Pleasanton. All proceeds benefit Valley Humane Society animal care and adoptions services. Furniture, home decor, household items, collectibles, books, jewelry, toys and gently used children's and adults' clothing. To donate items for the sale or for more information, call Vicki Zeigler, 484-1224.

Workshop: Coping Well With Financial Stress Here and Now; Being Present is 90% of Adaptively Handling Stress to Achieve Success. Asbury United Methodist Church is hosting this workshop offered by Will Joel Friedman on Saturday, May 16 from 9:30 to noon. 2 1/2 hour interactive. Suggested donation for the workshop is \$10 per person or \$15 per couple. Purchase tickets in advance to ensure there will be enough materials. Tickets are available in the office at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore, phone 925-447-1950 ext. 4.

Women's Council of Realtors Southern Alameda County Chapter, "Blog Me Up Scottie," Annual Past President's Event Presents Technology Today. A panel of tech savvy specialists will talk about what is pertinent in today's Real Estate Market. Panel includes Mark Flavin, Bay East Assn.; Doug Buenz, Alain Pinel Realtors; Shawna Jorat, Keller Williams. Tuesday, May 12, Raddison Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. 11:15-11:45 networking, 11:45-1:30 lunch and program. \$25 member reservation, \$30 non-member guest and nonreservation. Contact Ray J. Marquez, GRI, e-PRO Keller Williams Tri-Valley, 925 397-4200, 925 698-4663, 925 315-8425 Fax, or www.RayMarquez.com.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, sponsoring a candlelight Vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton, May 13, Wednesday, at 7 p.m. Participants will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Questions?? Call Cathe Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net.

Tri-Valley Vegetarian Potluck, Saturday, May 16th, from 1pm to 4pm. This event will allow Tri-Valley residents to share plant-based foods and listen to a guest speaker talk about the relationship between food, health and the environment. Participation is open to everyone. The San Ramon Library is located at 100 Montgomery St. in San Ramon. For further information, persons can call 925-989-1811 and www.ThriveHolistic.com. Lisa and Bob Williams are hoping to start a vegetarian club or group in the Tri-Valley. This is the kickoff event.

ClutterLess Self Help Support Group, (CL) is a nonprofit, peer-based, self-help support group for people with difficulty discarding unwanted possessions. Meetings in Room 7 at 7 pm. every Monday 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the St. Mary & St. John Coptic Orthodox Church. Room 7, 4300 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton.

Brain Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at Towne Center

Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. From 7 to 7:30 is open discussion and planning. We discuss the featured book from 7:30-8:30. On May 6 there will be a discussion of Mind Wide Open by Steven Johnson, led by David Oakley, a retired physicist. Book is available from Towne Center Books, (925) 846-8826.

Armchair Travelers, Thurs., May 14, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Frank Rainer will share digital photographs of his travels to some of the both well-known and remote islands in the Pacific. Adults are invited to this free program on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Rooms of the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. For additional information please call 925 373-5500.

Single Cougars of all ages are invited to meet new friends at the Tri-Valley's first-ever Single Cougars Party, Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 7-9 p.m., at Faz Restaurant at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 5121 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. This event is sponsored by The Society of Single Professionals. The cost is \$10 at the door, which includes a fun Mixer Game, plus appetizers first hour. Anyone wishing more information about this and many more events for single professionals may visit www.ThePartyHotline.com or call 415/507-9962.

Mt. Diablo Rose Society, meets Wed., May 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza. Emma Connery will discuss the topic, "All about bugs." All meets are free and open to the public. Information contact newsletter editor Vicky Shore at 200-6972.

Sons in Retirement (SIRS), informal social group of active retired men who meet once a month for lunch. No fees, dues, etc. Variety of activities offered from golf to dinner dance. Further information, go to sir.org or contact Chuck Petty, 447-4704, cpontrail@comcast.net.

Livermore High School 1971-74 Reunion, Aug. 8, Rod and Gun Club in Livermore, no host bar, buffet dinner. Tickets \$45, couples \$85. Information Mike Lutz, 988-8655, Jeff Hannon, 209-243-2712; Phil Martin, 650-454-6218; Shauna Pope, 456-0576.

email LHS71-74reunion@hotmail.com.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Happy hour in Pleasanton, May 15, 4:30 p.m., RSVP by May 13 to Lorraine, 847-6000. Lunch in Livermore, Poppy Ridge Golf Course, May 17, 1 p.m., RSVP by May to Pauline, 447-6779.

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District's OSHA Training Center will offer an OSHA 3010 Excavation, Trenching and Soil Mechanics course on May 11 through 13 to help construction businesses reduce the risk of trenching and excavation hazards. The three-day course, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course will train workers on how to identify and control hazardous situations related to excavation and trenching work. 5020 Franklin Dr., Pleasanton. For more information and to register for the course visit www.osha4you.com, or call (866) 936-OSHA.

Parenting class, A one-day introduction to Positive Discipline class will be held on May 9th from 8:30 - 4:30 in Livermore. This workshop will help parents and teachers learn to develop better relationships with children. Positive Discipline is based on mutual respect, personal responsibility and problem solving skills. Improve your relationships with your children and students and feel better about yourself too! The cost is \$175.00 with a discount for couples. The day long workshop is suitable for parents of children of all ages, teachers, and mental health professionals. The workshop will be presented by Laurie Prusso, a Certified Positive Discipline Associate and community college professor. 6 Professional Growth Hours and California CEU's are available. For More Information: Contact Laurie Prusso, 925-449-7117. Additional information is available at positivediscipline.org

Free computer training classes at the Livermore Public Library include. Introduction to Microsoft Word, Saturday, May 2, 10:15am - 12:15pm; E-mail Basics, Saturday, May 9, 10:15am - 12:15pm; and Introduction to the Internet, Saturday, May 16, 10:15am - 12:15pm. Classes are hands-on, first come, first served, and take place in Community Room B. For more information call 373-5505

Hoofprints Fair, Saturday, May 16 from 11 am to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Hoofprints on the Heart Adaptive Riding Center at the historic

Hagemann Ranch, 455 Olivina Ave. in Livermore. The fair will include food, arts and crafts, children's activities, equine demonstrations and live local music. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, 6 and under free. Tickets can be purchased in advance via Pay Pal at www.hotharc.com. This fund raising event is being held to help us build a much needed covered arena. HOTHARC is a nonprofit serving Bay Area children who are physically and/or mentally challenged. For more information contact: Pat Murray 925/858-9922.

RELIGION

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

Jesus the Jew & The Roman Empire is part of the 2008-2009 L.I.F.E. (Lessons in Faith Experiences) adult education series presentation on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:30-9:00 pm at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 1315 Lomitas Ave., in Livermore. Author of The Historical Jesus for Dummies, Catherine Murphy an Associate Professor of New Testament at Santa Clara University and part of the publication team working on the Dead Sea Scrolls will be the guide for the evening. The presentation is open to all. A \$5.00 free will donation is suggested to offset speaker fees. For more information contact Julie at upatholic@aol.com or 447-4549 ext 114.

Aglow International Tri-Valley Light-house, meets 7 to 9:30 p.m. May 15 at International House of Prayer at Parkway Baptist Church 7485 Village Parkway, Dublin. Guest speaker is Chad Taylor. Contact Information: Shannon Granado 925-980-0431, Suzanna Martinez 925-462-5840, Sandra Diaz 408-829-5300, or Kathy Bireley 925-443-3555.

Tri-Valley Unity Church now meets at 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon, for weekly Sunday services at 10 a.m. On May 10, guest speaker Dr. Richard Southern will speak on "What is Waiting to be Born in Us: Nurturing the Spiritual Life." All are welcome. Ongoing classes and small groups. www.trivalleyunity.com (925) 829-2733.



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