

Don't Miss It!

Art, Community, & Education



The Independent now has a second section.

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.



Vintage Aircraft To Land at the Livermore Airport

The 2009 Wings of Freedom Tour will land in Livermore over the Memorial Day weekend. The planes, a B-17, B-24, and P-51, will arrive at around noon on May 24 and depart May 26 from the Livermore Airport.

Possibly, the "new" German World War II ME-262 jet (world's first) fighter, will also land in Livermore.

The B-17 was made famous in its role in the Daylight Strategic Bombing Campaign of WWII and the post-war movies. It is one of only fourteen B-17s still flying in the United States.

The Wings of Freedom Tour brings historic aviation to Livermore through a tour of the authentically restored aircraft or take a flight aboard.

A few World War II veterans will be on hand to discuss the (See AIRCRAFT, page 7)

Drive the Future

Members of the public will have an opportunity to see and drive hydrogen powered cars in Livermore.

The California Fuel Cell Partnership road tour is making a stop in the city on Thurs., May 28. About a dozen cars will be parked on the Old Lucky site in downtown Livermore between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. A refueling station will also be present.

Sandia Laboratories (See HYDROGEN, page 5)



Voters went to the polls Tuesday to determine the fate of six state propositions. Pictured voting at the Lighthouse Church in Pleasanton is Gavino Felix with his son Joshua, age 3.

NOTICE

Due to technical difficulties, The Independent editor was unable to receive emails sent Monday or Tuesday. Information sent during that time period was unable to be published in the May 21 Independent.

Power Line Plan Meeting Set in Livermore

By Ron McNicoll

A public meeting arranged by the Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) and Transmission Association of Northern California (TANC) is expected to answer many of questions about a proposal by 15 cities to run new power lines through the Valley.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. May 27 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. People who plan to attend should call first to the TVC at 449-8706. The meeting room will hold 120 people, and if more space is needed, TVC will move the session into a bigger room at the center.

The meeting comes only four

days before the May 31 deadline for submitting comments in the scoping portion of the EIR preparation for the 600-mile project. The lines will start in Lassen County and end in Santa Clara. The idea is to make the lines available for solar, wind and geothermal power to be developed in Lassen County, for transmission.

Jim Beck, executive director of the TANC, said that the 600 megawatts that it would produce is "a target number." The state is under a mandate to run at least 33 percent renewable energy in the state power grid by 2020, said Beck. All of the power in TANC's project would be green.

However, where the project joins with other lines in the state grid would be mixed power.

TANC is a consortium of 15 California cities and water agencies that have their own public power departments. They banded together to be able to bring green power to their members.

Beck said, "There is no project at this time. These are proposed study areas." He estimated that if things proceed without delay, construction would begin in the summer of 2011 or 2012. It would be in service by 2014 or 2015. The project's co-sponsor is a federal agency, the Western Area Power Association (WAPA).

Unlike private power compa-

nies, TANC and WAPA don't have to go to a third party, such as the California PUC for approval of the project. Their own boards make the decision. The only rules they must follow are the environmental regulations in CEQA.

IMPACT COULD BE BIG ON VALLEY

The power lines would make a big impact on the Valley, especially in South Livermore wine country, said growers and the TVC. No one at the public grassroots level knew about the proposal until early May, so the reaction has been setting in only during the past week or two.

The power lines, as reported last week, would come into the

Valley in the Altamont, strung through South Livermore wine country, run across Highway 84 from Ruby Hill in Pleasanton, and then through the Sunol Valley near the Sunol County Club and Golf Course.

Local winegrowers are upset over the direct impact on their property values, and also a dimming of wine country's image, which they say would hurt tourism for everyone in the area.

The TVC is concerned about the conservation easements it has on 55 parcels that could be affected by the route.

The Alameda County portion of the proposal falls entirely (See POWER, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The annual Livermore Scottish Games were held over the weekend at Robertson Park. Pictured is one of the pipe bands marching in the opening ceremonies. In addition, there were historic re-enactments, dancing, and a variety of other entertainment.

Milestone Reached in Planning for Regional Theater

Calling it a milestone, the Livermore City Council last week, approved an agreement that brings a regional theater one step closer to downtown Livermore.

Mayor Marshall Kamena commented that people of national stature have been studying this project. Four of the councilmembers campaigned in support of the regional theater. "However, that doesn't make us wed to the idea. I don't think I've seen more public scrutiny on any other project.

"Buying performance talent is one of the easiest things to do. You have to have a building first. It has taken five years to refine this agreement. This is an exciting opportunity to do something really bold. I believe it is our responsibility to make the decision, to accept the credit or the blame. I think this theater is a good idea."

The council was unanimous in support of a Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) between the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) and the Liver-

more Valley Performing Art Center (LVPAC). The DDA spells out the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties to the agreement.

LVPAC is required to design, construct and operate the regional theater. RDA brings land to the project. When land acquisition, relocation of tenants, remediation, demolition and parking improvements are added to the 30 year payments of principal, interest, and financing expenses, the cost in today's dollars is \$70 million.

LVPAC's payments include its share of principal, interest and financing costs, as well as operating expenses for a total of \$32.5 million in today's dollars.

Tax increment funds will be used to make RDA payments. These are funds that are available as property values increase over the life of the redevelopment district. If the RDA had not been formed, these funds would go to the county or state. No one within the district or anywhere in the city would have property (See THEATER, page 5)

Cherry Murray Leaving Lab for Post at Harvard

For a woman who wasn't supposed to be able to make it at MIT, Cherry Murray has come a long way.

She's the most senior female scientific manager in the history of Lawrence Livermore Lab, president of the American Physical Society, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a participant in countless scientific review committees.

And yes, she earned her degrees at MIT, both bachelor and doctoral degrees, and then was heavily recruited by prospective employers.

Now she is about to depart for "the opportunity of a lifetime," to become the first woman dean of Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, effective July 1.

The funny thing is, she didn't always want to be a scientist. Early in her life, she saw herself as an artist. Her parents, both artistic, had met in a class at an artists' colony in Taos, N.M. Her father's first career was teaching, but along came the Korean War

and military duty. Cherry was born in 1952 at Ft. Riley, Kans., and found herself in distant parts of the world after her father moved to the diplomatic corps. She grew up in places like Pakistan, Japan, Indonesia and Korea when her family wasn't stationed in the Washington, D.C., area.

By seventh grade, in Japan, she was recognized as bright enough to be put into accelerated classes when they were available. Two years later, in Alexandria, Va., an inspirational chemistry teacher instilled a love of science and its challenges.

However, the event that might have influenced her early career most was a provocative statement by her brother, John, who many years later would come to Livermore and play a major role in designing the National Ignition Facility.

Long before that, in 1957, John was one of those who responded to the shock of Sputnik, the Russian satellite launch that woke millions of Americans to a

(See MURRAY, page 3)



Cherry Murray

The Independent Expands Local News, New Mail Delivery

The Independent has expanded its news coverage and is in the process of changing its system of mail delivery.

The newspaper now features a second section that includes stories related to art, the community and education. The main section will continue to provide readers with local news. It will include the editorial page, letters to the editor, and sports.

In order to keep receiving The Independent free of charge, we need to hear from you.

You can assure delivery of The Independent by returning the prepaid subscription request card inserted in this week's Independent. Alternatively, you can phone the office at 243-8000.

A third method of providing information needed by the post office would be to visit www.independentnews.com and follow the home page link that will enable you to email a subscription request card directly to the newspaper.

Please act now if you would like to continue receiving The Independent at no charge.

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PET OF THE WEEK

O Captain! My Captain! Captain was found in a neighborhood, wandering from house to house in search of food. He is one of the biggest lap cats you will ever meet! His fur was so matted that he was given a "lion clip" so that he could walk without pain. To meet Captain, visit Valley Humane Society's Kitty City at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM. Visit the web site www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8565 for more details.



Teacher of the Year Debbie Harvey

Debbie Harvey Selected as Pleasanton Teacher of the Year

The Pleasanton Unified School District has named Debbie Harvey as Teacher of the Year for 2009/10. Ms. Harvey is a Consumer and Family Studies teacher at Amador Valley High School. Her classes this year include Foods 101 and 102, Caring, and Child Growth and Development. She came to Pleasanton Unified in 1990, teaching for 6 years at Pleasanton Middle School before moving to Amador Valley in 1996. She had previous teaching experience in Hayward and Long Beach.

According to her nomination, "Mama Harvey" (as her students call her) sets high expectations for all students. Her classes offer the opportunity for practical application of reading, math, and writing skills and for development of time-management, organization, cooperation, and inter-

personal skills.

Her catering class serves student, district and community events. She has served as department chair, participated in the school's accreditation process, and acts as a representative to the Tri-Valley Educational Collaborative. She is active in 4-H and FFA (Future Farmers of America) and is the advisor for the FHA-HERO club. Her colleagues say that Debbie has a knack for reaching all students and providing an environment where they can be successful.

She will now be in the running for Alameda County Teacher of the Year which will be announced in late October. She follows the 2008/09 Teacher of the Year, Dennis Aquilina, band instructor at Hart Middle School.

Happy Talkers Outreach Fair Set for May 30

The School of Imagination (SOI) and Child Care Links will hold the "Happy Talkers Community Outreach Fair," on May 30 in Dublin. It will be largest and most comprehensive, free developmental delay and autism early intervention workshop for parents and their children in Bay Area history.

SOI officials say the Outreach Fair, to be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 7625 Ridgeline Dr. at the Schaefer Ranch Model Homes in Dublin, breaks ground in the Bay Area. Parents will not only receive free early autism detection and developmental screenings but also immediate referrals to agencies onsite and a chance to change their children's future. To register or learn more about this event, please call (877) KIDS-TLC or go the website at www.schoolofimagination.org/outreach.

More than 50 volunteers, including pediatricians, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, child development specialists, psychologists, social workers, audiologists as well as officials from the Regional Center and school districts, will provide any Bay Area parent with recommendations and a roadmap "if necessary."

The Dublin-based, non-profit School Imagination serves the

child care, pre-school and kindergarten needs of typically developing children and children with developmental disabilities in the Bay Area.

"We launched the Happy Talkers Community Outreach Fair as part of our mission to ensure that every child receives help as early as possible," said Charlene Sigman, a speech therapist who founded the School of Imagination. "For a child in need, help will begin the very same day. Parents will receive information as well as relief from experts and ultimately a chance to change their child's future. They can learn about developmental milestones, new ideas and cutting edge therapies to empower them so they can make educated decisions about their child's education and development."

The Fair was launched through partnerships with Child Care Links, California First Five-Alameda County, Pleasanton North Rotary Club, Comcast, Schaefer Ranch Homes of Dublin and the City of Dublin.

Organizations that are providing clinical and referral services include Tri-Valley Pediatrics, Regional Center of the East Bay, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, ValleyCare Health Systems, Axis Community Health, Autism Speaks and the Doug Flutie Jr.

Foundation.

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti and former Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart are among the SOI supporters expected to

attend the Fair.

For more information, or to reach our Parent Support network, contact (877) KIDS-TLC or go the website at www.schoolofimagination.org.

McNerney to Host Veterans History Project in Pleasanton

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) will host the Veterans History Project in cities throughout the Tri-Valley and Central Valley areas. The goal of the Veterans History Project is to collect and preserve the firsthand accounts of American war veterans by archiving video and audio recordings of their remembrances at the Library of Congress.

"I'm proud to help preserve the accounts of the many brave men and women from our area that served our nation," said McNerney. "I hope that these remembrances will serve as inspiration for future generations."

Students from McNair High School's Communications Department, Pleasanton Middle School, and California High School's Regional Occupational Video Production Program will

be taking part in the project. The students will conduct one-on-one interviews with veterans and compile an audio or video recording of the account that will be submitted to the Library of Congress.

Congressman McNerney is hosting the Veterans History Project locally at the following location: Pleasanton Friday, May 22nd, at McNerney's Pleasanton office, 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 175, Pleasanton, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Veterans interested in the project should call Congressman McNerney's office in advance to schedule a time to participate. Congressman McNerney's Stockton office can be reached at (209) 476-8552 and his Pleasanton office at (925) 737-0727.

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MURRAY

(continued from page one)

dramatic recognition of the importance of science and technology.

In secondary school at the time, John soon headed for MIT, where he eventually became a PhD candidate. That's where the story returns to Cherry, who was spending her last two years of high school at an American school in Seoul, Korea, focusing on art, reading math and physics on her own.

Visiting during vacation from his tough MIT PhD program, John told Cherry that she would never make it in physics. "I could definitely not hack MIT," she recalls.

Not one to back down from a challenge, she applied to MIT and CalTech among other schools. (Her mother wanted her to go to Rice to obtain a teaching credential.) She didn't realize that at the time that CalTech did not accept women. Accepted everywhere else, she shrugged off the CalTech rejection and cheerfully traveled halfway around the world to MIT to arrive just as brother John was finishing up his PhD.

Despite his earlier pessimism, he was helpful. She graduated in 1973, stayed on for graduate studies, and by 1978, she had her PhD.

Murray recalls her days at MIT as challenging, but not painfully so. She worked hard and considers herself fortunate in several ways, not least in her exposure to a remarkable mentor and role model, Mildred Dresselhaus, a prize-winning physicist who later became director of the Department of Energy's Office of Science. Dresselhaus helped Cherry and other young women not only with technical issues but with the kinds of presentations that graduate students often dread, but have to make.

"She was very positive," Murray would recall in a later interview. "Her criticism was a very polite criticism...unlike some of the professors."

Murray moved on to Bell Labs, where she was (and remains) extremely impressed by the quality of the researchers and their freedom to pursue science with far-reaching effects. She made her own contributions, particularly in the area of surface physics, and rose rapidly through the ranks to department head, director of the physical research lab, vice president, then senior

vice president. In 1989, she was awarded the American Physical Society's Maria Goeppert Mayer award "to recognize and enhance outstanding achievement by a woman physicist in the early years of her career." In 2005, she won APS's prestigious George Pake Prize for research and scientific leadership.

By then, she was at Lawrence Livermore, where she had been hired the previous year as deputy director for science and technology. At the time of the contract change in 2007, she became principal associate director for science and technology.

In announcing her impending departure, Laboratory director George Miller called Murray "a critical force in focusing the Laboratory's science and technology capabilities on the major challenges facing our country in national security, energy and environmental and economic sustainability."

As a member of review committees for major national organizations such as the National Research Council and the Department of Homeland Security, she had experience with national security efforts before she came to Livermore. However, she says she has "learned a huge amount" more about national security in the past five years. She is impressed with the "excellence of science and technology" at the Laboratory and the importance of the Lab's work to the country, and expects to remain involved as a consultant in future years.

But she has also experienced disappointments. The most serious is observing "the incredible bureaucratic oversight" by the National Nuclear Security Administration, especially the "waste of time and money" associated with the 2007 contract change at the Livermore Lab.

The change has brought in "some good people." "On the whole, one could argue that federal dollars were not well spent on the process."

Murray is not entirely comfortable with science theory alone. She values the combination of fundamental and applied science that she saw at Bell Labs and that is embodied in national labs like Lawrence Livermore. It includes the stimulating interaction in which goal-oriented research demands a better understanding of basics and the new basic knowledge opens wider realms of application. Her his-

torical model for the process is Louis Pasteur, whose life-saving medical practice both spurred and benefited from a greater understanding of the role of germs in disease.

She is seriously worried about the future ability of the U.S. to meet the technical demands of competition in the international marketplace, including national security, because of declining student enrollment and interest in science and technology.

She has plenty of company, as one of 20 eminent members of the study group that produced the influential 2005 report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future."

The report, requested by Congress, was published by the National Academy of Sciences. It contained four recommendations stated in general terms, starting with "vastly improving

K-12 science and mathematics education." Each recommendation was supported by specific proposed actions, like: "annually recruit 10,000 science and mathematics teachers by awarding 4-year scholarships."

The report is summarized online at http://sciencedems.house.gov/Media/File/Reports/natacad_compete_exsum_6feb06.pdf

Murray is highly impressed by the steps now being taken by the Obama administration to increase attention to science and technology. She cites the exceptional quality of appointees, like Presidential science advisor John Holdren and Energy Secretary Steven Chu, as well as the promise and beginnings of greater financial support for science.

As for her own future, Murray does not expect to make further moves soon. Harvard deans tend to stay in place for 10 to 20 years.

Pleasanton Memorial Day Ceremony Planned

Pleasanton VFW Post 6298 will present the annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Mon., May 25. Several members of the Post and American Legion will place wreaths at various sites throughout the city.

Various color guards from the Post, American Legion and Scouts will assemble for the ceremony to be held starting at 11 a.m. at the Pleasanton Pioneer Ceremony, 5780 Sunol Blvd.

The theme is "Remember the Sacrifice." The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will play before, during and after the ceremony. Attendees are invited to reassemble at the Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Pleasanton for lunch.

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EDITORIALS

Range War

Phil Wente pledges "a full-on range war" if a plan to erect power lines through the wine country is permitted to proceed.

Several wineries, including Wente's, are within or near the proposed routes. "It doesn't matter whether the power lines are on top of a vineyard or some distance away, they dim the appeal for all of Livermore wine country," Wente observed.

The project is the work of the Transmission Association of Northern California (TANC) in partnership with the Western Area Power Association (WAPA). The plan has been sailing through their approval process. There have been several hearings, but none in Alameda County, where public notification of the project has been minimal. The issue is currently in the environmental impact report stage, with a May 31 deadline for the comment period.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty is pushing for a hearing in Alameda County and an extension of the EIR deadline. It's only fair that this be done.

Wente's fiery words about a "range war" are a call to action. The area affected is precious. Valley leaders must not hold back in fighting this blind and insensitive proposal.

Pleasanton Measure G — YES

Responding to state budget cuts, the Pleasanton Unified School District is asking its voters to pass Measure G, a four-year parcel tax costing \$233 per parcel per year.

The tax amounts to 64 cents a day. It will enable the district to keep class sizes small, provide reading and math support programs, retain elementary music programs, retain counselors, maintain the libraries and technology instruction, and keep the campuses clean and safe.

Measure G will preserve only the most crucial programs. The remaining deficit will be addressed by cutting d posts and reducing other programs.

Pleasanton schools must cut \$9.7 million in programs as the result of state budget cuts. The district has issued 337 layoff notices, 218 of them teachers. Federal stimulus funds may help, but they won't be enough.

The district has addressed the state deficit prudently and responsibly. It's now up to the voters. "Measure G is essential to maintain the quality education that our community expects and our children deserve," states the school district.

Though times are hard, 64 cents a day is affordable. We urge Pleasanton citizens to vote "yes" on Measure G on June 2.

POWER

(continued from page one)

within Supervisor Scott Haggerty's district. His office expressed concern when contacted for a story last week. This week, his chief of staff, Chris Gray, carried it further. Gray said that Haggerty is recommending that the board of supervisors and the planning department tell TANC that the county is opposed to the plan, until questions are answered and alternatives are investigated.

"We oppose this alignment. If they change alignment, we have to take a look at a new one," said Gray.

Haggerty also wants the supervisors to call on state government to have a master plan for the power grid's future in the entire state. In that way, the big picture of future power needs would be known. Individual plans like TANC's could be judged in that context.

One idea that might solve problems is to require TANC to use the existing PG&E towers to string new lines. Use of updated transmission technology could put much more power in the current footprint, said Gray.

Gray said that since TANC will have expenses anyway, the money could be used to buy the right-of-way share from PG&E, which could use the money for its cost of line replacement. That option should be in the EIR, Gray said.

Janet Thomson, a consultant to TANC, told The Independent on Tuesday that Gray's suggestion happens to be one of the alternatives that TANC is looking at in the EIR.

LIVERMORE ASKS FOR EXTENSION

The Livermore City Council voted Monday night to send TANC a letter requesting an extension of the comment period beyond May 31. It also will express concern that the city and public were not given notice in a timely way.

No one from TANC contacted the city directly to make a public presentation about the project, says the council's letter. It says that the project could significantly damage wine country. It also notes that the lines would pass through LARPD's Holdener and Sycamore Grove regional parks, and possibly impact

Brushy Peak park, as well.

Marc Roberts, director of community development, said that TANC's Notice for Project (NOP) is the first step in the environmental review process. The (city's) letter puts TANC on notice that Livermore exists, and has concerns. When the draft impact report is released, the city can evaluate whether TANC has heard the city's concerns. "If they certify a document that does not meet our needs, one recourse is a court case," said Roberts.

AN ISSUE ABOUT COMMUNICATION

Landowners in the path of the project have been upset that they didn't hear about it until early May by way of the rural grapevine. However, at least some local officials knew about it before early May.

The county sent a planner to a TANC scoping meeting in Modesto in April, according to Bruce Jensen of the county planning department. By that time, there already had been a series of TANC scoping meetings in the Central Valley, he said.

The county planning staff has prepared a 13-page letter expressing a list of concerns about the project, according to county community development director Chris Bazar. It is expected to go to TANC this week.

Bazar said that the scoping process is the "absolute beginning" of the process. There will be time afterward also to address any problems with it.

TANC consultant Janet Thomson told The Independent on Tuesday that county and city officials were notified in a timely way. She said that her records show that e-mails and voice-mails were sent to the planning departments of Livermore, Pleasanton and the county early in March. They included notice about the series of 12 hearings throughout the Central Valley that were to be held.

Thomson said that an e-mail link to project maps was sent to the Pleasanton planning department on March 18. Notices to the Livermore and Pleasanton city managers and the Alameda County administrator were sent by certified mail on Feb. 27.

Livermore Schools May Have Seen the Worst, For Now

By Patricia Koning

Despite the increasingly bleak news about the State budget, administrators at the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District can breathe a sigh of relief—at least for the moment.

"Our Board has been very conservative fiscally, which has positioned us very well even though the State will bring us less revenue," says Livermore school superintendent Brenda Miller. "The money we've been reserving and stimulus funds should get us through the 2009/10 school year without further cuts. We're in better shape than other districts because our Board has been very careful not to spend every dime."

Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed cutting between \$3

to \$5 billion from education funding, depending on how the propositions fare in the Special Election. Susan Kinder, executive director of fiscal services for the District, says she is working under the assumption that the propositions will fail. "We're looking at \$3 million in cuts in the current school year and another \$2 million in 09/10," she explains.

Kinder expects the District to receive about \$3.4 million in stimulus money, which is supposed to arrive by the end of the month. The money would be come in two pots, one for Title I and special education programs and the other for stabilization. There is still uncertainty about restrictions on how the money can be spent.

May Revise Expands Pleasanton Schools' Deficit

By Ron McNicol

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's May revised budget held more bad news for the Pleasanton Unified School District.

The governor offered two scenarios in releasing the budget May 14. In February, the state budget's implications for Pleasanton schools created a \$9.7 million deficit for the district to make up with its adjustments. Those included a combination of layoffs and use of reserve funds.

The district also is hoping for passage of Measure G on June 2. The parcel tax, at \$233 per parcel, would raise \$4.5 million in each of four years.

The governor's message increased the Pleasanton deficit to \$13.8 million, if the state propositions were approved by voters on May 19. If Propositions 1C, 1D, and 1E were defeated, the district's deficit would grow to \$16.5 million.

The district used the \$9.7 million deficit to base its layoff notices of 249 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. District of-

ficials are hoping to hire back about one-half of those FTEs, if Measure G passes.

A bigger district deficit probably will bring more lay-offs. Although there was a May deadline for teachers to receive the layoff notices, and file any appeals over seniority issues, there is also a state education code provision for August layoff notices, if the Legislature enacts a budget before then.

STIMULUS MONEY WILL HELPSOMEWHAT

The only silver lining in the dark budget picture is that federal stimulus money is expected to bring in \$8.1 million for special education during the remainder of this fiscal year and all of next year. The money can offset general fund money, so there will be the flexibility to help other areas of instruction.

Staff said at the board meeting May 12 that the only downside to the federal money is its one-time only status.

Superintendent John Casey said that the federal bailout money can save jobs for one year. Beyond that, the state budget is

not expected to be in good shape. The one-time money won't be there. If the state propositions were to fail May 19, the Legislature likely will meet again to come up with another plan, said Casey. It's too soon to be precise about numbers for the school budget, and whether there would be much shift, one way or another.

"Measure G is a critical variable at play here. The best course we can take is to wait through June 2, before we have to decide which members of organization to bring back, or if we make more cuts," said Casey.

Trustee Jim Ott said, "The need for Measure G continues to be in play." He added, "To say we don't need Measure G because of federal dollars, doesn't make sense."

Audience member Kay Ayala, the former Pleasanton city councilmember, said that Measure G is not timed well. "The district doesn't have enough information about the condition of the state budget to determine a need for Measure G right now," she said. Ayala made her remarks two days before the governor released his revised version.

Ayala argued that even with Measure G funds and if the state

propositions passed, the district would still likely face class size reduction, loss of reading specialists and counselors in the elementary schools.

The board should have taken longer to listen to other suggestions about balancing the budget, and working for long-term structural change for education in California.

The state is likely to eliminate class size reduction. Measure G wouldn't be enough to fund smaller classes.

"By jumping the gun, you hurt your chances to accomplish something major in the community later on. The public will be upset, because you said you would have class size reduction, if Measure G passes," said Ayala.

Ayala said that if Measure G fails, trustees should call for a constitutional convention to change school financing.

Ott responded that the risk of not putting Measure G on the ballot for June 2 was too great. "It would absolutely mean layoffs, and not delivering what we deliver as a school district," he said.

"If you think the public would be angry that we put it on the ballot, they would be furious with us, if we didn't," said Ott.

Livermore Considers Changes In Cardroom Ordinance

Livermore is in the process of revamping its cardroom ordinance with the goal of making local cardrooms more competitive.

The city council on Monday was unanimous in directing staff to prepare the new ordinance.

Among the changes to be incorporated into the ordinance will be a second category of cardroom. Owners can choose to remain under the current regulations or apply for what is called enhanced services. The enhancements include increasing the number of players at a table from 8 to 10; increasing the per bet limit from \$20 to \$200, and adding other card games.

Owners would have to obtain a conditional use permit and enter into a development agreement with the city to provide the enhanced services. Staff has proposed that the city receive \$1 per hand, which if the two local cardrooms choose to change their status could provide over \$300,000 a year for the general fund. Currently, the city only

receives a business license fee from the cardrooms.

Right now there are 16 tables in the two cardrooms. The number of tables could be increased to 19.

Police Chief Steve Sweeney was asked his opinion on the changes, whether there could be a negative impact on the city.

Sweeney said he couldn't predict everything that could happen. "The one thing in our favor is that cardrooms are strictly regulated by the state. We have no concerns now. Both cardroom owners have worked well with the police." He added that the increased bet levels would require a uniformed security guard to be on site. In addition, the police may have to pay a little more attention.

Sweeney said the goal is to balance the desire of the cardrooms to expand and still maintain the feel of neighborhood cardrooms. "We don't want to expand too much."

Staff is expected to return in July with the new ordinance.

MEASURE G

(continued from page one)

fail, the Legislature is likely to make another attempt at a balanced budget, so it is too soon to project how many layoffs there ultimately will be, Casey told the board.

One spot of good news is that \$8.1 million in one-time federal stimulus money will come to the district to pay for special education. That can free up general fund money for other instruction. The total is split between this fiscal year, ending June 30, and the entire next fiscal year.

PRO-G CAMPAIGN IS OPTIMISTIC

Janet Laursen, who is co-chair of the Save Our Schools committee, said Tuesday that she feels "we are going to prevail. Our phone banking and precinct walking are very positive. Our endorsement list is at 3000," said Laursen.

Asked to sum up why people should vote for Measure G, Laursen said, "Measure G is about preserving our schools, and protecting the quality of life in Pleasanton. We owe it to future generations to protect and defend our high-achieving school system. It's the school system we all moved here for."

Laursen said that Measure G will "provide an opportunity for voters of Pleasanton to secure reliable, local funds for quality education. We can't afford to wait for reform in Sacramento. Our children's education depends on Pleasanton to take our destiny in our own hands."

OPPORTUNIS SAY DISTRICT RUSHED TO BALLOT

Although there has been no formal campaign against the

measure, some residents signed the ballot argument against Measure G. The opponents say it is too soon to put a parcel tax on the ballot without exploring other ways of offsetting the deficit.

Further thought about the problem might have resulted in no need at all for a parcel tax, or perhaps a lower one, said Kathleen Rueggsegger.

Rueggsegger was a Pleasanton school board member in the early 1990s. She later was administrative assistant to two Pleasanton school superintendents, before following one of them to the same position in the Palo Alto district, where she still works.

She said that the federal bailout package is expected to bring \$8.1 million to the district for the current year and next fiscal year. That will go a long way toward offsetting the deficit, even if it does grow to \$13 billion or \$16 billion. It's definitely more than the \$4.5 million that would be raised in the first year of the parcel tax.

Meanwhile, the district could listen to more suggestions about meeting the budget. The board sent the district's budget advisory committee a list of cuts proposed by the administration, but didn't ask for any new ideas, said Rueggsegger.

"I haven't spoken with anyone on the budget advisory committee, but they have some talented people on there. They have not been given the opportunity to make suggestions," said Rueggsegger. The committee is comprised of district staff and residents.

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

Don't Commercialize Fair Steven Richards Livermore

The Young California Building showcases the works and craftsmanship of our community in an attractive way. Those whose works are displayed are simply trying to make life a little brighter and more interesting to those of us who visit this building.

Commercial vendors come to the fair with the purpose of profiting off of us fairgoers, which is understandable. But, should the commercial folks be treated bet-

ter and more hospitably than those whose interest is not their own profit, but ours, the community?

The fair board has plans to empty the Young California Building of its artwork, displays, quilts, jams, jellies, and much, much more. These displays would be dispersed to lesser venues. It has been a pleasure to walk into this large, airy building devoted to the creativity of its wonderful contributors. This is what one hopes to find at a real county fair.

The commercial vendors are on a waiting list to get into the fair. It is clear that they would enjoy the commercial building and the technology building - about 27,000 square feet of space.

And, we, as fairgoers, could continue to enjoy the Young California Building.

I don't know at what point a county fair stops being a country fair. But, I also don't want to find out.

ARKIN HAD IDEAS ON MEETING DEFICIT

Rueggsegger said that board members also should make suggestions. "It's one reason that Valerie Arkin went through the budget to make cuts away from the classroom."

Arkin offered a "discussion list" of suggestions, that would have preserved class size reduction, elementary school counselors and reading specialists, without invoking a parcel tax. Other trustees praised her initiative, but said it was too late because of the deadlines to get a measure on the ballot on June 2.

Reminded by a reporter that the federal money is a one-time apportionment, split between this fiscal year and next year, Rueggsegger said that the parcel tax also is only "a one-year tax, that runs for four years." The key thing is to take the time for a more thoughtful approach to a long-term solution, she said.

MOST OF PARCEL TAX GOES TO RAISES

Rueggsegger said that when the parcel tax was first discussed, she looked at the numbers for the district from 2005-08. It showed 14.5 percent in raises for the teaching staff. That was beyond the annual step-and-column increases that are automatically locked into teachers' pay scale.

"Each time you give a raise, the salary schedule gets bumped up. Large raises have to be sustained by (cost of living adjustments) COLAs from the state or by continued growth in enrollment. These large raises are not sustainable (in the current state budget crisis).

The cumulative effect of the step-and-column increases was shown in figures from district assistant superintendent Luz Cazares. The step-and-column increases this year will cost the district \$1.5 million. But in the second year of that increase, it will rise to \$3 million.

In the third year of that original \$1.5 million increase, the total reaches \$4.5 million. In the fourth year, it will be \$6 million.

At the end of that four-year period, the total cost for that \$1.5 million increase will be \$15 million, because each year is added to the prior year's figure. That \$15 million will take up most of the \$18.8 million that will be raised by the parcel tax over four years.

In other words, the parcel tax is needed to pay for that \$1.5 million salary increase this year. Residents who have appeared at school board meetings have raised that point. They said the teachers should be willing to forego the one-year increase, which is in the current contract, in the spirit of sacrifice during tough economic times. That sacrifice would enable all teachers, or most of them, to keep their jobs, said the speakers.

Teacher union president Trevor Knaggs said at a school board meeting that losing even one year on a step-and-column increase has two long-term effects on teachers. It sets them back each year by that amount on the paycheck. Also, since pensions are the accumulated contributions to the pension fund, the pension would be altered downward.

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THEATER

(continued from page one)

taxes increased. The tax increment funds can only be used in the redevelopment district, generally for capital projects.

The state had attempted to take some of the RDA funds. However, a recent court decision prevents that for now. The decision may be appealed by the state.

The DDA provides protections for the city in that it defines what happens if things go wrong. It establishes an early warning system that allows for early resolution of problems, should they occur. There is a significant amount of reporting regarding budgets, programming and fund-raising.

Marc Robert, Director of Community Development, explained that basically the agency is buying an operating covenant. With the operating covenant, the agency is establishing a restriction on the property. The land can only be used for a performing arts theater.

The debt will remain with LVPAC. If problems arise concerning the payment of the debt service, LVPAC is responsible. If the agency doesn't have the money to pay its share, LVPAC pays. The agency would pay back the money to LVPAC with interest when and if it does have the funds to make up its scheduled payments. However, RDA debts are to be paid first. RDA's obligation to provide funds ends in 2030.

City Manager Linda Barton told the council that there is a 6 percent drop in property values that will translate to lower than predicted funds coming to both the city and the RDA.

Asked how that decrease might impact the expected RDA income, Barton stated that the impact will be much less on the RDA than the city overall. That is because there are not as many residential units within the RDA as in the rest of the city.

After the meeting, financial consultant Bob Gamble was asked to comment on the drop in the property tax revenue. He said that the agreement is based on the most pessimistic scenario. It already contemplated a drop in tax increment funds. Later, after looking at the relevant data in detail, Gamble concluded that the additional negative impact on the estimated tax increment would only be about \$100,000 a year. "This is not a significant impact, especially since no payments from the RDA are contributed until 2012 and it is likely that growth in the next three years will offset that 6 percent decline," stated Gamble.

The success of the Bankhead Theater, which is operated by LVPAC, has helped to create the optimism to move forward with the regional theater.

David Dial, LVPAC executive director, noted that the first year produced over 200 events with 76,000 in attendance. The first three months of the second season have produced a similar number of performances and tickets sold, even with the economic downturn. Dial noted, "The numbers are slightly higher than the

first year."

Dial pointed out that the regional theater attractions are predicted to draw an audience from a wider area than the Bankhead. Dial listed some of the shows that were available this year and could have played in Livermore had the regional theater been built. They include Lion King, Wicked, Frost-Nixon, Yo-Yo Ma, the Munich Symphony, and Ravi Shankar.

Len Alexander, an LVPAC consultant and former executive director, noted that the DDA allows LVPAC to proceed with its fund-raising and marketing. LVPAC has already raised 70 percent of its \$20 million goal. Alexander commented, "This is a project that has essentially been a 'perhaps' project. The fact that there is a commitment of \$14 million is spectacular. That suggests that the community believes in the project and what it will do for the region."

Alexander said, "We have and will recruit people from all communities to tell the story and fill in the remaining \$6 million. I believe the story of the kinds of attractions we will be able to bring is a positive one and will help to make it happen. All that is needed is your approval of this project," he told the council.

One of the concerns expressed relates to the height of the building. Dial explained that the height is necessary to store scenery that can be raised and lowered. A space above the scenery houses the mechanism that operates the scenery.

Alexander pointed out that the size and height of the theater are needed to host large touring shows. "If the fly were below 90 feet, that essentially indicates Broadway shows, for example, would not come to Livermore. If there were less than 2000 seats, bringing in such shows would not be economically viable."

Dial said that the theater is expected to generate \$20 to \$25 million each year to the area economy. It will increase opportunities for arts and education. It supports the city's vision of shopping, dining, and the arts and entertainment that will make downtown Livermore a destination. "Approval of the DDA is an important milestone. It does not grant any funds to LVPAC. However, it allows us to know that there are partners when we talk to financing banks."

Members of the public commented on the plans. The vast majority spoke in favor of the project. A few were adamantly opposed to it. A third group liked the idea of the regional theater, but thought that perhaps there should be an advisory vote.

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce had been supportive of the project, but had not officially endorsed it in the past. That changed with a recent vote of the board of directors. Dale Kaye, CEO, stated, "The board of directors voted to endorse the regional theater. The board was extremely impressed with the report on the positive financial impact. The theater would enhance the image and add to making Livermore a destination."

Kaye also noted that the theater is a valuable indicator of the cultural level of the city. Cultural opportunities attract businesses to the city. She said of the current economic situation, "Now is not the time to hunker down, but to step up. The chamber believes the theater will make downtown Livermore the economic and cultural hub of the Tri-Valley."

Sblend Sblendorio, former chamber board president, said that the chamber had taken a very deliberate look at the theater over several years. It has been analyzed carefully. The board vote of support was nearly unanimous. "We believe it will be an economic engine for the region."

Michael Wiener spoke for the California Symphony, which hopes to perform regularly in the regional theater. He argued that he had no difficulty in driving to Livermore from Alamo on a number of occasions. "Traffic is not that much of an issue." Wiener continued that the symphony has embarked on a campaign to raise \$1 million for LVPAC and hopes to be one of the founding resident organizations. "If you build it, we will come," he declared.

Barbara Stear, one of the founders of Friends of the Vineyards, pointed out that it took vision to create the South Livermore Plan that restored the wine region. The wineries now bring people to the Livermore from all over. It took vision to make the downtown what it is today. "Now the city is on the verge of taking another step forward with the regional theater. All of these steps have taken vision, courage and dedication," declared Stear.

Mayor Marshall Kamena read a letter of support from Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi. He wrote of the change in the image and economy of Bilbao, Spain when it built the Guggenheim Museum. It became a cultural center. "I believe Livermore is headed in a similar direction. I am committed to assist in raising the money needed to complete the project."

Karalee Brune said she was concerned that people would not be able to arrive at the theater in time for performances given the traffic congestion in the area. She also noted there is a petition circulating asking more input from people via an advisory vote.

John Shirley said that he supported the theater. Livermore could become a little like Ashland, Oregon. He suggested a delay in moving forward to hold another informational meeting. He added, "I'm not suggesting a vote."

A letter from Nancy Mueller was read by Brittany Bloom. Mueller noted her family had lived in Livermore for five generations. The city today is not the one she grew up in. Changes include a new library, new community center, over 40 wineries and growing, and the new Bankhead Theater. "It takes a lot of forward thinking individuals to make these projects a reality."

Rachael Snedecor, Executive Director of Livermore Downtown Inc., said that she has sensed an atmosphere of cautious optimism on the part of downtown busi-

nesses. They are looking forward to a very much needed economic impact from the regional theater, said Snedecor.

Valerie Raymond felt that the council had shown favoritism towards those who support the theater. She said that while the agreement meets the legal requirements, it falls short of involving the community. She asked the council to require a vote. Raymond noted that Santa Clara County has placed an advisory vote on a proposed stadium on the ballot.

Tom Reitter declared that the purpose of those asking for a vote is to prevent banks from considering a letter of credit now and to delay the project.

LVPAC board member and Pleasanton School Board member Pat Kernan felt that with the reduction in funding for schools that music and performing arts programs will be at risk. "They are as important as reading, writing and arithmetic. The Bankhead Theater has provided a tremendous opportunity for our students. The regional theater will be a tremendous educational resource," Kernan stated.

Don Miller noted, "The rewards are large when it comes to the prestige and pride the regional theater will provide. Now is the time to proceed while construction costs are temporarily low," Miller commented.

On the negative side, Brett Wayne asked if the theater were built, who will come. "I want to prevent this deal from happening." He likened it to the Raider stadium project. He pointed out that many buildings in downtown are unleased, unoccupied and unused.

Barbara Hickman said that the public has been told a 2000 seat theater is needed to attract Broadway productions, yet, "Spelling Bee," a Broadway show is coming to the Bankhead in June.

Alexander explained that the show is made possible by a large grant from the Wells Fargo Bank Foundation.

Henry Shay delivered petitions to the council asking for a vote. Shay said he might be less opposed to the theater if the pay-

off were more commensurate to the risk.

Kathy Streeter, a retired investment banker, said that the best time to proceed with such a project is during an economic downturn. She pointed out that those demanding a vote simply want to stop the project. They made similar objections to the Bankhead Theater. Their predictions that it would not succeed have not happened. Streeter added, "I believe the impact of the recession on downtown would have been worse without the Bankhead Theater."

Resident Chris Cusimano said he was proud to be a resident of Livermore. "The theater will put the cherry on the top of a well planned city. I travel around the globe and talk about Livermore. People are impressed. A lot of opposition I've heard seems to be coming from a position of fear. They need to overcome that fear."

Councilmember John Marchand said he was surprised to hear that the council hasn't been receptive to opponents, since he had spent hours talking about it with them and provided answers to their questions. "The purpose of the RDA is to remove blight and encourage development in the downtown. This DDA sets performance standards that protect the RDA and the city."

Marchand said that opponents of the Bankhead Theater said there was too much risk. It was too expensive. Now those same people love it. The Bankhead has returned over \$1 million to local groups.

Councilmember Jeff Williams noted that the RDA had already spent \$80 million on projects within downtown. There was no vote on the part of citizens for those expenditures. "The reason that the downtown is as nice as it is, is that the RDA board had the vision to move forward and chose the path it felt was best for the city. The regional theater is another step. There will be money spent on other projects until the RDA ends in 2030."

Kamena said he believed people would be able to arrive at the theater for performances. He

pointed out that they have been arriving at Wente's Concert Series, which seats 1700. In addition, there are HOV lanes in the works. And, the environmental analysis for BART to Livermore is underway.

Kamena added that the approval is not committing the city to spend any money at this time. "A bank still has to weigh in. If one does come forward, that would reinforce that this is the right thing to do given the scrutiny banks are giving projects now. It's nice the council vote was unanimous."

HYDROGEN

(continued from page one)

is involved, along with the City of Livermore and Livermore Downtown, Inc.

Mike Janes, Sandia spokesperson, explained that the laboratory has a strong hydrogen research program. Researchers will be on hand to discuss the current status of their work.

Car manufacturers will be present to discuss their prototypes. Janes noted that Honda, Toyota, General Motors and Mercedes Benz are among the auto manufacturers involved in the partnership.

"The public is invited to look at the cars and actually drive them. It is a hands-on event," said Janes. He said every effort will be made to provide as many people as possible with an opportunity to either drive or ride in the car.

There is no charge.

Janes noted that the City of Livermore and Livermore Downtown Inc. have been very helpful in organizing the event. Since it takes place during the lunch hour, it will be a nice opportunity to come downtown, look at the cars, learn Sandia's role and enjoy lunch at one of the restaurants.

Those wanting more information about Sandia's research can go to www.ca.sandia.gov/hydrogen.

The web address for the Fuel Cell Partnership is www.fuelcellpartnership.org.



SCOPING MEETING & OPEN HOUSE

for the

Amended Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Livermore Municipal Airport Rezoning and General Plan Amendment Project

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009 • 6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.
Livermore Airport Terminal Building, 636 Terminal Circle

The City of Livermore will hold a Scoping Meeting and Open House for the Amended Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Livermore Municipal Airport Rezoning and General Plan Amendment Project.


The proposed Project involves the rezoning of a 395-acre portion of the Livermore Municipal Airport to the proposed Airport (AIR) Zoning District, and would consist of two zoning subdistricts: 1) the Airport Operations (AIR-OP) Zoning Subdistrict, and 2) the Airport Service (AIR-SE) Zoning Subdistrict.

These subdistricts would not permit the development of new land uses other than those already permitted as part of the existing Master Plan.

The purpose of the Scoping Meeting and Open House is to receive comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR for the proposed Project.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Copies of the Amended NOP are available on the City's website: www.ci.livermore.ca.us or at Livermore City Hall, 1052 South Livermore Avenue. Comments on the Amended NOP may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed no later than Monday, June 15, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. to:

Susan Frost, Principal Planner, Community Development Department
1052 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550
FAX (925) 960-4459, Email: Airport-Resoning@ci.livermore.ca.us



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"Colon Cancer Prevention Seminar" with Dr. Jeffrey Mark M.D.
Learn about colorectal cancer prevention and awareness, screening strategies and advanced treatment.

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Please RSVP



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CHILDREN'S HEALTH UPDATE

IMMUNIZATION FACTS AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY

FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR



Presented by: Yatin Shah, MD
Anamika Sharma, MD

Date: May 28, 2009
Time: 7PM
Location: ValleyCare Medical Plaza
5725 W. Las Positas Blvd
2nd floor Conference Room
Pleasanton
two blocks west of hospital

Please join ValleyCare pediatricians Drs. Yatin Shah and Anamika Sharma for an education seminar discussing childhood obesity and immunization facts.

Dr. Sharma will discuss the prevention of childhood obesity as well as the latest in fighting this condition. Dr. Shah will discuss routine childhood immunizations with a special emphasis on recently recommended vaccines. He will also provide an overview of child and adolescent immunization schedules.

We invite you to register for this free education seminar by calling the ValleyCare Health Information and Physician Network at **1-800-719-9111** or visit valleycare.com and click on the classes link.



Serving the Tri-Valley with Medical Facilities in Livermore and Pleasanton.
www.valleycare.com

SHORT NOTES

Nature Programs

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff is offering two programs this weekend.

A spring compass hike will be held Sat., May 23. Meet Ranger Glen Florey at 10 a.m. at the Wetmore Road entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. Participants will explore some of the unseen sides of the park while learning the basics of compass navigation. This will be a more rugged course than in the past, so be prepared to go over some hills. Please bring good hiking shoes and a compass if you would like to learn to use it. Compasses will also be provided.

"Yet Another Bird Walk" will be held Sun., May 24. Meet Ranger Pat Sotelo at the nature area entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. Mother and father birds are busy defending their territories, protecting their brood from nest robbers, cleaning out the nest, feeding their young'uns and teaching them the finer points of flying. Join the program to take a peek at this domestic behavior on this walk on the wild side. This bird walk will last about two hours. Beginners are encouraged to attend. There will be some binoculars and field guides to lend.

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.

Winery Spring Fling

Fenestra Winery will host the annual "Spring Fling" on May 23, 24 and 25, from 12 noon to 5:00 pm.

This event will be held at Fenestra Winery, 83 Vallecitos Road, Livermore. At the "Whites Sale," every white wine will be at a special sale price for this weekend only. There is a \$5.00 tasting fee.

Winemaker Brent Amos will introduce two new white releases: 2008 Verdelho from Silvaspoons Vineyard in the Lodi Appellation and the 2008 White Riesling from Arroyo Seco grapes. Fenestra will also be releasing two red wines: 2006 Cabernet Franc from Ghilmetti Vineyards and a 2005 Cabernet Sauvignon from Thatcher Bay Vineyards, both of Livermore Valley grapes.

Fenestra Winery is located in an historic winery building built in 1889 at 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. The winery is open for tasting and sales every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5:00 PM. For information, phone 925-447-5246, e-mail info@fenestrawinery.com or view the web site www.fenestrawinery.com.

Porsche Car Show

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region is having their 25th annual Concours Wash and Shine on May 24th.

More than 50 Porsche cars from the 1960's to present will be on display. Both new cars and modified cars will be on display and competing for trophies. The viewing public is cordially invited to attend for free.

Location is The Livery Shopping Center, 400 Sycamore Drive West, Danville.

Winemaker's Dinner

A Winemaker's Dinner on Thursday May 28th, will feature Karl Wente.

In the small lot winery, Karl Wente creates hand-crafted special releases and takes this opportunity to pull out some special wines from the library for the evening. The gourmet four-course dinner and accompanying wine pairings present a unique and delicious chance to experience the best of Wente Vineyards.

The dinner is from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$89 Club Wente Members, \$109 public, plus tax.

The Event Center at Wente Vineyards 5050 Arroyo Road Livermore, CA

For reservations call 925-456-2405 or visit shop.wentevineyards.com to buy tickets online using the new web based shopping cart.

Winery Open House

Thomas Coyne Winery will host the annual spring open house on May 23, 24 and 25. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. each day. Five new wines will be released. A selection of fruits and cheeses will be served.

For the last time this year, the winery will offer an interactive experience "Bottle Your Own Wine," selling Vino Tinto Barato, a red table wine, at the Open House. Bring a clean bottle. The winery will fill, cork and label it for you for \$5.50 per bottle, or bottle label and cork it yourself. Use a winery bottle for \$6.00. This is only available May 23. Limit is six bottles per person.

New wine releases are 2008 California Viognier, 2008 Livermore Pinot Blanc, 2006 Contra Costa Mourvèdre, 2005 California Port, 2005 Livermore Cabernet Sauvignon.

Active military who present valid ID can receive a deep discount. For more information call (925) 373-6541 http://thomascoynewinery.com. The winery is located at 51 East Vallecitos Rd., Livermore.

Farm Programs

Forest Home Farms is offering four new programs for children, beginning in June 2009. All tours are for children's groups of 5 or more, ages 5 and up (except tractor tour, which is ages 10 and up). Tours are \$5 per child and by appointment only. Call 925-973-3284 to book one of the following:

- "Fun with Farm Animals"- We have chickens, sheep and horses. Learn what animals eat, how they are cleaned, sheep-herding, and more! We work with scout groups to fulfill badge requirements. Call for details.

- "Dig in and Grow" garden tour- Come have an adventure in our organic garden! Children will learn about the principles of organic gardening, composting, recycling, and the role of bees in the garden. Tour also includes garden chores and fresh vegetable tastings when available.

- "Behind-the-Scenes with Tractors"- Includes a tour of the Tractor Museum with over 30 restored tractors, a look inside the "tractor workshop", hands-on interactive displays, as well as a video showing tractor restoration from start to finish. Tours are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- "Preschool Fun at the Farm"- Come see the sheep, chickens, garden, tractors, and more! We'll sing some farm songs and enjoy some hands-on activities.

Forest Home Farms is located at 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. Call 925-973-3284 for more info.

Events on Mt. Diablo

Save Mount Diablo offers a variety 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:

- Sat., May 23, 8:45am. Discover Round Valley on Wildlife and Spring Flower Hike with wildlife biologists Jim Hale in Round Valley Regional Preserve, meet at Round Valley Staging Area on Marsh Creek Road. Hale will share his extensive knowledge of the wildflowers and animals of this canyon, and give insight on the areas rich history. For more information or to RSVP contact Hale at (925) 939-4304.

- Sat., May 23, 9am-2:30pm. Mt. Olympia Summit / Bruce Lee Spring Trail Hike - Mt. Diablo State Park (MDIA) led by Helene Crowley (415) 974-2209 crowh_8558@yahoo.com. Meet at the end of Regency Drive off of Clayton Road in Clayton. Mt. Olympia is a rugged outcrop with views of canyons. Approx. 9 miles, with a 2500 ft elevation gain. Stop at the summit for a snack/lunch. Experienced hikers only. www.mdia.org/events.htm#Hikes

- Sun., May 24, 2pm. Old Borges Ranch Tour - Explore History (City of Walnut Creek), meet under the windmill near the parking lot at Old Borges Ranch. The Borges family settled in Walnut Creek over 100 years ago, and their ranch is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Tour the 1901 ranch house and the 1903 carriage barn while learning what life was like on the ranch 100 years ago. Reservations are not required unless you bring a group of five or more. Ranger Dan Bylin at (925) 942-0225 or visit http://www.walnutcreekrec.org/WC_Sp09_ActGuide_web.pdf

Chicks with Sticks

Chicks with Sticks Golf Tournament will benefit Shepherd's Gate. The event will be held at the Poppy Ridge Golf Course in 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.shepherdsgate.org; for sponsorship information or to donate raffle items, please contact Lyn Kiernan at (925)443-4283 ext.217 or lkiernan@shepherdsgate.org

Mindfulness

Joel Friedman, a local licensed psychologist, will speak on Mindfulness, Witnessing and the Only Freedom Worth Living. The program will be May 28 at 7 p.m. at the Pleasanton Library.

Friedman specializes in presence-centered psychotherapy and mindbody approaches like EMDR. 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.

Campus Tour

Tri-Valley YMCA is offering a tour of Pacific Northwest colleges.

The six day tour, July 27-August 1, 2009, will visit 10 College Campuses: California State University - Chico, Humboldt State University, University of Oregon, Oregon State, University of Portland, Willamette University, Reed College, Puget Sound, University of Washington, and Seattle University.

The fee is \$1095 and includes transportation, accommodations, workshops, chaperones, Space Needle Admission. Space is limited. Financial assistance is available. Contact Kris Farro email kfarro@ymcaeastbay.org, 475-6108 or visit www.trivalleyymca.org.

LARPD to Use Goats to Reduce Vegetation

Goats will soon be grazing in the Arroyo Mocho near Robertson Park in Livermore. They will be used to reduce the amount of vegetation.

The LARPD approved a \$15,000 expenditure to pay for the goats. The program will begin in June.

Other park districts have used the goats to control vegetation. They are considered an environmentally friendly method of doing so.

Residents living next to the arroyo have been asking the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board (LARPD) that something be done, pointing to the fire danger the dead vegetation represents. They told the board that dead brush and trees have collected over the years. Some piles are 8 feet tall.

The vegetation grew during periods when Zone 7 released water into the creek as a means to replenish the underground water supply. Zone 7 releases water during wet years. In dry years, there are no releases. The last release was March 2007. The result is that all of the plants and trees that grew when water was plentiful have died. Residents want the dead vegetation removed.

LARPD has no authority over the water releases. Zone 7 has no control over when the state delivers water.

LARPD assistant General Manager John Lawrence noted that State Fish and Game views the vegetation as habitat. The arroyo is a protected riparian area. A permit is required to remove the vegetation. An effort to gain permission resulted in a 5-year permit to mow the grass. The district was also allowed to remove eleven dead trees.

Lawrence said that the district would like to evaluate the effectiveness of the goats in reducing the vegetation. He said that residents should see a significant re-

duction in low lying vegetation and a tramping down of stacks of vegetation using the goats. "I think that concerns of residents will be resolved. If not, we can look at pursuing a 10 year permit application that would allow the district to manage the creek."

The 10 year management permit application would be through Fish and Game. That could require the district to conduct an environmental review. The detail could range from a negative declaration to a full study that could cost in excess of \$45,000 and take 8 to 10 months to complete.

Resident Don Milanese said that the concern is with the dead trees that are 20 to 30 feet tall and could spread fire quickly. "The goats aren't going to climb the trees and eat them."

Lawrence said that Zone 7 has a permit that allows removal of debris if it blocks the flow of water. Perhaps Zone 7 would be able to go in and remove some of the vegetation.

Director Scott Kamena said he didn't believe that goats would be enough to solve the problem. The district should pursue the long term permit. "I'd like to find out what it would take to obtain the permit to manage the creek property," he stated.

Director Steve Goodman expressed similar views. He also urged LARPD staff to talk to Zone 7 to see if their permit would allow removal of vegetation for flood control purposes.

JUNIORGIANTS

Goodman reported that a field in Livermore's May Nissen Park has been selected for renovation under the San Francisco Giants Foundation. In return, the district will start a Junior Giants program.

Goodman said he hopes the city will look at renaming the field in honor of Randy Johnson.

Johnson, a graduate of Livermore High School, pitches for the Giants. He pitched one of the 17 perfect games in Major League Baseball history. He has won the Cy Young Award five times, sec-

ond only to Roger Clemens' seven. His 4,810 strikeouts are tops all-time among left-handed pitchers. He is two games short of reaching 300 wins.

TREE DEDICATION

There will be a tree dedication tonight, May 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Farmers Market. The public is invited to attend.

The Farmers Market returns to the Carnegie Park area.

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

Kamena voiced concerns about the future financial viability of the district. He noted that the state will likely take more money. The district must also put money into a retirement account to make sure that it is fully funded.

The state already takes half of the tax revenues paid to the district by local residents. Under Proposition 1A it can take more money over the next two years. While it is required to pay back that money, "we may not be here in two years," said Kamena.

Kamena suggested that it was time to pursue other funding sources that the state could not touch. One option would be to approve a tax to replace the property taxes due the district. This could be a parcel tax. The level of property taxes now paid would be reduced to the point there would be no net increase to residents, Kamena explained. He added that other agencies have found ways to get around ERAF (Education Revenue Augmentation Fund), the mechanism the state has used in the past to take the money from cities, counties and special districts.

He also wanted to explore ways to cooperate with other agencies to increase revenues and decrease costs. He suggested hiring a consultant to explore the options. "The district may lose some of its independence. The current crisis requires foresight and objectivity to solve the district's financial problems," he stated.



The Independent

Expanded Local



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.

Group Organized to Help Veterans

If a veteran needs help of any kind, the Livermore Veterans Association (LVA) is there to provide it.

The group's mission is to support troops by facilitating access to resources, both private and public, through partnering with business, government and civic organizations.

Warren Booth is the president. He explained that previously, the group was part of Sentinels of Freedom. "We brought two veterans into Livermore, got them settled, found housing, employment and transportation. We de-

cidated we would like to go in a slightly different direction, to become an advocacy group for young people, act as mentors and assist in any way we could to provide them with their needs and resources."

Booth and Marilyn Carter decided to form a Livermore group. Five people, all professionals, make up the board of directors. "They all act as mentors or work with advisors. The goal is not to do the work ourselves," said Booth.

Some of the services including receiving VA benefits, locat-

ing housing, finding employment, enrolling in education programs and providing transportation. LVA also helps deal with budgeting and financial plans, tax consultation, legal help, estate planning, family issues and community outreach. They participate in the East Bay Stand Down and provide support for hospitalization and convalescence.

However, if a situation calls for them to step in, they will do the work, he added. For example, one veteran was faced with eviction and was in debt. "We were

able to locate funding from private donors. An apartment owner worked with us. We arranged job interviews and provided cash for groceries and Christmas." Once settled, the LVA helped the family to set budget and financial goals.

Booth said there are two projects in the works. One is to establish a scholarship fund. There is some seed money.

The second is to establish a Veteran's Club at the local VA facility. It would be a physical place where veterans could go for one-stop information. Currently, the nearest center is in Concord. The idea to set up a local club was launched when it was suggested that one veteran go to Concord. "I don't have \$5 for gas," the veteran replied.

LVA works with moving companies, apartment owners, the VA, and Camp Parks. They participate in parades and get out to meet as many people as possible. Booth noted that LVA has furniture that it would like to give to Camp Parks for distribution to those who need it.

The group works with the Wounded Warrior program and is looking to bringing another disabled veteran to Livermore.

"It is difficult, Job opportunities are few and far between. It's tough to get a loan for housing. I wish I had all the money, jobs and housing to be able to help immediately," said Booth.

"It's a lot of work. However, it is gratifying to see someone you can help and to hear someone tell you, 'thank you. Without you we wouldn't have made it,'" he added.

For more information, go to the website at www.LivermoreVeteransFoundation.org.



More than 400 cyclists visited the Dublin/Pleasanton Energizer Station event Thursday morning between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., up 30 percent from last year's event. Dublin Councilmember Don Biddle (right) joined a handful of volunteers to distribute bags of giveaways and free refreshments to cyclists at the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station. Throughout Alameda County, more than 9,600 cyclists took part in the one-day event.

RODEO CORNER

The 91st running of the "World's Fastest Rodeo" is only a couple of weeks away. It's time to put all the events on your schedule. Kids especially love the rodeo; kids love the animals, the excitement and the action. The Livermore Rodeo is continually striving to make sure this is a family event that kids of all ages can come and enjoy real western entertainment at extremely affordable prices.

Rodeo Week Schedule:

Wednesday June 10th, Annual Mixer and Team Penning. Tri-Tip Dinner starts at 5:30, penning starts at 6:00, live music provided by Ruffstock from 6-10. Penning, Dinner, Music and Dancing for the 21 and over crowd. Tickets go on sale at Baughman's on the 22nd and are still \$20.

Thursday June 11th, Wrangler Family Night, Local Team Roping and Wild Cow Milking. Show starts at 6pm, gates open at 5pm and discount hot dogs and sodas will be on sale. This is a free event. No admission fee and free parking. This is the rodeo's way of getting the families out to the rodeo that might not be able to make the weekend shows. Wild Cow Milking is an event you must see to believe.

Friday June 12th, 8am is professional slack and is open to the public for free. Breakfast is for sale by the Alameda County CattleWomen

Saturday June 13th, Livermore Rodeo Parade starts at 10am. The parade is organized and put on by the Livermore Rotary Club as a way for them to support the tradition of rodeo and agriculture in our great town. Get there early for a curbside seat to see all the vintage vehicles, floats, stagecoaches, frisbee dogs and children's groups.

Saturday June 13th and Sunday June 14th, 91st Annual Livermore Pro Rodeo. Gates open 10am, US Army 11th Cavalry Mounted Horse Detachment Demonstration in the main arena at 1:30, Grand entry is at 2:00PM, US Flag and Military Flags presented by our local Veterans of Foreign Wars and the National Anthem performed by US Army Sergeant Mark Stevens.

After all the majesty of the grand entry is the excitement of the 8 different rodeo events.

The Livermore Pro Rodeo draws the top names in rodeo. For the past few years the local event has had a current or past World Champion in every event. These are the top cowboys and cowgirls in the country competing not only for the prize money but for a coveted event winner buckles. With all the top cowboys and cowgirls competing at the same rodeo, the Livermore Rodeo is ranked as one of the best in the country.

The Rodeo is a way to teach your kids how the West was tamed and how important the ranch way of life is to local history. Think about it: the excitement of the bull riding, the tension of the barrel racing, all the roping events and how can someone actually rope a running steer. Picture a cowboy purposely sliding off his galloping horse to wrestle a full grown steer to the ground or a cowboy actually getting on the back of horse he knows is going to do everything it can to buck him off. Plus, don't forget the crowd favorite Wild Cow Milking.

The Livermore Pro Rodeo is a few hours of pure excitement and fun. It's local and only a few minutes away from anywhere in the Tri-Valley. Tickets go on sale on the 22nd of May at Baughman's Western Store in downtown Livermore. Baughman's is located half a block East from Groth Brothers Chevrolet on First St.

Tickets will be available online at www.clicknprint.com. Purchase and print tickets at home with this new service. June 13th and June 14th, gates open at 10am and the show starts at 2pm.

Don't forget your sunscreen and cowboy hats.

Speakers Will Discuss Human Trafficking

A club at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton will sponsor a dinner May 22 about prevention of human trafficking.

The schools' Mission Outreach club will bring in speakers from the Sold Project, which fights against human trafficking in Thailand, and MISSEY, which is concerned about sexual exploitation of young girls in the Bay Area.

An admission of \$2 is asked. Snacks, water and a Thai-theme dinner will be sold. The event is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. It will be held near the pool and tennis courts.

The indie rock bands General Jones and Under the Streetlight will perform. Various campus clubs will also be attending.

The Mission Outreach club is concerned about human trafficking because the traffickers often abuse their victims physically and emotionally. Women are sold to people in other countries, to avoid prosecution.

Women are also made into drug addicts so they can be controlled, said a club spokesperson. The problem is not only in foreign countries, but also occurs

AIRCRAFT

(continued from page one)

planes and answer questions. Flight Experiences Donations are \$425 per person aboard the B-17 or B-24.

The B-25 is available at select locations for flight experiences. Flight experiences on the B-25 are \$400 for forward fuselage seats, and \$325 for waist gun seats. To reserve a Flight Experience slot, call 1-800-568-8924

Walk through tours of the aircraft will be available at \$12 for adults, and \$6 for children 12 and under for access to all of the aircraft. WWII Veterans get into the ground tours at no charge.

More information is available from Kevin Ryan, Livermore Stop Coordinator, at 216-4371.

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.

Keep The Independent Coming!

To take advantage of our **FREE** subscription offer and to assure uninterrupted direct weekly delivery of the expanded Independent newspaper and magazine, we need to hear from you through one of the following subscription sign-up options.

With your help and encouragement, *The Independent* will continue to benefit our community. Thank you for your support!

THE Independent NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE

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SPORTS NOTES



Pleasanton Seahawks pictured are (back row, left to right) Jake Bahls, Katrina Anderson, Joshua Meints, Brianna Neumayr; (front row, left to right) Bethany Poon, Caitlin Dourov, and Jeffrey Fong.

Seahawks Learn Life Lessons in Competition

Three to four times a week, they start their day around 4:00 am. Facing a commute time of up to 45 minutes, some even wake up as early as 3:15 am. They don't deliver morning papers, drive long-haul trucks, or get paid for their heroic efforts. Traveling the road of dreams and dedication, practice begins around 4:40 am and lasts until 6:30 am. Monday through Friday practice resumes at 3:30 to 6:00 pm. They comprise the Class of 2009 from the Pleasanton Seahawks Swim Team: Katrina Anderson, Jake Bahls, Caitlin Dourov, Jeffrey Fong, Joshua Meints, Brianna Neumayr, and Bethany Poon. These year-round swimmers have gone the distance and continue to do so as they look forward to attending the college of their choice, respectively including Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CSU East Bay, CSU Chico, University of the Pacific, University of New York, Buffalo, and University of Washington, Seattle. Staying fit not only includes swimming 11,000 yards per day.

These athletes achieved a group average GPA of 3.5 to 4.0. In addition, several earned numerous awards for scholastics and athletics. Joshua Meints earned a swimming scholarship to University of New York, Buffalo, and the Excellence Award for outstanding performance and excellence in Attitude, Achievement and Attendance from Freedom High School. He won swimming MVP all four years of high school and was named All-American in swimming. Joshua will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in swimming for Liberty Unified High School District (2013). Other awardees include: Caitlin Dourov - Top Scholar, Katrina Anderson - USA Swimming/Scholastic All-American, Pedrozzi Foundation Scholarship, swimming scholarship to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and German National Honor Society award, and Bethany Poon - Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Award. All of these swimmers will tell you that they learned so much more than how to be a competi-

tive swimmer. The life skills mastered are too numerous to list. Jeff Fong stated, "Dedication and perseverance," were some of the most valuable lessons learned while swimming for the Pleasanton Seahawks. "It is not about the destination, but the journey and there is always room at the top" said Katrina Anderson. Brianna Neumayr shared, "I've learned that hard work pays off, time management, commitment, and to set goals for myself." As Jake Bahls succinctly put it, "Going to practice pays." The Pleasanton Seahawks Swim Team is an extended family for many of these athletes. When asked what they will miss the most, Caitlin Dourov shared, "The many friendships I have made with swimmers and coaches." Bethany Poon declared, "The wonderful coaches, swimmers, friends, endless laughs, good times and great tans." Joshua Meints answered, "My friends and the bonds I have formed."

Stoneridge Waterpolo

Stoneridge Waterpolo is taking registration for summer leagues for boys and girls. Preseason begins May 18 for grades 9-12. Regular season begins for all levels runs June 15-July 30 for elementary through 12th grade. Practices are held at various locations in Pleasanton. For more information, visit www.stoneridgewaterpolo.com or call (925) 484-0172.

Livermore JV Lacrosse

The Livermore High School J.V. Boys' Lacrosse team came back from 3 goals down to defeat Granada 6 - 5. As they have done all year, the Livermore team would get down by as many as four goals and would fight back. Granada had a 1-0 lead after the first quarter. In the second quarter, Livermore was down 3 - 0 when Stan Steeper's goal assisted by Jr. McCammon brought the score to 3 - 1. A Granada goal with 8 seconds left in the half made it 4 - 1. Livermore scored the next two goals to make it 4 - 3. Granada then scored and led 5 - 3 after three quarters. Goals were by Steven Niessen and Daniel Rowan assisted by Cody Shubin and Keyon Taravati. Then the comeback began. Steeper scored assisted by Zach Pursch, then Pursch scored assisted by Rowan and the game was tied at 5 all. Finally, with 1:27 left in the game, Steven Niessen's winning goal, assisted by Shubin, brought the victory to the Cowboys. Steven Martinez had 11 saves in the victory. This was a very successful season for the J.V. team with a 5-11 record. Attack players for the year were Stan Steeper, Zachary Pursch, Kyle (Jr.) McCammon, Cameron Locke, Jacob Cuellar, and Areek Medina. Middies were Joey Youngblood, Cody Shubin, Keyon Taravati, Steven Niessen, Daniel Rowan, Gary Chapeta, Michael Filijay, Scott Gragg, William Kaufman, Sam Burnett, Remington Fox, Kamron Abri, and Joe Munns. Defensive players were Aubrey Gott, Spencer Davidson, Tim Byrnes, Ian Ingram, Chris Alderson, and Michael Fischer. The goalie for the year was Steven Martinez.

Livermore Girls Softball

Livermore Girls Softball Association results: **Senior (High School) division:** Livermore Eclipse 15, Livermore Blackout 8, 2B - Samantha Waddle (B), 3 hits - Waddle (B); 2 hits - Katelynn Erickson (B), 3 RBI - Waddle (B), 2 RBI - Brocke Lari (B). Livermore Driver Family Impact 10, Livermore Nummi Storm 9, WP - Gianna Devoto, 2B - Iecia Pereida, Jackie Maruskun, Victoria Rowell, Angelina May (I), 3B - Indelisa Pereida (I), HR - Katelyn Krueger (I), 2 hits - In. Pereida, Ic. Pereida, Krueger (I), 2 RBI - Amber Simon, Victoria Rowell (I). Pleasanton Sizzle 12, Livermore Driver Family Impact 10, 2B - Amber Simon, Iecia Pereida, Ocean Garcia, Victoria Rowell (I), 3B - Nicole Sanoval (I), 2 hits - Indelisa Pereida (I), Pereida, Garcia, Rowell (I), Multiple RBIs - Ic. Pereida, Garcia (I). Livermore Blackout 7, Pleasanton Breakers 4, WP - Katelynn Erickson, 2B - Britanni Marstan (B), 3B - Haley Williford, Samantha Waddle (B), 2 hits - Marstan (B), 2 RBI - Brooke Lari (B). **T-ball:** Brent Bowen Photography Fire-crackers vs. Red Roses. Coaches' selections - Lexi Borgna, Alexa Clatt, Morgan Kibbe.

Youth Soccer

The Livermore Elite Fury U13 girls completed its first round of Norcal Spring League. The Fury captured its first win against

the Modesto Ajax. In the fifth minute, Elise Falgout tapped in a free kick from Amanda Fairclough that eluded an Ajax defender for a 1-0 lead. Livermore continued the offensive pressure as Kylie Diaz, Beth McCall and Elyse Codiforo drove the ball deep into the Modesto end. The Fury extended the lead to 2-0 in the 24th minute when Falgout blasted a shot from beyond midfield which eluded a surprised Ajax goalie. Modesto countered with good pressure of their own but the Livermore defense held. Later in the half, Kaitlyn Bulhoes had a strong run to force a corner and a shot on goal. The Fury opened the second half with more pressure in the Ajax end as they controlled the majority of play. Rebekah Johnson played well in the midfield and Jenna Hatch made a strong run down the middle and just missed wide left. Playing its best game of the season so far, the Fury completed the 2-0 victory.

In a doubleheader against the California Odyssey in Clovis, the Fury battled well in the heat to start the game as Alison Pierson and Morgan Brandt pressured the Odyssey defense and Sarah Franklin played hard in the midfield. The Odyssey got a lucky break on their first goal in the 21st minute when a long free kick took a high bounce into the goal. Once they took the lead, the Odyssey dominated the action. Early in the second half they scored on a well-placed shot from their right forward and on a penalty kick two minutes later. The Fury played a strong final fifteen minutes as Madyson Souza worked hard in the midfield to create a couple of scoring opportunities. With ten minutes left, Livermore broke through off an Amanda Fairclough corner kick which Jenna Hatch directed to the goal and was knocked in by a hustling Amber Lennier. Taylor Lennier came up with a couple of big saves to keep the game close but the Odyssey prevailed 3-1.

In the rematch an hour later, the Fury played a more consistent game. The offense put more pressure on their opponent's defense and Livermore shut down the Odyssey forwards. Sarah Wilkinson played well in back and the team battled to a scoreless tie at half. Both teams went back and forth in the second half. Hannah Gooby played excellently in the midfield, defender Zyle Landreth won a couple of 1x1 battles against the Odyssey forwards and Taylor Lennier stopped each shot on goal. With two minutes remaining in the match, Morgan Brandt drove hard to force a corner kick. Amanda Fairclough's well-placed kick found an open Hannah Gooby who fired the game-winning shot just in time to beat the keeper as the Fury won a hard-fought game 1-0.

Livermore Dirtbags

Livermore Dirtbags baseball team defeated the Headfirst Gamers 9 to 8 in the championship game on Sunday to win the Surf City Challenge 11u baseball tournament.

The Livermore team had to come from behind as the Gamers brought their big sticks off and early in the first two innings. With a 7 run deficit Chris Moussa came in for the Dirtbags in relief and pitched 4 1/3 innings of shut out baseball. Then the Dirtbags bats went to work at the plate. In the third inning Ryan Holmes hit a triple and Hayden Goldstein drove him in for the first run of the game for the Dirtbags. In the 5th inning Kevin Key led off with a triple and the hits just kept on coming. Seven batters got to the plate. The Dirtbags defense put a strangle hold

Phillies 3, Padres 12. Top Hitters Phillies - Max Pruett 1-1B, 1-2B, 2-Stolen Bases; Caleb McTear 2-Runs, 6 Stolen Bases; Drew Kujacich 1-Run, 4 Stolen Bases. Top Hitters Padres - Michael Steim 4-1B's, 2-RBIs, 3-Runs; Greg Moreland 3-1B's, 2-RBIs, 1-Run; Will Murphy 3-1B's, 2-Runs, 2-Stolen Bases. Top Pitchers Phillies - Matt Benavidez 4-Innings, 4-Hits, 7-Runs, 3-Strikeouts; Drew Kujacich 2-Innings, 2-Hits, 4-Runs, 1-Strikeout; Chris Ayon 1-Inning, 1-Run. Top Pitchers Padres - Erik Martin 2-Innings, 1-Hit, 1-Run, 2-Strikeouts; Michael Steim 4-Innings, 1-Hit, 2-Runs, 7-Strikeouts; Sam Gausch 1-Inning, 2-Strikeouts.

Padres 7 - Rays 10. Top Hitters Padres - Max Garcia 1B; Michael Steim 2B, 2 runs scored; Eric Martin 1B, 2B, 2 runs scored. Rays - Morgan Kelly 2 1B, 1 RBI, 1 run scored; Noah Stewart 2B, 3B, 3RBI; Austen Moomau 2B, 2B, 2RBI, 2 runs scored. Top Pitchers Padres - Gregory Moreland 5IP, 8H, 5R, 6K. Rays - Joseph Murphy 2IP, 4H, 3R, 5K. The Padres defense shined with a pair of awesome outs by Cynthia Celeste in center field and Sam Gausch at first base. The Rays' bats came alive in the 5th inning and earned a total of 5 runs off of 6 hits which ultimately clinched the win over the Padres.

A's 2, Rays 3. Top Hitters A's - Trey Cortez 1B, 1 run scored; Adam Padilla 2B, 1B, 1 RBI; Lucas Anninos 1B. Rays - Lukas Owen 1B, 1 run scored; Connor Swadener 1B; Austen Moomau 1B. Top Pitchers A's - Wesley Katz 5IP, 4H, 2R, 10K; Rays - Jason Frost - 2IP, 1H, 1R, 3K. A great defensive dual match up between the A's and Rays. The A's fantastic pitching struck out a total of 10 Rays batters while the Rays strong defense left a total of 8 A's runners stranded.

Minor AA - A's 8, Padres 3. Home Offense: Tyler Young 1B, RBI; Adrian Ayala, 1B, RBI; Home Defense: Daniel Granados, Connor Delfelsen, Visitor Offense: Colton Clore 1B; Defense: Jack Kath great catch at SS, Chad Hemmig (pitching). The A's were in prime form as they took on the Padres. Padres 4, Giants 11: Home Offense: Ben Dupuis 1B, RBI; Chad Hemmig 1B, 2B, RBI; Hector Salcedo 1B; RBI; Home Defense: Jacob Dukes 1st base; Jack Kath SS; Michael Silva (Catcher); Visitor Offense: Drew Marples 3 hits & a triple; Zach MacDonald, great hitting; Mark Silverthorn 3 hits; Visitor Defense: Jason Van Bladel fantastic pitching; Tyler Rodgers (Catcher); Reid Heffron, great pitching. The Giants were on fire in this early morning game against the Padres. The Padres did their best to hang on, but the Giants stayed ahead with a final score of 11 to 4. Phillies 6, Padres 5. Phillies Offense - Luke Morrisroe 2B, RBI; Seth Davis 1B; Riley Van Trease 1B; Phillies Defense: Claire Abels (Pitcher); Nate Wilson (1st). Padres Offense: Ben Dupuis 1B, 2RBI; Hector Salcedo 1B; RBI; Dmitriy Boyd 1B; Padres Defense: Duncan Gibson 3rd; Jack Kath, No hitter; and Jacob Duke, Pitcher.

Rays 12, Giants 4. Giants - Top Hitters for the Giants - Reid Heffron 1B, Mark Silverthorn 3B, Zach MacDonald - RBI Defense for Giants: Tyler Rogers (catcher), Jason Van Bladel (outstanding pitching) and Mark Silverthorn with a nice catch at short-stop. Top Hitters for the Rays: Nolan McCormick - 2B, Sean Croghan - 1B, Nick Swanson - 1B, Dylan Martinez - 1B, and Samuel Miller - 2B. Defense for the Rays: Nick Swanson with a great catch on 3rd base, nice plays from Seth Street (pitcher) to Colton Casey (1st Base) and Dylan Martinez with a hot play at 1st.

Minor A - Angels (Offense) Emory Larson, Mitchell Rocero (Defense) Emory Larson, Cade Shortridge, Austin Price, AJ Phillips. Rays (Offense) Nick Swanson, Samuel Miller, Seth Street, Colton Casey (Defense) Seth Street, Dylan Martinez. A's (Offense) Grant Borjon, Winnie Dixon, Westley Gladen. Yankees (Offense) Max O'Connor, Thomas Vi, Spencer Williams. A's (Defense) Tamur Asar, Logan Fernandez, Matt Hargraves, Yankees (Defense) Jacob Morton, Jonathan Nguyen, Michael Nowaczyk.

Phillies (Offense) Scott McPherson, Jared Blackman, Dillon Pedot (Defense) Tre Savino, Alex Northrop, Jeremy Adams : Padres (Offense) Jordan Collom, Trevor White, Sawyer Demarest (Defense) Joshua Collom, Thomas Stevenson, Angel Becerra. Angels (Offense) Jacob Flurry, Xunel Rodriguez, Travis Silva (Defense) Dylan Krauss, Colby Smith, Derek Eijansantos. Red Sox (Offense) Logan Finch, Nicolas Gregovich, Noah Wiesner (Defense) Trevor Kerby, Ryan Lortie, Colton Morlan.

Red Sox (Offense) Ryan Lortie, Justin Watson, Noah Wiesner (Defense) Wyatt Moseley Cole Niermeyer, Anthony Thomas: White Sox (Offense) Daniel Pryor, Gunnar Hollingshaus, Tyler Thompson (Defense) Morgan Labrucherie, Gusstavo Cruz, Zach Stewart. Ray's (Offense) Ryan Layton, TJ Farmer, Peyton Peterson (Defense) Caleb Hachler, Cameron McGee, RJ Mata. Phillies (Offense) Ethan Lux, Alex Northrop, Jeremy Adams (Defense) Caleb Hardesty, Scott McPherson, Tre Savino.

A's (Offense) Garrett Borba, Andrew Choumas, Robert Sandoval (Defense) Jason Wigginton, Malini Tia, Cameron Schrader; Giants (Offense) Jarrett Jorgensen, Gabriel Parrish, Noah Van Atta (Defense) Josiah Knight, Jordan Muller, Ian Rasmussen. Phillies (Offense) Aaron Udouath, Ethan Lux, Tre Savino (Defense) Caleb Hardesty, Andrew Hayley, Ethan Lux: White Sox (Offense) Morgan Labrucherie, Gustavo Gonzales, Zachary Hollingshaus (Defense) Daniel Pryor, Ryan James, Andrew James.

Red Sox (Defense) Elijah Beedles, Anthony Thomas, Justin Watson; (Offense) Trevor Kerby, Ryan Lortie, Cole Niermeyer - Yankees (Defense) Michael Nowaczyk, Max O'Connor, Thomas Vi; (Offense) Cameron Moghadam, Jacob Morton, Jonathon Nguyen. Yankees (Defense) Michael Gauch, Jacob Eijansantos, Jaren Eijansantos; (Offense) Cameron Moghadam, Spencer Williams, Brodie Wolf-Rays (Defense) Caleb Hachler, RJ Mata, TJ Farmer; (Offense) Cam McGee, Ryan Layton, Zak Stewart.

Padres (Offense) Angel Becerra, Benjamin Knuth, Ethan Payne; (Defense) Kyle Correa, Logan Greenough, Sawyer Demarest. A's (Offense) Grant Borjon, Tamur Asar, Cameron Schrader; (Defense) Westley Gladen, Matt Hargraves, Jason Wigginton. Farm - Yankees (Offense) Colton Trudeau, Ryan Stear, Max Higgins; Yankees (Defense) Derek Martinez, Shlok Bansal, RJ. Pirates (Offense) Sam Meiers, Nicholas Melendez, Jesse Watson (Defense) Ben Morrisroe, David Meyer, Cameron Stephenson.

Angels (offense) Ryan Wenzel, Jacob Keeler, Christopher Perez, (defense) Cody Ward, Austin Lee, Ty Marks. Phillies (offense) Daniel Becerra, Danny Geissbuhler, Jacob Kilbane, (defense) Michael Straus, Brendan Paterson, Blake Stokes. Padres (Offense) Seth Lunden, Vijay Madres, Connor Campbell (Defense) Gavin Carreira, Kyle Rodgers, Ben O'Connor; Rays (Offense) Noah Vengley, Donovan Holmes, Katherine Frost (Defense) Skylar Ferguson, Henry Kath, Mason Eastman. Giants (Defense) Paimon Goulart, Ethan James, Chris Schonholz (Offense) Ty Stewart,



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Runners took off in the qualifying rounds of the 1600 meter run in the EBAL track championship meet. Granada High School came home with the team title, with 112 points. Right behind was De La Salle with 104.

Kaegan Nelson, Jaxen McLaren, Red Sox (Defense) Quentin Ayres, Jake Johnston, Joey Katen (Offense) Ethan Lane, Sebastian Lechner, Duncan Maloney. Pirates (Offense) Nicholas Melendez, Sam Meiers, Brad Mitchell. Pirates (Defense) Franco Moufarrj, Tyler Hattori, Thomas Young. Padres (Offense) Cody Ward, Ty Marks, Austin Lee. Padres (Defense) Jacob Keeler, Christopher Perez, Max Weasner.

Giants (Offense) Ethan James, Nathan Woolsey, Nicholas Raab; (Defense) Xavier Hernandez, Jaxen McLaren, Kaegan Nelson Farm. Phillies (Offense) Blake Stokes, Tate Masingale, Jensen Roldan; (Defense) Gregory Short, Hayden Marshall, Brendon Patterson.

T-Ball - Phillies (Offense) Erin Schrader, Seth Mills, RJ Little. Angels (Offense) Mason Franchi, Brandon Shah, Jordan Fritz. Phillies (Defense) Ryan Hutchinson, Augustine Mascari, Neil Shah. Angels (Offense) Nygeli Tia, Bobby Zepeda, Brandon Pillon. Angels (Offense) Carson Devine, Mason Franchi, Brandon Shah (Defense) Connor Perkins, Nayeli Tia, Bobby Zepeda. Rays (Offense) Josh Heninger, Joey Keller, Logan Wright (Defense) Zach Van Huis, Dylan Corker, JD Cerruti.

Giants (Offense) Stephen Geyer, Dale Spence, Noah Thompson (Defense) Connor Waklee, Hayden Williams, Kieran Campbell; Padres (Offense) Jake Fields, Will Wentworth, Garrett Riddiough (Defense) Wesley Short, Ben Wigginton, Camryn Quartaroli. A's (Offense) Michael Mal, Izaih Garrido, Gavin Reynolds (Defense) Dylan Lavine, Cooper Meyer, Michael Buti : White Sox (Offense) Eduardo Angeles, Jared Dipaloa, Dominic Driscoll (Defense) Aidan Buenrostro, Riley Hargaves, Ethan Braman. Great Game Boys!

Padres (Offense) Jake Fields, Ben Wigginton, Wesley Short (Defense) Camryn Quartaroli, Landon Jensen, Brad Vengley, Rays (Offense) Christopher Meinecke, Jackson Newkirk, Ben Sears (Defense) Kyle Drobnick, Austin Melendez, Zach Van Huis.

Livermore National LL

Livermore National Little League highlights: **T-Ball:** Matthew Wells pitched great and made a fantastic catch to help the Giants defeat the A's. Noah White and Stone Remy also pitched well for the Giants. Scott Newby pitched a super game for the A's and Devon Badger and Tristin Thalhuber made incredible defensive plays.

The Diamondbacks and Athletics played their first game without a baseball tie. All players gave their best effort and many had great hits off the pitches. Star players for the Diamondbacks: Kyle Sands and Rylan Matheson for hitting 3 for 3. Game ball went to Tyler Lacy who stayed positive after striking out twice, then coming back with a great hit in the third inning.

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LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2499 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW	
TERMINATOR SALVATION (PG13) DLP	12:20	1:20 3:20 4:10 6:25	7:10 9:05 9:55
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2 (PG) DLP	11:55	1:10 2:20 4:00 4:50	6:35 7:25 9:00 9:45
ANGELS AND DEMONS (PG13) DLP	12:00	1:00 3:00 4:15 6:20	7:30 9:30
STAR TREK (PG13) DLP	11:45	12:30 1:30 2:30 3:30 4:30	
	5:30	6:30 7:15 8:20 9:20 10:00	
DANCE FLICK (PG13) DLP	12:10	2:25 4:40 7:00 9:15	
X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE (PG13) DLP	2:00	4:40 7:20 9:50	
HANNAH MONTANA THE MOVIE (G) DLP	12:00		
GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST (PG13) DLP	2:35	4:55 7:15 9:35	
MONSTERS VS ALIENS 3D (PG) 2D	12:05	2:15	
THE SOLOIST (PG13) DLP		4:25 7:05 9:40	

SPORTS NOTES

incredible defensive plays.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 4: It was a great night for baseball, and the Diamondbacks and Giants did not disappoint with a back and forth game that ended with the D'backs ultimately coming out on top, 5-4. The Giants jumped to an early 3 run lead in the first with 4 consecutive hits from the Giants top of the order including doubles from both DB Vidal and Matthew Wells. The D'backs answered with a run in the bottom of the first on a booming sacrifice fly in the right field gap from Billy Henderson, that allowed Tim Harris to motor all the way from second to home. The Diamondbacks continued to chip away at the 2 run deficit with Henderson adding 2 more rbi in the third to tie the game at 3 and held off the Giants with a great pitching performance from Connor Spalding. In the fourth, Scott Williams held the Giants offense in check with his second wind gem in the outfield. In the bottom half of the inning, Shane Silva hit another 2 run blast out of the park which put the D'backs up 5-3. In the 6th the Giants mounted a furious come back with a double by Eddie Leon scoring 1 to bring the score to 5-4 with runners on second and third, but the D'backs defense rose to the occasion with 2 consecutive defensive outs made at the plate to save the day. Great game by both clubs.

Diamondbacks 9, A's 3: Saturday was "Garrett McDonald" day at the ball park as the Diamondbacks overtook the Athletics, 9-3. The Athletics jumped out early on the D'backs with 3 runs on consecutive hits from Devin Badger, Tyler Wallis and a big 2 rbi double from Ryan Barnes. However, the Diamondbacks would answer with 7 runs in the bottom of the first inning, and they never looked back. Garrett McDonald entered the first to quiet the A's hot bats and ultimately pitched 4 innings of relief, allowing no hits, no runs and 7 strike outs. He was also 3-3 at the plate, 2 rbi, including a double to lead the offensive attack. Shane Silva continued to stay hot at the plate going 2-3 with a shot down the right field line for a double and Jay Telles recorded 6 consecutive outs in relief with 4 strikeouts as well.

Pleasanton Girls Softball

Pleasanton Girls Softball League highlights:

Micro Division: Leslie Wolf-State Farm Insurance vs. City Beach: Leslie Wolf-State Farm Insurance and City Beach played a great game. Leslie Wolf-State Farm Insurance's Haley Roundtree made an out at 2nd. Sydney Fluker had a solid hit that flew past 1st base into the outfield, and we saw some excellent pitching by Rida Lasne. City Beach's Michaela Riter made some great plays on 3rd, Brooke Delaney was an awesome pitcher, and Sophie Clinton slugged a ball clear into the outfield. Top players: Leslie Wolf-State Farm Insurance - Sydney Fluker, Rida Lasne, Haley Roundtree; City Beach - Sophie Clinton, Brooke Delaney, Michaela Riter.

Major Rec Division: California Car Sounds, Inc. 11, TPC 6: An offensive barrage by both teams, as both teams scored in all innings. California Car Sounds, Inc. came out on top with an 11 to 6 win. California Car Sounds, Inc.'s Chloe Connolly was 2 for 2 with 2 runs scored and 1 RBI. Jamie Rinetti was 1 for 1 with 3 RBI's. Shelby Sarin was 1 for 1 with 2 RBI's. TPC's Jillie Eicher was 3 for 3 and scored 2 runs. Sabrina McGraw was 2 for 2 with 2 runs scored. Top players: TPC - Chloe Connolly, Jamie Rinetti, Shelby Sarin; California Car Sounds, Inc. - Jillie Eicher, Sabrina McGraw.

Major Rec Division: Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning 8, Stainless Steel Distributors 6: Stainless Steel Distributors' Katie Eppard went 2 for 3 at the plate with 2 hard hit doubles to left and center fields. Johanna Grauer pitched 4 innings of shut out ball. Morgan Balaban got her first hit in uppers competition with a sharply hit single up the middle. Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning's Ashley Lawrie got a base hit leading to 3 RBI's. Victoria Molina hit a triple (diving into 2nd), and Kendall Moore hit a line drive to 3rd base. Defensively, Catcher Victoria Molina caught some pop flies and Kendall Moore caught a line drive to 2nd base then threw it to 1st for a double play. Top players: Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning - Ashley Lawrie, Victoria Molina, Kendall Moore; Stainless Steel Distributors - Morgan Balaban, Katie Eppard, Johanna Grauer.

Mini Rec Division: Zaballos Construction vs. ACC Environmental: The girls played a very tough 5 innings. The following ACC Environmental players had some an awesome game: Amanda Furrer - 2 great hits; Chloe Beidleman - Great outfielding with an excellent throw to 1st base for the out; Victoria Sanchez - Nice hit, great base running and an out on 3rd. The following girls for Zaballos Construction helped the team out offensively and defensively: Melissa Widas went 1 for 2 with some great defensive playing; Carly Moresco also went 1 for 2 and an RBI for Zaballos. She had some awesome fielding making a few outs for the team; Erika Beyer went 1 for 2 with an RBI for the home team. Top players: Zaballos Construction - Erika Beyer, Carly Moresco, Melissa Widas; ACC Environmental - Chloe Beidleman, Amanda Furrer, Victoria Sanchez.

TSI vs. Zaballos Construction: The first three pitchers for TSI did a fabulous job. Lauren Milligan went 1 for 3 and threw a strike out to the visiting team. Emma Patten also threw a strike out to visiting team. Katherine Deleaux also had a great pitching game with a strike out to the visiting team. Evelyn Morehead played a great defensive game for the home team. Katie Zaballos went 2 for 3 while scoring a run for the visiting team. Allison Stowell went 1 for 2 pitching the third inning and serving up three strike outs. All the girls played a fabulous game. Top players: TSI - Katherine Deleaux, Lauren Milligan, Emma Patten; Zaballos Construction - Evelyn Morehead, Allison Stowell, Katie Zaballos.

Moonshot Girl vs. Ogdan Costa Creative Group: It was an exciting game between the two teams. Moonshot Girl had some great pitching with Hannah Brown and Gabby Finley. Hanni Schott hit a big double. Brooke Christian made a great play at 1st base. Ogdan Costa Creative Group had some great pitchers with Sarah Costa and Sabrina Ornelas. Maria Summerset did some good hitting and catching. Top players: Moonshot Girl - Brooke Christian, Gabby Finley, Hanni Schott; Ogdan Costa Creative Group - Sarah Costa, Sabrina Ornelas, Maria Summerset.

Farmers Insurance Group vs. Bauer's Worldwide Transportation: Emily Cabral pitched a 3 out inning highlighted by grabbing a ball as it went by for a fly out. Emma Petersen hit a nice ball with confidence in the fourth inning. Sarah Layer coming off the bench cold to pitch perfectly in the fifth inning. Top players: Farmers Insurance Group - Sarah Layer, Emily Cabral, Emma Peterson; Bauer's Worldwide Transportation - Courtney Dinelli, Kiley Grundstrom, Bridget O'Sullivan.

Farmers Insurance Group vs. ACC Environmental: Accurate pitching by Hailey Berman and hits to the outfield by Claire Wagner and Hannah Friesen were hotter than the rising temperature. Aggressive base running and solid defense by Lauren Slater, Chloe Beidleman and Amanda Furrer contributed to an exciting season end for ACC Environmental. Top players: Farmer's Insurance Group - Hailey Berman, Hannah Friesen, Claire Wagner; ACC Environmental - Chloe Beidleman, Amanda Furrer, Lauren Slater.

Accurate Impressions vs. Pulte Homes: The game started with excellent fielding from both teams. Pulte Homes had two big hits in the 2nd inning as well as a home run. Eve Schiano from Accurate Impressions had a great inning with a double. Kallie Emerson from Accurate Impressions made things tough for Pulte Homes with solid pitching in the 3rd inning, and Kami Kodama had a bit hit. Top players: Accurate Impressions - Kallie Emerson, Kami Kodama, Eve Schiano; Pulte Homes - Bryn Doyle, Grace Nielson, Megan Ritter.

Mini Upper Division: John Rocha-REMAX Accord 6, Fritz's Landscaping Company 5: John Rocha-REMAX Accord - Solid pitching by Danielle Williams, along with excellent hitting with 2 RBI's, Caroline Clark had 4 RBI's, and Haley Okumura did a great job at 1st base. Top players: John Rocha-REMAX Accord - Caroline Clark, Haley Okumura, Danielle Williams.

Big O Times 8, J. Lohr Vineyards and Wines 0: Solid pitching effort from Arabelle Franco with Harper Cook as her catcher for J.

Minor Rec Division: Bugler Construction 6, CPU Tech 2: CPU Tech played a tough game. Marissa Mancebo had a great hit to 1st, then scored a run. Jasmine Benito had an awesome pop fly catch her first time back in play after being out due to injury. Olivia Gonsman had an outstanding pitching day striking out 4 players, and got 3 more players out on base. Bugler Construction played a great game to win. Shelby McGinnis got a double. Phoebe Chung played solid defense. Sabrina had an awesome pop fly catch then got a runner out on 2nd. Top players: CPU Tech - Jasmine Benito, Olivia Gonsman, Marissa Mancebo; Bugler Construction - Phoebe Chung, Sabrina Dunham, Shelby McGinnis.

Minor Upper Division: Crunch n' Munch 4, E Squared Automotive 1: E Squared Automotive's Lauren Blach and Nadia Firoozmand had some great hits. Katie Jefferies knocked in the run. Crunch n' Munch's Sophia Brown killed the ball to drive in 3 runs. Great pitching by Crunch n' Munch's Shay Simmons and Madison Duval. Top players: E Squared Automotive - Lauren Blach, Nadia Firoozmand, Katie Jefferies; Crunch n' Munch - Sophia Brown, Madison Duval, Shay Simmons.

Chase Electric 5, Crunch n' Munch 4: Top players: Chase Electric - Madison Avery, Christina Echavia, Tori Larsen; Crunch n' Munch - Sophia Brown, Erin Overland, Shay Simmons.

E Squared Automotive 6, Chase Electric 3: In an exciting game to the last inning, E Squared Automotive pulled out a 6-3 victory. Kayla Moniz had a great overall game with two hits at the plate and a nice defensive play. Jenna Crawford had a great game on the bases scoring several runs including stealing home. Laura Planin had a great but to advance the runners and an RBI. Ryan Harding had a great game at the plate and a very nice scoop on a foul ball for an out. Nalani Seates and Devon Buteau contributed offensively with several clutch hits. Top players: Chase Electric - Jenna Crawford, Kayla Moniz, Laura Planin; E Squared Automotive - Devon Buteau, Ryan Harding, Nalani Seates.

Major Rec Division: California Car Sounds, Inc. 11, TPC 6: An offensive barrage by both teams, as both teams scored in all innings. California Car Sounds, Inc. came out on top with an 11 to 6 win. California Car Sounds, Inc.'s Chloe Connolly was 2 for 2 with 2 runs scored and 1 RBI. Jamie Rinetti was 1 for 1 with 3 RBI's. Shelby Sarin was 1 for 1 with 2 RBI's. TPC's Jillie Eicher was 3 for 3 and scored 2 runs. Sabrina McGraw was 2 for 2 with 2 runs scored. Top players: TPC - Chloe Connolly, Jamie Rinetti, Shelby Sarin; California Car Sounds, Inc. - Jillie Eicher, Sabrina McGraw.

Major Rec Division: Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning 8, Stainless Steel Distributors 6: Stainless Steel Distributors' Katie Eppard went 2 for 3 at the plate with 2 hard hit doubles to left and center fields. Johanna Grauer pitched 4 innings of shut out ball. Morgan Balaban got her first hit in uppers competition with a sharply hit single up the middle. Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning's Ashley Lawrie got a base hit leading to 3 RBI's. Victoria Molina hit a triple (diving into 2nd), and Kendall Moore hit a line drive to 3rd base. Defensively, Catcher Victoria Molina caught some pop flies and Kendall Moore caught a line drive to 2nd base then threw it to 1st for a double play. Top players: Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning - Ashley Lawrie, Victoria Molina, Kendall Moore; Stainless Steel Distributors - Morgan Balaban, Katie Eppard, Johanna Grauer.

Athens Burgers 5, Air Serv Heating & Air Conditioning 3: Athens Burgers: Home Run from Ali Gonsman, doubles from Reno Moreno and Jenni Beadle, 6 K's and a great defensive play from Corinne Valdx, smart defense from Nicole Yozzo and a highlight reel full-split put out at 1st by Jenni Beadle. Air Serv Heating & Air Conditioning: Powerful hitting with two doubles from Victoria Molina and Kendall D'India. Excellent outfield play from Hannah Menk, Nikki Costello and Ella Wiley to rob the opponent of many potential extra base hits. Top players: Athens Burgers - Jenni Beadle, Corinne Valdx, Nicole Yozzo; Air Serv Heating & Air Conditioning - Kendall D'India, Hannah Menk, Victoria Molina.

Amador Swimming

Amador Valley's Varsity Girls Medley Relay team finished 8th at NCS with an All-American Consideration time of 1:49:50. The swimmers were Jenn Docto, Catherine Breed, Tory Houston, and Danielle Stickler. Overall the Girls finished 8th in the section while the boys finished 9th.

Amador Valley's four varsity girls scored exceptionally well at the NCS meet on Thursday, 5/14. Alexa Hernandez (Soph) came in 7th with a score of 335.15, Emma Rigl (Fresh) came in 9th with a score of 330.35, Marina Mihov (Fresh), 13th with 298.70 and Lisa Grau (Jr) 15th with 282.85. All four made the 2nd and last cut of the competition, leaving 16 divers from the original 35 top divers in NCS, which comprises of 153 schools and 21 leagues. EBAL divers were 42% of the total girls NCS list showing how competitive the EBAL league is in diving.

Emma Rigl and Marina Mihov finished as the top ranked Freshman divers in the NCS. Further, Alexa, Emma and Marina are all new to diving with this being their first year in the sport. They are all former gymnasts.

Boys Varsity: Tyler Pullen (Jr) pulled in a 2nd place finish at the NCS meet on Thursday. With an all time high of 515.25 (our last 11 dive record was 477.60 from 1988), Tyler showed his perfection and expertise in the sport.

Livermore American LL

Livermore American Little League highlights:

T-Ball: The Pirates Vs The Royals: The sun was bright and both teams were just awesome! The Superstar Pirates of the game were Jacob Arreche, Max Thorpe, John Joiner, and Ethan Voelker.

A Division: Phillies 18, Mets 5: The Mets started off strong and held the lead for the first 3 innings, but it wasn't enough to defeat the Phillies. Xavier Pelican was unstoppable hitting a triple and double for the Phillies. Blake Biitner had a great day at the plate as well. And Cameron Winter helped hold the Mets to 5 runs with his great defense. Jacob Zayas of the Mets played an awesome game with 2 solid base hits for an RBI. Jacob also had a top defensive game. Alexander Cirina played great at 1st base and helped advance the runners with a single. Grant Peterson smashed a long ball to left for a double.

Astros v. Reds: Astros top players: Sean Rolandelli - Great Pitching, Bailey Kemp - 3 for 3 hitting, Ray Funk - Great hits and great catching; Reds top players: Jonathan Song - single, Ryan Bond - great pitching/fielding. Rockies v. Reds: Rockies top players: Andrew Sevil 3 for 3, Adam Lebish - 3 hits 3 RBI's, Shawn Cox - 2 hits and solid defense; Reds top players: Luke Foscalina - Triple, Gerardo Cabassa - great job first time pitching, Jared Hubert - Single.

Devils Rays 12, Braves 8: The players have polished their skill and are playing great offense and defense. Devil Rays' Michael Chen hit a double and advanced runners of a run. Landon Paiso helped keep the Braves hitter's at bay with awesome defense. The Brave's players Jackson Brown and Colin Barnett both hit two doubles in the game.



Pictured is Amador varsity diver Emma Rigl. See Amador Swimming story in Sports Notes for more information.

great fielding and hitting. Zack Burke had a double and a base hit. Alejandro Cabassa has 3 base hits.

AA Division: Rockies 2, Diamondback 0: The Diamondbacks were down by two in their final at bat, then rallied to put runners on second and third. The Rockies were able to hang on for the victory. Top Players, Rockies: Andrew Scull for solid defense. Jose Mariscal for great defense, and Cody Skinner for great pitching. Top Players, Diamondbacks: Tyler McMahon for 3 solid innings at pitcher, Jack Perry for a double and nice defense and catching, and Garon Michaelis for good hitting.

Tigers 4, Pirates 2: For the Pirates, Ryan Mitchell Noah Reno and Ryan Durrant all had magnificent plays in the unfortunate loss to the Tigers. It was a great game all around even with the Heat all the kids played well. Leading the Tigers: Grant Murphy Caught 2 Pop Flies to get the ball rolling for the Tigers, Austin Toland Hit in 2 RBI Starting the Rally, and Kaylee Woods caught a pop fly leading into the 4th inning to keep the Pirates at bay.

Cardinals 4, Indians 0: Great pitching and defense by both teams kept the score at 0 until the bottom of the 3rd when Travis Palma hit a triple and drove in two runs for the Cardinals. A run in the 4th and another in the 5th inning secured the Cardinals win over the Indians 4-0. Cardinals top players: Carter Fischer - (2 IB), Robby Twisten (1B), Bobby Payne (catcher) hit at second, Indiana top players: Nick Tivey - (2 IB), Bradley Archer (1B), Jared Tavares - (Defense).

Cubs 8, D'Backs 7: For the Cubs, Jordan Esling hit a 2 RBI double bring home Michael Honeycutt and DeAndre Hawkins. Hunter Burke hit an RBI single bring home Jordan Esling for the winning run. Ryan McDonnell played catcher for 3 solid innings. He stopped a steal headed for third with a solid throw to Wes Williams for the 3rd out in the 2nd. Zack Ridenour pitched 2 solid innings Wes Williams hit a 2 RBI double bring home Chase Dunn & Austin Brown. D'Backs top players: Payton Gibbs - Hit a double. Scott Ragatz - Hit a triple.

White Sox 4, Astros 0: With only nine players, the White Sox managed to bring in one run each of the first 4 innings while keeping the Astros scoreless. The Sox' Noah Pettit had a nice hit in the 3rd inning, & did a great job as catcher. Zachariah Eah got a single & made some nice plays at third; while close-out pitcher Julian Chavira got a single early in the game & made some outstanding plays at first base. The Astros' Shane Clifton kept the Sox in check, pitching a K's, catching a line drive, & making a great throw to first for another out; and fielder Ray Funk contributed to another two outs. The Astros Chris Powell got a beautiful double late in the game, followed by a fast steal to third.

AAA Division: Giants 11, Angels 27: Giants top players: Moragn Neu - Terrific catch in Left Field, Cameron Dickson - Triple that brought in 3 runs, Tanner Paiso - RBI single. Angels top players: Carter Dickson - double, Nathan Coats - great base hit and awesome catch, Matt Shezifi - 3 for 4 hitting. Athletics 29, Giants 9: The Athletics bats were in full swing in Tues. nights game against the Giants. Gab Rudy had 2 singles for an RBI, a walk, and a double. Boney Noreiga had a single, and a double for an RBI. Boney slid well to advance while on base. Jacob "JT" Tidwell kept the runs a coming with 3 singles and a double for 4 RBI's. JT pitched an excellent game and threw out a runner at 1st base who was trying to steal. The Giants had great pitching from Jordan Lemnier. Seth Higby had a solid day with 2 singles. And Ryan Grewohl added to his teams offense with 2 singles.

Padres 6, Athletics 3: After giving up 3 first inning runs, Austin Birdwell settled down to strike out 6 A's over 3 innings. Justin Dalin followed with 3 innings of no-hit ball, also striking out 6, capped off by starting a game-ending double play. John Langerud started the scoring for the Padres in the second inning. Leaders for the Athletics included Kyle Archer and Logan Koch who each had RBI doubles in the first. Defensive standout for the Athletics was Daniel Nunez.

Padres 8, Giants 3: Jerry Roque had 2 hits and 2 RBIs as the Padres won back-to-back games for the first time this season. Chandler Jones and Tyler McKinney also had RBI singles. Carlos Hernandez pitched 3 effective innings of relief. He stranded 3 runners in the 4th and finished the game with 5 strikeouts. Leaders for the tough Giants club were Patrick Schwartz who followed a strong pitching performance with a base hit in the 5th. Other leaders on offense for the Giants were Bobby Woods and Conner Dickson who each had base hits.

Angels 6, Mariners 6: It was a hard fought ball game in the blazing heat this past Saturday. Mariners scored early and lead the Angels for most of the game until the 5th inning when the Angels rallied and capitalized on 3 Mariners errors. The Mariners with the game slipping away on the top of the 6th inning Jamie Osorio is walked and Jarod Heise hits a single. Mauricio Zavala hits a hard ground ball to 1st base but was stopped by the Angels 1st baseman Tyler Gonzales. It advances Jamie Osorio and Jarod Heise to 3rd and 2nd. Bryce Dibsrow was pitching a great game but throws a wild pitch. Jamie Osorio and Jarod Heise steals home and ties the game. On the bottom of the 6th the Angels was held scoreless by great fielding by Nathan Tabaraci with scrapped and acting knees. The game ended in a tie and may be settled on a later date.

JR 80 House Division: The LALL Jr 80's Giants retained their first place standing with a 8-4 victory over the GLL Twins. The Twins had scratched out a 2-0 lead over Giants starter J.T. Mahler going into the sixth inning. But then Travis Adams started things off for the Giants by ripping a single and stealing the next two bags. Josh Davidson plated Adams with a single to left and Clayton Stank followed that with an RBI double to left-center. Jesse Davis walked and Junior Wilkins calmly plated two more with a double off the wall in right-center. Kyle Christopher then knocked in Wilkins with a rap to left. The Giants would score four more

Holland in a game played at Sequoia High in Redwood City.

Tor Heggelund and Nick Stivers added one goal each, with Conner Nevers and Holland getting two assists apiece. Broder Heggelund added an assist for Pleasanton.

Pleasanton got great play in the midfield from Chet Koziol, Luke Legins and Andrew Totaro, while the defense of Connor Veit, Zane Manaa, Christian Son, Enrico Schiaffino and Kevan Knaggs also played well, at one point keeping Novato from scoring when they had a three-man penalty advantage.

Josh Miller got his 16th win over the season in the goal, holding Novato to the three goals, only one of which came in the second half.

Next up for the Hurricanes is the NorCal final four which will take place Saturday, May 20 in Danville. Ross Valley, the San Jose Firehawks and Diablo Scorpions round out the Final Four.

Pleasanton will face the Firehawks and Ross Valley takes on Diablo at 12:30, with the winners meeting for the NorCal title at 4 p.m.

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 nonprofit 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 shadowcliffsorc.com. For further information you can contact Al DeGaur at (510) 414-7928 or John Bower at (925) 294-9050.

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 \$15 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 (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.

Youth Lacrosse

The Pleasanton Hurricanes, under-13 A boys lacrosse team advanced to the Northern California Junior Lacrosse Association semifinals with a 8-3 win over Novato on Saturday night.

The Hurricanes, 16-1 overall and the No. 2 seed in the NorCal playoffs, got four goals from Matthew Maria Cui and two from Jamir

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.

Hats Off America

The 15th Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Run or Walk will be held on Saturday, June 6 beginning at 10 a.m. at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville, rain or shine. Entry fee is \$35 per person. There is no entry fee for volunteers. All runners and volunteers will receive a red t-shirt and lunch.

Hats Off America is a non-profit organization that raises awareness of and money for the families of soldiers who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

For information or to register or volunteer, contact Sparky George at (925) 855-1950 or thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com. The website includes links to other organizations that support our troops. Hats Off America is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. www.hatsoffamerica.us.

Bicycle Criterium

The International Christian Cycling Club will host its 18th annual bicycle criterium race in the Hacienda Business Park in Pleasanton on Sat., June 6.

Racers must have racing licenses, which they can purchase the day of the race, in addition to race fees. New to the Dash for Cash this year is a 30-minute handcyle race. Registration is at 7 p.m. Registration is available on line at SportsBaseOnline.com. The course is .9 mile, clockwise, flat, fast, four right hand turns on pavement.

The Pleasanton based club holds weekly rides Saturday morning leaving from the parking lot from Meadowlark Dairy at 9 a.m. Rides are approximately 35 to 70 miles with a different route each week. For information, contact Tania Smith at 462-2626.

Table Tennis Tournament

There will be a Table Tennis Tournament on Sat., June 20, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Tri-Valley Table Tennis Club, 5001 Case Ave., Pleasanton, in the Pleasanton Middle School Gym.

The tournament is being organized by the Taiwanese & Chinese American Athletic Tournament of San Francisco Bay Area and sponsored by the Tri-Valley Table Tennis Club Corporation.

Walk-in or mail registration is at the Chinese Cultural Center, 1269 Forgewood Ave., Sunnyvale, www.tcant.org (408) 747-0394; email trivalleytc@yahoo.com, information at (925) 200-8078.

Registration fees are Single Events \$16.00, Additional Single events: \$12 each; 12 and under Singles \$12, additional singles event \$10; Double registrations \$24; team registration \$40, Junior Team registration \$30; Chinese School Team registrations \$40.

The registration deadline is June 8. Walk in registrations is at Tri-Valley Table Tennis Club before June 6, at 11 p.m.

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.

RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR ELDERLY
State License No. 015601405

Pump up your cash flow

and give a new home to your old stuff.

Livermore's Citywide Garage Sale

Saturday • June 20, 2009

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Call (925) 447-1300 by June 8 to sign up for this one-day-only event!



Ask Kathleen

Kathleen Minsler, Waste Reduction Specialist, offers advice about the 4Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle, rot (compost).

- Q:** We heard our family can make money and help the environment by participating in the Seventh Annual Citywide Garage Sale. Do you have details?
- A:** Yes! You can earn extra cash and give your clutter a new life cycle (in someone else's home) in a one-day event that offers participants:
 - An option to hold their own sale or go in with neighbors.
 - A free "Garage Sale Kit" with a "how to" brochure and an advertising poster.
 - Free newspaper advertising to attract more shoppers.
- To sign up, call WM by June 8, 2009.** Since WM does not collect unsold items after the event, participants may keep them or donate them to charity.



Sign up. It's recycling at its best.

OBITUARIES

Minoru Kobayashi

Long time Livermore resident Minoru Kobayashi passed away peacefully Monday, May 11, 2009. He was 86 years old.

He was born in Aliviso, CA, Oct. 14, 1922. At age 5, his family returned to Mie-Ken Japan to work on the family farm. Minoru, at age 18, returned to the United States. He received his high school diploma from Livermore High School and took college classes at Diablo Valley College. Minoru briefly worked in the floral industry and later worked and retired after 29 years of service as a clinical Medical Laboratory Technician for Alameda County's Fairmont Hospital in San Leandro.

He was a long time member of the Tri-Valley Japanese American Citizens League.

Minoru especially enjoyed fishing trips to the sierras and coastal beaches w/his family. He was an avid gardener and took pride in his bountiful garden especially his apple trees. He enjoyed watching the Oakland Raiders football team before they moved to LA.

Minoru was a beloved husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Sayoko, son's Andy (Diane), and Gary, grandchildren Anne and Andrew, brother Akira of Japan and sister Sumiko of Japan. He was preceded in death by his brother Shigeru of Japan.

A Memorial service was held May 15 in Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Alzheimer's Association-Northern California, 1060 La Avenida St., Mountain View, CA 94043.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

John Medinas

John Medinas went home to be with the lord on May 13, 2009 at the age of 88 years old. John was born in San Leandro, CA on Oct. 13, 1920 to Raymond and Marion Medinas. John spent most of his young years in San Leandro, Oregon, Fremont and Sebastopol, and then later moved to Livermore in 1984, where he spent the rest of his life. Medinas was a construction superinten-

dent for Felson Builders for many years. He honorably served in the United States Navy.

He was a member of the Carpenter's Union # 713 in Hayward. He loved gardening vegetables and flowers, fishing, woodworking and quilting.

John was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mary, who passed in 2003. He is survived by daughters Ann Allen and Becky Medinas of Livermore and Judy Lewis of Modesto, and a sister Marion Tully of Livermore, 7 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

Chapel Blessing Services were held May 18 in Livermore. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Hayward.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Willis Arthur Sandholtz

Willis Arthur "Sandy" Sandholtz passed away early Monday morning, May 11, 2009, at his home in Livermore. He departed as he had lived his life, in peace and with his cherished wife, LaMyrl, at his side.

Sandy Sandholtz was born February 27, 1922, in Whitehall, Montana, the only child of Claus Arthur Sandholtz and Carma Willis Sandholtz. He grew up in the West, in Twin Falls, Idaho, and eventually in Seattle, Washington. The first in his family to attend college, Sandy entered the University of Washington to study chemical engineering. World War II interrupted his higher education.

He served in the U.S. Army until after the war's end. Returning to Seattle, Sandy completed his undergraduate education and then earned a Master's Degree. During those years, he met LaMyrl Boyack, whom he married on September 14, 1953.

The newlyweds spent their first years together in St. Paul, Minnesota, where Sandy worked in the laboratories of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company and where their first two children, Wayne and Signe, were born. Returning west, the young Sandholts arrived in the Bay Area, where Sandy and LaMyrl welcomed four more chil-

dren into the family: Kurt, Ilene, Jerie, and Steven. They settled in Livermore in 1961 as Sandy had begun work at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where he continued until his retirement in 1986.

Sandy had the curious, exploring mind of a scientist and the practical skills of an engineer. To his children, it seemed that he knew everything and could fix anything. Yet his soul was deeply attuned to beauty, which he constantly found in jazz and in nature. He loved words and wordplay. He was an inveterate punster, but also wrote graceful poems for his beloved LaMyrl. Sandy was a man of profound spiritual reservoirs, which he shared liberally. He did not talk about virtues, he lived them: gentleness, quiet kindness, modesty, forbearance. He refrained from judging others or their trials, and did not complain about his own. When a task awaited, Sandy did not look for someone to do it, but set to work himself, efficiently and without fanfare.

Sandy's faith was the bedrock upon which he built a life of selfless devotion to family and church. He led congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Livermore-Pleasanton Valley, serving as bishop in Livermore and as the first president of the Livermore Stake and as its patriarch. With LaMyrl, he fulfilled two missions for the church, in Sydney, Australia and in Nauvoo, Illinois. Sandy also found great satisfaction in building broad communities of faith. He was an original member of the Tri-Valley Interfaith Council and its president from 1993 to 1995.

Above all, Sandy cherished his family. His love was boundless and open, for his wife, LaMyrl; his children by blood and marriage - Wayne and Judy Sandholtz, Signe and Jesse Hepler, Kurt and Carrie Sandholtz, Ilene and Gary Gehrke, Jerie and Robert Jacobs, and Steven and Jennifer Sandholtz - his grandchildren - Sarah and Will Sandholtz; Bonnie, Kurt, Wyatt, Scott, and Jennifer Hepler; Wayne, Nathan, Anne, Ben, Joseph, and Coby

Sandholtz; Matthew and Kaden Gehrke; Julie and Robert Taggart, Allison, Heather, and Briant Jacobs; Catherine, Roxanne, Clark, Trevor, Victoria, and Steven Sandholtz - and his great-grandchildren Lydia and Emerson Taggart. He delighted in the growth and accomplishments of each, and each will remember him with love and gratitude.

A memorial service celebrating the life of Sandy Sandholtz will take place at 11:00 am on Saturday May 23, 2009, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1501 Hillcrest Avenue, Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Sandy's name to any of the following organizations: Hope Hospice (http://207.155.252.72/hopehospice.com/about.htm, 925-829-8770), the American Parkinson Disease Association (www.apdaparkinson.org), Humanitarian Services of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (http://www.ldspilanthropies.org/humanitarian-services/), or the Perpetual Education Fund of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (http://www.ldspilanthropies.org/perpetual-education-fund/).

Virginia Helen Johnson

Virginia Helen Johnson, age 89, passed away May 14, 2009 at Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek following an extended illness.

Virginia was born December 13, 1919 in Ludington, Michigan. She was the eldest of 2 daughters born to Arthur and Helen Michaud. Virginia married Aubrey Johnson and together they raised 6 boys. She saw the world as an Air Force wife for 23 years and settled in Livermore in 1966. For fifteen years she worked as a receptionist at the Livermore V.A., before retiring in August 1981.

Virginia was preceded in death by her husband of 39 years, Aubrey, her sister; Frances Larsen, granddaughter; Kathryn Johnson and by a great granddaughter; Tessa Dewherst.

Virginia will be greatly missed by her 6 sons Aubrey of Livermore, CA, James (Victoria) of Sumerduck, VA, Jerrold (Edith) of Tracy, CA, Jac (Susan) of Bethel, OH, Joseph (Patricia) of Sparks, NV and Jeffery (Barbara) of Tracy, CA., brother-in-law; Warren (Alice) Abrahamson of Ludington, MI. She is also survived by her 14 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, 4 nephews, 2 nieces and many friends all of whom were very dear to her.

Family and friends are welcome to come and visit with Virginia on Tuesday, May 26, from 4-7 p.m., with a Rosary to follow at 7 p.m. at Callaghan Mortuary 3833 East Ave. Livermore. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 at 11 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Virginia will join her late husband, Aubrey, in Ludington, Michigan.

Miguel Angel Mendoza

Miguel Angel Mendoza completed his journey of life on May 16, 2009. Born in Santa Rosa, CA on Dec. 1, 1967, he graduated from Escalon High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Fresno State.

Miguel married Jole Bowman in 1993. Miguel loved his friends, family, the Dallas Cowboys and LA Dodgers. He enjoyed traveling, going to concerts and sporting events. He lived in San Francisco for 14 years before moving to Livermore. He worked for San Francisco City College as an IT Manager. He loved his job and his colleagues.

He will be missed by his wife of 16 years Jole, cats: Romulus, Graucho and Nefertiti of Livermore, parents Angela and Evaristo Mendoza of Ceres, sister and brother-in-law Esperanza and Mark Turley of Fresno, brothers Pablo Mendoza and his family of Hughson and Juan Mendoza and his family of Ceres, and all of his friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 Ave., Livermore, at 2 p.m. on

Thursday, May 21. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Miguel's name to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

Crescenciana Rangel

Crescenciana (Ana) Rangel was born on September 14, 1920 in Miami, Arizona. She left behind her loving husband Pedro Ortiz Rangel.

They met 70 years ago in a little ranch called San Ignacio in Mexico. Pedro swept Crescenciana off her feet while he roared his horse towards her and it was happily ever after. They have an anniversary coming up September 30, 2009 they would have celebrated 70 years of marriage.

She left behind 7 children. Consuelo Jaurigui of San Mateo, CA; Alfredo Rangel of Mexico; Jesus Rangel of Atwater, CA; Lourdes Widman of Livermore, CA; Pedro Rangel, Jr. of Brentwood, CA; Marti Silva of Tracy, CA; Gracie Scott of Tracy, CA. She also left behind 25 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. She also had many friends that she met over the years who fell in love with her and never left her side.

Crescenciana was a loving woman who loved to be with her family and friends. She enjoyed having family gatherings at her home in Livermore, where she lived for 35 years with her husband. She was a devoted, courageous, tireless woman. She loved music, dancing, playing bingo and watching her family and friends having a good time. She was a member of St. Michael's Church and faithfully attended. She will now reunite with her loving son Gerardo Rangel and her grandson Robert Jaurigui who passed away in 1983.

Mass of the resurrection will be celebrated on Friday, May 22, 2009 at 11 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., Livermore, with burial to follow at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery, 3885 East Ave. Livermore.

Arrangements by Callaghan Mortuary.

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

FOR INFORMATION PLACING LEGAL NOTICES CONTACT BARBARA @ 925 243-8000

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
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. 2491. Publish April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423340

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
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 Laguna Lane, Alameda Ca 94502

This business is conducted by: 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 Teare, 2892 St. Denis Dr., San Ramon, Ca 94583
This business is conducted by: Individual
Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Cheryl Teare

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 Store & Academy, 2156 First Street, Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Stanley M. Houston, 767 Violet Court, Benicia Ca 94510
Marianne R. 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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 424111

The following person(s) doing business as: Quest Consulting, 1047 Serpentine Lane #300, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Cort Allen, 366 Christina Ct., Pleasanton Ca 94566

This business is conducted by: Individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on September 1984

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Cort Allen

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 28, 2009. Expires April 28, 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2496. Publish May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 424098

The following person(s) doing business as: Kandel Insurance

Agency, 4355 Technology Dr., Unit H, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Eric Lawrence Kandel, 1879 Paseo Laguna Seco, Livermore Ca 94551

This business is conducted by: Individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on March 01, 2009

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Eric Kandel

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 27, 2009. Expires April 27, 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2497. Publish May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 424453

The following person(s) doing business as: In The Dark Productions, 2243 Hampton Rd., Livermore Ca 94550 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Jensen & Associates Inc., 2243 Hampton Rd., Livermore Ca 94550

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

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Stanley I. Jensen Jr.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 7, 2009. Expires May 7, 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2498. Publish May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 424187-424188

The following person(s) doing business as: 1) Door 2 Door Tech Solutions, 2) Threewisebabies.com, 298 Goldfinch Way, Livermore Ca 94551 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Gregory Caulder, 1611 Swarthout Ct., Tracy Ca 95376
Amanda Caulder, 1611 Swarthout Ct., Tracy Ca 95376

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/ Amanda Caulder

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 29, 2009. Expires April 29, 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2499. Publish May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423928

The following person(s) doing business as: WaterColors By KB, 8864 Calle Altamira, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Karen Fieschler, 8864 Calle Altamira, Pleasanton Ca 94566

This business is conducted

by: an Individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on December 1, 2002

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Karen Fieschler

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 23, 2009. Expires April 23, 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2500. Publish May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 2009.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 423828

The following person(s) doing business as: Welcome Home Realty, 39 California Ave. Ste 204C, Pleasanton Ca 94566 is hereby registered by the following owner(s):

Maria Abker, 2119 Presidio Ct., Danville Ca 94526

This business is conducted by: Individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name (s) listed above on December 1, 2002

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Maria Abker

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on April 21, 2009. Expires April 21, 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2503. Publish May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2009.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO. 395283
The following person (s) has (have) Abandoned the use if the Fictitious Business Name: Fantastic Sams, 869 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore Ca 94550
The Fictitious Business Names Statement was filed on May 1, 2007 in the County of Alameda.

Signature of Registrant: /s/ Marina Devine

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on May 12, 2014.

The Independent Legal No. 2504. Publish May 21, 28, June 4, 11, 2009

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: APRIL 24, 2008
To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are:

WINE GROUP LLC THE
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:

4590 TESLA RD LIVERMORE, CA 94550
For the following type of License: 20 OFF-SALE BEER AND WINE

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
1515 Clay St, Ste 2208
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 622-4970

Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, offers animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, both dogs and cats are available at the Pleasanton

The Independent Legal No. 2501. Publish May 14, 21, 28, 2009.

Notice of Warehouseman's Lien Sale Auction

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below pursuant to Sections 7201-7210 of the California Commercial Code and relevant Sections of the California Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale, by competitive bidding on the 6th day of June, 2009, at 6475 Las Positas Boulevard, Livermore, CA 94551, at 10:00am, the goods referred to below subject to a warehouseman's lien:

These goods are the lien property of the following individuals:

Kvidera, Donna - used furniture, marble tops, patio furniture, treadmill, and other unknown items
Keith, Danny - used furniture, electronics, books, tools, school supplies and other unknown items
Porter, Karlin - used furniture, appliances, electronics, and other unknown items
Dovgji, Eugene - used furniture, camping equipment, doghouse and other unknown items
McClure, Dustin - used furniture, big screen TV, appliances, and other unknown items
Guinn, Clyde - used furniture and other unknown items

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash or cash equivalent only. All purchased items sold as is where is and must be removed at the time of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between the Seller and the obligated party. Bidder's Deposit may be required. Call ahead to make sure sale is still scheduled.

Seller: Rossiter Relocation Services
Forrest O'Brien, Bond Number #00104533207 (925) 371-0933
The Independent Legal No. 2502. Publish May 14, 21, 2009

ANIMALS

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LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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NOTICES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

151) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Axis Health Center
4361 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Serves Valley residents with emphasis on those with low income. The center has general medical services, family planning, well baby, prenatal and maternity programs, social services, blood pressure checks, WIC food supplement programs, premarital blood test, sports/camp physicals, TB screening, free transportation available. 925-462-1755

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<p>GENE WILLIAMS Managerial Consultant, REALTOR® (510) 390-0325</p> <p>CINDY WILLIAMS CRS, GRI - REALTOR® (925) 243-0900 www.williamsteam.net Over Three Decades of Experience!!!</p>	<p>Sandee Utterback (888) 823-8315 WWW.SANDEEU.COM Prudential California Realty "Specializing in Livermore's Finest Homes"</p>	
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REAL ESTATE NEWS AND NOTICES

VA Offers Options for Vets Who Want to Buy Homes

By Cher Wollard
After World War II, Veterans' Administration loan guarantees under the GI Bill of Rights helped spur one of the most dramatic housing booms in U.S. history. From 1945 to 1959, approximately 5.7 million home loans were issued through the VA program. At its peak, these loans financed nearly 20 percent of all home starts.

In recent years, however, the program declined dramatically in popularity, especially in the Bay Area, where typical home prices vastly exceeded the limits on VA mortgages.

That changed last year when Congress passed the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act, vastly increasing loan limits and extending the use of non-conventional products. The use of VA loans increased 31 percent in 2008 over the previous year.

"I am asking every single client, 'Have you been in the service?' Because they may not be aware of the benefit," said Corinne Andrews, senior loan consultant of RPM Mortgage of Livermore.

What is the benefit?
"The most exciting thing about a VA loan is that you can do 100 percent financing," Andrews said. "Most of the other no-money-down financing programs have been discontinued by lenders or disallowed by the government."

VA loans are available for active military personnel and those discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, as well as some surviving spouses.

There are no income restrictions.
"The buyer must have a DD-214 - that's the proof of eligibility form used for all veteran benefits," Andrews said. "Most vets have these, but if they can't find it, they can obtain a duplicate from the local VA office in Oakland."

"In addition to eligibility, they must have all the other normal things required of borrowers: reasonably good credit and ability to repay the loan."

VA loans are allowed for purchase, construction or refinance of a personal residence, which may be a house, condo, townhouse or multi-family building up to four units. Eligibility may be used more than once, but the borrower can have only one VA loan in place at a time.

The restrictions on loan amounts are generous - up to \$1,094,625 for Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The limits for nearby counties are \$937,500 in Santa Clara and \$417,000 for San Joaquin.

"The loan is not actually with the Veterans Administration," Andrews said. "It is with a bank. You make your payments to that bank. The VA guarantees a portion of the loan, which in turn protects the lender against losses. That encourages the lender to make a home loan to a veteran with favorable terms."

Loans over \$417,000 may require higher credit scores.
Another advantage of VA loans is that, unlike most mortgages for more than 80 percent of value, they do not require mortgage insurance, saving borrowers hundreds of dollars each month.

"That's a huge plus," Andrews said. There are, of course, a few potential obstacles.

For one thing, interest rates tend to be slightly higher than for other loans. Plus, buyers must pay funding fees based on loan amount. This fee can be financed as part of the loan.

Funding fees are waived for disabled veterans.
While buyers typically pay funding fees, other costs are passed on to sellers, which may make it harder to get an offer accepted.

"The biggest issue with VA loans is there are certain closing costs the buyer cannot pay and the seller must pay," Andrews said. For example, sellers are required to pay for termite inspections and for certain types of repairs.

Buyers are not permitted to pay loan processing costs, underwriting fees, escrow fees, document fees, tax service or notary fees. On a recent \$380,000 purchase by a client of Andrews, for example, seller fees amounted to \$2,600, plus the cost of repairs.

"This is not always a problem," she said. "But it can be. With REOs (foreclosure properties), this is an issue because the banks usually won't pay these costs."

The VA also has strict appraisal requirements. Appraisers must be VA certified, and the VA reviews all appraisals.

One client of Andrews', a veteran who lives in Livermore, is trying to purchase a house here. He used his VA benefit once before to purchase a home, but that loan no longer exists and he is currently renting.

"He thinks this is an extremely good time to buy and he can get a lot of value for his money in Livermore," Andrews said. "He has eligibility and stellar credit. He really is the ideal candidate for this type of financing."

The veteran recently attempted to purchase a house, but the property did not meet VA appraisal criteria. Now he has a bid in on another home, a short sale, and is waiting for the bank to accept his offer.

Other clients, a young couple, are planning to obtain a VA loan to buy their first home.

They like that VA loans do not require mortgage insurance, even with little or no money down.

They have found a nice condominium in San Ramon that is on the VA approved list.

Condominium developments must be approved by the VA in order to qualify for financing. The VA looks at HOA reserves, owner occupancy rates and litigation, among other criteria.

In Livermore, condominium developments on the VA approved list include: Catilleja del Arroyo, Copper Hill, Livermore Downs, Montage Condominiums and Village II at Brookmeadow Park. Numerous developments in Pleasanton and Dublin are also on the approved list.

"For years, the dollar amount was not high enough in this area, so developers didn't bother to apply for approval. Since prices have dropped and loan limits have gone up, the VA is inundated with applications," according to Andrews.

This young couple indicated specifically they want to apply for a VA loan, but many eligible borrowers don't realize they have the benefit, or what it might mean for them.

"We see this especially with vets who get out of the military years ago. They may not have thought about it, because the loan amounts usually were so much higher than allowed," Andrews said.

"These days, it's being used more and more."

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Windermere Welcome Home, Livermore.

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Tips On What to Do If You Encounter a Cougar

Encountering a cougar while strolling through a local Livermore park might seem like a rare chance. Just in case, the ranger staff for the Livermore Area Rec-

reation and Park District want to make sure park-goers are prepared. Even if it's something as simple as locking the car, it's never too soon to think about

safety precautions.

LARPD Ranger Patti Cole will offer a free presentation, "Personal Safety in Parks," co-sponsored by the Livermore Citizens

Police Academy Alumni Association. This is the first time for the presentation at LARPD.

Individuals and families who use LARPD parks, whether it be the expansive Sycamore Grove Regional Park or a smaller neighborhood park, can stand to benefit from this presentation. The presentation will cover topics such as hiking with children and checking playground equipment, plus much more.

The LARPD ranger staff is hoping to raise people's general awareness through this presentation. Oftentimes, because it is rare to have any significant law enforcement issues arise in the parks, visitors can become complacent and leave purses, cell phones, wallets and other valuables in visible sight in their cars while they enjoy the park. In addition to these types of concerns, the regional parks especially have a variety of wildlife. The more people know about the creatures in the parks, the more likely they are to have a pleasant experience.

"Personal Safety in Parks" is free to attend and will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Reservations are suggested by calling LARPD at 925-960-2400 or 925-373-5700.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Livermore Police Department has been focusing on motorcycle safety during the month of May. The department hosted a Motorcycle Safety Awareness event at the Livermore Police Department last Saturday. There were vendors, displays, and a demonstration by the LPD Motorcycle Unit (pictured).

Real Estate Seminar Offered in Pleasanton

A free seminar on the status of the real estate market in Pleasanton is slated for Wednesday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. The event is free to the public and will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building, located at 301 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton.

The event is co-sponsored by the Bay East Association of Realtors, the City of Pleasanton, and the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of the event is to provide the public with objective, timely and accurate information about the residential real estate market in Pleasanton.

"Pleasanton differentiates itself from the rest of the California real estate market in a number of ways that are important for both sellers and buyers to understand," according to David Stark, Public Affairs Director for the Bay East Association of Realtors. "Pleasanton residents like to be informed about local issues and this event will provide a clear snapshot of the city's housing market," he adds.

A panel of experts from the real estate and lending professions will include Pat Huffman, President of Bay East Association of Realtors. Huffman is the owner of Pat Huffman Real Estate in Pleasanton, and has worked as a realtor for 29 years. She will discuss the historic and current housing market conditions in Pleasanton, complete with a foreclosure and market analysis.

George Duarte of the East Bay Chapter of the California Association of Mortgage Brokers will address issues related to home purchase finance, including current mortgage industry conditions, loan types and interest

rates, the impact of the Economic Stimulus Package, and foreclosures.

Rounding out the Town Hall panel is Jacqueline Rickman, director of the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center, a regional

organization that develops housing and financial literacy programs for low-to-moderate income residents in the Tri-Valley.

For more information, please contact the Bay East Association of Realtors at (925) 730-4068.

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<p>OTT/RICHARDS 583-1111</p> <p>Livermore \$1,150,000 6bd/5.5ba home with upgrades & backyard landscaping. Tropical setting with Travertine patio/pool/waterfall and spa. Vineyard Views.</p>	<p>LINDA PUTRAL 583-1111</p> <p>Livermore \$1,099,000 6bd/4ba estate. Custom rock pool and spa/granite kitchen/stainless steel appliances/huge backyard, great for entertaining on private lot.</p>	<p>MARK KOTCH 583-1111</p> <p>Danville \$1,005,500 5bd/4.5ba, 3,813+/-sf home. Features granite/cherry cabinets in kitchen. Computer run home with solar panels. 6,472+/-sf. corner lot.</p>	<p>BLAISE LOFLAND 251-1111</p> <p>Livermore \$899,500 4bd/3ba 3,680+/-sf home. Upgraded kitchen with granite/stainless/crown molding/plantation shutters. Bamboo wood/custom tile floors.</p>	<p>GELLMEN/GOVETA 251-1111</p> <p>Pleasanton \$879,000 Great 5bd/3ba family home on quiet street. Has den/office/pool/spa. Heritage model. Close to schools, parks and shopping.</p>
<p>LINDA PUTRAL 583-1111</p> <p>Livermore \$849,950 Beautiful 5bd/2.5ba open floor plan. Has custom pool with sheer descenders, 8 person spa. South Livermore's premier property.</p>	<p>KEVIN COLLINS 583-1111</p> <p>Livermore \$769,000 Private location across from wooded park with views of surrounding hills. 5bd/3ba, large landscaped yard, granite/stainless in kitchen.</p>	<p>MARK LAFFERTY 583-1111</p> <p>Livermore \$719,950 Beautiful 5bd/3ba home with granite slab counter tops, cherry cabinets, new carpets, and custom tile flooring. Visit www.570firenze.com</p>	<p>MARK KOTCH 583-1111</p> <p>Pleasanton \$660,000 4bd/2ba 1,617+/-sf home. Updated kitchen, newer dual pane windows/newer roof, great back yard for entertaining. 6,825+/-sf lot.</p>	<p>DANIEL AUPPER 583-1111</p> <p>Dublin \$479,900 3bd/2ba home has remodeled kitchen with appliances/updated baths/hardwood floors/crown molding/designer paint/large back yard.</p>

LIVERMORE | 2300 First Street, #316 925.583.1111 **PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111**

Art, Community, & Education



Warming up the grill are (left) John Burchett, director of sales at Hyatt Summerfield Suites, the lead sponsor of the event, and David Rice, president of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation.

'A Taste of Summer' Benefit in Pleasanton

Hacienda Business Park will host "A Taste of Summer" on May 29. The event is a community barbecue, a corporate cook-off and a charitable fund-raiser all rolled into one TGIF-style gathering.

The festivities will take place from 4-8 p.m. on the lawn at the Shaklee Corp. property at 4747 Willow Road. All proceeds from the event will benefit the park's Hacienda Helping Hands giving campaign.

The public is invited. Tickets are \$20 and include admission to the event and a barbecue dinner. Tickets may be purchased on the web at helpinghands.hacienda.org or by calling the Tri-Valley Community Foundation office at (925) 734-5673.

The Oakland A's pregame show, "Right Off the Bat with Marty Lurie," will broadcast from the barbecue.

Hacienda Helping Hands was quietly launched a year ago by the association in conjunction with the Tri Valley Community Foundation, a nonprofit fund-raising organization located in the business park. The focus of the Hacienda Helping Hands campaign is to provide a coordinated effort for the 475 businesses, 17,800 employees and 3,500 residents of the Hacienda Business Park to make a difference in the community with charitable grants.

An advisory board comprised of members of the Hacienda Business Park as well as the foundation will decide in October how to award the grants to health and human service organizations, educational programs and cultural projects in the Tri Valley.

For additional information about Hacienda Helping Hands or to make a donation, go to helpinghands@hacienda.org or call (925) 734-5673.

Commission for the Arts Acquires Art for Livermore

The Livermore Commission for the Arts has announced this year's public art selections from the Livermore Art Association's Spring Art Show.

For the past 20 years, the City of Livermore has annually purchased works of art from the LAA show to both support and recognize Livermore's remarkable association of visual artists. Since its creation in 2005, the City's Commission for the Arts has overseen the selection process. Works are selected by a committee of commissioners who meet and review the entire show prior to its official public opening.

The works chosen this year include the following: "My Martin," a metal fabrication by Frank Cameron; "Monastery Library, Peru," a photograph applied to canvas by Ron Jorgenson; "Allergy Season," watercolor by Sally Leonard; "Mountain Mahogany Inn," a still-life photo by Barbara Mallon; and "From Manchester



Basket by Gail Ruvalcaba similar to work purchased by city.

Beach I," a seaweed and shell basket by Gail Ruvalcaba.

The artists chosen by the Commission this year come from a variety of backgrounds.

Frank Cameron has been creating and showing metal sculpture for over 30 years having created hundreds of custom and pre-designed fabrications. "My Martin" is a metal guitar that is similar to the Martin guitar that he has had

since 1959.

Ron Jorgenson has been involved with photography in one way or another since childhood in the mid-40s in an Oregon lumber camp with his "trusty" Donald Duck camera. According to Ron, if an image makes a statement by getting and holding the viewer's attention and then evokes a positive emotional response, he has accomplished his goal.

Sally Leonard has been interested in art ever since her mother began taking her to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City when she was a young child. Her undergraduate degree was in art history and she has taken many art classes from a variety of local instructors. She comments that the title of her work, "Allergy Season" seemed appropriate to the Valley.

Barbara Mallon is an active member of the Livermore Valley Camera Club and an instructor of photography. She teaches the beginning photography course spon-

sored by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. She also teaches a middle school science lab and is an amateur botanist. Her favorite subjects are her grandchildren.

Gail Ruvalcaba's work in ceramics and woven baskets is about form, movement and texture. She says that what separates one type of her work from another is the degree of seriousness with which

she approaches it. Each medium demands a different kind of energy so her creative spirit always stays fresh. Gail has been exhibiting her work and has won numerous awards in the Tri-Valley area since 1991.

The 2009 Spring Art Show was largest show in LAA's history with 340 entries and record sales. To learn more visit their web site www.livermoreartassociation.org

LAA Annual Art in the Vineyard This Weekend at Wente Vineyards

The Livermore Art Association will host the 37th Art in the Vineyard on Sunday, May 24.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Wente Vineyards Estate Winery, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. A total of 42 multimedia artists will provide a day of art, music and fine wines.

There is no admission charge. A \$15 Wine tasting fee includes a commemorative wine glass (\$10.00 for Club Wente members). Wine tasting will begin at 11.00 a.m. Food and refreshment will be offered by Wente Vineyards and Strizzi's Restaurant for a nominal fee.

Art demonstrations will be held throughout the day. Live easy listening music will be provided by Vested Interest.

Artists in the show are: Angela Johal, Arnold & Margo Kirkwoog, Barbara Johnson, Barbara Stanton, Carol Hart, Claudia Bobba, Dee Haag, Diane Rodriguez, Edmee Keele, Erin Davis, Eugenia Zobel, Gail Rubalcava, Gary Anderson, Glennyse Hanschel, Holly Consol, Jennifer McGregor, Jim Riley, Julie Wright, Karen Fleschler, Kathleen Hill, James & Kelly Stone,

Lawrence Gipson, Lenore Kreit, Lily Xu, Linda Beach, Linda Jeffery Sailors, Louise Gibler, Margaret Huffman, Marge Atkins, Mark Knize, Michael Ecton, Michel Robles, Mike Malinowski, Mindy Goldman, Nancy Storch, Norma Webb, Nova Starling, Ron & Lisa Rigge, Simone Archer, Tricia Poulos, and Shiping Zhang

For additional information, call (925) 456-2305.



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Spring Concert Foothill High School Bands May 26 • 7pm \$12	Beethoven's Fifth Symphony Pacific Chamber Symphony May 28 • 8pm \$38/\$32/\$26	Through the Eyes of Faith Tri-Valley Haven Benefit May 29 • 8pm \$28/\$19
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Tickets 925.373.6800
www.bankheadtheater.org

Chorus to Perform 'The Great Choruses of Broadway'

Broadway Chorus will perform "The Great Choruses of Broadway" on Memorial Day weekend. The show will feature selections from Broadway musicals including "Guys and Dolls," "The Sound of Music," "Oklahoma," "Brigadoon," "Fiddler on the Roof," and "Peter Pan."

The show will feature guest tenor John Owens. He has performed in the Bay Area for over 20 years and is a featured soloist with the San Francisco City Concert Opera. John has also performed with the Livermore Valley Opera, the UC Davis Symphony Chorus and the Solano Symphony. He is a principal performer on Explorer Cruise Ships.

The show will also spotlight the Broadway Kids Chorus, comprised of local children in grades 1-8.

The three performances will be held on Friday, May 22 at 8 PM, Saturday, May 23 at 8 PM and Sunday, May 24 at 2PM at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road in Pleasanton.

Tickets are available online at www.trivalleyrep.org or at the Amador Theater box office on the show days. Ticket prices are adults 18+ \$18, seniors 60+ \$15, juniors under 18 \$10.

Broadway Chorus is a community chorus located in the Tri-Valley area. It is part of the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, formerly known as Pleasanton Playhouse.

The adult Broadway Chorus is a mixed group of about 80 men and women non-auditioned performers directed by Jenny Matteucci and accompanied by Daniel Lockert.



The Interesting and Slightly Strange Among Auction Items

The Livermore Heritage Guild's annual auction and dinner will be held on Sat., May 23.

This year fund-raising event will take place at the historic Duarte Garage located on the corner of Portola and L Street in Livermore. The 1915 Duarte Garage is located on the old Lincoln Highway, the nation's first continental highway.

The auction doors open for preview at 5 p.m. The auction starts at 7 p.m. There is no charge to participate.

This year's dinner will be a grilled "supper cook-out" with service starting at 6 p.m. Tommie T's Deli on Second Street will provide the catering. The menu will consist of four types of sausages, sauerkraut, potato salad, soft drink and dessert for \$8.

This event is a major fund-raising for the Livermore Heritage Guild. Proceeds are used to support projects at the Duarte Garage and at the History Center located in the old Carnegie Library Building on Third Street.

For dinner reservations, call 449-9927. Dinners are limited.

Guild president Jeff Kaskey noted in the group's recent newsletter, "There is a 5 KW gas powered generator and some books from the 19th century and whatever interesting curiosities a neighbor donated from her attic." He goes on to note there are interesting and even slightly strange items for the auction. There are some lovely things, such as a set of china complete with serving pieces. There is also some vintage clothing.



St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble

Ensemble Performs

The St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble will be performing at Asbury United Methodist Church on Saturday, May 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The ensemble, led by Kirill Sokolov, is a vocal quartet of baritone, bass, and tenor voices and includes master accordionist, Alexander Korbakov. The group performs a variety of music, including sacred and liturgical music and ancient Russian chants and folk songs, as well as modern compositions and popular melodies.

Tickets are \$10 and are available in the office, Asbury UMC, 4743 East Ave., Livermore, or by mail. Please make checks payable to Asbury UMC.

For more information go to www.AsburyLive.org.

Young Pianist Winner of People's Choice Award

Austin Phillips of Livermore was the winner of the People's Choice Award in radio station KDFC's Classical Star Search.

Phillips, who plays the piano, performed Debussy's Arabesque #1 in E Major. According to KDFC's website, "Austin was the clear choice for this award."

He was one of the 5 finalists in the Classical Star Search, and the only one not a Conservatory of Music student. At age 10, he was also the youngest performer. The competition took place at the Conservatory of Music Concert Hall in San Francisco. Listeners voted online for their favorite performer.

He was lauded by the judges as well with comments such as, "such a beautiful musician with lovely tone and great phrasing." "Congrats and keep up the great work."

The KDFC competition was his first time performing in a concert hall. The only other place where he has performed in a crowd was at the Hacienda Care Center in Livermore, when he and his sister, Jessica would play on Monday afternoons last summer.

Austin won \$500.

Austin was 6 yrs old when he begged for piano lessons while he was learning the violin. At age 7, he started studying piano with Mrs. Zita Sandor from the Franz Liszt Academy of Music.

In another competition, he took first place in the Showcase Concierto Junior Division at the USOMC (United States Open Music Competition) in Oakland.

Austin is home schooled and only listens to classical music. He loves to create his own compositions on the piano. For hobbies, he likes to ice skate and is currently learning pairs skating. He aspires to be a concert pianist and a "classical" composer when he grows up. There is a video online at: <http://www.kdfc.com/pages/4381538.php>



Austin Phillips

Antique Faire Returns to Downtown Pleasanton

The semi-annual Pleasanton Downtown Association Antique and Collectible Street Faire is back and will be held on Sunday, May 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Main Street. Admission is free.

The event is sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association and produced by Jerry and Betsy Goldman of Turn Key Productions.

The event features vintage, retro, and antique home furnishings, clothing, furniture, jewelry, paintings, books, etc. Over a mile of antiques and collectibles will be displayed by more than 400 professional dealers from all over the West, all twenty years or older. This is the 18th year for this Downtown

Pleasanton event that is one of the largest antique faires in the eleven Western states.

The show will feature free appraisals by Steve Yvaska, noted appraiser and Journalist. The appraisals will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. He will be located at the information booth on the corner of Main and Division Streets. There

is a limit of three items per person.

Street parking is available. From I-680 take the Bernal Avenue exit and go east past the Fairgrounds and turn left onto Old Bernal Avenue. From I-580, take the Santa Rita Road exit and follow Santa Rita to downtown.

The Pleasanton Downtown Antiques and Collectibles Faire is

now being run by Betsy and Jerry Goldman, promoters of the Alameda Pointe Antiques and Collectibles Faire. For dealer or show information, please contact Betsy,

Socco, or Jerry at Turnkey Productions, 510-522-7500, or email info@pleasantonantiquesfaire.com, or www.pleasantonantiquesfaire.com

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Sing **FREE VOICE LESSONS**

Pride of the Pacific, a women's a cappella chorus, is offering free voice lessons for four weeks beginning Wednesday, May 27th at 6:15pm - 7:30pm followed by rehearsal with the chorus.

The chorus meets at Aahmes Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Avenue, Livermore, CA. For more information visit our website (www.pridepacificchorus.org), or call (925) 426-0266.

real women, real harmony, real fun!

Valley Blooms With Award Winning Roses

Two rose shows were held in May featuring blooms grown by local residents.

The 69th annual Pleasanton Rose Show was held Sat., May 9 at the Pleasanton Library. Theme for this year's show was "Days of Wine and Roses."

Winners and their trophies are Ryann Lubeck, Children's Champion - The Rosette Award and Children's Best Arrangement; Judy Hall, Best Single Stem Rose - Judges and Staff; Elizabeth Sufit, Most Fragrant Rose; Ruth Meier, Best Miniature Arrangement, Best Climber - Al Welham Award, and Best of Show - Perpetual Award; Norma Batchelor, Best Arrangement - Paul Hulme Award; Kenneth Meyer, Best Grandiflora - Alain Pinel Realtors Award; Carolyn Jennings, Best Floribunda - Mount Diablo Bank Award; and, Marianne Eisberg, Best Hybrid Tea Rose - The Queen - Shirley Casterson Butler.

The Mt. Diablo Rose Society Spring Rose Show was held May 2nd at the Dublin Senior Center.

Winners and classes are as follows:

HORTICULTURAL CLASSES

Best of Show Seedling, "PRTJ x Captain Harry Stebbings," David Lowell; Queen, Wildfire, Lori Duffy; King, Marilyn Monroe, Karl Dost; Princess, Black Magic, Marie McGarvey (Novice); Best group of 3, HT Black Magic, Sally Estee; Best Grandiflora Spray, Phyllis Diller, Karl Dost; Best Open Bloom, Peace, Melinda Moy; Best One Bloom per Stem Floribunda, Ebb Tide, Lou Evans; Best group of 3 Floribunda Sprays, Nicole, Karl Dost; Best Polyantha Spray, Excellenz von Schubert, Karl Dost; Queen of Miniature/MiniFloras, Irresistible, Mark Mintz; King of Miniature/MiniFloras, Little Jackie, Marianne Jameson;

Princess of Miniature/MiniFloras, Ruby Baby, Karl Dost; Best Miniature Spray, Loving Touch, Ken & Judy Jones; Best Miniature Open Bloom, Why Not, Linda Nardy; Best group of Miniature Blooms, Irresistible, Mark Mintz; Best group of Miniature Sprays, Minnie Pearl, Marianne Jameson; Best Climber, Lace Cascade, Sally Estee; Best group of 3 Climbers, Dublin Bay, Linda Nardy; Best Seedling, "PRTJ x Captain Harry Stebbings," David Lowell; Best Classic Shrub, Efurt, Sondra Bierre; Best group of 3 Clas-



Pictured, from left, are Leslie Faught, Joyce Jones, Marti Gilbert - Alain Pinel Realtors. They organized the Pleasanton Rose Show.

sic Shrub Roses, Bishop Darlington, Karl Dost;

Best Modern Shrub Rose, Jacqueline du Pré, David Lowell; Best Austin Shrub Rose, English Garden, David Lowell; Best group of 3 Austin Shrub Roses, Golden Celebration, Ken & Judy Jones; Best Shrub Rose ("S"), Jacqueline du Pré, David Lowell; Best group of 3 Old Garden introduced before 1867, La Ville de Bruxelles, David Lowell; Best old Garden Rose introduced 1867 or after, Monsieur Tiller, Karl Dost; Best group of 3 old Garden Roses introduced 1867 or after, Complicata, Sondra Bierre; Best Species Rose, R. banksiae lutea, Karl Dost; Best Novice Entry Black Magic Marie McGarvey; Best Judge's Entry, Pink Grootendorst, Barbara Gordon.

CHALLENGE CLASSES

Best Rose in a bowl, Phyllis Diller, May Lee; Best Miniature Rose in a bowl, Denver's Dream, Lou Evans; Best Old Garden Rose in a bowl, Mme Louis Lévêque, Sondra Bierre; Best Fully Open

Rose in a bowl, Lilian Austin, Sondra Bierre; Best Fragrant Rose, Scentsational, May Lee; Best Trailing Rose, Flower Girl, Sally Estee; Best Picture Frame, Veteran's Honor, Ken & Judy Jones; Best English Box for Miniatures, Ruby Pendant, Joe & Carol Burek; Best Large cycle of Bloom, Marilyn Monroe, Joe & Carol Burek; Best Small cycle of Bloom, Black Jade, Sally Estee; Best Rose of the British Empire Origin, Day Breaker, Karl Dost.

ARRANGEMENTS

Best Large-Flowered Rose Arrangement, "Winning Colors," Cheryl Gray; Second Best Large-Flowered Rose Arrangement, "Mint Julep," May Lee; Third Best Large-Flowered Rose Arrangement, "Ring of Roses," Lou Evans; Modern Rose Arrangement, "Mint Julep," May Lee; Novice Rose Arrangement, "Winning Colors," Cheryl Gray; Best Small Rose Arrangement, "Winner's Circle," May Lee. Second Best Small Rose Arrangement, "Churchill Downs," Judy Jones; Miniature Traditional



Marylou and David Lowell with their winning seedling a modern shrub rose.



Marianne Jameson shows two of her winners- the Best Group of Miniature Rose Sprays- Minnie Pearl, and her King of the Miniature Roses- Little Jackie



Ron and Lori Duffy stand in front of their orange hybrid tea rose, Wildfire, which won Queen of Show as the best hybrid tea rose.



Marylou and David's seedling rose which won "Best of Show" over all of the American Rose Society registered roses.

Rose Arrangements, "Churchill Downs," Judy Jones; Miniature Modern Rose Arrangements, "Winner's Circle," May Lee; Best Entry Judges' Arrangements, "Jockey's Silks," Barbara Gordon.

Annual Food and Wine Experience Tickets Available June 1

Sixteen of the Livermore Valley's top wineries and an equal number of celebrated San Francisco Bay Area chefs will join forces and compete for honors in food/wine pairing at the seventh Wine & Food Experience "Taste of Terroir" on July 23.

Entrants will vie for Most Innovative Pairing, Best Expression of Local Ingredients and Judges' Best awards given by a panel of distinguished judges.

After sampling each of the six-

teen pairings, guests will vote for their favorite chef/winery combo in the People's Choice competition. Then, it's off to the barrel room to enjoy a decadent dessert spread paired with Livermore Valley ports.

The awards ceremony will take place at 8:15 p.m. Funds raised at this event benefit the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association.

The tasting is from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Palm Event Center at Ruby Hill, 1184 Vineyard Avenue, Pleas-

anton. Tickets are \$75 per person, available on-line at www.LVwine.org after June 1.

For information, call 925.447.WINE (9463) or go to www.LVwine.org.

The Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association is a 501 c(6) organization which supports the wineries, growers, and members in the Livermore Valley American Viticultural Area through educational and marketing programs.

Livermore Rotary Awards Music Scholarships

Livermore Rotary Club music scholarship recipients were announced at last week's meeting. The club presented \$7100 total to the students.

Receiving \$1000 each were Cory Cheng, piano, from Granada High School, and Alex Curtis, oboe, Livermore High School.

Other recipients are as follows: Middle school: Matthew Cable, piano, Junction; Corrina Chang,

piano, Mendenhall; Duncan Cluff, trumpet, Junction; Ariadna Mi Dang, cello, Christensen; Teagen Fish, cello, East Avenue; Mackinna Hart, cello, Junction; Cassidy Herro, bass clarinet, East Avenue; Meghan Hornbacker, piano, East Avenue; Natsuki Nishikawa, flute/piano, East Avenue; Andrea Pickett, piano/violin, East Avenue; Danny Ramirez, trumpet, Junction; Robert Ski, clarinet,

Christensen; Valerie Sommer, flute, Mendenhall; and Rachel Sowa, French horn/piano, Christensen.

High school: Alexandra Bodas, tenor sax, Granada; Bronwyn Hagerty, cello, Livermore; Laura Neusef, violin, Granada; Elise Savoy, piano/flute, Livermore; Laura Schilbach, violin, Livermore; and Clifford Tam, clarinet, Livermore.

Discounted Tickets Available Now for Annual Scottish Highland Gathering and Games

Tickets for the 144th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games have been slashed to 1995 prices. These are the ticket prices charged the first year that the Games were held in Pleasanton.

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco, producers of the annual event at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton, have mandated the price drop with the advance sale ticketing. The games are held annually over the Labor Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday September 5 and 6.

Discounted two-day adult tick-

ets are \$20.00 (regular \$25), One day adults are \$12.00 (regular \$17), One day senior (65+), youth (8-16) and handicapped is \$8.00 (regular \$10). As always, children under 8 are free as are military personnel with active duty ID. Tickets purchased at the gate will be the regular price. Activities are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.

The games in Pleasanton are regarded as one of the largest and most complete in the world. Discounted tickets can be ordered through the club's website at www.caledonian.org, or by writing

to the club to obtain an order form. The ticket address is: Caledonian Club of San Francisco, 5322 Moonflower Way, Livermore, CA 94551.

Orders for advance sale discount tickets must be received by August 1, 2009. Also available on the club's website are grandstand tickets for the spectacular daily Massed Bands Closing Show, the Saturday night Ceilidh and Barbecue (a Scottish party) at the fairgrounds and the Whisky Tasting and Tasting Master Class.

TV30 Offering Summer Day Camp

This summer Tri-Valley TV30 will offer middle school students a twenty hour day camp at its Pleasanton broadcasting facility.

The camp will run from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. over five days starting June 19th. For students who are thinking about choosing some form of video production for their future career this summer camp will give them an overall picture of the production process, help prepare them for college related courses in video and give them an edge for future employment in the industry.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for any student to learn first hand about television production," said Melissa Tench-Stevens, Executive Director of Tri-Valley TV. "It is rare for middle school students to be given the chance to spend time with professionals in a working broadcast facility. I hope this experience will create an internal spark in each student and help them determine their college path."

The Camp will be overseen by

Mitch Eason, experienced ROP Media instructor.

The fee for the camp which will meet on Friday, June 19, Monday, June 22, Tuesday, June 23, and Wednesday, July 1st is \$495. Limited scholarships are available. Tri-Valley Community Television is located at 4663 Bernal Avenue, Suite B in Pleasanton. For more information about Tri-Valley TV's Summer Camp, visit www.trivalleytv.org or contact Melissa Tench-Stevens at 925.462.3030. Space is limited.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Contest - Amateur photographers can win cash prizes in Alameda County CattleWomen's "He Oughta Beef in Pictures" Father's Day photo contest. Winning photo will be published in The Independent. Contest entries, which can be black and white or color, are to show why father deserves beef on Father's Day. Photos must be 3" x 5" or larger. An optional 25 words or less description of the photo may also be submitted. Amateur photographers of all ages are invited to enter the contest. Official entry forms may be obtained at the website, www.alamedacountycattlewomen.com, or by calling 455-5755. Entries must be postmarked by Fri., June 12, 2009. All entries will be displayed on the Alameda County CattleWomen website.

Foothill Spring Choral Concert, featuring the Concert Choir, Jazz Singers, Women's Choir, Men's Ensemble, Chamber Singers. Wednesday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$5 general/\$3 students and seniors at the door. Reserve tickets now, call the high school.

Retzlaff Winery will feature local artist Sherri Kelcourse'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. Wild Vine Art Gallery & Wine Lounge, located at 2187 First St., Livermore.

Sympathy, new works by Livermore artist Joanna Crawshaw, exhibited May 1-31, at Panama Red Coffee Pianos N' Strings, music teaching studio in Dublin is forming blues and rock 'n roll workshops for adults and teens. Groups will get together for two hours once a week for 8 weeks starting June 15. Bring instruments and practice amp to the sessions; keyboards, drums and a sound system will be provided. The last session will be a live performance. Registration, call Phil at 556-4446 or go to www.pianosnstrings.com/blues or /rockon.

Concerts in the Park, Pleasanton Downtown Association, The concerts are at Lions Wayside Park, corner of First and Neal Streets. Concerts are 7 to 8:30 p.m. The Cooltones, June 5; Corvairs, June 12. Hurricane, July 19. The Crisis, June 26. Burton and Company, July 3. Rock Explosion, July 10. Komodojazz, July 17. La Ventana, July 24. The Houserockers, July 31. The Cocktail Monkeys, August 7. Finding Stella, August 14. Magic Moments, August 21. D-Lucca, August 28. Public Eye, Sept. 4. For more information, visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Wente Vineyards 2009 concert series: June 18, Heart, July 2, B-52's; July 16, Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons; July 23, Kathy Griffin; July 29, Steve Miller Band; August 3, Gretchen Wilson; August 13, Diana Krall; August 19, Elvis Costello; and August 31, Sheryl Crow. Wente Vineyards Box Office at

(925) 456-2424, or online at www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets range in price from \$79 to \$309 per person, depending on the show and the dining option selected. Wente Vineyards is located at 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Concert gates open at 6:00 p.m., and all shows start at 8:15 p.m.

Call for Artists, 11th annual Art in the Park, October 3 & 4, 2009, in Danville, on the Town Green, Front Street Park, in front of the Danville Library. Sponsored by Alamo Danville Artists' Society. Booth fees for 10' x 10' space is \$70 for ADAS members and \$85 for non-members, plus 10% commission for the Art in the Schools fund. Beautiful location, appreciative public, nice artists make this a fun & worthwhile event. Applications available by e-mailing normawebb@comcast.net or calling 925 828-9170.

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. Program begins at 7 p.m. June 4, Sullivan's Travels. Free and open to all. No registration is required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

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. Wente Vineyards Estate Winery, Livermore. Art displays and demonstrations, wine tasting (fee), food booths and live music. No admission charge.

Livermore Heritage Guild Auction, May 23, Duarte Garage, corner of Portola and L Streets. www.livermorehistory.com.

Pleasanton Downtown Association Antique and Collectible Street Faire, Sunday, May 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Main Street. Admission is free. Pleasanton Downtown Association and produced Jerry and Betsy Goldman of Turn Key Productions. Free appraisals by Steve Yaska, noted appraiser and Journalist, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. He will be located at the information booth on the corner of Main and Division Streets. There is a limit of three items per person. www.pleasantonantiquefaire.com.

San Ramon Art & Wind Festival, Sunday and Monday May 24 and 25 in San Ramon's Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Festival features professional kite flying demonstrations, over 200 arts & crafts booths, entertainment on 3 stages, two large kids' activity areas, food booths and more. The festival also includes an early morning hot air balloon launch on May 25 at 6 a.m. For more information, call the City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department at (925) 973-3200 or check out the website at www.ArtandWind.com.

Memorial Day Ceremony, May 25, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Pioneer Cemetery, 5780 Sunol Boulevard, Pleasanton. Music will be provided by

the Pleasanton Community Concert Band. Free. Information: 925-846-5897 or www.pleasantonband.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

A Taste of Summer, BBQ cook-off, food and entertainment. Hacienda Business Park Helping Hands Foundation fund-raiser. May 29, 4 to 8 p.m. outdoors at the Hacienda Business Park at the Shaklee Corporation. helpinghands@hacienda.org.

Top Chefs Grand Tasting, May 29, 6 to 10 p.m. San Ramon Golf Club, 9430 Fircrest Lane, San Ramon. Dublin Rotary Club fund-raising event features food and wine in an evening of frivolity. \$75. www.rotarydublin.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.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Sat., May 30, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd. Tickets at \$39. www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com, 973-ARTS.

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.

Sing, Sing, Swing, Swing, music and drama from the 1930s to the 1950s. SmARTSUnlimited, May 31, 1 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Dave Stamey, Nationally acclaimed cowboy entertainer, Wed., June 3, 7 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Twice voted enter-

tainer of the year by the Western Music Association. No admission charge. Friends of the Livermore Library Arts and Authors series. www.ci.livermore.ca.us/library.

Livermore Art Association US Bank Show, June 3 to July 7, 2125 Second St., Livermore. Reception and awards Wed., June 10, 3 to 5 p.m. Judged show. Public may view the show during regular banking hours.

Diablo Theatre Company, (formerly Diablo Light Opera Company), presents "Hello Dolly." Dennis Lickteig directs cast of 32. 8 p.m. June 5, 6, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 27; 2 p.m. June 14, 21, 27, 28. \$29-\$41, Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 943-7469. www.lesherartscenter.org, www.dloc.org.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre (formerly Pleasanton Playhouse) Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28. Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m. Sun. 2 p.m. Ticket information 462-2121 or www.trivalleyrep.com.

Night at the Improv, June 6, 8 p.m. San Ramon's own Improv U Troupe and the newest graduates of Improv U for a fun and interactive evening of improvisational comedy. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon, CA. Cost: \$8. www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com.



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, "Funniest Thing in Seven Consonants" (The Washington Post), Sponsored by Wells Fargo, Saturday, June 6, - 3 & 8 p.m., Sunday, June 7, - 2 & 7 p.m., Broadway and Tony Award winning new musical. Tickets \$75/\$65/\$45/\$35. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org

Paint the Town, June 6, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Museum on Main, Pleasanton, Open to all ages. Artists will paint views of the area. Art auction of works. Registration deadline for artists is May 30, 462-2766 or www.museumonmain.org.

Makaha Sons, Hawaiian music. June 7, 2 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com

Scenes from A Midsummer's Night

Dream, June 11, 7 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Preview of the upcoming production by Shakespeare's Associates. No admission charge. Friends of the Livermore Library Arts and Authors series. www.ci.livermore.ca.us/library.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band concert, June 11, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Livermore Farmers Market, Fourth and J Streets, Livermore, CA. Free. Information: 925-846-5897 or www.pleasantonband.org.

Journey Unauthorized: A Live Rock Tribute to Journey, June 13, 8 p.m. Grand Theatre, 715 Central Ave., Tracy. Tickets 209-831-6858 or tickets.atthegrand.org.



Asleep at the Wheel, Saturday, June 13, 8 p.m., Western swing, boogie, and roots-music. Tickets \$55/\$40/\$35/\$30/\$12 students. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Hairspray the Dance Musical, June 14, 2 p.m. Amador Dance XTreme. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Total Request, Live, Danville Community Band, June 14, 3 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.SanRamonPerformingArts.com.

History of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, June 18, an event in the Ed Kinney Lecture Series. Presented by Maxine Troust at 7:00 p.m. at the Lynewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. Cost: \$10 donation, \$5 for museum members. Reservations are recommended. 925-462-2766. www.museumonmain.org.

Landscape in Art: from Impressionism to the Present, program June 21, 2 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Presented by March B. Freedman, artist and art historian. No admission charge. Friends of the Livermore Library Arts and Authors series. www.ci.livermore.ca.us/library.

12 Angry Jurors, Asbury Players Community Theater, June 26, 27, 28, 2009. Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 7 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$7 general admission. For addition ticket information and reservations, please call 455-1048. Tickets can be purchased at the door 20 minutes prior to curtain, however seating is limited for this production and reservations are suggested.

Rock and Country Fest, Cattlemen's Association Benefit. June 27, 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at 925-373-6800, www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Symphony Features a Seldom-Heard Gem

By Nancy O'Connell

On May 16th the Livermore-Amador Symphony presented a program of great contrasts with music which spanned 110 years. The audience heard an overture written in 1817 for an opera, a symphony by Robert Schumann which premiered in 1851, a Bruch violin concerto, and Gliere's *Russian Sailor's Dance* from a ballet which was composed in 1927. Rather than the very familiar *First Violin Concerto* of Max Bruch, it was a privilege to hear his *Second Violin Concerto* which is a much neglected masterpiece.

Before the concert began, Dr. Arthur Barnes spoke about the Rossini Overture to the opera, *La Gazza Ladra*. Although the opera is forgotten today, the Overture is a very familiar one. Josh Cohen then told the audience what to listen for in the "Rhenish" Symphony No. 3 he was going to conduct. He referred several times to the dream-like quality of the first and fourth movements and to think of the Rhine River and its environs. Anthony Doheny, the violin soloist, spoke of the Bruch and demonstrated several of the themes on both the piano and violin.

The Bankhead Theater was about 3/4 filled for this last concert of the Symphony this year, but it was a night of senior balls and graduation activities in the Bay Area. Several people entered carrying a single red rose. Jean King, President of the Symphony Association, told us that the bearers of those roses had just bought Symphony tickets for the 2009-2010 season.

The Rossini Overture, conducted by Barnes, opened with a fortissimo crash in the drums. The full percussion section included the snare drum, which was a new and exciting instrument in Rossini's time. The very loud section was contrasted with familiar melodies in the strings. A short oboe solo, as played by Eva Langfeldt, was haunting in its brevity. Later a beautiful melody was played by all of the 'celli. Then the flutes and piccolo soared above the other players. April Nissen on the timpani kept a solid and steady beat as driving cadences drew the overture to its exciting close.

Josh Cohen, guest conductor, studied violin with Daniel

Kobialka and Nate Rubin and conducting with Denis de Coteau. He has had a varied career, still performs on violin and bass, and is currently the conductor of the Castro Valley Chamber Orchestra. He directed the Schumann *Symphony No.3, Opus 97*. The first movement had rich textures and demanding parts for every musician. Only one percussion was utilized in this work – the timpani. Josh Cohen gave wide sweeping arm gestures for the forte passages, and with his baton, gave clear cues for all the entrances. In the quieter lyrical portions, one could observe uniform bowing throughout.

MUSIC REVIEW

In the *Scherzo*, which Schumann made his 2nd movement rather than the usual 3rd, the celli introduced a melody with deep, resonant tones, and later a tricky passage was given to the first violins, who played it with ease. The French horn section had some stirring melodies. The movement ended with quiet pizzicato in all of the strings.

This work had five movements instead of the usual four, and the fourth one was titled *Feierlich* (Solemn). In his opening remarks Josh said to think of a solemn ceremony or a procession. Schumann had just visited the magnificent new Cologne Cathedral, and was filled with awe. It is thought this feeling was the inspiration for this movement.

In the last movement, the *Lebhaft*, (meaning lively) there were demanding parts for every section. The trumpets sounded brilliant, as did the French horns. Difficult rhythmic patterns were surmounted, and entrances were always precise. Rousing and joyful chords brought the entire sym-

phony to a close.

After the intermission, Jean King spoke of the four young graduating high school seniors who have received awards from the Symphony Association. Only one person was present – Julian Reisenhel who is a singer and bass guitarist. He won the Bill King Memorial Award and after college hopes to go into the Peace Corps. Other winners mentioned were Cory Chang, Annie Sandholtz, and Valerie Yim. One was absent because of her senior ball!

Max Bruch composed his *Second Violin Concerto in D Minor* while living in Bonn, Germany from 1873-78. This is not the concerto everyone is familiar with, but it is a stunning work which calls for violin virtuoso technique. Anthony Doheny is an Australian who received his Ph.D. in music from Stanford University. Most of his distinguished career has been in his native country, but he has returned to Stanford and has been teaching there.

Mournful melodies in the beginning are heard – introspective melodies. The soloist then had double stops accompanied by the French horns with quiet sustained chords in the strings. Dr. Barnes gave very clear cues and never permitted the orchestra to overpower the soloist. The cadenza in the first movement ended with a trill before the entire orchestra entered again. In the second movement the violinist had some fiery passages, and a dialogue ensued between the soloist and the strings. Bruch was fond of dark tremolos and while all of the strings had the tremolo passages the violin soared above them. The violinist played a theme which was answered by the French horns. There were magnificent melodies in this work and challenging parts for all of the players. Bruch's sonorities were rich

with thick textures, and the conclusion was very dramatic. This work certainly deserves to be a part of the modern orchestra's repertoire. When one realizes how many orchestras play Beethoven's Fifth Symphony year after year, it makes the musician wonder why there can not be more variety.

In the "Russian Sailors' Dance" by Reinhold Gliere the 'celli had an eastern sounding melody as the dance began slowly, but it soon picked up the tempo. If one closed one's eyes he or she could picture the high kicks as the men crouched and continued kicking. The dancing and the music became more frantic as the music swirled and whirled. A full percussion section brought this short work to a dramatic close in a whirlwind of notes

and chords.

It is quite easy to pick out the high school students who perform throughout the year with the Livermore-Amador Symphony. This custom has been carried on for at least forty years under Dr. Art Barnes' direction, and this experience will greatly increase their interest in playing as adults. Many lives over the years have been enriched and many high school students have become more culturally aware. In many instances, music will play an important role for them throughout their lives. This is an important legacy for these young people. As Jean King said, "This is a community orchestra," and it deserves our continuing support.

Janice Pementel

"Thanks Dad"

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Orchestra with instruments

Program Features

Beethoven's Fifth Symphony

Pacific Chamber Symphony will perform a program with the "Fate Knocks at the Door," on Thurs., May 28 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

The performance begins at 8 p.m.

The program includes Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. According to Maestro Lawrence Kohl, "Beloved, popular and admired, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is one of the greatest musical masterpieces of and for all time." Its psychological portrayal of fate knocking at the door to the final affirmation of human freedom and dignity is sublime.

Livermore cellist Olivia Glass will be performing Popper's Hungarian Rhapsody. Olivia was a Livermore Rotary Music Scholarship winner last year and a finalist in the "Livermore's Got Talent" competition.

Czech composer David Popper wrote Hungarian Rhapsody in 1894. This exuberant piece is based on Hungarian folksongs and is divided into six parts with alternating slow and fast passages. "I wanted to play this piece the first time I heard it because it's exciting and because I like Gypsy music," Olivia Glass said. "I'm honored to be playing as a soloist for the first time instead of as a member of the cello section, and it's an especially great honor to be playing with the Pacific Chamber Symphony."

A student of Ariel Witbeck, Olivia has won numerous awards: First place Contra Costa String Association Young Artists' Competition, Command Performances, and principal cellist at the University of the Pacific Summer Orchestra. Olivia is a freshman Animal Sciences major at UC Davis, where she is a member of the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra and two ensemble groups.

Maestro Kohl will discuss, "The Man, the Music, and the Meaning - Beethoven's Fifth Symphony" free to the public at the Livermore Public Library's "Friends Authors and Arts Series" on Sunday, May 17 at 2:00 pm at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

Tickets to the concert are adults \$38, \$32 or \$26; students \$7. They can be purchased at 925-373-6800 or www.livermoreperformingarts.org. The theater is located at 2400 First St. in Livermore.



Maestro Lawrence Kohl

Livermore Grad Performed with YouTube Orchestra

The talented musicians who gathered to perform at Carnegie Hall last month had varied backgrounds and came from all over the world. It seems highly likely that George Durham was the only professional poker player to draw his bow across a cello that night on stage.

Durham, a 1998 Livermore High School graduate who now lives in Reno, joined the world's first online orchestra, the YouTube Symphony, which was conducted on April 15 by the music director of the San Francisco Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas.

The musicians played 15 selections from composers as traditional as Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Wagner and as avant-garde as John Cage and Tan Dun. Reviewers from the New York Times to the San Francisco Chronicle gave high marks to the performance, noting that the musicians had had only two days to come together from around the world. Most of the negatives, in fact, were quarrels with the diverse program rather than with the performances themselves. YouTube itself was widely praised for such an innovative cultural undertaking.

For Durham, a talented cellist since Livermore school days, the decision to try out was almost whimsical. He had taken music seriously enough to pursue a double major in cello and engineering as an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins and then to enroll in USC's graduate school of music. The plan was to get an advanced degree in music, then find a job as an engineer.

Along the way, he discovered he could play poker. While earning a master's in cello performance, he found that he could make more money gambling than he thought he would by working as an engineer. The income and choice of work hours gave him a freedom that he enjoys to this day, so after graduate school he traveled, spent a year in culinary school, and even gave up the cello for a time.

His interest in music never disappeared. He enjoyed music online, and sometimes got out the cello to try accompaniment. Gradually he got in the habit of playing to uploaded music. Then one day last year he saw a notice about auditions for the YouTube symphony.

Not surprisingly for YouTube, the try-outs were on-line. He was required to play a Bach suite and Rossini's William Tell Overture. He recalls working "fairly hard" to get the music right — he wouldn't have auditioned if he didn't want to win — but he also didn't take it too seriously. With little of the adrenaline rush that comes from live performance, he could audition in front of a high quality digital recording system in the privacy of a friend's home in San Francisco.

Having done so, he then went off to Europe to backpack and all but forgot about the audition. He wasn't too excited even when he learned by email that he was one of 96 musicians chosen from more than 3,000 contestants. In fact it wasn't until almost time to leave for New York that he realized "what an amazing opportunity it was. I couldn't believe how nonchalant I had been."

Durham has only good memories of the experience. "I met almost everyone in the orchestra when I was (in New York), and I have been keeping in touch with some of them via email and Facebook," he said. "It was an incredible week, so much fun, and it was very sad to have to leave."

Durham's taste in music is as diverse as the YouTube concert: classical, rap, electronic, country. "Right now on my iPod you can find anything from Schubert lieder and Shostakovich string quartets to Kanye West and Weezer," he said.

He plans to continue playing the cello, mostly on-line but with occasional live performances in string quartets. On-line is also the way he likes to gamble. "It's not much fun to sit in a smoky casino next to people who haven't showered for days," he stated. Face to face at a table, a player will also encounter personal unpleasantness like whining and complaining about dealers. "I see grown men throw temper tantrums you wouldn't expect from a 10-year old."

The returns are better on-line as well. "You can play so many more hands per hour on-line, it translates into more money per hour." There is a challenge, though: "The skill level of the players online is much higher than that of live players."

The YouTube orchestra's Carnegie Hall performance, as well as individual auditions, can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/symphony>. Durham himself is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXgdMc4O-hY>.

4th Street Studio to Host Literary Café

4th Street Studio host a Literary Café on Thursday, May 28 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. (or maybe 6:00 to 9:00). The event is open to anyone who writes or reads and is intended to be evening of socializing that centers around literature and its creation. The event is potluck. Participants are encouraged to stop by the Farmers' Market first and then come by the Studio, which is half a block away.

The Literary Café is the brainchild of local writers Judy Clement Wall, Cynthia Patton, and Karen Hogan, who over coffee at Peets in Livermore one morning, discovered that regardless of genre, they have common problems to resolve when they write.

Hogan, who writes fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry, is currently working on a novel titled *Half a Cup*. She founded 4th Street Studio in January 2004 and has been hosting monthly writer salons since. "I called 4th Street Studio Livermore's Literary Arts Center because I thought that if I called it that, Livermore would have one. A Literary Café is another way for Livermore to get to know its writers, and for writers to meet and build community."

4th Street Studio is located at 2235 Fourth Street, between I and J. For further information, call 925 456-3100 or email 4thstreetstudio@pacbell.net.

Works by Photographic Artists on Display

Works by photographic artists using a variety of images, styles and techniques will be on display at Windermere Welcome Home for the next two months. The show opens Wed., May 27.

Participating in the show are Natalia Matthews Aasen, Bill Hackett, Dennis Vied, Julie Wright and Walter Davies.

There will be a reception with the artists on Thurs., June 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. The public is invited. There is no admission charge.

Windermere Welcome Home is located at 1790 First St., downtown Livermore. Viewing will be during regular business hours. For more information, call 447-9159.

Art & Wind Festival This Weekend in San Ramon

The San Ramon Art & Wind Festival is scheduled for Sunday and Monday May 24th & 25th in San Ramon's Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. from 10am to 5pm both days.

The festival will feature an early morning hot air balloon launch on Monday, May 25th at 6am. Bring the family for a spectacular close up view of 6 hot air balloons as they lift slowly into the sky.

There will be over 150 arts & crafts booths featuring a wide range of artwork including paintings, sculpture, woodwork, toys, hand painted clothing, stained glass, music, photography and more.

Kites are one of the main attractions of the event. There will be kite flying demonstrations by professionals from all over the country, free kite making workshops for youth, and lots of kites to buy. After purchasing or making your own kite, spend some time enjoying the beautiful San Ramon Central Park and perfect conditions to practice flying a kite.

There will be entertainment on three stages including a high-energy performance by Waterloo, an Abba tribute band and an expanded interactive kid's activity area with Inflatable Bouncers and Slides, Rides for the little ones, a Rock-Climbing Wall, a Train Ride and crafts for kids.

Take a break from all the fun and enjoy great food provided by area nonprofit groups. This year we will have 26 food booths operated by local non-profits that raise much needed funds for their organizations. There will be gyros, peach cobbler, Caesar salad, tri-tip sandwiches, sausage sandwiches, ice cream, sushi, hot dogs, hamburgers, cotton candy, nachos and more. Last year the nonprofit groups who participated collectively earned over \$70,000.

For more information, call the City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department at (925) 973-3200 or check out our website at www.ArtandWind.com

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.

Contest - Amateur photographers can win cash prizes in Alameda County CattleWomen's "He Oughta Beef in Pictures" Father's Day photo contest. Winning photo will be published in The Independent. Contest entries, which can be black and white or color, are to show shy father deserves beef on Father's Day. Photos must be 3" x 5" or larger. An optional 25 words or less description of the photo may also be submitted. Amateur photographers of all ages are invited to enter the contest. Official entry forms may be obtained at the website, www.alameda-county-cattlewomen.com, or by calling 455-5755. Entries must be postmarked by Fri., June 12, 2009. All entries will be displayed on the Alameda County CattleWomen website.

Bingo fund-raiser, Christensen Middle School will host a Bingo Player Appreciation Night on Sat., May 23. Doors open 4 p.m. Games start at 6:30. Games pay either \$175, \$250 or \$500. The Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore. All players receive free hot dogs, chips and bottled water. Players also receive a free game pack, free treasure hunt and tic tac game games with buy-in. Two free games. Prizes. Proceeds donated to CMS PTA. Call 606-7777 on game day for additional information.

College Admissions 101, Hear about the top ten college admissions myths. Learn how colleges really evaluate applicants, how to find "best fit" colleges, and how to prepare for the college application process. Presented by Diane Keller, independent college admissions advisor in Pleasanton and a member of HECA, NACAC, and WACAC. She holds a certificate in college admissions and career planning from UC Berkeley Extension. Livermore Library, Wed., May 27, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Diane at 925-963-2932 or drkellercc@yahoo.com. This event is free.

Livermore Library, board meets 7 p.m. Thurs., May 28 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. An agenda will be posted at the library 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Instructors sought, Livermore Adult Education is looking for instructors for the Fall session to teach a class or share a special talent. You need not be credentialed. Please call 925-606-4722.

M.I. Hummel Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter, meets second Saturday of each month

at 1 p.m. at a member's home. Guests are always welcome. Share Hummel figurine news and information. Information www.mumma.org/hummel or contact Joan Mumma, club secretary, 447-5164.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., May 23, 23 miles Fuddrucker's to Castle Rock, meet 10 a.m. at Willow Shopping Center, Concord, Bill Goodwin, 487-0521. Sun., May 24, 30 miles Dublin - Peet's Coffee, meet 10 a.m. at Livermore Cyclery, Dublin, Bob Heady, 980-7989. Wed., May 27, 45 miles Muffin Ride, meet 10 a.m. at Livermore Airport, Bill Goodwin, 487-0521. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Day Trippers, Capitola/Bargetto Winery, June 4, 2009. 8:30am-4:30pm. Visit Capitola, tour Capitola Historical Museum, browse the many shops, enjoy a no host lunch beachside. Wine tasting at Bargetto Winery. Pre-registration required. \$56 Residents, \$60 Non-residents. Call the Pleasanton Senior Center, 931-5365.

The Ins & Outs of Today's Real Estate Market, A casual, no pressure way of finding out about the realities of buying and selling real estate in today's economy. Thurs., May 28, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Topics include market conditions, loan modifications, short sales, bank owned properties, homebuyer programs, plus question and answer opportunities.

The Livermore Lions Lunch Branch invites the public to a luncheon meeting Wednesday, May 27th from noon to 1:30 PM at the Zephyr Grill, 1736 First Street in Livermore for a presentation by Ann Dexheimer, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Specialist, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. \$15 for lunch and program - pay at the door. Call Lion Gary Potter at 925-443-4144 for reservation.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Luncheon in Sunol at Bosco's Bones and Brew, May 27, 1 p.m., RSVP by May 25 to Ginny, 656-5625. Friendly bridge, optional lunch in Pleasanton, May 30, 1 p.m., RSVP by May 27 to Kay, 606-1757. Champagne birthday brunch at Marie Callender's in San Ramon, May 31, 11:45 a.m., RSVP by May 28 to Marsha, 830-8483.

Kaplan's ACT/SAT Combo, free. Sat., May 30, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pleasanton Public Library is hosting a free opportunity for students in high school to take the ACT/SAT combination sample test provided by Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions. Kaplan will also go over some great test taking strategies to help students succeed on test day. Students must register on-line at www.kaptest.com/practicetest. Please do not contact the library.

Space is Limited. Follow up exam results seminar Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30-7:30pm.

San Ramon Valley Newcomers Club, luncheon June 18, 11:30 p.m. at the Crow Canyon Country Club. Spencer Christian, the TV personality, will be the guest speaker. Contact Paula at 735-6483.

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 voice lessons, Pride of the Pacific, a women's 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.

The award winning BBC documentary, "The Century of The Self," parts 3 and 4, by Adam Curtis, will be shown at 7:00 PM on Sat., May 30 at the IBEW Hall; 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. This series explores how going from the "we" society to the "me" society didn't result in the freedom we all expected. Each part can be viewed independently. Meet & greet begins at 6:30 PM, while a short discussion follows the film. Refreshments are served. This event is open to the public, free/\$3.00 donations accepted, and is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 925-462-3459.

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 p.m. 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.

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,

pontrail@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.

Tri-Valley Seniors: Need a ride to your medical appointment? Seniors who require door-to-door service are now eligible for a ride to their medical appointments. Volunteers use their personal vehicles to drive seniors to and from medical appointments. Seniors must be 60 and over, living in Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton or Sunol, and unable to find a ride (relative, friend, bus, paratransit.) For a ride, or to volunteer, contact Jennifer Cullen at (925) 931-5387 or ja.cullen@yahoo.com. Funding for the Senior Transportation Program is provided by Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority and Measure B Funds.

Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for Volunteer Drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments. The Senior Transportation Program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. Volunteers must have a valid driver's license, a registered vehicle and carry personal automobile liability insurance. Please contact Jennifer Cullen for more information at (925) 931-5387 or email: ja.cullen@yahoo.com

Ravenswood Historic Site, operated by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Ravenswood, is a restored Victorian country estate. The public is invited to join free tours noon to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Sundays of each month except December, with the last tour starting about 3:15 p.m. Also available on tour days are a gift shop featuring unique Victorian gift items and the Ravenswood Progress League's Tankhouse Tea Room. Special events each year include the Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social on the second Sunday in August and Victorian Yuletide the second Sunday in December. Ravenswood is located at 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. For more information, call 925-443-0238 or visit the LARPD Web site at www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

RELIGION

Tri-Valley Bible Church, 2346 Walnut St., Livermore, holds Sunday worship at 10 a.m. with Sunday school for all ages at 9 a.m. Children's classes during adult worship service. AWANA children's program Wednesdays at 6 p.m. 449-4403 or www.Tri-ValleyBibleChurch.com.

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Information 931-1055.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656

Alisal St., Pleasanton. Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m. (nursery for both Sunday school and worship); children's church (age 3-12) at 11:15 a.m.; women's Bible study, Wed. at 10 a.m. Prayer 6 p.m. first and third Monday of each month. Call about church programs 846-8650.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (csjo.org). Information, Rabbi Judith Seid, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, 485-1049 or EastBaySecularJews.org.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Livermore, has services at 10 a.m. every Sunday and at 7:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. Sunday School for students (ages 3-20) is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. The church and reading room are located at Third and N Streets. The Reading Room, which is open to the public, features books, CDs and magazines for sale. For information, call (925) 447-2946.

Sunset Community Church, 2200 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's church provided. A "Night of Worship" first Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. Wednesday night program for all ages at 7 p.m. Information, call 447-6282.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sunday Services are 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Wednesday Lenten Service at 7 p.m. 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Information, 447-8840.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. Sunday worship at 9 a.m.; Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at 10:30 a.m.; Sequel (Contemporary worship) at 10:30 a.m. For information, call 925-447-1246.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Information 447-1950.

Calvary Chapel Livermore, "Unequivocally teaching for today the whole counsel of God's Word" Sunday Services 10:30 am and 6:00 p.m. 545 N. L Street Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvarylivermore.org.

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.

BUSINESS NOTES

RPM Mortgage

RPM Mortgage's Livermore branch moved to a new, more central location in the heart of downtown Livermore at 1859 First Street. Its move downtown has been a business goal of the owners since they created the Livermore branch with RPM in 2007 and is strongly supported by the city of Livermore.

"Our relocation to the core downtown Livermore district will help establish RPM Mortgage as the preeminent mortgage services provider within the beautiful Livermore Valley community," said one of the Branch Owners, Tony Russo.

RPM Mortgage Livermore is owned by Todd Allen, Tony Russo and Rick Benitez who all have more than 14 years of experience as a mortgage advisor. Their branch of 14 loan agents and 3 administrative assistants have been "serving the Livermore Valley and beyond" since March of 2007.

By moving downtown to the "core economic redevelopment district," RPM Mortgage Livermore hopes to increase awareness of its branch and its services and of course, expand business. According to Branch Owner and Manager Rick

Benitez, this was their plan all along.

RPM Mortgage, Inc. is based in Walnut Creek and is a private family-owned mortgage bank and broker whose roots in the Bay Area stem back to 1986.

Coldwell Banker

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage scored extremely high marks in customer satisfaction, with 99 percent of buyers and sellers in 2008 saying the company met or exceeded their expectations.

The results are from the company's survey of more than 24,000 clients who used Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in 2008. Among other measures of client satisfaction, the survey found that 98 percent of respondents were happy with the value of service offered and 95 percent would recommend their agent to others.

The annual survey also found that 93 percent of clients were "completely satisfied" or "thrilled" with the agent who helped buy their home (73 percent were "thrilled"), 98 percent were satisfied with the response rate from their agent, 98 percent said their agent knew the local market well, and 95 percent said they

would use their agent again

For more information, please call 1.888.322.9378 or visit www.CaliforniaMoves.com.

Alain Pinel Realtors

Alain Pinel Realtors earned the First Place Award for Company Brand in the Luxury Portfolio Fine Property Collection(r) Marketing Contest, held in conjunction with the Luxury Portfolio Conference at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale.

The award-winning entry in the Company Brand category was chosen based on professionalism of design, effectiveness in addressing the luxury audience and overall presentation. Alain Pinel Realtors was given the award at the Luxury Portfolio Awards Luncheon, where the network's achievement awards were presented.

Launched in 2005, Luxury Portfolio Fine Property Collection(r) has grown to include over 15,000 of the world's most remarkable properties and attracts over 1.2 million high-net-worth visitors a year.

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

Executives Added

Cubus Solutions the software company that provides expert cost-saving and green business applications to Credit Unions, announced today the addition of two industry veterans to the company's executive team to support the company as it expands its product line and grows into new markets.

The company is headquartered in Livermore.

Lakshman Prabu, joins as the Vice President of product development and chief technology officer. Prabu has over 15 years experience in the credit union industry, including managing the Harland Financial Services business unit, Ultradata's programming group and overseeing more than 30 software engineers. He was the Chief Architect for Ultradata's software products and was in charge of all aspects of development and implementation from identifying cost-effective and efficient technological solutions and training and managing programmers to educating customers about the end product. Prabu's wide-ranging technology and project management background, customer service orienta-

tion, expertise in the financial services industry, and leadership skill position him to guide Cubus Solutions' team of software engineers through all phases of the software development life cycle.

Lance Kawasaki, joins as the Vice President of programming, core systems. Kawasaki joins Cubus solutions with a wealth of experience and skills in software development and support. He worked for 16 years at Ultradata in software product development, including online banking and 24-hour emergency customer support, and later as an independent software consultant. Kawasaki's big-picture understanding of credit union operations and the interconnections between credit union functions enable him to develop highly efficient software solutions.

"These two industry experts will each play significant roles in the future growth of our company," said John-Ashley Paul, president of Cubus Solutions. "Both have an optimum combination of characteristics and qualities that are very well suited to our business and we will look to them for contribution in developing innovative strategies and products to open new markets."