



**Find Out What's Happening**  
Check out the second section

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



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

## Memorial Day Services Scheduled

Livermore VFW Post # 7265 will be holding Memorial Day Services at the three Livermore cemeteries, Monday, May 31.

The Services will start at Roselawn Cemetery at 10:00 a.m., followed by a service at St. Michael's Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. The day will conclude with a service at Memory Gardens Cemetery at 11:30 a.m.

Organizations participating in the days services are the C.A.R., the D.A.R., the Boy Scouts of America, and the American Legion.

The public is encouraged to attend. It is an opportunity for remembering and honoring service men and women, past and present.

**PLEASANTON:** In Pleasanton, the Memorial Day Ceremony will take place between 11 a.m. and noon at the Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery, 5780 Sunol Blvd.

Veterans groups will be participating.

In addition, the Pleasanton Community Concert Band will play between 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cemetery. For information, call 443-5526 or 846-5897.

## World War II Planes Land In Livermore

Wings of Freedom tour will again bring rare World War II aircraft to the Livermore Airport.

The Collings Foundation's Living History Display of Aircraft May 30 to June 1 includes Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress "Nine O Nine," Consolidated B-24 Liberator "Witchcraft," and North American P-51C Mustang "Betty Jane." They will fly into the Livermore Airport on May 30. Local citizens will have the opportunity to visit, explore, and ride these unique and rare treasures of aviation history. Local World War II veterans will discuss their experiences.

The B-17 "Nine O Nine" is one of only nine in flying condition in the United States. The B-24J and Dual Control P-51C Mustang are the sole remaining examples of their type flying in the world.

Visitors are invited to tour the aircrafts inside and out for a \$12 donation for adults and \$6 for children under 12. World War II veterans can tour for free.

(See PLANES, page 10)

# Livermore Looks at Closing Budget Deficits

As revenues continue to decline, the City of Livermore is planning for additional service and staff reductions over the next two years.

There are projected shortfalls through 2012. Neither property taxes nor sales tax, the two principle sources of money, are expected to increase. The sales tax income is projected to remain constant; property tax revenues will decline mainly due to a drop in property values.

To make up the shortfall this

fiscal year (2009-10), for the first time, Livermore will tap into its reserves. The city will take \$5.5 million from the economic uncertainty fund, leaving \$1.9 million in reserve.

There were questions from Councilmember Jeff Williams about whether the city could use capital improvement and redevelopment funds for other purposes such as operating costs and to pay salaries. The answer was, "no." Redevelopment funds must be used within the redevelop-

ment area on capital projects. The capital improvement budget funds come mainly from sources that are for specific projects, with 29 percent coming from grants.

Human Resources Manager Holly Brock-Cohn stated that for the first time assessed values of property have dropped. If a house is sold, it is sold at the lower assessed value. This will result in lower property tax income for the city for a long period of time. "The new reality is that property taxes will be at

the 2005-06 levels. We need to make fairly permanent changes in how the city does business to allow for the decline," she told the city council.

She said of the proposed reductions in services and staff that many will need to be permanent. In the draft budget, 32 jobs are eliminated. Many are vacant. Twenty current staff members will be impacted by lay-offs. There are just over \$5 million in spending cuts proposed each of the next two years. However,

there are still projected shortfalls of \$1.08 million in 2010-11 and \$2 million in 2011-12 fiscal years.

The city plans to go back to its bargaining groups to ask for help in containing employee costs, which make up 70 percent of the city's budget.

Representatives of three employee bargaining units were on hand Monday. They each said they are willing to sit down and discuss options.

(See BUDGET, page 3)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

**Livermore Heritage Guild will hold its annual fund-raising auction Sat., May 29 at the Duarte Garage, corner of Portola and L Streets in Livermore. Auction preview is at 5 p.m. Dinner (charge) starts at 6 p.m. followed by the auction at 7 p.m. (no charge). Dinner tickets are available at the Carnegie Building, Third and J Street, Livermore. Dinner tickets in advance are \$10; at the door \$15. For more information, call 449-9927. Pictured looking over auction items are (left) Janet Von Toussaint and Marie Abbott.**

## 4th of July Just One of Programs LARPD Considers Cutting

Next year's 4th of July celebration in Livermore is one of the programs on the chopping block as the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) attempts to balance its budget. In addition to reduction in programs and services, lay-offs of personnel are also recommended by General Manager Tim Barry.

LARPD is faced with with a projected budget deficit of \$463,000 for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The Board of Directors held a workshop last week to discuss programs that could be eliminated. No final decisions were made.

The Board will discuss the

budget again at its June 16 meeting, with plans to adopt a preliminary budget on June 30. Final adoption of the budget is scheduled for Aug. 11.

The general manager told the board that the budget deficit is the result of several factors. There has been a decline in property tax revenues and a slowdown in housing starts. Retirement costs have increased, as has the cost of workers' compensation insurance and general liability insurance. He said the option was to reduce programs and services or increase revenues. "The current

(See LARPD, page 12)

## Public Education Workers Rally

**By Patricia Koning**  
Livermore's May Nissan Park was the site of one 36 rallies held statewide last Wednesday by California Advocates United to Save Education (CAUSE), a group recently founded by the

California School Employees Association (CSEA).

"These rallies will send a message to stop the education cuts that are harming our schools and the students we serve," said Arlene Cristobal, media coordinator for the Livermore rally.

"We are targeting legislators who have not signed our commitment card to vote against further cuts to education. Our goal is to hold them accountable and put a face

(See RALLY, page 3)

## Education Leaders Hope Suit Brings Funding Change

**By Ron McNicoll**  
A suit filed against the state that seeks better more stable funding for public schools should help focus attention on changing how the state funds education, according to Valley education leaders.

The suit, "Robles-Wong, et

al., v. state of California," was filed May 20 in Alameda Superior Court. Maya Robles-Wong, an Alameda High School student, and 60 other students and their families, are the plaintiffs.

The families are joined as plaintiffs by the California PTA,

the California School Boards Association (CSBA), and the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA).

The suit contends that the state has set goals for academic performance, but has not provided

(See LAWSUIT, page 4)

## Pleasanton Grant Funding Remains at High Level

The Pleasanton City Council allocated over \$890,000 in community grants for the upcoming year.

There was no reduction in funding.

It was the first year that the city had streamlined its annual grant process to combine funding from community development block grant (CDBG), HOME, lower income housing funds and city grant general funds into a single housing and human services grant program.

"I am glad we can provide these services," declared Councilmember Cindy McGovern. "I think we need to talk more about what we are doing. These grants show that the city has a really big heart."

Each year, the City of Pleasanton receives an entitlement grant of federal Community Develop-

ment Block Grant (CDBG) funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This year, the amount is \$323,922.

Pleasanton also allocated \$240,000 in federal HOME (HOME Investment Partnership Program) funds. The city contributes money from its lower income housing funds and its general funds. This year, the city is providing \$86,500 from its lower income funds and \$170,000 from the general fund. Despite the downturn in the economy, Pleasanton funding of grants remains steady. The council approved a policy in the past that kept funding levels consistent during down years and increased funding when general fund revenues increased.

The grant recommendations (See GRANTS, page 2)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

**Kids tried out the equipment in a new play area at Bothwell Park in Livermore. In addition to the play areas, there are picnic areas and two bocce courts. A park dedication ceremony is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 2. The park is next to the Bothwell Arts Center at 8th and H Streets.**

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### PETS OF THE WEEK

Kitten season is in full effect at Valley Humane Society! Come down to Kitty City and pick out the new 4-legged member of your family. VHS is holding an Adoptathon on June 12 and 13- all adoptions are free (to good homes) on those days. This event is sponsored by Maddie's Fund. Visit Valley Humane Society at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, call VHS at 925-426-8656 or visit the web site [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org) for more information.



# VALLEY ROUNDUP

## Traumatic Brain Injury Law OKed

A bipartisan bill authored by Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) to improve care for veterans was signed into law earlier this month. The legislation will help address the needs of veterans who have suffered traumatic brain injuries (TBI), a wound frequently sustained by service members in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Our men and women in uniform have earned the best possible medical care," said McNerney. "It's up to us to make sure they get that care when they return home. Unfortunately, the signature wounds of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are traumatic brain injuries. I wrote this law so that the Department of Veterans Affairs will be better equipped to provide treatment for our veterans who suffer from these severe injuries."

Congressman McNerney's bill helps develop policies for better care and rehabilitation of veterans with traumatic brain injuries by establishing a special panel to assess how well the VA treats veterans with TBI and make recommendations for improvement. It will also help establish TBI-specific education and training programs for VA health professionals.

According to the Defense and Brain Injury Center, a collaboration of the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs, the leading cause of TBI among active duty military personnel serving in war zones are blasts. Other leading causes of TBI in military personnel include gunfire and shrapnel. Since 2000, the number of service members diagnosed with TBI has increased from 10,963 to 27,862 as of December 2009.

Congressman McNerney's bill was signed into law May 5, 2010 as part of the comprehensive Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act.

## Major Swim Meet in Pleasanton

The City of Pleasanton's Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center will be the host site for a competitive swim meet in the coming weeks. The Pleasanton Seahawks Swim team will host the Junior Plus 2010 meet during the weekend of June 5 and 6. The meet is expected to draw about 900 swimmers and spectators who will begin to arrive each morning at 7:00 a.m. The meet will continue through 5:30 p.m. each day.

The City of Pleasanton has worked with the Seahawks to develop plans for a successful competition and reduced impact on the neighborhoods surrounding the Aquatic Center, located at 4455 Black Avenue near Santa Rita Road.

Congested traffic conditions may occur on Santa Rita Road and Black Avenue each morning as the swimmers begin to arrive for the day's competition. Accordingly, City staff has developed a traffic flow system for the Aquatic Center to facilitate competitor drop-off. Participants

have been notified of pre-designated parking locations that would reduce the impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods.

For more information, please contact Ian Anderson at (925) 931-3423.

## Proposed Changes to Bus Routes

The Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), operator of the Wheels bus system, is conducting a series of public workshops to receive citizen comment on a proposal to make modifications and reductions to its fixed-route service recommended for fall 2010 and January 2011. At these informal meetings, LAVTA staff will make a brief presentation, distribute map and schedule information, and be available to discuss one-on-one service questions.

Routes and services areas under review include 10, 601, 602, 612. The Pleasanton meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 5:30 - 7:45 p.m. at the Veterans' Hall, 301 Main Street. Complete information is available at [www.wheelsbus.com](http://www.wheelsbus.com).

Some of the proposed changes include: Elimination of Overflow Buses on Routes 601, 602, and 611: Ridership has been declining on these school tripper routes; thus current passenger loads warrant the elimination of some overflow vehicles. Neighborhoods and schools will still be served, but with fewer buses. This may result in some standees on routes similar to mainline Wheels routes. Proposed change would take effect in Fall 2010.

Discontinuation of Route 612: Proposal recommends elimination of this service due to low ridership. Proposed change would take effect in Fall 2010. Service would be restructured to maintain service to the Del Prado Park neighborhood.

Reduction of Route 10 service to 30 Minute Weekday Service and Launch of New Rapid Bus Service: The proposed change eliminates 15 minute peak only service on Route 10 and proposes operating the Route 10 at 30 minute frequencies all day long on weekdays. This change will be made in conjunction with the launch of the new Tri-Valley RAPID which will be introduced in January 2011. The Rapid bus service will operate along East Avenue, Railroad/Stanley, Isabel/Jack London Blvd., and Dublin Blvd to the Stoneridge Mall including the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station. The Tri-Valley Rapid will operate every 10 minutes during the peak commute hours and every 15 minutes during the non-peak hours. Overall, riders will see improved and faster service along corridors served by the Rapid. The new Rapid will serve the current BART Station as well as the soon to be opened West Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station.

For more information on the Tri-Valley Rapid, visit [www.trivalleyrapid.com](http://www.trivalleyrapid.com).

# RALLY

(continued from page one)

to the action."

Livermore was chosen as a rally site because of Assemblymembers Joan Buchanan (15<sup>th</sup> District), whose District includes Livermore and many cities in Contra Costa County, and Mary Hayashi (18<sup>th</sup> District), whose district includes San Leandro, Hayward, Dublin, and parts of Castro Valley and Pleasanton. Neither has signed CAUSE's "Promise to our Students" card—in fact only 11 state lawmakers have signed so far. Livermore was the only rally site in the East Bay; other rallies were held in San Jose, San Mateo, Petaluma, Stockton, and Vallejo.

The rally drew school employees and supporters from Livermore, Pleasanton, Castro Valley, Hayward, Lafayette, Alameda, and other area school districts. Cynthia Rosenthal, an attendance clerk in the Alameda Unified School District, made the trip to Livermore to help support the cause. "Education is very important to me," she said. "The education system is falling apart. I'm watching as we lose teachers, jobs, and classes. I just wonder what will happen to our kids."

Approximately 100 school employees, family members, and other supporters marched along Rincon Avenue carrying signs and chanting in support of education funding. Several boys from the nearby Marilyn Avenue Elementary School happened upon the rally and joined in the chanting.

The group later moved back to May Nissan Park. A number of different speakers, some CSEA representatives and some school employees, spoke on the issue and the need for action. The May 19 rallies were purposely held during Classified School Employee Week (May 16-22). "It's interesting that as our school districts are giving us pink slips we are also celebrating the work

we do," said CSEA Area 3 Director Cindy Zecher.

Lucy Clark, a CSEA Senior Labor Relations Representative, began her speech by pointing out a stark reality: over the last year, CSEA has lost about 7,000 members due to layoffs. "We have a unique opportunity right now," she said. "We can lead the charge to make education funding a priority. That's why CSEA started CAUSE. Other states have done it and so can we. We'll remember today as the day we stood up and made education a priority in this state. Today is the day we said no: no more layoffs, no more school closures, and no more furlough days."

Tiffany Easley, president of the Lafayette CSEA chapter and an employee in the Lafayette School District, shared her story of becoming a mother at age 14 and finding a new home at a continuation school. She went on

to graduate from high school at age 16 and finish college. Her son will graduate from high school next month.

"They are cutting education like it is a luxury. They say we can do without, that the basics are all we need," she said. "Sometimes the basics are not enough. It would not have been enough to get me through. It's our responsibility to make sure these kids get the education they deserve."

A 14-year-old student at Bohnannon Middle School in San Lorenzo spoke about how his favorite place to go after school is the library. "Thanks to the governor, it's going away," he said. "I'm getting kind of afraid. It's getting scary and a kid my age shouldn't have to be scared."

The CSEA leaders promised that the statewide rallies are the start to a much larger campaign. For more information on CAUSE, visit the website [www.cause4education.com](http://www.cause4education.com).

# BUDGET

Glenn Robbins is president of the Livermore Police Officers Association. While expressing a willingness to help, Robbins voiced concern about safety in the city if reductions in staffing move forward.

The budget recommendation is to leave 9.5 vacant positions unfilled. In addition, the crossing guard contract is proposed to be cancelled and volunteers used. Recruitment to replace police officer positions would be slowed down.

Robbins noted that staff levels had already been reduced to 93 positions. "I am concerned about the safety of the community and the officers. Police and fire were the top priorities mentioned in budget workshops." He noted that the police had given up its three and a quarter percent raise last year.

Jason Solak represented the 115 member Firefighters Local #1974. He was interested in talks that would result in no lay-offs or closure of a fire station.

The draft budget includes the closure of the fire station at the airport and the elimination of the six positions. Those positions would be absorbed into the department as there are a number of vacant positions.

Solak stated, "I am confident

we can come up with amicable and humanistic cuts. It is imperative that we keep people on the streets to provide the service the community needs and deserves."

Steve Stewart, president of the Municipal Employees Negotiating Association (MEAN), addressed the council. He pointed out that the union had contributed the highest cost savings last fall when agreeing to contribute 4 percent more towards retirement. "We were the only group whose take-home pay was reduced."

"We were hardest hit by layoffs last year. The message in the upcoming budget is that the burden again will be born by MEAN. These are some of the lowest paid employees. They have been responsible for the positive responses to surveys concerning services provided by the city. MEAN does not advocate cutting pay. However, we ask respectfully that reductions occur across all employee levels and bargaining units," stated Stewart.

The Redevelopment Agency (RDA) also faces reductions in income. The decline in property values has an impact, because property tax increments fund the agency. In addition, the state has

taken \$1.5 million this year and will take \$300,000 next year from the RDA.

Marc Roberts, community development director, noted that a large number of businesses had been added in the downtown. "We have done well in comparison to other downtowns."

Projects for the 2010-2012 period include selecting developers and breaking ground on Livermore Village, Chestnut Mall, Harris, Kibbler and Greiner properties and the hotel project. In addition, plans are to facilitate development of the regional performing arts theater, coordinate with BART on planning a downtown station, and continue the incentive programs used to lure and retain businesses to the downtown.

There was a question about tapping into the emergency reserves of \$13 million. Brock-Cohn said the funds are primarily meant for use in the event of a major disaster.

City Manager Linda Barton said staff tried to identify core services that should and must be provided. Other services were evaluated. Community workshops and council priorities were used to determine where cuts could be made. The goal is a stable, sustainable organization.

If we right-size, I believe we can bring expenditures and revenues in line, creating an organization that can be sustained over the next several years."

Asked about senior staff, Barton said that they had received no salary increases last year and would not be receiving them this year. They will be picking of three percent of their retirement packages each year for the next two years and reducing medical benefits by ten percent.

Mayor Marshall Kamena commented that it appears there is a long term problem.

Barton declared, "We have to adapt to a new reality."

Kamena noted that no final decisions have been made with regard to the budget. "It's my belief it will reflect much of what is in the draft. If we find other ways to make it easier on employees, we will do so."

Councilmember John March and stated, "We have a remarkable staff. That's why this is so gut-wrenching for all of us. These are unprecedented times."



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# MAILBOX

co is the superior alternative.

Friends of the Vineyards is pleased that the Council is continuing to protect the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The UGB is supported by a significant majority of the citizens of Livermore. It is an important buffer against sprawl. Even a small breach now to accommodate a freeway BART station would lead to increased pressure for future development in North Livermore. The Council members' continued commitment to the UGB, through the recommendation of route 2B, illustrates their focus on a long-term vision for the future of Livermore.

It is not common for elected officials to consider the long-term effects of a course of action. The council members have demonstrated the political will necessary to lead our city into the future while protecting our precious natural resources for future generations. We appreciate their vision and foresight.

## Oil Spill Clean-up? Rich Buckley Livermore

The US needs a marine disaster response scientific clearing house, perhaps behind the scenes and low profile, to help develop and test clean up equipment and safety modifications needed to maintain our marine-based oil and energy fields. We can expect a major marine disaster once every 10 to 20 years from the many thousands of well heads around the world. There are nearly 4000 such US based well heads along our Gulf coast from Louisiana to the western edge of Florida.

"The basic notion is you hold the responsible party accountable, with regime oversight," from the government with oversight by federal agencies. Spills on land are overseen by the EPA, offshore spills by the Coast Guard."

"After the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska, Congress dictated that oil companies be responsible for dealing with major accidents -- including paying for all cleanup" (Mark Magnier - LA Times).

Risk Analysis: The EPA is left with no choices and are now evaluating the "do nothing - let nature take care of it option." Once the oil reaches sensitive marshes the battle may well be lost. Cleaning up in the marsh lands apparently can do more harm than good. We need to develop wartime quick response technologies that work.

No matter what financial caps you place on oil company liability, it will never be high enough in major disasters.

While the oil companies have focused on rig and platform safety there has been little incentive to focus on disaster containment and oil spill clean up technologies. It's evident that the free market supply and demand for extraordinary oil spill disaster response needs government sponsored incentivizing through some politically manageable incentives.

Incentives can take on a number of forms:

A. Development grants administered by a government clearing house funded by oil company disaster clean-up trust funds.

B. Oil Industry research and development disaster equipment response "tax credits" which either come off the bottom line of taxes owed or can be transferred over to the bottom line of your own personal tax return. Nothing drives investment in new technology faster than bottom-line deductions of taxes owed. We have a long history of examples in many industries. This sort of response would work in Congress. The Obama Administration could use a good bottom line "100% tax credit off the bottom line" to show it can walk-the-talk and not just talk-the-talk (my opinion), thus converting a disaster and embarrassingly poor government response to a financial engine driving investment in an area the aura of his campaign promised attention .... everything to do with energy and the environment, not a bad idea leading into 2012 elections.

C. Tax the industry with license fees. This would seem counterproductive and more in line with a plan to simply nationalize oil and energy altogether and would have severe political repercussions.

D. Do nothing response. The do-nothing response surely opens up the Administration to legitimate criticism from all quarters; not a good idea as we enter the 2011 election cycle.

We need a clearinghouse for the scientific development and testing of marine disasters clean-up protocols, equipment, and resources. Rather than have these technologies pigeonholed inside agency turf battles, or worse yet, never seriously looked at until 30 days into a raging marine disaster for public relations sake, let's pick one agency for our marine

disasters and fund their clearing-house function.

While the Coast Guard has traditionally been assigned coastal and waterway environmental clean-up response, they should be working with a design and testing clearinghouse within the US Naval Academy, Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering (NAOE). We're all on the same team. Solve this obvious turf battle and let's move on. The mission to implement clean-up should likely remain with the Coast Guard, but the equipment testing and development is better vested in our nation's parent service, the Navy, as the level of priority assigned to US ecological marine disaster response works its way up the list of national priorities.

Fighting wars are messy affairs with enormous waste of resources, cleaning up oceans before spills reach the shores might at first seem to delicate a task for the US Navy which harbors its own toxic skeletons. But times are rapidly changing and NAOE has many partners with lend a powerful say in the final processes including the EPA and the Coast Guard. They are equipped with marine research facilities and staffed to organize Big-Science and bring it to bear upon the global war front.

We can expect one of these disasters every 10 to 20 years. We are a long way from having a strategy in place to deal with oil spills quickly. We need to develop a contingency war plan and NAOE should be that campus and testing lab that serves as the clearing house for our nations clean-up response. Turf battles may need to be settled before real progress can be made.

Relying on the under-funded Coast Guard to hold all the answers is an unreasonable expectation when they have no funding to operate a testing lab on an ongoing basis. NAOE on the other hand was set up in part to do just that with a focus on naval design, rescue, research, and now marine disaster response, water borne technologies of every sort, no doubt much of which remains classified. NAOE is also well equipped to project its rather considerable knowledge base into design issues concerning oil platform construction, fire safety, and extreme emergency fires at sea, and an entire range of out of the box marine engineering solutions that flow from this area of research and development.

We must not get bogged-down in the sympathetic notions that we are somehow infringing on the Coast Guard's turf. We're not. We are supporting their mission, behind the scenes, quietly, and letting them reap the winds of public service high profile exposure in the actual clean-up ... just as Congress originally intended. Continue this discussion on an open forum at <http://tinyurl.com/2e2fnr>

**Voter Information  
Mick Hanou  
Pleasanton**

Voters wading through the ads and argument on Measure D, trying to separate spin from fact, are fortunate to have today's technology.

Page 60 of the Sample Ballot / Voter Information Pamphlet has Figure 36, showing the location of the 51 lots in question. If a voter can read a topographic map, one can see that the lots are all on the top of ridgelines - no question. One can go to Google Map/Satellite view and see the current path along the ridge lines where the lots are located. Google Map/Terrain View shows that these are indeed ridgelines between valleys. Lastly, Google Earth can provide one a 3D view showing how the lots dominate about 10,000 feet of ridgeline; people in Pleasanton will see a long line of homes on the ridge.

I am not in the area of the development, I am not affiliated with either campaign, and until I realized where the lots are located, had been a supporter of the "trade-off" of lots for parkland. Not any more. Good information has changed my view and I will now be voting NO on Measure D.

## Conservative Against D Karen Wind Pleasanton

I'm conservative and I support private property rights. But I oppose Measure D. Here's why. Yes, we will probably see houses on the ridge, but that's not the end of the world. On the other hand, I think the new "park" is essentially useless to most people who want accessible playing fields more than remote hiking trails. And as for getting gobs of money for education, didn't the Ruby Hill school fiasco teach us the difference between illusory enticements and enforceable agreements?

On balance, I might have come down on the side of the property owners to get a return on their investment. I might have, if they hadn't sued Kay Ayala personally for leading the opposition. I hold as paramount the citizen's right to contest government action without fear of intimidation and reprisal. Then the city council majority, ignoring the voters' clear message from Measure PP, put Oak Grove on the June ballot at nearly \$80,000 extra cost to the taxpayers. That sealed the deal for me.

I suspect the presumption is that conservatives are more likely to support the property owners and, since only the Republican primary offers real choices, conservatives are more motivated to vote in the June election. But we conservatives are also motivated to stop abuses of power and wasteful government spending. Since there is no "taking" of private property - the owners can still develop their land if Oak Grove is rejected - I'm voting no on Measure D.

## Swim Team Alvin Baer Pleasanton

A great big bah humbug to the Board of Directors of the Fairlands Cabana Club. They have banned the Pleasanton Meadows Sharks swim team from their pool. This after more than 30 years and literally thousands of kids who have benefitted from the team experience. This affects approximately 250 children, their families, their professional coaches, and the hard working team managers who had already been hard at work organizing this swim season.

The ripple effect, if this ban is not overturned or another venue found, will affect all the other teams in the league. I urge the board of directors to work with the team leaders to come to some sort of compromise so the summer of fun and a bunch of safer swimmers is not ruined.

## Yes on Proposition 15 Joe Ely Pleasanton East Bay campaign coordinator for Prop. 15, the California Fair Elections Campaign

Elections should be won, not bought.

Are you outraged by the amount of money in politics and the recent Supreme Court ruling allowing corporations to spend unlimited amounts on campaigns?

Since 2000, over \$1 billion dollars has been raised by California politicians. All this fundraising buys access for the special interests, but shuts out the rest of us.

That's why California's government is broken. We have many serious problems to fix in California - schools, budget, health care system. Rather than solving California's problems, politicians are busy raising money for their campaigns. We need to get politicians out of the fundraising game so they will focus on our priorities.

Proposition 15, the California Fair Elections Act, changes the way we finance election campaigns, starting with a voluntary pilot project to provide limited public financing for Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018. The Secretary of State referees our elections, so it's especially important that s/he has the best ideas and experience, not

the most money.

Prop 15 is tough:  
• Candidates who agree to use public funds must prove they have substantial support by gathering signatures and \$5 contributions from 7,500 registered voters.

• Participating candidates are banned from raising or spending money beyond the limited funds.

• Spending limits and reporting requirements are strictly enforced. Candidates can only spend on legitimate expenses. Violators would face fines, possible jail time, and prohibitions from running for office in the future.

Prop 15 pays for itself, primarily through a reasonable \$350 per year registration fees on lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers. No taxpayer dollars are used for Prop 15, despite its oppositions' misleading claims to the contrary. Currently lobbyists only pay \$12.50 per year in California, one of the lowest rates in the country and less than a daily fishing license.

Prop 15 removes the current ban on public financed campaigns so that if the program is successful, the pilot project could be expanded to any office in California. It also would allow cities and counties to choose public financing. It's a once-in-a-generation opportunity to stop Big Money's control of Sacramento and our cities.

Fair Elections save taxpayers money. As one example, lobbyists stopped Connecticut from expanding its bottle recycling bill for a decade, but that changed when 81% of Connecticut's legislature was elected with Fair Elections in 2008. A new recycling bill generated almost \$17 million in additional revenue annually for the state, more than paying for the entire Fair Elections system with that one bill.

We know that Fair Elections work. Nearly 400 candidates from different backgrounds have been elected with this system in eight states and two cities— new people with new ideas from all walks of life, not the same old career politicians. Because they never take campaign contributions, they speak their mind and work for the people, not the special interests.

Prop 15 is endorsed by the League of Women Voters of California, the California Nurses Association, California Common Cause, AARP, AFSCME, California Church Impact, Consumer Federation of California, the California Labor Federation, Sierra Club, my own City Council of Pleasanton, and nearly 400 other leaders and organizations.

Vote Yes for Prop 15: [www.YesOnProp15.org!](http://www.YesOnProp15.org)

## Confusing Letter Ken Mercer Pleasanton

I am confused by Matt Sullivan's letter dated 5/14/10 regarding Measure D. Matt Sullivan is the councilmember who made the motion to approve the project. During his motion, he complimented everyone involved: the developer, the attorneys, the citizens and the city staff.

Now we get a letter to the editor not about Measure D, but about Jennifer Hosterman and the owner of the property.

There is no mention about the pluses or minuses of the project, only some comments about Jennifer Hosterman and a marketing letter paid at the property owner's expense. What is so unique about that type of mailer in these modern days of politics?

I guess the part of Matt Sullivan's letter that bothers me the most is that he refers to the developers as "out-of-country land speculators who love to bulldoze property." Mr. Lin is an American citizen. In my opinion he has a right to develop his land. It's kind of anti-American to think otherwise.

Maybe Mr. Sullivan should try to think about the issues of the project and avoid making personal attacks on people. Americans are tired of this old-fashioned politics and would like to hear real issues discussed.

Lowering oneself to this level really leaves me wondering if he knows the Community of Character qualities everyone in town talks about.



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### Ask Kathleen

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

Email Ask Kathleen questions to [AskKathleen@wm.com](mailto:AskKathleen@wm.com)

**Q.** We heard our family can make money by participating in the Eighth 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 at (925) 371-4059 by June 9, 2010. Since WM does not collect unsold items after the event, participants may keep them or donate them to charity.



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# Art, Community, & Education



Music and dancing are part of the annual Sommerfest. Photos are from last year's festivities.

## Support Arts Education at the 25<sup>th</sup> Sommerfest

By Patricia Koning

Enjoy an authentic German Oktoberfest and support arts education in Livermore schools at the Livermore Cultural Arts Council's (LCAC) 25<sup>th</sup> Sommerfest on Saturday, June 19. The event will be held at the Barn (3131 Pacific Avenue) from 4 to 9 pm and will feature the music of the Karl Leberherz Band and the Golden Gate Bavarian Dancers, German beer imported from Bavaria, Livermore wine, and authentic German sau-

sage and apple strudel.

"Why wait until October to celebrate German-style?" asks Wolfgang Stoeffl, the organizer of Sommerfest. "This is a unique and fun family event for a great cause."

Stoeffl, a physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and native of Germany, took over the event last year after eight years of running the Auction D'Elegance, the Rotarian Foundation of Livermore's annual black-

tie fundraiser. One of his goals is to keep Sommerfest as authentic as possible.

To that end, the beer is imported from Munich, the sausage is Bavarian, and the apple strudel is from a German bakery in Vacaville. A large contingent of students from the San Francisco German Club volunteer their services, helping with setup and cleanup and serving food. That's another piece of the authenticity—like a traditional Oktoberfest, food is brought to the

tables so guests don't have to interrupt their fun.

The Golden Gate Bavarian Dancers will lead the audience in traditional German dances. For a preview, search for "Livermore Sommerfest" on YouTube (you might even catch Stoeffl dancing). Guests can also enjoy the Bavarian version of shuffleboard, which features a Bavarian *Maßkrug*—one-liter beer stein—in place of the pucks.

(See SOMMERFEST, page 4)





Ronnie Holland (above) and Jabez Churchill (photo at right) are guest poets.

## Century House Reading Theme Is Poetry Rocks in Many Languages

*Poetry Rocks in Many Languages* is the theme of the next Century House Featured Poets Series to be presented on Sunday, June 6, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The guest host is Liz Fortini.

The City of Pleasanton hosts the event at Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Admission is \$5.00; free to students with ID.

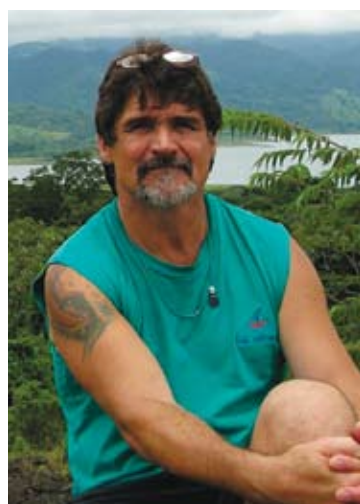
Fortini, who is a Pleasanton poet, writer and online poetry publisher, will host an afternoon of poetry in the languages of Western Europe. Other guest poets participating will be educator and published author, Jabez Churchill, and Poet Laureate of Dublin Calif., Ronnie Holland. All three poets will read their original European-language works along with the English translations.

Jabez Churchill is a Northern California native who was educated in Argentina and the United States. He is a retired peace officer and currently teaches modern languages at Santa Rosa and Mendocino Colleges. A California Poet

in the Public Schools since 1998, Jabez has authored several poetry books including *Controlled Burn* and *The Veil* and the languageandculture.net chapbook series in 2005. He has participated in the Summer Dream Poetry Festival in Vancouver, B.C. the past two years and has been a favorite at Century House in the past.

Ronnie Holland is the Poet Laureate of Dublin, Calif. She draws inspiration from folklore, mythology, the environment, relationships and her travels to 16 countries. Her fascination with languages includes studies of French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese and Mandarin. She has been published in anthologies including *Best Poets of the 20th Century on Man & Environment 1975*, *Peopled Parables*, and in the 2009 California Poets Laureate Anthology entitled *Sometimes in the Open*.

"Hearing poetry in another language highlights the power of poetry to express emotion," says Pleasanton Poet Laureate



Deborah Grossman. "For more than a decade, Liz Fortini has led a global community of poets who write in many languages. We are delighted she will read and share her expertise on the synergy between poetry and culture. In addition, we are looking forward to hearing Jabez's Spanish-language poems as well as Ronnie's works in French."

Grossman added, "Later this year, we will host another 'Poetry Rocks' event featuring languages from another part of the world."

After an intermission and light refreshments, the public will be invited to participate in an open mic, reading original poems of up to 40 lines in a Western European language as well as translations. Original poems in English are also welcome.

For information, contact Michelle Russo at [mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us) or (925) 931-5350 or Additional information about the Poet Laureate program is available at <http://civcartsliterary.org>.

## 'The Heidi Chronicles' Next for Tri-Valley Rep

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre's next Studio Theatre production will be *The Heidi Chronicles*. Performances are weekends June 4 to June 27. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays.

The play, by Wendy Wasserstein, is comprised of a series of interrelated scenes.

Published in 1989, *The Heidi Chronicles* received the Pulitzer Prize for drama as well as the Antoinette Perry (Tony) and New York Drama Critics' Circle awards for best play.

Heidi Holland is a character typical of many women born in the post-World War II era: she is intelligent, well-educated, and attempting to make it in a society dominated by men. The chronicles of Heidi Holland (Emily Garcia) take her from high school graduation to a distinguished career as an art history professor and published writer to a forty-something woman who has come to realize that having it all isn't synonymous with happiness. Gradually distancing herself from her friends, she watches them move from the idealism and political radicalism of their college years through militant feminism and, eventually, back to the materialism that they had

sought to reject in the first place.

The paths taken by Heidi's friends— among them two male best friends, the wrong-for-her Scoop (Dustin Battaion) whom she (and we) can't help loving and a charismatic doctor (Cin Seperi)— are very much part of her story. Heidi comes to accept the fact that liberation can be achieved only if one is true to oneself. All other roles are portrayed by Michelle Bellaver, Joel Butler, Chelan Glavan, Katherine Justice, and Sara Worthing.

Directing is Susan Hovey.

The performance is at the Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton.

Tickets are \$25 for adults (18-60), \$22 for seniors (60+), \$20 for juniors (under 18), and \$19 each for groups purchasing 20 or more tickets. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.iloveyou.trivalleyrep.com](http://www.iloveyou.trivalleyrep.com) (click on TICKETS), by phone at 925-462-2121, or in person by visiting our ticket office at 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 307, in Pleasanton on Wednesdays or Fridays between 11:00am and 3:00pm.

Warning, the play contains adult language.

*The Heidi Chronicles* is presented with permission from Dramatists Play Service.

## Musical Performance Slated

The Cal State East Bay Singers and Oratorio Society join forces with the Baker University Chamber Singers from Kansas and organist Jonathan Dimmock in a concert of sacred music from England and France at 8 p.m. May 29 at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland.

The East Bay Singers will perform Maurice Durufle's "Requiem," with Allen Shearer and Pamela Hicks, both CSUEB lecturers in music, as soloists. The Oratorio Society will sing Benjamin Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb," and the Baker University Chamber Choir from Kansas will sing William Byrd's a cappella "Mass for Five Voices." The concert will conclude with all singers joining the cathedral's new organ for "I was Glad" by Sir Hubert Parry. Buddy James, assistant professor at CSUEB, and Matthew Potterton, of Baker University, will jointly

conduct.

"These selections were chosen as a natural fit for the beauty, both visual and acoustical, of the Cathedral of Christ the Light," said James.

"Durufle's Sublime Requiem harkens back to Gregorian Chant and the polyphony of the Renaissance, such as will be heard in the brief Mass by William Byrd. Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb provides a sense of modernity that will compliment both the older styles of the other music being sung and the magnificent new architecture of the Cathedral," he said.

Admission will be \$7 general, \$5 seniors, and free to those with a CSUEB or student ID. Tickets may be reserved at: [music.csueastbay.edu/tickets.php](http://music.csueastbay.edu/tickets.php).

Questions should be directed to (510) 885-3167 or [music.csueastbay.edu](http://music.csueastbay.edu).



**Livermore Art Association members are displaying a collection of abstract art by local artists at the Livermore Civic Library, from June 1-30. The show is titled "Abstractions." Works are in many mediums, including acrylics, watercolors, and mixed media. This collection explores the use of form and color instead of traditional subject matter. "Abstractions" is showing at the Livermore Main Library Artist's Gallery at 1188 S. Livermore Ave. It is open during normal library hours. For more information about the artwork, call Lenore Kreit at (925) 455-5445. The photo at left is of "Conflagration" by Lenore Kreit.**

# Wente to Host Rangeland Trust's 'Western Affair'

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual *A Western Affair* will be held amongst the rolling rangelands of the Livermore Valley at Wente Vineyards on Saturday, June 5. California Rangeland Trust (CRT) is partnering with the Wente family for this event within view of Cresta Blanca and the Wente vineyards and cattle ranch. The evening events include dinner prepared by Wente Restaurant, live and silent auctions, and concert by Dave Stamey, nationally acclaimed cowboy entertainer.

Proceeds will support CRT's ongoing effort to preserve California's privately owned rangelands, including those of the Bay Area.

Founded in 1998 by members of the California Cattlemen's Association, CRT has completed conservation easements on over 200,000 acres to date, and more than 100 families representing an additional 500,000 acres have applied to permanently protect their ranches. Since private ranchlands provide habitat for approximately 70 % of western wildlife, their

preservation is essential to the region's natural resource values. The Bay Area has 1.2million acres of privately owned rangelands and CRT is working with local partners to ensure as many acres remain working landscapes. CRT now holds several easements in the Bay Area, including two on the Koopmann Ranch in Sunol. Tim Koopmann, Sunol, and Darrel Sweet, Livermore, serve as CRT Directors.

California Rangeland Trust is working with the Koopmann Ranch to host an optional morning ranch tour the day of the event to describe easements, ranching and natural resources, including the endangered wildlife habitat on the ranch. See how this local ranch family uses conservation easements to provide endangered species habitat. The ranch is home to California tiger salamander, calippe silverspot butterfly, native birds, and other wildlife. Experience this exceptional place with California's leading advocates of

ranching and conservation – right in your backyard. A barbecue lunch is included and will be served in the historic barn. Space is limited so register early.

*A Western Affair* is an outdoor event attended by rangeland conservationists, cattlemen and women, rangeland enthusiasts and the public. There is an optional VIP Wine Cave Reception prior to the main event available to VIP ticket holders. Several sponsorship opportunities are available and donations to the auctions are welcome. The live auction includes a Santa Rosa Island guided trophy buck hunt, National Finals Rodeo tickets, and ranch stay and horseback riding packages and much more.

To inquire about *A Western Affair*, to purchase tickets, offer a sponsorship or to make a donation, please visit [www.rangelandtrust.org](http://www.rangelandtrust.org) or call (916) 444-2096. Don't delay! The website also contains information about CRT, its conserved ranches, and rangeland conservation.

# 'Concerts on the Green' Planned for Tuesdays This Summer

Tuesday evenings downtown will continue to provide a place to discover new favorite music, culinary creations, and local wines from the Livermore Valley, as Livermore Downtown Inc. launches a new summer event series titled "Concerts on the Green, Summer Series."

"Concerts on the Green" will take place every Tuesday evening between June 15th and September 14th. The music begins at 5:00 and lasts until 8:00 p.m. at the Livermore Valley Plaza, in front of the Bankhead theater. There is no admission charge.

Each week, two Livermore wineries will be featured with wines for sale by the glass and by the bottle. Also new this year, beer selected by downtown bartenders and owners will be on sale, highlighting their favorites. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be available for purchase. Downtown restaurants will be on site with tasty offerings.

No outside alcohol, beverages or food will be allowed into the concert venue, although takeout from any of our downtown restaurants or wine shops may be brought in with receipt as proof of location of purchase. The Livermore Downtown Inc. website lists the restaurants, wine shops and tasting rooms at [www.livermoredowntown.com](http://www.livermoredowntown.com).

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# Croce Students Sample Music and Art through FAME

By Patricia Koning

On a recent Friday afternoon, Croce parent Thomasin Dewhurst is faced with a challenge, but she doesn't break a sweat. She's teaching a music lesson to a group of 15 fourth and fifth graders from Eileen Annicchero's special day class. A few of the students play musical instruments while others don't know the difference between a half and full note.

"Can you give me some words to describe a beat?" asks Dewhurst, a question that stumps even the kids with musical training. After some discussion, they settle on comparing a beat to the tick of a clock. She immediately has the students clap and hit their desk on a beat, and then divides the room so that half of the students clap on a full beat and the other half hit their desk on the half beat. The half-beat students quickly get confused, which Dewhurst takes as an opportunity to introduce another musical term: cacophony.

By the end of the hour, she has the students creating their own rhythms and making music togeth-

er using hand bells and a variety of percussion instruments. In a previous lesson, the Annicchero's class studied Picasso and then created their own still life pastel drawings while listening to "Carnival of the Animals" by French composer Camille Saint-Saëns.

"My students just love art as a way to express themselves," says Annicchero. "Thomasin helps open them up to classical music. These classes really broaden their knowledge. I just wish it was offered more than a few times a year."

Megan, a fourth grader, agrees with her teacher. "I like this class because I get to draw," she says. "The music is really interesting. I've never heard music like this before."

This school year, each class at Croce attended two fine arts classes, one on music and the other on visual arts, taught by Dewhurst and several other parent volunteers. A few years ago the school purchased materials from the Foundation for Art and Music in Elementary Edu-

cation (FAME) as the basis for an enrichment program.

"We completed the training, but it wasn't until we found our own 'artist in residence,' Thomasin Dewhurst, and through generous funding from our PTA, that it made a significant impact for our students," says Croce principal Shari Johnston. "Art and music is an important part of education, not only improving students' math and science capabilities, but also increasing motivation to learn and attend school."

Dewhurst, a native of South Africa, has a master's degree in art and taught at the college and high school level before moving to the United States for her husband's job at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. She got her start teaching to younger children when her son attended Livermore's Room to Grow preschool, a parent participation program. This year she received an Above & Beyond Award from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District for outstanding contribution to Art,

Music & Performing Arts Enrichment.

When her son started kindergarten last fall at Croce, it was a happy coincidence that Dewhurst was looking for volunteer opportunities and the school was in need of someone to lead FAME. "Last year PTA was able to sponsor one art class for the entire school," says Monica Baucke, president of Croce's PTA. "The kids were so starved for it and really wanted more. It was clear that something was missing."

Baucke remembers when her older daughter, now in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, was in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and the PTA helped the school fund a weekly music teacher. These days, PTAs at schools across California no longer have the luxury of supporting enrichment activities. The Croce PTA is hoping that with more parent volunteers and donations, they can offer more FAME classes next year.

The Croce PTA pays for all the consumable materials and for Dewhurst's time planning

and organizing the program; she volunteers her time as a teacher. Parent volunteers Susan Johnson and Melissa Philips also teach FAME classes.

FAME is taught in a dedicated classroom, which became free this school year with larger class sizes. Parent volunteers created two giant frames in which to hang student art work and a puppet theater. Volunteers Stacy Ourdoun, Jeanne Pagel, Tami Aslin, Tawnyer Archer, Debbie Cordiano, and two substitute teachers, Valerie Prosch and Bonnie Pastrnak, have provided essential support for Croce's FAME program.

Dewhurst's artwork has been exhibited in Canada, the United Kingdom, and South Africa. Currently, she has pieces at the Coos Art Museum in Coos Bay, Oregon, and the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Virginia. To view her work and for information about private lessons and commissions, visit [www.thomasindewhurst.com](http://www.thomasindewhurst.com). Dewhurst can also be contacted at 925-216.7231.

## MUSE Program Helps Keep Music Alive

The Oakland East Bay Symphony's MUSE (Music for Excellence) has been partnering with Livermore music teachers for the past five years to provide programs in the schools. The program expanded last year to add a third grade keyboard program.

Carl Stanley, the education coordinator for the Oakland East Bay Symphony (OEBS), notes, "The keyboard program represents a portion of education programs in Livermore." He noted that the MUSE program provided the six secondary schools in Livermore with a string mentor from the Oakland East Bay Symphony to assist with the orchestras. The third grade piano keyboard class is offered to forty third graders at Joe Michell Elementary (open to all elementary school students).

Two Young Peoples Concerts will be performed for the Livermore School District in June. Michael Morgan and musician ensembles made school visits for assemblies.

Another event in Livermore is the annual Livermore Young Peoples Concert. It will be held at the new Bankhead Theater on June 4, 2010. Two performances are offered free of charge to the Livermore schools. Fourteen schools are signed up to attend with approximately 1,000 students. The theme of the concert this year is "The Science of Sound/The Art of Music."

The MUSE program was able to expand to Livermore using funds provided by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, which makes a donation to the symphony. The symphony uses that money to provide the program to local students.

Last September, Stanley met with the Randy Watson, the music supervisor for the district, and Livermore music teachers and determined assignments for the string mentors. Mentors assisted with orchestra classes, directed sectional rehearsals, helped prepare students for the district solo-

ensemble festival and gave private lessons to promising students, including those who were financially challenged.

The keyboard class met on Wednesdays after school. The capacity of the class was 10 students. Two sessions were held every week (for a total of 20 students).

Fall and Spring sessions are offered – so there are a total of 40 students involved.

The first session was dedicated to Joe Michell third grade students. The second session each week was opened to interested schools from within the Livermore district. Students at Joe Michell Elementary School were chosen by the third grade classroom teachers on the basis of academics, music interest and financial need. Students from the visiting schools were chosen by sign-up from flyers distributed at the participating schools.

Livermore music teacher Kim Luty is the instructor for the keyboard program. The students will

demonstrate their newly learned skills during a "graduation recital" on June 2.

During the 13 to 15 week class, the students receive two music books and a 45-minute group lesson each week. One book is a work book on music theory, the second a book of songs.

Luty explains that the Oakland Symphony provides the keyboards and headphones to each student. "At the end of 13 weeks, they can read music. Using that knowledge they are able to go into a band program or continue on piano," stated Luty.

She added, "It is a great opportunity for young kids to get excited about music, to learn to read it and take that skill into any instrument, including vocal."

Luty says she has found that parents are happy with the program. "The kids are great. They are eager to learn. I love teaching it."

According to the symphony's website, "The objective of MUSE

is to provide the students with a continuous and sequential instrumental music program that will augment education programs by fostering cognitive development and analytical skills, allow youth to experience the joy of artistic expression and creation, and provide a sense of self and place in the community. The program also provides a creative outlet for the energy of youth that will provide these young people with a foundation for positively viewing themselves as capable and contributing members of our society."

Randy Watson, Manager of Music Program at the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, has been quoted about the impact of the program, "Our Community is feeling connected to the Symphony. They're seeing concerts and hearing about the Symphony at dinner tables."

For more on the MUSE program, go to [www.oeps.org/page/muse.htm](http://www.oeps.org/page/muse.htm).



## SOMMERFEST

(continued from front page)

For children, there will be arts and crafts and a show by Roy the Magician. A special treat is an oversized hanging spirograph, a geometric drawing toy that creates mathematical curves. Stoeffl built this spirograph, similar to the one found at the San Francisco Exploratorium, by hand about 25 years ago. "It's created a lot of interesting drawings and held up very well," he says.

While this event is the 25<sup>th</sup> LCAC Sommerfest, it is only the fourth such event in "modern times". LCAC original began holding Sommerfest in the 1950's or 1960's, and then revived the event in 2007.

Admission for adults is \$18; children up to age 18 are free. The food plate is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children, dessert (apple strudel) is \$2, beer on tap and wine are \$5, and soft drinks are \$1. A pre-sale "grownup" package is available for \$35 and includes admission, food, drink, dessert, and a souvenir

beer stein.

Purchase the pre-sale package online at [www.lcac.org](http://www.lcac.org) or through [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com). A total of 450 pre-sale packages will be sold. Tickets can be bought at the door on the day of the event, but Stoeffl cautions that the Sommerfest has sold out in previous years. All funds raised through Sommerfest are donated to the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District for arts education programs.

LCAC is an association of 23 educational and cultural organizations within Livermore that was founded in 1966 with the purpose of promoting educational and cultural activities within the Livermore community, and striving to heighten community awareness and appreciation of the arts. LCAC meetings are held at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month except July at the Robert Livermore Community Center. For more information, see [www.lcac.org](http://www.lcac.org).

## Amador Math Team Presents Geometry Bee

The Amador Valley Math Team hosted its third annual Amador Valley Geometry Bee on Wed., May 19 at the Amador Valley Multipurpose Room. The tournament is hosted by the Amador Valley Math Team for Geometry students in Pleasanton to promote mathematical enthusiasm and to recognize the mathematical talent in the school district.

Contestants for the competition were determined using a 10 question Geometry Bee qualifier test. The test contained difficult geometry problems that tested a student's ability to apply geometry concepts in novel ways. 31 students out of Pleasanton's Honors Geometry student population qualified for the Geometry Bee. The students represented both high schools (Amador Valley and Foothill), two middle schools (Harvest Park and Hart), and one elementary school (Vintage Hills).

The Geometry Bee consisted of multiply timed rounds, where questions were projected onto the screen for students to solve. Questions tested knowledge and speed in multiple topics such as shapes, circles, triangles, angles, and coordinates. There were three rounds total, and those who scored highest on each round were eligible to move on to the next round.

A sample question from the Geometry Bee consisted of a rectangular prism of integer dimensions with faces with areas 54, 72, and 108. The competitors were asked to find the volume of the

prism. The process in solving the problem involved identifying the dimensions of the cube by factoring the areas of the surface faces and finally multiplying the dimensions together to find the volume (648).

The last round, the championship round, had 8 contestants, Christine Xu, Victor Ye, Jeffrey Zhang, Ian Zhou, Brian Shimanuki, Jerry Li, and Gerry Zhou from Harvest Park Middle School, and Steve Guo from Vintage Hills Elementary School. The round determined the top three contestants at the Geometry Bee, including this year's Geometry Bee champion. Ian Zhou, an 8th grader from Harvest Park, won 3rd place. Jerry Li, also an 8th grader from Harvest Park, won 2nd place. Brian Shimanuki, also an 8th grader from Harvest Park, answered the most questions correctly on the championship round to win the title of 2010 Amador Valley Geometry Bee champion.

The Amador Valley Math Team is a student-led club at Amador Valley that is interested in nurturing mathematical enthusiasm on campus and in the local community. The Math Team participates in national math competitions such as the AMC and regional competitions such as Stanford Math Tournament and the Bay Area High School Puzzle Hunt. The Math Team is always looking for new members. More information about the Amador Valley Math Team can be found at [www.avmathteam.org](http://www.avmathteam.org).



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pictured are (left to right) Kailyn Stow, Molly Wharton, Sophia Schrodi, Maggie Rosendin.

## It's a Hard Knock Life at the Livermore Valley Charter School

By Patricia Koning

The Dancin' Dramatic Dragons at the Livermore Valley Charter School (LVCS) kicked off their spring musical, "Annie", with a bang—three performances on Thursday, May 19. The approximately 85 students in the school's theater club performed twice during the school day for their fellow students and again that evening for a standing-room-only crowd of friends and family. The final performance took place on Saturday evening.

The LVCS production of Annie was full of energy and joy, led by Julia DiSimone's robust performance of Ms. Hannigan. DiSimone has become the Dancin' Dramatic Dragons go-to girl for villains, playing the Queen of Hearts in the 2008 production of "Alice in Wonderland" and Captain Hook in "Peter Pan" last year.

As Annie, Zoey Bothwell-Mitlitsky captured Annie's mixed emotions during the search for her parents and mastered the challenging solos in "Tomorrow" and "Maybe." Filling out the lead roles were Eric Gateno as Oliver Warbucks, Heather Drewis as his secretary Grace, Zac Turner as Ms. Hannigan's delinquent brother Rooster, and Daryl Reed as his ditzzy girlfriend Lily St. Regis.

Third-grade teacher Amber

Rodgers directed the play with help from Michelle Apodaca, also a third-grade teacher. Rosie Turner, a parent of four LVCS students, served as the musical director. Middle school music teacher Asa Stern led the student orchestra, which performed the entire score of "Annie".

For Rodgers, the performances mark the end of a project that consumed two-thirds of the school year. Tryouts were held in November and rehearsals began in December. She moved the performance dates back two months this year—from March to May—to give herself more time to pull together all of the pieces of the show.

LVCS, a K-8 school, has over 900 students. The play is open to third through eighth graders and like other school performances, everyone who auditions gets a part. One reason Rodgers chose "Annie" was for the large ensemble cast—there are 20 orphans in this staging.

Working with a large cast that ranges in age from 8 to 14 has been very rewarding. "It's really cool to work with such a wide range of talent and experience," said Rodgers. "The younger kids really look up to the older ones, who take their responsibility as role models very seriously. We strive to build relationships across grade levels."

The LVCS staging of Annie brings together four components: the actors, a chorus, a cadre of dancers, and the 13-member orchestra. Dancing is Rodgers' first love—the Livermore native has been tap dancing since age 3—and it was how she became involved in the Dramatic Dragons in the first place (in fact, her participation last year prompted the name change to Dancin' Dramatic Dragons).

"I've danced since I was three years old," she said. "I joined Peter Pan last year just to work with the dancers, and somehow wound up with a much larger role. I've never done something like this before, so I'm flying by the seat of my pants." The dancers added flare to the New York City and radio show scenes and the maids inside Oliver Warbucks' mansion performed backflips to "I Think You're Going to Like It Here."

With the performances behind her and the end of the school year just two weeks away, Rodgers is already thinking about next year's show. "The cast and backstage crew and, of course, me, Asa, Rosie, and Michelle, have had so much fun over the last six months," she said. "It's incredibly rewarding for everyone to see how all their hard work comes together in the end. I love being able to offer a full scale musical production to a school of this size."

# An Elegant Concert by the Pacific Chamber Symphony

By Nancy O'Connell

On May 20th the Pacific Chamber Symphony performed a concert with some unplanned dramatic twists, but Maestro Lawrence Kohl turned to the audience, and said, "Just remember, you are seeing a live concert." Paul Galbraith, an amazing guitarist, broke his highest string halfway through a movement of the Rodrigo Concerto. Everyone heard the pop! and looked up, startled. With composure, Galbraith completed the movement, finding new ways to play the notes, and then they took an early break. The rest of the Rodrigo was completed after intermission.

The first work on the program was *Acuarelas Valencianas* (Valencian Watercolors) by Eduardo Lopez-Chavarri, who lived from 1871 to 1970. Born in Valencia, Spain, he lived most of his 99 years in that city. Like Bartok and Kodaly in Hungary, Chavarri traveled and collected folk songs from different parts of Valencia. The work opened with a dialogue between the concertmaster, Igor Veligan, and the first cellist, Nina Flyer, accompanied by Spanish rhythms. When the music swung into a waltz, Maestro Kohl gave big, generous cues. The 2nd movement began mysteriously with all of the strings in a tremolo passage. The concertmaster played a lilting melody which led all of the strings into a mournful section. The movement ended with the first violins playing high harmonics. The 3rd movement, titled *Danza*, had rapid pizzicato in the cellos, then a tricky passage followed. The cellos bounced between spiccato and pizzicato, and a viola solo well played by Emily Onderdonk, was heard. With a flourish from Kohl's expressive left hand sweeping into the air, the work drew to a close. This conductor uses no baton.

The very familiar *Concerto de Aranjuez* by Joaquin Rodrigo was next on the program. Rodrigo, like Chavarri, was born in Valencia. He too lived a long time, for 98 years. The program notes indicate that he was nearly blind from the age of three, and became an amazing pianist. That he also could compose is amazing.

The guitar soloist, Paul Galbraith, is from Scotland. As he began to play, one was instantly aware that this soloist was holding his guitar between his legs like a cello. His guitar even had a long end pin, a white metal one,

which he inserted into a wooden resonance box. Galbraith also has added a lower and an upper string to his guitar, which gives him an unusual range. The program notes called his playing style "ground-breaking." He held his left arm just as a cellist does and, with his right hand, plucked his strings directly over the sound hole. With 8 strings instead of the usual six, this created a bigger, richer sound than one usually hears from the guitar. A low strumming of guitar chords led to a beautiful English horn solo. One lush Spanish melody followed another, until the highest string snapped in two. Without any break in the musical line, Galbraith, a true professional, completed the movement. The audience clapped and cheered after Kohl spoke briefly. The concerto would be completed after intermission.

As promised, they both reappeared. The guitarist began the movement with an unaccompanied solo. Later in this same movement he had a long, difficult cadenza which certainly needed all of his strings intact. The entire orchestra entered as the cadenza ended. In the 3rd movement the first bassoon, Karla Ekholm, had a sprightly solo. This *Allegro gentile* was very rhythmical. French horns and trumpets added color to the texture and when the guitar was played, no one in the orchestra overshadowed the soloist. When Maestro Kohl would ask for a quieter sound, a *piano*, from his orchestra, he almost crouched down to indicate what he wanted.

There was also a story behind the performance of Marcello's *Concerto in D Minor for Oboe and Strings*. When the orchestra began to rehearse with the oboe soloist that morning, they quickly discovered their music was in a different key from his. Alex Curtis, a Livermore Rotary Club Music Scholarship winner, was about to perform for the first time with a professional symphony, and frantic calls were made all over the S.F. Bay area. The San Francisco Conservatory had orchestra parts in the same key he had learned for his part, and e-mailed the parts to Maestro Kohl. The concerto was saved!

Curtis is now a Freshman at UC Irvine, majoring in music after graduating from Livermore High. In the first movement of the Marcello he had a beautiful solo accompanied by the cellos and double bass. Later the same

combination of players produced a wonderful contrast between the lowest voices in the strings and the high tones of the oboe. As young as he is, Alex Curtis played like a virtuoso. Cheers and clapping erupted at the close of the oboe concerto - a well deserved tribute.

Beethoven's *Symphony No.3 in E-Flat Major*, the "Eroica", was the last work on the program, and it was elegantly presented. For this work, timpani magically appeared on stage and three French horns were needed. There was a melody in the cellos and a beautiful duet between the first flute and the oboe. In the 2nd movement, the first violin section played as one voice with long, full bows. The cellos had a lively melody. Maestro Kohl has very expressive hands, and he could bring the orchestra from a quiet passage to an exciting fortissimo. Every cue was given, and the 3rd movement was filled with dramatic contrasts between the forte and piano passages. Beethoven places technical demands on every section. The French horns played their famous parts well. The winds had a lovely melodic line and soon all of the strings had the spiccato sound of an earlier theme.

In the 4th movement, the *Finale*, rapid notes scurried in a flurry of excitement. The strings played continuously. First violins tossed off a difficult running part. The three French horns entered, sounding glorious. Long sustained notes followed in the strings. The timpani added a rich, other dimension to the bass line. A dramatic series of cadences brought the symphony to a close, and at least half of the audience to its feet in a standing ovation. Three curtain calls brought Maestro Kohl back to his enthusiastic audience.

Livermore is fortunate in having the Bankhead Theater with its excellent acoustics. Tony Clements, the tuba soloist for the Livermore/Amador Symphony on May 15th, told the audience that our Bankhead is a much better hall than the one Symphony Silicon Valley has for its performances. That statement should have filled us with pride.

Maestro Kohl has planned an exciting series for next season. His concerts will move to Friday nights. Order your tickets for this remarkable Pacific Chamber Symphony series soon.



Cast rehearses for 'The Case of the Missing Bodies.'

## Trinity Stages Play

Trinity's drama ministry, Acts One, is presenting its third annual spring play on June 4, 5 and 6 at the church, 557 Olivina Avenue in Livermore.

Set in 44 AD, where it is discovered that some prisoners are missing. "The Case of the Missing Bodies" plays like a 1940's detective mystery. Join Sam Bar-Shamus, Detective Extraordinaire, as he solves the case.

The story includes some pretty shady characters such as Alexander and his Thugs, the looney-tunes Prison Cook, and Poison Puss.

"The Case of the Missing Bodies" is directed by Sara Stoebe. It features Jim Chandler, Sara Stoebe, Terri Norris, Lorin Jensen, Evelyn Lawson, Megan Chandler, Matt Stoebe, Haley Swindale, Tina Jensen, Sarah Peacock, and Dean Namanny.

Showtimes are 7 p.m. on Fri., June 4, 7 p.m. Sat., June 5, and 6 p.m. Sun., June 6.

Tickets are available at the door or by contacting 447-1848 and asking for "Bogey."

Additional information is available at 447-1848 or [www.trinity-livermore.org](http://www.trinity-livermore.org).

## Cocktail Monkeys Featured at Next 1st Wednesday Party

The next Pleasanton 1st Wednesday Street Party is set for June 2 from 6 to 9 p.m. in downtown Pleasanton.

The Cocktail Monkeys are the featured band.

The Garage Band Academy students can be found performing on Angela Street in front of Your Stage Toys. Local elementary children will be playing their instruments in front of the Veteran's Hall. Classic and custom hot rods will be on display at the Coast Gas Station on St. Mary's Street.

Shop and dine in the shops and restaurants in historical downtown Pleasanton. Booths will be set up on Main Street by a wide variety of businesses, along with local community and nonprofit groups who will feature information about their organizations.

The beer and wine garden is located at 530 Main St. Cocktail Monkeys will be performing there. Wines from Ruby Hill, Ryhan Estates, and Nottingham Cellars and a wide variety of beers from Anheuser-Busch, Trumer Pil, and Main Street Brewery will be available for purchase.

Main Street will be closed from St. John Street to Old Bernal Avenue from 4:30pm to 10:00pm. There will be plenty of off-Main Street parking available in the railroad corridor (between Main and First St.) and the Amador High School parking lot.

For more information, visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net) or [www.facebook.com/pleasantondowntownassociation](http://www.facebook.com/pleasantondowntownassociation) or [www.twitter.com/ptown\\_dtown](http://www.twitter.com/ptown_dtown)

# Pleasanton Teacher Hopes to Produce Film That Looks at Teen Drug Use

By Ron McNicoll

With all of the talk lately about peer pressure on teenagers, and the dysfunctional behavior that results from it, Adam Gold is taking a more dramatic approach in getting the word out about it.

Gold's plan literally is more dramatic than any news account could be, because the 27-year-old Pleasanton substitute teacher intends to produce a movie about a teenage drug gang based in Pleasanton.

The only thing stopping Gold so far is the need to finance the picture, he told *The Independent*. Gold said that he has raised commitments for \$80,000 through his own personal network.

Gold's goal is \$250,000, which would provide him enough financial solidity to pay the cast and crew, and attract more funding, he

said. He hopes that with some volunteer labor and materials, he can work inside a budget of \$300,000 for the movie.

Although Gold makes his living as a substitute teacher, he said that he attended acting schools in Los Angeles. He wants to add creative projects to his role as a teacher.

Gold explained that he formed L.I.P. Productions in Los Angeles, in a very low-budget office space, to also produce other movies. He said that he has two scripts from others under consideration.

Gold added that he has had roles in a couple of independent films. The acting and film production are a big departure for the Amador Valley High School graduate, whose original intention was to earn a law degree. After moving to Southern California to attend law school, Gold took acting classes, and decided doing something with film

amounted to following his bliss.

Following heart's desire and instincts is part of the message that Gold has for teenagers. It's the opposite of what parents or peers might pressure teens into doing.

Although the film is fiction, it is based on Gold's observations of Pleasanton teens and his own experience when he was a student at Amador. He said that behind the well-off facades were teens who had a drug gang and threw wild parties.

Gold's point in producing the movie is to show parents and the whole community, who may not know what is going on, that high social status doesn't exempt people from the kind of behavior that will be depicted in the film.

Gold envisions his movie as the next step in the DARE campaign, which police departments

bring into schools in an effort to curb drug activity. "This is DARE 2010," said Gold.

## FILM VETERAN LIKES SCRIPT

One of the co-producers on the film is Amy Goldberg, a Palo Alto resident with more than a decade in the film and television business. She is an independent producer, who formerly worked for Fox Films, Hallmark, and Lifetime.

Goldberg said that when she read the film's script, she "was taken by the material. The characters are very real." The movie's approach to teen sports and drugs and "what can go wrong during the teen years" is realistic, said Goldberg.

As to expectations about the quality of a low-budget film, Goldberg said that she has seen movies "made on a lot less," that had a professional look and good

effect.

Shooting the film in Pleasanton, with some volunteer assistance, will help on the budget, said Goldberg.

Gold also has received some encouragement from Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. The mayor is acquainted with Gold, because one of her daughters attended Amador Valley with him.

Hosterman said that she has not read the script yet. However, she was "excited about the concept" that was described to her. "He has a different perspective, as a teacher, about what our youth are spending their spare time doing," said Hosterman.

The mayor said that she suggested that there be a panel discussion at the end of the movie about the problems raised in it. Gold said he was taking that into consideration.



The unveiling of an art mural (pictured) located on Bus Shelter #27 in Pleasanton took was held recently. The mural was created by high school students in the Foothill High School Art Club, under the guidance of their art teacher, Caroline Fields. This Wheels Bus Shelter Art Project is a collaboration of the Livermore Amador Transit Authority (LAVTA), the City of Pleasanton, and the Pleasanton Unified School District. As operator of the Wheels bus system, LAVTA started the Bus Shelter Art Project in 1999 to contribute to the overall appearance of the community and to mitigate vandalism. There are two other mural installations at bus shelters in Pleasanton, and three in Livermore.

Livermore Downtown Inc. Presents

EVERY THURSDAY

Through October 21<sup>st</sup>

4 PM - 8 PM

Carnegie Park

(Third Street

between

J & K St.)



Join Us Tonight  
At the  
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Don't miss out!  
Year Round Farmers' Market  
On Sundays from 9am-1pm  
On Second St. between J & K.

This week's Farmers' Market is brought to you by:

Livermore Downtown Inc., Pacific Coast Farmers' Market,  
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101.7 KKIQ, Kitchen Experts, Livermore Youth Football & Cheer.

For more info on this & other events,  
please contact

Livermore Downtown Inc. 925-373-1795  
www.livermoredowntown.com

## ART &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

**2nd annual Paint the Town.** June 5. Open to artists ages 14 and up. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register for the outdoor fund-raising event at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. Fee \$5 per person. Family art activities will take place in front of the Museum on Main between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. There will be a no-host champagne, wine and soda bar. For more information about Paint the Town, contact the Museum on Main at (925) 462-2766 or visit [www.museummain.org](http://www.museummain.org).

**Livermore Art Association Gallery.** located in Carnegie Park, offers art classes, unusual gifts, painting rentals, art exhibits and information pertaining to the art field, 2155 Third St., Livermore. The gallery has been open since 1974 and is run as a co-op by local artists. Hours are Wed.-Sun. 11:30-4 p.m. For information call 449-9927.

**Seward Johnson Sculptures** Downtown Pleasanton, interactive exhibit by sculptor J. Seward Johnson placed on sidewalk locations. The eleven life-size, three-dimensional bronze sculptures depict the everyday activities of people who may be found anywhere, from a man reading a newspaper on a park bench and an elderly woman carrying a bag of groceries to a child welcoming a soldier home from duty. The exhibit will remain in place through June 30, 2010. More information about the J. Seward Johnson exhibit is available by contacting Pleasanton Fine Arts Coordinator Julie Finegan at [jfinegan@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:jfinegan@ci.pleasanton.ca.us) or (925) 931-5355.

**New works by Livermore artist Joanna Crawshaw** displayed through June 30, 2010 at the Wild Vine, 2187 First Street in Livermore. Artist reception to be held on Thursday, May 20 from 6pm to 8pm. Refreshments will be provided. Joanna is an abstract artist from Livermore. She is a 2005 graduate of the Art Institute of Boston. Since her move from Boston, she has concentrated on finding a way to marry her love of the human form with her passion for abstract art. Joanna's current work represents a move from mood based art to work that provides an atmosphere in which the work can come alive and communicate with the viewer.

**Art and photography students** from Livermore and Granada high schools will have their work on display May 5-June 5 at Windermere Welcome Home Realty, 1790 First Street, Livermore. The show, the latest in an ongoing series featuring the work of local artists at the real estate office, was organized by teachers from the two schools. The public is invited to view the show during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., or by appointment with Cher Wollard, 925 824-4824 or [cherw@windermere.com](mailto:cherw@windermere.com). A reception will be held later this month, date and time to be announced.

**The Contra Costa JCC** will open three new exhibits featuring work by Michael Yashar, a collection of Ketubot, and Traditions: From Generation to Generation, an eclectic collection of Judaica from the local community. The exhibits will be housed at the Contra Costa JCC's Friedkin Art Gallery, Gallery 925, and Tice Valley Gallery from May 12 through September 17, 2010. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to 8:00 p.m. and Fridays, 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy the exhibits. Admission is free. The Contra Costa JCC is located at 2071 Tice Valley Blvd. in Walnut Creek.

**Call for Artists, Art in the Park, Danville,**

12th Annual Fine Arts Festival, October 2 & 3, On the Town Green, Front Street Park, by the Library. Categories: Paintings in All Media, Photography, Ceramics, Sculpture, Graphics and limited openings in Fine Jewelry (no crafts). Sponsored by Alamo Danville Artists' Society and the Town of Danville, this event is a Fund Raiser for Art in the Schools of the San Ramon School District. Art in the Park includes a Judged Inside Art Show and food, wine and live entertainment. Booth spaces are 10' x 10' and the fees are \$85 for non-ADAS members. Artist's applications available: e-mail [ormawebb@comcast.net](mailto:ormawebb@comcast.net) or call 925 828-9170.

**Louise Gibler Exhibit**, oil paintings consisting of still life, landscape, floral and figurative subjects for the months of May and June 2010 at the Garre Vineyard & Winery 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and weekends 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All the pieces are framed and done in the chiaroscuro style of painting.

**Art exhibit,** May 21-June 30th - Occasio Winery hosts artist Patrick Segui's latest exhibition, "Back Behind the Big Top." This show depicts many scenes of an Edwardian circus - Ringmasters, trapeze artists and gypsy caravans. Patrick's unique style has decorated the Winery's previous auction lots, and his intriguing mis-scene transports the viewer to another era. Fridays - Sundays, noon - 5 p.m. 2245B South Vasco Road, Livermore, 371-1987, [www.occasiowinery.com](http://www.occasiowinery.com)

**Occasio Winery,** Thurs., May 27, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., artist reception for Patrick Segui. Patrick's new show "Back Behind the Big Top," which depicts the many scenes of an Edwardian circus - Ringmasters, trapeze artists and gypsy caravans. His unique style has decorated the Winery's previous auction lots and now Patrick has painted two additional bottles - a 1.5L 2008 Petite Sirah (Double Gold medal winner) and a 1.5L 2008 Zinfandel - these two very special bottles will be for sale. Work featured in Library Room May 21st - June 30th. Patrick will be in attendance on May 27 to describe his artwork and motivation of his current show. Also, on this evening, release of the new 2008 Petite Sirah, already a Double Gold medal winner, and the new 2009 Pinot Gris, before the wine is released to the public on the weekend. This event is open to everyone, please RSVP to [info@occasiowinery.com](mailto:info@occasiowinery.com). **Memorial Day weekend,** May 29 - 31: release of Double Gold Medal winning 2008 Petite Sirah and 2009 Pinot Gris. On Saturday, May 29th, 1 - 4 p.m., live bluegrass music and food will be served all weekend long. Open holiday Monday as well, noon - 5 p.m. 2245B South Vasco Road, Livermore, 371-1987.

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**Art Crawl,** Friday, May 28th, the public is invited to a free Art Crawl to view open studios, art displays and exhibitions in downtown Livermore. Art Crawl has changed its hours to 6 to 9 p.m. in order to coincide with the downtown merchants' Girls' Night Out event. Pick up a tour map at Ryan Fine Art gallery, Panama Red Coffee Company, and many downtown locations. For further information please see [www.linaryanfineart.com](http://www.linaryanfineart.com).

**What Lies Above Below & Through Juried Art Exhibition,** May 14th through June 19th, explore 31 artists' responses to the subjects of surface, depth, transparency and opacity at Ryan Fine Art gallery, 171 So. J Street, Livermore, with a reception on May 28th to coincide with the downtown Art Crawl from 6-9 p.m. The gallery is open lunchtimes Thursday - Saturday and Friday evenings. An extension of this exhibition will hang at Panama Red Coffee Company, corner of First & K Street, from May 18 through June 19. See [www.linaryanfineart.com](http://www.linaryanfineart.com) for details.

**Art in the Vineyard,** May 30, Wente Vineyards Estate Winery, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artwork by thirty-six artists will be on display. Live music will be performed by "Vested Interest." Art demonstrations will be held throughout the day. Admission is free. Wine tasting begins at 11:00 am. A \$15.00 Wine tasting fee includes a commemorative wine glass (\$10.00 for Club Wente members). Food and refreshment will be offered by Wente Vineyards and Strizzi's Restaurant for a nominal fee.

## WINERY EVENTS

**Murrieta's Well, La Luna Friday,** May 28, 6 to 9 p.m. Spanish-inspired tapas and Murrieta's Well wines served on the terrace under the light of the full moon, accompanied by a live music. Silver Spur Members \$45 per person, plus tax. All other guests \$55 per person, plus tax. Reservations required for both events. For reservations, directions, or more information, please call (925) 456-2395 or purchase online at [shop.murrietaswell.com](http://shop.murrietaswell.com). **Occasio Winery Tasting salon:** May 29-31, 2010 - New Release Celebration: Double Gold Medal winning 2008 Petite Sirah and 2009 Pinot Gris. In the Library Room will be the art show "Back Behind the Big Top," by Patrick Segui. Memorial Day weekend: Saturday, May 29th, 1-4pm, live bluegrass music and wonderful food will be served. Also open Monday as well, noon - 5pm. 2245 So. Vasco Rd., Livermore. [www.occasiowinery.com](http://www.occasiowinery.com) or 785-0872.

**Cuda Ridge Wines,** Saturday, May 29 from 1:00 - 5:00, Livermore's Roger Kardinal will play 60's and 70's folk music and lead an open mic jam with friends and family. Cuda Ridge will be tasting the 2009 Sauvignon Blanc, 2008 Merlot, 2007 Award winning Cabernet Sauvignon, and 2008 Petit Verdot. There is a minimal \$5.00 tasting fee which is refundable with purchase of wine. Come on out and purchase a bottle of wine and enjoy the music at Cuda Ridge. Those interested in participating in the jam, please contact Larry Dino at 510-304-0914 or Roger Kardinal at [rkardinal@comcast.net](mailto:rkardinal@comcast.net). Cuda Ridge Wines is located at 5385 East Avenue.

**Thomas Coyne Winery,** Spring Open House May 29, 30, & 31 noon to 5 p.m. at the historical tasting room at 51 E. Vallecitos Road, Livermore. Release two new wines 2003 Merlot, El Dorado and 2006

Merlot, California. Selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served. For the last time this year we will offer an interactive experience "Bottle our Own Wine:" Vino Tinto Barato, a red table wine, at the Open House. Bring a clean bottle, we will fill, cork and label it for you for \$5.50 per bottle. Use our bottle for \$6.00. Or you may bottle label and cork it yourself. This is only available May 29. Limit is six bottles per person. Watch the video <http://thomascynewinery.com/bottleyourownwcell.wmv>.

**Lavish Laines Winery,** tasting room open May 28-30, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Taste the newest wine, a Chardonnay. May 29 is a winemakers dinner; live vaud and dancing; dinner paired with library wines. \$30 per person, \$25 for Scarlett members. RSVP at [lavishlaines@yahoo.com](mailto:lavishlaines@yahoo.com). Tasting room at the Good Brewer located at: 2960 Pacific Avenue, Livermore.

**Thomas Coyne Winery at Blacksmith Square,** Downtown Livermore, 25 S. Livermore Ave. Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. Live music every Saturday: May 29 KNR, May 30 Charles Sedlak, June 5 Roger Kardinal, June 12 Hurricane, June 19 Kenny Robbins Band, June 26 Liam. <http://thomascynewinery.com>.

**Nottingham Cellars,** 2245C South Vasco Rd., Livermore. Summer kickoff BBQ in the cellar, May 30, noon to 5 p.m. Live music by the Smokin' J's. Wine by the glass, party in the cellar. Complimentary BBQ Plate for all club members. 925.294.8647, [nottinghamcellars.com](http://nottinghamcellars.com).

**Rodrigue Molyneaux Winery,** June 5, Taste of Tuscany, Come celebrate the release of our two new wines: iL Segreto & Primitivo 2008. Live music by Latin guitarist Tom Duarte from 1 to 4 p.m. Food and wine pairings and passed Hors D'oeuvres until 4 p.m. Wine Club free, \$8.00 pp, \$15.00 per couple. Tickets available the day of the event at the winery. Street & winery parking available. For more info, please e-mail [events@rmwinery.com](mailto:events@rmwinery.com). 3053 Marina Ave., Livermore.

**Nottingham Cellars,** 2245C South Vasco Rd., Livermore. Acoustic event concert June 11, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Featuring Of Shape and Sound and I The Mighty. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Club members get in free with RSVP. Information, call 925.294.8647, or go to [nottinghamcellars.com](http://nottinghamcellars.com).

## MUSIC/CONCERTS

**JAMfest Youth Concert,** May 28, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Lions Wayside Park, corner of First and Neal Streets, Pleasanton. Local youths perform. City of Pleasanton Parks & Community Services contact at Mark Duncanson at 925.931.3481.

**A Tribute to Harry Chapin,** Fri., June 4, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. LVPAC Presents The Steve Chapin Band with special guest Jessica Craven of The Chapin Sisters. Tickets on-sale to public Tues. April 27 at noon. 925-373-6800, [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

**The Saddle Cats,** Adventures in Western Swing, perform Sun., June 6, 2 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Western swing pocket orchestra comprised of steel guitarist Bobby Black, fiddler and vocalist Richard Chon, guitarist Gordon Clegg, and bassist Bing Nathan. Their repertoire runs from rustic Texas breakdowns to the sophisticated swing of Benny Goodman, from Bob Wills high-energy California swing to their own stylish originals. Admission is free. For more information call 925-373-5505.

**Doo Wah Riders,** Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. June 11, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

**2010 Concert at Wente Vineyards,** Thurs., June 17, The Fray. Thurs., June 24, Liza Minnelli. Ticketmaster.com or by calling the Wente Vineyards Box Office at 925.456.2424. Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore.

## ON THE STAGE

**The Heidi Chronicles,** Tri-Valley Reperatory Theatre Studio Theatre production. June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27. 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m. Sun. 2 p.m. Ticket information 462-2121 or [www.trivalleyrep.com](http://www.trivalleyrep.com).

**Track of the Cat,** June 6, 2010, A Stage adaptation of the classic American novel by Walter van Tilburg Clark. Directed by Graeme Maley. 3:00 p.m. The Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, Tao House. Tickets \$25. [www.eugeneoneill.org/events](http://www.eugeneoneill.org/events)

## DANCE

**Footloose,** Livermore School of Dance Jazz & Tap Divisions presents "Footloose!" This diverse show has music and dance styles for everyone from jazz, tap, lyrical and musical theater to contemporary and hip hop. Some of the numbers include "The Garden" with Mirah, "In The Money" with Gold Diggers and "Dreams" like Van Halen. Livermore High Performing Arts Theater, 600 Maple Street. Friday, June 4 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 5 at 2:00 p.m. All tickets are only \$12.00 for this full-length production! For tickets, call 925-245-9322 or email [lsodjazz@yahoo.com](mailto:lsodjazz@yahoo.com). For more information about our dance studio, please contact Livermore School of Dance, 1635 Chestnut Street, Suite C, Livermore, (925) 245-9322, [livermoredance@gmail.com](mailto:livermoredance@gmail.com), or [www.livermoredance.com](http://www.livermoredance.com)

**A Midsummer Night's Dream,** presented by Livermore School of Dance Ballet Division. A full-length ballet of Shakespeare's comedic tale. Livermore High Performing Arts Theater, 600 Maple Street. Saturday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. & Sunday, June 6, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets: 925-245-9322 or [ltmballet@gmail.com](mailto:ltmballet@gmail.com).

**Natya Mela 2009 (Bengali Drama Festival),** June 5 and 6, 2:30 p.m. Amador Theater, 1188 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Information [www.sanskriti.org](http://www.sanskriti.org) or [www.porshi.com](http://www.porshi.com).

**Saturday Night Dance Parties,** themed parties each Saturday night from Salsa to Swing, includes an optional group dance lesson at 7:15. \$15 cover charge, 7:15 dance lesson, 8:00-10:30 for dance parties. It's All About Dancing, 171 So. Livermore Avenue, 925-449-9292, or [studio@itsallaboutdancing.com](mailto:studio@itsallaboutdancing.com).

**A String of Pearls,** Saturday, June 19, 2 and 7 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Valley Dance Theatre's 30th Anniversary Celebration brings to life Gershwin's An American in Paris, Glenn Miller's classic A String of Pearls, and Vivaldi's Four Seasons, plus exciting new works. Tickets available at [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

**The Wizard of Oz,** presented by Dance Studio at Gymfinity. Sat., June 19, 11 a.m. 230 So. Vasco Rd., Livermore. Public is invited to attend.

## MOVIES

**Book Into Film,** "Clueless," May 30. Read the book, then view the movie at 2:00 p.m.

# ART & ENTERTAINMENT

in the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, followed by a comparison of the movie with the book. Free. Information: 925-931-3405

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Father's Day Photo Contest**, sponsored by Alameda County CattleWomen's Association. Cash prizes: \$50 for first place, \$30 for second place, and \$20 for third place. Anyone can enter. The winning photos will be published in The Independent as well as on the Alameda County CattleWomen website. The photo theme is "Show why your father deserves BEEF for Father's Day." The photo can be of Fathers, Grandfathers, or "Father-like" figures. Entries are due by June 17, 2010. For contest details go to AlamedaCountyCattleWomen.com.

**Livermore Heritage Guild Auction**, May 29, Duarte Garage, corner of Portola Avenue and L Street. www.livermore-history.com.

**Spring Antiques & Collectibles Street Faire**, May 30, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Main Street, downtown Pleasanton. Information a 484-2199 or go to events@pleasanton-

downtown.net. Pleasanton Downtown Association.

**Major General Alford Pleasanton** will appear at Trinity on May 30 at 6 p.m. He will present a dramatic monologue entitled, "Serving God and Country as a Family." Gen. Pleasanton will be portrayed by Jim Meek in full uniform. The performance is free. Child care available. Trinity is at 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore, 447-1848.

**1st Wednesday Party**, June 2, 6 to 9 p.m. "Jump Into Summer" theme. Downtown Pleasanton. Featured band, Cocktail Monkeys. Pleasanton Downtown Association hosting. 484-2199. events@pleasantondowntown.net.

**Austin Powers Movie & 60's Era Costume Party** at the Vine Cinema & Alehouse, 1722 First Street, Livermore. Thurs., June 3. Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center costume and movie social benefit for local performing and visual arts centers and its programs. Guests will be entertained and be able to socialize and savor themed cocktails, wine, beer, soft drinks and a variety of food items that will be available for purchase. Austin Powers movie screenings will be at 7:30 and 9:30

pm. Costume contest in-between the two showings at approximately 9 pm. Dressing up is encouraged. General Admission is \$20 and includes the party, lounge cover charge, movie and unlimited popcorn. \$10 of each ticket is tax deductible. The event is appropriate for ages 16 and older. Tickets are on sale now at the Bankhead Theater Ticket Office, 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore, online at www.bankheadtheater.org or by phone at 925.373.6800. Remaining tickets will be sold at the Vine Cinema & Alehouse door on the night of the event, if available. This fun event is likely to sell out, so advanced purchase is recommended.

**Poetry Rocks in Many Languages**, Sun., June 6, 2 to 4 p.m. Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. Pleasanton poet, writer and on-line poetry publisher Liz Fortini will guest host an afternoon of poetry in the languages of Western Europe. Liz and three featured poets will read a blend of poems they or famous poets have written in Italian, Spanish, French and German and then translate the poems. At the Open Mic following, the public is invited to read a poem, one page or less,

in a Western European language and read their translation or read a poem they've written in English. Cost: \$5.00, students free. pleasantonpoetry@gmail.com.

**Livermore Rodeo Parade**, Sat., June 12, downtown Livermore along 2nd and 3rd Streets. 10 a.m. start. Free.

**Livermore Rodeo**, June 12 and 13, Rodeo Grounds at Robertson Park, Livermore.

**Joaquin Murrieta: Dead In The Sierra**, Thursday, June 17, Join filmmaker, Warren Haack, for a screening and discussion of his narrative film on the famous outlaw Joaquin Murrieta. Museum on Main Ed Kinney Lecture series. 7 p.m. at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$5 members and seniors, \$10 nonmembers,

\$3 students and teachers with ID. Reservations are suggested. Tickets may be purchased at the door. Call the Museum on Main at 462-2766.

**Book Into Film**, June 27, "The Namesake," a film based on the book by Jhumpa Lahiri. View the movie at 2:00 p.m. in the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. A comparison of the movie with the book follows. Free. Information: 925-931-3405.

**Alameda County Fair**, June 23-July 11 (closed Tuesdays), Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. Farm animals, 16-days of live horse racing, professional entertainment, midway and carnival, food, fun for all ages. www.alamedacountyfair.com.

## Memorial Day Weekend Events

### Antiques to Fill Pleasanton's Main Street

The semi-annual Pleasanton Downtown Association Antique and Collectible Street Faire is back and will be held on Sunday, May 30 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 show will feature free

appraisals by Steve Yvaska, noted appraiser and Journalist. The appraisals will run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He will be located at the information booth on the corner of Main and Division Streets. Limit three items per person.

Shoppers will find vintage, retro, and antique home furnishings, clothing, furniture, jewelry, paintings, books, etc. offered in over a mile of antiques and collectibles displayed by more than

400 professional dealers from all over the West.

This is the 19th year for this Downtown Pleasanton event that is one of the largest antique faires in the eleven Western states.

Street parking is available.

The Pleasanton Downtown Antiques and Collectibles Faire is now being run by Betsy and Jerry Goldman of Turn Key productions.

### Art Crawl Joins 'Girls Night Out' in Downtown Livermore

On Friday, May 28th, the public is invited to a free Art Crawl to view open studios, art displays and exhibitions during Art Crawl in downtown Livermore. Art Crawl has changed its hours to 6:00 to 9:00pm in order to coincide with the downtown merchants' Girls' Night Out event, this month

themed, "Sex in the City".

Some of the sites already exhibit or create artwork on a regular basis, such as Ultraspectives, The Sculpture Studio and the Art Glass Studio, Panama Red Coffee Company, and Ryan Fine Art gallery. Those who don't will work with artists who will set up temporary

displays on the shop's property. Other exhibit sites include ABC Music Source, Outside In, Main Street Designs, Not Too Naughty, It's All About Dancing, Sanctuary Ultra Lounge, and more.

For more information about the Crawl, please see www.lindaryan-fineart.com.

### Art in the Vineyards Offers Wine, Food, Entertainment and Fine Art

Livermore Art Association and Wentve Vineyards will host the 38th annual Art in the Vineyard on Sunday, May 30.

Art in the Vineyard has become a tradition in the Livermore Valley. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Artwork by thirty-six artists

will be on display. Live music will be performed by "Vested Interest."

Art demonstrations will be held throughout the day. Admission is free.

Wine tasting begins at 11.00 am. A \$15.00 Wine tasting fee includes a commemorative wine

glass (\$10.00 for Club Wentve members).

Food and refreshment will be offered by Wentve Vineyards and Strizzi's Restaurant for a nominal fee.

Wentve Vineyards Estate Winery is located at 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore.

## Valley Humane Society to Kick-Off Building Campaign

After years of dreaming, plans for a new, permanent home for Valley Humane Society are underway. Although VHS is financially able to build, it needs help to make this dream a reality.

The Building Campaign Kick-Off will be held Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 6 p.m. at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St., Pleasanton. There will be detailed drawings and floor plans available for viewing. There will be naming opportunities and a chance to purchase a Donor Recognition Tile Wall. Board members and Building Committee members will be on hand to answer questions.

For more information go to [www.valleyhumanesociety.org](http://www.valleyhumanesociety.org).




**DOO-WAH RIDERS**  
*The Doo-Wahs are country, with a unique, original sound. They define their sound as "high energy country with a Cajun twist."*  
**Livermore Rodeo Weekend! • Friday, June 11, 8pm**  
**Adults \$15 - \$36**

**TRIBUTE TO HARRY CHAPIN**  
*Songs of Harry Chapin, "Taxi," "Cat's in the Cradle," performed by his brother, The Steve Chapin Band.*  
**Friday, June 4 at 8pm**  
**Adults \$20 - \$40, Students \$12**

**ALL THAT JAZZ**  
*Music from the 1920's, these kids are the cat's meow! This is the Livermore Valley Children's Performing Arts School's fourth recital held at the Bankhead Theater. Open to the public.*  
**Sunday, June 6 at 1pm**  
**Adults \$10 - \$35, Students \$5**

**Tickets: 925-373-6800 • 2400 First St., Livermore**  
**[www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org)**



## 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' Ballet to Be Performed

"A Midsummer Night's Dream," will be performed by the Livermore School of Dance Ballet Division on Sat., June 5 at 7 p.m. and Sun., June 6 at 2 p.m. at the Livermore High School Performing Arts Theater.

This will be a full-length ballet of Shakespeare's comedic tale complete with fairies, butterflies, royalty, and a few very confused mortals.

The dance is set to music from Mendelssohn, Rossini, and Chopin, as well as, contemporary works from Enya and Owl City. Dancers of all ages will be performing.

The theater is located at 600 Maple Street, Livermore.

All seats are \$12. Tickets can be purchased at 925-245-9322 or [ltmballet@gmail.com](mailto:ltmballet@gmail.com)

For more information about the dance studio, please contact the Livermore School of Dance, 1635 Chestnut Street, Suite C, Livermore, (925) 245-9322, by email at [livermoredance@gmail.com](mailto:livermoredance@gmail.com) or [www.livermoredance.com](http://www.livermoredance.com)

Photo by Deanna Hong is of cast members.

## Work by Louise Gray to Be Featured in Wente Vineyards During June

Artist Louise Gray will show her paintings during the month of June in the tasting room at Wente Vineyard Estate Winery, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. The winery is open daily from 11:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Louise is well-known for her colorful watercolor landscapes.

However this show will feature her newer abstract works. "This gives me the freedom to explore color, form and texture unhampered by the demands of representational forms. What happens on my canvas is an emotional response to an event, an experience or memory.

"My goal is to create a rich

sensual surface. In a kind of personal meditation, I seek a balanced composition by stroking, scraping, rubbing, spattering and just pushing the paint around until it works as a painting. Then I invite the viewer to react, recognizing that he will bring his own perceptions to it."

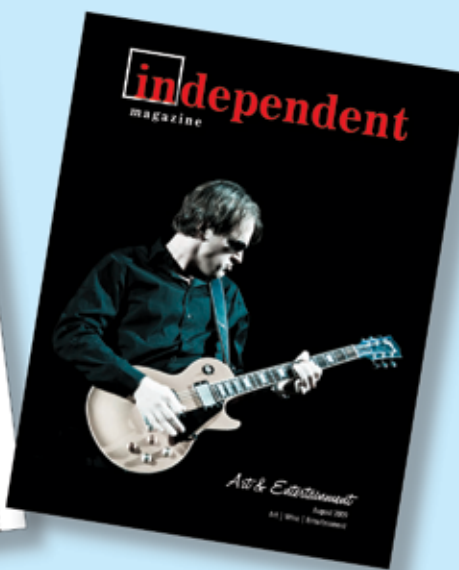
Louise studied art at the University of Wisconsin and spent years teaching in the public schools, while raising a family. Her husband worked at the Laboratory in Livermore until his sudden death in 1995. "After that I threw myself into painting with a vengeance, ex-

pressing my feelings," she says.

The public is invited to meet the artist at a reception at the Wente Tasting Room on Sunday, June 6 from 1-3 pm.

For information contact the artist at [louise.gray@comcast.net](mailto:louise.gray@comcast.net) or call 925 447 1455

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**THE Independent**  
NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE

## Winning Essay in Youth Commission Contest

The Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission sponsored an essay contest. The focus of the commission this year was on teen mental health issues.

To raise awareness of teen stress, we hosted an essay contest: "What I've Been Through and How I Survived." The contest wrapped up in April. The winner in the Middle School Division was Noah Banks from Mendenhall Middle School. The winner in the High School Level was Sean LaTourrette from Granada High School.

Middle school essay:

By Noah Banks

I'm sure I speak on behalf of all teens when I say that there is a lot of stress in my life. A majority of the stress that I have is sports related and I'm sure that it's the same feeling for the mass population of youths globally. To back that up I did a little bit of research and found that 85% of teenagers are involved with sports. Me and my friends all have the same problem, which is to play and participate in the sport and to keep up on our grades. So basically the gist of it is that my main priorities are to succeed in school as well as do well on the field. Now, I play football and practices are rough and tiring but I have to still put in the time to: do my homework, study for any upcoming quizzes, tests, etc. and still have the time to go to practices. In part with being radically tired all of the time my grades were dropping I realized that my relationships between me and my family, teachers and friends had not been as good as I wanted it to be, so I asked two of my teachers how I could turn the stress around and make it productive. And then I just sat in a quiet room and just thought about it to myself.

The first person I confronted about my issue was our school counselor, Mrs. Denlinger. One of the first things that she said was to not worry so much and look at it optimistically, "Instead of thinking that you only have two and a half hours to do all of the work think that you have two hours to relax and thirty minutes to do all of your homework." At first I didn't understand but after I thought about it I realized that she was telling me to try and work extremely hard on my work for roughly half an hour and then relax after that. Hearing this advice defiantly helped with my situation, even till this day I still work hard for a sort period of time and then I relax and either work out, or play guitar. The next teacher I asked was my math teacher, Mrs. Woodworth.

The following day, after school I went into my math teachers classroom and asked her basically the same question I asked Mrs. Denlinger, I asked, "what is the best way to handle this problem? I have football practice every night and I still have to do my homework and study?" At first, she asked me if I wanted her to cut the homework down for me just until the football season was over, I thought about it for a minute and then I realized that it would be messed up if I only did half of the work and get the same score and grade as another student that did all of the work. After my response she simply advised me to try and get a majority of my homework in class and to also keep the studying to a minimum, to only study when I don't understand the certain material. I knew that the biggest factors that I had to think about were my own thoughts.

I knew that the last person I had to talk to about my stress ordeal was myself. And since me, and a lot of other teenagers are going through the same thing, I thought that my opinion would be the best way resource to get the idea to deal with the stress. After coming to my conclusion, that I had to think about it to myself, I found a quiet room, turned on my iPod, and just thought for a minute or two. After I reviewed what my teachers had to say about the topic I gave myself two options. One thing that everybody knows about me is that I'm not a very complicated person, meaning that it's either one or the other, there is no middle ground so to speak. So basically my two options were to either whine and complain about it, or to put all of my thoughts together and deal with it, and me being me, decided to just deal with it. The way that I dealt with the stress was that I tried to get all of my homework done in class and if I still had more to do then I would work continuously for thirty minutes and the rest, and the work, and then rest, and so on and so forth.

At first the switch was hard to compensate. I found that I was relaxing more ten I should and not working hard enough. After about a week of pushing myself to reach this new goal I finally got the hang of it, I was working harder and not as stressful. Along with feeling better about my improvement I was really starting to see my grades improve and I also saw that my relationships between me and my teachers, my family, and my friends improved. And here I am a year and a half later have still seen grades increase and my stress decrease.

# Milestones

## Education

## Amador Math Team Places Second in National Competition

A team of six students representing Amador Valley's Math Team recently traveled to University of Missouri, Kansas City and placed second in Mathleague.org's League Championship on Friday, May 14th. The competition consisted of over 200 students from 40 schools and 5 states, including California, Washington, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa. This is the 11th year that mathleague.org, a math organization that organizes math competitions and workshops, hosted the league championship.

The Amador Valley Math Team qualified to compete in the league championship after placing second in the Northern California Championship held in Pleasanton. Amador Valley sent 19 students to the competition and placed second to Mission San Jose High School. This is the second year that the Amador Valley Math Team is represented at the League Championship.

The group of six students that represented Amador Valley at the national championship included senior William Chen, eighth graders Eugene Chen, Jerry Li, Ian Zhou, Christine Xu, and seventh grader Rui (Rick) Huang. The middle school students are from

Harvest Park Middle School and help represent Amador Valley High School at mathleague competitions.

The competition consisted of five rounds. Two of the rounds, sprint and target rounds, are individual events that are multiple choice and short answer. The team rounds consisted of team, power, and relay. The team round is ten questions to be done by the whole team in 6 minutes, while the power round is a whole hour of proof-writing. The relay round is often considered the most fun and the least predictable, with team members solving problems and passing back answers to their partner behind them.

Mathleague.org gave out awards to the top scorers on the target and sprint rounds for each grade division, the top 10 individuals overall, the top school on the team and power rounds, and the top 5 teams overall. The Amador Valley team ended up winning 15 awards. Eugene, Jerry, Ian, and Christine won 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th respectively on the sprint rounds in the junior high division, and Eugene, Christine, Ian, and Rick won 1st,

2nd, 3rd, and 4th respectively on the target rounds in the junior high division. William won 2nd in sprint and 3rd on target in the senior division, and also placed 7th overall. Eugene placed 3rd overall.

Amador Valley scored the highest on both the team round (90/100) and the power round (97/100), and ended up placing second overall in the league championship to Iowa City West High School. The Math Team would like to thank the Math Team officers, the Amador Valley administration, the Harvest Park administration, and the Harvest Park Math Department for helping provide funding for the trip and making the trip possible.

The Amador Valley Math Team is a student-run organization that hopes to encourage mathematical enthusiasm within the school and the local community. Other events that the Math Team takes a part in is the Stanford Math Tournament, Bay Area High School Puzzle Hunt, and Amador Valley Geometry Bee. The Math Team always welcomes new members. More information about the Amador Valley Math Team can be found at [www.avmathteam.org](http://www.avmathteam.org).

## Pleasanton Students Perform at Disneyland

Students from the following groups recently became stars of their own Disney show as part of the Disney Performing Arts Program at the Disney Resort in California:

- Amador Valley High School Choir performed on 4/23/2010 at Plaza Gardens Stage.
- Harvest Park Middle School Jazz Band performed on 4/25/2010 at Plaza Gardens Stage.
- Hart Middle School Concert Choir performed on 4/23/2010

at Plaza Gardens Stage. School Treble Choir and Heartbeat Singers performed on 4/23/2010 at Plaza Gardens Stage. String Orchestra performed on 4/18/2010 at Plaza Gardens Stage. Jazz Band performed on 4/18/2010 at Plaza Gardens Stage. Symphonic Band performed on 4/18/2010 at Plaza Gardens Stage.

Dance groups, choirs, ensembles and marching bands from around the world apply to perform each year as part of Disney Per-

forming Arts at both the Disneyland and the Walt Disney World Resorts. Once selected, they are given the opportunity to perform at the resort for an international audience of theme park guests.

Disney Performing Arts offers band, choral, dance and auxiliary performers the opportunity to learn, perform and compete at Disney Theme Parks. For more information, visit [www.DisneyPerformingArts.com](http://www.DisneyPerformingArts.com) or call 1-800-603-0552.

