



## Check Out The Independent's 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.

## Gloria Taylor Memorial Scheduled

Friends and family of Gloria Retzlaff Taylor of Livermore are invited to gather for a celebration of her life at 7 pm Tuesday, July 7, in the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore.

Gloria, remembered by many as an artist, visionary and community activist, died suddenly on May 26, 2009 after a brief illness.

The memorial program of music, dance and the spoken word will reflect Gloria's love of the arts and her commitment to helping them thrive in the Livermore community. Those who knew her, said she made an impact on many lives through her own work as a fine artist and as a good friend to the arts, as well as co-proprietor with her husband Robert Taylor of Retzlaff Winery, the site of many community events.

A reception follows the program in the lobby, where Gloria's artwork will be on display. Friends wishing to make a gift in her memory are encouraged to donate to the local arts organization of their choice.

## Pleasanton Adds Outdoor Movie Series

Pleasanton residents are invited to enjoy free movies during four Thursday evenings this summer, compliments of the City of Pleasanton. All films will be shown at twilight (approximately 8:30 p.m.) on a giant screen that measures 26 feet set up in Delucchi Park on First Street in downtown Pleasanton.

The park will open to the public at 4:00 p.m. Seating will be cordoned off in sections with blanket seating in the front, low lawn chairs in the center, and camp chairs and other higher positioned seating in the rear, to accommodate the best viewing. Viewers are welcome to bring their own food or take-out as long as they clean up after themselves. Extra trash receptacles will be strategically located around the park for this purpose.

Free popcorn will be provided by Thriving Ink, the downtown Pleasanton business.

The first-ever summer film series kicks off at Lions Wayside Park on Thursday, July 9, with "Kung Fu Panda." Set in ancient China, the plot of this 2008 animated film revolves around a bumbling panda who dreams of being a kung fu master. The movie was nominated for an Academy Award in the category of Animated Films. The film is rated PG.

Next up, is a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the 1929 classic "The Wizard of Oz," the selection for Thursday, July 23. Follow Judy Garland in her signature role as Dorothy from Kansas on her adventures over the rainbow and along the yellow-brick road to the Emerald City. The Wizard of Oz is rated G.

Jack Black is back on Thurs-  
(See MOVIES, page 9)

## McNerney Says

# Valley Can Ride at Front of Recovery

By Ron McNicoll

The Valley is in an excellent position to ride the lead of economic recovery when it happens, said Rep. Jerry McNerney.

The Pleasanton Democrat addressed a meeting of the Tri-Valley Business Council and the Contra Costa Council on Tuesday at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville.

McNerney, who is in his second term, had been a consultant and executive in wind

energy. He noted that northern California has been a pioneer in wind power.

McNerney said that local agriculture can add to that dimension by playing a role in the emerging bio-resources technology. He cited an Emeryville firm that is conducting important work in the field.

In McNerney's opinion, the nation's financial crisis is stabilizing. "There may be more foreclosures in the future, but I

don't think so," he said.

If there were a new wave of foreclosures in several years resulting from refinancing now, it's important to put a structure in place to handle it then, he said.

"In general, Americans are gaining more confidence in the economy. This part of the Bay Area is an excellent partner for recovery. Our region is going to be at the nexus of Silicon Valley and the San Joaquin Valley," he said.

Relatively speaking, the housing decline in the Eastbay has been modest, with the exception of Mountain House. "It's way down, but it's reversible," he said.

Small business appears to be looking up. McNerney said he talked to a trucking business owner in the district who is "seeing the front end of financial movement."

Education will put the Valley in the lead in business, said Mc-

Nerney. He moved to the Valley for its schools. Good schools are a magnet for business, because their executives want them for their children. They also want an excellent work force.

McNerney said that he was able to deliver \$60 million in stimulus aid for schools in his district. "That's money well-spent."

"In general, the American people voted for change. I feel  
(See RECOVERY, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Teams of walkers and runners braved the 100 degree heat over the weekend to participate in the annual Relay for Life in Livermore. Spray bottles were used to keep participants cool. The event raises money for the American Cancer Society. This year's grand total is \$191,156. The event also celebrated cancer survivors and remembered those who lost their battles with cancer. Caregivers were also recognized. The Relay runs for 24 hours. It was held on the track at Livermore High School.

## Purchase Of Open Space Moves Forward

Purchase of open space is moving forward on two fronts.

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) approved purchase of the second phase of the Tyler Ranch on Pleasanton Ridge.

The Livermore City Council at its July 13 meeting will consider approving expenditure of Altamont Landfill Settlement Funds to buy land in Doolan Canyon.

Purchase price for the 107 acres in Doolan Canyon is \$9485 an acre or \$1.01 million for the parcel.

The Altamont Open Space Committee approved the expenditure at its most recent meeting. Voting in favor were Councilmember Marj Leider from Livermore, and Chris Gray, representing Alameda County. The Sierra Club representative Tom Harper abstained. The club had not yet studied the issue.

Livermore Senior Planner Steve Stewart said of the purchase, "The land surrounds the city's water tank. It is adjacent to the urban growth boundary

and will help to stabilize it." The purchase is consistent with the city council's goal to create a buffer between Livermore and Dublin, he added.

Nearby is a portion of Cottonwood Creek and a stock pond. The East Bay Regional Park District identifies Doolan Canyon as potential parkland and trails.

The 107-acre parcel will be owned as open space by the city. A management plan will be developed and an endowment fund established to cover the management. Stewart said there will be a discussion July 17 at the Altamont Committee meeting regarding the endowment and management plan. If the decision were to restore the site to ultimate habitat state, an estimated \$535,000 could be set aside for the purpose. If the land is to be left as it is, the cost would be far less.

The city has additional money to purchase other open space. There is currently a little over \$8 million in the Altamont Landfill fund. There is over \$5 million in the Dougherty Valley settlement account and over \$630,000 in the  
(See OPEN SPACE, page 5)

## Tauscher Confirmed; Major Changes Ahead

Last week's confirmation of Rep. Ellen Tauscher's appointment to the State Department, heading the arms control office that Republican firebrand John Bolton once filled, sets off an unusual and energetic race for her Congressional seat and deprives local national security laboratories of the most experienced representative they have ever had.

At least 11 candidates have announced plans to compete for her position.

As Tauscher departed, more than one local well-wisher recognized that she was merely moving on to a new phase of public service.

Livermore City Manager Linda Barton was similarly grateful for Tauscher's efforts to improve

the Interstate 580 corridor. She also cited the importance of getting the BART extension on a list of federal projects under consideration - a necessary step in the drive toward security federal funding.

Pleasanton City Manager Nelson Fialho called her "A consummate professional...The Tri-Valley's loss will be the Obama administration's gain."

For Pleasanton, he said, Tauscher was particularly helpful in working to improve the congested Interstate 580 corridor and to strengthen emergency response through community radio communications programs.

At Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Director  
(See TAUSCHER, page 4)

## State Intervenes in Pleasanton Housing Suit

Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. has targeted the City of Pleasanton housing cap. He filed a motion to intervene in Alameda County Superior Court in a suit that was initially filed by the non-profit group Public Advocates on October 17, 2006.

Brown's suit demands that Pleasanton's housing cap be repealed so that jobs and housing can increase in proportion to each other.

"Pleasanton's draconian and illegal limit on new housing forces people to commute long

distances, adding to the bumper-to-bumper traffic along 580 and 680 and increasing dangerous air pollution," Brown said. "It's time for Pleasanton to balance its housing and its jobs and take full advantage of its underutilized land and proximity to BART."

Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said she had been in discussions with the attorney general's office since January. She said the suit also argues that with the cap, the city cannot come into compliance with state  
(See LAWSUIT, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) is taking part in the I Love Pleasanton Schools - Save Our Schools Now! (ILPS) fund-raising effort. This week, representatives of PPIE are holding rallies in front of schools to remind people to make donations. Alise Lester, a Walnut Grove Elementary student, took part in the rally in front of Amador Valley High School. The fund-raiser will run through August 14, 2009. Donations may be made by visiting www.ppie.org. Checks may be mailed to PPIE, 333 Division Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566; PSEE, 351 Virginia Way, Pleasanton, CA 94566; or PUSD, c/o Public Information, 4665 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566. For further information, email mail@ppie.org, denisewatkins@comcast.net, or publicinfo@pleasanton.k12.ca.us or call 925-426-4304.

## Pleasanton Schools Budget Cuts 105 Positions

By Ron McNicoll

The Pleasanton school board met the state-mandated deadline for adopting its fiscal year 2009-10 budget by approving the \$120 million document on a 4-0 vote.

The board acted at its meeting June 22. The board held over discussion of six positions that the administration recommended be restored from cuts that it made in February. Those were approved at a special meeting June 29.

The budget has a state-mandated 3 percent reserve. The district had dipped down to almost no reserve in the 2009-10 fiscal year, because of state funding cutbacks in mid-year.

Reaching that 3 percent mandate is important. If the district were to plummet below zero into red ink, it would meet the fate that the Livermore school district experienced a few years ago, when a loss triggered district supervision by the county schools office.

The budget includes class-size reduction (CSR) of a 25:1 ratio in K-3, instead of the 20:1 ratio that has been the case for the past few years. Trustees and Casey said that the ratio was a better alternative than 30:1, which was the standard before CSR.

To accomplish the CSR ratio, and retain some counselors, and other programs, staff moved \$1.2 million from fixed-category state aid. In the past, that wasn't  
(See SCHOOL, page 4)

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## PETS OF THE WEEK

Hungry for some take out? Take a nibble out of these three beauties: Sushi, Miso, and Soy! These delicious kitties will add love and beauty to any home. To visit with these yummy kittens, come to Valley Humane Society's Kitty City at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Open Tues-Sat from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Buy your Great Catsby tickets. This casino night fundraiser is a fun way to help raise money for the animals. Go to www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656 for more details.

# Future Looks Bright for Livermore

While the City of Livermore may face a challenging budget now, the future looks bright.

That was the message delivered by Mayor Marshall Kamena during his annual State of the City address using the theme, "Igniting the Future in Challenging Times."

The talk was hosted by the Livermore Chamber of Commerce. It was the first of four presentations in the Chamber's wine country luncheon series.

Kamena started with the not so good news, noting that the city has seen a reduction in both property and sale tax revenues. Lower assessments have lowered property taxes. The sales tax is down due to low auto sales, lower fuel sales and consumer cutbacks in spending, said Kamena. The decline in sales tax at 21 percent is the highest in the city's history. As a result of the reduced income, the city has had to cut \$10.1 million from its 2008-2010 budget.

Of concern when it comes to the budget, is the potential for the state to take additional money, including \$380,000 from the redevelopment agency for three years and all of the highway user funds, which come to about \$1.2 million the first year and \$980,000 for each of the next two years.

Kamena noted that taking the highway funds would increase the city's street repair backlog. Grabbing redevelopment funds would curtail investment in the downtown revitalization, affordable housing and cultural arts.

On a positive note, Kamena declared, "The future can be bright in Livermore."

There is an effort underway to establish Livermore as a science and technical center. Kamena pointed to the National Ignition Facility (NIF) as the key to attracting high tech business to the area. Kamena stated, "It has taken years and billions to put NIF together. It provides the potential for a carbon free energy source for the future."

"Livermore is uniquely positioned to become the leader in clean technology and green energy from research and devel-



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena delivered his annual "State of the City" talk.

opment to production," continued Kamena. He noted that the national laboratories produce knowledge in many fields including global warming, renewable energy, transportation, and homeland security.

The city would partner with the two national laboratories to market the industrial areas of Livermore, and encourage business development through technical licensing efforts of laboratory technology. There are 1600 acres available to establish the theme, "Photon Valley." It is projected the effort could produce 5000 new jobs in Livermore.

Other bright spots in the city's future include the Prime Retail Outlet at El Charro. Kamena said groundbreaking is expected in spring 2010. The outlet will provide hundreds of jobs. It will feature over 153 high end outlet stores. Nieman Marcus and Saks 5th Avenue are the anchors. The

tentative grand opening is November 2011. "I will be a destination place. The expectation is that over a half million customers will shop there each year," added Kamena.

Groundbreaking is also projected for another large project, the John L. Sullivan Toyota dealership in North Livermore. The tentative start is 2009 with the opening in fall 2010.

"To attract and keep business, the city has established a city-wide incentive program," continued Kamena. Payment of development impact fees has been deferred until utility activation. Businesses that generate \$30,000 or over in sales tax can take part in a reimbursement plan.

In the downtown, two developers are working with the staff on plans for the Livermore Village. The tentative groundbreaking for a regional theater is 2009. "It is wonderful to go downtown

and see the bustling life there," said Kamena.

Youth programs include the annual summer reading program. There were 3,428 kids who participated last year, reading 127,000 books. Paths to Picasso works with troubled teens. Kamena said there are ten teens in the program now working to create a mural on the LAVTA bus center in the downtown.

Work on projects to improve the freeway is moving forward, including HOV lanes in both directions. A program level environmental impact report for a BART extension to Livermore is scheduled for completion this fall. Employees and visitors will need a way to get to Photon Valley. We need a transportation hub near the Lab where ACE, BART and high speed rail would meet," he declared.

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# VALLEY ROUNDUP

## UC Retirement Initiative Fails

An initiative to remove responsibility for University of California retirement plans from the UC Regents has failed to gain enough signatures to make the June 2010 ballot.

The initiative was submitted by leaders of the University of California branch of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

It aimed at establishing a board with wide membership — legislators, a union member, faculty, a retiree — to oversee the UC retirement plan. Under the California constitution, UC is an autonomous organization and the retirement plan is the sole responsibility of the Regents.

## Bridge Loans for Small Businesses

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is now accepting loans for a temporary new program called America's Recovery Capital (ARC). ARC loans of up to \$35,000 are designed to provide a "bridge" for viable small businesses with immediate financial hardship to keep their doors open until they get back on track.

ARC loans are deferred-payment loans of up to \$35,000, available to established, viable, for-profit small businesses that need short-term help to make their principal and interest payments on existing and qualifying business debt. ARC loans are 100 percent guaranteed by the SBA and have no SBA fees associated with them.

The loans will be disbursed over a period of up to six months and will provide funds to be used for payments of principal and interest for existing, qualifying small business debt including mortgages, term and revolving lines of credit, capital leases, credit card obligations and notes payable to vendors, suppliers and utilities. SBA will pay the interest on ARC loans to the lenders at the variable rate of prime plus two percent.

Repayment will not begin until 12 months after the final disbursement. After the 12-month deferral period, borrowers will pay back the loan principal over a period of five years.

ARC loans will be made by commercial lenders, not SBA directly. For more information on ARC loans, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or visit the SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

## Money for Older Cars

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is increasing the amount paid for older, higher polluting vehicles from \$650 to \$1,000 beginning July 1st. The expanded program also extends the age requirement for eligible vehicles from 1987 to 1989 and older. The voluntary program is available to owners of light-duty vehicles in the Air District's nine county jurisdiction that meet requirements established by State regulations.

The Vehicle Buy Back program targets older vehicles because they lack modern emission-control systems and therefore typically emit more pollution. Since 1996, the Vehicle Buy Back Program has scrapped over 42,887 vehicles, with a reduction of 390 tons per year of air pollutants. Last year, the program retired 4,494 vehicles. It is estimated that the expansion of the program will double that number over the next year.

For each vehicle that is scrapped, an estimated average of 150 pounds per year of air pollutants are prevented from being emitted into the air. Among the air pollutants reduced by scrapping old vehicles are fine particulates and those that form ozone—the main ingredient in smog. These pollutants contribute to respiratory diseases and even increased mortality rates. Emissions of greenhouse gases, which have been linked to climate change, will also be reduced.

The public can get additional information about the Vehicle Buy Back program by calling 1-888-690-CASH (690-2274) or visiting [www.baaqmd.gov/vbb](http://www.baaqmd.gov/vbb).

## County Acting Director

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors have announced the appointment of Alex Briscoe as Acting Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services (HCSA), effective July 6, 2009. Briscoe will replace Dave J. Kears who is retiring after 35 years of County service. The Board is conducting a national search for a permanent replacement.

Briscoe joined Alameda County in 2006 as the Children's

Services Director for the HCSA and has been serving as Deputy Director since 2007 where he leads the design and development of countywide health services. His most recent projects include clinical service design in foster care and juvenile justice settings as well as the integration of behavioral health practices in primary and specialty care settings.

## Award for Zone 7

Zone 7 Water Agency's Del Valle Water Treatment Plant has received a national award for maintaining the Directors Award of recognition from the Partnership for Safe Water. The partnership is a national volunteer initiative developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other water organizations representing water suppliers striving to provide their communities with drinking water quality that surpasses the required federal standards.

The Directors Award is presented to water systems that have completed a successful review in the Partnership's Self-Assessment and Peer Review phase, a phase in which utilities examine the capabilities of their treatment plant operation and administration and then create a plan for implementing improvements. Zone 7 has maintained the Directors Award for ten years, an honor achieved by only 16 water utilities across the country. Zone 7 Water Agency's ongoing participation in the program includes a rigorous review of treatment practices developed by national experts, and also includes a four-step, self-assessment and peer-review process.

"Maintaining Directors Award status for ten years demonstrates our philosophy of constant vigilance to improve water quality," said Zone 7 Board President Sarah Palmer. "We are thrilled to receive national recognition for this ongoing commitment. It's a great reflection on the hard work of our staff."

Zone 7, which provides treated drinking water to retailers serving 200,000 people in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Dougherty Valley, was presented with the Ten-Year Directors Award at the American Water Works Association's Annual Conference & Exposition in San Diego, California, in June.

## Endorsements

Mark DeSaulnier: The Northern California Carpenters Regional Council (NCCRC) has endorsed Senator Mark DeSaulnier for Congressional District 10. NCCRC joins other California labor organizations in support of DeSaulnier for Congress including the Contra Costa Central Labor Council and the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council.

"On behalf of thousands of carpenters, our union is proud to endorse Senator Mark DeSaulnier for Congress," said Bob Alvarado, Executive Officer of the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council. "Mark has fought for working people throughout his career, standing with us to achieve health care for all, a living wage, and safe workplaces. He will continue to fight for the rights of working families when he is in Congress," Alvarado added.

The El Cerrito Democratic Club joined a list of local Democratic officials and activists in endorsing Mark DeSaulnier for Congress. After a candidate forum Tuesday night, during which candidates discussed their campaigns and answered questions from the membership, the El Cerrito Democratic Club voted to endorse Mark DeSaulnier for Congress with 60% of the vote. Along with DeSaulnier, attending the event were candidates John Garamendi, Joan Buchanan, and Adriel Hampton. Anthony Woods, who sent a staff member, did not attend because he was in New York raising money for his campaign.

DeSaulnier, a Democrat, currently represents El Cerrito in the California State Senate. DeSaulnier's other endorsements include current 10th District Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, Congressman George Miller, and Assemblyman Tom Torlakson.

John Garamendi: Citing his lifelong support for working families as a California legislator, Insurance Commissioner and Lieutenant Governor, SEIU California State Council today announced its endorsement of John Garamendi to represent California's 10th Congressional District in the United States Congress.

"Working families know we can count on John Garamendi to stand up for us in Congress, because he's been fighting for our health care, our home care and our kids' future for more than thirty years," said Courtnei Pugh, Executive Director of SEIU's California State Council.



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## Tri-Valley Day of Prayer on July 3

On April 17, 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill proclaiming a National Day of Prayer must be declared by each following president at an appropriate date of his choice. In 1982 a National Prayer Committee formed to coordinate and implement a fixed commemorated day of prayer. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan amended the law decreeing that the National Day of Prayer should be held on the first Thursday of May.

On May 7 of this year over four hundred residents gathered for the 8th annual Tri-Valley National Day of Prayer observance. At that gathering Marshall Kamena, Mayor of Livermore, read an official proclamation from the city encouraging all residents to participate and pray.

In response to that meeting, Christian Pastors from San Ra-

mon, Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin have organized the Tri-Valley Day of Prayer on Friday, July 3, 7:00 pm, at Celebration Christian Center, 1135 Bluebell Drive, Livermore, CA.

Larry Ihrig, Lead Pastor at Celebration Christian Center and Chairperson for the event said, "Our nation, our state, and our community are at a crucial juncture. Leaders and citizens alike are clamoring for solutions and relief. Political analysts are projecting and hoping that the end of this extremely challenging season is in sight. But, in the midst of it all, there is a rising tide of those who are convinced that divine intervention is a must."

"We must all work like everything depends on us and pray like everything depends on God", Pastor Ihrig continued. "As citizens we hold confidence that

our elected officials diligently execute their responsibilities and take very seriously the position to which they are called. As the voting public we encourage our national, state, and local officials so that they can remain assiduous in responding to these sobering times. But as a Christian it is my duty to stand with those officials in prayer and believe that prayer will bring the change we need."

For more information please contact Sue Kuchta at skuchta@celebrationcc.org or 925-455-4250.

## College to Host Veterans Benefits Program

Tri-Valley area veterans, and those who assist them, are invited to Las Positas College to participate in a veterans benefits program featuring Ted Punillo, deputy secretary of the state Veterans Services Division and California DVBE Advocate.

The event will take place on Saturday, July 18 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Building 800, Room 801 at Las Positas College in Livermore. Topics to be discussed include information on post 9/11 GI benefits, California veterans benefits and other VA benefits available.

Please RSVP to the Las Positas College Veterans First program by July 3rd. Participants may reserve a space by calling the college at (925) 424-1571 or by email at lpveterans@laspositascollege.edu

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

## TVAR Offers Opportunity to Adopt Cats and Kittens

By Victoria Kamerzell

Cats and kittens will have a chance to find a new home on when Tri-Valley Animal Rescue brings adoptable kittens and cats to 4500 Arroyo Vista Drive at Pet Extreme in Livermore from 1:00-4:00 PM.

The organization will be there along with their adoptable cats the second and fourth Saturday of every month.

The Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) is a volunteer organization in the Tri-Valley that was founded in 1992. In 2008, they arranged 1,144 adoptions of cats and dogs. TVAR works with local animal shelters. The group often take on young kittens that are too small or young for the shelters.

Jackie was one such kitten. She is a little grey tabby who came to TVAR with a punctured eye after another kitten scratched her while playing. LaVaughn Hart volunteers for TVAR along with her sister and niece. At first there was a question whether the cat could keep her eye said LaVaughn. Once TVAR takes an animal from the shelter they are responsible for all the pet's bills. The organization arranged for Jackie to be seen by a specialist in Concord who saved Jackie's eye. LaVaughn says her family grew attached to the cat so they were very relieved when she was successfully adopted.

"It was instant love," said LaVaughn about the bond between the four-month-old cat and the girl whose family adopted her. LaVaughn said that normally Jackie wasn't much of lap cat but



Just a few of the animals available for adoption.

that in the store Jackie contently sat on the child's lap for forty-five minutes.

TVAR lists adoptable animals on their website: [www.tvvar.org](http://www.tvvar.org).

The group fosters animals that could be euthanized by shelters. However, TVAR does not take in owner surrenders. If you have a pet you would like to give away you can contact the East Bay County Animal Shelter at 925-803-7040.

Terri Duncan serves on the Board of Directors for the TVAR and is the domestic cat program coordinator. She said like most non-profits TVAR is looking to meet a higher demand brought on by this economy.

"We are finding a lot of owners surrenders meaning we are faced with more adult animals sometimes in groups of two or three," said Terri. She said that part of the reason for the increased number of pets needing homes has to do with the real estate market. Some Tri-Valley residents have lost their houses and been unable to keep their family pets. Some of the animals brought into the shelter were taken there by realtors who found them in vacant homes.

People interested in adopting a pet from TVAR can meet the cats this Saturday. Potential adopters will need to fill out a short form. The fee for kittens is \$100 and adult cats cost \$75. TVAR counsels potential owners on the responsibilities associated with pets and interviews all applicants. TVAR is always looking for foster families to temporarily care for a pet. The organization is funded by donations and currently needs more cat litter. You can reach TVAR at 925-803-7043.

## SHORT NOTES

(continued from page 6)  
a bin for food scraps that you can compost later.

- Think locally when planning your menu. Shipping ingredients from another part of the world requires a tremendous amount of fuel. Look to your nearest farmers' market for in-season fruits and vegetables, as well as meat, eggs, and dairy products.

- Use aluminum foil instead of plastic wrap to cover and store food. Clean foil can be crumpled up and tossed into the recycling bin, making it the better option.

- Scrap traditional paper party invitations and go digital. Online evites are often free, and help cut back on the four billion trees forested each year for paper products.

- Encourage guests to car pool; it helps save time, money and the environment.

When it comes to the red, white and blue symbol of our independence, the American flag, Waste Management wants to remind everyone to observe proper procedures when a flag is ready to be retired.

"We encourage everyone to retire flags according to the U.S. Flag Code," said Kathleen Minser, Government Af-

fairs Manager for Waste Management of Alameda County. "We don't want to see American flags in the waste stream with every day trash. The flag doesn't belong there. The flag means a lot more to people than castoffs and food scraps, and it needs to be treated respectfully."

The flag code, as originally passed by Congress in 1942 and amended over the years, recommends burning old flags in a respectful setting as the preferred means of disposal, though burying them is also acceptable. Since many flags are now made from artificial fibers that release small amounts of toxins when burned, some flag advocates recommend bringing them to a crematorium rather than burning them in the open air. Many community and veterans groups, such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, American Legion and VFW collect used flags for retirement.

In Livermore, residents may retire their flags in donation boxes at the Livermore City Hall and any Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Station. The Livermore Boy Scout Troops will provide a retirement ceremony in which the flag is ceremoniously burned.

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# Art, Community, & Education



## 4th of July Festivities Planned

### PLEASANTON

Pleasanton residents are invited to attend a free concert and family picnic at Lions' Wayside Park (corner of Neal and First streets) from noon to 1:30 p.m. Those seeking a bargain can buy "A Dog & a Drink for a Dollar," the hot dog lunch served up by Lions Club volunteers (and co-sponsored by Raley's Market).

This will be the eleventh year that volunteers have produced "Celebrating Freedom and its Evolution since the Revolution." It is the only midday concert in the Concerts in the Park series sponsored by Pleasanton Downtown Association, allowing families the option of attending later-in-the-day barbecues or fireworks displays. Patriotic music will be performed by the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, under the direction of Bob Williams. Leading a sing-along will be Ward Belding as "Uncle Sam."

Local residents stake out spots at the park early in the day by bringing day their blankets or lawn chairs. Some shade umbrellas (continued on page 2)



Concert planned in Livermore.

## 4th of JULY . . .

augment the shade trees. The first 600 audience members to arrive just before the performance will be given free hand-held American flags, courtesy of Lions Club. Audience members are encouraged to wear red, white, and blue.

Free soap bubbles will be handed out to children, and they may line up for free temporary "tattoos" with a patriotic motif. Master of ceremonies will be Ken McDonald.

Military personnel, past and present, will be honored, along with their families, starting with the color guard from Veterans of Foreign Wars (Post #6298) and the American Legion (Post #238) and culminating in the playing of the anthems of each branch of military service. Chris Miller, head of the local support group for military families, will lead this portion of the program.

Readings will include "Landmarks," an original poem by Martha Melzer, who has just completed her two-year term as Poet Laureate of Pleasanton; "America, Why I Love Her," read by Lynn Owens; and "Bended Voices: A Memorial Trilogy" that is a tribute to Martin Luther King Jr., and John F. and Robert Kennedy. Special guests of honor will be the recipients of the 2009 Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award (to be announced June 29).

Sister city organizations (Tulancingo and Blairgowrie-Fergus) will have informational booths.

"Celebrating Freedom and its Evolution since the Revolution" was founded in 1998 by local resident W. Ron Sutton after the Alameda County Fairgrounds cancelled their Fourth of July fireworks show. Sutton felt that Pleasanton should have a way to honor our nation's birthday. "Our day in America is 7/4, not 9/11," Sutton said. "And Fourth of July should be more than just another holiday that gives us a long weekend. It's about much more than barbecues and fireworks."

### LIVERMORE OFFERS FIREWORKS

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is gearing up for the 26th annual Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration, one of the biggest events of the year in the city.

In addition to a spectacular fireworks show that tops off the day, the event has much to offer people of all ages and interests. Family games, a carnival area and Hat Parade will entice young and old alike. Following afternoon fun, U2 tribute band Zoo Station will get the evening started with some live entertainment.

There will be a presentation of the colors and the national anthem will be sung by Livermore Idol winner Braden Sweeney. Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena will welcome the crowd, followed by the LARPD Board of Directors' address.

As the night continues on, Beatles cover band The Sun Kings will perform to keep the party going. Food and beverages will be for sale. Attendees can snack on fun summer foods such as snow cones, nachos, tri-tip sandwiches, cotton candy, hamburgers and hot dogs.

Entry is \$3 per walk-in and \$15 per carload. Parking lots close by 8:30 p.m. unless they are filled earlier; pedestrian gates close at 9:30 p.m. Gates open for the Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 4. The event is held at Robertson Park, 3200 Robertson Park Road, Livermore. For more information, visit [www.larpd.dst.ca.us](http://www.larpd.dst.ca.us) or call 925-373-5700.

### BANKHEAD THEATER

The 191st Army Band, "Band of the Wild West," will present a free concert on July 5 at 2 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Free tickets can be reserved at 925-373-6800 or [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org) (space available).

### ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR FIREWORKS, ETC.

The Alameda County continues through July 19 (closed on Mondays) at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

The 4th of July weekend offers a variety of opportunities.

A fireworks spectacular will be presented on Fri., July 3 starting at 9:15 p.m.

July 4th offers traditional fair fun with pig races, horse racing, picnicking, and more. The Bay Area Blues Society will be the featured entertainers.

For more information, to to [www.AlamedaCountyFair.com](http://www.AlamedaCountyFair.com), or call (925) 426-7600.

### LIVERMORE VA HOSPITAL ENTERTAINMENT

A "Thank You Veterans" performance will be presented Sat., July 4 at the Veterans Hospital in Livermore. The presentation, Mamapalooza style, will take place from 1 to 3 p.m.

There will be dancing by Nilam Patel, readings by Sandra Kay, author of "Eat, Write & Exercise," live music by Debra Knox and the Knoxabilly Band plus an open mic for local talent.

There is no admission charge. The public is invited to attend.

Information is available at [writeousmom.com](http://writeousmom.com) or [DebraKnox.com](mailto:DebraKnox.com).

Sandra Kay writes, "Having survived multiple violent crimes in my youth and lived with post traumatic stress disorder for more than ten years, I have always felt a special connection with war veterans. It was a U.S. veteran on TV, who would, in describing his PTSD symptoms -describe MY symptoms. This documentary/info sent me on a quest to learn more; to purchase my first book on PTSD, which started me on the path of understanding and healing

"During recent visits to the veterans hospital to visit my neighbor and friend, I was inspired to collaborate with fellow artist/performers



Debra Knox (left) and Sandra Kay to entertain at Livermore VA Hospital.

and volunteer an afternoon of good times - singing, dancing, reading, laughing, fellowship - to say thank you to our hospitalized veterans, their friends/family and hospital staff, in a fun and creative way."

### SAN RAMON FESTIVITIES

The City of San Ramon's Red, White & Blue Picnic & Fireworks is scheduled for Saturday, July 4th in San Ramon's Central Park located at 12501 Alcosta Blvd from 5pm - 10pm. There will be a spectacular fireworks display synchronized to music at 9:30 p.m. For those of you not in Central Park, the accompanying music for the fireworks can be heard on KKIQ radio, 101.7.

Please note that there will not be any food booths or live entertainment on-site this year. Plan to bring your food and non-alcoholic beverages with you. Please be kind to your pets and leave them secure at home.

The charge for parking in lots surrounding Central Park will be \$10 per car. Handicapped parking will be located in the Community Center lot off of Alcosta Blvd. Residents are encouraged to go green and carpool and walk to the park to help the environment.

Please note that there will be road closures on Camino Ramon from approximately 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm and expect traffic delays following the firework display. The Iron Horse Trail will be closed from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. near the Marketplace Shopping Center due to its proximity to the launch of the fireworks.

For more information, call the

City of San Ramon Parks and Community Services Department at (925) 973-3200 or visit our website at [www.sanramon.ca.gov](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov).



### Bay Area Blues Society performs

12 noon - 8pm - July 4  
Alameda County Fair

#### SCHEDULE

- Amy Lou's Blues - 12:00 P.M.
- Bobby Young - 1:00 P.M.
- J. C. Smith Blues Band - 2:00 P.M.
- Twice As Good - 3:00 P.M.
- Zakiya Hooker - 4:00 P.M.
- Caravan Of Allstars - 5:00 P.M.
- Blues Harmonica Explosion - 6:15
- Chick Willis - 7:15 P.M.

# Book Chronicles Prisoner of War Experience

Kenneth Murphy has published his new book "When Men Must Live," which chronicles his father's three-and-a-half year ordeal as a prisoner of war of the Japanese during World War II.

Murphy and his father, James T. Murphy, 88, were in San Antonio, Texas last weekend for the final annual convention of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, honoring participants of those historic battles in the Philippines during the early days of World War II. Murphy endured more than three and a half years in captivity in the Philippines and Japan.

Initial copies of the new book, co-authored by father and son, were released on the sixty-seventh anniversary year of the historic surrender of more than 75,000 American and Filipino troops on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines on April 9, 1942.

The elder Murphy, 88, was a twenty-one year old radio operator in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942. He is one of the few remaining survivors of the infamous Bataan Death March. After the surrender, Japanese commanders forced thousands of already starving and sick POWs to march for more than a week under a scorching tropical sun without food or water, covering a distance of more than sixty miles to the first of several makeshift POW camps. Thousands of Americans and Filipinos died from exhaustion, abuse and murder along the route. Thousands more who made it all the way to Camp O'Donnell at the end of the march would later be among those dying from disease, neglect and starvation at a rate of fifty each day at O'Donnell.

"We made a promise to each other during our darkest days as POWs that if any of us should be fortunate enough to survive and return home, we would tell the story of what happened", said James Murphy. "The book honors all those who were lost and those who made it back."

According to co-author Kenneth Murphy, there are additional reasons for this story being written now.

"This is not a run-of-the-mill war story, but is instead a dramatic and intimate personal story of what my father endured and the transformation that he went



Kenneth Murphy



James Murphy

through as a human being. It is one of the rare personal accounts now in print that follows one man's journey throughout the entirety of World War II as a POW. My father is also one of the unique few who survived not only the Death March, but three-and-a-half more years of systematic starvation, torture and abuse at places like Camp Cabatuan, on the so-called Hell Ships that transported POWs to Japan in 1944, and as a slave laborer—in my father's case working in a copper mine—until he was liberated a full month after the war officially ended in 1945."

It is estimated that there are fewer than a couple of hundred remaining survivors of the Bataan Death March. To James Murphy, his survival remains both a mystery and a testament of his faith and will to return home.

"I was told by my captors in Japan that there were official orders directing that all POWs be summarily massacred at the moment Allied Forces landed on the Japanese homeland. I was shown actual copies of those orders at

one point," Murphy recalled. "Throughout the war, there had been so many inhumane acts of brutality and murder that I knew they were capable of carrying out their promise to do away with all of us."

"It has been a rare privilege to be able to write this story with my father. It's almost like I've been able to step back in time and relive his long and traumatic ordeal right along side him. There were so many challenges, mysteries and miracles that happened to him along the way that allowed us to draw out some very powerful themes and life lessons for our readers," according to the younger Murphy.

"When Men Must Live" captures many of the day-to-day conflicts these heroes encountered, contrasting good versus evil, hope and despair, and life and death through many provocative, inspirational, and often surprising anecdotes.

"All this comes from the perspective of someone who defied all the odds stacked against him, even as American military leaders and politicians—as well as the Japanese POW camp commanders—predicted or plotted his demise," Murphy's son added.

James Murphy currently resides in Santa Maria, California, with his wife Nancy, after serving a twenty-two year career in the Air Force before retiring as a Captain in the early 1960s, then spent the next twenty-three years working for an aerospace and missile defense contractor at Vandenberg Air Force Base. His son Kenneth is currently an author and management consultant residing in Livermore, California.

"When Men Must Live" (281 pages) is available immediately in a Limited Release – First Edition (paperback and hardback) directly from the publisher, IWest Publications, and can be ordered via email at [whenmenmustlive@ymail.com](mailto:whenmenmustlive@ymail.com) or by calling 925-858-0964. The book will be distributed through bookstores, on-line retailers, museums and other specialty retail stores and outlets beginning this summer

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# Swedish cellist Tamara Bohlin Teaches at Sycamore Strings Music Academy

By Patricia Koning

When Goran Berg, owner of the Sycamore Strings Music Academy, heard that Swedish conductor Ragnar Bohlin had been selected to lead the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, he knew that he'd heard the name before. Then Goran became acquainted with Ragnar and his wife Tamara through the Church of Sweden in San Francisco, as well as through Berkeley's Crowden Music Center, where Goran teaches and Ragnar and Tamara's two children attend school.

"I realized I had known some of Goran's relatives back in Sweden," explained Goran, who moved to the United States from Sweden 21 years ago.

The meeting was about more than just two Swedish natives coming together. Turns out Goran needed an advanced cello teacher and Tamara is a professional cellist who was ready to begin working in the United States.

Tamara, who was born in Russia, played piano and cello as a child and attended the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg. She played with the St. Petersburg Camerata under conductor Saulius Sondeckis and the Quartet of Soloists of Camerata St. Petersburg. With both groups she recorded critically acclaimed CDs that are available on Sony Classical. She met Ragnar at an international conducting course in Sweden.

"My life has been a bit like a fairy tale," said Tamara.

In 2006, Ragnar was hired as conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. The couple, who have two young sons, lived apart until last summer, when Tamara and the boys joined Ragnar in Berkeley. She is on leave from Stockholm's Royal Opera Orchestra, one of the oldest opera companies in the world.

Tamara had to wait until April, when her work visa was processed, to begin working in the United States. The time off, she says, was good as moving to the United States was quite an adjustment for her sons, who are 9 and 11 years old.

"Even though they speak English, attending an English-speaking school was quite different and challenging at first," she explained. "With two professional musicians as parents, the boys are used to us being gone many evenings. So it was quite a change for me to be home so much."

She filled much of her time volunteering at Crowden. Although both of her sons study music—piano for the oldest and cello for the youngest—she does not teach them. "I encourage them to practice. We play together, but I don't believe a mother should be her child's music teacher," she explains.

Currently Tamara is teaching a few lessons each week at Sycamore Strings in Livermore. Goran hopes to attract enough students to have a full day's work for her each week. "It's really a unique opportunity to have access to a teacher of Tamara's skill level and experience," he says.

Gretchen Hayes' daughter Aria Dang has begun lessons with Tamara. Aria has played cello since the age of 3. She began taking private lessons two years ago. "I'm happy to have found a teacher of this caliber for Aria," Gretchen stated.

Aria, who will enter Livermore High School as a freshman this fall, was a recipient of a Rotary Music Scholarship and won awards from the music department at Christensen Middle School.

Tamara says she enjoys teaching because she likes seeing students develop. "Often you have a student in front of you with great talent but a few difficulties to overcome. It is very exciting to help them work through those difficulties and realize their potential," she says.

For more information on Sycamore Strings Music Academy and Tamara Bohlin, visit [www.sycamorestringsacademy.com](http://www.sycamorestringsacademy.com) or call 925-606-5818.



Ragnar Bohlin (left) goes over a detail of the music with a student. In the lower photo, she is shown with a student.







Acoustic musicians, "Houston Jones,"(top photo) will perform at the Pleasanton Library on Sun., July 12 from 2 to 3 p.m. Houston Jones is a California based high octane Americana band. Formed in 2001, the band performs a strong original repertoire that ranges from bluegrass and folk to blues and gospel. Houston Jones features Glenn Houston (lead guitar), Peter Tucker (drums and percussion), Travis Jones (lead vocals and acoustic guitar, and Chris Kee (standup bass and guitar). The group was voted "best new discovery" and "best vocalist," Strawberry Music Festival. The program is free and open to all. No registration is required. The Friends of the Pleasanton Library are sponsoring the program. For more information, call Janice Bauman, 931-3411.



The Art of Linda Jeffery Sailors will be featured at the Wente Vineyard Estates Winery, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore from July 1 through July 29. The public is invited to the artist's reception on Sunday, July 5 from 1 pm to 3 pm. Sailors will be showing many of her award winning pieces in watercolor, acrylic and pastel. She will exhibit scenes from her travels, landscapes, and also, her unique abstracts. For more details, go to [www.lindajefferysailors.com](http://www.lindajefferysailors.com). The photo is of "Cascading Color."

### Jazz at Livermore Library on July 5

Internationally known jazz guitarist *Mimi Fox* is joined by bassist *Cindy Browne Rosefield* on Sunday, July 5 at 2pm to kick off *Jazz in July*, a month-long series of free jazz events at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue in Livermore.

Fox has been named a winner in 6 consecutive *Downbeat Magazine* international critic polls and is one of the most widely acclaimed jazz guitarists on today's scene. She has performed/recorded with Branford Marsalis, Diana Krall, Charlie Byrd, Stanley Jordan and

many more jazz greats. She has released 8 albums and her 2006 double CD *Perpetually Hip* was hailed as a "masterwork" by scores of jazz publications.

She maintains a whirlwind touring schedule playing major international as well as national festivals and venues, as well as writing and performing original scores for orchestras, documentary films and dance projects. She conducts clinics worldwide, heads the guitar department at the Jazz School in Berkeley, and is adjunct professor of jazz studies at New

York University.

Cindy Browne Rosefield is a noted jazz clinician and music instructor with more than 30 years experience as a touring and recording musician playing everything from jazz to classical to folk. Cindy is presently Director of Instrumental Music and Performing Arts Coordinator, at Las Positas College.

The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten this program. For additional events, check the library's website at [www.livermore.lib.ca.us](http://www.livermore.lib.ca.us).



Mimi Fox

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# Bollywood Comes to Livermore with “My Name is Khan” Shoot at Las Positas College

By Patricia Koning

Mumbai, India, home of the Bollywood movie industry, is roughly 9,000 miles from Livermore. That ’t stop Bollywood Hollywood Productions from choosing Las Positas College (LPC) as a location for its newest production, “My Name is Khan.”

“While the world is outsourcing to India, I am insourcing Bollywood to the United States,” says Prashant Shah, founder and CEO of Hollywood Bollywood Productions, which is co-producing the film with India-based Dharma Productions.

Several university scenes were filmed on the grounds and lecture halls of LPC. Shah explains that the production needed a university-setting with a modern look. LPC fit the bill. Parts of “Khan” were also shot in Los Angeles and San Francisco, including a scene at the Children’s Discovery Museum of San Francisco.

Shah describes “My Name is Khan” as a family drama. The film, which is based on true events, tells the story of a Muslim child with Asperger’s syndrome who grows up and finds love against a backdrop of attitudes about Muslims in the post 9/11 world.

The film stars two popular Bollywood actors, Shahrukh Khan and Kajol. Tanay Chheda, who American audiences will recognize as the young Jamal in “Slumdog Millionaire,” plays the title character as a child.

Jeannie Haigh, the assistant director of the Livermore Chamber of Commerce’s Livermore Valley Film Commission, says she and LPC representatives worked with the production group over the last few months to bring it to Livermore. The Livermore Valley Film Commission was established about three years ago with the goal of bringing film projects to Livermore, Dublin, and Pleasanton.

“There is a lot of interest in the Tri-Valley because of the diversity of locations here,” explains Haigh. “We’ve been averaging a couple of shoots each month, mostly commercials. Each week I probably receive three to four requests for information.”

Some of the more popular locations are LPC, local ranches, the windmills, and the Pleasanton and Livermore downtowns. Recent commercials for Sutter Health were filmed at Ravenswood. A Toyota commercial featuring Steve Young fishing was filmed at Lake Del Valle. “My Name is Khan” is the biggest production to date.

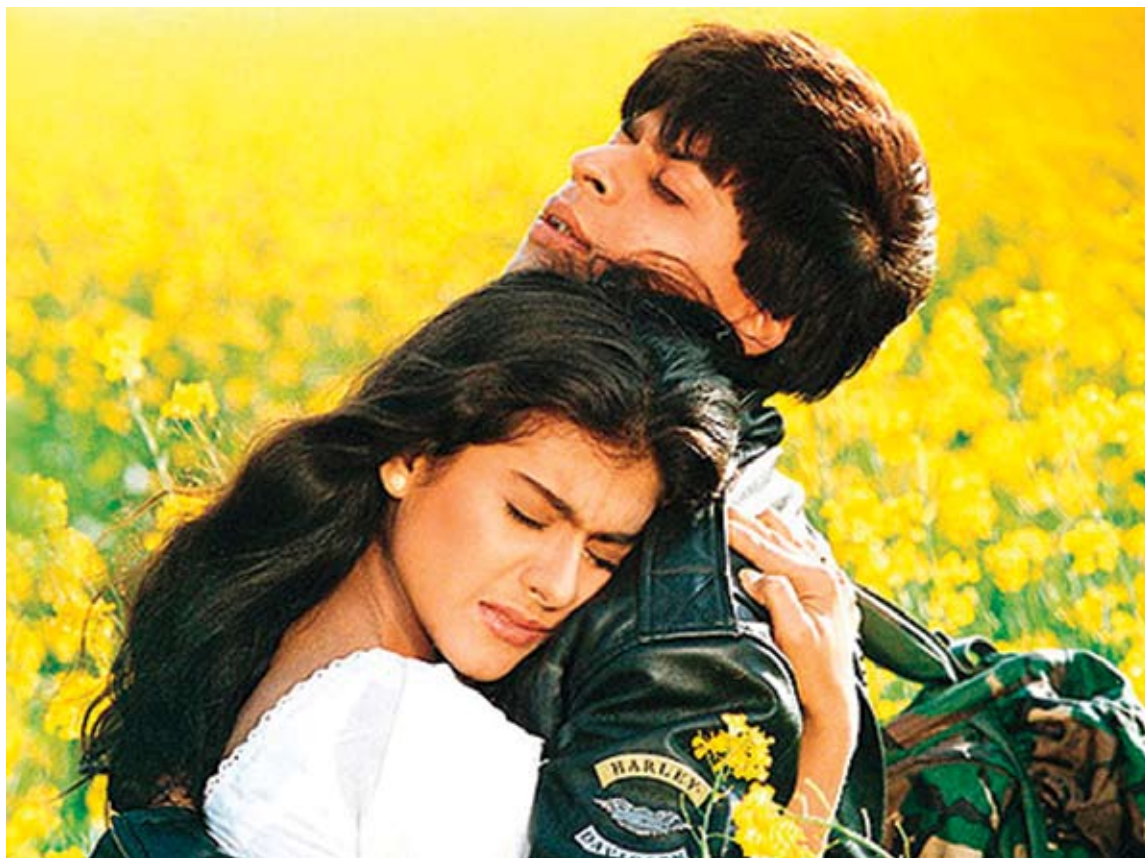
Bringing the film industry into the Tri-Valley has a direct economic impact on the area as well as what Haigh describes as “intangible notoriety.” As an example, she points to the impact of the film “Sideways” on Santa Barbara County.

“The production companies pay location fees and purchase and hire locally,” she says. “Plus there is a general excitement—it’s really a diversion from every day life.” About 100 extras participated in the Friday-night shoot.

To drum up business, Haigh says the commission does direct marketing to production studios. About two years ago, members of the Livermore Valley Film Commission along with Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty made a trip to Southern California to talk directly to studios.

“Having government officials with us really lent us a lot of cache,” says Haigh. “If you have government support, you can cut through red tape more easily and production studios appreciate that.”

For more information, visit [www.bollywoodhollywood.com](http://www.bollywoodhollywood.com) and [www3.dharma-production.com](http://www3.dharma-production.com). Worldwide release for “My Name is Khan” is expected in February 2010.



Shahrukh Kahn and Kajol star in the film.

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*“While the world is outsourcing to India, I am insourcing Bollywood to the United States.”*

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## Operation Hometown Welcome Continues

The Rose Hotel will begin the fifth year of its Operation Hometown Welcome program on July 4. The program was launched on Independence Day 2005 to welcome Tri-Valley servicemen and women as they return home from service in Iraq or Afghanistan. Last year, the program was expanded to include service personnel returning from any overseas, unaccompanied (without families) tour of duty. They qualify by simply submitting a copy of their orders to The Rose Hotel front desk staff.

Operation Hometown Welcome includes a night's stay at The Rose Hotel, and a continental breakfast. In addition, each participant receives an official NFL football autographed by John Madden, an Operation Hometown Welcome T-shirt from Goza Gear, and a gift certificate toward luxury treatment at MD Spa on Main Street.

"To date, we have hosted about 100 servicemen and women through Operation Hometown Welcome," says General Manager Phylis Grisham. "It doesn't matter where overseas they have served our country, we are always happy to welcome them back home to the Tri-Valley. Our program is just a small gesture to show them how much we appreciate them and the sacrifices they make while serving our country and keeping us safe."

Operation Hometown Welcome is one of The Rose Hotel's three programs that support the United States military. The Greatest Generation is a special event honoring World War II veterans and is held in conjunction with Pleasanton's Veterans Day Parade in November. Operation DVD is the ongoing collection of new and used DVDs that are shipped to service personnel on active duty and in military hospitals as well as to their families.

More information about all three programs is available by calling The Rose Hotel at (925) 846-8802.

## Civil War Program Planned at Alviso Adobe

Stewart Howe, Civil War re-enactor and former president of the National Civil War Association, will deliver a presentation on "The California Volunteers of the Civil War" at 7:30 p.m., July 8, at the Milk Barn of Alviso Adobe Community Park. The park is located at 3465 Foothill Road, Pleasanton. Space is limited, and reservations are strongly encouraged. Call the museum at 925-462-2766.

Howe's lecture is presented by Pleasanton's Museum on Main Street, in conjunction with its exhibit "The Civil War: The California Connection."

Over 16,000 California residents volunteered for the Union armies during the American Civil War, forming more than ten regiments of California Volunteers. Most of these men served on the Western frontier, protecting postal

routes, fighting hostile Native Americans, and keeping the Union flag flying over the territories.

Howe has been involved in Civil War re-enacting since the late 1980s and was president of the National Civil War Association from 2006 through 2008. He has done extensive research on the California Volunteer regiments and California's role in the Civil War.

Alviso Adobe Community

Park is open daily from sunup to sundown; the park buildings are open Wednesday through Sunday, 10-4. Pleasanton's Museum on Main, located at 603 Main Street, is open to the public Wednesday through Saturday 11-4 and Sunday 1-4. The exhibit "The Civil War: The California Connection" will be open to visitors through Sunday, July 19, 2009.



**Team KC teamed up with the American Red for a blood drive. It was hosted by Marcel Orthodontics. (Team KC was formed to support Korrine Croghan, a young Livermore resident who recently lost her battle to cancer.) This blood drive was no ordinary blood drive. Food, drinks, snacks and Jamba Juice smoothies were served. Children came with their families and enjoyed being a part of the experience of helping save a life and being a part of the community. Marcel Orthodontics even came up with the blood drop costume worn by volunteers to wave at people and encourage people to stop by and donate. On Friday June 19, over 90 people donated blood. The total was over 70\ pints. The blood bank was low on blood and in desperate need especially with the upcoming 4th of July weekend when more blood is always needed. Just think, people have passed away because there was no blood available for them. Pictured left to right are Molly Morrisroe, Emily Wilson (Blood Drop) Janet Niermeyer and Leah Ball**

## Exhibit Opens at Berry Patch

"The Life of Trees" a series of work by artists Claudette McDermott, Tricia Leonard, Sally Haig, Judi Caplan, John West, Karen Fleschler, Antonia Wennink, Gary Winter, Dee Haag and more will be shown during July at the Berry Patch in Downtown Pleasanton at their new location at the corner of Main and Angela Streets.

August will bring in the theme of "Market Day" where these artists will give their creative expressions in Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor, Mixed Media and Photography. Their styles range from Surrealism, Realism, Abstract, Impressionism, Expressionism and more. Check back often as we will be rotating our work and replacing those pieces that find a new place to hang in Homes and Offices in the Bay Area.

For more information email poetryoncanvas@mac.com or call 925 461-5084.

## Ag Products On Display at County Fair

Local agriculture products will be on displayed at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton. Among them will be olive oil produced on the Genesis Ranch in Livermore.

The Genesis Ranch orchard is owned by the Miille family. It was established in February 1995 with the planting of 20 acres of Manzanillo olive trees. The orchard and family home are located in the southeast corner of Livermore Valley on Cross Road. Today, the orchard is producing a limited bottling of premium 100% extra virgin gourmet olive oil. It is bottled under the label, "Kalosini."

The olives are hand picked in November and immediately cold pressed. The oil is then filtered for clarity. Genesis Ranch Olive Oil is sold privately and through local wineries.

The olive oil and local wines will be in the agriculture building at the fair, which runs through July 19 at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton..

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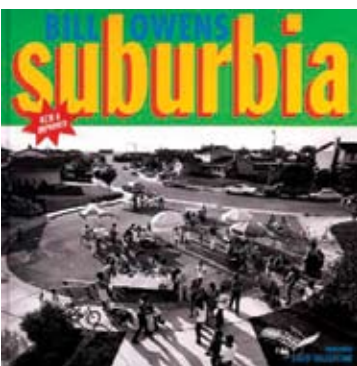
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## ART &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



Artist Barbara Stanton will teach a miniature oil painting workshop on Sat., Aug. 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. The fee is \$65 per student. To sign up, call 373-9638. Stanton is well known locally and nationally, for her miniature oil paintings. The workshop subject will be a still life of three pumpkins. The class is geared for beginners who have never painted before but students with full size painting experience would have fun painting minis too. Students will learn the secrets of color mixing, composition and values, all in a tiny canvass of 1 1/2" x 2". website: [www.barbarastanton.com](http://www.barbarastanton.com)



The Arts Forum of the Commonwealth Club of California will present works by photographer Bill Owens. They will be displayed July 10 to September 10. A reception will be held Mon., July 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Owens will talk about his 50 years in photography, with an emphasis on his classic photo book, *Suburbia* which he created while working a photographer for The Independent. He will also sign his retrospective book, "Bill Owens." Admission is free to Club members; \$15 to the public and \$7 students. The Club is located at 595 Market Street (next to Montgomery BART Station).

Volunteers needed, The Livermore Shakespeare Festival is looking for volunteers to help in their productions of *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Seagull* beginning July 9th. Volunteers of all ages, levels of interest and skill are welcome. Positions are open in several departments; ushers and concessioners are especially needed. For more information, check out the "Support SA" tab on the website, [www.livermoreshakes.org](http://www.livermoreshakes.org), send an email to the following volunteers@livermoreshakes.org, or call at (925) 443-2273.

Singers sought, Livermore Shakespeare Festival seeks Pre-show Festival Singers for outdoor festival at Concannon Vineyard, July 9th - August 9th. Singers do not have to be available for all performances. Contact choral director Marti Muldoon for audition information: [martimtm@yahoo.com](mailto:martimtm@yahoo.com) or call 925-443-BARD (2273). Festival information at [LivermoreShakes.org](http://LivermoreShakes.org)

Acoustic guitar player Chris LeBell performs Fri., July 3, 5 to 7 p.m. at Retzlaff at Blacksmith Square, 25 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. \$5 cover charge.

Alameda County Fair entertainment: There are two shows each day, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Admission is included in admission to the fairgrounds in Pleasanton. Schedule: July 2, Mandisa; Fri., July 3 the Night Ranger; July 4, Bay Area Blues Society; July 5, Carmen Jara; July 7, Skynnyn Lynnyrd; Wed., July 8, the Gregg Rolie Band; July 9, Salvador; July 10, Bowling for Soup; July 11, En Vogue; Bucky Covington performs Sun., July 12; BJ Thomas on Wed., July 15; Evolution - Tribute to Journey, July 14; Ozomatli will be on stage Thurs., July 16; Solange Knowles, July 17, Con Funk Shun, July 18; and Aaron Tippin, July 19. The fair runs July 1 to 19 at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton. The fair is closed on Mondays.

Acting Camp, Along with this summer's Livermore Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare's Associates is offering a 10-day Acting Camp for high school students to help teach and get kids excited about Shakespeare. The course emphasizes acting and performance, using improvisation, theatre games and stage combat techniques to broaden the student's views on Shakespeare while having fun at the same time. The class is taught by Russ Marcel, a graduate of London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts and faculty at Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose. The program will run Monday through Friday from July 6 to 17, and students also receive one free ticket to the Festival's production of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. For more information, go to [www.livermoreshakes.org](http://www.livermoreshakes.org). For further questions or to request a registration form, email [education@livermoreshakes.org](mailto:education@livermoreshakes.org)

Auditions, Cantabella Children's Choruses now accepting new singers for the CCC Training Chorus and the two Performing Chorus. Cantabella teaches children the wonderful art of singing through educational programs using the effective Kodaly Approach. Children learn confidence and team work while working together onstage in two annual concerts. The Performing Chorus are auditioning singers for the Children's Chorus, open to 5th through 8th grades, and the Chamber Choir open to 7th through 10th grades. They have the wonderful privilege of participating in festivals, international competitions and workshops where

they meet other children's choirs and learn from renowned directors. Please visit our website at [cantabella.org](http://cantabella.org) for more information and registration forms and call (925) 292-2663 to schedule an audition.

Saturday Night Dance, all summer, open to the public, free half-hour salsa lesson before the dance party. Lessons begin at 7 p.m.; open dance, 7:30 to 10 p.m. \$12 cover. It's All About Dancing, 171 So. J St. Foresters Hall, Downtown Livermore, 925-449-9292.

Tuesday Tunes, Livermore Downtown Inc. free, live music to the Flagpole Plaza each and every Tuesday through October 13th. Concerts begin at 5 p.m. Bands to perform on the following schedule: July 7, Next Level; July 14, Of Shape and Sound; July 21, Joe Grape and His Bunch; July 28, Silent Partner; Aug. 4, Aerodynes; Aug. 11, Luna Fish; Aug. 18, Sound Check; Aug. 25, Moreality; Sept. 1, Hummingbirdz; Sept. 8, Bryan Harrison Band; Sept. 15, Fender Cronin; Sept. 22, Damn Neighbors Blues Band; Sept. 29, Groovy Judy; Oct. 6, U Get What U Pay 4. For more information, go to [www.livermoredowntown.com](http://www.livermoredowntown.com) or call 925.373.1795.

Concerts in the Park, Pleasanton Downtown Association, The concerts are at Lions Wayside Park, corner of First and Neal Streets. Concerts are 7 to 8:30 p.m. Burton and Company, July 3. Rock Explosion, July 10. Komodo-jazz, July 17. La Ventana, July 24. The Houserockers, July 31. The Cocktail Monkeys, August 7. Finding Stella, August 14. Magic Moments, August 21. D-Lucca, August 28. Public Eye, Sept. 4. For more information, visit [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net).

Wente Vineyards 2009 concert series: July 16, Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons; July 23, Kathy Griffin; July 29, Steve Miller Band; August 3, Gretchen Wilson; August 13, Diana Krall; August 19, Elvis Costello; and August 31, Sheryl Crow. Wente Vineyards Box Office at (925) 456-2424, or on-line at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Tickets range in price from \$79 to \$309 per person, depending on the show and the dining option selected. Wente Vineyards is located at 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Concert gates open at 6:00 p.m., and all shows start at 8:15 p.m.

Livermore Art Association US Bank Show, June 3 to July 7, 2125 Second St., Livermore. Judged show. Public may view the show during regular banking hours.

Wente Vineyards Summer Cinema Series: Monday, July 13: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone; and, Monday, August 10: Mama Mia! (Sing-along). Movies complimentary. Three dining options prior available (fee). Venue seating opens at 6:30 p.m.. Each feature will commence at twilight on The Terrace Lawn. Reservations for The Restaurant can be made on-line at <http://www.wentevineyards.com/restaurant/> or by calling (925) 456-2450.

4th of July Celebration, Livermore, Robertson Park. Includes entertainment, carnival, family games, hat parade, fireworks. Gates open at 3 p.m. 373-5700. \$3 walk-in, \$15 per car.

4th of July Celebration, Pleasanton, noon to 2 p.m. Wayside Park, corner First and Neal Streets. Includes music by Pleasanton Community Concert Band. Free. Information: 925-846-5897 or [www.pleasantonband.org](http://www.pleasantonband.org).

The 191st Army Band, "Band of the Wild

West," concert July 5, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Reserve free tickets. Tickets available at 925-373-6800, [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

Livermore Shakespeare Festival, July 9 through August 9 at Concannon Vineyard, Livermore, featuring "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and Chekhov's "The Seagull" in repertory. For tickets and information visit [www.ShakespearesAssociates.org](http://www.ShakespearesAssociates.org) or call (925) 443-BARD.

Dublin Concert Series, July 10, The Groove Kings. Free. Dublin Civic Center in the Fountain Plaza. 7 to 9 p.m. 556-4500 or [www.ci.dublin.ca.us](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us).

Art Under the Oaks, July 11 and 12, Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore.

Carnival of the Animals, Valley Dance Theatre, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore, on Saturday, July 11, at 2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Both performances will be accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra. More than 40 dancing lions, elephants, swans and roosters, as well as a graceful jellyfish that glows in the dark. Dancers perform classical ballet and contemporary dance to selections from Vivaldi's Winter, Carmen Suite and Don Quixote and from well-known musical theater, "One" from A Chorus Line and Shoeless Joe Jackson. Tickets are Adults: \$18; Students (17 and under): \$8. Purchase online at [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org), by phone at 925-373-6800, or in person at the theater box office, Tuesday-Saturday, 12 noon - 6:00 p.m. All seats are reserved.

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre Broadway Chorus, summer concert July 11, 12 at 8 p.m. and July 13 at 2 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at 462-2121. [www.pleasanton-playhouse.com](http://www.pleasanton-playhouse.com).

Gong Show Night, The California Independent Film Festival will hold its first ever Gong Show Night on July 15th, at 7 PM at the Vine Cinema. Come and join the fun and festivities of the evening as audience will decide the fate of several movies. The mantra will be "if you don't like the movie, gong it." Admission Price is \$8. Tickets can be purchased at the Vine Cinema in downtown Livermore.

Dublin Concert Series, July 17, Threshold, classic rock and blues. Free. Dublin Civic Center in the Fountain Plaza. 7 to 9 p.m. 556-4500 or [www.ci.dublin.ca.us](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us).

The Great Catsby Casino Night, fundraiser for Valley Humane Society. Sat., July 18, 6 p.m. Pleasanton. Features the Tri-Valley Texas Hold 'Em Tournament (optional \$74 buy-in). Dinner, dancing and gambling under the stars. Roaring twenties cocktail attire. \$75 per person. Tickets at 3660 Nevada St., Pleasanton, or on-line at [www.valleyhumane.org](http://www.valleyhumane.org).

The Comedy of Errors, City of Pleasanton Civic Arts will host San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's Free Shakespeare in the Park production for three weekends beginning Saturday, July 18, at 7:30 p.m. Performances will take place Saturday and Sunday evenings through August 2, 2009, at Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Avenue, corner of Black Avenue and Santa Rita Road, in Pleasanton. The Comedy of Errors is a farcical story of mistaken identity as Antipholus and his servant, Dromio, search for their long-lost twin brothers. A chain of mishaps ensues as the twins are mistaken for each other, resulting in a chaotic climax. The production will be a colorful carnival, a circus-inspired

mixture of juggling, slapstick, and visual and verbal puns for maximum madness and romance. Admission is free. For more information, call the Department of Parks & Community Services at (925) 931-5340.

Pink Vines N' Wines Benefit Concert, Sun., July 19, Red Feather Winery, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Noon to 6 p.m. Wine tasting, food sampling, live music with 3 bands, silent auction, raffle and door prize. Benefiting The Army of Women for Breast Cancer research to eradicate Breast Cancer once and for all. \$25.00, \$10/12 and under. Tickets can be purchased at (925) 846-2648, 925-449-1871 or [www.redfeatherwinery.com](http://www.redfeatherwinery.com).

Taste of Terroir, wine and food pairing experience, July 23, Palm Event Center at Ruby Hill, 1184 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton. 6 to 9 p.m. Funds raised at this event benefit the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association. Tickets are \$75 per person, available on-line at [www.LVwine.org](http://www.LVwine.org). For information, call 925.447.WINE (9463) or go to [www.LVwine.org](http://www.LVwine.org).



Peter Pan, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre (formerly Pleasanton Playhouse), Mainstage Musical, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. July 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31; Aug. 1, 2. Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. Tickets at 925-373-6800 or go to [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

Viticulture and Winemaking Seminar, July 18 and 19 at Thomas Coyne Winery, 51 E. Vallecitos Rd., Livermore, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information, call 373-6541.

Dublin Concert Series, July 24, Tom Rigby & Flambeau, Cajun and Zydeco. Free. Dublin Civic Center in the Fountain Plaza. 7 to 9 p.m. 556-4500 or [www.ci.dublin.ca.us](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us).

6th annual Wood Family Vineyards release party, Sat., July 25 and Sun., July 26: Releasing '08 Chardonnay, '07 Grenache, '07 Cabernet Franc, '07 Cabernet Sauvignon, McGrail Vineyards, '07 Zinfandel, Hansen Ranch and '07 Petite Sirah! Each wine will be paired with gourmet cheeses. Live music: Patty & Abigail on Saturday and The Mundaze on Sunday. [www.woodfamilyvineyards.com](http://www.woodfamilyvineyards.com)

Metamorphoses, by Mary Zimmerma. A new adaptation of the Greek Mythology of Ovid. These magical tales of love and lust, courage and the creation of the world order. Las Positas College summer production, building 800. July 25 and 26, Aug. 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 6:30 p.m. Information, 424-1166. 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore.

Dublin Concert Series, July 31, Fred McCarty, bluegrass and country music. Free. Dublin Civic Center in the Fountain Plaza. 7 to 9 p.m. 556-4500 or [www.ci.dublin.ca.us](http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us).

## Classes at Alviso Adobe Offer Look Back in Time

What was California like before the first explorers landed? What impact did the newcomers' arrival have? Find out in two Saturday morning classes offered through Pleasanton Parks and Community Services Department on July 11 and 25, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Community members can sign up for just one class or for both, at \$20 per class. The sessions will take place at Pleasanton's new interpretive park, Alviso Adobe, on Old Foothill Road, a site that includes a grinding stone used by the original inhabitants of our valley to grind acorns. For registration information, call (925) 931-5359 or go online at <http://online.activecommunities.com/Pleasanton>.

Signups can be done by Fax (925-484-50780 or stop by the Parks Department behind City Hall at 200 Old Bernal. In all cases, registrants should ask for Code 46725 (...The World Before....") or Code 46726 (...From Mission On Into The Future...).

The instructor for both classes is local resident Patricia Belding, who has been a California Indian Life docent at the Oakland Museum for seven years. Her July classes will include PowerPoint presentations of illustrations and maps, as well as text, to bring to life the eras covered. In addition, there will be a native commentator to speak on the matters of discussion and answer questions at the end of each session.



Alex Ramirez

"I think it is important for every Californian to know about what our region was like in the past, and the impact settlers have had on those who lived here before us," Belding said. "We are fortunate to have two native commentators to bring their perspective to our discussions. They will bring the story I narrate to life."

The July 11 session will focus on the ways of the native people before Europeans came. Ohlone Indian Alex Ramirez of Livermore will be the native commentator. He will also be telling Ohlone Indian stories and legends.

On July 25, the class will offer a look at the California Indians' experiences with explorers, mis-

sionaries, Gold Rush settlers, and the state and federal governments on up to the present time. Jakki Kehl of Patterson will be the native commentator for that session. Kehl has been involved with reburials of Indian skeletons and native repossession of artifacts that were removed for museums.

Alviso Adobe Community Park is a beautiful site, shaded by oak trees hundreds of years old and providing a vista across the valley. Visitors can learn about the Indians who lived there, then the Spanish settlers for whom the park is named, and finally the dairy that operated at that location. The park was opened to the public last fall.

## New World Music Academy Offers Bailout Packages

The New World Music Academy in Pleasanton is offering economic relief and bailout packages of its own to the community. In addition to donating funds to organizations such as the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation in support of the Firehouse Arts Complex project, the International Foundation for Music Performance and Education based in Los Angeles, and regularly sponsoring food drives for the Alameda County Food Bank, the Pleasanton-based Music Academy is reaching out to families in the Tri-Valley in ways that will help everyone maintain their quality of life in these troubling economic times.

"I will not be a business owner with his head buried in the sand pretending there aren't families struggling to maintain their quality of life in this relatively affluent community" says New World Music Academy owner and internationally renowned concert pianist Mark Anderson. "At a time when lay-offs and real-estate foreclosures are the talk of dinner parties, it is irresponsible for business owners not to respond in whatever ways they can. Every one of us needs a bail-out program, not just multi-billion dollar corporations with thousands of employees. I see lowering our most valuable music lessons as a way to cooper-

ate and work together in society. Our academy is reaching out to the community by temporarily eliminating registration fees and lowering tuition."

In addition to lowering tuition, the academy is reaching out to the youth of the Tri-Valley with new programs in children's chorus, guitar and string ensembles for all levels and computer-based music production for teens along with their current curriculum of music lessons for all ages and levels.

An institutional member of the Music Teacher's National Association, the academy will also continue that organization's Music Achievement Award Program, a semester-long program sponsored by MTNA. The program is designed to encourage and motivate students to continue their music studies. The goals included such achievements as performing in public recital, attending a specific number of live, professional concerts and accomplishing a set list of standards set forth by the academy that are unique to every student's level and abilities.

Both students and teachers will be performing free at an upcoming Summer Open House on Saturday August 15. The public is cordially invited.

For more information about the academy, call (925) 462-5400.

## Sign Up for Pooch Parade

The 12th Annual Pooch Parade will be held August 5 in conjunction with the First Wednesday Party sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

Proceeds from the Pooch Parade benefit the Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers.

There is an entry fee of \$10 per category. Categories include most

creative costume, cute enough-as-is, best team outfit, puppy fun, senior pooch, and best trick.

There will be a free gift given to each of the first 175 entrants. Registration begins at 5 p.m. at Wayside Park, corner of First Street and Neal Street, Pleasanton. The parade gets underway at 6 p.m.

For complete details and registration go to [www.trivalleyguideds.org](http://www.trivalleyguideds.org)

## Come and Play at Dublin's Senior Games

A Senior Games Celebration will be held Sat., July 11 at the Dublin Senior Center.

Activities will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. including a dance social, BBQ lunch, root beer float, games, raffle and car show.

The BBQ lunch is \$4. There is no admission charge to the event. However, registration should be completed by July 8.

Drop-in visitors will be welcome as space allows.

Schedule of Events  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Free Car Show

9:00 am - 11:00 pm Free play of Ping pong, bocce, golf putting & Wii™ video games

11:30 - 12:15 pm \$4.00 Hot dog BBQ lunch

1:00 - 4:30 pm Free Dance & ice cream social, photo booth, raffle, snacks

The Dublin Senior Center is at 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Information or registration at

556-4511 or [www.DublinSeniorCenter.com](http://www.DublinSeniorCenter.com)



**New camps start every two weeks for both the performing arts and Seussical musical academies. Open to actors ages 8-18. For more information call Linda at 925-413-8161 or visit [TriValleyYPA.org](http://TriValleyYPA.org). Photo was taken during current class.**

## Education



Debbie Look

### Pleasanton Resident Director Of State PTA

Debbie Look, a resident of Pleasanton, became Director of Legislation of the California State PTA on July 1. The association has nearly 1 million volunteer members and is headquartered in Sacramento.

Look was appointed to a two-year term in the position. She has served as the Community Concerns advocate for the California State PTA.

"I'm so excited about taking on this new challenge," Look said. "I am passionate about public education and believe that I make a real difference in the lives of children and youth with the work that I, and others, do in Sacramento, on behalf of the California State PTA."

Look previously served as president of the Pleasanton PTA Council and was active with the PTAs at Harvest Park Middle School and Amador Valley High School. She also served as Legislation chair for the Peralta District PTA, serving Alameda County. She has been involved in parent advocacy for more than 20 years, in California as well as in Canada where she served as president of a British Columbia-wide parental advocacy organization.

Professionally, she holds an MBA degree and currently serves as campaign director for the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation, working on the Firehouse Arts Center Campaign. She also serves as the chair of the City of Pleasanton's Library Commission.

Look lives in Pleasanton with

her husband, Chris. Her son, Andrew, attends the University of California, Los Angeles, and her daughter, Kristen, is a recent graduate of the University of California, Davis, and now lives in San Francisco.

### Congressional Gold Medal Awards

Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) welcomed students from the 11th Congressional District to Washington, D.C. last week to receive Congressional Gold Medal Awards.

Two of the gold medal recipients, Kristen and Stephanie Glass are from Danville. Sarah Williams, the third recipient, is from Pleasanton. Each student dedicated many hours to volunteering, personal development and physical fitness in order to achieve their gold medals, the program's highest commendation.

"I'm thrilled to honor Kristen, Stephanie and Sarah for their Congressional Gold Medal Awards," said Rep. McNerney. "They each dedicated many hours to volunteering in the community and striving for personal development and physical fitness. I'm proud to recognize them for this special achievement."

Kristen Glass completed over 650 volunteer hours through "Make It or Break It", a non-profit she co-founded with her sister dedicated to educating children and teenagers about the importance of bone health. She also plays competitive tennis and sings.

Stephanie Glass completed over 600 volunteer hours working for Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute and educating young children about the importance of bone health through the "Make It or Break It" non-profit she co-founded with her sister. She also plays competitive tennis and serves as a class representative at her high school.

Sarah Williams completed thousands of volunteer hours through her "Creative Kindness" blanket project that ultimately produced over 2,000 blankets for foster care children. Sarah also plays volleyball and recently took 2nd place at the Junior Art Division at the Alameda County Art Show.

The Congressional Award is the United States Congress' award for young Americans. The program is open to all 14- to 23-year-olds, who work to earn Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver and Gold Congressional Award

Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas; Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration.

### More News . . .

Boston University awarded academic degrees to 5,863 students in May 2009. Among the graduates was Joanne A. Lundgren, who received a Doctor of Medicine in Medicine. She is a Livermore resident.

Foothill High School 2009 graduate Danielle Scott has been awarded one of \$11,000 four year Ronald C. Nahas Scholarships. She graduated from Foothill High School with a 4.26 gpa and an SAT of 2340. She participated in softball and Taekwon-Do. Danielle has a black belt, participated in the Junior Nationals Tournament, and is an active martial arts instructor. She volunteered at Open Heart Kitchen and the Special Olympics. She is a member of the California Scholarship Federation Club. Other activities, Danielle enjoys are camping, hiking and skiing. She has been accepted at Stanford University.

## Community



**Bill Hammett, a sophomore at Livermore High School, participated in the California High School Rodeo Association state finals in Bishop, CA, June 14-20. He placed fifth in steer wrestling. He is now eligible for the 2009 Silver State International Rodeo in Fallon, NV on July 5-7. He is the son of Paula and Dave Hammett and the grandson of Myrna Rodrigues and the late John Rodrigues.**

## Community

## Deer Ridge Earns a Best of Show

Deer Ridge, a Livermore Valley winery, was honored with three prestigious awards last week at the 2009 Orange County Fair Commercial Wine Competition. Deer Ridge received a Gold medal for its estate grown 2004 Cabernet Sauvignon, which went on to win the Best of Show for Red Varietals in the medium price range. This winning wine was also selected for the 4-Star Gold Award, given to only 26 of the 3,089 wines entered. The Deer Ridge estate grown 2007 Chardonnay, Private Reserve was awarded a bronze medal.

"We are proud of this recognition of the quality of grapes grown and wines crafted in the Livermore

Valley from our estate vineyards. Our vineyard was established in the year 2000 on the same site that Charles Wetmore used to produce gold medal wines for the 1889 International Wine Competition in Paris—the original 'Bottleshock' wine competition," notes Carl Lyle, Winemaker and owner of Deer Ridge Vineyards.

The Orange County Fair Commercial Wine Competition is co-sponsored and supported by the Orange County Wine Society, a non-profit educational corporation that promotes the knowledge and understanding of winemaking, viticulture and appreciation of wine. A total of 3,089 wines were

entered and judged in this year's competition.

Deer Ridge Vineyard's award-winning wines are available at the winery's tasting room, 1828 Wetmore Road in Livermore. The winery is open Friday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. Deer Ridge will also be the Featured Winery of the Day at the Race Track at the Alameda County Fair on Sunday, July 12. Their award winning wines may also be found at premier California wine shops.

For more information, go to the winery's website at [www.DeerRidgeVineyards.com](http://www.DeerRidgeVineyards.com).

## Wente Voted 'Best' in Two Categories

Wente Vineyards has been named "Best East Bay Winery" and The Course at Wente Vineyards "Best East Bay Golf Course" in Diablo Magazine's annual July 2009 "Best of" issue, on newsstands this week.

"We are honored to be selected by Diablo Magazine's readers and editors this year," said Vice President of Hospitality and Fifth Generation Winegrower Christine Wente. "Our goal is to create the most enjoyable and memorable wine country destination experi-

ence in Northern California, and being recognized by our guests is the greatest reward."

Each spring, Diablo asks its readers to vote from several categories including the best boutique, burger, and bookstore, etc. More than 10,000 readers log on each year to cast their ballots, and editors also contribute to the list. The issues will hit newsstands and mail this week, and the winners are also posted online at [www.diablogame.com](http://www.diablogame.com).

Wente Vineyards is the coun-

try's oldest continuously operated family-owned winery, Wente Vineyards is led today by the fourth and fifth generations of the Wente family. More than 125 years of committed stewardship to the land has led to the development of Wente Vineyards' Farming for the Future, a system of sustainable viticultural practices designed to produce the best quality wines with the least environmental impact.

For more information, visit [www.wentevineyards.com](http://www.wentevineyards.com).

# Milestones

## Romance



Mary and Bill Zagotta on their wedding day.

## 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebrated

Mary and Bill Zagotta celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 27, 2009. A celebration was held at Terra Mia Restaurant surrounded by their friends and relatives.

Their children, Michelle (son-in-law, Brian), William (daughter-in-law Sue), and Maria (son-in-law Kevin), along with their grandchildren, Luke, Peter, Scott, Theresa, Walker, and Ferryn were all in attendance for this joyous occasion.

The Zagottas moved to Livermore in 1968 where Bill joined the Livermore Laboratory and retired from there after 25 years. Mary was an Office Manager for 18 years at Resources for Family Development. They now enjoy their retirement babysitting the grandchildren, granddogs, volunteering, playing golf, and cruising. They have lived in Livermore for the past 41 years where they have raised their three children.

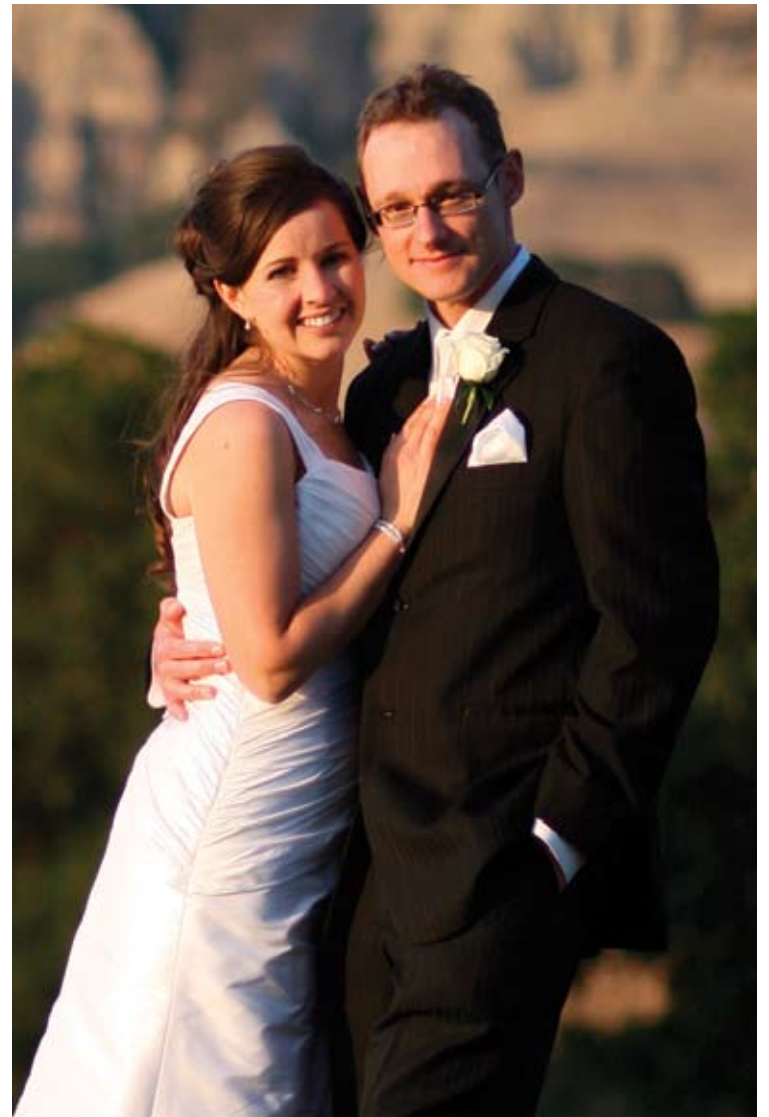
## Vows Exchanged in Livermore

Amy Cora Azevedo, daughter of Stephen and Kathleen Azevedo, married Kirk William Mulgrew, son of Jim and Gay Mulgrew on May 30, 2009. The wedding and reception were held at Camp Arroyo in Livermore.

Amy and Kirk met at the University of California, Berkeley in 2003 in the drum line of the University of California Marching Band. Kirk graduated with a BA in Molecular and Cell Biology with the class of 2003. Amy graduated with a BA in Applied Mathematics in 2007. Kirk is starting his residency in Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Orange County after graduating this June from the University of California, Davis School of Medicine. Amy is working towards her Masters in Mathematics at CSU Long Beach.

Amy and Kirk will reside in Long Beach, California with their cat, Romeo.

Amy Azevedo and Kirk Mulgrew



## Military



John Robello-Perez (pictured at left), a graduate of Livermore High School class of 2007, has graduated from Air Force BMT at Lackland AFB in Texas on Friday June 12th. John graduated from Squadron 322 Flight 416 with honors (please be sure to include that he graduated BMT with honors as only up to 10 percent do so). He is now at Keesler AFB in Mississippi where he will begin his Tech School.

Dean M. Mixon of Livermore graduated from BMT Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas, on April 7, 2009. He is the son of Neva Hironaka of Livermore. He graduated from Granada High School in 2007.

