



Find Out What's Happening Check out the second section

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

Donations of School Supplies, Backpacks Are Needed

Tri-Valley Haven is working to ensure that low income children are able to start the new school year with all the essential supplies. Now in its fourth year, the Back to School Supply Distribution provides a new backpack and age appropriate supplies to homeless, near homeless and low income families in the Tri-Valley.

Last year over 400 children were served, a 27% increase over the previous year.

Samantha Burrows, director of homeless and family support services for the Haven, believes that this year the demand will be even greater. "Tri-Valley families are still struggling. Just as we have seen an increase in families turning to the food pantry to make ends meet, we expect an increase in families lining for the school supply drive. What has historically been a rite of passage, is for many families a huge financial burden."

The School Supply Distribution will take place Aug. 17 at 418 Junction Ave., Livermore, from 1 to 5 p.m. Backpacks and supplies will be given out on a first come, first served basis.

The Haven is still looking for donations of supplies to help address the need within the community. Donations of backpacks, binder paper, notebooks, pens, pencils and Payless gift cards for new shoes will be accepted Monday through Thursday until August 12 at the Tri-Valley Haven Community Building, 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore.

For more information, contact Samantha Burrow at 455-2510 x405.

Haggerty Vice Chair of New Transportation Commission

The new Alameda County Transportation Commission held its first meeting recently. The commission elected its Chair, Union City Mayor Mark Green to serve as chairman and Supervisor Scott Haggerty as vice chairman.

The Alameda County CTC is a newly formed countywide transportation agency, resulting from a merger of the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACMA) and the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA). Its mission is to plan, fund and deliver a broad spectrum of transportation projects and programs to enhance mobility throughout Alameda County.

In the midst of a down economy, the merger is an economical move to streamline costs, eliminate redundancies and create efficiencies in planning, programs and project delivery. In this respect, the Alameda CTC stresses accountability and transparency in administering public funds, as well as reforms to improve the County's ability to effectively plan and build transportation for the future.

"This is good for the cities," (See TRANSPORTATION, page 12)

Graffiti Annoys Public; Efforts Aim to Control It

Graffiti taggers have more free time on their hands in the summer. The growing number of signs around Livermore is the result.

However, the community is organized to keep graffiti in check, according to a leader of the operation that cleans up the signs, and reaches out to the community for help control tagging.

The graffiti is most noticeable along the Arroyo Del Valle between Holmes Avenue and Stanley Boulevard. Livermore resident Auora Ahsan started us-

ing the bike trail along the arroyo in May to commute to a job. She has noticed the graffiti increase, and dislikes some of the symbols that some taggers paint, including some obscenities.

It's a poor atmosphere for the area, and sometimes it doesn't feel safe for younger children because of that, said Ahsan, whose child also uses the arroyo trail.

"There is some of this every year, but not to the extent that's there this year," said Ahsan. She would like to see more frequent policing to hold taggers in check.

She said that may be the key, since crews come out and paint over graffiti. It is back a day or two later.

Mike Nagel, executive director for maintenance at the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District, appreciates Ahsan's concern. He said he is always glad to see residents speaking up about the problem, and reporting sites to the Graffiti Hot line at 373-5600.

Although the location of much of the graffiti is at the arroyo near Granada High School, not all of it

is caused by students there, said Nagel. Some taggers come from other areas. Much of it involves either gang members, who are staking out territory, or individual taggers, who see it as their form of creativity.

Tagging is defacing property or vandalism, a misdemeanor. Livermore Police Chief Steve Sweeney said his force does the best it can, but it's difficult to catch taggers, who work mainly at night.

When caught, offenders are referred to the city's Horizon

counseling program, said Sweeney. There is also a "Pathways to Picasso" program, which tries to channel young taggers' activity into constructive artistic expression.

The Picasso program is run by Arthur Barinque, who looks at the vandalism and sees the artistic talent that some of the taggers have. "He is an artist who is interested in guiding the kids in developing their talent," said Sweeney.

Tagging occurs on park prop- (See GRAFFITI, page 4)



Ethan Santiago races through the Lizzie Fountain Spray Ground following dedication ceremonies last Saturday. For more on the event, go to page 12.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Senior Day Care Will Be Back in the Valley

A senior day care program to replace the one that closed in Livermore in June 2008 is on the horizon.

The YMCA is working with the Tri-Valley adult day care board to open the new program at Nielsen Elementary School in Dublin. The school was closed by the district.

YMCA executive director Kelly O'Lague Dulka said the plan is eventually to have a capacity of 36 to 48 clients. They will come from the Tri-Valley, and even from Castro Valley and Hayward, she said.

The day-care center provides activities for seniors who are still living independently, but who might not be able to participate in activities at local senior centers, because they are frail.

Often they are living with their children. When those offspring have to work every day, there is no one to be responsible for the older adult. That is where senior day care comes in.

Dennis Gambis, president of the adult day care board, said that the board wanted to bring the program back. It had been run by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). The program was terminated when the Livermore Valley Charter School took over the school where it was operating. LARPD could not find a permanent home for the program in Livermore.

The day care board exercised a two tier bid process, which (See SENIOR DAY CARE, page 4)

Lab Team Helps Prepare for Next Big Accelerator

A Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory team is helping design elements of a future particle accelerator that is intended to probe in unprecedented detail the fundamental forces that governed the early universe and may help give it structure today.

The accelerator, called the International Linear Collider, will pick up the physics story where today's most powerful accelerator, now operating in Geneva, leaves off. How soon that might happen is hard to predict because

it will be expensive and require international funding. Some estimate that a new machine might be operating by 2020, others not until 2025 or later.

The Livermore design team is headed by Jeff Gronberg of the Lab's Physics Division. The team includes engineers Tom Piggott, Jay Javedani, Charles Brown, Ryan Abbott and Ed Cook.

Their effort is part of an international one involving some 2,000 people from 300 laboratories and campuses in 24 coun-

tries. The ILC is being designed to collide electrons with their anti-matter counterpart, called positrons, at high energies in the expectation that the resulting bursts of particles and radiation will reveal detailed insights about the nature of the universe such as what happened during the Big Bang and how matter acquired mass.

The Livermore team's job is to develop a source that can generate positrons some 100 times more profusely than has

been done before. The technique is to send gamma rays to a spinning titanium target, where they form electron-positron pairs that are then captured by what Gronberg calls "magnetic optics" and focused for acceleration toward the collision area some 10 miles away.

Under some circumstances, the Livermore group might also be asked to take on another project, the development of a "photon collider" to be operated (See LAB TEAM, page 5)

Friday Filing Deadline for Most November Races

Filings for the November elections close on Aug. 6, except for any races that might not have an incumbent filing. In that instance, the filing deadline is extended to Aug. 11.

Incumbents in the Pleasanton school district and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) have not filed, throwing those open to the deadline

extension. In Dublin, one of two incumbents has not filed for the school board.

On the Pleasanton school board, Jim Ott announced months ago that he will not be a candidate. The other incumbent whose term expires, Pat Kernan, has not announced whether he will run.

Sandy Piterit has filed her (See FILING, page 4)

Revitalization Effort Underway for Livermore's American Legion Post 47

By Patricia Koning

A little-known fact about Livermore is that it is home to one of the oldest American Legion posts in the state—Post 47, located in the Veterans' Building at 522 L Street. Post 47 was an active part of the Livermore community beginning in the post-World War II era, but membership and the activity level dwindled off in the 1970's leaving the post on the verge of shutting down in recent years.

Post 47 is part of Ameri-

can Legion District 10, which comprises 15 posts in Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Castro Valley, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, Pleasanton, and San Leandro. Last year Ed Castillo, District 10's past president, initiated an effort to revitalize Post 47. "It's such a beautiful, historic building with everything you need," he says. "I just couldn't let it go under."

He describes the Veterans' Administration hospital in Liver- (See POST 47, page 2)



File photo of Niles Canyon Railroad.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Niles Train Added to Historic Register

The State Historical Resources Commission voted unanimously last week to place the Niles Canyon Transcontinental Railroad Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Niles Canyon Railway is a segment of the final leg of the transcontinental railroad, passing through the Diablo Range to the shore of San Francisco Bay. The nearly twelve mile district stretching from Niles in Fremont to Pleasanton is one of the best preserved portions of the original railroad still providing passenger service. The historic designation goes to Bernal Avenue, covering the railroad right-of-way owned by Alameda County and leased to the Pacific Locomotive Association.

Alan Frank, curator for the Pacific Locomotive Association, which operates the Niles Canyon Railway, said that the designation (See TRAIN, page 12)

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PETS OF THE WEEK
Come on down to Valley Humane Society this weekend Saturday Aug 7th and Sunday Aug 8th to experience Kitten Mania! We have a ton of kitties ready to go, but they haven't found their forever families yet. Could it be yours? We are offering kittens, cats, puppies & dogs at adopt one & pick a playmate for 1/2 off. Remember kitties love company! Visit Valley Humane Society's Kitty City, located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. 925-426-8656 www.valleyhumane.org

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Pleasanton School Assignments

The Pleasanton Unified School District has announced new assignments for the coming year (pending board approval). Ben Fobert, vice principal at Amador Valley High, has been selected as the new principal at Mohr Elementary School. He succeeds Robin Seht who accepted an assignment in another district. Ken Rocha, vice principal at Hart Middle, has been selected as the new principal at Harvest Park Middle School. He replaces Jim Hansen who is now serving as principal at Amador Valley High. Lisa Hague will move from a teaching assignment at Pleasanton Middle School to the vice principal position there, filling the vacancy created when Aileen Parsons accepted a principal job in Dublin.

Local Firefighters Head South

A crew from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LFPD) joined together with four crews from other jurisdictions to form a Strike Team that was deployed to the "Bull Fire" in Tulare County last week. These crews have been requested to assist state and federal firefighters in stopping one of two large fires burning in Tulare County, the other being the "West Fire." The "Bull Fire" was last reported to have grown to 15,000 acres and to have consumed at least six buildings. Crews left in the twilight hours with anticipation of being deployed for up to seven days. The crew from Fire Station 4 on Bernal Ave. arrived at the fire early this morning. They are presently checking-in at the Command Post where they will receive their assignment. The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department's response to this incident was through a statewide mutual aid agreement. The LFPD is fully reimbursed by the state for personnel and equipment in response to incidents of this type.

Stabbing Victim

Pleasanton police officers were dispatched to ValleyCare Medical Center to meet with a victim of a stabbing. The victim reported he had been involved in an altercation near Perry's Liquor, at 4301 Valley Ave., after purchasing some cigarettes. The victim stated he did not know he had been stabbed until he had fled the area and was near his home. After realizing he was bleeding he went to ValleyCare Medical Center for treatment. The victim and witnesses described the suspect #1 as a Hispanic male, early 20's, 6'03" tall, 250 pounds, heavy build, short brown hair with a goatee, wearing a red t-shirt and blue jeans. Suspect #2 was described as Hispanic male adult early 20's 5'10" to 6'00" tall, medium build, 180 pounds, short black hair, clean shaven, wearing a red t-shirt and dark blue jeans. Anyone with information regarding this please contact Pleasanton Police at (925) 931-5100.

Mental Health Funds

The California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) approved a total of \$6,552,109 for mental health services in Alameda, Mariposa, and San Mateo Counties. The MHSOAC approved \$5,951,039 for Alameda County and \$490,970 for San Mateo County, as requested, for new programs in their Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Annual Updates. The MHSOAC approves Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funds for programs that apply strategies focused on preventing mental illness from becoming severe and disabling. Alameda County will be using its \$5,951,039 in PEI monies to fund three new programs: Mental Health-Primary Care Integration for Older Adults; Peer Support Program for Children, Transitional Age Youth, and Adults; and the Prevention Grant Program. The Prevention Grant Program developed out of Alameda's Community Program Planning process which identified several groups in the

community that were not receiving a distinct allocation of resources with the original PEI plan. Projects under this program will be based upon evidence-based, emerging and promising practices that will include culturally-competent community outreach, engagement and education.

Correction

The amount raised by Republican 11th Congressional District Candidate David Harmer was \$782,549 during the three-month period that closed June 30. The printed figure, \$1.8 million, was the cumulative total since Jan. 1, and included the primary election donations.

Gulf Response

Congressman John Garamendi (D) voted for two bills that strengthen the House of Representatives' response to the Gulf Coast oil disaster. The Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act (CLEAR) sets new safety standards and requires a transition to the latest technologies available to make offshore oil drilling as safe as possible. It also removes the economic damage cap paid by oil companies to residents and small businesses affected by oil spills. An amendment successfully introduced by Congressman Garamendi makes sure that the Coast Guard has the resources necessary to be an effective first responder to future oil spills. The Offshore Oil and Gas Worker Whistleblower Protection Act protects workers who alert state and federal authorities of violations or practices that endanger the public and workers.

Salary Increase Donated

Keeping his commitment to donate his automatic pay raise to charitable organizations, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) will be visiting the Child Abuse Prevention Council of San Joaquin County to hand deliver a check at 10:00 a.m. on this Thursday, August 5th. McNerney has been a strong advocate against automatic pay raises for members of Congress. He has consistently voted against salary increases and helped pass legislation to abolish the automatic pay raise for the coming year. Past examples of the organizations McNerney has donated funds to include the Greater Stockton Emergency Food Bank, which provides packaged food for residents in San Joaquin County, the Village Community Resource Center in Brentwood, which provides after-school programs as well as family support and health services, and the Tri-Valley Haven, which provides shelter and services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

65th Anniversary of Bombing

August 6th, 2010 marks the 65th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. Tri-Valley CAREs and other groups invite participation in a commemoration at the gates of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The theme this year is "65: Time to retire nuclear weapons." Participants will gather at 8 a.m. on Fri., August 6 at the northwest corner of Livermore lab, at the intersection of Vasco Road and Patterson Pass Road, in Livermore. The program will feature Taiko drummers, speakers, including Norman Solomon, and spoken word poet, Kayla Marin. Around 9 a.m., following the rally, there will be a march to the Livermore Lab's West Gate, where those who choose will nonviolently risk arrest. A moment of silence will be observed at 8:15 a.m.. It was then, the morning of August 6, 1945, that the Enola Gay dropped a uranium bomb over the city of Hiroshima.

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<p>2010 Toyota Camry Vin#014552</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">HERTZ PRICE \$16,995</p>	<p>2008 Ford F150 Vin#C15135</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">HERTZ PRICE \$19,995</p>

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SPORTS NOTES



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Competitors dove in and swam in a variety of events during the Tri-Valley Swim League championships last Saturday. They were held at the Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center in Pleasanton. The results are below.

Club Sport Swims Home with Title

The Tri-Valley Swim League held their championship meet on Sat., July 31 at the Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center in Pleasanton. At the end of the day, the Club Sport Tidal Waves emerged as this year's team winner.

Tri-Valley Swim League Championships were held last Saturday in Pleasanton. Order of finish: Club Sport Pleasanton Tidal Waves (CSP) 2,338.50 points; 2nd Del Prado Stingrays (DP) 2,264; 3rd DBAC Swim Team Piranhas (DBAC) 2,228; 4th Dublin Green Gators (DUB) 1,796; 5th Pleasanton Meadows Sharks (PMST) 1,554; 6th Ruby Hill Killer Whales (RH) 1,483.50; 7th Briarhill Barracudas (BH) 1,477; 8th FAST Dolphins (FAST) 961

It was a long and exciting day with fifteen new league records. They were: 15-18 boys 200 medley

relay - 1:46.21 Dublin J. Van Dorn, K. Wilkinson, J. Brillante, M. Zamudio; 9-10 boys 50 free - 29.29 Teagan Cheney, CSP; 11-12 boys 50 free - 26.22 Nick Tucker, PMST; 15-18 girls 50 free - 25.26 Stephanie Doi, DP; 6 & Under girls 25 fly - 20.58 Hannah Loeffler, DP; 13-14 boys 50 fly - 26.18 Mattias Lindell, DBAC; 15-18 girls 50 fly - 28.19 Stephanie Doi, DP; 11-12 girls 50 breaststroke - 35.48 Katie Tsui, DBAC; 13-14 girls 50 breaststroke - 34.40 Alexandra Brown, FAST; 11-12 boys 100IM - 1:09.16 Nick Tucker, PMST; 15-18 girls 100IM - 1:04.68 Niki Doi, DP; 9-10 boys 25 back - 16.96 Teagan Cheney, CSP; 11-12 boys 50 back - 32.56 Justin Lee, CSP; 15-18 boys 50 back - 25.44 Chris Clark, CSP; and 15-18 girls 200 free relay - 1:45.32 CSP C. Stuart, E. Surber, A. Miller, A. Hernbroth

Top 20 finishers for the girls were Stephanie Doi (DP), Naomi Chan (DBAC), Callan Jackman (BH), Megan Doi (DP), Niki Doi (DP), Hannah Loeff-

ler (DP), Brooke Promes (DUB), Lauren Jhong (RH), Brittney Achziger (BH), Alexandra Torrez (DUB), Savannah Wieser (BH), Amy Heath (DP), Kristin Horrillo (BH), Crystal Fisher (BH), Alyssa Bardakos (DP), Kannon Phipps (BH), Allana Romo (DUB), Jennifer Lee (DBAC), Laura Belichak (FAST), and Meghan Hogue (DP)

For the boys, the top 20 were Nick Tucker (PMST), Tristan LaLonde (CSP), Cameron Kurotori (DP), Mattias Lindell (DBAC), Justin Lee (CSP), Tuler Lu (RH), Kagan Wilkinson (DUB), Jeffrey Liebman (DBAC), Jack Payan (DP), Sam Jorgenson (DP), Eric Gates (DP), Michael McMasters (DP), Daniel Huang (DBAC), Trent Pozzi (PMST), Minsu Kim (DBAC), Joey Gryczynski (BH), Andrew Voit (BH), Cole Reznick (DBAC), Matthew Zamudio (DUB), and Reece Toney (DUB)

Also turning in top finishes for their teams, Paige Heacox, Alexandra Brown, Elisabeth Balicanta, Elizabeth Brown,

Emma Pepler, Scott Drummond, Scott Fitzgerald, Trevor Ross, Nathan Cruz, and Luke Szymczak for the Dolphins. For the Barracudas, Lauren Leahy, Delany Phipps, Whitney Dishman, Alexis Carino, Meghan Butler, Cavan Page, Joey Ugarte, Matthew Gryczynski, Sherman Vuong, and Clark Jackman.

Killer Whales Emily Harris, Brie Nicholas, Kirsty Brown, Kaitlyn Schnierer, Lexi Ewanich, Christopher Yang, Tom Sornsen, Ross Brown, Evan Lee, and Joey Vasquez. For the Sharks, Sidney Vaeth, Annie Geasa, Alyson Isaacs, Shelby Craig, Courtney Olivier, Collin Miller, Jack Geasa, Cody Vaeth, Blake Tucker, and Michael Azuma. Gators Stephanie Chiu, Olivia Cano, Lillian Cano, Katelyn Haly, Sofia Gluck, Stefan Dillon, Jonathan Brilliant, William Merz, Yale Wyatt, and Anthony Zamudio. Katie Tsui, Eurie Seo, Kaela Lee, Rebecca Pollitz, Iris Chang, Alex Ren, Geunho Kye, Brock Uhl, Andrew Silva, and Brain Lee for

the Piranhas.

Stingrays Eileen Drury, Jaelyn Strom, Danielle Sullivan, Elaina Gates, Alyssa Goard, Andrew Goard, Jake Newman, Tommy Sabatini, Stefan Hall, and Andrew McMasters. For the Tidal Waves, Cayla Jetter, Alison Hernbroth, Carli Lopez, Mika Lew, Lauren Dennen, Chris Clark, Teagan Cheney, Cole Sixkiller, William Rose, and RJ Merlo.

Girls Results

Medley Relay: 6-U 200 yd. Club Sport Pleasanton-CC 'A' (Spaulding, Aria 6, Anderson, Nia 5, Dennen, Kayleigh 6, Torres, Ashley 6), 1:49.92. 7-8 100 yd. DBAC Swim Team 'A' (Reilly, Megan 8, Lurie, Hanna 8, Lee, Kaela 8, Rohovit, Taylor 7), 1:25.05. 9-10 100 yd. DBAC Swim Team 'A' (Tincher, Emily 9, Lee, Jennifer 10, Goodman, Audrey 10, Lindell, Nicola 9), 1:10.84. 11-12 200 yd. DBAC Swim Team 'A' (Earle, Katie 12, Tsui, Katie 12, Tsui, Hannah 11, Pollitz, Rebecca 12), 2:17.39. 13-14 200 yd. Del Prado

Stingrays-CC 'A' (Banke, Megan 14, Sullivan, Danielle 13, Drury, Eileen 14, Jeffrey, Stephanie 13), 2:15.05. 15-18 200 yd. Club Sport Pleasanton-CC 'A' (Surber, Elle 15, Jetter, Cayla 15, Miller, Arin 15, Stuart, Cassandra 17), 2:00.69.

Freestyle: 6-U 25 yd. Heath, Amy R, DP Stingrays-CC, 19.95. 7-8 25 yd. Lee, Kaela, DBAC, 16.45. 9-10 50 yd. Jackman, Callan, Briarhill, 30.25. 11-12 50 yd. Doi, Megan, DP Stingrays-CC, 27.84. 13-14 50 yd. Wieser, Savannah, Briarhill, 27.30. 15-18 50 yd. Doi, Stephanie, DP Stingrays-CC, 25.26. Butterfly: 6-U 25 yd. Loeffler, Hannah, DP Stingrays-CC, 20.58. 7-8 25 yd. Promes, Brooke, Dub Green Gators-CC, 18.76. 9-10 25 yd. Bardakos, Alyssa, DP Stingrays-CC, 16.26. 11-12 50 yd. Doi, Megan, DP Stingrays-CC, 31.91. 13-14 50 yd. Achziger, Brittney, Briarhill, 30.33. 15-18 50 yd. Doi, Stephanie, DP Stingrays-CC, 28.19.

Breaststroke: 6-U 25 yd. Jhong, Lau-

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Lizzie Fountain Spray Grounds Officially Dedicated

The new Lizzie Fountain Spray Grounds has been a popular attraction for the younger set in downtown Livermore for several months.

On any given hot day, children can be seen and heard playing happily in the water while parents and grandparents relax in the shade.

The spray ground is located in the park at the corner of First Street and South Livermore Avenue.

The official dedication of the spray grounds was held last Saturday. The occasion was complete with music, remarks by Mayor Marshall Kamena and the reading of a poem written by Livermore Poet Laureate Cher Wollard.

The dedication was part of the downtown's Christmas in July celebration. Livermore Downtown Inc. Executive Director Rachel Snedecor commented, "It's all about water. This is a great time to celebrate the new spray ground. I can't think how many families have already enjoyed it."

Kamena recited some of the history of the area, noting that the corner was once occupied by the Hub. He said when the Hub was torn down, there were suggestions to build a parking lot. However, former city manager Dan Lee proposed the original fountain. It was constructed in 1976.

Work on the new spray grounds began in February. The entire park area was refurbished to include drinking fountains for both two and four legged visitors, a trellis, seating, greenery and lighting.

The memorial bricks, the clock, and two memorial redwood trees were retained.

Kamena led a countdown, assisted by Ethan Santiago, to mark the official turning on of the fountain.

Prior to the countdown, Poet Laureate Cher Wollard read her poem, "Who Is Lizzie?" She observed there were really two



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

The new spray ground in Livermore is a popular place in the downtown for the younger set. Both photos were taken following the dedication last Saturday.

Lizzies. One, Miss Liz, was the daughter of William Mendenhall. The other, Lizzie Oliver, was "a little bit nuts." She was called Aunt Lizzie. At one time, Livermore Avenue was called Lizzie Avenue.

Her poem is as follows:

Lizzie's Street
 Crazy old auntie rocked that chair like it was a bucking mule all day long on her front porch profligate hats provoking the sensible hallooing at tradesmen, vaqueros passersby winding south on the long road that stretched past her house to the coal mines and Cresta Blanca

Some took to calling it Lizzie's Street And why not? Wasn't her house planted like a thorn in its side? Didn't young hoodlums race through the dust just to pelt her door with rocks, sometimes a load of birdshot?

staked her own claim to the avenue. Daddy owned half the town, after all. Now they've taken it away from both of them - Aunt Lizzie and Miss Liz - paved it over, smoothed out the ruts renamed it for some long-dead Englishman

But people remember. They built a fountain put up a clock across the street a block or so from where Lizzie's wide-porched bungalow once stood, on the spot where Joe Duarte used to sell cigars Later a tavern quenched the thirsty

Fountain water spouts, waves at cars, trucks, bicycles, at progress even Sweltering summer days every child in town splashes like downless ducklings in her water. Before long somebody tosses in bubble soap

Long before, a lawyer's wife

TRAIN

is a "very big deal. For one, it provides physical protection for the property."

Frank noted that it also opens doors to apply for grants to preserve and restore historic property. "We are looking specifically at our bridges. We have three large bridges along the rail-line. They are very expensive to paint, about \$300,000 each. The designation will also help plans for museum development at Niles."

Presently, the Pacific Locomotive Association's Niles Canyon Railway provides historic train ride experiences to the public year round from the 1880's depot in Sunol and from Niles Station

in Fremont. The train doesn't travel the entire length of the restored rails, which extend to Verona Bridge. Work is underway to extend the rails to Happy Valley.

There had been talk one time of bringing the trains into Pleasanton. Frank pointed out that the historic designation results in no change in plans to bring the railroad to Pleasanton. "It would be up to the city if it wants the trains and where a station might be located. There have been some discussions as to where it might go, if it were determined there was support to bring the train to the city."

The Niles Canyon segment was completed after the driving of the Golden Spike. Constructed from 1865 to 1869, the line retains many features of early railroading, including stone culverts and truss bridges.

The scenery and route through the canyon have barely changed in over one hundred and forty years. The completion of the railroad in 1869, reduced the travel time from the east from months to a few days, connecting California to the rest of the nation.

Steam locomotives pulled trains through Niles Canyon for eighty years before diesels took over in the 1950's. In 1984, after twelve decades of railroading in the canyon, the Southern Pa-

cific ceased operating trains on the right-of-way, pulled up the tracks, and decided the land to Alameda County.

The Pacific Locomotive Association entered into an agreement with Alameda County and began rebuilding the rail line in 1987. Association volunteers worked for over a year on the first part of the track reconstruction between Sunol and Brightside. On May 21, 1988, almost 122 years after the first Western Pacific excursion, the Pacific Locomotive Association brought railroad passenger operations back to life in Niles Canyon.

good for the county and transit operators, and over the long run will provide greater efficiencies in delivering transportation improvements and services to the residents and businesses of Alameda County," noted newly elected Chair, Mayor Mark Green, who successfully spearheaded the year and a half merger process.

In January 2009, ACTIA and the ACCMA initiated a study to identify service sharing and/or consolidation opportunities between the two agencies. The study examined whether mission critical responsibilities could be delivered in a more streamlined and cost effective manner if the two agencies operated on a more integrated basis.

In May 2009, the Boards reviewed opportunities for service sharing and potential merger of operations, opportunities for cost efficiencies and estimated annual savings. This review demonstrated a very good return on investment, with up-front costs relatively minor considering the long-term goals and benefits. The greatest opportunities for consolidation and efficiency improvement were in the areas of financial services, administrative services and capital project delivery. Members also discussed the potential for blending the Boards of Directors into one Board. The initial analysis was compelling enough for the Boards to move forward with an implementation analysis and plan.

In January 2010, the Boards expressed support for a proposed merger of the two agencies, including a new structure for a combined Board of Directors and support for the title of Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) as the name of the agency.

In February 2010, the joint Boards approved a draft Joint Powers Agreement and directed staff to present it to the Board of Supervisors, the City Councils for all 14 cities in the County, and the Boards of AC Transit and BART. Over the next few

months, ACTIA and ACCMA obtained approval of the new Joint Powers Agreement and the necessary parallel changes to the ACCMA joint powers agreement from each of these entities. The ACTIA Board also amended the 2000 Transportation Expenditure Plan, following a 45 day review period, to change the composition of the ACTIA Board so that it is the same as that of the Alameda

CTC Board. On June 24th, the Alameda County Transportation Authority (originally created in 1986 to implement the first transportation sales tax measure in the County) was terminated and the Agency's assets and liabilities were transferred to ACTIA. As the merger continues, these will be turned over to the new Alameda CTC.

For more information on the

Alameda CTC, ACCMA and ACTIA, visit www.alamedactc.org



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Art, Community, & Education



Pictured are Tisha by Shelly Yen (at right), and Portrait of two of the Pittsburg bunnies, by 6-year-old twins Taylor and Tommy Todd.

Bring Home a Bunny, As a Pet Or As a Painting

By Patricia Koning

Bunnies and local artists will come together this Saturday for the Bunny Art Show and Adoption Event at the East Bay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), located at 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin. The event will showcase the work of 11 local artists and 10 art students who created portraits of adoptable bunnies offered through East Bay Rabbit Rescue.

“The Bunny Art show was conceived to increase exposure and awareness for rescued rabbits,” explains Joan Wegner of East Bay Rabbit Rescue. “Many people who would not buy a dog or cat

buy a small animal because they are unaware that small animals are available at shelters and with rescue groups.”

Ten local artists— Michelle Chan, Eileen Crowley, Valerie Daft, Carol Hart, Kathleen Hill, Lenore Kreit, Diana Marion, Christine McCall, Linda Ryan, Marcy Schaaf, and Shelly Yen—created a total of 40 rabbit portraits. The art will remain on display at the East Bay SPCA through the end of September.

On Saturday, August 7, the adoption event will take place from 11 am to 4 pm, followed by the artists’ reception from 4 to 5 pm. East Bay SPCA will receive 20%

of all sales at the Bunny Art Show to support their work.

Dublin-based graphic designer and artist Shelly Yen designed the event flyer, which features a portrait of Tisha, a one-year-old English Spot rabbit available for adoption. After looking through pictures of different rabbits that Wegner sent her for the flyer, Yen wound up creating 10 pieces for the show.

“I love animals and I love painting animals. All of the bunnies were so different, and I really wanted to focus on their unique qualities,” she explains. “I never painted so many bunnies before! It was a lot of fun.”

The artists attended several rabbit adoption events and worked from photographs of the rabbits. They chose their rabbit subjects from among the 150 that East Bay Rabbit Rescue currently has available for adoption.

Late last spring, Wegner was concerned about having enough pieces for the show, so she asked Diana Marion if her students might be interested. “They were delighted,” says Marion. “My students were excited to help the animals and to be part of a real art show. I’m happy they will have the chance to share the work.”

On the first Saturday of each month, East Bay Rabbit Rescue

holds a rabbit adoption at the East Bay SPCA. About six rabbits are usually adopted each month; in the last 12 months, East Bay Rabbit Rescue has placed over 70 rabbits. Wegner estimates that at any one time in the Bay Area there are several hundred rabbits available for adoption.

Most of the rabbits up for adoption have either been abandoned by their owners or are the unwanted offspring of pet rabbits. “People don’t realize that rabbits live for eight to 12 years and require as much care as a dog or a cat,” says Wegner. “If rabbits are not spayed or neutered, they can produce a lot

(See BUNNIES, page 2)

Concert Is a Benefit for Open Heart Kitchen



Camerata Players include (from left) Deborah Lorenz, piano; Bronwyn Hagerty, cello; James MacQueen, violin; and Anna Lorenz, harp and piano.

Program Includes Performance of 'A Glimpse of the Shore'

A chamber group, The Livermore Camerata Players, will present a recital of classical chamber music to benefit Open Heart Kitchen.

The concert will be held at 7 p.m. on Wed., Aug. 11 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore.

Camerata Players are Deborah Lorenz, piano; Bronwyn Hagerty, cello; James MacQueen, violin; and Anna Lorenz, harp and piano.

The program will include works by Shostakovich, Berens, Ravel and more. In addition, there will be a performance of the premiere of violinist/composer James MacQueen's "A Glimpse of the Shore."

Admission is free. Donations for Open Heart Kitchen are gratefully accepted.

BUNNIES

(continued from front page)

of offspring very quickly."

The discovery of over 120 rabbits living in a backyard in Pittsburg gives credence to the phrase "breeding like rabbits." The owner adopted what she thought was a pair of male rabbits, but a few months later one of the rabbits gave birth to its first litter. Within a year, there were over 100 babies.

After Michelle Miller, a volunteer with Contra Costa Animal Services, discovered the owner selling the baby rabbits at a garage sale, she enlisted another volunteer, Suzi Hibbard, to lead the effort to find homes for the rabbits. Several Bay Area rabbit rescue groups came together to support their effort. Over 60 of these rabbits still need homes. About 25 will be at the adoption event; 10 are featured in the art work.

East Bay Rabbit Rescue hosts the House Rabbit Society, Harvest Home Animal Sanctuary,

private rescues, and volunteers from local shelters for their monthly rabbit adoption event at the East Bay SPCA. This is one of the largest rabbit adoption events in the Bay Area.

"A huge selection of rabbits of all breeds and ages are available for adoption," says Wegner. "While the adoption fee is comparable to what you'd pay for a rabbit in a pet store, rescue rabbits are spayed/neutered, healthy, and socialized"

In addition to the rabbit adoption events, those interested in adopting a rabbit can look at local shelters or on petfinder.com. The site currently lists over 500 rabbits available in the Bay Area.

At the rabbit adoption event, representatives from East Bay Rabbit Rescue are available to discuss the benefits and responsibilities of keeping a rabbit as a pet. For more information, visit www.eastbayspca.org and choose "Rabbits for Adoption" on the front page.

Wearable Art Featured at LAA Gallery

The Livermore Art Association LAA Gallery is featuring the jewelry and ceramic art of Rhonda Chase during the month of August.

Rhonda's award-winning wearable art is created mostly using a combination of gemstones, tiny porcelain sculptures, and metal wire. By combining these materials and some unexpected accents, she creates a wide variety of one-of-a-kind adornments including pendants, bracelets and earrings. Each piece Rhonda makes is carefully designed according to the shapes and patterns of the selected gemstones. More elaborate works are sketched out first.

Her jewelry is almost entirely cold-welded, which means she doesn't use any glue or solder. Rhonda especially enjoys creating scenes from nature and sculpting intricate little trees; which have become her signature pieces. She says, "Whether designing or sculpting, my work is very flowing and organic. I love good materials; natural stones, rich glazes and precious metals. I also enjoy a really full-bodied color palette. I treat my glazes like watercolors



and my gems like oils. And I hope that while everything I make is functional, each piece is first, a work of art."

Also on display will be a selection of Rhonda's ceramic art. Shown in the photo is her "Niagara Fall Pendant," which won

the Most Original Beaded Object at the Bead Society of Northern California this year.

The Livermore Art Association (LAA) Gallery is open 11:30-4:00 Wed-Sun, and is located in the historic Carnegie Building at 2155 3rd St. Livermore. For more info call the Gallery at 925-449-9927.

Zingers on Stage at the Library

The Zingers sing show tunes, songs from American Broadway musicals, 20's - 30's - 40's popular music, and standard choral works, secular and sacred. The will be at the Pleasanton Library from 2 to 3 p.m. on Sun., Aug. 15.

The specific purpose of The Zingers is to promote the appreciation of choral music in our community and throughout the country.

This program is free and open to the public. No registration is required. The performance will take place in the Pleasanton Library's meeting room, 400 Old Bernal.

For more information call Penny Johnson, 925/931-3405.



The Zingers will perform show tunes and other music during a performance at the Pleasanton Library.

Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social Set for Sunday

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will be performing on Sun., Aug. 8 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore.

The Band will be playing a variety of musical styles appropriate for the 1800's and 1900's. A salute to the centennial of compositions

by Chopin and Robert Schumann will be included. Guest clarinetist Joe Bonfiglio will play a clarinet concerto. Additional selections will honor the 200th Anniversary of composer Otto Nicolai, patriotic songs, oldies, pops and marches.

The performance is part of the annual old-fashioned ice cream

social at Ravenswood. The Valley Banjos will also entertain.

The event includes games, music, historic demonstrations and more. Ice cream and hot dogs will be available for purchase.

Special activities include Tickle Me Pony Parties Baby Petting Zoo and Pony Rides; the Livermore

Heritage Guild, and face painting.

There is no admission charge. The event is hosted by the Raven-

swood Progress League and the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. For information, call 443-0238.

Zany Performance of "Three Billy Goats Gruff"

The Livermore Public Library's Springtown branch, presents Puppet Art Theater's zany new take on "The Three Billy Goats Gruff," on Tuesday, August 10.

The award-winning Puppet Art Theater performs hundreds of live performances each year throughout California. The Tortoise & the Hare start out this production with their classic race concluding at "The Toll Bridge," waking up the grumpy troll and setting the stage for a very funny new trio of goats.

"The Three Billy Goats Gruff" free performance begins at 6:00 pm and will take place outside the library, at 998 Bluebell Drive. The audience will be seated on tarps and attendees are encouraged to arrive early for best parking and viewing opportunities and to bring appropriate sun gear.

This free event is made possible by a donation from the Friends of the Livermore Library.

The library's Summer Reading Game ends Saturday, August 14. Special events include magic shows, puppetry, wild animals, international music, circus performers and storytelling.

For more information, click on the Summer Reading Game link from the Livermore Public Li-

brary's web site www.livermore.lib.ca.us or call 373-5504.

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

Campers Learn How to Produce a TV Program

This summer Tri-Valley Community Television (TV30) is offering two sold out sessions of a unique TV Summer Camp available to middle school and high school students in the Tri-Valley.



Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti is being interviewed by TV campers Sierra Taylor from Danville, age 11 and Sarah Clearly from Danville, age 11 (top photo). Tri-Valley TV Summer Camper Evelyn Reed of Livermore, age 12, works the camera (bottom photo).



The first camp took place the week of June 14th. The second session begins August 9th. Ranging in age from 10 – 15 years old, twelve campers from Livermore, Pleasanton and Danville participated in the five day camp in June. The result is a special show produced by the students titled “Tri-Valley Youth View.” This thirty minute program is currently airing on Channel 30 and 28.

“It is so great for all of us at Tri-Valley TV to have the Campers at the station. The first day most of them don’t know anything about TV. They work together as a team with our staff and by the last day of camp, they have created a half hour TV show.” said Melissa Tench-Stevens, Executive Director of Tri-Valley TV. “It is a fast paced week which gives students an edge in the industry.”

Under the direction of Camp Director, Mitch Eason, the hands-on TV Camp provides an introduction to the technical and talent aspects of studio and field production, writing, producing and digital video editing.

“Tri-Valley Youth View,” was written and produced by the students who range in age from 10 – 15 years old. They researched and wrote questions, they acted as crew for all the production positions and were talent for the program.

Guests who were interviewed on “Tri-Valley Youth View” include Mark Duncanson, Senior Recreation Program Specialist from Pleasanton, who spoke about PTOWN411.com as well as other recreation options for youth. Also appearing is Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena who talked about things for youths to do in Livermore and Mayor Tim Sbranti of Dublin, who discussed what it’s like to be a Mayor. In addition, the owners of Traveling Pizza taught the campers how to make a pizza.

“Some of the campers from last year returned to volunteer crew at TV30 this summer,” Tench-Stevens said. “TV Camp has been a win-win for all of us! We are looking forward to the next group of campers in August.”

To watch TV 28, 29 and 30 or for more information about the station and its programming, visit www.tri-valleytv.org.

Air times for “Tri-Valley Youth View” on Channels 28 and 30: are TV 30: Sat. 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.; Mon. noon; Tues. 10:30 a.m.; Wed. 8:30 p.m.; Thurs. 7:30 p.m.; and Fri. 8:30 p.m. TV 28: Sun. 7:30 a.m.; Tues. and Thurs. 6 p.m. and Fri. 6:30 a.m.

Occasio Winery to Mark First Anniversary

August 28, 2010 marks the One Year Anniversary of Occasio Winery and Tasting Room. A variety of festivities are planned to celebrate.

Owner and winemaker John Kinney commented, “Last August 28, we were harvesting our Sauvignon Blanc grapes early in the morning, and opening our doors to the tasting room that afternoon. What an incredible year this has been, with Gold Medals, sold out wines, and the wonderful Occasio Society wine club membership. In honor of our anniversary and harvest, we’ll be releasing our 2009 Sauvignon Blanc, as well as our 2008 Reserve Zinfandel. With already one medal on the Sauvignon Blanc and the success of our regular Zinfandel, we feel we have two pivotal wines for this release.”

Occasio Winery is a small and micro lot, award winning winery focusing on the Heritage varietals of Livermore Valley. Using only Livermore Valley grapes, owner and winemaker John Kinney handcrafts his wines to express the local terroir of which he is so proud. Sit down with John for a history lesson of Livermore Valley.

New wines to be released are the following:

Occasio 2009 Sauvignon Blanc, Del Arroyo Vineyard (only 200 cases made - \$18 per bottle): Grapes were picked in the cold, early morning hours and pressed as whole clusters. In keeping with the “sauvage” nature of the grape, fermentation was allowed to initiate with native yeasts. The fermentation temperatures were kept low in order to retain the most volatile flavor components. The wine was racked from its lees and aged in stainless. This wine is unoaked, and has not undergone secondary malolactic fermentation.

Occasio 2008 Reserve Zinfandel, Del Arroyo Vineyard (only 71 cases made - \$42 per bottle): The Zinfandel grape has a long heritage in the Livermore Valley, with the first plantings occurring over 100 years ago. Our Reserve Zinfandel is a blend of the Deaver and Dupratt clones. Aged in American Oak for 18 months, this is a marvelously structured, complex wine that pays tribute to Livermore’s pioneering heritage.

Special events planned:

On Sat., Aug. 21, 6 to 8 p.m. ride the Occasio Harvest Wine Train on the Niles Canyon Railway. Guests will be treated to an evening of wine, music, and food aboard the Niles Canyon Railway for a train journey back in time to an era of opulent travel and service. Sample the newly released ’09 Sauvignon Blanc and ’08 Reserve Zinfandel, paired with foods, and served in the recently restored art deco lounge car that is part of the Golden Gate Railroad Museum’s collection. Music will be provided by Off The Record, a local acoustic rock, folk, and blues trio. In celebration of the upcoming harvest, there will be time to sample some of the past vintages by pouring some long sold-out favorite memories from the winery’s library.

Tickets can be purchased for the wine train at Occasio Winery, or by calling (925) 371-1987. The event is \$65 for Occasio Society members and \$75 for non-members, all inclusive.

The one year anniversary celebration will take place on Aug. 28 and 29 from noon to 5 p.m. both days. New wines to be released included the 2009 Sauvignon Blanc and the 2008 Reserve Zinfandel. On Saturday, 1:30 to 5 p.m. bluegrass band Old Tunnel Road will perform. The gypsy jazz band, Gaucho, will provide the entertainment on Sunday from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

Occasio Winery is located at 2245B South Vasco Rd., Livermore. The Library Room accommodates parties up to eight people, where guests can study the wines in greater detail in the presence of our winemaker, and can explore cheese and wine pairing, by appointment. It is open Fri., Sat. and Sun. noon to 5 p.m. or by appointment. For information, go to www.occasio-winery.com.

Petite Sirah: The Saint Bernard That Wants to Sit in Your Lap

by Laura Ness

While at a recent tasting in Livermore, my lips turned blue, so did my teeth, and blue-purple juice was dripping down my chin. It was happening to everyone around me. No, I was not taking part in a blueberry pie eating contest, or sampling juicy ripe plums at a Farmer's Market. Instead, I was at a Petite Sirah tasting. Not just any Petite tasting, but the 8th annual focused tasting that PS I Love You, an advocacy organization dedicated to this most delightful teeth-stainer, holds yearly for its members. It's the Big Dog tasting for one of the biggest, baddest and best in the wine world.

Graciously hosted for the second year in a row at Concannon Vineyard, the sold out conference on July 27th also garnered a sizable virtual following online as well. It's always good to see Jim Concannon at these events, as he could claim to be the modern father of Petite Sirah, having been the first winemaker to label it as a variety back in 1961. Even sweeter is the sight of he and his son, John, now the Board President of the organization, seated at the head table. Both are clearly proud to wear the purple mantle of Principal Purveyors of Petite. Jim and John Concannon, along with Chief Ambassador and Jack of All Trades, Jim Ryan, have done a tremendous service in promoting the Conservancy line, a tribute to both of John's grandparents, who helped continue a dynasty, modest as it was, that became a household word.

While Concannon has become synonymous with Petite Sirah, for too long, it was a plaintive solo in Livermore. Now there are at least enough players to form a choir. New voices include Jaime Dowell Crooked Vine, John Kinney at Occasio, Collin Cranor at Nottingham Cellars and grower Julio Covarubias, whose fruit is making its way into cellars all over the Livermore Valley. He understands this grape and it shows. Mark Clarin has some of Julio's juice in the cellar at McGrail, and so does Rhonda at Wood. The 2009 barrel sample Collin poured at the seminar was a racy, nutmeg-tinged blueberry fiesta, while Julio's 2008 barrel sample showed blackberries and plummy richness.

Mostly relied upon as a backbone grape for blends, Petite spent an almost ignominious century as the lowly and invisible rug pad instead of the much coveted and fussed over Persian carpet. Now it is walking with pride down a purple red carpet of its own.

The rise in popularity of Petite is gratifying: in its heyday, there



Taking part in the program were John Kinney from Occasio Winery (left) and Jim Concannon from Concannon Vineyard.

were 14k acres planted in California. This dropped to a low of 1700 acres in 1984, and has rebounded to 7500 acres as of 2009. From a dismally low 65 producers in 2001, the number has skyrocketed to 725 wineries out of 6k. Of the 200 bonded US wineries back in 1975, 20 of them produced the grape. So we've achieved that 10% level once again.

What is the prognosis for Petite Sirah? Pat Spangler of Spangler Vineyards in Oregon positions it as the "Anti Pinot." He asks people, "Are you tired of wimpy Pinots? Try this! But not if you're wearing a white shirt!" He has great success marketing it as the big dog wine: are you tall enough to ride this ride? He commented that people are looking for bigger, bolder reds.

Presentations by Dan Berger (wine writer) and Clark Smith (WineSecrets founder), two avid fans who have probably tasted more Petites than anyone on the planet, helped us understand more about the styles of Petite Sirah from the different winegrowing regions (80 AVAs produce Petite Sirah and they've profiled 28 so far). These profiles are being utilized to inform judges at the wine competitions. "Sameness is the rule at most competitions," said Berger. "But Petite Sirah is a variety that adapts to an area and shows its distinctiveness. Petite Sirah smells like two things: it smells like Petite and it smells like its region."

So what are the regionally distinctive characteristics of Livermore Petite? There's a tendency for earthy, baked berry pie aromas and flavors that tend towards ripe black

plums and big fat blueberries, with lots of spice, fairly resolved, but noticeable tannins and typically very little acidity. High pH is a hallmark here, thanks to the heat index and the fact much Petite is picked well over 26Brix. Many of the same markers can be found in Paso Petites, especially ones from the Eastside. One I loved was the 2008 Grizzly Republic, which was a Double Gold winner at the Chronicle, oozing black raspberry and cherries and a hint of Meyer

lemon. Vina Robles 2007 Jardine Vineyard is classic, classy stuff, and Clayhouse is a great example of the varietal.

Petites from the Silverado area of Napa seem to exhibit violets, pepper and spice, whereas Calistoga is not quite as floral or refined, and is also less tannic. Silkwood and Stag's Leap are lovely.

While regional distinctiveness may indeed be a hallmark of Petite, the influences of topography and elevation are profound. The Petites

I found most intriguing were the 2008 Oakstone from Fair Play, from a 2500ft elevation vineyard, big and peppery with bold flavors, and the 2007 Spangler, from an 1800 ft elevation site in Oregon, which delivers a smooth, seamless, pepper-spicy concoction with svelte greyhound-like tannins, tinged with ample acidity.

Oak influences are profound with Petite: French oak just can't handle this monster. This is an all-American kennel variety, for sure. Napa Petite producers seem bent on using French, which seems as silly as taking up lion-taming as a profession.

What we can say about Petite in general is that it's a big dog that would rather lick you to death, like a Saint Bernard or Golden Retriever. It's no manicured poodle, nor is it a beagle, with more (incessant) bark than bite.

However, unlike a dog, Petite will not come when called. This year may prove a real challenge in that it's one of the latest varieties to come in from the vineyard. It's also quite prone to bunch rot and mildew. We're already late for the harvest dance and Petite is often ruined by rain. This could mean an even more petite crop of Petite, as much fruit would need to be dropped in order to achieve ripeness. Or, it could end up being a killer vintage, with perfect balance. For now, we can relax on the porch with a bottle of 07 or 08, and hope the Big Dogs behave.



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Reviews

Starstruck's Marvelous "Les Miz"

By Susan Steinberg

Rejoice, fellow lovers of "Les Miz"! A grand new production by StarStruck Theatre is lighting up the night just over the hills at Fremont's Ohlone College.

Utilizing a massive outdoor stage featuring a stunning multi-dimensional set, trapdoors, turntable, and a broad audience-reaching catwalk, this is as impressive as any professional production, and better than many.

The 13 principals are exceptionally strong in vocal and acting ability, and a large extended cast fills the stage with authentic-looking crowds of laborers, poor Parisians, factory workers, prostitutes, and tavern revellers (in a scene straight out of a Breughel painting). Their voices fill the air with lusty full-throated choruses, rousing and blessedly well-enunciated.

There are no miking distortions, a problem in some large shows, so lyrics were clearly intelligible,

especially from Connor Stokes and Kimberly Chatterjee, as the nasty thieving Thenardiers. Stokes' famous "Master of the House" literally brought down the house with its broad bawdy humor and cheeky litany of larceny.

Surprisingly, Benjamin Hall, Livermore High's memorable Jean Valjean is playing his nemesis, the implacable Inspector Javert. His intensely dramatic solos give Javert a strong, principled character rather than just an evil one.

Michael Jon Landreth as Jean Valjean brings dignity and nobility to the role, rising from the initial hateful viciousness of a beaten convict to the saintly self-sacrificing benefactor of humanity. His famous solos, from "Who Am I" to "Bring Him Home" completely hushed the audience, and won a well-deserved ovation.

A silver-voiced Fantine (Callie Garrett) wrung hearts in her death scene, as did poor

Eponine (Karina Simpson) whose "On My Own" was movingly pathetic. Chelsey Sue as Cosette was winsomely sweet in appearance and singing, while Rachel Sue proved unusually survoiced as the young Cosette.

Lance Smith's Enjolras cut a heroic figure as the passionate student leader, his stirring "Red and Black" and "Do You Hear the People Sing?" ringing out with revolutionary fervor. His death sprawl atop the barricade was truly show-stopping.

A young Andrew Apy had an admirably strong role and voice as street urchin Gavroche, especially in his prolonged death song. James Jones played a sympathetically love-struck Marius, and moved listeners to tears with his mournful lament "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables."

Music Director Nancy Godfrey coordinated this hugely challeng-

ing operatic ensemble, conducting an impressively well-rehearsed 35-piece orchestra. Vocal Directors Lee Glover and Jeff Olivera had obviously worked tirelessly to deliver an impeccably-sung performance.

General Director Lori Stokes can be justly proud of bringing this wildly popular show, (winner of 8 Tonys) to such perfection – a fitting finale to StarStruck's 15th anniversary year.

Careful attention to stage detail, from "real" cobblestone streets to the intricately-choreographed crowd scenes are amazing touches that bring the show to life. It's a grand-scale historical epic, but also an intimate look into the hearts and minds of so many individuals, engaging the audience viscerally with each one.

Ohlone College Amphitheater provides a beautiful outdoor venue

only 20+ minutes from Livermore (even on a Friday night). Two more weeks of performances remain, with shows Thursdays through Saturdays, August 5, 6, 7 and 12, 13, 14, at 8:15 PM.

Valley theatergoers can enjoy a first-rate professional performance at a fraction of SF prices, with tickets at an amazingly low \$20 to \$25, and the parking is free. For tickets and more information, visit www.starstrucktheatre.org or call the box office at 510-659-1319.

Optional: Many familiar local performers appear in the cast and orchestra, including Sarah Reggiardo, Katherine Hall, Charles Platt, Olivia Cantrell, and Skyler Jones.

Directions: from the Valley, use 680 to Fremont's first Mission Blvd. exit, turn left on Mission for one mile, then left on Witherly and up the hill to the amphitheater.

Resounding 'Ring' An Operatic Triumph

By Susan Steinberg

Wagner's epic "Ring" (4 operas with 16 hours of music) condensed into a single performance? A crazy idea, but somehow it works.

David Seaman's 1990 abbreviated "Ring" debuted in Germany and delighted Berkeley Opera audiences in 2004, thanks to Music Director Jonathan Kuhner and Mark Streshinsky. Now Berkeley Opera's Artistic Director, Streshinsky will produce LVO's fall opera here.

A blockbuster 2004 hit, this "Ring" packs a greater punch in El Cerrito's new Performing Arts Theater, where BO's solid Wagner-

ian cast wowed opening night's full house with a dream production. Literally.

Using few props on a bare stage, the show soars into Wagner's imaginative universe courtesy of Projection Designer Jeremy Knight. Computer industry pioneer Knight creates an entirely new theatrical concept, bringing revolutionary visual fantasies to the stage, as Pixar did to the screen.

The Rhine's projected waves exactly mirror Wagner's undulating river motif. Valhalla's majestic grandeur, no plaster prop, becomes an imposingly sited reality, actu-

ally consumed by the final flames of "Götterdämmerung." The Rainbow Bridge must be seen to be believed.

For viewers expecting "authentic" details, be advised: this production, like most new Ring cycles, has no traditional trappings. Rather it is an inspired and inspiring re-creation of a fantasy world, where visual images merge with the lush musical imagery to produce multi-sensory magic.

This die-hard traditionalist was converted by the bold new concept. Missing were familiar set-pieces: the Volsungs' love duet and the Valkyries' Ride. But gone were

some admittedly tedious segments, like the first scenes of "Siegfried." How glorious to experience the saga's full trajectory in one deeply-satisfying performance.

The musical cutting and splicing is nothing short of brilliant, with Jonathan Kuhner's deft honing of surprising transitions producing a completely seamless work. BRAVO!

Masterful interpretations by the cast elevated the evening. Rich-voiced Richard Paul Fink, a great SF Opera Alberich, astounded with his debut performance as a powerful Wotan, and surprised as a credibly craven "Götterdämmerung" Gunther.

Jay Hunter Morris, Met and SFO principal, delivered a stalwart Siegmund, temperamental teenage hieldentenor. Few singers can perform all three Volsungs in one evening and have such strength for a ringing final aria.

Marie Plette made five superb appearances as Woglinde, Freia, Sieglinde, an adorable Forest Bird, and Guttrune, requiring many character (and costume) changes, a magnificent voice, and great stamina. Recipient of many prestigious awards, she is a star roster addition.

Popular bass-baritone Bojan Knezevic was a wonderfully lusty Alberich, with his curse on the ring an outstanding dramatic highlight. Dean Peterson, a regular Met villain, masterfully created three

different menacing figures: Fafner, Hunding, and a chilling Hagen.

Dramatic soprano Christine Springer sang a marathon three Brunnhildes, achieving a strong emotional impact even in shortened segments. Launching into hugely dramatic climaxes is a daunting challenge without the usual preliminary passages, but she made it seem effortless. Her breath-taking awakening and grim vengeance oath were particularly powerful.

An obvious audience favorite, Stephen Rumpf as Loge, proved both a gifted tenor and consummate actor. Facial expressions and physical postures perfectly captured the capricious Fire God, and his Mime was deliciously treacherous.

Valentina Osinski sang beautifully as a sophisticated shrewish Fricka.

Maestro Kuhner, the evening's true hero, conducted his small orchestra in this "chamber re-instrumentation" that clarified and intensified many pivotal musical passages.

Special praise to Director Mark Streshinsky for the entire amazing presentation, a must-see for Wagnerites and newcomers alike.

Only three more performances remain: Wednesday, August 4 (4:30 PM), Friday, August 6 (8PM), and Sunday, August 8 (2PM). For tickets, call 1-800-838-3006 or visit www.berkeleyopera.org.



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'Alice in Wonderland' Gives Back to the Community

Alice in Wonderland is coming to the Bankhead Theater on August 14 and 15. The Livermore Valley Children's Performing Arts School will be performing the classic tale.

The cast includes comical characters such as the door mouse, the Cheshire cat, and of course Alice. The set designs are crafted by Jean-Francois into a confection of visual oohs and aahs that feature the works of world famous artists such as Van Gogh, Erte, Kinkade, Warhol, Escher, and more.

Scene I opens with Alice and characters walking through the pictures at a museum into a Wonderland. Alice is the embodiment of the Artists journey. The show is both entertaining as well as educational. The school has prepared teaching packets for parents, teachers, camps, and child care facilities to use, at no cost. The teaching packet includes a brief description of the artists and their styles, along with an entire Alice in Wonderland A-Z coloring book. The packets may be downloaded at www.smartsunlimited.com/looking-glass/Artists_Info.pdf

Mike Kasin, the shows director, has directed the children on-stage in age appropriate action. Children ages 5-16 perform in 7 shows during a two day period. "Working with seven casts isn't easy, but he met the challenge, and it's going to be a great show" says McQueen, the schools Director.

The actors are allowed to choose their own roles and switch roles in each successive show. Nicole King, a student at Mendenhall Middle School, has been enrolled with the school for 7 years and during that time has performed in over 26 roles in six different shows. "Imagine the performing, and theatrical foundation this child will have when she is 22", says McQueen. Additionally "We are committed to giving children the best possible performance venue we can offer, which is why we use the Bankhead Theater. The Bankhead is a beautiful fly house, which allows us to do more creatively than other local theaters. It has quality, easy access parking and is situated near numerous restaurants for parents and family to enjoy before and after shows."

"We couldn't ask for a better place to perform" added McQueen.

Families bring their children to Livermore every summer from Sunol, Castro Valley, Tracy, Discov-



Campers prepare for their performances in "Alice in Wonderland." Pictured in back are Livermore City Councilmember John Marchand (left) and show director Mike Kasin.

ery Bay, Brentwood, San Ramon, Pleasanton, and Dublin. "We are blessed to have been able to fill this program this summer without any advertising" says McQueen, the programs Director. "In fact the program was 50% enrolled only a few days after we finished last year's production".

Children coming to the Alice production are encouraged to dress in their favorite Wonderland Character outfit. Each child who comes to the show in a Wonderland costume will receive a free treat from one of the shows local sponsors. Participating sponsors include Robeks, Eddie Papa's, Nestle's Toll House Café, and Loard's Ice Cream.

"As part of our mission we believe it is important to help build a strong micro economy in Livermore. We do our best to keep dollars local by supporting

& purchasing from local businesses as much as possible", says McQueen.

"Toward this effort Jean-Francoise has designed our sets using pieces from Livermore Valley Opera's prior productions. We will pay a modest rental fee for those pieces. We in turn rented out one of our pieces from last year's Pirates of Penzance production to the LampLighters upcoming production. We are not only recycling materials already used, but we are also keeping the dollars local."

Another example of this concept is the hot lunch program. Strizzi's and First Street Alehouse combined have made thousands of dollars from our lunch program. This helps bump up their receivables in the dog-days of summer. "In the four weeks we have run this camp we will have worked with more than 25 local Livermore

businesses," adds McQueen.

In addition, the school is working with city staff in hopes of donating a percentage of ticket proceeds to the Horizons Program for at risk youth. "During these tough economic times we all need to hold hands and help one another in any way we can", explains McQueen. The school has developed a fund-raising program which also works on the micro economy principle. There is an on-line auction system for donations. Local families can donate items they no longer need to the school, which are then sold on-line. This includes props, costumes, and theatrical effluvia accumulated over the past few years. Items can be viewed at www.smartsunlimited.com/garagesale/

The performing arts school has responded to the demand for

additional theater programs this year, and has launched four new black box productions, two for youth and two for teens. Last semester's "Secret Life of Girls" demonstrated that there was a need for smaller performance opportunities for teens and youth. The first production this year is "The Giver" for teens and "A Cinderella Christmas" for youth. For more information on these programs go to www.SmARTSunlimited.com or call 925-245-0283.

Tickets for Alice Wonderland are reasonably priced at \$7.00 for children, \$10.00 for seniors and \$15.00 for adults. Shows are approximately one hour long at 1, 3, 6, 8 p.m. on Saturday and 1, 3, 6 p.m. on Sunday. To purchase tickets go to www.LivermorePerformingArts.org or call the Bankhead ticket office at: 925-373-6800.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

of an orphan boy who was mistakenly apprenticed to a pirate instead of a pilot. A hilarious farce featuring sentimental pirates, bumbling policemen, dewy-eyed daughters, and an eccentric Major General, and peppered with unforgettable melodies and tongue-twisting songs such as *I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major General* and *Poor Wandering One, Pirates* is one of the most popular operettas ever written.

Leading Ladies. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, Sept. 23-27. Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors, and \$15 for students, and available at www.dmtonline.org or by phone at (510) 881-6777. Evening performances at 8:00pm and Sunday matinees at 2:00pm. Parental guidance suggested. The Morrisson Theatre is located at 22311 North Third Street in Hayward.

COMEDY

Comedy Uncorked. summer series hosted by Retzlaff Vineyards, benefitting the Open Heart Kitchen. Performances are August 21 and Sept. 18. Shows begin at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. Complete show details and tickets are at www.comedyuncorked.com. Performers include Joe Klocek, Michael Meehan, Norm Goldblatt, Sandy Stec, Johnny Steele, Will Durst, Debi Durst, Michael Bossier, Lynn Ruth Miller, Tim Babb, Will Franken, Anthony Hill, Fred Anderson, Aundre the Wonderwoman. Retzlaff Vineyards is located at 1356 South Livermore Avenue in Livermore. Tickets at www.comedyuncorked.com.

DANCE

Le Tableau Magnifique (LTM), premier Ballet Company with Livermore School of Dance, will present its second annual production, "Ballet in the Park," on Friday, August 6 at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, August 7 at 11:00 a.m. Performances will be held at Robertson Park (near the rodeo grounds) on the grass. Admission is free. For more information about "Ballet in the Park" or Le Tableau Magnifique, please contact Livermore School of Dance at (925) 245-9322 or by e-mail at LTMballet@gmail.com.

Dance classes. Pleasanton Library is offering a series of free ballroom dance classes to be taught by Christopher Li. The classes will be afternoons on August 9 and August 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. Teens through Seniors are welcome. Social ballroom instructor, Christopher Li, was a bronze finalist at the USA Dance National Championships 2010. Drop-ins are welcome. Lemonade and cookies will be served. The program is free and open to all. No registration required. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 925/931-3405.

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

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company will hold auditions for Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* on Sunday, August 8, 2010 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Auditions are open to ages six and older, with teen and adult actors are particularly needed. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard in Pleasanton, Calif. Adults and children interested in auditioning must reserve an audition time slot by calling 415-865-4425. Audition packets

are available at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/arts/civic-arts. This production will have two casts in order to allow more children to participate.

Spelling Bee Auditions, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a hilarious tale of overachievers' angst chronicling the experience of six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. The cast calls for 5 men and 4 women. One man (Douglas Panch) sings ensemble only. August 9th and 10th at 7:30pm and callbacks by invitation only on August 12th. Auditions are held at our dance studio, 315 Wright Bros. Avenue, Livermore. Auditioners are asked to prepare 32 bars of a song in the style of the show. Please bring sheet music; a capella auditions are discouraged. Be prepared to sing your audition piece as a middle school child and as an adult. There will be piano accompaniment. During the dance auditions, the choreographer will go over a few simple steps. Dress prepared to move. Acting auditions will involve reading from the script. Physical age is less important than the ability to portray a middle schooler convincingly. "Spelling Bee" runs at the Bankhead Theater weekends October 22nd - November 7th, 2010. Directed by Carol Hovey. All Roles open/ no pay or AEA. Visit www.trivalleyrep.com for more information.

Cantabella Fall 2010 Registration. Cantabella Children's Chorus has been teaching fine vocal production and music literacy through great choral works to children in grades K-12 since 1992. Cantabella staff are now preparing for the Fall 2010 season and extend an invitation to children who would like to join the Chorus. A new rehearsal venue in Dublin at Resurrection Lutheran Church has been added to the existing Livermore and Pleasanton sites. New singers are invited to email Director Bee Chow, director@cantabella.org or call (925) 292-2663 for information about placement in the training choirs or to arrange an audition for the performing choirs. Classes resume 8/31, 9/1 and 9/2. Please visit www.cantabella.org for more information.

Auditions for William Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing at Las Positas College. August 23 and 24 from 7-9:30 PM in the LPC Center for the Arts. Performances will be November 11-21. Rehearsals are Monday through Thursday from 7-10 PM beginning August 30. For the auditions, bring a short prepared monologue, preferably Shakespearean. Ken Ross will be producer/director. For more information, email kross@laspositascollege.edu.

MOVIES

Movies in the Park, Pleasanton, Thursdays, July 22-August 26, Delucchi Park. Movies begin at dusk. Free. Schedule: July 29: Hotel for Dogs; August 5: Casablanca; August 12: Hairspray; August 19: Star Trek; and August 26: The Princess and the Frog. Information www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

The War on Kids, will be shown Sat., Aug. 7, 7 p.m. Movie Night at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. This film depicts public schools as warehouses where children are taught to be obedient, docile, & powerless; where any infraction, no matter how small is overreacted upon. Schools today are more and more being fashioned after prisons. Welcome to "The War on Kids." This film event is open to the public, potluck at 6:30. Wheelchair & A/C friendly. Film starts at 7ish. There will also be an optional

discussion after the film, for those who wish to participate. For more information, call 925-462-3459.

Summer Cinema at Wente Vineyards, venue opens 6:30 p.m. Twilight, Tuesday, August 17, 2010. 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore. For more information, visit <http://wentevineyards.com/>

Outdoor Movie Night: 7:30 p.m. Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, Friday, August 6. The Blind Side, Friday, August 27. Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Parkway, Dublin. (925) 556-4500.

Outdoor movies, East Bay Regional Park District will screen outdoor movies in various parks. Admission is free. Movies begin shortly after sunset. Be sure to bring a flashlight, clothes to stay warm, snacks, and a blanket or chair for sitting. Each location offers a unique experience. Parking fees do apply. No pets. Rain cancels. August 7, Contra Loma, 1200 Frederickson Lane, Antioch, "Where the Wild Things Are." August 14, Ardenwood, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont: "The Wizard of Oz." August 21, Contra Loma, 1200 Frederickson Lane, Antioch: "Up." August 28: Shadow Cliffs, 2500 Stanley Boulevard, Pleasanton: "Alice in Wonderland." For additional information go to www.ebparks.org

OPERA

Opera San José launches its 27th Anniversary Season with the West Coast premiere of *Anna Karenina*, an American opera by composer David Carlson with libretto by the late Colin Graham. Eight performances are scheduled from September 11 through 26 at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Opera San José will present *Anna Karenina* with a new scene added by the composer following the opera's 2007 world premiere at Florida Grand Opera. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at www.operasj.org. *Anna Karenina* is sponsored by a grant from the Carol Franc Buck Foundation and is made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Alameda Creek Watershed 2010 Photo Contest is taking entries. The contest is sponsored by the Alameda Creek Watershed Council. Visit www.acrcd.org/WatershedCouncil.aspx for more details and to view the complete rules and regulations, or contact Amy Evans at 925-371-0154x112. Deadline for submission: September 15, 2010.

Lake Del Valle scenic boat tour, Del Valle Regional Park, 7000 Del Valle Rd., Livermore. 1-2:30 pm, every Sat & Sun in July & August. Boat tour to the dam. During the presentation learn about the lake, the wildlife, the history, and the many activities available here. Bring a jacket, sunscreen and binoculars if you have them. Purchase tickets at the east-side concession beginning at 6:00 am; age 13 and up/\$5; age 1-12 and Seniors/\$3; under 1 year/free if in parent's arms. All children under 13 (including infants) and all non-swimming adults will be required to wear a provided flotation device. Programs may be cancelled if there are five or fewer participants.

38th annual Competition for Young Musicians, Livermore-Amador Symphony Association competition is open to instrumentalists and vocalists who reside or attend school in Livermore, Sunol, Pleasanton, Dublin, or San Ramon. Students are eligible through grade 12. If not enrolled in high school, the maximum

age is 17. All instruments will be considered. The purpose is to select two young musicians who will perform as soloists with the symphony on Feb. 12, 2011. Each winner/soloist will be awarded \$250. The application deadline is Sun., Oct. 3, 2010. Completed applications must be accompanied by an \$8 application fee and a CD or cassette tape for preliminary screening. Additional information may be obtained by calling the competition chairperson at 447-1947.

Brothels, Bar Rooms, and Bandits, Museum on Main to the year 1890 and celebrate the "wild west" days of Pleasanton. This rip-roaring event will be Saturday, August 7, 2010 from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The Pleasanton Lions Club will be handling the gambling. The museum's bank will be in operation to change your credit cards, checks, and gold dust into gaming chips and liquor tokens. The saloon will host entertainment, Western style, such as dancers, singers, piano players, etc. The museum ladies will be "working women," the men will double as Pinkerton agents. Tickets are \$40 each and include a meal and gaming money. The event is a fundraiser for our Museum On Main. Call 462-2766 for tickets and more information.

Ravenswood Ice Cream Social, Sun., Aug. 8, noon to 4 p.m. Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. No admission charge. Tours of historic site, entertainment including the Pleasanton Community Concert Band.

Ocasio Harvest Wine Train on the Niles Canyon Railway, Sat., Aug. 21, 6pm - 8pm. Guests will enjoy an evening of

wine, music, and food aboard the Niles Canyon Railway for a train journey back in time to an era of opulent travel and service. Sample our newly released '09 Sauvignon Blanc and '08 Reserve Zinfandel, paired with foods, served in the recently restored art deco lounge car that is part of the Golden Gate Railroad Museum's collection. Music of Off The Record, a local acoustic rock, folk, and blues trio. In celebration of the upcoming harvest, we also will take the time to sample some of our past vintages, pouring some long sold-out favorite memories from our library. Tickets can be purchased at Occasio Winery, or by calling (925) 371-1987. The event is \$65 for Occasio Society members and \$75 for non-members, all inclusive. www.occasiowinery.com. 2245 South Vasco Road, Livermore, (925) 371-1987

Ranchers of the Amador-Livermore Valley, Aug. 19, A panel of local ranchers discuss the history and practices of ranching in the Amador-Livermore Valley. An event in the Ed Kinney Lecture Series sponsored by the Museum on Main. At 7:00 p.m. at the Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton, CA. Museum members: \$5, others: \$10. Information: 925-462-2766 or www.museumonmain.org.

Ocasio Winery One Year Anniversary Celebration! Aug. 28 and 29, noon to 5 p.m. Celebrating a wonderful year of gold medals, sold out wines and our fantastic Occasio Society wine club members. Release or new wines - award winning '09 Sauvignon Blanc and the anticipated '08 Reserve Zinfandel. Great food and live **(continued on page 10)**

BANKHEAD THEATER

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre presents the Biblical saga of Joseph and his coat of many colors. Set to an engaging cornucopia of musical styles, from country-western and calypso to bubblegum pop and rock 'n' roll.

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ALICE IN WONDERLAND

The audience will feast on a cornucopia of artistic styles, that expresses the struggle of a child reaching for her own unique identity, presented by Livermore Valley Children's Performing Arts School.

August 14 & 15

Adults \$15, Seniors & College Students \$10, Students \$7

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Lamplighters Music Theatre presents Gilbert & Sullivan's swashbuckling classic - wacky, irreverent, and as entertaining today as it was when it first opened in 1878!

August 27 - 29

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www.bankheadtheater.org

LVPAC Presents On Sale Now!

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

(continued from page 9)

music. Saturday 1:30 – 5:00, bluegrass band Old Tunnel Road. On Sunday, 1:30 – 5:00 gypsy jazz band Gauchó. www.occasiowinery.com. 2245 South Vasco Road, Livermore, (925) 371-1987

Day in the Park, Sun., Aug. 29, fund-raiser for the Taylor Family Foundation and Camp Arroyo. Gift center, live auction, wine tasting, celebrity guests, gourmet foods tasting, music and camp tour. \$175 for individual tickets or \$2000 for table of ten guests. 455-5118 or www.tfff.org

Fourth Annual Wine & Equine benefit for SonRise Equestrian Foundation. Saturday, September 18, 2010, from 1-5 p.m., at the Charles Wilhelm Training Center in Castro Valley. SonRise Equestrian Foundation helps create connections between children and horses. At no charge to the children and their families, the Danville-based nonprofit provides riding and horse care programs to kids ages 8-18 with social, emotional and physical

challenges. Additionally, the beloved miniature horses of SonRise visit younger children at school and those who are terminally ill in hospice settings. The Wine & Equine benefit provides the majority of SonRise Equestrian Foundation's annual income. In addition to the barbecue and desserts provided by Esin Restaurant, the afternoon includes a wine cellar raffle, live and silent auctions, demonstrations and a horse show. Wines from Wente Vineyards and Murrieta's Well and hand-crafted

beers from Drake's Brewing Company. Event sponsors include Murrieta's Well, Wente Vineyards and 95.7 The Wolf radio station. Tickets to the Fourth Annual Wine & Equine event are available for \$75 per person by contacting the nonprofit at 510-838-7433 or sonrise@sonriseequestrianfoundation.org. SonRise is located at the Charles Wilhelm Training Center, 6496 Crow Canyon Road in Castro Valley. For more information, visit www.sonriseequestrianfoundation.org.

Restaurant Partner of the Year Named

The Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association launched a new program, Restaurant Partner of the Year, to recognize restaurants that actively promote and support Livermore Valley wines and wineries.

The 2010 award goes to Zephyr Grill & Bar in downtown Livermore.

Restaurant nominations were received by the public. Zephyr Grill and Bar received the highest scores in the following quantifiable categories: including a wide array of Livermore Valley wines on their menu, participating in many Livermore Valley Wine Country events, hosting numerous winemaker dinners, training staff on Livermore Valley wines, supporting local farmers and local ingredients, and waiving corkage on Livermore Valley wines.

Information and reservations for the Zephyr Grill and Bar can be found at www.zephyrgrill.com/

What Our Readers Are Saying...



On behalf of Valley Humane Society's cat and dogs, I want to thank you for giving us the "Pet of the Week" spot in The Independent. Rusty was featured this week. Rusty has been with us for 4 years. He was very feisty and practically impossible to place until now! He was adopted all because of the article in The Independent. The lady carried around the article for three days, then came in and adopted him. Thank you a million times for allowing us to feature our "Pet of the Week" regularly.

Natalie Giordano

Operations Manager, Valley Humane Society, Pleasanton

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*Subscription is FREE to residents of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and Sunol.

Military



Air Force Airman Julian C. Clark (pictured) graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of Joe and Esther Clark of Livermore. Clark is a 2008 graduate of Granada High School, Livermore.

Army Pvt. Matthew D. Peterson has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the grandson of Shirley Davis of Livermore. The private is a 2009 graduate of Livermore High School.

Education

Eric M. Wood was among those listed on the Angelo State Dean's List for 2010 spring semester. To be eligible, a student must be enrolled full-time and maintain a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Milestones

Community

Fire Fighters, Law Enforcement Personnel Honored by Supervisor Haggerty

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty recognized three fire fighters from the Alameda County Fire Department and two deputies, one retired and one active, from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office as the recipients of the 2010 Fire Fighter and the 2010 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Awards at Haggerty's 14th annual barbecue held at the Fairgrounds in Pleasanton on Saturday.

"I am humbled by the contributions and sacrifices, day in and day out, of our public safety personnel, said Haggerty. "This award is a small, but heartfelt way that I can recognize these people for their work".

Joe Davis of Pleasanton retired from the Alameda County Sheriff's office August 3, 1984 after serving 30 years as deputy sheriff. Davis joined the Sheriff's office at the age of 24 after serving in the Navy during the Korean War. Over the years, he served in various roles including 16 years assigned to the County's Santa Rita jail in Dublin. He worked at every courthouse in the County including serving as civil and criminal Marshall in

charge of the Livermore-Pleasanton courts and at the Fremont Hall of Justice. Davis was the last constable to serve in Alameda County. His record reflects never having taken a single day of sick leave. After his retirement, Davis was active in the Alameda County Retired Deputy Sheriff's Association with key roles organizing activities and events for its members over the years. Appointed by Haggerty, he has served on the County's Advisory Commission on Aging. One of two recipients of the 2010 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, Davis is being recognized for his many years of distinguished service as well as his many contributions to his country and community, his work ethic and unwavering commitment to service.

The second Law Enforcement award recipient, Deputy Derek Pope is a 20-year veteran of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office currently assigned to the Airport Police Services at the Oakland International Airport. On March 21, 2009 Deputy Pope was on patrol when he and his partner responded to the "officer down

call" on that fateful day when two Oakland Police officers were shot during a routine traffic stop in the 74th Avenue and MacArthur Blvd. area in Oakland. Two more Oakland SWAT team officers were killed in the attempt to apprehend the suspected killer. His years of experience with Special Ops in the U.S. Army; with the Sheriff's Office as a firearms instructor and as a member of its Special Response Unit Team, training in SWAT tactics and operations and as a weaponry expert factored into Deputy Pope's methodical actions in evaluating the situation working with the Oakland Police SWAT team. Pope entered this dangerous situation without his SWAT gear, attired only in his regular patrol uniform and Kevlar vest. Deputy Pope is being recognized for his heroic actions in the course of a gun battle that successfully eliminated the continued threat of the suspect armed with a high-powered weapon. Deputy Pope has been recognized by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the National Sheriff's Association for his valor during the call of duty.

The 2010 Fire Fighter of the Year Award recipients from the Alameda County Fire Department are Deputy Fire Chief Demetrios Shaffer, Captain Robert Bodnar, both formerly of the Newark (CA) Fire Department, and Captain John Whiting formerly of the Union City Fire Department. The Newark and Union City Fire Departments recently completed a merger with the Alameda County Fire Department. Deputy Chief Shaffer has moved through the ranks in fire service over the past 25 years starting as a reserve fire fighter with the City of Campbell before moving over to Newark. He was involved in advocacy for regional fire services before the merge and currently oversees fire services for the communities of Newark, Union City, Dublin and the Lawrence Livermore and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories for Alameda County Fire.

Captain Bodnar has been involved in fire service since his teen years as an Explorer in Hayward, becoming an EMT in 1986 for Regional Ambulance before being hired by Newark Fire Department in 1986. Bodnar was promoted to

Captain in 1996 and was recognized as Newark's Fire fighter of the Year in 1996 and again in 2007. Bodnar worked closely with the Newark City Council and management to ensure the merger between Newark and Alameda County Fire Department was adopted and the transition a smooth one.

Captain John Whiting began his fire service in 2000 as fire fighter/paramedic with Union City Fire Department. Prior to Union City Fire, Captain Whiting was a reserve fire fighter with Alameda County and a paramedic with San Joaquin County. In 2008 Whiting was selected as Union City's Fire Fighter of the Year. Deputy Chief Shaffer, Captain Bodnar and Captain Whiting are being recognized for their service to their communities and for their vision and support to deliver service efficiently and effectively to Alameda County communities while preserving fire fighting jobs.

Scott Haggerty represents the First District communities of Fremont, Livermore, Pleasanton, eastern Dublin and east unincorporated areas on the five-member Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Museum on Main to Present Heritage Awards

The Museum on Main Board of Directors announced a new program earlier this year called the Heritage Awards. These awards are designed to recognize excellence in the preservation of the community's history.

The Board felt that recognizing people for their often unsung work done in taking care of and promoting the community history is a central part of the mission. Over the past few months, the Museum solicited nominations from the general public and then reviewed those nominations with history and preservation professionals along with members of the Board of Directors.

This year's recipients will be honored at the Museum's annual fundraiser Brothels, Bar Rooms and Bandits on August 7 at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

The are:

- Historic Preservation-Commercial: Bud Cornett: for significant and lasting contributions to the history of Pleasanton through the renovation and restoration of the Kolln Hardware Building as an extraordinary effort to maintain the historic character of our downtown.

- Historic Preservation-Residential: Teri & John Banholzer for the renovation and the restoration of their home on St. Mary Street

as an outstanding effort in the use of original and replicated historic materials to reconstruct their building to maintain the character of the neighborhood.

- Historic Organization: Alameda County Fairgrounds as it approaches its 100th anniversary for its contributions to the quality of life and by maintaining community traditions.

- Historic Business: Christensen's which has been a part of the downtown Pleasanton landscape since 1923 and done much to keep our community connected to its historic roots as a farming and ranching community.

- History Educator of the Year:

Nicole Dalesio, a 3rd grade teacher at Fairlands Elementary for her innovative work with her students in studying local history and for promoting her love of this community and its history worldwide through her amazing video productions.

- Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award: Bill Apperson for his significant and lasting contributions to the history of Pleasanton and sustaining the important contributions and legacy made by the Apperson and Hearst families in this community.

The Museum On Main is located at 603 Main Street in the heart of historic downtown Pleasanton. Tel: 925-462-2766, fax: 925-462-

2779, or visit the web site at www.museumonmain.org. Regular hours of operation: Wednesday through Saturday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday 1:00pm to 4:00 pm. There is no admission fee, although donations are always accepted and appreciated.

The presentations will be Saturday, August 7, 2010 at the Pleasanton Senior Center during the annual Brothels, Bar Rooms, and Bandits.

Tickets are \$40 each and include a meal and gaming money. The event is a fund-raiser for our Museum On Main. Call 462-2766 for tickets and more information.

