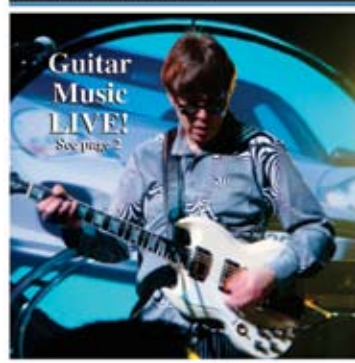


Art, Community, & Education



Don't Miss The Independent's second section.

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

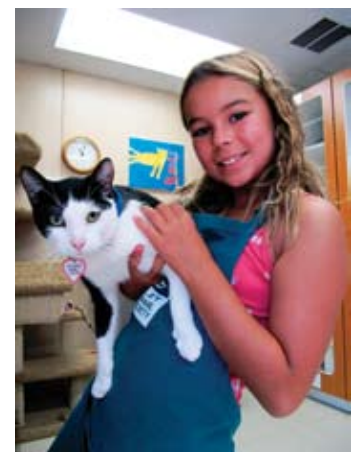
Children's Charity Summit Scheduled

Local children in need and the charities that serve them will meet face-to-face with Tri-Valley business leaders at the first annual Children's Charity Summit on Thursday, October 22, 2009.

Organized by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation, the luncheon event will be hosted by Sybase, Inc. at the company's corporate headquarters in Dublin. Area business leaders, foundation representatives and philanthropic individuals will be invited to attend the Summit to learn how they can help Tri-Valley charitable organizations focused on local, underserved children. Over the past 15 years, the Winegrowers Foundation has raised more than \$3.3 million to benefit local children's charities.

"Sybase is very pleased to host the first Children's Charity Summit that will bring local non-profits together with our corporate neighbors," said Sybase Chairman, CEO and President John Chen. "The need to help underserved children in the Tri-Valley is even greater in these tough economic times. It is important that we come together as a community and support the great work of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Foundation."

Tri-Valley business leaders and philanthropic individuals are encouraged to attend the upcoming Children's Charity Summit to learn more about local charitable children's programs that have been screened, qualified and audited by the Winegrowers Foundation. For more information about the Summit or the Winegrowers Foundation, please call 925-447-9463.



PET OF THE WEEK (and friend)

Critter Camper Emily Carroll from Pleasanton holds Oliver, a playful and affectionate cat looking for a new home. During the month of August, Critter Campers descend on Valley Humane Society to learn all about what it takes to be a responsible pet owner. Campers also visit a horse ranch, a vet clinic, and other animal groups. To learn more about Critter Camp and Oliver, visit Valley Humane Society at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, open Tues-Sat from 11AM to 5PM. More information at the website www.valleyhumane.org or call 925-426-8656.

Mobile Home Park Conversion Rejected

The owner of the Vineyard Villa Mobile Home Park in Pleasanton will not be allowed to convert the property to residential ownership.

The city council voted unanimously to reject an appeal by the owner of a decision by the Planning Commission to deny the application.

In making the decision, the council felt there were too many uncertainties in the proposal. The biggest issue with residents of the park and the city council was the

fact that the conversion would not take place for ten years. The councilmembers argued there was no way to be able to predict what the future costs might be for the land.

The 208-unit park is located on Vineyard Avenue. The units are owned by the residents, the land by the park. Residents pay rent for the use of the land. Pleasanton has designated it as a senior park. Rent is controlled by the city.

The owner wants to be able to

sell the land on which the units sit to the owners of the units. The application includes a provision that those who do not wish to purchase land, would be able to continue to rent. Any resident would be able to remain at the park indefinitely. Lower income residents would have rents regulated. However, others would see their rent increase to full market value over a five year period.

A survey sent to residents showed that 118 of the 139 who responded were opposed to the

conversion.

City staff had recommended that the city council uphold the appeal and allow the conversion to move forward. City attorney Michael Roush told the council that state law allows for the conversion. The owner had complied with the letter of the law. Local government can only determine if the applicant had complied with the requirements of the law.

City Councilmember Jerry Thorne called the law another example "of the state sticking

its nose in local land use where it doesn't belong. This council is not going to be intimidated by the threat of lawsuits."

He noted that he made decisions based on what is in the best interest of the greatest number of people. "I don't feel deciding what will take place ten years from now is in the best interest."

Councilmember Cindy McGovern said she had read all of the surveys. "There are clear reasons why people are worried."

(See MOBILE HOME, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Corral fire that had burned on the Altamont between Tracy and Livermore since last Thursday was fully contained Sunday. The fire burnt 12,500 acres of grasslands. No structures were damaged by the blaze. The fire started near the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area. About 350 firefighters from CalFire, Alameda County, Moraga-Orinda, Tracy, Pinole, Ripon, Hayward, Livermore-Pleasanton, Fremont, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, East Bay Regional Parks and other fire departments responded to the fire. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined. More photos on page 8.

Film Festival Is Leaving Livermore For Orinda

By Ron McNicoll

After eight years in Livermore, the California Independent Film Festival (CIFF) will move to Orinda in April.

CIFF president and founder Derek Zemrak said that the current difficult economic period has had its impact on CIFF, as it has on other non-profit organizations.

He said that CIFF has been offered a better financial deal in Orinda from sponsors there. He would not divulge details of the deal. The movies will be shown in the three-screen Orinda Theatre. There will also be events in a 150-seat room at the nearby Orinda library.

Orinda has a very active group interested in independent film, and worked hard to get the festival to change locations, according to Zemrak. It also helps marketing, because Orinda is close to San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley.

A press release from Leonard Pirkle, president of the CIFF executive board, said that the board "wishes to thank everyone associated during the last eight years for their hard work, dedication and commitment to bringing the festival to life each year."

Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena said that the city supported CIFF strongly. "Orinda

(See FESTIVAL, page 3)

Livermore Election Cancelled; Incumbents Appointed

Incumbents were appointed to office during a Livermore City Council meeting on Monday. They were the only qualified candidates who filed for the Nov. 3 municipal election.

The council had three choices. One was to appoint the three qualified candidates to office, appoint any eligible person if no one were nominated, or hold the election.

The vote to appoint the three was unanimous. (Kamena was absent from the meeting, due to illness.) The council also voted to cancel the Nov. 3 election.

Mayor Marshall Kamena will

be serving his final two year term according to term limits passed by the voters. Councilmembers John Marchand and Doug Horner, their final four year terms.

(See ELECTION, page 9)

Fund Drive Brings \$463,000 To Pleasanton Schools

By Ron McNicoll

The grass-roots fund-raising drive to help the Pleasanton school district restore programs raised approximately \$463,000.

The cut-off date was Aug. 15, which enabled school board members, who met on Aug. 18, to fund some of the programs they cut in June for the 2009-10 budget. The timing will enable the district to hire back teachers, reading specialists and counselors quickly. School will be back in session next week.

Superintendent John Casey and staff made recommendations to the board about how to allocate the money. In doing so, Casey said he tried to stay as close as possible to restoring the programs that were earmarked by some of the donors. Other money

was not specifically allocated by contributors.

Casey recommended that \$90,000 go toward restoring 10 sections of the strings program and 10 sections of band. Another \$201,000 will bring 2.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for class-size reduction and reading support.

Another \$48,000 is assigned for 0.6 FTE of a high school counseling position, and \$105,000 for 1.5 FTE's for elementary school counseling. There would also be \$15,000 for general, outside counseling.

Another \$2600 was earmarked by donors for the Visual and Performing Arts program, but was insufficient to fund a position. The two fund-raising lead orga-

(See DRIVE, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Watching the work get underway are (from left) Jacquie Williams Courtright, John Ertel, Victor Ruesga of Vision Scapes, and Susan Ballinger.

Contest Winner Will Farm the Front Yard

By Ron McNicoll

John Ertel won't be mowing a front lawn anymore. He will just go out to the front yard, and pick fresh produce for his dinner.

For a resident of Livermore, or any city, that's a little unusual,

because most folks like to put a beauty patch of lush green grass, or ornamental shrubs and flowers, in front of their houses.

Ertel won a contest. The prize is a totally new landscape that will include fruit trees, grapes,

berries and a collection of vegetables. He will pay nothing for it, thanks to a raft of firms that are donating the materials for walkways, raised planting beds of brick, soil irrigation, and tree

(See EDIBLE, page 12)

Inside

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Montana is a charming little girl, about a year old, and is on the small side. Her markings are actually a very dark brown. Montana loves to play. She is a particularly good basketball player—she's able to put her toy into the water bowl every time! Playful and spunky, she is good about letting people pick her up. To meet Montana, attend the rabbit adoption event at the Dublin S.P.C.A. on Saturday, Sept 5th from 11 am - 4 pm. Located at 4651 Gleason Dr. in Dublin. Go to www.eastbayspca.org for directions. Or call 925-479-9670.

VALLEY ROUNDUP

Police Decoy Operation

The Pleasanton Police Department's Youth and Community Services Unit conducted an underage alcohol sales decoy operation last Thursday.

The decoy operation uses individuals who are under the age of 20 in an attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages at ABC licensed retail businesses. The purpose of the program is to ensure businesses are complying with the law.

Officers and the decoys visited 21 establishments including liquor stores, grocery stores and convenience stores. Of the 21, employees in fifteen properly asked for identification. Six businesses sold alcoholic beverages to the decoys. The six businesses cited were: Express Liquors on First St., Family Deli & Food on Old Santa Rita Rd., Food & Beverage on Stoneridge Dr., Vista Bottle Shop on W. Las Positas Blvd., Santa Rita Chevron on Santa Rita Rd., and Raley's Supermarket on Sunol Blvd.

The individual clerks who conducted the sales were cited and reports forwarded to the Pleasanton Courthouse and the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for additional action on the businesses liquor licenses.

Coffee with Cops

The Livermore Police Department will be hosting a "Coffee with the Cops" this Sat., Aug. 22 at Starbucks, 883 Airway Blvd., Livermore.

Representatives from the police department will be available. The program allows residents

get to know the police and able to ask officers questions in the casual atmosphere.

The session is from 9 to 11 a.m.

Oak Grove Rehearing Denied

Earlier this month, the attorneys for Oak Grove developers Jennifer and Frederic Lin asked the Court of Appeal for a rehearing.

The court had ruled against the Lins in July. On Aug. 11, the court denied the request for the rehearing.

At the center of the legal wrangle is the plan to build Oak Grove, a 51 custom homes in Pleasanton's southeast hills.

The Court of Appeal had reversed a ruling in Superior Court that agreed with the Lins contention that citizens conducting a referendum of Oak Grove had failed to carry the proper paperwork.

The Lins can ask the California Supreme Court to review the Court of Appeal's decision. If the Supreme Court determines not to review the decision, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters would certify the referendum. The matter would then go to the Pleasanton City Council, which could decide to adopt the referendum or place it on the ballot.

The vote, if it goes to the ballot, would likely take place next spring as part of the California primary.

County Expected To Offset Williamson Revenue Loss

Alameda County will lose \$106,000 in state subventions that make up for lost tax revenue from agricultural lands that are in the assessment protection of the Williamson Act.

Statewide, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has cut \$27 million in the subvention fund, leaving only \$100,000 in it for the state. That is a big blow to rural counties, which have relatively low population, a small general fund, and a large amount of agricultural land being protected by the lower assessments of the Williamson Act.

However, in Alameda County, that \$106,000 loss is not significant, said county assistant planning director Liz McElligott. The county is willing to make up for it from its own general fund.

By doing so, the county will avoid having to give notice to any landowner that the Williamson Act protection would go away.

The Williamson Act, passed in 1965, allows assessment of agricultural land as agriculture. Without that protection assessors would assess it at a higher rate, taking into account its urban development potential. It's a sort of Proposition 13 for ranchers and farmers.

Landowners sign a contract that is good for 10 years. It automatically renews each year, so there is always a 10-year window of protection.

If a landowner or a county wants to end the contract, notice is given. The protection goes away totally 10 years later. The assessment rises each year along that timeline until the 10th year, when it hits full market appraisal. The landowner can cancel the contract sooner than 10 years, but must pay a higher tax.

This year, agricultural counties could be looking at giving notice themselves in order to collect more tax money out of landowners. It's a tough bind for rural counties, because their lower population means they have smaller general funds. However, Williamson Act contracts could total as much as \$5 million in Sierra County, for example, said Altamont rancher Darrell Sweet. That amount makes a big impact on the county budget, he said.

The Williamson Act has gone a long way in preserving the state's agriculture, said Sweet.

FESTIVAL

(continued from page one)

had to make a pretty astounding offer to top Livermore. The community supplied the programs, the advertising, and the headquarters from which they could operate," said Kamena.

The city council approved a \$4000 expenditure for next year's film festival, from a community block grant allocation. That will go away, now that the festival is relocating, said Kamena.

Vice-mayor John Marchand said that since he got on the council in 2005, the city had appropriated a total of \$22,000.

"It was quite a shock to find that they were going away. I'm sorry to see them go. I thought we had great rapport, and it was mutually beneficial," said Marchand.

If the CIFF wanted to grow toward big league status, as film festivals go, then Livermore would have been a good location, said Kamena. With the prospect of the 2000-seat regional theater "coming in soon, it would have given them the chance to go up a whole bunch of notches," he said.

Kamena cited a 1500-seat theater in Thousand Oaks, which has been able to book big names, such as President Clinton and

Dan Rather. Their counterpart in big movie stars might have been booked to the new regional theater, and boosted the CIFF further, he said.

Something will be lost for Livermore, too, said Kamena. The festival brought people to wine country, especially in the event's early years, when some of the screenings were held at the wineries, which offered an ambience that was a good fit for the motion picture arts.

Livermore also had a star-struck close look at celebrities who were recipients of lifetime achievement awards. They included Tony Curtis, Cloris Leachman, Robert Morse, and Rita Moreno.

The festival reached out to children, too. There was a special Saturday program for them. Kamena recalled that some young people, including an entire class at the Livermore Valley Charter School, took part in the Iron Man film contest. They had to write and produce a short film in 24 hours.

The community was so open to the festival that it produced 80 volunteers, who stepped forward to do all the detail work that any

big festival entails.

The festival began in the Hilton Hotel in Pleasanton 11 years ago in a screening room, said Zemrak. It shifted to Walnut Creek, and then Berkeley over the next two years, before finally alighting in Livermore.

CIFF will have a 750-seat house in the Orinda Theatre, and also smaller rooms seating 150 and 40. Zemrak said that things have been ebbing in the film festival business. Only about one-fourth of the earlier number of independent films have been receiving financial backing during the recession, he said.

With Livermore's Vine Cinema switch to an art and independent film house, CIFF hopes to maintain contact there by informing the owners of new independent films.

The CIFF's first event at the Orinda Theatre will be on Sept. 18 for a fund-raiser showing of Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds," which stars Tipi Hedren.

The actress will make an appearance, and be interviewed on stage at the screening. The festival itself is slated for Orinda from April 22 to 25.

STAR Scores Help School Districts to Focus Learning

By Ron McNicoll

Livermore, Pleasanton, and the Livermore charter school reported fairly high-ranging scores on the STAR tests results, which were released Aug. 18.

Myla Grasso, spokesperson for the Pleasanton school district, said that teachers there will be looking at the results in the next few days, as they attend teachers workshops, preparatory to the start of school next week.

"We are very pleased with the results. They were very strong. Some were historic highs in some areas," said Grasso.

Representatives of other school districts were not available before the Independent's deadline.

The STAR test shows districts the results for each student. That enables principals and teachers to discover what help each student might need to attain proficiency or above at grade level in a subject.

Students' test results fall into one of five categories. They are advanced, proficient, basic, below basic, and far below basic.

Grasso said that the Pleasanton district identifies students at basic or lower levels as being in need of academic help to come up to grade-level standards.

In Pleasanton, students scoring advanced or proficient in English Language Arts (ELA) ranged from a low of 73 percent in the 11th grade to 92 percent in the 4th grade. In elementary school math, which includes grades 2 through 7, the low was 78 percent for 7th graders to 90 percent for both 4th and 5th-graders.

High school students were given a variety of tests, such as geometry, algebra II and general math. They also were tested in history, physics, chemistry, and biology. Results are available on the state education department's web page, www.cde.ca.gov.

In Livermore, the ELA percentages of advanced and proficient students ranged from 56 percent in 11th grade to 76 percent in the 4th grade. In elementary school math, the low was 52 percent in both the 6th and 7th grades, and the high was 78 percent in the 3rd grade.

At the Livermore charter school, which has eight grades, the ELA percentages ran from 60 percent in 8th grade to a high of 86 percent in 4th grade. In the elementary math category, the lowest percentage was 39 percent in 8th grade and the highest was 91 percent in the 4th grade.

In the fall, the state will release the Academic Performance Index (API), which will rank schools and districts in relation to similar schools and districts in the state. Also, results for proficiency about goals set by No Child Left Behind Act will be released then.



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10th Candidates to Debate

The Alameda County Republican Party invites members of the public to attend the 10th Congressional District All Party Debate. The debate is scheduled for Friday, August 28, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Las Positas College located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Little Theater Bldg. 800 in Livermore.

There are fourteen candidates representing five major political Parties on the September 1st ballot. The purpose of the election is to selection a candidate to replace Ellen Tauscher, who resigned her seat to become the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

The debate will be moderated by Bill Gram-Reefer of Halfway to Concord who will be joined by several representatives from various local political Parties including, but not limited to the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, the American Independent Party, the Peace & Freedom Party and the Libertarian Party.

To date, twelve of the fourteen candidates have committed to attend the CD-10 All Party Debate: Republicans - Chris Bunch, Gary W. Clift, Mark Loos, David Peterson and John Toth; Democrats - Joan Buchanan, Mark Desaulnier, Adrial Hampton and Anthony Woods; American Independent - Jerome "Jerry" Denham; Peace & Freedom - Mary C. McIlroy; and Green - Jeremy Cloward

Members of the public are welcome to submit questions for the candidates to be asked dur-

ing the debate by going to CD-10Debate@gmail.com or over the CD-10 All Party Debate Facebook group Discussion Board at: CD 10 Debate Facebook Group

Those who submit questions should include name, the city and which candidate(s) to whom the question is directed.

The CD-10 All Party Debate is free and open to the public. There will be a \$2 charge for parking payable to the college. Seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Harmer endorsements: Republican David Harmer announced his endorsement by Sue Severson, Mayor of Orinda. David Harmer has already raised \$250,000 toward the September 1st special election in a district where Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger captured 56% of the vote against Democrat Phil Angelides.

Harmer has been endorsed by Mike Reagan—a Solano County Supervisor, former Congressional and State Senate staff member, and retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel.

Garamendi endorsements: Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi has received the endorsement of the Sierra Club Bay Area Chapter in the 10th Congressional District special primary election.

Garamendi has received the endorsement of the United Auto Workers.

The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace

and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) is one of the largest and most diverse unions in North America, with members in virtually every sector of the economy.

DeSaulnier endorsements: The Sierra Club announced its endorsement of Senator Mark DeSaulnier for Congress in the 10th Congressional District. In addition to the Sierra Club endorsement, Mark DeSaulnier received the sole endorsement of the California League of Conservation Voters in June. According to a press release, he is the only candidate in the congressional race with the endorsement of the two most prominent environmental organizations in the state.

The Chinese American Political Association (CAPA) has endorsed Democrat Mark DeSaulnier for Congress. CAPA joins a list of local organizations in support of DeSaulnier for Congress, including the El Cerrito Democratic Club, and East County Democrats for Action.

The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 1111 has endorsed DeSaulnier for Congress. The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 1111 joins a long list of local labor organizations in support of DeSaulnier for Congress, including the Contra Costa Central Labor Council, the Alameda Central Labor Council, and the Contra Costa Building and Construction Trades Council.

Taste of Downtown: a Sold-Out Success

On August 8th & 9th, thousands of shoppers, diners, sippers and horse-lovers flocked to downtown Livermore. Guests tasted Livermore Valley Wines inside at shopping locations, culinary delights from restaurants and took advantage of shopping specials, horse-drawn carriage rides.

Attendees were asked to vote for their favorites. Almost all participants received votes. However, the winners are as follows:

Best Winery
1st Place – Wood Family Vineyards
2nd Place – Big White House
3rd Place – John Christopher Cellars

Best Food Taste
1st Place - El Charro Taqueria
2nd Place – Simply Fondue
3rd Place – The Carvery at Harry's Hofbrau

Best Dessert Taste
1st Place – Tiffane's: A Cupcake & Cookie Boutique
2nd Place – Candy Bouquet & Live-for-more Fudge
3rd Place – Simply Fondue

Best Food Presentation
1st Place – Simply Fondue
2nd Place – El Charro Taqueria
3rd Place – SanSar Indian Cuisine

Favorite Shopping Location
1st Place – Main Street Designs
2nd Place – Woopsiedaisy Toy Shop
3rd Place – TIED August Tea Room, Brown Eyed Girl Beauty, and OrgHipChick

Passport Grand Prize Winner "Elvis" Bob Barton

For more information on

upcoming events in downtown Livermore and how to get involved, call 925-373-1795 or send an email to the following: lms@Livermoredowntown.com.

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REPORT to the Public

MEASURE B:

In November 2000, Alameda County voters approved Measure B, which extended the County's half-cent transportation sales tax to 2022 and set forth a 20-year Expenditure Plan for use of the resultant revenues. Responsibility for managing Measure B funds rests with the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), made up of 11 elected officials from within Alameda County.

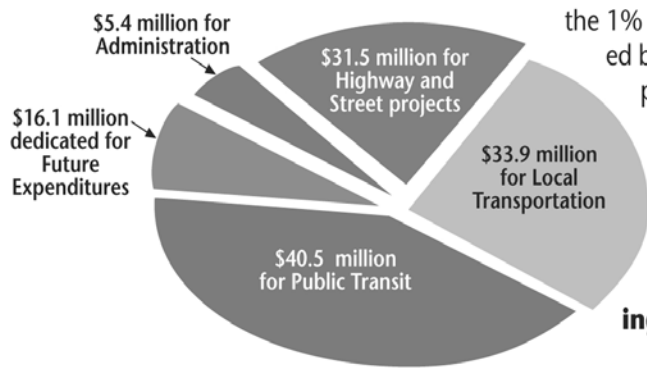
Measure B also established a Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) to monitor all ACTIA expenditures on projects, programs and administration for compliance with the Expenditure Plan, including timely delivery of projects. The CWC reports its findings annually to the public. This seventh annual report covers ACTIA expenditures during the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2008, and CWC actions since July 1, 2008.

ATA-GLANCE

Total revenues for Fiscal Year 2007/2008 were \$127.4 million. Audited expenditures for the year ending June 30, 2008, totaled \$111.3 million. The continuing economic decline, which began in late 2008, is resulting in lower revenues and will have a significant effect on projects and programs. The CWC will continue to watch this situation.

CWC members met with ACTIA's auditors and reviewed Measure B's Audited Statement of Revenues and Expenditures under Measure B for July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. **The CWC accepts the independent auditor's unqualified opinion that no accounting concerns were identified.** In addition, CWC reviewed the separate audit of the 4.5% administrative cost ceiling and the 1% administrative staff cost cap mandated by Measure B and finds ACTIA in compliance.

Lastly, CWC reviewed the independent compliance audits of all jurisdictions receiving Measure B funds. **The CWC commends these partner agencies for passing their compliance audits.**



More information on the following is available on our website:

www.actia2022.com

- FISCAL YEAR 07/08 PROGRAM SUMMARY
- PROGRAMS SUMMARY
- CAPITAL PROJECTS STATUS BY PHASE
- PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT
- PROJECTS GRANTED EXTENSIONS
- GUARDING YOUR INVESTMENT
- CWC MEMBERS
- A CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- FURTHER INFORMATION

CWC ACTIVITIES

The CWC regularly reviews projects and programs to monitor conformance with the Expenditure Plan approved by the voters, and meets annually with ACTIA's independent auditors to review their auditing processes. CWC also has the authority to request additional specific information to verify the accuracy of the financial statements through special ad hoc committee meetings. No ad hoc committees met during the past year.

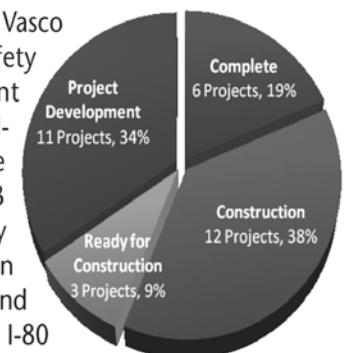
ACTIA has taken special action in the past to stabilize funding for programs for seniors and disabled and has done so this year due to the steep decline in Measure B revenues. The CWC will continue to watch the effect of reduced funding on services and will provide input on ACTIA actions to address service and operational cuts, particularly to the most vulnerable in our communities.

ACTIA PROGRAMS

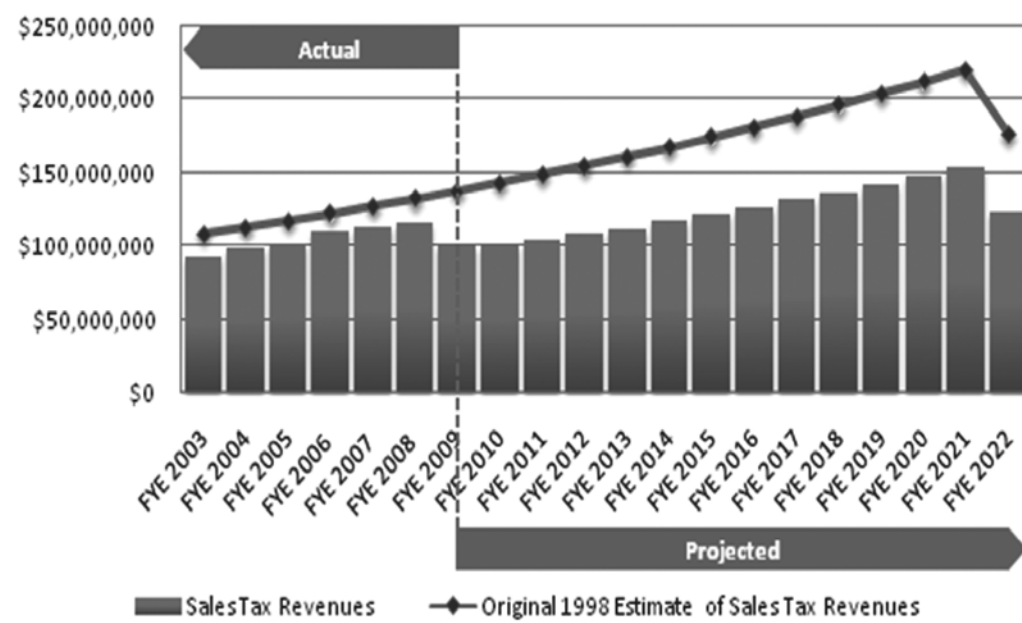
Measure B funds, net of administrative costs, are separated into two broad streams: approximately 60% funds programs, distributed to local jurisdictions primarily on a formula basis and through competitive grants, and 40% funds capital projects designated in the Expenditure Plan.

ACTIA PROJECTS

The voters approved 26 capital projects throughout the County for infrastructure improvements such as BART and rail extensions, highway expansions, local streets and roads, intermodal and other local projects. In 2003, the ACTIA Board added the Vasco Road Safety Improvement Project funded from the Measure B Emergency Congestion Relief Fund and in 2008 the I-80 Integrated Corridor Management Project, resulting in 28 Projects that the CWC monitors.



PROSPECTS & CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE



Measure B Sales Tax Revenues: Estimate versus Actual and Future Projected

ACTIA administers funds for both capital project and program expenditures. This chart indicates actual revenues received from Measure B through 2008/2009 and updated projections (vertical bars) and the original projected amounts (top line) when voters approved the sales tax in 2000 (in 1998 dollars). **The result of lower than anticipated revenues will be a cumulative loss of more than \$839 million during the life of the Measure, or the equivalent of approximately four years of revenues.**

some Measure B projects and programs. CWC will continue to watch the effect of the state funding challenges on delivery of projects and programs.

Over the past year, many ACTIA capital projects were fortunate to receive State bond funds and one received federal economic stimulus funds, thereby maintaining the delivery of the projects and allowing many of them to go to construction in 2009. Five projects failed to meet the original full funding or environmental clearance deadlines and received ACTIA Board approved extensions.

KEEPING WATCH

The CWC routinely receives updates on the progress of project and program implementation, and monitors delivery, particularly in relation to deadlines and requirements detailed in the voter approved Expenditure Plan.

CWC has kept watch on all projects, programs and administrative costs over the past year and focused special attention on the following. See Table 1 below.

ACTIA Project Construction Start Timeline as of Summer 2009

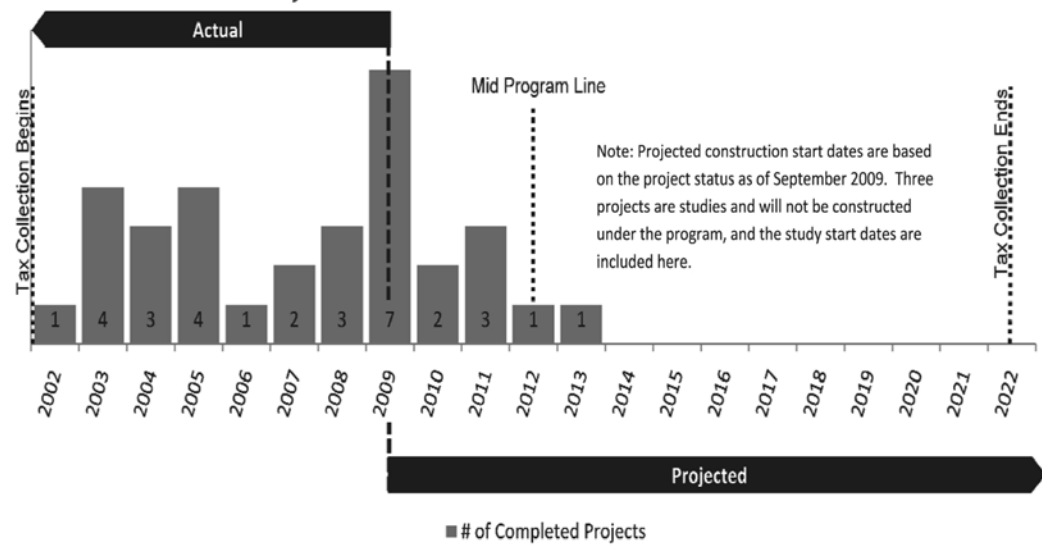


Table 1: Keeping Watch

Project No.	Project Name	Board Approved Extension		Current Project Cost (\$ Millions)	Total Current Committed Funding (\$ Millions)	Original Measure B Expenditure Plan Commitment in 1997-98 (\$ Millions)	Escalated Measure B Commitment in 2008-09 (\$ Millions)	Funding Uncertainty (\$ Millions)	Percentage of Funding Uncertainty to Current Project Cost (%)
		Environmental Clearance Deadline	Full Funding Deadline						
3	BART Oakland Airport Connector Project	Completed 2007	3/31/2010	\$499.0	\$499.0	\$65.8	\$89.1	\$0.0	0%
7A	Telegraph Avenue Corridor Bus Rapid Transit	3/30/2012	—	\$234.5	\$159.5	\$8.7	\$10.4	\$75.0	32%
15	Route 92/Clawiter-Whitesell I/C and Reliever Route,	3/31/2010	—	\$25.1	\$25.1	\$19.5	\$27.0	\$0.0	0%
25	Dumbarton Corridor Improvements	3/31/2011	3/31/2011	\$596.5	\$301.3	\$14.7	\$19.4	\$295.2	49%
26	I-580 Corridor/BART Livermore Extension Studies (1)	N/A	N/A	TBD	\$11.8	\$8.7	\$11.8	TBD	TBD

Notes: (1) This project is a study only and therefore environmental and full funding deadlines do not apply.

ACTIA
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MAILBOX

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

Health Care Reform Andrew D. Blidy Pleasanton

Health care synergies are the debated words in our country today, which identifies the meaning for which it stands for, universal affordable health care for all American citizens. Since the health care synergy is unknown to the public, it is not at all surprising that health care synergy has not been included in the economic accounting of our wealth transactions or in assessing our common wealth capabilities. The synergetic aspect of health care industry's doing ever more work with ever less investment of time and energy per each unit of performance of each and every function of the health care workers and health care suppliers has never been formally accounted as a capital gain of our society. The health care synergistic effectiveness of a world-around integrated health care process is inherently vastly greater than the confined synergistic effect of sovereignly operating separate systems.

Fear and unknown have entered the dialogue of the debate regarding the health care system. The citizens of this republic should focus on the three major issues of health care reform: cost of catastrophic medicine for an individual that leads to most bankruptcies in this country, denial of coverage for pre-existing conditions and insurance rationing to the detriment of the patient's health caused by under insured or no insurance at all. We all pay for the hidden costs in the long run. Because our health care is continually multiplying in vast degrees unbeknownst and unacknowledged formally by human society, our economic accounting systems are unrealistically identifying health care only as matter and are entering know-how on the books only as salary liabilities and procedures to charge for and not for the total well being of the patient. Therefore, all that we are discovering mutually here regarding the true nature of health care system in the United States comes as a complete surprise to world society to most Americans.

Both social cooperation and individual enterprise interact to produce increasing patient focused care, which is usually avoided due to a separate operating system. No value is given for the inventiveness or for the synergistic health care technology value given by one product to another by virtue of how they complement as team components whose teamwork produces results of enormous advantage.

Simply saying "United we stand, divided we fall. Let us not split into factions that must destroy that union upon which our existence hangs"—Patrick Henry and "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself"—FDR. I urge you to contact your congressional representative, Jerry McNerney and both Senators Boxer and Feinstein to support progressive health care reform.

Health Care Susan M. Mayall Livermore

When we first came to America in 1962, I was amazed to discover that payment for health care was the same as it had been in England in the 1930s, where my young aunt had been bankrupted by her husband's long struggle with cancer. My widowed mother died of cancer in England in 1959, but her excellent treatment had been covered by the new National Health Service, and my siblings and I were not left penniless.

I assumed that in a short time a similar system would be introduced here, but I underestimated American mistrust of government, and the power of vested interests. As every other industrialized country began to provide for the health of all its citizens America remained in the past. And every time there was an attempt to reform the system the scare-mongering began, a great chorus of misinformation about the evils of "socialized medicine."

I think of my mother-in-law in England, who had two hips replaced in her eighties. I think of my sister in Denmark, terminally ill with brain cancer, visited in her home by a speech therapist so that she would be able to talk

a little longer with her children. I think of a young Dutch friend, relaxing at home with her first baby while a free home help cleaned and cooked for five days. I think of my own experience in Canada, where on a recent trip to Quebec City I was taken ill with a systemic Strep A infection. I spent four nights in the hospital, had CT scans, X-rays, intravenous antibiotics, warm, attentive care from four doctors and a wonderful staff. There was no question of rationing, and the bill was less than half of what it would have been here.

No system is perfect, but there is much good to be found elsewhere. Surely, in this huge, still wealthy country, we can have the courage and determination to produce something that is even better than those found abroad. We owe it to our children, not just the presently uninsured, but all of those with chronic conditions, all those stuck in a job for fear of losing their health insurance, all those financially unable to pay ever increasing premiums. I no longer believe a "single payer" system is possible here, but the so called "public option" would at least form a counterbalance to the power of the insurance companies.

Let's make a start!

No Democrat Robert Ramos Livermore

If you care about your family's health insurance, you'll want to vote for anyone but a Democrat for Congress in the September 1 special election. The Democrats are pushing government run healthcare. If you work at, or are retired from Sandia or Lawrence Livermore Labs, you must know that the contractor will eliminate their healthcare expense by putting you on government run healthcare and in turn make the DOE happy. You can bet that other private businesses and union healthcare programs will be doing the same thing to save money. This massive movement of people into government run healthcare will mean three things, your healthcare will be rationed, your taxes will go up, and the government will go further into debt, devaluing your dollar. If you don't want this, don't vote for a Democrat!

Thank You Gino VanGundy An Open Letter to the People of Livermore

The older I get, the more I am able to reflect on the gifts that I have been blessed with throughout my life. I'm sure this happens to most of us as we age but for me, it is the things that many of us take for granted that I am so appreciative of.

Most of us grow up with friends, parents, homes, and are members of communities. I wasn't quite that fortunate. I grew up in the state's foster care system. By the time I moved to Livermore in 1982 I had been in more than 20 different placements. I was 12 years old 1982 and I had no idea how much the people of Livermore would change my life.

Last Saturday night the Class of 1989 from Livermore High School celebrated its 20th reunion. Despite the fact that I did not graduate from Livermore High, I felt drawn to attend this reunion. I had gone to East Avenue Middle School with most of the people that had graduated from LHS in 1989 but my foster mother had decided that I should go to Granada High after I left East Avenue. Although I was not very happy about her decision to make me change schools, in retrospect, I can say that it was a wise choice. I thrived at Granada High and made friendships that endure to this day. But I never forgot my friends from East Avenue.

I was very nervous about attending the LHS reunion. I had no idea what to expect. Thanks to Facebook I had been in contact with several of my former classmates well in advance of the event but I found myself filled with anxiety and apprehension. My home life during the time I was at East Avenue was hell. My foster parents were not in a happy marriage and she was horrifically abusive; both psychologically and physically. Attending a reunion with all of the people I had gone to East Avenue with had the potential of bringing back some pretty terrible memories for me. It did help A LOT that I was riding in the cab to the event with two of my good friends from back then. They were a little nervous too but I sensed that my anxiety was for another reason. I just couldn't put my finger on it.

We arrived about thirty min-

utes after the event had started so we were some of the last people there. There were still a few names badges left over and we each found ours. The event organizers had been thoughtful enough to add senior portraits to each name badge but since I did not graduate with them I expected that mine would only have my name on it - which of course made me more nervous. As I was handed my badge I found myself staring back at the 8th grade version of myself. That's when it hit me - when I realized where all of my anxiety was coming from. This was so much more for me than a "school" reunion. For me, this night was a celebration of firsts. For most of us having friends, going to sleepovers or even being on a sports team, were normal things that were part of growing up. Things that now, as parents, we cherish being able to provide for our children. But for me, until I entered East

Avenue Middle School in 1982 I had never lived anywhere long enough to actually make friends. I had been abused, tormented, and tortured so much that I was weary of people in general. None of that mattered to the kids at East Avenue. They immediately embraced me as one of them and as I stepped into the reunion on Saturday night I was nearly knocked off my feet at the power that has had on my life. I looked around and there they all were: My first best friend, James. My first kiss, Wendy (although she doesn't remember it). My first crush, Nikki (who had ridden in the cab with me). My first party invitation: Noel, and this is how the night went on. My fears of not being remembered were very quickly washed away as person by person and hug by hug I was reminded of the power these people, this community, had on my life. I simply would not be the man that I am today had it

not been for the stability, the normalcy, I was given by all of you. There were a few times that I was able to share what I was feeling with people and nearly every time my eyes welled with tears. If you were there - and you saw tears in my eyes - now you know why. They were tears of joy and gratitude.

For a kid that had no one and came from nothing, the simple life experiences of having a best friend, being invited to parties /sleepovers, or just being a member of team were the things that made me realize that I actually mattered in the world. As a result I began to understand the power that a strong community has on a child. Each and every one of those kids from East Avenue (and their parents) impacted my life with so much force that my life changed course. Words will never be able to express the gratitude I feel in my heart.

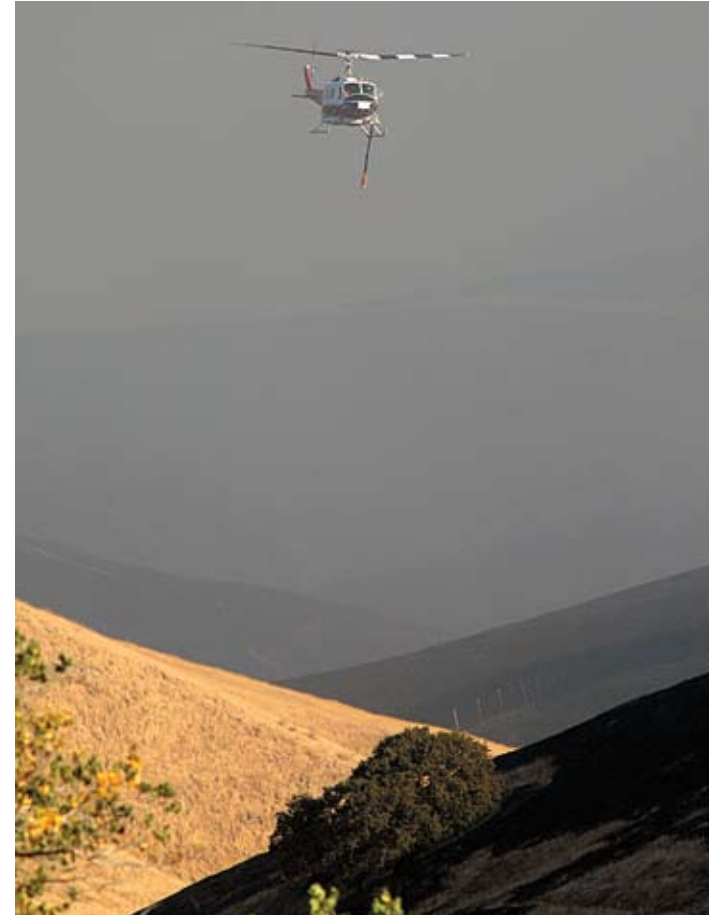
If you are a long time resident

of Livermore you would remember me from my days at East Avenue as "Gene Mirci." When things fell apart at the Mirci home the community rallied around me and gave me the strength to push forward. I write this open letter with the hope that it will be run in The Independent (my first newspaper route) so that all of you can hear me say something that I could never possibly say to each and every one of you: THANK YOU!

Thank you for showing a very troubled, very scared, and very lonely boy that he mattered. Thank you for making me one of you and thank you for helping me to believe in myself. Livermore and the kids of East Avenue Middle School is where my life truly began and I will carry all of you with me for the rest of my life.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen
In the top photo, the East Bay Regional Park District helicopter carried water to the fire. At right, a helicopter from the California Division of Forestry also took part in fighting the fire. Below, the tanker truck used to take water to fight the fire is refilled.



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EDIBLE

(continued from page one)

removal.

The most important materials are the fruit trees, berry bushes, and other plants, which will be coming from Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. The nursery sponsored the contest for the "Edible Landscape Makeover."

Backyard gardens can be disorderly, with arbitrary decisions about where to put the lettuce and cabbages, beets and carrots. It can appear in disarray, and the public walking past on the sidewalk won't notice. Having an edible landscape in the front yard requires good design, which is where Susan Ballinger came in.

Ballinger has owned her own landscape design business for 11 years. She has designed a backyard edible landscape, but this is her first in a front yard.

Ballinger likes the teaching aspect of having the garden in the front yard. Neighbors will walk by, ask Ertel about the food, and may be inspired to start one themselves.

"If you are going to water and fertilize, why not grow food at the same time. You can have it be beautiful, and it can bring neighbors together," said Ballinger.

It definitely will bring neigh-

bors together, said Alden Lane Nursery owner Jacquie Williams Courtright. She screened the contest entries to make sure that the winner would be OK with drawing a crowd, at least among neighbors, and maybe from people driving past, too.

Courtright said that whoever was destined to win the contest would go "from a very quiet lifestyle to one with lots of conversation going on with folks coming by."

Ertel, who lives at the corner of 8th and H streets, said he is all for people stopping by. "This is a friendly neighborhood, a nice walk-around neighborhood. We can show that you can have a front yard that looks really nice, but is not a traditional lawn. This is a perfect neighborhood to do it," he said.

Ertel has lived in other regions of the United States, but in Livermore "I didn't like to have a lawn out front. I don't think they are practical in this environment. Too much watering." The irrigation system in the new landscaping will be directly on the soil, so water will be conserved.

Ertel's essay about why he wanted an edible landscape put him in contention to win. The

decision was sealed after Alden Lane staff investigated other top qualifiers. They found that Ertel's property had the best soil and sunlight conditions for the project.

"It's something that I'd like to do, but didn't have the talent to do. It's a fantastic opportunity. I'm grateful for what they are

doing," said Ertel.

The project is expected to be finished in about three or four weeks. Fruit trees will line the curb on both the 8th Street and H Street sides of Ertel's property. Blueberry bushes will be in a shadier spot in the front yard. Other food will include grapes, apples, cherries, tomatoes, kumquats, and some herbs.

History of Edible Landscape

According to the Internet, edible landscaping is as old as gardening itself and has undergone a recent revival. Ancient Persian gardens combined both edible and ornamental plants. Medieval monastic gardens included fruits, vegetables, flowers, and medicinal herbs. Plans for 19th century English suburban yards, which modeled themselves after country estates, often included edible fruits and berries. In the past two decades, however, there has been a revival of interest in edible landscaping.

Reasons to incorporate edible plants into the residential landscape include the following:

- The freshness and flavor of home-grown, fully ripened fruits and vegetables.
- Control the quantity and kind of pesticides and herbicides

used on the foods.e

- Increase food security.
- Save on grocery bills.
- Grow unusual varieties not available in stores.
- Get outside, interact with the natural world, and have fun.

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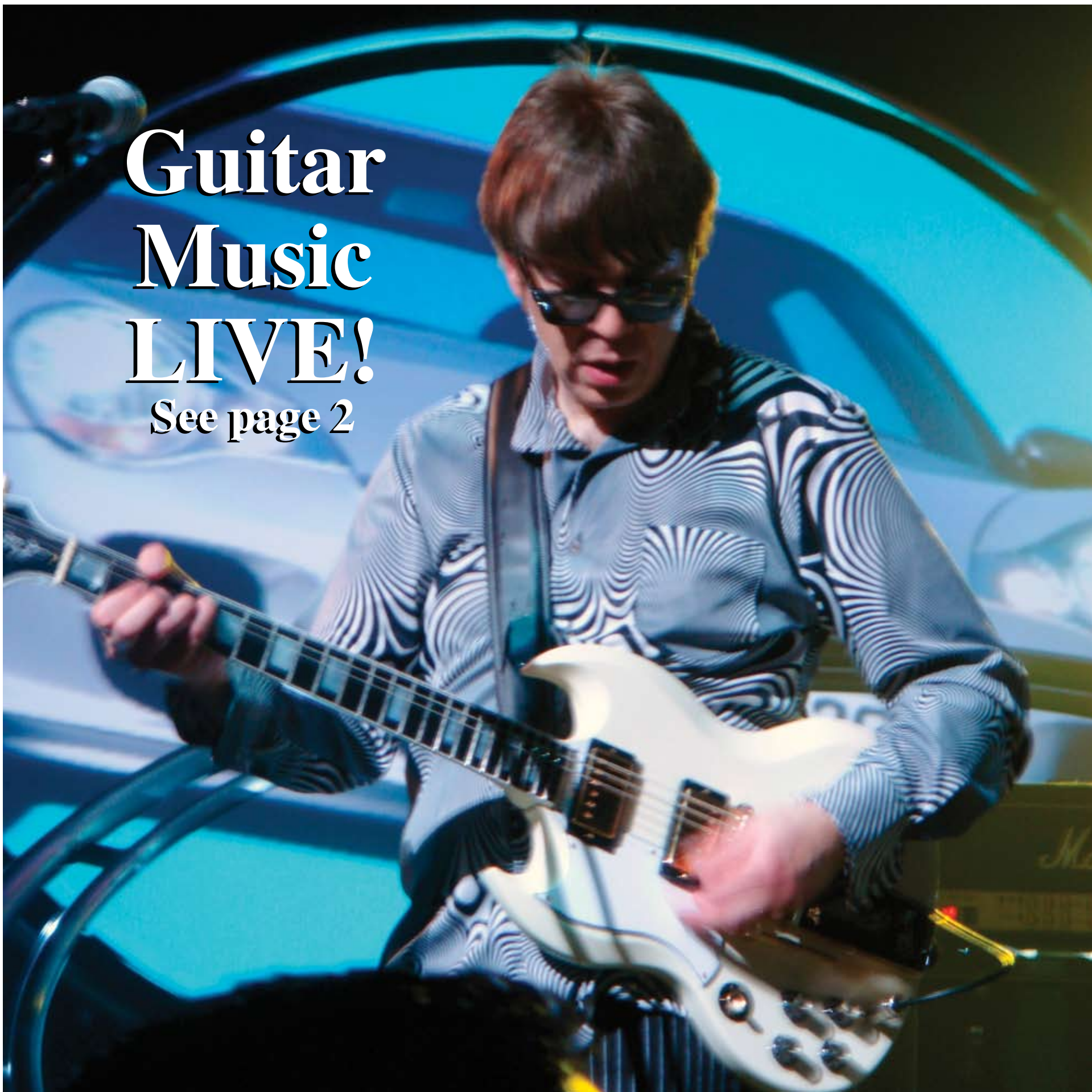
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<p>MARK KOTCH 583-1111</p>  <p>Pleasanton \$2,999,000 Ruby Hill custom. 6bd/5ba 2 partial 7986+/-sf. 2 master suites/Chefs kitchen/game room/17th fairway. 2 laundry rooms, 5 car garage. Pool/spa/BBQ.</p>	<p>STASIA POIESZ 583-1111</p>  <p>Pleasanton \$1,688,888 Gorgeous contemporary 5bd plus custom home. Over 4400+/-sf, 4 car garage, 1+/- acre lot. Remodeled kitchen, stainless steel appliances, updated baths.</p>	<p>SUE MCKINLEY 251-1111</p>  <p>Pleasanton \$990,000 Custom 4bd/3.5ba, 3206+/-sf home on quiet court. Two master Bd on main floor. Has open country view. Many custom upgrades!</p>	<p>TIMOTHY MCGUIRE 251-1111</p>  <p>Pleasanton \$969,000 Wonderful Welch! Sparkling salt-water pebble-tach pool 4bd/3ba on a 9407+/-sf lot. Numerous upgrades/lush green lawns.</p>	<p>BLAISE LOFLAND 251-1111</p>  <p>Livermore \$844,000 4bd/3ba+bonus/private office 3680+/-sf. Upgraded kitchen with granite/stainless/crown molding/plantation shutters. Bamboo wood/custom tile floors.</p>
<p>RICK & JOYCE JONES 251-1111</p>  <p>Pleasanton \$529,000 Built in 1955, 3bd/1ba, updated kitchen with granite counters/wood flooring/new cabinets/updated bath, tile floors. No HOA'S</p>	<p>MARK LAFFERTY 583-1111</p>  <p>Walnut Creek \$589,950 Beautiful 4bd/2ba home. Gorgeous tile entry, new carpets, new baseboards, new interior paint, hwdwd floors, huge FR, professionally landscaped yard, swimming pool, central heat and air.</p>	<p>GINA HUGGINS 583-1111</p>  <p>Livermore \$499,000 Beautiful 3bd/2ba, has sparkling pool with outdoor kitchen, huge indoor remodeled kitchen, remodeled baths. Close to schools</p>	<p>CHESTER HALL 583-1111</p>  <p>Hayward \$475,000 Adorable 3bd/2ba 1780+/-sf Stratford Village home in Cul-De-Sac. Has 2 car garage and a fireplace.</p>	<p>MARK LAFFERTY 583-1111</p>  <p>Livermore \$449,950 3bd with 2 updated baths, tile entry, new stainless steel appliances, granite counter, maple cabinets, surround sound, new carpet, central HVAC, pool/spa.</p>

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Art, Community, & Education

**Guitar
Music
LIVE!**
See page 2



Superstar Competition Highlights Guitar Player LIVE!

Now in its fifth year, *Guitar Player's* Guitar Superstar competition will be the centerpiece of Guitar Player LIVE!, a 3-day celebration of guitars, music, and gear presented by the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center in Livermore on Saturday, September 12.

Ten finalists have been selected from among hundreds of entries to battle for the international title of "Guitar Superstar." Across the globe, hundreds of "unknown" guitarists of all ages and styles answered the call to post their best performances at sonicbids.com. Ten finalists were chosen to perform onstage in front of a live audience and a panel of world-famous guitar stars that includes Elliot Easton (The Cars), Jennifer Batten (guitarist for Michael Jackson, Jeff Beck), Steve Lukather (Toto), and Greg Hampton, (producer of Alice Cooper, Ronnie Wood, Lita Ford). Host of this year's big event is Brendon Small, (co-creator of Adult's Swim's *Metalocalypse* animated series).

The celebrity judges will evaluate each original performance, and rate each contestant on technique, creativity, charisma, and overall vibe. At the end of the night, the 2009 *Guitar Player's* Guitar Superstar will be crowned, along with two runner-ups.

Jim Fuselli, rock critic of the *Wall Street Journal* wrote about last year's competition: "...I admired the contestants. With their reputations on the line in front of Mr. Satriani, Mr. Vai and the other judges, they performed with conviction."

Vicki Genfan, the reigning Guitar Superstar, will perform at the competition before handing over her crown, and will also play on Sunday, September 13 at 3 pm along with Laurence Juber and Jennifer Batten.

"It's a dream to launch a weekend-long celebration of guitar with Guitar Player LIVE! and our fifth Guitar Superstar event," says *Guitar Player* Editor in Chief Michael Molenda. "If you're a guitar zealot, it's like some 6-string Woodstock—total badass madness, from Friday night's opening Shrapnel Records concert starring Richie Kotzen, Michael Lee Firkins, and Chris Duarte, to bands rockin' hard all along the Livermore plaza, to Guitar Superstar on Saturday, to Sunday's Triple Threat Guitar show with GPGS 08 champ Vicki Genfan, Jennifer Batten, and Laurence Juber."

The ten finalists, representing a wide range of guitar styles ranging from rock to country are: Dave Benzinger, Brodie Cumming, Brian Davidson, Hercules Castro, Danny Jones, Steve Langemo, Steve Senes, Krisz Simonfalvi, Doug Towle, and Jeff Zampillo. The contestants will perform with the GPGS house band Thud Factor, music directed by *Bass Player* Editor Jonathan Herrera.

All ten contestants receive an all-expenses paid trip to the San Francisco Bay Area. The winner, First Runner-Up and Second Runner-Up of the event will receive custom trophies and complete gear packages. The champion will receive a feature article in *Guitar Player* magazine and prizes from event



Judges include Elliot Easton of The Cars (cover photo) and Jennifer Batten, guitarist for Michael Jackson.

sponsors—including Harman International–Digitech, Mesa Boogie, Taylor Guitars, D'Addario, Planet Waves, GBase, Line 6, Sennheiser, Washburn, Randall and Gallien Kruger.

The competition takes place Saturday, September 12, 8:00 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center, 2400 First Street, Livermore. Admission is \$23.00. Tickets can be ordered online at www.bankheadtheater.org or call 925-373-6800.

Guitar Player LIVE! includes concerts at the Bankhead Theater and free performances by well-known regional bands and exhibitor endorsees on four outdoor stages.

Another highlight will be an exhibition of Bill Owens' photographs commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Altamont Raceway Free Concert. To cap off the festival evenings, several local taverns and restaurants will also host local band performances, and the Vine Cinema will feature a special run of classic and cult guitar films.

- Shrapnel Records Guitar Night Friday, September 11 at 8 p.m.
- Guitar Player's Guitar Superstar Competition Finals Saturday, September 12 at 8 p.m.
- Triple Threat Guitar – Featuring Laurence Juber, Jennifer Batten, Vicki Genfan Sunday, September 13 at 3 p.m.

For packages, call the box office at 925-373-6800.

Rainbow Girls Rock For Kids

By Laura Haley

Livermore Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, is having a Rock-a-thon to help raise money for the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, an organization that helps prevent neglect and abuse of children by supporting families during a time of stress or crisis.

The Bay Area Crisis Nursery is the state service project for all Rainbow Assemblies in California for the 2009-2010 year.

Rainbow girls from Livermore, Pleasanton, San Ramon, Dublin and Tracy will be rocking non-stop in rocking chairs from 4 p.m. Friday, August 21, through 4 p.m. Saturday, August 22, 2009, at Lizzie Fountain in downtown Livermore and in the Masonic Lodge Building.

The Bay Area Crisis Nursery is located in Concord. The nursery offers 24-hour residential care for children from ages birth through 11. The services are completely free, confidential, and voluntary. It has been in operation for 28 years and helped over 1000 children in 2008. The Bay Area Crisis Nursery receives no government funding. For more on the Bay Area Crisis Nursery go to www.bacn.info.

The Rainbow Girls Rock-A-Thon will raise funds for the Crisis Nursery in two ways: advance pledges by the hour for the full 24 hours and one-time donations, either in advance or at the event. To make a pledge or donate in advance or to obtain additional information, please contact email Rainbow_Assembly_246_iorg@mosaiclodge218.org.

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is a non-profit youth organization for girls from 11-20, established in 1922 and affiliated with Masonic orders. It focuses on community service, public speaking, and leadership skills. Rainbow girls in California annually raise tens of thousands of dollars for charity and perform thousands of hours of public service.

For more information, contact adult advisors Mrs. Susan Haley, 447-5615, or Mrs. Gayle Hatcher, 606-1726.



Vintage Brass Quintet will perform Sun., Aug. 30 at the Pleasanton Library. The program will be from 2 to 3 p.m. The Vintage Brass Quintet is a group of local musicians who have enjoyed playing together more than ten years. The program is free and open to all. No registration required. The Friends of the Pleasanton Library are sponsoring the program. Call Penny Johnson at 925.931-3405 for information.

Car Show Set

The 20th Annual "Nostalgia Day Car Show" sponsored by the Altamont Cruisers is set for September 27 in downtown Livermore.

The annual show raises funds for local charitable organizations with a special focus on youth programs. To date, the Cruisers have given over \$200,000 to the organizations.

The car show will feature over 700 cars, continuous D.J. music, prize drawings, vendors of car products and arts and crafts. There will be a parade of the award winning vehicles down First Street.

Activities are planned from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. from First to Fourth Streets between L Street and Livermore Avenue.

For additional information, call 461-2020 or go to www.altamont-cruisers.org.

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August 29 and 30

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www.bankheadtheater.org

My Fair Lady

Featuring special guest
GEOFF HOYLE
as Alfred Doolittle

Bankhead Theater, Livermore
Aug 29 at 2pm & 8pm, Aug 30 at 2pm
Tickets: 925-373-6800
livermoreperformingarts.org

www.lamplighters.org
Bringing music and laughter since 1952!

Lamplighters' *My Fair Lady* Coming to the Bankhead Theater



Copyright © 2009 Mark Bohrer

In a departure from their customary Gilbert & Sullivan repertoire, San Francisco's Lamplighters Music Theatre will be closing a run of *My Fair Lady* at the Bankhead Theater in downtown Livermore over 3 performances on August 29 and 30.

The production, which opened the group's 57 season in Walnut Creek at the end of July, has been tremendously received throughout the run. The current leg – at the Yerba Buena Center in San Francisco – will end on the 23rd.

My Fair Lady is a blend of intellect, wit, rhythm, and high spirits, it was a raving success from the moment it opened on March 15, 1956. Greats such as

Noël Coward, Cole Porter, and Rodgers & Hammerstein had all turned down the opportunity to transform George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* to musical form on the grounds that Shaw's play was too perfect to tamper with. When Lerner & Loewe finally accepted the challenge they began in 1952 and worked on it for six months before giving it up as impossible – the play violated several key rules for constructing a musical: the main story was not a love story, there was no subplot or secondary love story, and there was no place for an ensemble. But in 1954 they took another go at it, and this time stuck with it until completion.

Professor Higgins – a brilliant though crotchety expert in phonetics – bets his house guest, fellow linguist Colonel Pickering, that he can turn Eliza Doolittle, a cockney flower girl with a horrendous accent and lack of manners, into a refined lady in 6 months, simply by teaching her to speak properly. Eliza, who wishes to better herself, moves in and begins her difficult tutoring, at the same time unconsciously teaching Higgins that there is more to people than just language.

Award-winning actor, Geoff Hoyle, who created the role of Zazu, the hornbill, in the original Broadway cast of *The Lion King*,

(Drama Desk nomination: Best Featured Actor in a Musical) is set to play his first role with The Lamplighters – that of Eliza's incorrigible drunkard of a father – Alfred Doolittle.

Geoff wrote and performed *The First Hundred Years* for the Berkeley Rep and the Arizona Theatre Company, has clowned with Cirque du Soleil, The Pickle Family Circus, and Circus Flora and trained with Marcel Marceau's teacher, Etienne Decroux and at the Gymnase du Cirque in Paris under Tudor Bono.

Also making his debut with The Lamplighters is Tom Reardon as Professor Henry Higgins, a role most people associate closely with Rex Harrison who created the role for Broadway and continued in the subsequent movie. An actor, not a singer, Harrison spoke the words in tempo instead of singing. Reardon, a far superior vocal performer, breaks away from this, now standard, approach.

Sharon Rietkerk returns to The Lamplighters after her debut as Phyllis in January's *Iolanthe*. She plays the role of Eliza Doolittle, transforming from a dirty, shrieking “squashed cabbage leaf” to a refined lady that's the toast of society. Her metamorphosis is aided in part by the award-winning costumes (Bay Area Theater Critics Circle; Bay Area Drama Logue Award) of Melissa Wortman who rivals those iconic designs from the movie in opulence and also, it should be said, in quantity – Rietkerk never appears on stage in the same costume twice.

This production of *My Fair Lady* has all the hallmarks of a Lamplighter production: the lavish costumes, live orchestra, comedic acting and unamplified singing that showcases the human voice.

Contact the Bankhead Theater box office at 925-373-6800 or livermoreperformingarts.org for tickets. Performances are scheduled at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday the 29, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday 30.

Geoff Hoyle appears as Alfred Doolittle.



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CONCERT IN THE PARK

One of the more popular events in Pleasanton is the Friday Concert in the Park at Wayside Park. Last Friday, "Finding Stella," performed. Audience had a good time dancing and picnicking.

Annual Games in Pleasanton Labor Day Weekend

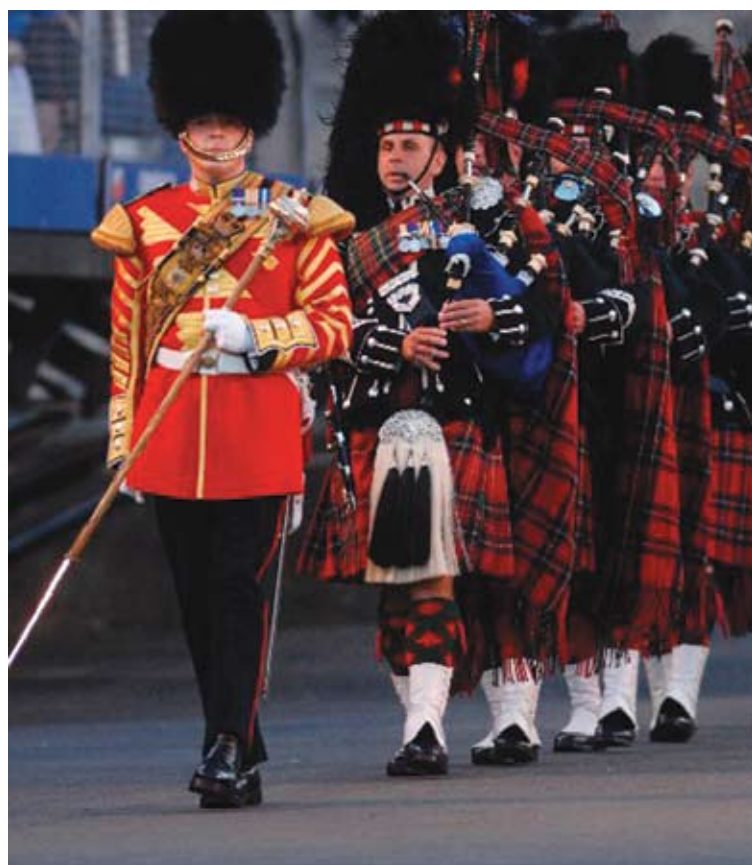
The 144th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games, set for September 5 and 6 in Pleasanton at the Alameda County Fairgrounds are "alive and well."

For several years there has been some confusion among the Tri-Valley residents about the Pleasanton games and the games held in Livermore. With the apparent cancellation of LARPD funding for any future games in Livermore that was recently reported in the press, the rumor has made its way into the mainstream that the games in Pleasanton have been cancelled.

The Pleasanton games, produced by the Caledonian Club of San Francisco, have never had a relationship with the Livermore games and the Pleasanton games are not at all affected by the potential closure of Livermore's event.

The Pleasanton games are the world's largest and continues to prosper and grow within the Tri-Valley community. This year the Pipes & Drums - 1st Battalion Scots Guards will arrive from Buckingham Palace in London to perform in Pleasanton.

Tickets and information are available at www.caledonian.org, (800) 713-3160 and (925) 443-4700.



The famous Scots Guards and the U.S. Marine Band will highlight the 144th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games, set for Labor Day weekend, September 5 and 6. The Pipes & Drums - 1st Battalion Scots Guards, fresh from duty at Buckingham Palace, will join forces with the U.S. Marine Band during the closing ceremonies both days to present a musical interlude of both bands playing in unison during both marching and stationary performances. This marks the only appearance of the Scots Guards in California. Each day's activities conclude with the Grandstand Show and Massed Bands. The two featured military bands plus the competition bands bring nearly 750 pipers and drummers onto the track in front of the covered grandstands at 4 p.m. for a two hour program of thrilling music and presentations. Standing room is free. There is a small charge for seating.

Hotel to Host Annual Roses to Grandparents in Pleasanton

The Rose Hotel will host its fourth annual *Roses to Grandparents* event on Sunday, September 13, in observation of Grandparents Day. The hotel is located at 807 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, Calif.

Grandparents and their families are invited to gather in the hotel's lobby hospitality area for cake, coffee and conversation from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. They will be treated to tours of the hotel, including the vintage photographs of Pleasanton that adorn the balcony walls, and will be eligible to win a free night's stay at the 4:00 p.m. drawing. Each grandparent will receive a long-stemmed rose. Admission is free.

"*Roses to Grandparents* is among the most heartwarming events we host here at the hotel," says General Manager Phyllis Grisham. "Over the past three

Grandparents' Days, we've witnessed scores of multi-generational families spending a Sunday afternoon together, happily reminiscing and making plans for future activities together.

National Grandparents Day is observed on the first Sunday after Labor Day. It was proclaimed by President Jimmy Carter in 1978 in response to the efforts of Marian H. McQuade, a housewife in Fayette County, West Virginia. She championed the cause of the lonely elderly in nursing homes and encouraged grandchildren to tap into the wisdom and heritage their grandparents could provide. Today, her organization continues its work to strengthen bonds between the generations.

For more information about *Roses to Grandparents*, call The Rose Hotel at (925) 846-8802.



Sean O'Connell and his grandfather, Larry Anderson, enjoyed Grandparents' Day at The Rose Hotel last year.

Youth Learn about Producing TV Shows

This summer, for the first time, Tri-Valley Community Television (TV30) offered a unique TV Summer Camp available to middle school and high school students in the Tri-Valley. The twelve campers from Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon participated in the five day camp. The result is a special show developed by the students titled "Tri-Valley Youth View."

This hour long program is currently airing on Channel 30 on Saturday at 8 a.m., Sunday at 12 noon and Wednesday at 3 p.m.

"This was not only a great experience for the students who participated but our staff who enjoyed sharing the world of television production with the students," said Melissa Tench-Stevens, Executive Director of Tri-Valley TV. "The 20 hours went by quickly and for a first effort, I think the Camp was a win-win for everyone involved."

Under the direction of Camp Director Mitch Eason, the students worked in various aspects of producing "Tri-Valley Youth View" from deciding on content and technical positions (such as camera operators, audio, floor directing, and editing) to writing the scripts and performing as the talent. At the end of the camp, students received a certificate of completion as well as a round of applause.

The process of putting the show together began by providing the students with a list of City Departments. Then they developed the content of the program. Executive Director Tench-Stevens arranged interviews for the students with



Dasha Ryutor, a 7th grade student from Livermore, operates the camera while Jeff Eorio, Director of Parks and Community Services for San Ramon, prepares to be interviewed for "Tri-Valley Youth View."

Mayor Tim Sbranti of Dublin, Mayor Marshall Kamena of Livermore, Jeff Eorio Director of Parks and Community Services for San Ramon, Officer Roy Ficken from Pleasanton Animal Control, Brandon Cardwell, City of Livermore who spoke about the Food Scrap and Recycling program, Officer Rob Ransom from the San Ramon Police Department who talked about the San Ramon Youth Academy, Librarian Penny Johnson from the Pleasanton Library, Fire Marshall Scott Deavers who discussed the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department as well as additional guests.

Some of the guests presented information about how young people can become involved in their community through youth programs. Others talked in general terms about what the Tri-Valley cities offer young people, how they can help protect the environment and answered career related questions.

In addition to providing hands-on experience in television production, the purpose of the TV Camp was to provide students with an overall picture of the production process, help prepare them for college related courses in video and give them an edge for future employment in the television industry.

Tri-Valley Community Television is located at 4663 Bernal Avenue, Suite B in Pleasanton. A 501c3, Tri-Valley TV provides programming over channels TV28, TV29 and TV30 on Comcast Cable and AT&T U-Verse. For more information about the station and its programming visit our website at www.tri-valleytv.org.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART EXHIBITS

Livermore Art Association Gallery, offers art classes, unusual gifts, painting rentals, art exhibits and information pertaining to the art field, 1255 Third St., Livermore. The gallery has been open since 1974 and maintains a video library of art tapes, art and craft books and art magazines and newsletters; hosts art events and workshops. Hours are Wed.-Sun. 11:30-4 p.m. For information call 449-9927.

Works by photographic artists on display at Windermere Welcome Home through August. Participating in the show are Natalia Matthews Aasen, Bill Hackett, Dennis Vied, Julie Wright and Walter Davies. The public is invited. There is no admission charge. 1790 First St., downtown Livermore. Viewing will be during regular business hours. For more information, call 447-9159.

The Arts Forum of the Commonwealth Club of California will present works by photographer Bill Owens. They will be displayed through September 10. Admission is free to Club member; \$15 to the public and \$7 students. The Club is located at 595 Market Street (next to Montgomery BART Station).

Pleasanton Art League Museum on Main Exhibit, July 30-September 13, 2009, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton. Reception will be Sunday, August 22, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., plus evenings on First Wednesdays. Information is being sent to members via e-mail. For more information, contact Carole Hilton at 925-443-3849.

The Wild Vine, Lela Witherspoon is the featured artist for August. Lela's art is about dualities; the barriers or edges between things. It's about breaking those implied barriers, reflected in both sharp lines, as well as ripples or swirls that blend the lines together. The Wild Vine is located at 2187 First St., Livermore.

An art exhibition, "Good Earth," featuring abstract paintings by Alan Mazzetti and landscape photography by Brad Perks will be on display at Deer Ridge Vineyards August 8 to October 11. The work will be open for viewing Friday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. An artists' reception and book signing will be held Sun., Sept. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. Deer Ridge Vineyards is located at 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. For more information, call 1-866-561-0838.

Art and Wine Social, Alexander's Fine Art, 608 Main St., Pleasanton. Fri., Aug. 21, 6 to 9 p.m. New imagery artist Robert Bissell, pastel landscapes by David R. Will and contemporary abstracts by Zhang Xiu. Music by guitarist Jerod Lea. RSVP to 846-6015 or go to alexandersgallery@sbcglobal.net.

WINERY EVENTS

Thomas Coyne Winery Summer Open House, August 22 and 23, noon to 5 p.m. at the historical tasting room at 51 E. Vallecitos Road Livermore. Four new wines will be released. A selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served. Bring a picnic and enjoy the view. New Releases: 2006 Livermore Grenache, 2005 Eldorado Petite Sirah, 2007 Late Harvest Viognier and 2006 Vino Tinto Reserva. Active military who present valid ID can get a deep discount. For more information call (925) 373-6541 <http://thomascynewinery.com>

American Heart Association fundraiser, Thursday, Aug. 27, 5-8pm at Little Valley Winery, 739 Main St., Pleasanton. Great music, good food and award winning wines. Donation of \$20 will help fight our nation's #1 & #3 Killers Heart Disease & Stroke. Complimentary wine tasting & appetizers. Music by Patty & Abigail. Two raffle tickets for a chance to win gift basket and other prizes. Donation is tax deductible.

Summer Mini Concert featuring Top Secret Band, Saturday August 29, 2009; 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Crooked Vine/Stony Ridge. Repertoire that consist of songs from the 50's to the current top 40's. Food and Wine for purchase with Crooked Vine's "Gotta Lovett BBQ." 4948 Tesla Road, Livermore. (925) 449-0458

Crooked Vine/Stony Ridge, Wine Down Friday, September 11, 2009 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Crooked Vine/Stony Ridge Live music by "The Hurricane Band." Performing the best in the Blues Classic and Contemporary Rock. Wine for purchase by glass or bottle. Food available for purchase from Crooked Vine's "Gotta Lovett BBQ." 4948 Tesla Road, Livermore. (925) 449-0458.

Harvest Tour & Tasting Event: Wente Vineyards, behind the scenes look at how estate grown wines are produced; Chef Arthur Wall creates a daily changing menu to highlight produced from the restaurants organic garden. Dates: Sept. 19 and 26, 10 a.m., noon, 2 and 4 p.m. Reservations for the specially offered event are required, and tour space is limited. Reservations can be made by calling 925-456-2305 ext. 4. The tour and tasting is offered at \$20 to the public and \$15 to wine club members. The event will take place at the Wente Vineyards Estate Winery and Tasting Room, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore.

La Luna Fridays at Murrieta's Well, 6pm to 9pm on the Friday closest to the month's full moon. Spanish-inspired tapas and Murrieta's Well wines served on the terrace. Each La Luna Friday features a different live musical performance, with Steel Drummer Paul Snagg performing on September 4th, and an unannounced top-secret band performing on October 2nd. Tickets are \$55 for the general public and \$45 for Silver Spur club members, and reservations are

required. Tapas and wine are offered from 6:00 to 7:30pm, with wine sales by the bottle available until 8:45pm, and music until 9pm. For reservations, directions or more information, please call (925) 456-2395 or visit www.murrietaswell.com. Murrieta's Well is located at 3005 Mines Road in Livermore Valley.

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Tuesday Tunes, Livermore Downtown Inc. free, live music to the Flagpole Plaza each and every Tuesday through October 13th. Concerts begin at 5 p.m. Bands to perform on the following schedule: Aug. 18, Sound Check; Aug. 25, Moreality; Sept. 1, Hummingbirdz; Sept. 8, Bryan Harrison Band; Sept. 15, Fender Cronin; Sept. 22, Damn Neighbors Blues Band; Sept. 29, Groovy Judy; Oct. 6, U Get What U Pay 4. For more information, go to www.livermoredowntown.com or call 925.373.1795.

Concerts in the Park, Pleasanton Downtown Association, The concerts are at Lions Wayside Park, corner of First and Neal Streets. Concerts are 7 to 8:30 p.m. Magic Moments, August 21. D-Lucca, August 28. Public Eye, Sept. 4. For more information, visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Wente Vineyards 2009 concert series: August 31, Sheryl Crow. Wente Vineyards Box Office at (925) 456-2424, or on-line at www.ticketmaster.com. Tickets range in price from \$79 to \$309 per person, depending on the show and the dining option selected. Wente Vineyards is located at 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore. Concert gates open at 6:00 p.m., and all shows start at 8:15 p.m.

Vintage Brass Quintet, concert Aug. 30, 2 p.m. Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Free. www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library.



Raphael Manriquez, Sept. 6, 2 p.m. Pleasanton Library, Latin American musician and composer performs his original music. He plays Latin American string instruments - guitar, charango, cuatro and tiple. No admission charge. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Guitar Player Live, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Sept. 11-13. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Annual Piano Recital, Saturday, September 12, 7:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. Annual recital co-sponsored by the Alameda County East Branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California and Asbury.

MTAC Young Artist Guild member Sarah Chang will perform music of Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Liadov and Shostakovich. No charge for admission; refreshments served. Further information: (925) 443-2514



George Winston, Sat., Sept. 19, 8 p.m. Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents program. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at caboxoffice@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or (925) 931-3444.

Chanticleer, an orchestra of voices, Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center Presents. Sept. 20. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Pacific Chamber Symphony concert, Thurs., Sept. 24, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets at 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Alexander String Quartet with June Oh, piano, Sept. 26, 8 p.m. Del Valle Fine Arts concert. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Sunol Jazz Café, 11986 Main Street, Sunol (925) 862-2800: Organic local farm produce sold Tuesdays and Sundays. Ballroom dancing with Dixie Sounds 2nd and 4th Tuesdays; ballroom dancing with Big Band Sound 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (\$5 suggested donation for band); dinner buffet available. Downtown Blues Band plays Aug. 28. Sunday brunch and Jazz Music - full breakfast fare / made-to-order omelets and BBQ.

ON THE STAGE

Annie, Alameda Civic Light Opera production continues through Aug. 21, 22 and 23 at the Kotman Theater in Alameda. Among those appearing in the production is Paula Wujek, a local fan favorite. "Annie" is a rags to riches story set during the Great Depression. A family favorite, the story of orphan Annie's adoption by millionaire Daddy Warbucks warms our hearts with the irrepressible joy of a child finding love in an unusual new family. Tickets at 510-864-2256. Theater at 523 South Shore Center West, Alameda.

Funny Girl, Diablo Theater Company, staged concert version of the 1964 Broadway musical. 8 p.m. Aug. 27, 28, 29; 2 p.m. Aug. 29. Leshner Center

for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. (\$21-\$44). 943-7469, www.lesherartscenter.org, www.dloc.org. **My Fair Lady**, Lerner & Loewe musical presented by Lamplighters Music Theater. Sat., Aug. 29, 2 and 8 p.m. and Sun., Aug. 30 at 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets \$33, \$37, \$43. 925-373-6800, www.bankheadtheater.org.

Wait Until Dark, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre Studio Theatre production. Sept. 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, Oct. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11. 1048 Serpentine Lane, Suite 309, Pleasanton. Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m. Sun. 2 p.m. Ticket information 462-2121 or www.trivalleyrep.com.

Sullivan and Gilbert, a play with music by Ken Ludwig, Sept. 25-Oct. 11; Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. The Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 North Third Street, Hayward. Tickets adults \$25, seniors \$22, students \$15. www.dmtonline.org

COMEDY



Comedy Uncorked, Fri., Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. Retzlaff Vineyards, 1356 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Benefit for Open Heart Kitchen. Appearing will be Nancy Lee, Dan Edwards, Anthony Hill, and Mari-Esther Kaplan. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Tickets and information www.comedyuncorked.com.

Comedy Sportz!, the improv comedy team that breaks all the rules, coming to Ohlone College on Friday, September 11. Two teams compete for laughs and points as they make up scenes, songs, and spoofs right on the spot. The audience votes for the winners while a referee calls the fouls. Comedy Sportz has traveled all over the world, and now comes to the Smith Center at Ohlone College with a spectacular one-night performance. Get your tickets now at www.smithcenterpresents.com or call the box office at 510-659-6031.

DANCE

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

Sunol Jazz Café, 11986 Main Street, Sunol (925) 862-2800: Organic local farm produce sold Tuesdays and Sundays. Ballroom dancing with Dixie Sounds 2nd and 4th Tuesdays; ballroom dancing with Big Band Sound 1st and 3rd Tuesdays (\$5 suggested donation for band); dinner buffet available. Downtown Blues Band plays Aug. 28. Sunday brunch

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

and Jazz Music - full breakfast fare / made-to-order omelets and BBQ.

MOVIES

Movie night in Pleasanton, free admission, film will be shown at twilight (approximately 8:30 p.m.) at Delucchi Park on First Street in downtown Pleasanton. The park will open to the public at 4:00 p.m. Free popcorn. Aug. 20: Raiders of the Lost Ark. For more information, please contact the City of Pleasanton Parks and Community Services Department at (925) 931-5340.

AUDITIONS/VOLUNTEERS

Auditions, for "The School for Scandal" at Las Positas College will take place on Wednesday, August 20 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the college theater. The classic comedy of wit and manners by Richard Brinsley Sheridan will be performed from November 12-22. Rehearsals will be on Monday through Thursday nights. Director Wendy Wisely is asking that people bring a brief prepared classic or contemporary monologue. There will also be readings from the script. There are roles for males and females of various ages. For more information contact Ken Ross at 925-424-1166 or kross@laspositascollege.edu.

Youth People's Symphony Orchestra (YPSO) holds auditions for new members August 26, September 1 and 3 for the 2009-2010 season. Auditions are held at Crowden Music Center, Rose St. at Sacramento St. in Berkeley, 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., by appointment. Candidates should prepare a scale and a solo, and will be asked to sight-read standard repertoire which is provided at the audition. Founded in Berkeley in 1935, YPSO is the oldest youth orchestra in California and the second oldest in the nation. The orchestra is comprised of 94 youth ages 11-22 who come from 28 Bay Area cities in five counties. Music Director /Conductor David Ramadanoff, who is celebrating his 21st season, leads a coaching faculty of distinguished professional musicians and music educators. Rehearsals are Mondays, 6:00-9:30 p.m., September through June, at Crowden Music Center. The season will end with a June tour to Alaska. For an appointment, visit www.ypsomusic.net, email yp-somusic@yahoo.com.

Auditions, Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings, Sept. 2 and 3, 7 p.m. The Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 North Third Street, Hayward. Come prepared to sing a favorite holiday song from the 1950s or 60s. Bring music scored for piano. An accompanist will be provided. Performance Dates: November 19 to December 6, 2009

Competition for Young Musicians. Livermore-Amador Symphony Association is taking applications; 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 of the competition is to select two young musicians who will perform as soloists with the symphony on Feb. 13, 2010. Each winner/soloist will be awarded \$250. The application deadline is Oct. 4, 2009. Completed applications must be accompanied by a \$5 fee and a cassette tape or CD for preliminary screening. Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the symphony's website, www.livamsymph.org or by calling the competition committee at 447-1947.

CHORAL

Harmony Fusion Chorus, Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets at caboxoffice@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or (925) 931-3444.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tao House lecture, presented by Greg Bacigalupi of the National Park Service will present a lecture on Eugene O'Neil's home located in Danville from 7 - 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 20 at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. The lecture is part of the Ed Kinney Lecture Series of the Museum On Main Street, Pleasanton. No reservations are necessary. Admission is \$5 for museum members, \$10 for non-members, \$5 for teachers with valid ID and \$3 for students with valid ID. Memberships will be available for purchase that night. Contact (925) 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.



Jennifer Robin, author of "Growing More Beautiful An Artful Approach to Personal Style," Aug. 23, 2 p.m. Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Free. www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library

Nafisa Haji, author of The Writing on My Forehead, talk Aug. 23, 2 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Arts and Authors series. Free. www.ci.livermore.ca.us.

Albert Rothman, A Brooklyn Odyssey: Travails and Joys of a Boy's

Early Life, local author. Sept. 2, 7 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Free. www.ci.livermore.ca.us

Scottish Games and Gathering, hosted by the San Francisco Caledonian Club, Sept. 5 and 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. Tickets and information www.caledonian.org.

Harvest Wine Celebration, showcases 43 wineries, new this year Harvest Village at Robertson Park. Sept. 6 and 7. Noon to 5 p.m. Tickets www.lvwine.org.

First Annual Book Fair, hosted by Happy Fish Swim School in Livermore, Saturday and Sunday, September 12 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Books and gifts for children and adults. Book Fair by Imagination Books Inc. All proceeds benefit the Livermore Valley Education Foundation. 2780 Constitution Drive, Livermore. (925) 447-3474 www.swimhappyfish.com/livermore.

Nostalgia Day Car Show, 20th car show staged by Altamont Cruisers, Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Livermore. Muscle cars, street rods, custom and classic cars on display. Fund-raiser for local organizations that promote the Tri-Valley youth, help strengthen their families and help keep kids off drugs. Free admission. Food booths and vendors of every type on hand. Information at altamontcruisers.org

History Lecture, presented by Pleasanton Museum on Main Ed Kinney Lecture Series, Thurs., Sept. 17, 7 p.m. "Lights, Camera, Action," the film industry in Pleasanton and Niles talk by D. Kiehn. Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. \$10 nonmembers, \$5 museum members. Reservations suggested. 462-2766.

Fiddlers' Jam, Sat., Sept. 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the main street of Fiddletown. Free event. Day includes fiddle music, food, craft vendors and a fiddlers' contest with cash prizes. Free shuttle. Directions or information, go to www.fiddletownca.org.

Day on the Glen, Emerald Glen Park, Dublin, Sept. 19 and 20. Carnival rides, jump houses, magicians, clowns, and animals. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. (925) 556-4500.

Children's Fair, Sept. 19 and 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Free admission. Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, 373-5700.

Quilting in the Garden, Sept. 26 and 27, Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Quilts, local artists as well as featured artist Laura Wasilowski. Classes begin on Thursday. 447-0280.

Wedding Faire Experience, Sun., Sept. 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. \$6 in advance, \$9 at the door. www.LivermoreDowntown.com. 373-1795.

Duck Stamp Entries Sought

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is launching a national contest to select the artwork for the 2010 state upland game bird stamp. The chosen design will become the first of the Encore Edition of the California upland game bird stamp. The Encore Edition marks the return of the contest format after three years of commissioned stamp artwork.

The contest is open to all U.S. residents age 18 and over. Original artwork will be accepted from October 26 until the November 20, 2009 contest deadline. Entries can be in any medium, but must feature the mourning dove (*zenaida macroura*). At least one mourning dove in the image must have an aluminum band with the numbers "682" on its right leg.

The winning entry will be reproduced on the 2010 California Upland Game Bird Stamp and will be available to the public as collectible limited edition prints.

For contest information and entry forms, please visit the DFG Web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/upstamp.



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Community

County Receives Achievement Awards

Alameda County came away with four Achievement Awards and some high-profile recognition at the recent National Association of Counties (NACO) National Conference in late July.

The four Achievement Awards snagged by Alameda County went to:

- The Alameda County Library for its "Start with a Story" program, which uses trained volunteers and library staff to read stories to children who are waiting to visit incarcerated family members at the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and the Glenn Dyer Jail in Oakland. Acknowledging the high rate of illiteracy in US jails, the program seeks to break an intergenerational cycle of illiteracy by reaching out to young people through literacy related games and activities, and by giving a free book to each child to take home and enjoy on their own.

- Alameda County and its County Administrator's office for the annual Youth Leadership Academy, which engages 35 high school students in five interactive sessions about County programs and services. The Academy provides a forum for youth to express concerns about their communities and to develop leadership skills. The program is also based on a belief that County government

needs to engage in broader outreach to foster better understanding of its role in the community and to strengthen support for its programs and services.

- The Alameda County Registrar of Voters office, which won two Achievement Awards for its innovative use of technology to make elections more efficient and secure.

The first award recognized the ROV for its unprecedented use of Radio Frequency Identification technology to improve the "chain of custody" of vital voting equipment during an election.

The ROV won a second award for its new Roster Index Book Imaging and Recognition Procedure, which has significantly reduced the number of staff hours required in the post-election audit of signatures provided by voters at each polling place.

Alameda County also won special recognition from NACO for embracing new technologies to increase citizen involvement

and enhance government transparency. The annual Digital Counties Survey conducted by NACO and the Center for Digital Government found that Alameda County ranked 5th among counties nationally for digital offerings to its citizens. Alameda County was cited for offerings including its highly interactive and user-friendly website, ACGOV.ORG, as well as the way it has embraced social media such as Facebook and Twitter to engage its residents.

Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator, attended the conference with County Supervisor Keith Carson, a member of the NACO Board of Directors, and Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who chairs NACO's Transportation Committee. "We are extremely proud of the recognition Alameda County received at the NACO conference," Muranishi said. "To me it shows that despite these very challenging economic times, Alameda County continues to find ways to better serve our residents."



Maddie LaDue from Pleasanton is feeding carrots to a horse named "Bijou" at Circle J Horse Ranch in Livermore. She and others are currently participating in Critter Camp at Valley Humane Society, a week long day camp that focuses on animal care. Campers also visit the East Bay SPCA, Bishop Ranch Veterinary Clinic, Lindsay Wildlife Museum and Dogtopia Dog Day Care. The campers are assigned to a Valley Humane Society animal to take care of for the entire week.

Bella is an adorable yellow Labrador Retriever puppy. She is paralyzed from the waist down, probably due to a neurological condition, and is undergoing rehab in Menlo Park, California. Bella has been tested for neospora, which tested negative, and a urinary tract infection, which tested positive. Volunteers at 2nd Chance 4 Pets are caring for her with medical treatment and rehab. Several local volunteers and friends of Bella are distributing more than a thousand fliers in the area in an effort to raise donations. Raising the necessary funds to provide Bella the treatment and equipment she needs has proven to be a daunting task. However, through the generosity of the



public and the dedication of the volunteers, a handicap cart was built

for Bella by the HandicappedPets.org foundation. 2nd Chance 4 Pets has also received three carts from Best Friends Animal Society. If you can make a donation to help Bella, please visit HelpBella.org. Donations can be made online at 2ndChance4Pets.org and can be mailed to 2nd Chance 4 Pets BELLA FUND, 1484 Pollard Rd, No 444, Los Gatos, CA 95032. 2nd Chance 4 Pets is a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer non-profit animal welfare organization established to reduce the number of pets unnecessarily euthanized each year at animal shelters and in veterinarian offices due to the death or incapacitation of their human companions.

ValleyCare to Host Back to School Children's Fair

ValleyCare Health System is hosting a fun-filled, educational, back-to-school children's fair on Saturday, August 29, 11am - 4pm at the ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. in Pleasanton (corner of W. Las Positas Blvd. and Stoneridge Drive).

Kids will participate in entertaining, hands-on learning activities such as healthy grocery shopping, watermelon surgery, an obstacle course, food pyramid bingo, handwashing and much more. In addition to health and fitness/flexibility screenings, other activities will include face painting, balloon artists, a bounce house, inflatable fire truck slide and a caterpillar crawl. Special prizes will be given to kids who complete their "passport" by visiting various booths.

Local emergency services such as ambulance, police and fire will be on-hand to talk to parents about children's safety issues. Parents and kids are invited to meet the new ValleyCare Medical Foundation pediatricians Drs. Anamika Sharma, Yatin Shah and Christi Klimisch.

ValleyCare's Maternal Child Department and UCSF Children's Hospital will also have a booth, along with a number of other ValleyCare departments and physicians, all with entertaining demonstrations and informational handouts.

Milestones

Education

Graduates

The following local students have graduated from Seattle Pacific University: Andrew Jeremy Aldrich of Livermore, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, International Business Emphasis. Michelle Marie Cadinha of Livermore, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology.

Recruitment Grants

Recruitment Grants were presented May 20 by the Livermore-Pleasanton Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international women educators' society. The grants are to encourage women students to continue their studies in pursuit of a career in education.

The winners were Carla Price and Caitlin Mellberg.

Price, the winner of a \$500 grant, is a 1989 graduate of Livermore High School. She has been a full time student teacher at Granada High School. Carla is a graduate of Southern Oregon University. She earned a liberal arts degree and Emeritus Faculty Mathematics Scholarship. She has taught English in Korea and Japan. Price will be attending National University in Stockton this fall.

Mellberg, the winner of a \$500 grant, is a 2006 graduate of Amador Valley High School. Presently she is attending Sonoma State University where she is a junior working towards a degree in liberal arts and a teaching credential. She has participated in many summer children's activities in Pleasanton, has been a Girl Scout, a lifeguard at the Pleasanton Aquatic Center, and very involved with planning children's programs through the Pleasanton Department of Parks and Community Services.

Preschool Expands Program

Centerpointe Christian Preschool will expand its program this fall to include after school care for grades K-3.

Two rooms on the Centerpointe Presbyterian Church campus have been modified and licensed to accommodate the after school program. The preschool is a ministry of the church, located at 3410 Cornerstone Court.

The after school program was added at the request of parents whose children attended the preschool. It will include help with homework, art projects, science activities as well as organized games and time to play. Centerpointe vans will pick up students at their schools and transport them to the preschool.

Summer Bowers, whose son Colin was one of the first students to attend the preschool, said, "It excited me to know that this program will be up and running when Colin needs it next year."

"Kindergarten is a little scary anyway and having a place that he's familiar with, that is comfortable and safe, will be a great help," she said.

Summer has been delighted with the program at Centerpointe and is pleased that her son's teacher for pre-kindergarten is a credentialed instructor who will prepare him well for kindergarten.

Like more than 20 other parents with children at Centerpointe preschool, she is a credentialed teacher.

The program is designed with age-appropriate activities designed to help the child's academic, physical, emotional and spiritual development.

The preschool opened in May 2008 and serves children from ages two years-nine months (potty trained) to those entering kindergarten. It offers both full- and part-time programs. The school is open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For further information, please see the web site at www.centerpointepreschool.org or telephone 925-461-3011.

Community

Pleasanton Scout Achieves Rank of Eagle

Justin Deeds, a 17-year-old entering his Senior year at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, has attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Justin began in scouting in 1998 as a Cub Scout in Pack 944 and advanced in rank from Tiger Cub to Webelos Scout, where he also received the Arrow of Light award in 2003. That same year, Justin crossed-over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and joined Troop 941. Justin advanced through the ranks of Boy Scouts and after hard work; he achieved the rank of Eagle on January 21, 2009 at the age of 16.

In order for Justin to reach the rank of Eagle, he was required to earn at least 21 merit badges and hold various leadership positions in Boy Scout Troop 941. Justin has earned 47 merit badges and has held the leadership positions of Patrol Leader, Bugler, Historian, and Den Chief. Additionally, Justin was required to show leadership by initiating, planning and leading a community service project. He organized and led a service project that benefited the K-9 Unit of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. Justin Deeds led scouts and adults from his troop, friends and neighbors who all joined in as they built and installed a K-9 agility training course. This course consisted of a Catwalk, a Window Jump, a Fence Jump, two Pole Jumps, a 6-Barrel Climb, a See-Saw, a 3-Barrel Jump and two barrel crawls. This project took over 507 man-hours of labor to build and complete. The course is now located at the Sheriff's Training facility in Dublin and has benefited K-9 units in other local law enforcement agencies for training as well. Justin's neighbor, Matt Ciesielski, lent his master talents as a welder in advising and carrying



Justin Deeds

out this project.

Justin has enjoyed many magnificent opportunities in Boy Scouts. He is a Brotherhood member in the Seunen Village of the Achewon Nimat Lodge of the Order of the Arrow. Justin had the special opportunity to attend the National Boy Scout Jamboree held at Fort A.P. Hill in Caroline County, Virginia in the summer of 2005. He attended Camp Emerald Bay on Catalina Island, CA for the past three summers. Justin participated in the Rugged Scuba programs and obtained his Open-water and Advanced Open-Water PADI certifications. In 2006, he accomplished a 62.5-mile hike in Yosemite with members of his

High Adventure Crew in Troop 941. In 2007, Justin completed a 10-day backpacking trip on a 70-mile trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch located in Cimarron, New Mexico.

An Eagle Court of Honor was held on Sunday, July 19th at the Valley Community Church in Pleasanton to recognize Justin's achievement. At his ceremony, he was presented with a certificate of recognition from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6298. The VFW has been the sponsoring organization for Troop 941 since the troop began in 1999. Members of the VFW performed the Color Guard duties led by Color Guard Commander, Johnny Delashaw,

