



Find Out What's Happening
Check Out Section A
 Section A is filled with information about arts, people, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board.

Speaker Debunks Myths Surrounding Health Care Plan

By Carol Graham

With the nation on the threshold of one of the most significant changes to health care since the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965, businesspeople, government officials and community leaders attended the Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce's August 22 luncheon talk to learn about

the realities of health care reform. The event was held at Concannon Vineyard.

"We were in this lovely venue about a year ago. At that point we were still wondering, 'Is health care reform actually going to happen?'" recalled Kitty Guptill, Senior Vice President of Strategic Market Planning for Kaiser Perma-

mente's National Program. "A year later, I'm happy to announce, it's being implemented even as we speak."

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), commonly called Obamacare, is a US federal statute signed into law in 2010 aiming to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, lower the number of the uninsured,

and reduce costs of health care for individuals and the government.

"Health care reform didn't just happen; Obamacare didn't just pop its head up. It was in response to an untenable situation for millions of Americans," said Guptill. "In a little more than a month, millions of Americans are going to

be able to shop for health care coverage. By January, they're going to be able to access care for the first time in years, and for some, possibly ever."

Under the ACA, an enrollment period for health insurance plans will begin October 1st, with coverage

(See HEALTH CARE, page 8)

Scottish Games at Fairgrounds 5 More Years

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco, promoters of the Scottish Highland Gathering and Games announced they once again signed a five year contract with the Alameda County Fairgrounds just in time to celebrate the 148th Annual Event this weekend in Pleasanton.

The Scottish Highland Gathering and Games, held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, is the largest in the United States. There is always something new to be discovered; this year visit a Celtic rock concert at the Games and see what Scotland's young musicians have invented - rock and roll with bagpipes and electric guitars.

"The Pleasanton Games is more than a cultural event for Scottish people; the games are an event for the whole family, regardless of one's roots. Nearly everyone in the U.S. has a drop of Scottish or Irish blood in them, and it can be fully recognized at this event," commented Scottish Games Manager & Chief George McCombe.

The Scottish Gathering and Games not only bring culture and tradition, but has great economic impact on the entire Tri-Valley Region. Barbara Steinfeld, President of Visit Tri-Valley says, "The Scottish Games have been one of the mainstays of tourism for Tri-Valley for decades. Because the Games take place in Pleasanton and the headquarter hotel is the San Ramon Marriott, the Games exemplify how tourism affects the entire Tri-Valley. The economic impact comes from visitors staying in hotels, campers staying in RV Parks, shopping and eating in restaurants. The Scottish Games events are so varied and so fun; they draw thousands to Tri-Valley."

The Scottish Gathering and Games will be held August 31 and Sept. 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day at the fairgrounds in Pleasanton. For more information, go to www.thescottishgames.com.

A schedule of events at the games can be found in Section A of today's Independent newspaper.



BUNNIES AT PETSMA
 Philip is a handsome English Spot. He's intelligent, outgoing and perfect! Meet Philip and 20+ bunnies this Saturday from 12-3 pm at the Dublin PetSmart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. For more info, call 925-519-1723, or email ebrabbit@comcast.net. Visit www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com to see more pet profiles. Adopt this month and receive a free Rabbits for Dummies book.



Visitors to the Alviso Adobe in Pleasanton last Sunday said goodbye to summer vacation with an old fashioned ice cream social. They made ice cream at the original location of the Meadowlark Dairy. After making the ice cream, visitors were able to sample their creation. Allyson Wong licks a cone, while Clayton Kahl looks on. At right is Megan Kummer, assistant naturalist, who made the ice cream with the help of the kids.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

National Security Requires More Than Weapons

Book by Harold Brown Offers Insights Based on Lessons from the Past

Establishing a nonpolitical private-public innovation corporation could provide a way to enable development of new technology and prove the viability of a new idea for the marketplace. Such new ideas, often too expensive or with rewards too far off for stockholders' patience, could eventually jumpstart America's economy in worthwhile directions. So says The Honorable Dr. Harold Brown, former Secretary of Defense (under President Carter), former Secretary of the Air Force, and Livermore Lab's third director.

During a visit to Livermore Lab this August, Dr. Brown expanded on that and other ideas contained in his book, "Star Spangled Security Applying Lessons Learned Over Six Decades Safeguarding America." Star Spangled Security, written with Joyce Winslow, provides lessons from the past, which Brown bridges to current and future challenges that the country faces.

Other topics covered in the book include how to deal with Egypt post-Arab spring, the evolution of his relationship with Edward Teller, a dysfunctional federal government, and the importance of education and the economy to the security of the nation.

Brown's impressive history of experience informs his views. He served as director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory July 1960-May 1961, leading development of the Polaris missile and thereby

Budget Bill Brings a Little More to Pleasanton Schools

Not everything is firmed up yet under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the state's new approach to education funding. However, there was a little bit of updated news for the Pleasanton Unified School District.

Deputy Superintendent Luz Cázares told trustees at their meeting Aug. 20 that

what she estimated in June as \$923,000 in "new, ongoing dollars" has grown to \$1.1 million, based on the latest information.

Also an improvement since the district drew up its budget for 2013-14 is the addition of the Economic Recovery Target (ERT), which was created in a trailer bill of the state budget. It was

not part of the Gov. Jerry Brown's May Revise. Not much is known about ERT in dollars, but a staff report said that it likely will benefit the Pleasanton District.

The Budget Act also established a requirement that districts adopt a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). Drawing up that plan will present a new chal-

lenge to the district. It will involve school personnel, parents and students.

Traditionally, much state funding came with strings attached, and could be used only for certain purposes. Now most of the budget will be available for whatever vision the district chooses to carry out, with the usual

(See BUDGET, page 4)

Dublin Rejects Request to Ban Safe and Sane Fireworks

Requests for Dublin to ban sales of safe and sane fireworks were rejected by councilmembers. However, they did call for a report that would help the city educate people concerning fireworks safety.

The council discussed the item at its Aug. 20 meeting.

Marlene Mazzetti raised the issue in a letter, and spoke in person.

In Dublin, some non-profit organizations sell legal fireworks as fund-raisers. Mazzetti said that she was aware of the nonprofits, but the "sale of safe and sane fireworks must be con-

sidered separate from the profit it generates. There is too much at stake involving injuries," said Mazzetti.

Pleasanton and Livermore have made the sale of safe and sane fireworks illegal. Dublin should follow suit, said Mazzetti. Many other cities in California

have done so, she added.

Presenting a different point of view was a letter from Pete Peterson, a retired police officer. He said he has been involved for many years in the sale of safe and sane fireworks in the community. His experience

(See FIREWORKS, page 4)

Youth America's Cup Includes Competitor from Livermore

By Carol Graham

With The Summer of Racing about to reach fever pitch across the Bay Area, no one is more excited than 21-year-old Livermore native David Liebenberg.

For the first time in the America's Cup's 162-year history, talented, young sailors have a clear pathway toward competing for one of sports' most prestigious trophies, as the Red Bull Youth America's Cup (RBYAC) provides an opportunity for sailors aged 19-24 to

develop their competitive skills in the same arena in which the 34th America's Cup will also be contested: the San Francisco Bay.

"The Youth America's Cup is going to be the most exciting thing to happen on the San Francisco Bay this summer," said Liebenberg. "The skill level is going to be incredible. Several participants won medals at last summer's Olympic games."

The RBYAC is an eight-race series, two races per day (See YOUTH, page 12)



In the photo, David Liebenberg is second from left, in the back row.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Soothe your ruffled feathers with the tranquil attention of petite Madrona. This young mother has emptied her own nest and is ready to fly away to a new home. Madrona is two years old and would enjoy a serene place to perch. Swoop into VHS and visit Madrona Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am - 4 pm and Sundays from 12 noon - 4 pm, and is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. For more information please call (925) 426-8656, or visit www.valleyhumane.org to see other adoptable cats and dogs. Photo - Valley Humane Society/D. Smith

Old House Saved As Pleasanton City Council OKs 12 New Units

The Pleasanton City Council approved a 12-unit single family project that will replace a mobile home park on Stanley Blvd.

The project had raised controversy because of the presence of a 101 year old home on the property. Previously, the developer, Ponderosa Homes, had proposed demolishing the home and building 14 new houses. The planning commission rejected that plan by a 4 to 0 vote.

Since the planning commission vote, city staff and Ponderosa developed a proposal to preserve the home. Ponderosa would replace the roof, paint the house and provide landscaping. The funds used to spruce up the home would come from a fee that developers pay towards the Bernal Park.

The city council was presented with the option to save the home and approve 12 new homes or demolish the home and allow 14 new units.

Just prior to last week's council meeting, the property owner notified Ponderosa and the city that the old house had been sold. The new owner would refurbish it.

Pamela Hardy, an official with Ponderosa Homes, told the council that the house has been an issue. "Our preference was demolition. However, at this point, we're indifferent, either option is acceptable."

With that in mind, the council voted 5 to 0 for the 12 unit proposal.

Dale Morris, representing the property owner, said he had been told to sell the home. "We have a signed contract to do so." Morris said that the buyer is related to one of the previous occupants of the home.

The public hearing in-

cluded speakers both supporting saving the home and those who questioned why it should be saved.

Jan Batchellor noted that the site has been an eyesore for forty years. "Keep it simple. Approve the 12 units for the site. A small, infill project will be an attractive addition to the area and bring more customers to downtown businesses."

Gerald Hodnefield, a member of the city's Historic Preservation Task Force, said there should be some balance between retaining old homes and property rights. He did not think the house in question was worth saving.

Scott Raty, CEO of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, agreed with Hodnefield. "This house has no historic value. Let's go back to the 14 units."

Linda Garbarino, another member of the Historic Preservation Task Force, called the decision to sell the home and build 12 new homes a win-win for everyone. "Saving the old home helps retain the charm of the street."

All of the councilmembers said they liked the design of the project.

Karla Brown commented that preservation of a 101 year old home should be the first option, not the last. Old homes are one of the attractions of downtown Pleasanton.

Kathy Narum added that having the home fixed will be a positive for all of us.

Mayor Jerry Thorne said that he felt government had overstepped its bonds by tying the project to the old home. However, he felt that the project that was approved is a good one.

New Livermore Police Chief Sworn In

By Carol Graham

The Swearing In Ceremony for Livermore's new Chief of Police, Michael Harris, was held August 21 at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

Harris was chosen from a pool of nearly 40 candidates over a three-month application period, according to city officials. He succeeds interim Chief Randy Sonnenberg, who took over after Chief Steve Sweeney retired earlier this year.

"Chief Harris shares a common trait with the previous two chiefs," said Mayor John Marchand. "He has a passion for his work and for serving the community he has sworn to protect. How people feel about the safety of their community is based upon the Chief's leadership and the available resources. When it comes to how the department is managed, the buck stops with the Chief."

Livermore City Manager Marc Roberts announced the appointment on July 31st. "I am very pleased Chief Harris will be joining us," said Roberts. "He is a strong leader and will make a great addition to the department."

Born and raised in Modesto, Harris served as a captain in the Modesto Police Department, and most recently attained the position of Operations Division Commander. He began his law enforcement career in 1990 with the Oakdale Police Department, before transferring to Modesto where he rose through the ranks from police officer to captain. He accepted specialized assignments including working with the SWAT Team, Crimes Against Children, and Internal Affairs.

During the ceremony's invocation, Livermore Police Chaplain Mike Veneman asked for protection, guidance, and for Chief Harris to "be given favor in the eyes of the people for whom he would willingly lay down his life."

Harris is married with

five children, two still living at home. He enjoys baseball, reading, fishing and spending time with his family.

Harris earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the California State University, Stanislaus and a Master's Degree in Emergency Services Administration from California State University, Long Beach. He is also a graduate of both the FBI National Academy and the International Association of Chiefs of Police's nationally recognized leadership training course, Leadership in Police Organizations.

The Livermore Police Department has 90 sworn officers and 45 full-time professional staff members who are responsible for public safety and crime prevention in the City of Livermore.

"I believe public service is a noble calling that encompasses service, honor and courage," Harris said in his Chief's Message. "The Livermore Police Department's Value Statement is a reminder of our core purpose as law enforcement professionals, 'Service with Honor, Protection with Purpose.' We strive to accomplish this by providing quality customer service, maintaining accountability and the public trust, focusing our crime fighting efforts, engaging citizens through community policing, and utilizing technology and best practices."

Added Marchand, "My father started as a motorcycle cop on a seven-man force. He retired as the chief of a department of 120 sworn officers. I take great pride in that three Livermore officers started their careers working for my father and they will finish their careers working with me."

"With that history, and as the Mayor of Livermore, it was a great honor for me to swear in the new police chief of our city."



Chief Michael Harris

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Lisa Berman, MSPT, CLT
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Midge Griffin, R.N., OCN
Nurse Manager, Breast Center/ Infusion Center

Pam Wilson, R.D., M.S.
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HAROLD BROWN

(continued from page one)

establishing the young Lab as an important component in U.S. defense. As U.S. Secretary of Defense from 1977 to 1981 under President Jimmy Carter, Dr. Brown led military to military talks that underpinned what President Carter enabled during the Camp David Peace Accords. As Secretary of Defense, Dr. Brown reinvigorated the NATO alliance, promoted AWACs, increased U.S. conventional force capabilities, and developed a new generation of nuclear strategic weapons and delivery systems during the hottest part of the Cold War. As a senior negotiator of SALT II, he also helped set the limits of nuclear strategic weapons.

As Air Force Secretary during the Lyndon Johnson administration, Brown saw pilots off to the Vietnam War, and began development of bombers, GPS, and other devices in use today. Prior to that, at only 32, Brown served as Director of Defense Research and Engineering (DDRE) and advised President Kennedy on nuclear ballistic missiles and strategy during a time when the Soviet Union tested the largest nuclear bomb ever exploded, one dubbed Tsar Bomba.

Dr. Brown's idea for an innovation corporation builds on a proposal by John Deutch during a study Brown headed in 1992 that looked at the Government role in civilian technology. The panel recommended a new strategy that would capitalize on private sector strength with federal support. The innovation corporation, could develop demonstration prototypes of processes, products or installations at full scale following research, development and design of technological advances. "The private sector would share in the work of the innovation corporation in a public-private cooperative funding arrangement," Brown writes. Once proven, the private sector would pick up and deploy the technology on a commercial basis.



Dr. Harold Brown serves as a Trustee and Counselor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Photo courtesy of CSIS

"This arrangement would provide the new technology with a strong component of market-driven demand," Brown says

A central part of the idea of an innovation corporation is to provide a one-time extremely large appropriation by Congress, (some tens of billions of dollars), and then protect the project from Congressional politics. The projects would be selected by the management of the innovation corporation with advice from technical, industrial, business and even selected political advisers on its board of directors. The selection criteria: projects should encompass new technology, be too uncertain of near-term profitability to be funded directly by the private sector; and have the potential to make major changes in the economy, the society, or the environment.

He used the tube rail, which proposes to shoot people rapidly from place to place, as an example of a large scale project that private industry would be

unlikely to fund given its high cost and return far in the future.

"Projects would be those that have a good enough chance to work, but not so near being ready that the private sector would be willing to develop them on its own, because the payoff is too unsure or too far off. Companies need to know if there will be demand for their goods or why invest or hire to produce more or new products?" Dr. Brown said.

Projects undertaken by the innovation corporation would not be subject to further Congressional review. He observed, "Once Congress gets its hands on well thought out proposals they are picked apart and added to. They wind up distorted in ways such that they won't work."

Asked what role the national laboratories might play, Brown said they could provide technology and technical oversight. "Somebody has to make judgments on what may be possible. The National Ignition Facility



rather than toward the Soviets, which had previously been the case. The arrangement also taught Egypt how the U.S. military and its civilian population interact.

Asked about what the future of Egypt might be, and how the U.S. might impact that future, Brown stated, "There is not a lot we can do. It is a very tricky situation." He added that while there was a democratically elected government in place, it was not a democratic government.

Options proposed include stopping financial aid and not selling arms to Egypt.

Brown doesn't see cutting off aid as a useful policy. "It may be possible to tweak it in order to put pressure on the military, but other countries, which may not have U.S. interests in mind, are willing to provide a lot more money than we could cut off."

Brown contends the Egyptians would purchase the arms they want elsewhere. In the meantime, arms purchased from the U.S. would deteriorate, and the country would lose its ability to defend itself.

He said he couldn't predict what may happen in Egypt. "There may be chaos. The U.S. needs to be careful not to make things worse. Despite our inability to run our own country well, we seem to think we are omnipotent in what we can get other countries to do. I confess to some disappointment with the senior military officers that I helped to train. They did not absorb the lesson on how militaries behave in a democratic society. The Egyptian military shouldn't have done what it did. However, it's hard to restore broken china."

In his book, Dr. Brown offered observations on a full range of issues including and most important, he says, that national security depends on political cohesion and the state of the domestic economy as much as on military capabilities and deployment skills. "There is

a wide gap between services the public demands and the taxes they are willing to pay. Congress wants to cut everything but itself. The staffs of representatives have increased in size. There is a need to reduce the many levels of decision makers so the country can get important work done and done knowledgeably."

He says that education represents the smallest budget line item, yet has the most influence in future productivity. He advocates for a vocational education pathway as a way to prepare people for the changing job market, and suggests that the military run its own schools to train personnel leaving the force to jobs needed in the private sector.

Dr. Brown also talked about his relationship with Edward Teller, father of the hydrogen bomb and second director of Livermore Lab, and how that relationship changed over time. Brown was Teller's deputy and then his successor as Livermore's director. "Teller became bitterly disappointed in me when I stopped fully sharing most of his views. Teller believed nuclear weapons were central to national security. As Director of Defense Research and Engineering and later secretary of defense, I opposed most of what he believed as the value of thermonuclear weapons over all else. He felt I betrayed him.

"Teller believed that the possessor of the more destructive weapons would determine the outcome of the political competition for the world. . . . I, for one, soon ceased to regard nuclear weapons as the solution to everything, or even to most military problems. . . . I was convinced that advances in delivery systems, not the nuclear weapons themselves were the most important element in the nuclear balance."

As for imaging a world free of nuclear weapons, Dr. Brown said in his book that even if the weapons were gone, the knowledge to build them remains. "It is not the end of weapons that will make a peaceful world. It is a peaceful, orderly world that is the requisite for the abolition of nuclear weapons."

NIF Fusion Experiment at Lab Yields Record Energy

In the early morning hours of Aug. 13, Lawrence Livermore's National Ignition Facility (NIF) focused all 192 of its ultra-powerful laser beams on a tiny deuterium-tritium filled capsule. In the nanoseconds that followed, the capsule imploded and released a neutron yield of nearly 3x10¹⁵, or approximately 8,000 joules of neutron energy -- approximately three times NIF's previous neutron yield record for cryogenic implosions.

The primary mission of NIF is to provide experimental insight and data for the National Nuclear Security Administration's science-based stockpile stewardship program. The experiment attained conditions not observed since the days of underground nuclear

weapons testing and represents an important milestone in the continuing demonstration that the stockpile can be kept safe, secure and reliable without a return to testing.

This newest accomplishment provides an important benchmark for the program's computer simulation tools, and represents a step along the "path forward" for ignition.

Early calculations show that fusion reactions in the hot plasma started to self-heat the burning core and enhanced the yield by nearly 50 percent, pushing close to the margins of alpha burn, where the fusion reactions dominate the process.

"The yield was significantly greater than the energy deposited in the hot spot by the implosion," said Ed

Moses, principle associate director for NIF and Photon Science. "This represents an important advance in establishing a self-sustaining burning target, the next critical step on the path to fusion ignition on NIF."

The experiment was designed to resist breakup of the high velocity imploding shell of the target capsule that has degraded the performance of previous experiments by lowering compression of the target. To create this resistance, the laser power is turned up during the picket that occurs at the beginning of the laser pulse. This raises the radiation temperature in the foot or trough period of the pulse (hence the name "high-foot" pulse), increasing the stability of the target shell but

reducing compression later in the implosion.

The high-foot campaign was born after systematically exploring possible causes for the shell breakup observed in a series of lower foot, more compressed experiments, and developing hypotheses for how to address the issue.

"In the spirit of what Livermore is good at, this work was born out of the fierce competition of ideas of how to fix the problem, but then coming together as a team to move the best ideas forward," said Omar Hurricane, lead scientist on the campaign. "In this particular experiment, we intentionally

lowered the goal in order to gain control and learn more about what Mother Nature is doing. The results were remarkably close to simulations and have provided an important tool for understanding and improving performance."

Moses stated, "It's hard not to feel encouraged by the progress we've made with great new and planned diagnostic capabilities, promising results with high-foot experiments, a team that is working extremely well together and a go forward plan that, by and large, is well supported by the community."

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A three person household can make no more than \$101,000/yr.

(Households must be at least as many people as bedrooms in the unit)

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LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

VOLUNTEER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Volunteer Advisory Bodies are the perfect place to get involved and make a difference in your community. The City of Livermore is seeking Livermore residents for the following:

Beautification Committee: Reviews and recommends to City Council beautification projects for parks, roadsides, medians, city gateways, and standards for landscape maintenance districts. Public outreach achievements include Earth Day, Arbor Day and Annual Appearance Awards. *Meets: 1st Wednesday at 6:00 pm, Maintenance Service Center, 3500 Robertson Park Road. Next meeting: 9/4/13.*

Human Services Commission: The Human Services Commission provides a forum for discussion of community social needs, monitors the expenditure of Housing and Community Development Funds, assists local agencies in procuring appropriate grants, and submits an annual report to City Council on the status of social conditions and progress toward achieving solutions to human needs. *Meets: 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Multi-Service Center Conference Room, 3311 Pacific Ave. Next meeting: 9/10/13.*

Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission: The Youth Advisory Commission brings together youths and adults, and private and public sectors of the community to address responsibility for the care, health, safety, welfare and education of Livermore's young people. *Meets: 1st Monday at 7:00 pm, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue. Next meeting: 10/7/13.*

Livermore Housing Authority: The purpose of the Housing Authority is to administer and oversee the 125 low-income housing units at Leahy Square, the Section Eight Certificate Program and the Voucher Program for subsidized housing. *Meets: 2nd Wednesday at 5:30 pm, 3203 Leahy Way. Next meeting: 9/11/13.*

Applicants to City Advisory Bodies are encouraged to attend at least one meeting of the Advisory Body applied for prior to the interview and must reside within the City limits. For an application or more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at 925-960-4200 or online at www.cityoflivermore.net.

Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office by Friday, September 27, 2013, 5:00 pm.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A "first flush" ceremony was held last Friday at the new restrooms in Sycamore Grove Park.

When Nature Calls, New Sycamore Grove Restrooms Have the Answer

Visitors to Sycamore Grove Park have a surprise in store for them the next time nature calls – new park restrooms.

As part of a larger update for Sycamore Grove Park that will include interpretive nature education, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's newest restrooms are open. Located just steps from the parking lot at both the Wetmore Road and Arroyo Road entrances, the new restroom structures offer park visitors a significant upgrade from the facilities previously in place.

"These provide a more modern, sanitary facility for park visitors," said Chief Ranger Pat Sotelo.

LARPD ranger staff will clean the restrooms daily and check them throughout the day for supplies. Each end of the park has two unisex units.

The Wetmore Road entrance restrooms, which are hooked up to the city's sewer system, also feature sinks with soap dispensers and photo-occupancy sensors for lights.

Each unit also features a skylight to provide plenty of natural lighting. The restrooms will be opened when the park opens each morning and locked overnight after park closing. The restrooms at the Wetmore Road entrance also have drinking fountains attached.

The restrooms at the Arroyo Road entrance are waterless units hooked up to a septic tank.

Constructed by Romtec Inc., the restrooms feature natural elements such as red cedar wood siding and cultured stone veneer. The cement surrounding the buildings also includes imprints of sycamore leaves and animal prints to add aesthetic features to the restrooms. The District held a "First Flush" ceremony with the Board of Directors and LARPD staff on Friday, Aug. 23, to mark the official opening.

YOUTH

(continued from page one)

beginning at 11 a.m., taking place September 1 - 4.

"I started sailing before I can remember. I think I was a couple of years old," said Liebenberg, a 2010 graduate of Danville's Athenian School. With his team, the American Youth Sailing Force (the Force), Liebenberg has been intensely training for the past year to be ready for the international competition. "We're in the gym five or six days a week. We've been sailing as many different catamarans as we can get our hands on. I've been watching videos of the AC 45s racing in the America's Cup World Series to mentally run through all of the maneuvers. These boats are the most physical boats I have ever experienced."

Liebenberg, the Force's tactician, is a mechanical engineering student entering his senior year at Tufts University, located near Boston.

"The team sometimes calls him 'Q,' like the character in the James Bond movies because he is extraordinarily clever at building gadgets that help them race," said shore team manager Kim Paternoster.

"Early on, my parents knew I was going to be a mechanical engineer because I was able to figure out different rigging systems on our family boat," said Liebenberg, recalling the 27-foot boat his family sailed out of the Richmond Yacht Club.

Yet Paternoster wants to make clear that the Force's nine sailors "are not rich kids with trust funds from the yacht club world. These guys are all incredibly funny, down to earth and really smart. They are good guys with a lot of heart."

In fact, Liebenberg was one of five Force members who jumped into the Bay to rescue a woman in a sinking minivan on June 21st. It was an act that earned the sailors an Arthur B. Hanson Rescue Medal, which is awarded by US Sailing's Safety-at-Sea Committee to honor those who rescue or endeavor to rescue another person from drowning, shipwreck or other perils at sea.

"Sailing built David's character and taught him essential life skills," said mother Ellen Liebenberg, "like how to treat others fairly, how to take responsibility for his mistakes, how to follow rules, how

to use disappointment as an incentive to try harder, and how to cope with people who have not mastered these skills. The sportsmanship he learned on the water also serves him well on land."

In addition to their rigorous training, Force team members volunteered with several local youth outreach programs. They also were solely responsible for raising the \$290,000 needed to cover racing fees (including a \$35,000 entry fee, a \$25,000 damage fee, and a \$13,500 insurance fee), gear, water operations, training and coaching, etc., according to Vince Casalaina, the Force's communications manager.

"The Force has gone the extra mile and learned how to build and rig the AC 45 themselves," added Cathy Hammer, also of the shore team. "Serving as their own pit crew makes repairs go faster and each dollar go farther."

Ten teams qualified for the RBYAC, including a second team from the US, two teams from New Zealand, and one team each from Australia, France, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Portugal.

Spectators can watch the

aces from the America's Cup Village at Marina Green and the America's Cup Park at Piers 27/29.

Following the RBYAC, the Golden Gate Yacht Club will defend the America's Cup, which it earned after defeating the Swiss team in 2010, against challengers from New Zealand in a best-of-17 series from September

7 - 21.

"This is a great opportunity for people who don't know much about sailing to get to watch and understand racing at its highest level," said Liebenberg.

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Mike Amaral's California Beach Boys Kick-Off Firehouse Season

The Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton opens its concert season on Saturday, September 7, at 8:00 p.m. with the number one Beach Boys Tribute Band.

Mike Amaral's California Beach Boys (MACBB) are famous for their perfect harmonies, attention to detail, period outfits, and of course the Good Vibrations and Fun, Fun, Fun at every show.

MACBB is based in California. Considered "The world's most popular Beach Boys Tribute Band" according to a recent Los Angeles Times feature, Mike Amaral's California Beach Boys' beginnings included performing at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk and the Cocoanut Grove. Now performing around the country as well as internationally, the six piece group has performed together since 2007.

Founder Mike Amaral says their influences come not only from growing up in the 1960's, but also from actually playing on stage with surf-rock legends such as The Ventures, Surfari, The Sunrays, and The RIVERS to name a few. In addition to Amaral, the group includes Dennis Buldo, Scott Slaughter, James Nobriga, Josh Meschi and Richard Schmidt.

In an interview for Examiner.com, Mike Amaral



Mike Amaral's California Beach Boys coming to Pleasanton.

talks about how "getting together the rest of the members was the most challenging part." He goes on to explain how the harmony of The Beach Boys is much different than that of other bands, which is why there are so few tributes for the group. The harmonies "take a lot of hard work and willingness to rehearse and go over the charts," Amaral says. "Everybody's vocal part is mapped out, and it's really

critical. If one person is off . . . then everybody is off." The musicians had to be willing to devote lots of studio time to getting it right. "I had to find a complete and strong group of singers that wanted to support the whole endeavor."

The original Beach Boys are known for almost being a family affair, with brothers Brian, Carl, and Dennis Wilson, their cousin Mike Love, and

close friend Al Jardine as founding members. Coincidentally Amaral's band includes his two cousins and two close friends. He notes it wasn't his intention to keep the familial aspect of the band when he formed it, "It just happened to work that way."

He goes on to say how in the band's early years, "We just felt we did a good job and we accomplished what our goal was. Our

popularity has gone up like I can't believe since the start. It's unbelievable, the fans we have, man, it's unbelievable."

The original Beach Boys was formed in 1961 when teenage brothers Brian, Carl, and Dennis Wilson got together with Love and Jardine to start a band. A year later David Marks joined and their first wave of hits with Capitol Records hit the charts.

Marks left after about a year and Brian Johnston joined in 1965 when Brian Wilson stepped back from touring to focus on writing and producing for the group, which was by then obviously headed to the top of the charts and international stardom.

Still holding the record for Most Billboard Top 40 Hits (36), the American pop-rock institution known as The Beach Boys has been recognized with both a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Hits such as "Wouldn't It Be Nice" and "Kokomo" continue to top playlists, and probably always will.

This show is part of the Firehouse Arts Center's Cabaret Series, produced and presented by Esses Productions.

Tickets are \$15-\$25, with child, senior, and group discounts available. Tickets can be purchased online at www.firehouse-arts.org, by calling 925-931-4848, and in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday - Friday 12:00 noon-6:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm, and 2 hours prior to performances.

Connie Chen Performs During Annual Recital Program Hosted by Music Teachers

This is the fifteenth year that Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore, and the Alameda County East Branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) have co-sponsored a September piano recital. Each summer at the MTAC convention, members of the local branch choose a talented young artist to perform at Asbury. This year's recital will be held on Saturday evening, September 7, 2013, 7:30 P.M. It will last about 45 minutes. The pianist will be glad to sign programs and meet members of the audience after the performance. Children and music students of all ages, and their families, are especially welcome.

This year's performer is Connie Chen. She grew up in Pleasanton where she began her piano studies with local teacher Ms. Jing Yang, and then continued her studies at the San Francisco Conservatory with Dr. William Wellborn. Connie graduated from Amador Valley High School in June and is now a freshman at UC Berkeley



Connie Chen

where she is majoring in Civil Engineering with a minor in Music and currently

studies piano with Dr. Tai-Cheng Chen.

Ms. Chen was awarded

membership in the prestigious MTAC Young Artist Guild in 2013. She has performed and won top prizes in festivals and competitions both locally and internationally, including First Prize in the Music Division of the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council Youth Excellence event in 2010. Connie also received the Livermore-Amador Symphony Association Award this year.

Ms. Chen has chosen musical gems from the piano repertoire for her performance at Asbury. Among them are a prelude and fugue from Bach's iconic Well-Tempered Clavier, Beethoven's Sonata No. 26 Op. 81a, known as "Les Adieux," and Chopin's Andante spianato et grande polonaise brillante, Op. 22, which has been described as a "firework of wondrous passages and bold phrases." Also included in the program is the virtuosic fourth movement of Prokofiev's Sonata No. 6 Op. 82.

The recital is open to all at no charge. Refreshments will be served afterward. For more information: 925 443-2514, accoll@comcast.net.

Cat Show Planned at Robert Livermore Community Center

The Golden Gate Cat Club will present an all breed cat show on August 31 at the Robert Livermore Community Center in Livermore.

Kids are invited to bring a favorite stuffed toy kitty for judging by a real cat show judge. Toy kitties are available for adoption for those who don't have one; register by 11 a.m.

A variety of cats and kittens of different breeds will be on display and competing for best in show.

A cat show is composed of a number of separate, concurrently running, individual shows held in the various judging rings throughout a show hall.

Every cat entered in the show is evaluated by each judge, and judged according to a written standard for its breed (with the exception of the Household Pet Class, for which there is no written standard). In an all breed show all cats, regardless of coat length or type, compete for various awards.

Rescue groups will have cats available for adoption. Shop for cat-oriented arts and crafts, gifts and gadgets.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and under age 12 and \$25 for a family. For additional information, call 934-3471.

The Robert Livermore Community Center is located at 4444 East Avenue, Livermore.

Valley Humane Society Offers Program for Future Marketers

Valley Humane Society (VHS) is starting a new program that offers future marketers the chance to work with industry experts and hone their skills while helping animals and people in the community. The Teen Marketing Program kicks off September 9, 2013. It is limited to 20 students in each of three available sessions. Additional sessions begin December 2, 2013 and March 17, 2014.

Funded by a grant through the City of Pleasanton, the Teen Marketing Program is currently open only to Pleasanton high school juniors and seniors; there is no fee to participate. Marketing professionals will offer instruction and advice, which students will use to create and launch their own marketing campaigns to promote VHS animals, programs, and services. Campaigns will be featured in local media outlets.

Topics include graphic design, videography, social media outreach, and brand development, presented by experienced individuals from a range of both corporate and nonprofit environments: Robert Half International, Pleasanton Downtown Association, Ogden Costa Creative Group, Spring Street Studios.

Each session is comprised of twelve weekly 90-minute classes, plus 2 hours to be determined. Students interested in enrolling must commit to attending all meetings in the session to qualify for the program. In addition to hands-on marketing experience, participating students will earn 20 community service hours toward their high school civics graduation requirements. Please visit valleyhumane.org for class dates, downloadable application, and additional information.

Mini Weed Munchers Make Appearance at Tenuta Vineyards

Sheep shearing of "Mini Weed Munchers" will take place on Sun., Sept. 1 from noon to 2 p.m. at Tenuta Vineyards.

The mini sheep are replacing chemicals and tractors in the vines for weed control. They cut down on air and noise pollution as well as the use of fossil fuels and chemicals.

Local Sheep Shearer, Russ Duguid will demonstrate his finesse in the fine art of "turning sheep." He makes a tricky job look easy. Livestock Guardian Dogs, Bonnie and Belle will be there watching over their flock. The Batteate Family and Friends will be on hand to make sure everyone is accounted for and in good health.

Vineyard owner, Nancy Tenuta is taking advantage of a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) cost share program. Last year the program became available for grazing in vineyards and orchards. For information about EQIP, contact Alyson Aquino at NRCS 925-371-0154.

For information about Sheep Shearing at Tenuta, contact Allison Batteate 925-455-5755. The winery is located at 633 Kalthoff Common in Livermore.



Miniature sheep



Christopher Bengochea and Eugene Brancoveneau will perform.

Livermore Valley Opera to Perform Excerpts of Carmen at Local Libraries

Livermore Valley Opera will showcase talented opera singers who will appear in the fall production of Bizet's "Carmen" in three free OperaLIVE! events in the Tri-Valley.

The performances will be presented at all three Tri-Valley libraries.

The show will be staged at the Pleasanton Library at 2 p.m. on Sun., Sept. 8, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The event is sponsored by Friends of the Pleasanton Library.

In Livermore, the show will be 2 p.m. Sun., Sept. 15 at the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. It is sponsored by Friends of the Livermore Library.

Dublin Library will host the performance at 2 p.m. on Sun., Sept. 22, 200 Civic Plaza.

"OperaLIVE! events are free, public events that are all about bringing opera to the community so that people who might not otherwise have the opportunity can experience the music

and drama in an intimate public setting," says LVO President Jim Schmidt. "We hope that the experience will encourage people to seek out other opera and musical opportunities."

The library performances occur prior to each opera production, and over the years attendance expands. It's one of many outreach programs LVO offers which include visits by singers to schools in Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin.

The one-hour performances will feature professional opera singers performing arias and duets from Carmen featuring mezzo soprano Cybele Gouverneur, (Carmen) and tenor Christopher Bengochea (Don Jose). In addition, Stage Director and baritone Eugene Brancoveneau will perform excerpts from his role as Escamillo and share insights to LVO's production of the dramatic opera.

"The singers will perform selections from Bizet's

well-known opera providing listeners a taste of the wonderful talent that they will hear at the Bankhead Theater when 'Carmen' opens September 28," adds Schmidt.

A question and answer period follows immediately after the performance. "The singers are always more than happy to answer questions about opera, what it's like to

sing opera and be on stage," says Gary Sears, LVO's Outreach Coordinator who manages OperaLIVE. "It's a great opportunity to learn about this passionate and diverse art form."

For more details on the full production of Carmen and the library preview programs, please visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com

Art & Poetry Reception Set

The public is invited to a free closing reception for "Where a Painter Meets a Poet" at the Pleasanton Library on August 31 from Noon-4 p.m.

The show is a close collaboration between Lily Xu, an artist specializing in Chinese watercolor paintings, and poets Cher Wollard, Ronnie Holland, Jim Curcuro, Kay Speaks and Susan Wilson.

The reception will feature live music by Galina Corkery and Timothy Guan. An open mic begins at 1:30 p.m.

Light Refreshments will be served.

Books, calendars and posters based on the show, and featuring Xu's paintings and poems by Wollard, Holland, Curcuro, Speaks and Wilson, will be available for sale at the reception.

The library is located at 400 Old Bernal in Pleasanton. The show runs through Sept. 30.

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Jeff Knorr and Bob Stanley will read their poetry.

Poetry Reading Planned at Ravenswood

Livermore's current Poet Laureate, Kevin Gunn, will host the continuing series, Ravenswood Poetry on Sunday September 1, 2013. The program runs from 2-4 p.m. The featured poets read at two followed by an open mic at about 3 p.m.

The featured Poets for this event are Jeff Knorr and Bob Stanley.

Poet Laureate of Sacramento from 2009 to 2012, Bob Stanley has published

two chapbooks: *Eleven Blue Strings* (little m press) and *Walt Whitman Orders a Cheeseburger* (Rattlesnake Press). He and his son John Stanley recorded and released a CD of original compositions entitled *Songs from Random Lane*.

Bob serves as President of the Sacramento Poetry Center, and teaches English at Sac State and Sac City College. His new poetry collection, *Miracle Shine*, was

published by CW Books in May 2013.

Jeff Knorr is the current Poet Laureate of Sacramento. He is the author of three books of poetry, *The Third Body* (Cherry Grove Collections), *Keeper* (Mammoth Books), and *Standing Up to the Day* (Pecan Grove Press). His other works include *Mooring Against the Tide: Writing Poetry and Fiction* (Prentice Hall); the anthology, *A Writer's Country* (Prentice Hall).

Knorr's poetry and essays have appeared in numerous literary journals and anthologies including *Chelsea*, *Connecticut Review*, *The Journal*, *North American Review*, *Red Rock Review*, *Barrow Street*, and *Like Thunder: Poets Respond to Violence in America* (University of Iowa).

Admission to the event is \$5.00. Light refreshments are served. Ravenswood is located at 2657 Arroyo Road in Livermore.

First Presbyterian Church Offering 12-Week Course on the Bible

First Presbyterian Church of Livermore (FPCL) is offering a twelve week introductory course on the Bible. Sessions begin Wednesday, September 4, 7:00 to 8:30 PM. The course is open to the public.

The course will be led by Rev. Donald Griggs, who is the author of two books entitled "The Bible From Scratch: the Old Testament for Beginners" and "The Bible From Scratch: the New Testament for Begin-

ners.". In addition to being associated with FPCL for more than forty years Don has served as an editor and author of church education resources, as a professor at Union Presbyterian Seminary, and as a trainer/consultant in Christian education throughout the United States.

Objectives of the course include; becoming comfortable finding one's way through the Bible, using Bible study tools effectively,

gaining a sense of the general "sweep" of the biblical narrative, enjoying studying the Bible with others, developing the habit of Bible reading and study as a spiritual discipline, and making connections between the biblical narrative and one's own faith and life journey.

The twelve-week reading and discussion series will be presented on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm, Sep. 4 – Nov. 20, 2013 at First Presbyterian Church,

2020 Fifth Street. Enter through the courtyard on K Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets. Registration is required. More information and online signup is available from the church by calling 925-447-2078 or online at www.fpcl.us/index.php/ministries/adults/86-get-connected/spiritual/149-the-bible-from-scratch. The books are available through the church office by registering online. Call for prices and availability.

Final First Wednesday Party Set for Sept. 4

Pleasanton Downtown Street Parties are coming to an end. The final 1st Wednesday Street Party will be held on Wed., Sept. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m..

September's featured band Public Eye will be performing in the beer and wine garden.

Attractions include the Market on Main, the Wednesday night Farmers' Market at the 800 block and ArtBlock, a live art and music experience on Angela Street.

Main Street will be closed from Del Valle Parkway to Bernal Avenue from 4:30 to 10 p.m. The event is presented by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. There is no admission charge.

Green Scene Fair Part of Party

The City of Pleasanton and Hacienda Business Park partner with the Pleasanton Downtown Association on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 to host the fourth annual Green Scene Fair as part of the First Wednesday street fair. This free event, which runs from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., will be held along Division Street and Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton, and promises to be a fun and informative experience for the entire family.

The Green Scene Fair will feature exhibitors specializing in green practices, products and services. Exhibitors will provide demonstrations and information on health and wellness products and services, solar power and energy efficient products and rebates, waste reduction and recycling, water efficiency and conservation, commute and transportation options, and more. The event will also include an alternative fuel vehicle display and demonstration.

There will be free craft stations and interactive storytelling with a recycling theme for children set up at the Firehouse Arts Center at 4444 Railroad Avenue, adjacent to the Green Scene Fair.

ArtBlock Has Grown in Size

The final edition of 2013 ArtBlock, a featured event at the summer series of Pleasanton's Downtown "1st Wednesday Street Parties, happens Wednesday night, September 4th on Angela Street at Main Street beginning at 6pm.

September's ArtBlock will be the final edition for Summer 2013. It features more new and inspired handmade works of art, music right on the street. The featured artist will be Debbie Wardrope, who specializes in landscape pastel paintings featuring iconic local scenes of downtown Pleasanton, Sunol, Danville, Livermore and Walnut Creek.

Wardrope's art is the local favorite of Pleasanton, depicting famous restaurants, local vineyards, and town landmarks like Sunol's Little Brown Church. In addition to Wardrope, multiple skilled artisans and craftsmen will display their work, from oil paintings, to glass, hand-made jewelry and other decorative works.

Additionally, Pink Spots will be a featured sponsor for September's ArtBlock. Pink Spots is a business directory for the LGBT community.

"We are excited to be a part of Pleasanton's ArtBlock and look forward to all the fabulous folks we will meet," said Kevin Babeaux of Pink Spots and Rhineaux Media.

More than 100 pieces of art have sold while thousands of residents of Tri-Valley and the greater Bay Area have enjoyed art, food, games and music. Visit ArtBlock on Facebook

Panel to Discuss Staging of Classics for a Contemporary Audience As Part of Eugene O'Neill Festival

As part of the 14th Annual Eugene O'Neill Festival from September 6-29 in Danville, a panel of Bay Area theatre professionals will debate the match-up between "classics" of the theatre and contemporary audiences. How are classics best staged? What challenges do they present for directors and playwrights attempting to write a "modern" classic?

On Sunday, September 22, beginning at 2:00 p.m., the Eugene O'Neill Foundation will sponsor "Modern Audiences/Classic Plays" at the Old Barn at Tao House, part of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in the Danville hills. It was at Tao House from 1937-1944 that playwright O'Neill wrote, many believe, his most notable plays including *The Iceman Cometh*, *A Long Day's Journey into Night*, and *Moon for the Misbegotten*, among others.

The afternoon panel discussion will be moderated by KQED's Michael Krasny, celebrating twenty years as host of the popular public affairs radio program "Forum" on San Francisco Public Radio, which concentrates on the arts, culture, health, business and technology. Dr. Krasny, a Bay Area icon, has interviewed countless political, religious, literary and community figures, as well as playwrights Tony Kushner, Anna Devere Smith and Edward Albee, among others. He is the author of *Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life*, and *Spiritual Envy: An Agnostic's Quest*. Krasny is also Professor of English at San Francisco State, focusing on American Literature.

Krasny will be joined on



Michael Krasny (above) will moderate a panel that includes Eileen Herrman (center, top), Joy Carlin, and Jasson Minadakis.



the panel by Jasson Minadakis (Artistic Director of the Marin Theatre Company), long-time Bay Area director and actress Joy Carlin, Rob Melrose (Co-founder and Artistic Director of San Francisco's Cutting Ball), and Trevor Allen (Artistic Director of San Francisco's Black Box Theatre).

Jasson Minadakis has been directing at the Marin Theatre Company for seven years. His impressive career includes both classical and modern theatre, as well as numerous productions of Shakespeare. Mr. Minadakis won the 2010 Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Best Director, and garnered several "Production of the Year" awards. This season he will direct the world premiere of Carson Kreitzer's *Lasso of Truth* and the West Coast premiere of Philip Dawkins' *Failure: A Love Story* at MTC.

Joy Carlin, a legendary Bay Area director, stage and screen actress, has directed nearly a dozen productions at Berkeley's Aurora Theatre, including *The Norman Conquests: Table Manners*, and *Body Awareness*. Her production of Amy Herzog's family drama *After*

the Revolution opens at Aurora Theatre on August 30. She is seen currently in Woody Allen's new film *Blue Jasmine*. Carlin was Associate Artistic Director of San Francisco's American Conservatory Theatre (ACT) from 1987-1992.

Rob Melrose is Artistic Director and Co-Founder (with Paige Rogers) of San Francisco's Cutting Ball Theater. Their theater's mission is to develop productions of experimental plays and re-envision the classics. Past productions have included *The Strindberg Cycle: The Chamber Plays in Rep*, *The Bald Soprano*, *The Chairs* and *Risk Is This*. The Company begins its fifteenth season with *Sidewinder* by Basil Kreimendahl – a kind of *Waiting for Godot* set in the Wild West. Mr. Melrose is also a free-lance director, working with Minneapolis' Guthrie Theatre, Magic Theatre and the Oregon and California Shakespeare Theatres.

Trevor Allen is founder and resident playwright for San Francisco's Black Box Theatre Co. He describes the "Black Box" as a "digital theatre company dedicated



to new live performance." His *Working for the Mouse* was voted the "Best of the San Francisco Fringe Festival." Mr. Allen has won a Critics Circle Award for his play *The Creature*. The San Jose Rep has currently commissioned his new play, *Valley of Sand*.

Eileen Herrman, coordinator of the event, and member of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation Board of Directors, says "The ongoing interest by contemporary audiences in classical plays, and in theatre of the last century, is often due to the remarkable creativity of directors who shape productions to meet the contemporary stage. How do they do it? How much shaping is necessary and productive?"

Reservations for "Modern Audiences/Classic Plays" are available at www.eugeneoneill.org. Due to limited seating, reservations are recommended. Tickets are \$10 donation. Access to Tao House is by National Park Service shuttle from the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Avenue, Danville.

"Modern Audiences/Classic Plays" is presented in conjunction with the 14th Annual Eugene O'Neill Festival during the month

of September. The theme of the Festival is "O'Neill versus O'Neill," and features the production of two of O'Neill's early plays. The Eugene O'Neill Foundation presents *Chris Christophersen* (1920) September 26-29 in the Old Barn at Tao House, part of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in the Danville hills operated by the National Park Service.

The O'Neill Foundation will also present the Role Players Ensemble production of the playwright's *Anna Christie* (1921) from September 6-21 at the Village Theatre in downtown Danville. The same com-

pany of actors will appear in the two plays, which are closely connected in story and character, but very different in style and worldview.

"It's one story, two plays one company of actors and two starkly different worlds," says Foundation program director Eric Fraisher Hayes, who is directing *Chris Christophersen*.

Tickets for all Festival events are available through the O'Neill Foundation website, www.eugeneoneill.org.

A special All-Inclusive admission ticket for all Festival events is also available on the website.



Shown is a painting from the show by Rebecca Chou titled "Mythical Beasts"

Absolutely Abstract Runs Sept. 1-30 at the Library

The annual Absolutely Abstract Show will be exhibited at Livermore Library Gallery Hall from September 1 through September 30.

This show is unique since it is the only show dedicated to abstract art in the Tri-Valley area and features local abstract artists. Thirty works will be on view ranging from small to large, and are for sale.

The Livermore Library is located at 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. The library is open Monday through Thursday: 10am to 9pm, Friday: 10am-6pm, Saturday: 10am-5pm, and Sunday: 12-6pm.

Vin win situation: Page Mill Winery Charity Thursdays

by Harry Stoll

On the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m., Page Mill Winery donates the \$5 tasting fee and 10% of sales to a charity. Light snacks are on the counter. It's a nice break for tasters who can't get away on a weekday and a chance to do some good at no extra cost to you.

The tasters pay the regular price for wine, the winery increases its exposure and sales (at a lesser per-bottle net, of course) and a worthwhile charity receives some cash. This idea is the brain baby of tasting room manager Debbie Cristiano. She says the number of tasters has varied from four to fifty. The charities tend to be smaller and lesser known.

On August 15, as the sun prepared to exit, the Mickaboo Bird Rescue en-

tered and set up their exhibit. "Mickaboo" combines Mick and Aboo, the names of cockatiel companions of the two founders.

The rescue is run strictly by volunteers and operates in the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento Area. It will soon be in the Delta area. Volunteers Martha Kudlack and Pamela Lee were present to tell some of the Mickaboo's story. It has foster homes for the birds that have been neglected, abused, injured, abandoned, or surrendered to it. Mickaboo has over 300 birds available for adoption, including African Greys, Amazons, Budgies, Canaries, Cockatiels, Conures, Macaws and many more.

"We find homes for the birds," said Kudlack. "The first requirement for adoption is to take a bird care

class."

By e-mail, Lee reported that the winery staff was great at supporting them. "... we got over \$200 in funds from the winery and from bird toy sales. That will help pay for two vet exams (with basic tests)!" For more information, visit their web site: www.mickaboo.org

The wine being poured that night, especially for the event was:

2012 Page Mill Winery Vintner's Select Chardonnay Livermore Valley (\$28). The grapes come from a vineyard located in the sloping, rolling hills of the Kalthoff Commons area at the west end of the Livermore Valley where it enjoys cool Bay breezes and excellent drainage. Winemaker Dane Stark aged it in 100% new American oak barrels. If you think you don't liked

oaked Chardonnay, you must try this one that has a deep straw color, a creamy texture, and honey, almonds, and vanilla from the oak. Cristiano points out that it's available for sale only to Underground Wine Club Members, but it's easy to go underground.

She said the bookings for September 5 and 19 are Livermore Mystics and Our Savior Lutheran School. If a charity wants to participate or if someone knows of a worthy charity, contact Debbie Cristiano (see below.) She also said, "When we don't have a group reserved, we donate to our Page Mill Scholarship fund." Winery owner and winemaker Dane Stark "... set that up years ago. It is to benefit kids who study in any country other than their birth country.

(See CHARITY, page 7)



Rescued cockatoo

Big Weekend Features Scottish Gathering and Games

The 148th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games will be held Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton.

This event is produced entirely by volunteers from the Caledonian Club of San Francisco.

Gates open at 8 a.m. Athletic events begin at 8:30 a.m., other activities at 10 a.m.

An opening ceremony is held each day at 12:30 p.m. in front of the main grandstands. A grandstand show featuring massed pipe bands in concert, Western States Drum Major finals and more are held in front of the main grandstand starting at 3:45 p.m. each day.

Twenty-nine Pipe Bands from the U.S. and Canada will be featured in competition. Individual Piper and Drummer competition for grades 1-5 is part of the event. There will be a special appearance by the L.A. Scots Grade I Pipe Band with special arrangements.

Highlights are as follows:

HEAVY EVENTS (ATHLETICS): 39th U.S. Invitational Heavy Event Championships. World's top professional heavy event athletes including World Champion Matt Vincent. Pros from Scotland, England, New Zealand, Canada and the U.S. Top selected amateur men's and women's divisions and men's and women's Masters Classes. All athletes compete in all eight disciplines, including Caber, Weight-for-Height, Weight-for-Distance, Hammer, and Stone Putt.

HIGHLAND DANCING: Western U.S. Highland Dancing Championships.

IRISH PAVILION: Back by popular demand! - Irish Step Dancing demonstrations and more.

ENTERTAINMENT: Four stages of traditional and Celtic Rock bands, groups and individuals. Tempest, Albanach (Scotland), Celtica (Austria), Browne Sisters, Molly's Revenge, Golden Bough, Peter Daldry & Neil O'Neill.

CELTIC HERITAGE: Two stages of continuous Fiddling, Harping, Singing and Scottish Country Dancing featuring the Scottish Fiddlers Rally with Alasdair Fraser & Celtic Harpers with Varlene Schermer.

LIVING HISTORY: Reenactment guilds with Mary Queen of Scots and her entourage; Highland Warriors, Roman Legions and invading Vikings. Period artisans and craftsmen.

GATHERING OF THE CLANS: Do you have a bit of Scottish blood in your veins. This is the place to research your heritage. Nearly 100 clan tents.

FOR THE YOUNGSTERS: Children's Glen with games and prizes. (One of many attractions the kids love)

BIRDS OF PREY: A crowd favorite - more than 20 exotic birds, including hawks, falcons, owls and more, with professional handlers and informative information.

SHEEP DOG TRIALS: Demonstrations in the precise herding of sheep by highly trained dogs and their handlers. Provided by the Northern California Working Sheepdog Association.

CLYDESDALE HORSE TEAM: Always a popular feature for the children.

HIGHLAND CATTLE: With long coats of hair, these magnificent "coos" are prepared for the cold Scottish winter!

SOCCER AND MORE: The quick game of Five-A-

Side soccer with eight Semi-Pro teams from California and Nevada.

RUGBY & SHINTY: Local Rugby teams. See the ancient Scottish game of Shinty, played by local teams.

VENDORS: Five buildings with more than 100 vendors with wares and services from the British Isles - Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales.

FOOD & BEVERAGE: Enjoy a steak pie, fish & chips, British banger or Scotch Egg! - Ales or beer....and of course regular fairgrounds American style food.

BRITISH MOTOR CAR CAVALCADE and MOTORCYCLES TOO: A number of British marque clubs display their cherished automobiles....how about a three-wheeled Morgan! BSA and Triumph as other two-wheelers from Britain.

KILTLED MILE: Competition for all ages, running the one-mile track for prizes and glory. Kilt required!

WHISKY TASTING: Sample premium single malt whiskies. Attend a Master Class seminar with a Whisky Master. (Additional cost).

FRIDAY NIGHT CONCERT: Held at the host hotel, Marriott San Ramon. The L.A. Scots Pipe Band and famous U.S. military band. (Extra cost)

SATURDAY NIGHT FREE "Ceilidh" (PARTY): Following the Grandstand Show Held at the Red Lion Pub at the fairgrounds. Celtic music. - Open microphone plus special guests performing - Nominal cost for Tri-Tip & Chicken BBQ - Pub drinks.

For tickets and information go to www.TheScottishGames.com or call 1-888-769-2345.

Wineries to Host Annual Harvest Celebration



The 2013 Livermore Valley Harvest Wine Celebration marks the 32nd year that people have gathered over Labor Day Weekend to enjoy the fruit of the vines in one of California's oldest wine regions.

Sunday, September 1 and Monday, September 2

between noon and 5 p.m., more than 40 area wineries will offer Livermore Valley's best wine, food, art and music to ticket holders. Bus transportation between wineries will be available on Sunday only. This year's celebration will include Livermore Valley's newest wineries: Dante Robere Vineyards, Ehrenberg Cellars and Darcie Kent Vineyards, as well as the new winery and tasting room of Cuda Ridge Wines.

Sunday, September 1:

Thirty-one wineries will host festivities at their tasting rooms across Livermore Valley. Ten more wineries will be pouring at either Concannon Vineyard or Wente Vineyards on Tesla Road. All locations will offer wine tasting, fresh food vendors, local artisans and festive music. Celebration guests are invited to ride complimentary shuttle buses between the wineries. The buses will travel on two different routes, each serving at least 14 winery locations. Free parking will be available at Robertson Park in Livermore, where guests can board buses and transfer between routes during the day. Bus stops may be as far as 300 feet from winery locations, so guests riding buses must be prepared to walk up driveways. Wineries are open only to ticket holders with event wristbands and no outside food is allowed.

Monday, September 2:

Thirty-five Livermore Valley wineries will continue the celebration with wine tasting, vendors and music at their tasting rooms. There will be no bus service. Five wineries will pour at Wente Vineyards on Tesla and one will pour at Concannon Vineyard.

Admission price includes a commemorative Livermore Valley wine glass, tastings of at least two wine varietals from each participating winery, official event program and exclusive discounts on wine purchases.

Tickets for the 2013 Harvest Wine Celebration are good for admission both days and priced at \$55 each when purchased in advance, \$65 at the event. Designated driver tickets are \$10 and are also valid both days. Tickets are available online at www.LVwine.org and at participating Livermore Valley wineries, the Wine Steward in Pleasanton, First Street Wine Company and the Winemaker's Pour House in Livermore and at Bay Area Safeway stores. Ticket "will call" arrangements vary by purchase method. Please visit www.LVwine.org for details.

By **Harry Stoll**

Rosés are made from nearly every variety of red grapes. Winemakers limit the time the juice is in contact with the skins, with 24 hours probably being the longest. Fermentation methods vary. Occasio Winery uses a combination of stainless steel and once-used French oak barrels, En Garde Winery uses neutral Hungarian barrels, and Las Positas stainless steel.

Much of the color of red wine comes from the skins, as do nearly all the tannins. Beautiful colors result, such as coral and American Beauty roses. And, since most of the tannins are gone, it's gentle. McGrail Winery calls it blush wine, but nobody calls it pink, which it ain't.

I have enjoyed Rosés with chicken tandoori (going easy on the spices), crab salad in endive, grilled eggplant with pesto, and tomato-pesto Round Table artisan flatbread, and other light fare.

Probably some oh so *au courant* expert is recommending Rosés be served warm, but I'm not a trend setter or follower. Serve Rosés chilled. Some fussy folks want to know the exact temperature. If you're one, surely you have a wine thermometer. Bob Ryan, sort of a do-it-all wine guy at Occasio Winery, says 48 degrees Fahrenheit is right. Without taking its temperature, he has a seat of the pants rule: "When the mist on the outside begins to run down the side, it's ready," says Bob.

Americans are slow to take up Rosés. However, they have always been

part of the European eno scene.

En Garde winemaker Csaba Szakal says dry Rosé was the only wine Grandfather Béla in Hungary made. Customers brought their own containers. "They would sit down in the 'Tasting Room' (our kitchen) and enjoy a glass while my grandfather went to the cellar to fill the containers directly from the barrels. I make it every year in his honor. I use the same method." He bleeds off the juice 12-24 hours after crushing, then ferments the juice in neutral Hungarian barrels until the spring. He uses malolactic fermentation. "In Hungary, we always drank this wine as a spritzer and I still do," says Csaba.

Due to legalities, En Garde is not allowed to post signs directing you to its tasting room. Go into the Tenuta tasting room and they'll direct you to it (beyond the barrel room, to a bar as welcoming as a kitchen).

Here are three Rosé featuring Pinot Noir:

2012 En Garde Dry Rosé California (\$24).

Csaba Szakál's dark gem uses Pinot Noir (probably from the Russian River Valley), Tempranillo, Malbec, Petit Verdot, Petite Sirah, and Cabernet Sauvignon. The pale strawberry color is a tad darker than Rosés made solely from Pinot Noir. The fresh floral aroma is perfume in her tresses, followed by liveliness in the mouth. Csaba suggests enjoying it with club soda. I recommend this spritzer style.

2009 Tenuta Vineyards Pinot Noir Rosé Livermore Valley (\$12). This is owner/winemaker Nancy

Tenuta's first estate Pinot Noir Rosé. Her winery was the first in the Livermore Valley to grow Pinot Noir. The vineyard is on a north-facing slope so avoids the afternoon sun. The color is pale copper. The wine emits aromas of berries with some minerality, and on the palate sings of the flower of Malaya.

2012 Occasio Rosé of Pinot Noir Livermore Valley Del Arroyo Vineyard (\$24).

Winemaker John Kinney made this heart tugger in the dry style, so it's crisp and concentrated with berry notes and a bit of citrus. This elegant wine is good soulfully by itself or with watermelon salad. The finish is for the finish—toasting somebody standing on the jetty as your steamer pulls away.

Here are three from other than Pinot Noir:

2012 Las Positas Rosé Livermore Valley (\$24).

It's made from estate grown grapes: 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 19% Petite Sirah, 16% Barbera, 8% Tempranillo, and 4% Petit Verdot and Syrah. The typical romantic

color leads to aromas of strawberry and melon. Its medium body has a bit of a quick sweet flirty kiss and a cranberry finish. Perfect for a poolside brunch of cheese and fancy crackers.

2012 McGrail Vineyards Kylie Ryan Rosé (\$22). Kylie Ryan is the 3-year old daughter of winery president, Heather McGrail. Winemaker Mark Clarin made this salmon colored beauty that is perfect with wild, fresh king salmon. It's made from estate Cabernet Sauvignon. The aroma picks fresh strawberries and a bit of rose petal, with flavors to match. The finish is a lingering minerality that waltzes with a strawberry blond.

2012 Dante Robere Syrah Rosé Livermore Valley (\$15). The color is the deepest of the six rosés with a nose of strawberry, pomegranate, and rhubarb. The grapes are from this newcomer winery's vineyard opposite Sycamore Park. This one went on my patio and went for the grilled chicken breast and rhubarb pie. If you sing, "I cannot stay," the finish will stay with you.

CHARITY

(continued from page 6)

As you may know, Dane studied in France for a year. I think his goal is for other kids to have that type of opportunity."

Livermore Valley wineries generously support charities. Neighboring Retzlaff Winery spokeswoman Salomè Taylor e-mailed: "We donate our space to a number of charitable organizations for their fundraising functions. Organizations include, The Open Heart

Kitchen, Livermore Valley Opera/Opera in the Vineyard, Canine Companions and others. A portion of the proceeds from wine sales is also made."

Page Mill Winery has set a template for smart marketing while benefiting worthy causes. It warrants copying and deserves the support of wine tasters.

Page Mill Winery is located at 1960 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore; 456-7676.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

with a no host bar and appetizers. The show begins at 8 p.m. Hoof Prints of the Heart and Rotary Interact (a Rotary Club for high-school students), will be also selling tickets and will receive \$5 from the proceeds of every ticket they sell. Tickets are \$30. The theater seats 227. Call Debbie Peck, Travel Bug (925) 447-4300 or Alex Watson, ARW Realty Investment at (925) 437-4204 for tickets.

Annual Piano Recital, Saturday, September 7, 2013, 7:30 PM at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. Annual piano recital co-sponsored by the Alameda County East Branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California and Asbury. Pleasanton resident Connie Chen, MTAC Young Artist Guild member and Livermore-Amador Symphony Association award recipient will perform timeless music masterpieces by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and Prokofiev. The community is invited. No charge for admission; refreshments served. Further information: 925 443-2514 accoll@comcast.net

Hard Rock Guitar Hero - Rick Derringer, Guitar Fest live! Sat., Sept. 7, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Mike Amaral's California Beach Boys, The Firehouse Arts Center opens its 4th Season with the number one Beach Boys Tribute Band on Saturday, September 7, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$25, with child, senior, and group discounts available. Tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

REO Speedwagon, 27th season of The Concerts at Wente Vineyards, Thurs., Sept. 12. Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Road, Livermore. For ticket information, go to www.wentevineyards.com

Paul Thorn: Muscular brand of Southern-influenced, rootsy rock and blues music. Bill Hinds, guitar; Michael Graham, keyboard; Ralph Friedrichsen, bass; Jeffrey Perkins, drums. One show only. Friday, September 13, at

8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25-\$35 with group discounts available. Tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

David Lanz, Cristofori's Dream pianist, Sept. 14, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

David Lanz, Grammy nominee, contemporary piano legend, performs 8 p.m. Sat., Sept. 14, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

The Bronx Wanderers, Lightning Bolt of Pure Rock n' Roll. Wed., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Maria Muldaur, First Lady of Bluesiana. Fri., Sept. 20, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Gregg Rolie Band, Journey and Santana co-founder, Sept. 21, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

ON THE STAGE

Firehouse Arts Center Season 4:

Tickets now on sale both online and at the box office. The Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton has announced their 2013-2014 season line-up. Three theater companies and various concert series anchor the offerings, with rock, country, bluegrass, jazz, blues, classical, folk, cabaret, holiday, and retro concerts included. Highlights: Paula Cole, Gregg Rolie Band, Faith Prince, Bo Bice, Special Consensus, December People and Starship (yes, that Starship). Group discounts for 10 or more are available for all shows, and many performances offer \$12 youth tickets. Subscription packages are available for the Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre's season, the venue's professional musical theater company in residence. View show info and purchase tickets now at www.firehousearts.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Firehouse Box Office: 4444 Railroad

Avenue, Pleasanton, or 925-931-4848. Hours: Wednesday - Friday 12:00 noon-6:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm, and 2 hours prior to performances.

The Woman in Black - A Ghost Play

adapted by Stephen Mallatrat from the book by Susan Hill. Sept. 5, 8 p.m. preview. Sept. 6, opening reception. Show Sept. 5-29. Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m., Sat., Sept. 21, 2 and 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward. Preview \$10; shows \$29. discounts available. (510) 881-6777; www.dmtonline.org

Sleepy Hollow, the Musical, opens Sept. 27 and runs for three weekends. Front Row Theater at the Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd, San Ramon. Performance Days: September 27th, 28th, 29th, October 4th, 5th, 6th, 11th, 12th, and 13th. www.sanramoncommunitytheater.org or 925-389-7529. San Ramon Community Theater is a volunteer theater group and is part of the San Ramon Arts Foundation.

SCHEDULE OF EUGENE O'NEILL FESTIVAL EVENTS:

Sept. 6-21: O'Neill's Anna Christie presented by Role Players Ensemble. Eight performance of the O'Neill play directed by George Maguire. Evenings at 8:00 p.m., Sunday Matinees at 2:00 p.m. Village Theatre, Danville. Tickets: www.RolePlayerEnsemble.com or Village Theatre ticket office, 223 Front Street, Danville. (925) 314-3466.

Sept. 12: Classic 1930 MGM film of Anna Christie with Greta Garbo and Marie Dressler. Village Theatre, Danville, 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$5.00 donation at the door or www.RolePlayersEnsemble.com

Sept. 22: "Modern Audiences/Classic Plays" — a special playwright/director's panel discussion centering on the two Festival plays, moderated by KQED's Michael Krasny in the Old Barn at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, Danville, 2:00 p.m. Panelists include Jasson Minadakis (Marin Theatre Co.), Joy Carlin (Aurora Theatre), Trevor Allen (Black Box Theatre) and Rob Melrose

(Cutting Ball Theatre). \$10 donation; NPS shuttles from the Museum of the San Ramon Valley beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Sept. 26-29: O'Neill's Chris Christophersen presented by Eugene O'Neill Foundation. Four performances of this 1920 drama in the Old Barn at Tao House, Danville. Directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes. Evenings at 8:00 p.m., Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m. NPS shuttles from Museum of the San Ramon Valley. Tickets: www.eugeneoneill.org. or (925) 820-1818

Sept. 27-28: Gala Champagne/Desert reception celebrating O'Neill's 125th Birthday. In the Courtyard at Tao House, Danville. Reservation required with ticket purchase at www.eugeneoneill.org. NPS shuttles from Museum of the San Ramon Valley begin at 6:30 p.m.

COMEDY

Comedy Uncorked 2013, 7:30 p.m. Sat., Sept. 28, Retzlaff Vineyards, Livermore. An evening of great wine, great laughs and a great cause on the lawn at beautiful Retzlaff Vineyards, Livermore. Benefits Open Heart Kitchen, feeding the hungry of the Tri-Valley. Advance purchase tickets save \$5 off the price at the door. 1-888-412-5055.

DANCE

Livermore School of Dance will present an evening of food, music, fellowship and dance. The community is invited to attend the 2nd annual Sunset Soiree on Saturday, August 31, 2013 from 5:30 - 8:00pm in front of the Bankhead Theater at Shea Homes Park. Admission is free. Bring a picnic dinner or order a pre-packaged dinner from Uncle Yu's for \$6 each. Visit the Livermore Dance website at www.livermoredance.com to pre-order an Uncle Yu's meal. Or, order a pizza from Patxi's (walk-in orders only please). Shaved ice, face painting and henna will be available.

Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Diverse and Visionary Contemporary Dance. Sat., Sept. 14, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Hungarian State Folk Dancers, Gypsy Romance. Thurs., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Friday Evening Group Dance! Learn how to dance with great instructors from It's All About Dancing, new dance every week from Salsa, Tango, Swing and more. Group lesson starts at 7:30, followed by open dance until 9:45 in our new location at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore; 925-449-9292. \$15.

AUDITIONS/COMPETITIONS

Valley Concert Chorale is now scheduling appointments for auditions for singers who would like to be a part of the Chorale's 50th Anniversary season of 2013-2014. Auditions will be held on the following dates: Mondays, September 9 and 16th. Auditions and rehearsals are held at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The church is located at 2020 Fifth Street. The Chorale is seeking experienced singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy singing exciting and challenging music. The Chorale performs a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary, and folk to jazz. To schedule an appointment, call (925) 462-4205. More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available at <http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org/> or by calling the general information line at (925) 866-4003.

Cantabella Registration, Fall registration for Cantabella Children's Chorus is now open to new students. Classes begin the week of September 2nd in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin. This international award-winning chorus has been providing a quality music education for children ages 5-18 for over 20 years. To register for the training choirs or to schedule an audition for the performing choirs, or for more information, visit Cantabella.org/ register or call 925-292-2663.

Auditions: The Drowsy Chaperone, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production Directed and Choreographed by Christina Lazo and Misty Megia. Auditions

Sept. 7, 11 a.m., 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 101, Pleasanton. Actors should bring a current headshot and resume to the audition and prepare 32 bars of an up-tempo song or ballad. Actors should be ready to dance as well. The dance audition may include a tap combination. Accompanist provided. No tapes, no a capella. Please download audition form and fill out conflicts completely before auditions www.trivalleyrep.com

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association's 41st annual Competition for Young Musicians, open to instrumentalists and vocalists who reside in 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. Completed applications must be accompanied by an \$8 application fee and a CD or cassette tape for preliminary screening. Additional information may be obtained from www.livamsymph.org or by contacting the competition chairperson at 447-1947. The application deadline is Oct. 6, 2013.

OPERA

Carmen by Georges Bizet, Livermore Valley Opera production, Sept. 28 and 29 and Oct. 5 and 6. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 474-6800.

(continued on page 10)



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www.victorinevalley.com

Milestones

Community

Education

The following local residents graduated from California Lutheran University in May: Kelly Jensen of Livermore graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science; Tyler Rankin of Dublin graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in computer information systems.

The American College of History and Legal Studies (ACHLS), the nation's first college dedicated exclusively to the study of history, announced the graduates from its 2013 class. Catherine H. Guthrie of Livermore is among the nine graduates.

All nine graduates were participants in the Early Admissions To Law School Program and just completed their first year at Massachusetts School of Law (MSLAW). The Early Admission program is a unique educational approach that allows students who earn 30 credits at ACHLS and achieve a GPA of 2.7 or higher in their junior year to apply to MSLAW after their junior year. As a result, they not only receive their B.A. after the first year of law school, they already have one year of law school under their belts.

The graduates will be honored in a ceremony on September 21, 2013, 10:00 a.m., at the Black Water Grill in Salem, NH.

Military

Army Cadet Kurt J. Cofer has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, Ky.

The four-week course is a leadership internship for cadets that can lead to the ultimate goal of becoming an Army officer. College students experience and examine the Army without incurring an obligation to serve in the Army or ROTC, and are eligible to receive two-year college scholarship offers and attend the Advanced ROTC Course at their college.

Cadets are observed and evaluated during classroom and field training exercises to determine their officer potential in leadership abilities and skills. The cadets are trained to have a sound understanding of traditional leadership values during the challenging, motivating "hands-on" training. The training develops well-disciplined, highly motivated, physically conditioned students, and helps improve the cadets' self-confidence, initiative, leadership potential, decision making, and collective team cohesion. The cadets receive training in fundamental military skills, Army values, ethics, Warrior ethos, basic rifle marksmanship, small arms tactics, weapons training, drill and ceremony, communications, combat water survival training, rappelling, land navigation, and squad-level operations field training.

Cofer is a student at Chapman University, Orange. He is the son of Al and Suzanne Cofer of Livermore. Cofer graduated in 2011 from Livermore High School.

Hope Hospice CEO Chosen to Serve on State Committee

Victoria Emmons, Hope Hospice CEO, has been selected to serve a two-year term, from 2013 to 2015, on the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Cemetery and Funeral Bureau's Advisory Committee.

"Consumer oversight of the industry is critical to assuring families receive the best possible counsel as they plan for end-of-life needs," says Ms. Emmons. "I am pleased to be representing consumers on this important advisory group."

The Cemetery and Fu-

neral Bureau advocates for consumer protection and licensee compliance through proactive education and enforcement of laws and regulations of the death care industry. The focus of the Advisory Committee is to advise the Bureau as a whole, based on each member's diverse experience and education, concerning the Bureau's administration, regulation, licensing and enforcement functions. Advisory Committee members provide important professional and technical assis-



Victoria Emmons

tance to the Bureau on issues related to the regulation of licensed funeral establish-

ments, cemeteries and crematories in California.

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