



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.

Pension Reform Bill Will Rein in Costs

The California State Legislature passed a bill that will reduce taxpayers' costs of pensions of government employees who are enrolled in the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS).

Many city governments and State of California department employees have pensions through CalPERS. School district employees, except for teachers who have their own retirement system, are in CalPERS.

In the Valley, Alameda County workers, including Zone 7 Water Agency em-

ployees, are connected to the county's own independent retirement system.

The changes are mandatory for all cities, with the exception of charter cities. Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton are not charter cities.

The bill cleared both houses on Aug. 31, the last day of this year's session, and was sent to Gov. Jerry Brown.

In a formal statement, Brown noted the bill had strong, bi-partisan support. "This sweeping pension reform package will save

tens of billions of taxpayer dollars, and make the system more sustainable for the long term. I commend the Legislature for taking this action."

As Brown's statement implies, he is expected to sign the bill, AB 340.

The bipartisan support was very strong in the 40-member Senate, on a 38-1 vote, with one Republican voting against it, and one abstention.

The Assembly vote was 66 in favor, nine opposed and five abstentions. Republican opponents have

stated that the bill does not go far enough in reducing taxpayers' share of pension contributions.

AB 340 was sought by city governments to stem the tide of rising payouts into the retirement system for their employees.

The two most significant points in the pension reform bill that will help local governments the most are rises in the retirement age and in the employees' share of contributions.

CalPERS retirement age for full benefits will climb from 55 for most new em-

ployees to 67. New public safety employees will see their retirement age boosted from 50 to 57.

For benefits computed at a lower formula, the beginning age for retirement for non-public safety employees can either be 52 or 62, depending on the amount of benefits that the employee chooses from among the three options

Benefits will be capped once employees reach \$110,000, or \$132,000, if they don't receive Social Security.

(See REFORM page 4)

Fire Department Hosts 9/11 Remembrance

The anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001 will be observed in a brief ceremony hosted by the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LFPD) on Tuesday, September 11, 2012. The event, which is open to the public, will be held at the flagpole outside of Fire Station Number One at 3560 Nevada Street in Pleasanton beginning at 9:45 a.m.

The purpose of the event is to honor the victims of September 11th, their families, first responders, and all military engaged since that crisis.

The agenda includes some brief comments from the Fire Chief, the ceremonial ringing of the bell in memory of those who died in the line of duty, and the traditional playing of bagpipes. Members of both the Livermore Police Department and the Pleasanton Police Department will also be in attendance.

The ceremony will be followed by refreshments and an Open House of the Fire Department headquarters and Fire Station #1. For more information, please contact the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department at (925) 454-2361.

Free Live Music Concerts to Expand Next Summer

Building on the success of the "Friday Nights LIVE!" outdoor concert series, the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center has just announced it will expand the schedule in 2013 by reviving the "Tuesday Tunes" concerts. Live music will now be offered both Tuesday and Friday evenings from June through mid-September on the Shea Homes stage outside the Bankhead Theater.

Since "Friday Nights LIVE!" was launched in 2011, the free performances have attracted hundreds of attendees to the casual outdoor events to hear a range of performers from acoustic folk musicians to classic rock and roll bands, most of whom are locally-based. "Tuesday Tunes," started by the Livermore Downtown Inc. in 2006, were originally held at the Flag Pole Plaza at First Street and Livermore Avenue. Beginning in June 2013, both "Tuesday Tunes" and "Friday Nights LIVE!" will now be held on the Shea Homes stage with open seating and live performances running from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Feedback on the free "Friday Nights LIVE!" series from audiences, artists and local businesses has been overwhelmingly positive with residents from throughout the Tri-Valley enjoying the live music and sense of community spirit. Arthur Barinque, LVPAC stage manager for the

(See CONCERTS, page 8)



Two participants in the first annual "Doggie Dip" shake off the excess water after a refreshing dip. The event was held at the Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center in Pleasanton on Labor Day. Dogs fetched, floated and dog paddled in the shallow pools.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Joe Michell Pursuing IB World School Status

Joe Michell K-8 School is pursuing authorization to become an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. This will provide an educational option for students in Livermore.

IB schools are described as imparting a common philosophy – a commitment to a high quality, challenging, international education. The goal is one that is shared by the Joe Michell community.

The aim of the IB curriculum is to develop internationally minded people, who recognize their common humanity and shared global responsibilities.

"I'm very intrigued by the opportunity for my children to attend a school that provides a rigorous college preparatory curriculum in a loving, family oriented environment" states Shannon Sullivan, Joe Michell K-8 School 3rd grade teacher and parent.

Teachers say that they are enthusiastic about this potential educational choice for Livermore students. Barry Montgomery, 5th grade teacher, stated, "I love the fact that IB schools focus on the need to help kids learn to live and work in a global environment, but also encourage students to hold on to their own national culture. It is a win-win for our school and our community."

The IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer. Elementary students learn to think for themselves and react to real life situations

(See JOE MICHELL, page 5)

EIR Work to Begin for Livermore BART Extension

Work is set to begin on the preparation of an environmental impact report for the BART extension to Livermore.

A meeting to take input on the scope of the study will be held Wed., Sept. 19 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. An open house will start at 6 p.m. followed

by the meeting and public comments at 7 p.m.

Comments will be taken on the proposed project, project alternatives, potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures.

The proposed project would extend BART 4.8 miles along I-580 from the east Dublin-Pleasanton station to the vicinity of the

Isabel Avenue-I-580 interchange. The project would incorporate a bus to BART transfer, express bus services linking inter-regional rail service and priority development areas and offsite parking facilities.

Alternatives to be studied include a no build alternative, a diesel multiple unit and an express bus.

For those unable to attend the meeting, written comments may be sent to Marianne Payne, EIR Project Manager, 300 Lakeside Drive, 16th Fl., Oakland, CA 94612 or to mpaine@bart.gov. Comments must be received by Oct. 1, 2012.

Further information is available at www.bart.gov/livermore.

Councilmembers Hope to Fill Empty Mayor's Seat

Two current Pleasanton City Councilmembers, Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne, are seeking to replace Jennifer Hosterman as mayor in the November election.

Hosterman is termed out of office.

The Independent interviewed both candidates. Information about the candidates and their views was also obtained during a candidates' night at Pleasanton Gardens and by viewing the candidates' websites.

Cook-Kallio and Thorne were both elected to the council six years ago. They have two years left on their current council terms. The one not elected mayor will remain on the council. Both said they are running to provide leadership on issues

facing Pleasanton. With the mayor's seat open, they said it is the best time to run.

Issues covered include Measure B3, pension reform, and senior housing, among others.

Measure B3 will ask voters to increase the sales tax from a half cent to a full cent to fund transportation projects in Alameda County. If approved by two-thirds of county voters, the tax would remain in perpetuity. It is administered by the Alameda County Transportation Commission.

Both would like to see completion of trail connections; support the use of recycled water for irrigation; and continue efforts to provide programs for youth. They both say that regional

(See ELECTION, page 10)



A toast to the upcoming wine harvest was celebrated by two wine enthusiasts during the annual Harvest Wine Celebration. The event is presented by the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association. Entertainment, food, education and wine tasting were offered at area wineries during the two days of festivities.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Inside

SECTION A	Editorial.....4
Art & Entertainment..... 8	Mailbox.....4
Bulletin Board..... 11	Roundup.....3
Milestones 12	Short Notes..... 9
MAIN SECTION	Sports..... 6
Classifieds..... 10	Obituaries..... 9



PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Karma. Karma is a 5 month old female, tuxedo kitten who loves to purr. The minute you pick her up she will begin to purr and give you little, loving head butts. As her name states, she will bring you good Karma and perk up your life. This little kitten would be perfect, just for you. For more information, call 925-426-8656 or go on-line to www.valleyhumane.org or www.facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety to see other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Photo by Aaron Czeszynski

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Candidates Forum

The Pleasanton Chamber is hosting a Candidates Forum featuring the city council and mayoral candidates.

It will take place on Thurs., Sept. 13, 7:30 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St., Pleasanton.

The forum is free, open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Current council members Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio are competing to succeed Jennifer Hosterman who will term-out as mayor after an eight-year run. Karla Brown, Erlene DeMarcus, Mike Harris and Jerry Pentin are running for the two spots on the council.

The candidates will answer questions about community priorities, including transportation, workforce housing and unfunded pension liabilities.

More Birds with West Nile Virus

The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District announced that 3 crows have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The District tested these dead birds in-house and all were found positive for WNV. The birds were collected this week from the cities of Fremont and Newark, Zip Codes 94536, 94539 and 94560 respectively. These are the first WNV positive dead birds in this part of the county.

"West Nile Virus activity has increased nationwide this year," said District Entomologist Bruce Kirkpatrick. "We have increased our surveillance and control efforts throughout the County to address the increased risk this mosquito season."

To date Alameda County has had no human or horse cases of WNV, nor have

any mosquitoes tested positive. Residents of Alameda County have reported over 300 dead birds — of those, 55 were tested and 5 were found positive for WNV, along with 1 tree squirrel. To date, California has had 938 dead birds test positive for WNV.

As part of an on-going surveillance program, the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District is asking the public to report any wild birds, specifically crows, ravens, jays, magpies and birds of prey that have been dead less than 48 hours, to the California Department of Public Health. The website address for reporting the dead birds is: www.westnile.ca.gov. They can also be reached by phone: 1. 877. WNV. BIRD (1. 877. 968. 2473).

Measure B Report

The Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) released its 10th Annual Report to the Public. The report describes the committee's activities and provides an update on the delivery of programs and projects funded by Measure B, Alameda County's voter-approved half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

The Alameda CTC is responsible for allocating Measure B tax dollars for a wide range of transportation programs and projects that expand access and improve mobility. The CWC is responsible for providing independent oversight of Alameda County's half-cent sales tax expenditures.

The CWC Annual Report notes that audited income and expenditures were in compliance with specific caps, and that the auditors did not identify any accounting concerns. The report also provides an

update on the progress of transportation programs and projects.

The annual report prepared by the CWC covers fiscal year 2010-2011, as well as recent activities undertaken by the committee. In fiscal year 2010-2011, Alameda CTC received \$105.4 million in revenue from Measure B, and expended \$140.8 million, including funds from the previous year, as follows: \$54.4 million for public transit, including operations, capital investments and special transportation for seniors and people with disabilities; \$52.4 million for highway and streets projects; \$28.7 million for cities and the County for local transportation improvements, including local streets and roads, and bike and pedestrian projects; \$3.6 million for general administration; and \$1.7 million for direct program and project management and oversight.

Citizens Watchdog Committee Chair James Paxson notes, "The ongoing work of the CWC is an important part of regularly demonstrating to the residents and businesses of Alameda County that Measure B will deliver on its original promise. The reviews and analytical work done by the CWC play a key role in making sure that Measure B funds are spent in accordance with the provisions of the measure passed by Alameda County voters; a role made all the more important given the wide support that Measure B originally garnered."

The CWC Annual Report is available to the public on the Alameda CTC website, http://www.alamedactc.org/files/managed/Document/8712/CWC_10th_Annual_Report_Aug2012.pdf. Copies of the report, the Expenditure Plan and audits for each agency receiving Measure B funds are available on the website and at Alameda CTC offices at 1333 Broadway, Suites 220 and 300, Oakland, CA 94612, telephone 510.208.7400.

Road Work in Pleasanton

The City of Pleasanton Engineering Division reports that road construction will continue through the month of September at various locations throughout the city as workers complete full depth pavement repairs and begin the overlay paving of the streets and the annual slurry seal project. Work on the major thoroughfares of Hopyard and Stoneridge Roads will be accomplished at night and on weekends, while work on neighborhood streets will be accomplished during the week.

Construction on Hopyard Road between Owens Drive and I-580 and Stoneridge Drive from Johnson Drive to Stoneridge Mall Road began Tuesday night September 4 and continue through September 14 during the hours between 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

The Val Vista Subdivision area and surrounding streets will also have the same type of major construction performed on Thursday, September 6.

Streets that receive the rubberized chip seal will receive an asphalt overlay which will begin within the week following the chip seal. The rubberized chip seal will leave some loose gravel on the surface of the street that will be swept on a regular basis until paving is completed. Throughout the process, parking will be restricted on the streets.

Barricades will be installed 48 hours in advance of such work to indicate areas of no on-street parking. Residents will be able to access to and from their driveways throughout the day but may encounter a delay of up to 20 minutes while equipment is operating directly in front of their residences.

For more information, please call (925) 437-4005

Green Scene Fair to Be Held at Hacienda Business Park in Pleasanton

Hacienda Business Park and the City of Pleasanton are hosting the 3rd annual Pleasanton Green Scene Fair.

The Pleasanton Green Scene Fair is a free event set for Thursday, September 20, 2012 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at Hacienda West, 3825-3875 Hopyard Road. Hacienda West is located at the northeast corner of Hopyard Road and West Las Positas Boulevard in Hacienda; easily accessible to local businesses and the community.

This year's event will feature over 100 exhibitors

specializing in green practices, products and services. A variety of local green and sustainable businesses, non-profit organizations and others who will be on hand to provide information and products related to health and nutrition, energy efficiency, commute alternatives, water conservation, recycling, and locally-sourced foods. Attendees can learn about green strategies for everything from solar panels to eco-landscaping. The event will feature a special display of alternative fuel vehicles, mini-farmers market and the Off The Grid gourmet

food trucks selling natural and sustainable meals for purchase. Organic foods, home and garden items, and health and wellness products will also be available for purchase at the event.

See a display of alternate fuel vehicles including the Chevy Volt, and learn about commute alternatives from 511 Rideshare and many other organizations.

Shop at the mini-farmers market and sample fresh organic fruits and vegetables from local, sustainable farms or find out how to have them delivered to a home or office. Hacienda's Nuubia

Chocolat will be providing samples of its premier sustainably produced chocolate confections and Hillcrest Ranch will feature its 100% unfiltered extra virgin olive oil also produced from sustainable sources.

New to the event this year is an opportunity for companies to recognize outstanding employees and reward them for their initiatives that introduce and enhance green processes, products or services that help their business to compete sustainably. These Sustainability Champions will receive a

City of Pleasanton framed certificate recognizing the employee for their contribution in making Pleasanton a leading green community; employee name (title and company) inscribed on the Green Scene Fair Wall of Fame, digital copy of the 2012 Green Scene Fair video including the Green Scene Champion presentation; and \$20 in Green Bucks (like greenbacks, only better) to purchase lunch. Jennifer Hosterman, Mayor of Pleasanton, will preside over a Sustainability Champion recognition ceremony

at 11:00 am the day of the event. There is a \$50 entrance fee per Sustainability Champion and registration information can be obtained through the following contacts:

Laura Ryan, City of Pleasanton, PO Box 520, Pleasanton, California 94566; (925) 931-5506; lryan@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us; Hacienda Owners Association, 4473 Willow Road, Suite 105, Pleasanton, California 94588-8570; 734-6500; info@hacienda.org; or www.hacienda.org



Palo Alto Medical Foundation
A Sutter Health Affiliate

Community Health Education Programs

For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit pamf.org/healtheducation. Sept. 2012

A Mother's Place: Postpartum Support Group
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Dublin Center
925-875-6223 4050 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin



Meet with an R.N. and certified lactation consultant to ensure your first weeks of motherhood are healthy and happy.

Your Baby's Doctor
First Wednesday of the month, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dublin Center
650-853-2960 4050 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin



This is a free one-hour class to learn about normal newborn appearance and behavior as well as soothing techniques from one of our Dublin Center Pediatricians or Family Medicine doctors. After the presentation, our doctors will be available for a Q&A session about everything newborn as well as how the pediatrics and family medicine departments work, what happens in the hospital and what to look for in the first few weeks with your baby.

Childbirth and Parent Education Classes
650-853-2960

- Breastfeeding – *Secrets for Success*
- Preparing for Birth

Nutrition and Diabetes Classes
510-498-2184

- Living Well with Diabetes

Weight Management Programs
510-498-2184

- New Weigh of Life (adult weight management)

Community Health Resource Center

The Health Resource Center offers information and support for those who wish to make informed decisions regarding their health and wellness. The center is open to all members of the community.


- Nurse health educators
- Health reference books
- Health lectures
- Health newsletters
- Informational brochures
- Educational DVDs and videotapes
- Access to health information websites
- Information on community resources

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,
Dublin, 925-875-6150 and Fremont,
510-623-2231

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Pirate Adventure

fun pirate activities | free goodies for members*

Pirate and Princess Party
Saturday, September 8th
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simon.com/kidzits

EDITORIAL

Play Ball

Livermore is fulfilling its goal of becoming a destination. While much of the focus has been on shopping, wine, and the performing arts, sports are playing a key role.

The City has hosted the Amgen Tour of California bicycle race for the last two years.

Last week, the Little League International Board of Directors announced Livermore as the site of the newest World Series baseball tournament. Livermore beat out cities such as Vancouver, Wash., and Chicago for the honor.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand commented, "This shows that as with the Amgen Tour of California, this city can step up and present remarkable events."

The "50/70" World Series will take place in August 2013 and last about a week. Granada Little League will be the point of contact. The league will lead a fund-raising effort on behalf of Little League International to raise \$100,000 to be used for publicity, local transportation, food, and other costs associated with staging the tournament.

This is a great opportunity to put Livermore in the national spotlight. We hope that local businesses and community organizations will step up to the plate to support the event.

Zone 7 May Freeze Water Rate for 2013

A recommendation to keep water rates the same next year, but possibly raise them for 2014, will go to the Zone 7 Water Agency board.

The board's three-member finance committee discussed the rates at its meeting Aug. 28.

Originally Zone 7 staff recommended rate hikes of 2.65 percent in 2013 and 2014. However, the Valley's four water retailers met with Zone 7 staff on Aug. 23, and asked for a rate freeze for the two calendar years, said general manager Jill Duerig.

The retailers are Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) and the private California Water Service.

A modified staff recommendation, which went to the finance committee, suggests no increase in 2013, but advises sticking to the 2.65 percent proposed increase in 2014. The rate would add \$1.04 per month to a typical household's monthly bill.

Duerig told The Independent that the committee's overall view is to support a freeze in 2013. However, it was not conclusive about what should be done with the rate in 2014.

The committee said that it wanted to hear from the public. There will be public scoping sessions at the board's two regular meetings Sept. 19 and Oct. 17. The board traditionally sets the rates for the following year at the October meeting.

When the board set the 2012 rates in late 2011, it polled 400 registered voters concerning support for various levels of a proposed rate increase. Some 62 percent said they were willing to support a \$2 per month increase, which was slightly higher than the \$1.88 increase, or 5 percent, which

the board wound up approving.

If the board decides to freeze rates in 2013, Zone 7 will have to dip into its reserves for approximately \$4 million, said assistant general manager Kurt Arends.

Whether to dig into reserves, instead of raising water rates to pay for costs as they rise has been a point of disagreement between Zone 7 and the retailers for several years.

In addition to the issue of whether to dip into reserves for 2013, the board will consider setting a rate for 2014. Things could change significantly by the time 2014 rolls around, said Duerig.

"One year, the cost of water treatment chemicals went up 27 percent. We have no control over that, but we need to provide people drinking water. So the committee did not agree on a second-year rate," said Duerig.

Arends, who attended the meeting with the retailers Aug. 23, said that the retailers say Zone 7 has a \$21 million reserve. More of it could be given over to preventing rate increases, the retailers say.

Arends said the issue is similar to having extra money in a savings account. "Do you go out and spend it, or save it? It's for a board discussion about the different philosophies."

As a result of the meeting between the retailers and Zone 7, directors will be asked to create a work group including the retailers and Zone 7 to discuss Zone 7 financing.

The focus will be on setting aside money for future Delta improvements and for debt financing. This year, directors are being asked to set aside \$5.6 million in a fund to finance future Delta improvements.

Agreement with Firefighters Approved

The Pleasanton City Council held a special meeting last week to approve an agreement with the International Association of Firefighters Local 1974.

The vote was unanimous. It will next go to the Livermore City Council for approval. The two cities operate the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department under a joint powers agreement.

The union, which represents 103 Livermore-Pleasanton firefighters, ratified the agreement at the end of July.

Until recently, firefighters and other Pleasanton city employees did not contribute anything toward their CalPERS pension program. However, with the increasing costs and lower investment returns, the agreement has led to an unfunded liability estimated at \$137 million for the City of Pleasanton. In an effort to reduce the liability, the city renegotiated new contracts with its bargaining units.

The reforms approved at the state level will impact new hires in Pleasanton.

The agreement with firefighters approved last week would cover the period through June 30, 2014. Under the agreement, there will be no changes in wages. Firefighters will begin paying 6 percent of the employee pension contribution by Sept. 2012 and the full 9

percent by July 2013. The retirement formula is set at "3 at 55" (Firefighters retiring at 55 would receive pensions based on a percentage of the three highest salary years.) Medical retirement benefits for new hires were changed. Only the retiree's medical cost will be covered. The payment would stop when the retiree became Medicare eligible.

The new contract would cut the city's costs by more than \$1 million when fully implemented. The full cost reduction would be \$2.13 million, shared equally by Pleasanton and Livermore.

At the council's August 21 meeting, members of the public expressed disappointment over the new contract. They said it did not deal with the unfunded liability for pensions. Some said the contracts protected public employees to the detriment of residents, who would be faced with paying off the unfunded amount. They called for a "proper public debate" on the issue.

At last week's meeting, former councilmember Kay Ayala suggested waiting to approve the agreement until the state had voted on proposed changes in employee pensions. (The state voted on pension reform last Friday).

Jason Solak, president of the firefighters local, addressed the council, noting that union has become a bad

word. Unions were started as a movement to assure fair wages, benefits and working conditions. "Today we are characterized as thugs, buying off campaigns. I am extremely proud of the group of individuals I represent. Fifty-five percent are residents of and taxpayers in the community. Nobody can control the unfunded liability. It didn't exist in 2000. If you look at investment strategies of CalPERS, they are for the long term." He added, "We do not want to drive the city into bankruptcy."

Questions were raised by the council and members of the public regarding the impact of state reforms on future pensions.

John Bartel, an actuary consultant, said he expected there would be very little impact on current employees. The changes impact those hired after Jan. 1, 2013. The changes, which would include contributions to pensions of 50 percent of the total normal cost, are mandated. Also mandated would be a change in the retirement formula. The only impact on current employees, would be an increased ability of government to negotiate with unions regarding paying a higher percent towards pensions.

Councilmembers offered their input on the new agreement.

Cheryl Cook-Kallio com-

mented that the short term contract only begins to address the long term plans of the city. "One of the things missing in the discussion is the idea that people are providers of service, not consumers of tax dollars. A decrease in spending may result in a decrease in services. What services would residents be willing to give up to see the city save more money?"

Jerry Thorne said that he does believe the agreement takes a big step forward. There is a need to deal with long term issues. It takes a long time for these changes to have an impact. At the same time, the number of retirees continues to grow. "I do believe that over time, the 2-tier system will create a situation where there may be morale issues."

Matt Sullivan stated, "I think we have developed a good plan and started to address some of the issues people say are important. Employees understand the issues and are willing to work with us."

Cindy McGovern said her concerns are with retaining services while keeping the city sustainable.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman pointed out, "This is a negotiated process. We don't stop here. We will continue the negotiating process with a goal of creating a balance between employee needs and sustainability."

REFORM

(continued from page one)

Another provision ends the spiking of pay by accumulating unused vacation time to inflate the salary level on which the pension is computed.

The legislation will eliminate double-dipping, which happens when a person retires from one job and collects a pension, but then is hired back again to receive a new salary. The bill forbids felons from collecting pensions.

Senate pro-Tempore Darrell Steinberg said, "The bill eliminates abuses. It increases the share of employee contributions, and eliminates the so-called \$100,000 pension club by setting hard caps for new employees on the amount of salary that can be used to calculate retirement benefits."

"This is not a small or modest step, but a significant

action for California. This package of reforms goes well beyond those abuses of the pension system that everyone agrees needs to be changed," said Steinberg.

"Many in labor believe this goes too far. Others would only be satisfied if the defined benefit public pension system were eliminated. This compromise goes a long way toward protecting the taxpayers, protecting the fiscal health of our pension systems, and maintaining a fair and secure retirement for public sector workers," said Steinberg.

Assemblymember Joan Buchanan of the 15th District told the Independent, "It's reasonable. I think we did the best we could. People who said we did not go far enough wanted us to alter pensions for people currently retired or employed.

The case law is clear that you can't change what's (already in someone's pension). You can't go back to when someone was 30 years old, and tell them you have to change your whole savings plan."

The changes will apply to all new hires. In Pleasanton, finance director Emily Wagner said that the new bill, once the governor signs it, would take effect Jan. 1, 2013. Pleasanton already has negotiated pension savings for the city in hiring new employees. After Jan. 1, the state law will supersede those agreements, said Wagner.

WORKERS COMP REFORM PASSED

The Legislature also passed a workers compensation reform bill, SB 863, which will deny benefits to some workers who might

have qualified previously, with tighter screening now making the difference.

Some labor unions had opposed the bill, but changed after securing a provision for a \$120 million fund to compensate more severely disabled workers, said Oakland attorney Julius Young. He was writing on a blog for a firm that specializes in workers comp and Social Security disability cases.

Buchanan said that the increased benefits for people who are permanently disabled has been sought for a long time by organized labor.

"At the same time, other changes will bring down compensation for employers. We had to do something to get costs down. I think this is a good compromise. Labor supported it, and so did the Chamber of Commerce," said Buchanan.

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. Abusive letters may be rejected or edited. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed. Letters should be submitted by e-mail to editmail@compuserve.com.)

Fable and a Warning William D. Daily

Livermore

The Fable: The Rooster and the Farmer

There was a rooster and a farmer.

A rooster lived with his hens in the farmyard. They scratched for grubs in the fields, the pasture, and the farmyard. They went down to the creek for water. At night the rooster and the hens nested in the barn or on the barnyard fence. They were free to do what ever they wanted.

One day the farmer came to the rooster and said, "I will build you a warm chicken coop to roost at night when it is cool." The rooster liked the idea of a warm roost at night so he agreed. Each night the rooster and the hens roosted in the chicken coop.

Then one night while the chickens slept the farmer closed the door of the chicken coop. The rooster and the hens could not go out to scratch in the barnyard or in the fields. The rooster said to the farmer, "Let us out so we can scratch for our food." The farmer said, "You will not need to scratch all day long in the barnyard and the pasture for food because I will bring you corn every day to the chicken coop."

The rooster liked the idea of food that he did not have to scratch for so he agreed. Each day the rooster and the hens ate the farmer's corn—and they did not leave the chicken coop.

After many days the

farmer opened the door to the chicken coop but the chickens did not leave. They had become dependent on the shelter and the food provided by the generous farmer.

Then every few days one of the chickens disappeared from the coop and went into the farmer's pot. But the rooster didn't care because he had everything he needed to be content in the coop.

The Warning: Why care?

Why should I care?

Why should I care about politics? Let politicians take care of government and I will take care of my family. I have a car and a comfy, home and two chickens in the pot. Leave the politicians to run the country, build the roads, and build the schools. As long as they do that and leave me alone I will leave them alone.

Why we are apathetic

Affluence is our biggest enemy because it makes us apathetic about government if politicians leave us alone. Most of us have (or are given!) enough stuff and to spare. But we are an anomaly in the world. We are truly spoiled adults--most people of the world don't have enough and wish they had what we have. But surely we could not lose what we have and be like the majority of the world. Or could we?

We can lose it

Just as Benjamin Franklin warned, we can lose

and, indeed we have been losing for about one hundred years, what we were given at our founding --Woodrow Wilson, our first progressive president, was elected in 1912. We have given politicians the power to take what we have from us and they have been happily doing that since about 1912. Alarmingly, the loss of our republic has been accelerating for the last decade or so.

What do we have to lose?

God gave us a country by the hands of wise men whom he raised up to this very purpose. These men gave us the very first written constitution. These men gave us a government predicated on the idea that all men have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These men designed a government founded on the unique idea that men derive their rights from God and not from governments. These men, realizing that politicians just naturally become despots when given a little authority, designed a government founded on a system of checks and balances. And there is so much more that they gave us that we depend on for peace, prosperity, and liberty. All of this is now in jeopardy.

Are we willing to lose our country because we are apathetic and indifferent about politics? Wake up America, while you sleep you will lose the republic that you love.

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Buchanan Named Assembly Education Chair

Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan has been named chair of the Assembly education committee by Assembly Speaker John Perez.

Perez made the appointment Aug. 1 along with other committee chair appointments. They all go into effect Sept. 1.

A former San Ramon Valley School Board member, Buchanan represents Livermore in the 15th Assembly District. The district will expand to include Pleasanton in 2013.

Buchanan, a Democrat and Alamo resident, will face Republican Al Phillips of Livermore in the November election.

Asked about her priorities for education in her new

position, Buchanan said that she has no set agenda of topics. She wants to listen to what educators think is needed for a better education structure in the future.

Buchanan said that she visits school districts, and attends their administrative cabinet meetings. "The one common theme is that we don't need 50 more bills. We have to be thoughtful in terms of what we accomplish," she said.

Buchanan backs Proposition 30. "It provide money for schools, and deal with structural problems for the whole budget. If these aren't fixed, they will just take money away from education."

On Proposition 38, led

by southern California Attorney Molly Munger, Buchanan said, "I admire Molly Munger, and her concern for schools. Prop. 38 could give more to schools at some time. However, if we end up with a deficit in the budget, that could affect health and human services. Kids have to attend school healthy and well-fed."

Buchanan was asked about parents' perceptions that some teachers should be dismissed, but schools sometimes won't do it. She said that principals need to monitor teachers, show them where they should improve, and provide them with the means to do so.

Then, if there were no success, it would be time

for the teacher to move on. "When I was in San Ramon Valley, we revamped the education process. I saw the same thing in business. Some managers never provide an honest evaluation. Later, a new manager comes in, and says it's time to go. The employee appeals, saying he received 10 good years of evaluations," said Buchanan.

Her point is that better managers are needed to run the schools.

Peer support can help a teacher, too. Sometimes it's just a matter of students not understanding the teacher's presentation.

"If 85 percent of the students are not understanding the information, a peer

group of teachers can share with the teacher who is not communicating with the students. We need to continually look at how we teach, so we can move on to a high level," said Buchanan.

Standardized tests are a problem, too, said Buchanan. "In some areas (of testing), there are as few as five questions. Half of the curriculum is not even covered in the test."

Buchanan said that schools in her new district produce excellent results.

"As a state, we are struggling with an achievement gap of over 49 percent for Hispanic students. That's a significant achievement gap."

Pleasanton and Livermore school districts are doing well with their dual immersion programs for Hispanic students, but other districts need to do more, she said.

Much of today's troubles in education were generated by revenue shortfalls resulting from a string of structural changes, said Buchanan. First came revenue limits in 1971. Ronald Reagan, who was governor then, succeeded in putting limits on revenue, and rebated some of it to taxpayers.

There was a budget surplus later, but that was spent. Proposition 13 passed. Then a two-thirds majority was required to raise taxes, said Buchanan.

Judge Throws Out Case Over \$6000 Fine for Walking Across RR Tracks

Laura Rensink is glad that she did not have to pay a \$6000 fine for walking across the railroad tracks between P Street and Murrieta Boulevard.

Rensink faced that potential fine on Aug. 29 in traffic court, which was held in Fremont.

However, the railroad patrol officer who issued the ticket to Rensink did not show up in court. The judge dismissed the case.

That leaves Rensink still obligated for \$1500 for an attorney, whom she hired to fight the \$6000 fine.

The fine was imposed by a judge in her original court appearance. She was so shocked about the amount, that she decided to appeal it.

Rensink said, "The \$1500 for a lawyer is a lot of money. Still, a \$6000 fine if you cross the tracks seems outrageous."

Rensink, who is a veterinarian at a pet hospital on Murrieta Boulevard, said that \$6000 is out of line with other fines related to pedestrian and vehicular violations.

Rensink pointed out that the fine for jaywalking is \$120, and \$500 for going through a red light.

The citation issued by the Union Pacific police officer did not specify charges, according to Union Pacific spokesman Aaron Hunt. Those are added later by the court, after the laws concerning the citation are researched, he said.

The citation is presented to the person, who signs it. "It's not unlike being issued a citation for a moving violation," said Hunt.

The reason that Union Pacific did not have an offi-

cer in the court for Rensink's appeal was that a subpoena was never sent to Union Pacific that notified the railroad about her court appearance, said Hunt.

Rensink said she doesn't contest the fact that the railroad should be able to ticket trespassers. After she received her ticket, she returned to the spot and posted signs to tell others about the law and the fine. She said that the railroad did not have signs posted.

Rensink said that she did not know it was illegal to cross the tracks. When she went to the tracks to post her

warning signs, track-crossers told her that people cross there every day.

However, the day that Rensink crossed was a special day, one she was not aware of. It was June 7, International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD).

Hunt said that the railroad, in cooperation with OLCAD, had a special train on the tracks, and was giving seminars to some cities' officials along the line about crossing awareness. That explains the presence of officers that day. They do patrol regularly. Local police

also have the power to do so, said Hunt.

The awareness day is sponsored by an international organization, which is also called ILCAD. According to the organization's web page, there are an estimated 1 million street level crossings in the world, millions of near misses at crossings, and 6000 fatalities.

The motivation for crossing the tracks where Rensink did is apparent on maps and satellite photos. The alternative is to walk to the P Street traffic crossing. People headed for a

destination due north from the point where Rensink crossed would have to walk three or four blocks out of their way.

The same applies to people from the neighborhood north of the tracks who may want to go south across the tracks to stores in the shopping center on East Stanley Boulevard, just east of Heritage Estates.

Livermore transportation engineer Carlo Sendaydiego said that the city does not post its public signs on private property. There are no warning signs to alert people to illegal track crossings.

JOE MICHELL

(continued from page one)

through open-ended tasks and in-depth investigations. The IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) encourages students to embrace and understand the connections between learning and the real world, and become critical and reflective thinkers. The IB Middle Years Programme includes a community service component, which generates more involvement of students in their community and society. Currently 3,464 schools in 143 countries have IB programmes. IB does not own, operate or manage any schools.

"A grassroots approach to the development and implementation of this innovative option offers families and community members the opportunity to be involved in the transformation," states Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Assistant Superintendent, Cindy Alba.

Teachers and parents offered input on bringing IB to Michell.

Eric Walker, declared, "As an educator, I am very excited about becoming an IB school. It is a great opportunity for me to really stretch myself to educate more to a real life global perspective rather than to a certain test. I love the fact that we will be preparing students to be critical thinkers who will be able to problem solve with new information and be able to work effectively with others, not only in California but world-wide."

Bobbi Byrnes, kindergarten teacher, added, "IB will make Michell a destination school for all of Livermore. I think it is an excellent program for LVJUSD parents, students, and community members."

Julie Ring, parent and PTO President, stated, "I am excited to be a part of Joe Michell School's transformation. Our students can attain the skills to become global citizens and critical thinkers, which is so important in our ever-changing world."



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SPORTS NOTES



Livermore Fusion 98 Boys had a great weekend at the Mustang Devil's Mountain Tournament. Coach Craig Scheer's team passed and defended their way to 3 straight shutout victories on Saturday and Sunday, including back to back nail biting 1-0 wins. In the final, the team grabbed an early 1-0 victory, but ultimately ran out of steam going down 3-1. Overall it was a total team effort, leading to the second place finish. Pictured are (back row, from left) Lucas Coppock, Luis Angel Ortiz, Dillon Eng, Charlie Mitchell, Austin McMillan, Ethan Shang, Brian Zarate; (front row) Brendan McCafferty, Cameron O'Shaughnessy, Max Ibanez, Ben Dupuis, and William Chacon; Coach Craig Scheer (right side) and Team Manager Bret Dupuis (left side); not pictured: Ethan Aboumrad.



Livermore Earthquakes, the U10 boys Fusion Select team, took second place at San Ramon Copper Select tournament this weekend. After losing their first game on Saturday, the Earthquakes reeled off wins over Liberty Pythons 7-2, San Ramon Earthquakes 5-3, and Livermore Scorpions 3-0 en route to their 2nd place finish. Players are (front row, from left) Anthony Opipari, Kyle Drobick, Patrick Curulla, Brandon McDougall, Isaac Lopez; (back row) Brendan Patterson, Alex Deguzman, Kelly Galica Thomas, Kyle Johnson, Cole Mizutani, Mateo Wilde. Missing: Caleb Chance; Coaches: Glenn Deguzman, Stan Mizutani, and Ed Johnson.

Livermore Fusion

Livermore Fusion Soccer Club results:

U-14 Boys: Rec U14B Team Real Madrid came from behind for a 5-2 victory over the Fireballs. The Fireballs had a great first half and Real Madrid had an excellent second half. There were many close plays and both teams were fun to watch. Notable players for home team, Fireballs, were: Offense, Nicholas Brown and Spencer Kramm, Defense, Leath Rawashdeh and Robbie Hoff. Impressive on the visiting team, Real Madrid, were: Offense, Ernesto Torres and Anthony Lopez, Defense, Brandon Ramos, Arduin Parrata and Daniel Alvarez.

U-10 Boys: Avengers 2. Strikers 7: Leading the Avengers were Johnathan Crego and Alexis Tapia on offense and Justin Ison and Ryan Kelly on defense. Strikers were led by Taha Diah, Carter Purl, Jesse Haight, Nico Lamanna on offense and Erick Jaramillo, Eli Ramos, Josh Kim, Luke Ellsworth on defense. Both teams made some very good plays and exhibited good team work.

U-6 Girls: Rocket Rainbows vs. Rainbow Butterflies: The Rocket Rainbows took on the Rainbow Butterflies Tuesday in the season opener. Rainbow Rockets Gabi Sands started the game off with a pass to Maddie Funk scoring the first of many goals. But the Rainbow Butterflies defense was on fire with Donovan Morton firing back a game tying goal assisted by teammate Madison Swansiger. It was an action packed game.

West Coast Soccer

West Coast Whiplash U13 Girls took home the 1st place trophy at the Mustang Devil Mountain Tournament, with four impressive wins in two days of play. West Coast Whiplash dominated play on Saturday, winning both games 2 to 1. Excellent defense by Melinda Miller, Alize Perez and Jenna Radwan made the difference in both games, allowing Whiplash wins against Central Valley Magic and EBU Bay Oaks Blues. Leftie Tara Collier got things started with a well placed kick into the net in the first game. Devon Montesinos capitalized on a long shot from mid field to score again for Whiplash. Goalie Destiny Sandridge saved West Coast from a tie late in the 2nd half against Central Valley to guarantee the win for Whiplash.

On Sunday goals were scored by Jenna Tidwell, Maggie Sneed, Kierra Stanek, Alize Perez and Taylor Petersen in a 5-0 win over Livermore Fusion Black. The win clinched top spot in their flight and moved the team into the championship match.

In the championship match against Central Valley, Taylor Sullivan delivered with a goal in the final moments of the half. Speedster Kierra Stanek scored Whiplash's 2nd goal on a fast break away run thanks to a perfect assist by Rachel Foley in the 2nd half. Jenna Tidwell, Mayzin Kung and Celia Portugal put in excellent performances in the midfield to help their team keep Central Valley at bay.

The West Coast Wildfire U13G team finished in the top three at the 2012 Magic Cup, held in Morgan Hill, CA. In their first game against Mt. Hamilton, the Wildfire easily captured the win and 10 points with a 5-0 victory. In game two, the Wildfire stayed even with opponent Mission Valley going most of the game tied at 1-1. Late in the second, a penalty in the box handed Mission Valley another point and the Wildfire knew they needed a win to move into medal play. The girls

matched up against the ACC Mavericks, a Berkeley-based gold team they had already beaten in the spring season. Wildfire took the 2-1 victory and moved into medal play. In their final match of the day, the Wildfire went head to head with the Mustang Blast. The Wildfire scored twice in the first half. The Blast put up a good battle but couldn't penetrate the Wildfire's rock solid defense. The match ended with a 3-1 victory and a third-place finish for the Wildfire.

Martial Arts

Taylor's Martial Arts of Livermore, sent 15 of its students to the California Black Belt League's (CBBL) Belt Finals on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 2012. Throughout the year, competitors competed for the opportunity to go for the 2012 CBBL Division Championship Title and championship belt.

Champions are: 6-7 Year Old Beginner Forms Helena Macias; 6-7 Year Old Girls Beginner Sparring Alexis Aying; 8-10 Year Old Beginners Form Kristin Ford; 10-11 Year Old Girls Beginners Sparring Ariyana Walling; 11-13 Year Old Beginner Forms Jaden Husser; 11-13 Year Old Intermediate/Advanced Forms Hector Flores; 12-13 Year Old Girls Beginners Sparring Jaden Husser; 12-13 Year Old Boys Beginners Sparring Kyle Ford; 14-17 Year Old Girls Intermediate/Advanced Sparring Tanya Sharetskaya; 14-17 Year Old Intermediate/Advanced Forms Joseph Ventura; 14-17 Year Old Black Belt Forms Brandon DeBorba;

Runner-up Champions are: 8-10 Year Old Beginners Form Paul Curbelo; 8-9 Year Old Girls Beginner Sparring Kristin Ford; 10-11 Year Old Girls Beginners Sparring Vita Nocilla; 1-13 Year Old Beginner Forms Katrina Curbelo; 12-13 Year Old Girls Beginners Sparring Katrina Curbelo; 14-17 Year Old Intermediate/Advanced Forms Rachel Bryant; 14-17 Year Old Boys Intermediate/Advanced Sparring Joseph Vitale; 14-17 Year Old Boys Black Belt Sparring Brandon DeBorba

Taylor's Martial Arts was also named the 2012 CBBL School of the Year.

Scholarship Run

The 17th annual Back to School Scholarship Run, sponsored by the Northern California Association of Sales & Marketing Companies, will be held on Sunday, September 9, at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton.

The Scholarship Run raises funds for college scholarships that are offered to children of parents whom work in the California food industry. This special event is well known for its Monster Goody Bag, given to each participant. The Monster Goody Bags are over-filled with grocery items provided by more than 40 sponsors.

The Back to School Scholarship Run features three races, with courses running through the park and the park's trails: 10K Run, 5K Run & Walk, and a Children's Mile. The 10K Race and 5K Walk & Run courses are made up of small rolling-hill trails that run throughout the scenic Shadow Cliffs Regional Park. The Children's Mile course is laid out through a portion of the park's lawn area.

Each participant will receive a commemorative T-shirt, refreshments, snacks, entry into a huge prize raffle, and the first 300 registered entrants will be guaranteed to receive the famous Back to School Scholarship Run's Monster Goodie Bag.



West Coast U13 Whiplash pictured (from left to right) are Coach Paul Giamona, Maggie Sneed, Rachel Foley, Destiny Sandridge, Jenna Radwan, Celia Portugal, Jenna Tidwell, Asst. Coach Scott Tidwell, Melinda Miller, Amanda Plant, Alize Perez, Paige Sutter, Mayzin Kung, Devon Montesinos, Tara Collier, Kierra Stanek, Taylor Sullivan and Taylor Petersen; not pictured, Courtney Haubert.



Pictured are West Coast Wildfire U13G team members (front left-right) Kaitlynn Funsch, Kira Karter, Tori Diehl, Maddie Stewart, Chloe Brickwedel, Amanda Zeck, Isabela Barbero, Paola Samaniego; (back) Coach Marlon Fernandez, Mimi Freeman, Lauren Souza, Kylie Martinez, Claire Abele, Sierra Martin, Jennifer Gibson, Sydney Schultz, Keili Prenton, and Meghan Giamona.



The U10 Tigers Fusion Select Copper Team from Livermore captured the age group title at the San Ramon Copper Girls Select Tournament held August 25 to 26. Game one was a 5 to 4 victory over the Livermore Fusion Strikers with goals by Nina Fillari (2) and Delaney Cummins (3). Game two, Nina Fillari and Hannah Goodman scored to give Copper a 2 to 1 win over San Ramon Dynamite; goalie saves were recorded by Grace Boyd (2) and Alei Tuia (2). In the semifinals, it was a 6 to 0 shutout of the Livermore Fusion Crush. Scoring were Nina Fillari (3), Kaylie Cummins, Hannah Goodman, Caitlyn Foster with assists by Grace Boyd, Delaney Cummins, Morgan Kuempel (2), Caitlyn Foster. In the championship game, Copper defeated the Newark Elite Strikers 2 to 0 with goals by Kaylie Cummins and Nina Fillari, assist Caitlyn Foster. Saves were by Alei Tuia (4) and Grace Boyd (4) with key defensive plays by Gretchen Krenz, Peyton Dinwiddie and Arianna Hatton. Pictured are (front row, from left) Hannah Goodman, Nina Fillari, Kaylie Cummins, Grace Boyd; (second row) Gretchen Krenz, Morgan Kuempel, Alei Tuia, Peyton Dinwiddie; (third row) Delaney Cummins, Arianna Hatton, Caitlyn Foster; (back row) Coach Frank Trigueros and Asst. Coach Steve Cummins; not pictured was Ariel VanBuuren.

Entry fees for either the 10K Run or 5K Walk/Run are \$30.00 preregistered, \$35.00 race-day registration. The Children's Mile Run is \$10.00 preregistered, and \$12.00 race-day registration. Check-in and race-day registration will open at 7:00 a.m., with both 10K and 5K events starting at 8:30 a.m. The Children's Mile will begin around 9:30 a.m. The post-race awards, raffle, and prize giveaway ceremony is scheduled to start around 10:00 a.m.

For more Back to School Scholarship Run information, contact On Your Mark Race Events at 209-795-7832, or visit their website. Participants can register by downloading this application or on-line at Active.com.

The Food Brokers Association's Tax I.D. not-for-profit # is 94-316-7800.

Alumni Game Is On

The first ever alumni football game between Livermore and Granada High School will take place on Friday, September 14, 2012 at the Granada High School stadium at 7 p.m.

The alumni from both schools have been working out and plan to play an entertaining game of tackle football on that Friday evening. Current practice is every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at noon at Granada High School. All alumni, as well as current residents of Livermore, are eligible to play. Registration must be complete on-line at www.livermoregranadaboosters.org. Brad Morisoli can be contacted for questions at (925) 766-0673.

In addition, the Livermore-Granada Boosters is sponsoring a special showing of the movie The Best of Times, starring Robin Williams and Kurt Russell, on Wednesday, September 12 at the Vine Cinemas at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 for



Pictured with belts are students from Taylor's Martial Arts of Livermore (back row) Katrina Curbelo, Hector Flores, Rachel Bryant, Jaden Husser, Brandon Deborba; (middle row) Vince Aying, Joseph Ventura, Sifu Wade Taylor, Vita Nocilla, Kyle Ford; (front row) Paul Curbelo, Alexis Aying, Helena Macias, Kristin Ford (not pictured: Joseph Vitale, Tanya Sharetskaya, Ariyana Walling).



The Livermore Fusion SC 03B Black (Hurricanes) won first place in the San Ramon 2012 Copper Select Kickoff Soccer Tournament held on August 25 and August 26th. Pictured are (back row) Assistant Coach, Adem Yassin and Head Coach Tony Campbell; (middle) Gavin Rose, Nadeem Yassin, Kieran Campbell, Andrew Bates, Jackson Snodgrass, Eduardo Angeles; and (front row); Ryan Hansen, Dale Spence, Nicholas Carrano, Michael Johansson, Luca Montalvo, and Andrew McAlinden.



The West Coast Fury U10 girls competed in the 2012 Walnut Creek Summerfest, a division 1 U11 and above gold tournament. The Fury girls, a highly-ranked U10 team, played up a year to test their skills against more experienced teams from around the Bay. In their first match, the Fury met the top U11 team from Los Gatos United. While Los Gatos was giving every other team a beating, the Fury girls put up a strong defense that kept scoring to a minimum. In game two, the Fury faced a much bigger Newark Extreme team. Again, tough defense kept the game tight. In game three, the Fury came our firing to emerge with a 3-1 victory over Lamorinda United. Pictured is West Coast Fury Defender, Laura Gonzalez, putting the brakes on a much bigger Los Gatos opponent.

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Development Standards and Design Guidelines Adopted for High Density Sites in Pleasanton

The Pleasanton City Council adopted development standards and designed guidelines for nine properties rezoned for high density housing.

The city is required to have the new guidelines and regulations in place by the end of September to meet a deadline agreed to as part of its lawsuit settlement with Urban Habitat. As a result of the Urban Habitat lawsuit, a court invalidated the city's 29,000 unit housing cap and ordered it to rezone properties to provide an opportunity for development of more affordable housing.

The vote for the standards and guidelines was 3 to 1 with Cindy McGovern opposed. Mayor Jennifer

Hosterman was absent.

McGovern was concerned that there was inadequate open space where children could play. She pointed out that the units would have more children than the usual high density apartments in the city. The designation of 1600 square feet of open space per 101 units is not enough. "We have not planned well for children," McGovern declared.

City Manager Nelson Fialho suggested that as a way to encourage more open space that there be an emphasis placed on its importance as each project comes forward. If it is not possible to provide the open space on site, developers would pay an in lieu fee that could be

used to build trails to current parks, Fialho stated.

McGovern also didn't agree with the densities designated for each site, nor the allowed height for buildings. She felt the buildings were too tall.

At a workshop held earlier this year, councilmembers also questioned the densities, feeling they were greater than the zoning allowed at a minimum of either 30 to 40 units per acre. However, according to the standards, a site could develop at various ranges, such as 14 to 25 units in one area and 50 to 85 units in another location. The council wanted a maximum density listed along with the minimum.

Brian Dolan, Director of

Community Development, explained that the numbers reflected what was studied as part of the supplemental environmental impact report. He said that the council could take the minimum of 30 to 40 acres and add five units to establish a maximum density. The maximum number of units identified in the EIR for each site would be removed from the development standards.

The council adopted that proposal as part of the final standards.

Dolan said later that projects are starting to come in. Developers are having a hard time meeting the 30 unit density requirements. "In a lot of cases, it is difficult to build that many units on a particular site."

There were also questions about uses allowed on the site adjacent to the east Pleasanton BART station. The concern related to wording that could allow up to 100 units per acre on the site. The same site could also be the location of a hotel with 10 to 15 story towers. Staff suggested that development standards and design guidelines be deferred for this location until more is known about plans that may be submitted for it. The council agreed.

Members of the public were not happy with the higher densities in the newly zoned properties, nor the fact that in the future Pleasanton

would have to accommodate even more units as assigned by ABAG. The reference was to 2058 units the city would have to plan for between 2014 and 2022.

The current housing element includes 2747 units, 747 over the assigned ABAG numbers through 2014. Dolan said that the extra housing in the current housing element would be used to help meet the new 2058 units designated by ABAG.

David Miller stated, "Citizens once had a say in planning a community. Those days are over." He pointed out that the city is told that it needs higher density low income housing. "We are being forced to accommodate this pack and stack housing against our will. This is not the end. It's the beginning." He wondered if the city had challenged the new ABAG numbers.

Councilmember Matt Sullivan said, "It's still not a perfect plan. I have concerns about open space. However, these are urban developments. That's what we are forced into. We've done the best that we can. There is a major benefit to having guidelines. Without them, developers could come in and build anything. The guidelines help to protect the community."

Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio said that working through a settlement

over the lawsuit allowed the city to gain some land control over what it is forced to accomplish. That includes the ability to establish standards and guidelines. "We worked very hard to retain elements we believe are important when it comes to children, schools, open space and quality of life." She too was concerned about open space.

Councilmember Jerry Thorne liked providing a range of units for each site. "I don't want to lock us into a corner. The council will review each project as it comes in. A range of numbers will hopefully provide us the flexibility we need to approve a good plan that may not meet the standards." Thorne said that local control is a very important issue. He pointed out that right now there are nineteen different bills in the legislature that would take away some local control.

The standards and design guidelines approved by the council will provide direction to developers and property owners on the key components of use, density, building mass and height, setbacks, architectural features, open space, parking and site circulation.

Developers are expected to meet the development standards. A PUD process will allow the city council to make changes if specific circumstances preclude the use of the standards.

Scoreboards to Help Raise Funds to Support Foothill High Sports

Foothill High School has installed new state-of-the-art scoreboards and timing systems for its pool and athletic field. Thanks to sponsors and donors, the Foothill Athletic Boosters (FAB) was able to make these strategic long-term investments and create an annual income stream to help support the sports program at Foothill for years to come.

Both scoreboards will collectively generate advertising revenue in excess of \$45,000 annually. Over the useful life of the scoreboards, advertising revenue alone will generate over \$900,000 in new money for school programs over the next 20 years. This excludes revenue generated from movie nights, commercial ad revenue on the video display, and any donations that provide space for donors to display their names.

The entire pool scoreboard and timing system was a take it or leave it, "no-strings-attached" gift. No past or current FAB donations, contributions, or revenue were utilized to pay for this new asset. A person approached the Foothill Athletic Boosters and offered to donate a brand new timing system and scoreboard for the water polo, diving, and swim teams. The brand new \$60,000 timing system was gifted without any restrictions or recognition and the FAB organization and Pleasanton Unified offered to provide competent oversight to the installation and operation. FAB went on to secure two businesses that provide thousands of dollars in advertising revenue each year.

The new stadium video



scoreboard will be fully funded and provide years of positive cash flow through sponsor revenue and donations specific to the scoreboard. While FAB acquired an inexpensive, five-year bridge loan to purchase the video scoreboard, all of the debt and interest will be paid completely from five-year scoreboard advertising contracts and donations for the recognition wall. Not a single dollar of tax revenue, fair-share contributions, or city dollars were utilized to purchase this equipment. After the debt is repaid, Foothill Boosters will enjoy 20+ years of cost-less revenue for further investment into the programs and activities of the next generation of Falcons. Gold Sponsors are Club Sport, Fremont Bank, Mike Carey Investment Real Estate, Dublin Toyota and our Silver Sponsors: Big O Tires of Pleasanton, Baron Jewelers, Shell of Dublin, and Valley Plumbing.

Charitable donations by individuals are often directed at a specific purpose or program. As with many charitable contributions, the donors for the scoreboards determined the specific in-

tent for their contributions and we should all thank them for that. In these cases, the booster group has limited-to-no influence in the use of proceeds through restricted giving. However, the leadership of the Foothill Boosters provided the necessary confidence to Foothill supporters to attract these large contributions. Contribution can be made by purchasing a space on the "Recognition Wall" and "Scoreboard" by going to our website at <https://fthllab.ejoinme.org/scoreboard>.

The athletic field scoreboard provides a unique tool for Foothill's band, creative arts, audio / visual students and athletes. This state-of-the-art video screen can provide a real-time view of the field as the proud, 200-strong Foothill Marching Band performs during the latest half-time show. Additionally, the high definition video display will provide a canvas for aspiring movie, TV, and video directors from the Audio Video club as they prepare commercials, independent short-films or videos for mass presentation. Coaches for five major men and women sport teams will have the ability to monitor team practice in real-time from a live video feed. The Foothill Athletic Boosters are just now beginning to contract for 15-second video advertisements to be run during football, lacrosse, soccer and track events and produced by the Foothill A/V club.

The groups thank all of the volunteers, donors and sponsors who have stepped up to make this project a

ValleyCare Gift Shop to Reopen

The ValleyCare Medical Center Gift Shop is set to reopen Monday, September 17, at 9am after the completion of a renovation giving it a fresh, new look and a better layout. The location remains the same in the lobby of ValleyCare Medical Center, 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd, Pleasanton.

According to ValleyCare Auxiliary and Gift Shop Director Vicky Hambrick, the shop is opening with all new merchandise. It will be stocked for fall and Halloween. "I think it's important people know about the ValleyCare Auxiliary Gift Shop as the place to find special and unique items," says Hambrick. "At the same

time, they are supporting the community by supporting ValleyCare."

All monies raised in the shop go right back to the hospital to fund new equipment and technology, expansion projects, new services and scholarships the Auxiliary awards every spring to local high school seniors planning a career in the medical field.

The Gift Shop is staffed and operated by volunteers of the ValleyCare Auxiliary. It is just one of the many areas the community can volunteer through the Auxiliary. Hambrick notes that new volunteers are always welcome and needed both in the Gift Shop and through-

out the health system in Livermore and Pleasanton. "If you're newly retired or an empty nester looking for something wonderful to do, try the ValleyCare Auxiliary. There are many opportunities available to use your talents and always one to fit your schedule," she says.

The Auxiliary Gift Shop is open Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm, and Saturday and Sunday 11am - 3pm.

Those interested in volunteering at the Gift Shop or at either the Livermore or Pleasanton ValleyCare campuses, please call the ValleyCare Auxiliary information line at (925) 734-3368.

SPORTS NOTES

adults and \$10.00 for students. Email Kevin Drake at drakekd@aol.com for tickets.

Ride for Veterans

Serious cyclists and recreational riders are invited to help severely wounded veterans by joining V3, the first Veterans Victory Velo set for Saturday, Sept. 22, in San Ramon.

Riders can choose routes from 15 to 100 miles to raise funds for the Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation which helps wounded veterans regain their self-sufficiency and independence.

Registration begins at 6 a.m. on ride day in the parking lot of the Foundation, 2678 Bishop Drive in San Ramon. Riders can choose from four routes, from the novice to the experienced: 100-mile Century Ride begins at 7 a.m.; 60-mile ride begins at 9 a.m.; 30-mile ride begins at 10 a.m.; and a 15-mile Family Fun Ride begins at 11 a.m.

The Family Ride will take cyclists up and down San Ramon Valley Boulevard, while the 100-mile Century Ride takes riders to the ranger station on Mt. Diablo, around Morgan Territory, into Livermore and back to the Foundation headquarters.

There will also be live music, a barbecue and other fun events scheduled between 1 and 3 p.m. on the day of the ride.

In addition, a custom bike jersey is available to commemorate this ride. The Club Cut bike jersey, \$65, is a little longer and looser than a Race Cut jersey.

For information on the race, to order a jersey, or to register, go to the race website at www.veteransvictoryvelo.com.

Bean Run

Tracy's Bean Run 2012 5K Run/Walk & 10K Run will be held on Saturday, September 8, at 8:00 a.m. This is a featured event of the 26th Annual Tracy Dry Bean Festival.

Both courses are flat and fast, as well as mostly shady through the safely monitored streets of Tracy. The 5K and 10K events will start at 8:00 a.m. The start and finish lines are located at the Tracy Public Library, at Holly Drive and E Eaton Avenue.

Pre-registration, 5K or 10K \$20 adults, \$15 age 17 and under; race-day

registration is \$25 adults, \$20 age 17 and under.

Participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt, post-race refreshments, and goodie bag.

On Your Mark Events will be providing timing and results for this race event.

Water Polo

LARPD sponsors a United States Water Polo team, governed by USWP, which encourages high standards of play and good sportsmanship. The LAZERS 14 & under team will practice this fall on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 4:55-5:30 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center pool from September 5 through November 16. The fee is \$275. All experience levels are welcome. Athletes must be able to swim two laps (50 yards) without stopping. Sign up for the LAZERS team today.

To register, call 925-373-5751, or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us. For more information about the LAZERS, visit lazerswp.clubspaces.com.

Fall Sports Leagues

Sports leagues for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District are gearing up for the fall seasons. Adults are invited to play basketball, soccer, baseball and even table tennis.

• Fall Basketball League - Teams can sign up through Friday, Sept. 14, to participate in the multidivisional league. Games start Sunday, Sept. 23, with Sunday night play times. Team registration fee is \$495. Registration packets are available at the gymnasium office at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Individuals looking to be placed on a team can contact Zack Silva at zsilva@larpd.dst.ca.us or 925-373-5734.

• Adult Soccer League - A "7 on 7" fall league is taking team registration through Friday, Sept. 7. Games are held at 5 p.m. Sundays, from Sept. 23 to Nov. 25 at the Ernie Rodriguez Softball Complex, located on South Livermore

Avenue near Concannon Boulevard at Robertson Park. Teams are \$550 each. All skill levels are welcome, and individuals can also inquire about joining a team. Leagues are offered for men's, women's and coed teams. For more information or to register, contact Dan Meevis at dmeewis@larpd.dst.ca.us or 925-373-5731.

• Adult Baseball League - Teams or individuals can register through Friday, Sept. 7, to join LARPD's fall league. Games are played on Sundays from Sept. 16 to Nov. 11 at Max Baer Park, 1310 Muddell Lane. Registration is \$999 per team or \$109 per individual. For more information or to register, contact Dan Meevis at dmeewis@larpd.dst.ca.us or 925-373-5731.

• Doubles Table Tennis League - Teams can sign up for this fall league through Friday, Oct. 5. League play will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sundays from Oct. 21 to Dec. 9 at the Robert Livermore Community Center. Divisions available for adult/youth (10+), coed, men and women. Beginner, intermediate and advanced levels are welcome. Registration is only \$75 per team. Sign up online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us. For more information, contact Dan Meevis at dmeewis@larpd.dst.ca.us or 925-373-5731.

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Harvest 2012 Already Happening in the Livermore Valley

by Laura Ness

Good thing the Blessing of the Grapes happened before the official Harvest Celebration, because harvest is now upon us. This year is going to be a blockbuster of a crop, unless September turns unusually autumnal, which is not in the forecast. By the time you read this, the Estate Reserve Chardonnay at Ruby Hill will be picked, at least the first lot of it. We tasted it last week on a fun Mello Cielo bus tour at of the vineyards, during which we had the great pleasure of trying fresh picked Chard, along with sweet Peacock Patch Zin and plump Petit Verdot right off the vine. Delicious! The seeds on the Chard were getting brown and crunchy. The flavors were quite well-developed. Winemaker Chris Graves thinks he'll do three pickings on it, and expects to harvest Pinot Blanc from Buttner right after Labor Day as well. My posse especially grooved on the big beautiful clusters of Petit Verdot, which has fascinatingly intense flavors and ample acidity: the ace crew from Wente was out dropping green fruit and leaf-thinning to encourage ripening.

Charlie Kidd from Las Positas Vineyards has already crushed Muscat from Fresno State's vineyard on August 9th. It smelled amazing! With about 5% residual sugar and nice acidity, it will make a great aperitif or dessert wine, and will be bottled very soon. It's nice to have your own bottling line. The next fruit in his crusher will be Pinot Grigio and Pinot Blanc from Ted Buttner in Sunol. Then it's time to harvest the estate Chardonnay, and wait for the reds to come around. With the vineyard nearing full maturity, their wine production will reach 3500 cases this year.

Mark Clarin of McGrail indicated he'd get Sauv Blanc for the McGrail program any day now. He was hoping the heat would moderate, so the acids would be retained at least until the day after Labor Day. So, too, Collin Cranor of Nottingham Cellars expressed his desire to have all his new equipment ready to rock n' roll in time to receive the beautiful Chardonnay fruit he expects from Fraser-Howard on Buena Vista.

In the Santa Cruz Mountains, Burrell School Vineyards already harvested 6 tons of Estate Pinot Noir on August 31 - that's a comment on the heat index this year. The rest comes off on Tuesday after Labor Day.

Introducing Friends to Livermore

The Mello Cielo bus tour was the hook to get a number of my wine friends to experience Livermore. They walked away from the day thoroughly impressed and absolutely raving about the place, the scenery and the wines. I think it's safe to say they had no clue what this place is all about, and with visits to Ruby Hill, Rodrigue Molyneux and Steven Kent, they got just a wee dram. But the Sangiovese and the Peacock Patch Zin at Ruby Hill made them jump for joy, and the Pinot Blanc, Barbera, Sangio and Cabiovese at RM gave them a good intro into how Livermore does Italians - rather well, mille grazie. It was International Cabernet Day, so tasting at Steven Kent was a must, and the gracious Tracey Hoff, along with our server, Thom, made the experience memorable and fun. Everyone was bowled over by the classic herbageousness of the Home Ranch Cab, and was taken to a new dimension with the Folkendt Cab,

which is simply standout stellar. They'll be back!

Harvest Celebration

Mother Nature didn't quite set her AC for the 31st annual Harvest Celebration, but despite the heat, the event on Sunday was a great outing. Very well-attended, with a plethora of vendors and food options everywhere - it made Livermore look like a very hospitable and guest-friendly place. And the overall impressions were very positive, as there was good wine to be had everywhere, especially if you know where to look. Kudos to Page Mill, who poured at Concannon, for their varietally correct Sauvignon Blanc and Petite Sirah, both from Livermore, and both fine examples of these heritage grapes.

Szakal Csaba from En Garde was pouring his new Albarino which is simply lovely: it makes you want more summer days to enjoy it out on the patio. Once again, we confirmed how much we love the Bodegas Aguirre Malbec: a thing of smooth yet intense beauty, and how much depth the 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva possesses. Concannon was doing reserve tastings in the Library room: a nice use of that beautiful space. Wente was hopping with a decidedly hip and youthful vibe, a tribute perhaps to the popularity of its Tamas Double Decker label, not to mention the widespread appreciation for Murietta's Well Whip and Spur. The 2011 Whip is really fine, with buoyant Viognier and Chardonnay flavors carried to extremes by its vibrant acidity.

It was truly a block party on Vasco road, where Collin was pouring a barrel sample of the truly impressive 2010 Nottingham Cab outside. We went in to admire all his new equipment, including sorting table and press: he will no longer need to rely on the kindness of his neighbors to share their press with him as they've been doing.

Speaking of Occasio, what a treat to sample the elegant and well-structured 2011 Fume Blanc, just bottled and not yet labeled, but with a distinctive Fume character that hits you with a hint of gunsmoke on the finish. Just perfect. John was under the gun to get the barrels and tanks emptied out with fruit imminent. I've never seen that cellar so stacked to the gills! Another newly bottled addition to the portfolio is a delightful Tempranillo that is more like a Spanish Rioja than anything I've tasted from the region. It's as flamboyant and filled with drama and tension as a flamenco dancer. We also sampled a 2009 Cab Franc which he discovered while making room for glass: it's phenomenal what a bit of bottle age will do to an already brilliant wine.

The music at Longevity had everyone grooving. The food by Winemakers Pour-House was delicious, with black beans and pulled pork, homemade BBQ sauce and a jalapeno cream coulis that just rocked it. Turned out to be a great pair with the 2011 Sauv Blanc we tasted at Cuda Ridge, as it has a distinctive wallop of jalapeno and lime as Sauv can often exhibit in these parts. Larry has expanded into the former Ryhan digs, so there is now elbow room at Cuda: he will no longer have to go outside to change his mind. There's lots of space to hang artwork and decorate the walls, floors, etc. Loved the 2010 Merlot and Petit Verdot and the 2009 purple label Cab is tasting finer all the time. All in all, a great day.

Walk the Vineyards at Las Positas

Las Positas offers a chance to walk the vineyards with winemaker Charlie Kidd, on September 15 and September 29. You and a minimum of 7 guests receive a 1 hour Vineyard & Winery Tour with the winemaker, with 5 wines poured, plus additional samples in the barrel room. Minimum Capacity 8; Maximum Capacity 25. Reservation Required. \$25 pp or \$15 pp for non-drinking guests. Upgrade your experience with gourmet cheese crackers for \$30pp. No charge for Las Positas Wine Club Members + 1 Guest. \$25 per each additional guest.

Page Mill Wines at Piccola Casa

If you haven't tried Piccola Casa, you are missing out on one of Livermore's best kept secrets! Located at 945 Bluebell Dr. in Livermore, Piccola Casa has been serving up delicious Mediterranean lunches and dinners for a few years now. Page Mill Wines are now available by the glass and bottle and are the perfect compliment to a fabulous meal: your expectations will be exceeded. The 2011 Page Mill Livermore Sauvignon Blanc and 2010 Lodi Zinfandel are currently on the wine list. For more information, visit www.piccolacasarestaurant.com

Also in news from Page Mill, the brand new 2009 Livermore GPS - a blend of Grenache, Petite Sirah and Syrah, is set to be released Sept. 14th.

Steven Kent Collector's Circle Release, Sept. 8th

Collector's Circle and Pinot Noir Program Members will enjoy a Private Release Celebration on Friday, September 8. The Barrel Room will be closed to the public for this exclusive club event. September's Collector's Circle Members should RSVP.

If you are not a club member, but would like to taste Steven Kent wines on this day, please head to the Patio or the Reserve Room for tasting, 12-4:30. In fact, every weekend is a good time to enjoy tasting on the patio, with music and food on Saturdays. Bring your own picnic Sundays. Wine Tasting fee is \$10, which includes logo'd glass and three tastes. Additional tastes and bottles available for purchase.

Wednesday, September 26th, 6:30pm, it's another fabulous Winemaker Dinner with Chef Jimmy Connors. The newly released Single Vineyard Series of Cabernet will be paired with Chef Jimmy's cuisine. Reservations required. 925.243.6442. Four courses, \$75 per person plus tax. Limited seating.

It's Tomato Time at Wente! September 10 thru Sept. 16

Executive Chef Matt Greco's menus will feature heirloom tomato creations sourced from the gorgeous Wente organic garden. 3 course prix fixe menus will

be available. Dinner, \$49 per person; lunch & brunch, \$29 per person.

Make your reservations at The Restaurant at Wente Vineyards online or

by phone at 925.456.2450. Here's to another bountiful harvest!



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Friday Night Live! concerts have drawn large crowds, with the music inspiring some to get up and dance.

CONCERTS

(continued from page one)

events, estimated attendance doubled this year, reaching an average of 400 attendees each week including many families with children. An especially high turn-out was seen for such groups as the classic rock Gabe Duffin Band and for El Desayuno, whose Latin Salsa rhythms inspired people to get up and dance.

The success of the LVPAC Presents series at the Bankhead Theater has helped provide funding for both "Friday Nights LIVE!" and next year's "Tuesday Tunes." Audiences have grown steadily for the LVPAC Presents year-round season. Tickets sales for the current 2012-2013 season are higher than at the same time last year with some shows, such as the return of ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro, already sold out. "Providing free live music concerts during the summer months is LVPAC's way of supporting downtown merchants and local performers, as well as giving something back to the community in appreciation of

their ongoing support for the Bankhead," said Len Alexander, executive director of LVPAC. Preference is given to local artists and bands when booking the outdoor concerts. Groups interested in performing next summer can contact him now, Alexander added.

"Friday Nights LIVE!" will close the season with the Northern California-based Volker Strifler Band appearing on the Shea Homes stage on Friday, September 14. German-born singer, songwriter, and guitarist Strifler's music ranges from upbeat dance tunes and modern blues rock, to soulful R&B with a touch of country and jazz. A longtime member of the Ford Blues Band, Strifler has also released two solo albums and opened for B.B.King and Johnny Winter on tour.

The final free concert on September 14 kicks off LVPAC's fourth annual Guitar Fest LIVE! a weekend celebration of guitars and guitar music. During the day on Saturday, September 15, there will be free

performances on both the Shea Homes stage and at Blacksmith Square across North Livermore Avenue. Free guitar clinics will be held at ABC Music Store, and a showcase of guitar equipment in the theater lobby will culminate in a performance by the Larry Carlton Trio on stage at the Bankhead. Closing Guitar Fest LIVE! will be the final round of the new LVPAC Acoustic Guitar Competition which begins at noon on Sunday, September 16th, in Blacksmith Square. The Acoustic Guitar Competition, the Volker Strifler Band and other outdoor performances during Guitar Fest LIVE! are free and open to the public. Tickets to hear the Larry Carlton Trio range from \$35 to \$52 for adults and \$14 for students and are available now through the Bankhead Theater Box Office.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Historic re-enactments were part of the annual Scottish Games and Gathering held over the weekend at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton. The two day event is hosted by the San Francisco Caledonian Club. It includes sporting events, dance competitions, bagpipe bands, and more.

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THE WORDS (PG13) DLP THX	12:05	2:20	4:40	7:00	9:25
THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY (PG13) DLP THX	1:20	4:30	7:15	9:40	
THE POSSESSION (PG13) DLP D-BOX	12:25	2:45	5:00	7:20	9:45
LAWLESS (R) DLP	1:30	4:10	6:50	9:40	
PREMIUM RUSH (PG13) DLP	12:20	2:40	5:00	7:15	9:30
THE EXPENDABLES 2 (R) DLP	12:50	4:05	7:10	10:00	
ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN (PG) DLP	12:00	2:25	4:55	7:25	9:55
PARANORMAN (PG) DLP	12:15	2:30	4:45	6:55	9:10
BOURNE LEGACY (PG13) DLP	12:45	3:45	5:15	6:45	8:15
ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT (PG) DLP				12:35	2:50
THE CAMPAIGN (R) DLP	12:10	2:35	4:50	7:20	9:35
HOPE SPRINGS (PG13) DLP	1:05	4:00	6:40	9:20	
BRAVE (PG) DLP					12:30
THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (PG13) DLP				4:15	8:00

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Beasts of the Southern Wild
Fri - Sat: 12:20 2:20 6:45

Celeste and Jesse Forever
Fri - Sat: 4:30 8:45

Call for Sun - Thurs Show Times

SHORT NOTES

Book Sale in Dublin

Friends of the Dublin Library will hold a fall used book sale Sept. 14-16 at the library, 200 Civic Plaza.

Fri., Sept. 14 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. is members only night. Memberships will be available starting at 5:30 p.m. The sale continues from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sat., Sept. 15. Sunday, 1 to 4:30 p.m. is Bag Day. Fill a paper bag (provided) for \$4 or fill a special edition Friends of the Library canvas tote bag for \$8. Totes are also available alone for \$5. A bag day special will feature all audiovisual and specially priced items at half off.

Most prices are \$1 or less. Funds from sales go towards purchasing the Library's materials and supporting its programs. The sale features specially priced books, new or of extra value; teacher materials section; new price on tote bags; and Sunday specials.

More information is available on the Library's website at www.aclibrary.org, the Friends' website at www.dublinfriends.org, or call the Library at 925-828-1315. The Library is wheelchair accessible.

Sentinels of Freedom

Col. Danny McKnight U.S. Army (Ret.), who served in Somalia in 1993 (the basis for the book and movie Black Hawk Down), will speak at the 5th Annual Sentinels of Freedom Dinner, Sunday September 16th, 2012 at the Diablo Country Club. To learn more about Col. Danny McKnight visit www.dannymcknight.com.

Danny has recently released his own book: "Streets of Mogadishu." McKnight says of his work, "Understand this, I am quite possibly the most 'politically incorrect' person in America... the Book projects this thru my honesty, truthfulness, opinions and beliefs." Each dinner guest will receive a copy of the book and the opportunity to have it signed.

Sentinels of Freedom provides life-changing opportunities for men and women of the US Armed Forces who have suffered severe injuries and need the support of grateful communities to realize their dreams and goals.

To learn more about the dinner and or a golf tournament

visit www.sentinelsoffreedom.org or contact Carla Goulart by phone at 925-380-6342 ext. 2 or email carlagoulart@sentinelsoffreedom.com.

Book Events

Events planned at Towne Center Books in Pleasanton include the following:

- Phil Cousineau 7:00 Tues. Sept. 11: writer, teacher, editor, independent scholar, documentary filmmaker, travel leader, and storyteller. His life-long fascination with the art, literature, and history of culture has taken him on many journeys around the world. He lectures frequently on a wide range of topics—from mythology, film, and writing, to beauty, travel, sports, and creativity. He has more than 25 non-fiction books and 15 script writing credits to his name including Wordcatcher and The Painted Word. Reservations are always helpful. 925-846-8826.

- Jeff Kunkel and Hilda Robinson 11:00 Sat. Sept. 15: Hilda Robinson, Grandmother and artist will share her pictures of growing up in a closely knit family before television. Jeff Kunkel wrote the text based on Hilda's stories. Reservations are always helpful. 925-846-8826.

- Read It and Eat. Fri. Sept. 28: Publisher Wendy Pearl will give a preview of some of her favorite forthcoming and recently published books. A simple but yummy lunch will be \$5.00. 11:30 social time. Program and lunch at noon. Reservations required at 925-846-8826

Towne Center Books is located at 555 Main Street.

Bears and Apples

Two programs are planned for this weekend by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff.

Bears will be the topic for Sat., Sept. 8. Meet Ranger Dawn Soles at 10 a.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 5049 Arroyo Road.

Bears come in many sizes and colors. They are revered in some areas and feared in others. Join this nature program to talk about bears around the world today and even some from prehistoric times.

The annual Applefest will be held at Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Rd., from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sun., Sept. 9.

Tour the orchards and taste antique apple varieties not found in stores. Find out what an "apple slinky" is, help make cider and play some old-fashioned games. Ravenswood Progress League docents will be leading tours of the main building. Orchard tour begins at 1:15 p.m. and other activities will be ongoing.

There is a \$5 per vehicle parking fee at either entrance to Sycamore Grove Park. A \$2 donation is requested to help support the programs unless other fees are specified. Participants may call 925-960-2400 for more information.

Dublin Library

Starting September 4, Dublin Library is adding 2 hours of service on Tuesday nights from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

With increased funding from the City of Dublin, the Library will add two hours to its current schedule of 45 hours a week. Starting September 4, the Library adds Tuesday nights until 8:00 p.m. to its schedule. With this change, Dublin Library will be open three nights a week.

Dublin Library is operated by Alameda County Library. More information about the Library is available on-line or by calling 925-803-7252.

Nominations Sought

The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary in March 2013 by continuing its commitment to honoring extraordinary women leaders - from trailblazers to unsung heroes - who serve the Alameda County community with passion and purpose, and make a positive impact on the lives of others. The event raises funds for local organizations advancing social well-being and is a beacon of empowerment and inspiration for tomorrow's leaders.

Nominations are now being accepted for outstanding women in 12 categories: Business and Professions; Community Service; Culture and Art; Education; Environment; Health; Justice; Non-Traditional Careers; Science; Sports and Athletics; Philanthropy and Youth. Apply on-line at <http://acgov.org/cao/halloffame/>.

The deadline to submit nominations is December 14, 2012. For more information about the event, go to <http://acgov.org/cao/halloffame/> or call (510) 272-6510.

Farmers Insurance

Rafaat Mankarious, Farmers Insurance agent in Pleasanton, has completed the Career Agents Course at the University of Farmers training facility in Agoura Hills, California.

The University of Farmers training facility in Grand Rapids, Michigan was officially dedicated in September 2011, while the training facility located in Agoura Hills, California, was dedicated in November 2006. Farmers CEO Jeff Dailey noted that the University is national in scope, and offers training to Farmers' 15,000 agents and their staff, 500 district managers and 10,000 claims staff year round.

Pleasanton Book Sale

Book lovers can stock up on their winter reading at the Friends of the Pleasanton Public Library Fall Book Sale 2012. This much anticipated event takes place on Friday, September 21, Saturday, September 22, and Sunday, September 23 at the library's Large Meeting Room. The Friday night sale will run from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. for members only of the Friends of the Library. (memberships will be available at the door). The sale is open to everyone on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to

3:00 p.m. A popular feature of the Sunday sale is the \$7 price for a bag of books. The library will supply the bags.

More than 40,000 donated books of all types from bestsellers to biographies to children's picture books will be for sale at bargain prices: paperbacks are \$1, hardbacks are \$2, and 50-cents for Golden and Scholastic books. The books are in good to perfect condition. There will be other media on sale as well: DVDs and music CDs are included in the sale at \$1 per disc. Cash, check and charge will be accepted for the convenience of patrons.

No electrical devices or strollers (due to limited aisle space) are allowed at the event.

The Friends of the Pleasanton Library is a 501c3 non-profit organization of volunteers created to support the Library. All revenues support new library materials, programs and equipment. The Friends are seeking adult volunteers to help with setup and during the sale hours. For book sale or volunteer information, please call Nancy Bering, (925) 462-4368.

Yoga and Music

Nataraj, an evening of yoga, music and movement will benefit the Taylor Family Foundation.

It will be presented by Cosmic Dog Yoga on Fri., Sept. 14 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Instructor Suzanna Spring will lead a yoga class followed by ambient, tribal, world rhythms and electronica by Oakland's DJ Bert. There will be on-site massage therapists, a silent auction and healthy snacks available.

Cost is \$25 advance for yoga and music, \$30 at the door; music only \$15. Sign up on line at www.cosmicdogyoga.com.

Cosmic Dog Yoga is located at 1923 Second St., Livermore, 456-YOGA.

Pulled Pork Cook-Off

The City of Dublin is seeking volunteer chefs for participation at the next "Dublin Cooks Night" at the Dublin Farmers' Market, on Thursday, September 13. The City will be hosting a Pulled Pork Cook-Off, where Dublin residents can bring homemade, prepared pulled pork for a special taste-test, featuring local celebrity judges. The winner will receive a gift certificate to a local Dublin eatery. The cook-off will begin at 6:00 p.m. that evening. Interested chefs, professional or otherwise, should contact Shari Jackman at (925) 556-4555 or via email at shari.jackman@dublin.ca.gov.

Workshop to Provide Update on 2013 Farm Bill

There will be an information meeting on Farm & Ranch Conservation Planning and 2013 Farm Bill Programs on Thursday, September 20, 2012 from 5:00-7:30pm.

There will be an introduction session for beginning farmers and ranchers from 4 to 5 p.m. This will provide the basics of NRCS conservation programs and how to enroll

The event will take place at the Conservation Partnership Office in the Martinelli Event Center, 3585 Greenville Rd., Livermore.

There will be a BBQ hosted by the Alameda County Resource Conservation District, ACRCD Board of Directors, and Allison Batteate

Please RSVP by Thursday, September 13 to susan.ellsworth@acrcd.org or 925-371-0154 ext. 103

The program is aimed at farmers or ranchers with 10 years or less of experience interested in learning more about conservation activities that can be implemented on a farm or ranch. As part of this session, a free packet of information including aerial, topo and soil maps specific to a parcel as well as other technical information will be provided upon request.

Those who would like a packet prepared, please include the following in your RSVP: 1) name 2) parcel number(s) OR FSA Farm and Tract Number 3) acreage and 4) agricultural

land use.

The general meeting will begin at 5 p.m. It will include an introduction and funding for FY 2013 Farm Bull Programs, briefing on local agricultural news, permit coordination programs, and upcoming activities for beginning farmers and ranchers. The introduction will be followed by the BBQ and breakout sessions.

This workshop is part of a series funded by the USDA NIFA Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program.

The workshop series will include a variety of topics relevant to beginning farmers and ranchers as well as opportunities for collaboration and mentorship.

OBITUARIES

Isabella Grace Battaion

Aug. 20, 2012 - Aug. 30, 2012

Isabella Grace was called home to heaven on the afternoon of August 30, 2012 at the age of 10 days and is now in God's loving

hands. Isabella passed away peacefully in the loving arms of her mother (Chandra) and Father (Dustin) surrounded by her loving family. Isabella Grace is survived by her older brother (Kyle 17), sister (Savannah 6), grandparents Paulette Walker of Pleasanton, CA, Larry Preszler and Janet Schott of Livermore, CA, Nancy and Michael Battaion of Dublin, CA Uncle Darin Preszler of Dublin, CA, Aunt and Uncle Stefany Moenich (Battaion) and Chris Moenich of Ft. Worth, TX, cousins Joshua Moenich 3, and Caterina Sophia Moenich 5 months, and many other Great-Aunts, Great-Uncles, and Cousins in CA and SD.

The Vigil and Rosary was held Wednesday (9/5) evening from 7 to 9 pm. Mass will be at 11 am on Thursday (9/6) at St. Michael Catholic Church, 458 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550. Internment will be at St. Michael Cemetery

located at 3885 East Avenue, Livermore, CA.

Isabella Grace Battaion suffered from a muscular disorder characterized by a condition called Fetal Akinesia. A Foundation is being established in Isabella Grace's name to further research into her little known condition. In lieu of flowers, charitable donations can be made payable to St. Michael Catholic Church.

Elizabeth Aaland

Elizabeth Goodson Aaland, a long-time resident of Livermore, passed away peacefully on July 31, 2012, just shy of her 89th birthday, from congestive heart failure. Beth, as she was known to all, arrived in Livermore with her husband Kris Aaland, a Lab employee, in 1955. She was born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, in 1923, and grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Beth was a special ed teacher in Livermore until 1989 when she retired. The following years were spent substitute teaching, private tutoring, playing bridge, volunteering for the Livermore -Amador Symphony

Guild, and following her twin passions, writing and drawing, or as she called it doodling.

From one of her published books, "Legacy in Words": Life is a kaleidoscope. Shapes touching and pulling apart. Colors beaming Fading And beaming again.

Associations always there. Seen and unseen, Only to sink away and then to come again Eons from now, After life itself is gone.

There is no combination of shapes and colors That remains forever apart. There is no end.

She is survived by her three sons, Mikkel, Karl Erik, and Hans; her daughters-in-law Rebecca Taggart Aaland and Bea Foreman; and four grandchildren, Miranda and Ana Aaland, Micah Gemmill and Lizzy Sturgis. Her husband of 52 years, Kris Aaland, passed away in 2004.

A memorial service will be held for her on Sunday, Sept. 9th (her 89th birthday) at 1pm at Callaghan Mortuary, 3833 East Ave., Livermore.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to be made to the Livermore-Amador Symphony Guild. www.livamsymph.org/guild.html

Mary Louise Samaro

Dec. 22, 1948 to Aug. 29, 2012

Mary Samaro passed away peacefully amongst family on August 29, 2012 at ValleyCare Medical Center, Pleasanton, CA. Mary fought a courageous battle with liver and kidney disease while maintaining her dignity and zest for life.

She is survived by her loving parents, Louis and Elvira Samaro, her three sisters: Lupe Miller, Rose Perkins, Virginia Showell, her two brothers: Louis Samaro, Michael Samaro as well as several nieces and nephews. Born and raised in San Jose, CA, Mary selflessly assisted in the upbringing of her younger siblings in the Samaro family home. She received early retirement from AT&T (formerly Pacific Bell and SBC), relocated to Livermore, CA, 14 years ago with her parents as a loyal, loving daughter, companion and care provider while working full time at National Food Labs until her disability due to illness this year. Her charismatic, warm personality attracted many of her colleagues and management to become close,

personal friends throughout her long, industrious career life.

Mary Samaro was a strong, intelligent and independent woman with strong family ties and values. She would unselfishly devote her time, energy, love and support to all in need, including local charities and organizations. She truly believed in family and planned many events to keep the family together. Despite sickness and medical setbacks, her love, kindness and humor would never falter. Her warmth, friendship and laughter will be greatly missed by family and friends.

Services for Mary Samaro are Thursday, Sep-

tember 6, 7 p.m. Rosary and Eulogy, Chapel of Callaghan Mortuary, Livermore, CA; Friday, September 7, 11:30 a.m. Memorial Mass, St. Michael Church, 458 Maple St. Livermore, CA; 12:30 p.m., Interment at Chapel at Memory Gardens Cemetery, Livermore, CA; Saturday, September 8, 2 p.m., Memorial Service at Callaghan Mortuary, Livermore, CA; 3 p.m., Niche Visit, Chapel of Memory Gardens Cemetery, Livermore, CA; and 4 p.m. Reception, Home of Louis and Elvira Samaro, Livermore, CA.

Arrangements are by Callaghan Mortuary.





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Obituary/Memorial Policies

Obituaries are published in The Independent at no charge. There is a small charge for photographs in the obituaries. Memorial ads can also be placed in The Independent when families want to honor the memories of their loved ones. There is a charge for memorial ads, based on the size of the ad. Please send an email to editmail@compuserve.com to receive additional information.

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ELECTION

cooperation is important.

The interviews are in alphabetical order.

CHERYL COOK-KALLIO

Cook-Kallio lives in Pleasanton with her husband John, a retired teacher. They are the parents of four children.

She is a civics instructor in the Fremont School District where she teaches advanced placement government, U.S. history and economics. She also coaches the "We the People team," a competition that focuses on Constitutional issues.

Asked if she would have time to take on the role of mayor, Cook-Kallio stated that if she were elected mayor, she would announce her retirement from teaching.

In talking about what she would bring to the job, Cook-Kallio stated, "I know how government works. I have connections at both the state and federal level. Those interpersonal relationships would be a benefit to Pleasanton." She adds that six years on the council, including three terms as vice mayor, have given her the practical experience needed to serve as mayor. "I am a strong advocate for things in which I believe."

Her focus as mayor would be on traffic, affordable housing placement, economic growth and development, and the fiscal health of the city.

She supports Measure B3, "It is essential to every council priority dealing with transportation. We've been begging for improvements to highway 84 for as long as I can remember. There are funds in the measure to improve 84."

Cook-Kallio said there are those who say they would receive no benefit from the measure. "Everything we touch is brought to us by some form of transportation on a road or rails. There is a need for a reliable, long term funding source to deal with traffic and transit issues. The Alameda County Transportation Commission is well run. Projects funded in the past have been on time or early, and under or on budget. Every 20 years, voters will review projects to be funded."

"To say the measure should be brought back with a sunset clause won't work. Once it is defeated, the proposal will go away. We can't vote again," stated Cook-Kallio.

The city is in the process of creating a specific plan for the eastside of the city. The 1000 acres includes the Chain of Lakes. Cook-Kallio said it is important to build the infrastructure first. "I won't support a project that does not include a mechanism to extend El Charro to Stanley Boulevard." Her

goal would be to require developers to help fund the extension.

Cook-Kallio supports both the urban growth boundary (UGB) and ridge-line protection. She voted for the Oak Grove development in southeast Pleasanton because of the park acreage the city would gain. It was eventually referended and is still the subject of lawsuits. She was the author of Measure QQ, a council initiative that offered a watered-down version of ridge-line protection that was a counter to Measure PP, an initiative launched by the voters. Both won, with PP receiving the most votes. She pointed out that there are only a couple of places where either measure would come into play. She remarked that the Lin family has pulled everything and has no plans to bring forward another project for the Oak Grove site. Other property owners are looking at a reduced number of homes to address PP and QQ requirements.

When it comes to pension reform, Cook-Kallio believes the city is moving in the right direction. The city has negotiated new contracts with its bargaining units that contain nothing but concessions on their part. There are changes in medical retirement for new employees, a 2-tier pension system, and employees will pay the full 9 percent contribution towards retirement. The council still needs to deal with the unfunded liability. Cook-Kallio noted that unlike many cities, Pleasanton is not just paying the interest on the liability. In addition to paying the interest, some money goes towards reducing the principal. She pointed out that the city has been fiscally responsible. It has \$25 million in a reserve fund, as well as \$168 million in assets. The only debt is the golf course. There are plans coming to the council to deal with that in a way that will save the city \$13 million, she stated.

She said it is important to remember that their is a human element to these negotiated agreements. The changes impact the lives of employees and their families now and in the future.

When it comes to attracting businesses and jobs to the city, Cook-Kallio said there is a need to recruit small businesses, as well as corporate businesses. "There is no reason for the three Tri-Valley cities to be in competition, when they can be complementary." She used as an example, i-GATE in Livermore. "If it takes off, there will be a benefit for all of the cities."

As mayor, Cook-Kallio believes she can be effective in recruiting businesses to locate in Pleasanton. She would follow up to ensure

that businesses know that the city is interested in what they need and will work to make it happen.

There has been controversy over the high density homes planned on nine sites in Pleasanton. The rezoning was mandated by the courts. Cook-Kallio believes that it is a matter of educating the public as to what the housing will look like. "These are not tenements. The reality is that people who will live in them make a reasonable amount of money."

She wants Pleasanton residents to be able to live and work in Pleasanton. She worked to create more transit oriented affordable housing as a member of the Hacienda task Force. As Mayor, she said that she would ensure that the areas of the city currently zoned for housing are well planned and designed to fit Pleasanton. "I want to see viable housing options so Pleasanton's police officers, firefighters and teachers will be able to live in the community in which they work."

Senior housing is another issue. She said that she has closely monitored future plans for replacement of the aging Pleasanton Gardens and Kottinger Place senior apartments. The need for senior housing is only going to grow, she commented. She believes that a greater number of units on the two sites will help to provide more amenities. She would support using the affordable housing fund to help build the project. "There is no better way to use the money than to help seniors live in state of the art apartments."

Her goal would be to work to fund funding for Bernal Park Phase II.

Cook-Kallio said she has accepted money from unions and developers.

She concluded by stating that she believes that she has the leadership skills to be mayor. "My opponent and I have similar records." Her stand on Measure B3 is one difference. Another is that as a newly elected councilmember, Cook-Kallio stated she was the only one to advocate for the extension of Stoneridge Drive. It was on the verge of being removed from the general plan by the council.

Cook-Kallio served on the Hacienda Task Force and the Housing Element Task Force "Both were controversial in terms of what the courts said that the city had to come up with in zoning for high density housing. I believe in doing what is right legally so that we do not end up in court in the future."

She added that she believes the role of mayor requires leadership. She said she can communicate with and represent people with differing points of view. She can work with them to produce the best results for the future of Pleasanton.

JERRY THORNE

Jerry Thorne is a 36 year resident of Pleasanton. He worked in the private sector for 40 years, where he stated that he had managed large sums of money and large numbers of employees. He worked at Agilent Technologies and Hewlett Packard Corporation Global Operations Management responsible for environmental engineering and safety engineering, as well as administrative services and security.

He lists 17 years of public service, including stints on the Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission as providing experience in how city government operates. He served three terms as vice mayor.

Thorne represents the city on the League of California Cities. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the League. He is a current member of the National League of Cities Community and Economic Development Steering Committee.

"I was elected to the council in 2006 and 2010 with the largest number of votes. Now I want to be your mayor. With the mayor terming out, it is the appropriate time to run for the office. I believe the combination of my public and private sector experience qualifies me to lead Pleasanton into the future," he stated.

Thorne is particularly concerned about the financial future of the city. He would create a spending plan that he said would provide the services to which residents have become accustomed. One step would be to look at where money is spent. He points out that 78 percent of general plan revenues go towards wages, salaries and benefits. "That is a higher percentage than you would find in similar types of organizations. Seventy percent would not be unreasonable." He would create several performance measures including ensuring that future liabilities are funded at the 80% level within three years, and reducing future liabilities by 10% within five years.

Thorne agrees that it is the employees who provide the services. However, he doesn't believe that cutting personnel expenditures would result in a cut in services.

The completed agreements with the city's three employee bargaining units were a step in the right direction. Once the changes go into effect, things will improve. He sees the changes as short term solutions. "I worry about the long term, the unfunded liability." He didn't have a specific solution to the unfunded pensions, stating, "I believe there are options out there. The council, staff and union representatives should sit down together to discuss the situation. The goals of

any agreement would be to stabilize the financial future of the city, while minimizing the impact on employees."

On his website he writes that he would form a Mayor's Select Finance Committee comprised of residents with a high level of financial expertise to advise the Mayor and review and make recommendations on labor contracts, the budget, and city financial policies, such as employee cellphone use, credit card use, and travel policies.

Another way to improve the fiscal health of the city would be to attract businesses, create a climate where they want to remain in Pleasanton. He would support continuing to streamline the permitting process as a way of attracting and retaining great businesses. He stated, businesses generate jobs and provide revenue to support the city's many amenities such as the Firehouse Arts Center, parks, and a wide range of youth programs.

Thorne is opposed to Measure B3 because the tax, if approved, would not sunset. While the measure states that projects can be reviewed and changed, the tax cannot be revoked. "I believe the projects that would be built are important, such as BART to Livermore and improvements to Highway 84." He said that not including a sunset period jeopardizes the measure at the polls. "Another ballot measure with a sunset clause should be submitted to voters. It should tell the public what the agency has accomplished in the past, its plans for the future and how it would move forward."

He said that an important issue facing the city is the completion of East Pleasanton Specific Plan, which spans 1,000-acres. He suggested that the plan would likely include a variety of recreational, residential and industrial uses. Thorne said that it is important to secure the funding to complete El Charro Road to Stanley Boulevard to mitigate traffic impacts from future development in the area. He also advocates working with the school district to determine what school facilities would be available for students in the area.

He is concerned about the appearance of the development of high density projects. "We must overturn the negative aspects of being forced to rezone over 70 acres in Pleasanton for higher density housing into a positive. The projects approved must meet the high standards established by the community and provide workforce housing that is livable. We do need workforce housing. Our jobs and housing are out of balance." He would use design guidelines and placement to produce high quality projects.

Housing is also important for seniors. He pointed out that the plan is to double the

number of units at Pleasanton Gardens and Kottinger Place. Both provide affordable senior housing. He would use the affordable housing fund to assist in the redevelopment of both parcels. "We need as many units as we can provide. The senior population is growing." He said that with more housing at the two sites and the completion of the Continuing Life Community on Staples Ranch, a variety of housing needs for seniors would be met.

He supports the urban growth boundary. He voted for the Oak Grove development and to place the council's ridge-line protection on the ballot, Measure QQ. QQ was the council's response to the voter driven initiative, Measure PP. "It doesn't matter about the past. We now have both measures as part of the general plan. The voters have given us the directive. I will enforce what the city has been directed to do," said Thorne.

One of his focuses has been on building Phase II of the Bernal Park, which includes all weather sports fields. He has been working with the presidents of various sports leagues to fund the next phase. "We are close to a public-private partnership," he stated. As part of funding the sports fields, Thorne said, "I want to make sure that planting trees is part of the proposal."

Thorne at one time served on the city's energy committee. He is a supportive of the city's green building and energy conservation efforts.

Water is another environmental issue. Thorne serves on the DSRSD-Pleasanton liaison committee. It is working with Livermore to come up with the best way for Pleasanton to begin using recycled water for irrigation. "We are close to an agreement," he stated.

During a recent council meeting, he declared that he would not take money from unions. "These are folks who work for us. We have influence over their paychecks," he said during an interview. Asked if he would take money from developers, he stated, "They don't work for us. I tell them what I think, my philosophy when it comes to development. They can decide if they want to support me. The council does not have a direct influence over their paychecks." It was suggested that turning down a development could impact revenues for developers. Thorne declared, "That is the chance they take."

He writes on his website, "In order to maintain our quality of life, we must assure that Pleasanton grows at the proper pace. A critical component of the role of Mayor is to consider sensible solutions to the issues of traffic congestion and workforce housing as we grow."

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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LEGAL NOTICES

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Call 925-243-8000

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 468236

The following person(s) doing business as: Tri Valley Dental Implant Center, 1171 Murrieta Blvd Suite 200, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Robert Brandes, 4681 Third St, Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by an individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant(s): Robert Brandes This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2012. Expires August 7, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3293. Published August 16, 23, 30, September 6, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 467428

The following person(s) doing business as: www.MOMSPHONEBOOK.com, 5693 Arlene Way, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): MOMSPHONEBOOK, INC, 5693 Arlene Way, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed

above on June 29, 2012. Signature of Registrant(s): Joseph A. Barton, President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 16, 2012. Expires July 16, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3296. Published August 16, 23, 30, September 6, 2012.

T.S. No.: 2012-19658
Loan No.: 20299921
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 1/8/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or Savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty,

expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale.

Trustor: **RUSSELL A. DUGUID, A MARRIED MAN AS HIS SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY**
Duly Appointed Trustee: **Western Progressive, LLC**
Recorded 1/29/2007 as Instrument No. 2007044432 in book —, page — and rerecorded on — as — of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California.
Date of Sale: 9/18/2012 at 12:00 PM
Place of Sale: **At the front Fallon Street entrance to the Alameda County Courthouse 1225 Fallon Street Oakland, CA**

Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$432,591.13**
Street Address or other common designation of real property: **4773 LANTANA AVENUE, LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA 94551**
A.P.N.: **099-0031-040-00**
The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street

address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: The beneficiary or servicing agent declares that it has obtained from the Commissioner of Corporation a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the Notice of Sale is filed and/or the timeframe for giving Notice of Sale Specified in subdivision (s) of California Civil Code Section 2923.52 applies and has been provided or the loan is exempt from the requirements.

NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for

paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgage, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <http://www.altisource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx>, using the file number assigned to this case 2012-19658. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or

on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale

Date: 8/9/2012
Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee
c/o 18377 Beach Blvd., Suite 210
Huntington Beach, California 92648
Automated Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299
<http://www.altisource.com/MortgageServices/DefaultManagement/TrusteeServices.aspx>
For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: (866) 240-3530

Tunisha Jennings
Trustee Sale Assistant
The Independent Legal No. 3299 Published August 23, 30, September 6, 2012

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 467453

The following person(s) doing business as: Harrys Auto Repair, 183 Wyoming Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Harrys Automotive, Inc, 183 Wyoming Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on July 1, 2011. Signature of Registrant(s): Harry Napier, President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on July 17, 2012. Expires July 17, 2017.

The Independent Legal No. 3300. Published August 23, 30, September 6, 13, 2012.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Date of Filing Application: **August 13, 2012**
To Whom It May Concern: The Applicant(s) is/are: **WINGMAN AND ASSOCIATES INC**
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at:
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Type of license(s) Applied for:
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Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
1515 Clay St. Ste 2208 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 622-4970

The Independent Legal No. 3301. Published August 23, 30, September 6, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 468269

The following person(s) doing business as: Details, 1145 Hillcrest Court, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Christa Robbins, 1145 Hillcrest Court, Livermore, CA 94550 This business is conducted by an individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s)

listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant(s): Christa Robbins, Wedding and Event Planner

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 7, 2012. Expires August 7, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3302. Published August 30, September 6, 13, 20, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 468829

The following person(s) doing business as: Livermore Brewing Company, 10013 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Gregory J. Lynch, 10013 Tesla Road, Livermore, CA 94550

This business is conducted by an individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrant(s): Gregory J. Lynch

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 22, 2012. Expires August 22, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3304. Published August 30, September 6, 13, 20, 2012.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS

Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department, County of Alameda, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907, Oakland, CA 94612
NETWORKING BIDDERS CONFERENCES FOR RFP #901039 FRESH START CAFE@ (ASHLAND YOUTH

LEGAL NOTICES/CLASSIFIEDS

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CENTER) North County – Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at General Services Agency, 1401 Lakeside Drive, Room 1107, 11th Floor, Oakland, CA and **South County** – Thursday, September 13, 2012, 1:00 p.m. at Castro Valley Library, Chabot Room, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley, CA **Responses Due by 2:00 pm on October 9, 2012 County Contact:** Ann Marie Romero (510) 208-9742 or via email: annmarie.romero@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Alameda County GSA Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 9/6/12 CNS-2371533# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3305

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 468972

The following person(s) doing business as: EQUBE Inc, 4900 Hopyard Road, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): EQUBE Inc, 4900 Hopyard Road, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 3/13/2001. Signature of Registrants: Yuchen Jessica Liao This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2012. Expires August 27, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3306. Published September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 468975

The following person(s) doing business as: Gratia Property Management, 4900 Hopyard Road, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): EQUBE Inc, 4900 Hopyard Road, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94588 This business is conducted by a Corporation The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/31/2012. Signature of Registrants: Yuchen Jessica Liao, Broker/Owner & CEO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 27, 2012. Expires August 27, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3307. Published September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 469090

The following person(s) doing business as: UDS, 5885 La Ribera St, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): John Scheall, 5610 Starboard Dr, Discovery Bay, CA 94505 This business is conducted by an Individual The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/29/2012. Signature of Registrants: John Scheall This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on August 29, 2012. Expires August 29, 2017. The Independent Legal No. 3308. Published September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2012.

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be accepted in the office of the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Department, 2000 Embarcadero, Suite 300, Oakland, CA **NETWORKING BIDDERS CONFERENCES for RFP #9001012MAC Media Advocacy Consultation Services North County** - Tuesday, September 18, 2012, 10:00 a.m. and Thursday, September 20, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Department, 2000 Embarcadero, Suite 300, Oakland, CA Response Due by 2:00 PM on October 12,

2012 County Contact: Julie Twichell at (510) 567-8252 or via email: julie.twichell@acgov.org Attendance at Networking Conference is Non-mandatory. Specifications regarding the above may be obtained at the Current Contracting Opportunities Internet website at www.acgov.org. 9/6/12 CNS-2373170# THE INDEPENDENT Legal No. 3309

ANIMALS

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Adopt a new best friend: TVAR, the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, offers animals for adoption every Saturday and Sunday, excluding most holidays. On Saturdays from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, dogs are available at the Pleasanton Farmers Market at W. Angela and First Streets. Two locations will showcase cats only: Petsmart in Dublin from 12:00 to 4:00 and the Pet Extreme in Livermore from 12:00 to 4:00. On Sundays, cats are available at Petsmart in Dublin from 1:00 to 4:00, and Pet Extreme in Livermore from 12:00 to 4:00. For more information, call Terry at (925) 487-7279 or visit our website at www.tvvar.org.

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Making Your Real Estate Wishes Come True

By Cher Wollard
The biggest problem for most would-be buyers looking to purchase their first home is scraping together enough money for a downpayment and closing costs.

With home prices in Livermore topping \$400,000, even programs designed to minimize out-of-pocket expenses are not cheap.

FHA financing, for example, requires a minimum 3.5 percent downpayment. On a \$400,000 home, that's \$14,000. Plus, the buyer will likely need another \$10,000 to \$12,000 for closing costs.

Homebuyer assistance is out there, but you have to know where to look for it.

Erin Steele, mortgage loan officer with Pacific Mercantile Bank, can help first-time buyers through the Workforce Initiative Subsidy for Homeownership Program, fondly referred to as WISH.

"The American dream isn't to rent, it's to own a home" Steele said. "With interest rates being as low as they are, a lot of people can use programs like this to purchase and pay less than they are paying in rent."

Steele recently helped a single mother earning \$14 per hour qualify to purchase a home.

"The mortgage will be \$150 a month less than her rent, and that's even before the tax benefits," she said.

WISH is a federal downpayment assistance program that provides grants of up to \$15,000 to low- and mid-income families to purchase homes using FHA mortgages in participating states – currently California, Oregon and Washington.

The homebuyer must meet certain criteria to qualify:

- Be first-time homebuyers.
- Be at or below the income guidelines as established by HUD. Your loan officer can provide specifics for your community. The income guidelines only pertain to occupants of the home. So if one or more buyer will not be living in the home, that person's income would not be counted in qualifying for the income guidelines.
- Have reasonably good credit scores and adequate income to pay the mortgage.
- Be approved for an FHA mortgage.
- Successfully complete approved homeowner counseling. This service is offered at Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity in Livermore, which serves the entire Tri-Valley.
- Must open escrow on a home purchase within one year of enrollment in the WISH program.

These grants are available only through federally chartered banks that choose to participate in the program. WISH grants match \$3 for every \$1 contributed by the buyer. So, for example, if our buyers have \$3,000, they could qualify for a \$9,000 grant. With \$5,000, they could get the maximum \$15,000.

The buyers' portion can be a gift.

The program can be used in addition to state and municipal first-time homebuyer programs, giving these buyers even more cash for their home purchase.

The grant is a lien on the property which is forgiven on a pro-rated basis over five years. So if the buyers sold after three years, for example, they would have to pay back part of the grant. If they stay five years, they would owe nothing.

In addition to WISH, other programs are available to help those looking to purchase homes. HUD offers the Nehemiah program for Native Americans who want to purchase homes. The Veterans Administration offers affordable VA mortgages. Some localities have programs for teachers who work in local schools.

"In today's market, the trick is finding properties for the people who do qualify for these programs," she said.

The City of Livermore will soon roll out its new assistance for low-income, first-time homeowners, as well as offering five homes for sale at below-market prices. You can sign up for notifications on the Housing and Human Services website at http://www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/cd/hhs/housing/interest.asp

The City of Dublin also has a few below-market priced townhomes.

Steele grew up in Livermore, graduated from California State University, East Bay, and is excited to see the changes taking place in her hometown. She said she loves her job because she is able to help so many people.

"It's hard work, but it's really satisfying to see somebody who thinks they can't afford a home be able to buy here," she said.

As a loan officer, Steele works with clients at every price point and with all kinds of home financing needs. But she says working with the WISH program is especially gratifying.

"I find that people who end up qualifying for these programs and getting these loans, really take pride in making their payments on time," Steele said.

"This program is a real service to the community."

If you think you might qualify for a WISH grant, contact your local Realtor today.

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FANNIE AND FREDDIE ORDERED TO RAISE FEES

The regulator in charge of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac has ordered the quasi-government agencies to increase the fees they charge lenders to guarantee mortgages.

The increase goes into effect Nov. 1 for mortgages sold to Fannie and Freddie for cash; Dec. 1 for those exchanged for mortgage-backed securities.

The average increase is expected to be about 0.10 percent, and would likely be passed on to borrowers in the form of slightly higher interest rates.

However, banking industry trade groups say the increase is too small to stall mortgage lending, according to Bloomberg business news service.

"It's obviously going to have a small impact on pricing, but given that mortgage rates are the lowest they've ever been, we think it's probably the right time to do it," Joseph Pigg, vice president at the American Bankers Association, told Bloomberg.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency also said it's considering another proposal that would allow it to implement risk-based pricing of guarantee fees, which could vary from state to state.

Cher Wollard is a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore.

Special Event Raises Funds for Fallen Heroes Scholarship Foundation

By Carol Graham

"In a year's time, I could go to 52 different fundraisers for as many causes," said Livermore Mayor Emeritus Marshall Kamena. "Somehow this one was different. An eclectic group of residents felt it was important to call 'time out' to the usual activities of the balmy summer day. They paused to say thank you to all our neighbors who unselfishly gave their lives for all of us."

Kamena, along with more than 200 Tri-valley residents, attended the August 25th block-party fundraiser hosted by Livermore's Bob Bishop to support the Fallen Heroes Scholarship Foundation, which provides education funding for the family members of fallen military service members, first responders and public safety officers.

"I was struck by the excitement, devotion and sheer energy this professional man was contributing to the very worthwhile cause," Kamena added. "The whole affair demonstrated to the children of fallen heroes that they have not been forgotten. A larger community family wanted to share in their pain, and also ensure their success."

Bishop, an employee of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, incorporated a balance of honor, camaraderie, food, fun and music into the successful event that earned well above the hoped-for amount.

"We were able to raise over \$15,000 in total, three times more than originally planned, and executed an event that blew everyone away," said Bishop.

Although many notable attendees participated, including Livermore Mayor John Marchand, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Coast Guard Rear Admiral Karl Schultz and Commander Master Chief Charles R. Bushey, the event's neighborly feel lent an informal and personal air.



Livermore Mayor John Marchand (far left) presented a check to representatives from the Fallen Heroes.

"The enormity of the event was astounding. But at the same time, it felt intimate and very deserving of our time," said Kamena. "It was as if God were smiling on this group of people who were celebrating the unselfish deeds of the heroes, and the mission to help their children."

Pastor Patrick Williams of Tracy's New Life Fellowship Church performed an invocation at the event. "To see the outpour of people to support this great cause and to see all the sponsors give of their products, time, energy and money freely, speaks volumes about the heart and mind of the people and businesses in Livermore," he said.

For Supervisor Haggerty, supporting the fundraiser held personal meaning beyond his monetary contribution of \$2,000. "My daughter Jennifer is in the United States Navy so I fully understand what families go through on a daily basis wondering if your loved one will make it home safely," he said. "Bob Bishop did a wonderful job putting the event together. When I first arrived I had a moment to stand back, take it

all in and realize how lucky I am to represent a community that is compassionate and willing to support the families of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country and community."

Working with the non-profit foundation's Executive Director Kurt Spencer, Bishop secured an agreement that allowed monies donated to benefit residents of Alameda County. "When Bob contacted me a few months ago, we were more than thrilled," said Spencer. "We were touched that one small community came together to support our cause and give so generously."

The largest portion of the proceeds came from

cash donations of \$5,000, while admission earned \$4,200. The remaining monies came from the silent auction, no-host bar and raffle tickets.

For Pastor Williams, the best part of the evening came while standing next to Bishop's mother Dorothy. "She shared with me as she looked at Bob greeting a guest, 'I am proud of him.' As a parent myself, there is no greater feeling than when you can praise your child for doing something great.

"One person can be the difference in a fast-paced world that is focused only on making it to the next day," Williams added. "There is a little Bob Bishop in each of us, if we

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Livermore Becoming a Powerhouse for Acrobatic Gymnastics

By Patricia Koning

Livermore is known for many things—wine, the national laboratories, the longest burning light bulb in the world, and now acrobatic gymnastics. The West Coast Training Center (WCTC) acrobatic gymnastics team returned home from the 2012 Acrobatic Gymnastic National Championships with eight gold medals, two silver medals, and two team awards.

Ashley Porter and her teammates Brooke and Kaylee Luera won one of those gold medals in the Level 9 Women's Group, age group 16 & under, far exceeding their goal of just making it onto the podium. "We'd been to nationals twice, but hadn't won a medal," says Ashley. "Our goal was to place in the top three."

The three athletes also qualified to compete at Level 10, fulfilling another goal. Acrobatic gymnasts compete and Levels 4-10, junior elite, and senior elite.

Both the senior elite mixed pair of Ani Smith and Kyle Bloom and the senior elite women's group of Cassandra Lim, Liselle Kitchens, and Hannah Busha won their balance, dynamic, and combined events. Both the Level 9 Women's Group, age group 17+ of Nikki



Cassandra Lim, Hannah Busha and Liselle Kitchens demonstrate one of the skills.

Chin, Haley Douglas, and Nicole Potepa and the Level 8 Women's Pair, age group 17+ of Samantha Mihalic and Ali Miller won silver. WCTC also won the first place Elite Team Award and the second place Level 9 Team Award.

"The win by Ashley, Brooke, and Kaylee was especially exciting for the team because everyone knew they'd exceeded their goal," says Marie Annon-

son, owner and head coach of WCTC. "We've done really well at national and international competitions this year." She is also the elite committee chair for USA gymnastics and has served as head coach for the National Team.

The most famous alumni of WCTC are Kristin Allen and Michael Rodrigues. The pair won the mixed-pair all-around gold medal at the 2009 World Games, the first ever gold medal won for the United States in acrobatic gymnastics at a World Games event. Allen and Rodrigues, now retired, also won the mixed-pair all-around gold medal at the 2010 Acrobatic Gymnastics World Championships.

Annonson has several teams who seem poised to follow in Allen and Rodrigues' footsteps. Last year Eirian Smith and Jacob Kanavel won the 12-19 mixed pairs final at the 2011 Flanders International Acro Cup. Cassie Lim and Brian Kincher earned the gold medal in the senior mixed pairs division at the 2011 Flanders International Acro Cup. Smith and Bloom are training for the 2013 World Games.

She attributes the success of the WCTC gymnasts to lots of hard work and ambi-

tious goal setting. "We set big goals, but always something we think the athletes can succeed at," explains Annonson. "This keeps everyone on the same page. Everyone knows what they are working towards."

Ashley, a 6th grader at St. Michael School, spends 16 hours training each week. She first became interested in the sport of acrobatic gymnastics when she saw a demonstration at the Alameda County Fair. "I just thought it looked cool," she says.

Acrobatic gymnastics is a relatively unknown, yet familiar sport. Athletes compete in groups of two, three, or four and perform balance and flight stunts that are similar to those seen in Cirque de Soleil performances. Typically more experienced and older athletes serve as the base and the younger, small athletes are the top—the person seen flying and flipping through the air.

"This creates a natural mentoring situation," says Annonson. "I think acro is unique in that it is a partnered sport. You really build trust and unity with your partners."

The gravity-defying stunts are just one compo-

(continued on page 7)



Ani Smith and Kyle Bloom in action.



Nancy and Gary Harrington framed by the work, "Monet's Bench."

Pleasanton Art Walk Series Continues

Gary and Nancy Harrington, residents of Ruby Hill, developed the plan for the Pleasanton Art Walk last fall and will once again begin giving free monthly guided walks beginning in September, through December.

The walks begin at the parking lot of the City Council chambers, off Old Bernal Ave. They will start at 9 a.m. the second Saturday of the month. Each walk takes two hours. The first walk will guide participants through the downtown area stopping by each of the public art

pieces to tell personal stories about the art. The second walk will guide participants through the southern end of Main Street and over to Centennial Park by the Senior Center. Both walks will visit the Firehouse Arts Center.

The Harringtons point out that beyond enriching personal experiences, public art is a true symbol of a city's maturity. It increases a community's assets and expresses a community's positive sense of identity and values. It helps green space thrive, enhances roadsides, pedestrian corridors, and

community gateways. It demonstrates unquestionable civic and corporate pride in citizenship and affirms an educational environment. A city with public art is a city that thinks, feels and grows.

The Harrington's now have a website for the Harrington Art Partnership at www.harringtonartpartnership.org.

A copy of the Pleasanton Public Art Walk can be downloaded. The map can also be downloaded at www.publicartarchive.org/pleasanton.

Livermore Valley Opera Introduces Soirée Series

Livermore Valley Opera is launching a new event: a Soirée Series.

The series combines opera, wine, and food.

The first event on Sept. 16 will have the theme of Prelude de bohème. From 3 to 5:30 p.m. visitors will be able to include their inner Bohemian with epicurean delights from Italy, France and Germany. Marie Plette (Mimi) and Eugene Brancoveanu (Marcello) will per-

form. Attendance is limited to 40 people. The cost is \$85.

Future events in the series include "An Intimate Musical Evening," to be held Jan. 26 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. It will take place in a Frank Lloyd Wright, Robie-style home. Attendance is limited to 90 people; cost is \$85 prior to Dec. 15 and \$100 after that date.

The final event will be a "Grand Opera Afternoon,"

to be held from 3 to 5:30 p.m. on June 2 in the Livermore vineyards. This rustic, Mediterranean-style setting will give you a taste of what inspired the famous opera composers whose music will serenade your soul. Cost is \$75 prior to May 1 and \$90 after that date.

For more information, to purchase a package or individual tickets, go to www.livermorevalleyopera.com

Art in the Plaza Set for This Saturday



Photography will be part of the event. Above is a photo of the Bankhead Theater and plaza by Bill Hackett.

A new event, Art in the Plaza, is set for Sat., Sept. 8 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event is hosted by the Livermore Art Association.

It will take place in the plaza in front of the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. There will be over 20 local artists and crafts people

selling and demonstrating their art, face-painting & snow cones for kids, jazz dance performances by Livermore School of dance, an African Haitian dance group and additional talented musicians. ABC music will be providing the sound system.

The new restaurant Sauced (located next to the Plaza) will offer boxed lunches for purchase.

The show is free and open to the public. There is free and convenient parking at the Livermore Valley parking garage next to the Plaza on Railroad Ave.

American Masterpieces Opens at Museum on Main

Museum on Main will serve as the first venue for the traveling exhibit *American Masterpieces: The Legacy of California Indian Basketry*, opening September 12. Originally developed for the California Museum in Sacramento, the exhibit features more than 30 examples of the finest artistic and utilitarian basketry from the collections of the California Indian Heritage Center, including a rare Ohlone basket.

Guided tours of the exhibit will be available by reservation throughout its run. Tour slots are 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Prices are \$5 for

adults and \$3 for children; tours can accommodate up to 20 adults or 30 children plus one chaperone for each five children in a group. Contact Education Director Jennifer Amiel at 925/462-2766 or education@museumonmain.org for further details.

The Museum will host a special public event on Saturday, September 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dixie Rogers, of Karuk descent, will demonstrate native basket making; guest curator Brian Bibby, author of the exhibit catalogue *Essential Art: Native Basketry from the California Indian Heritage Center*, is scheduled to speak at noon.

American Masterpieces: The Legacy of California Indian Basketry is presented in conjunction with California State Parks, the CA Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The exhibit will run from September 12 through October 14, 2012.

The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street in historic downtown Pleasanton. It is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m. For more information about current exhibits and programs, visit the Museum's website: www.museumonmain.org or phone 925/462-2766.

Wine, Food, Fun and Fireworks Highlight Dublin's "splatter"

The City of Dublin will host "splatter, not your ordinary food, wine and art festival" on Saturday, September 22, 2012. The event will celebrate the unique food, wine and creative culture of the Tri-Valley region in a new and innovative festival format.

This event includes a culinary performance stage, a fleet of food trucks, and tastings of the world class wines of the Livermore Valley along with the diverse locally crafted foods of the Tri-Valley region.

The Culinary Stage will feature local celebrity chefs Matt Greco, Executive Chef of the Restaurant at Wente Vineyards; and Ryan Scott, on-air culinary celebrity at KGO, and host of "Cooking with Ryan Scott." The event will also offer unique and carefully created edibles and culinary items such as olive oils, spices, honeys etc. and one-of-a-kind arts and crafts



items at the Culinary and Fine Arts Marketplace.

What will truly set this festival apart from all other food, wine and art festivals are experiences where the processes of culinary and fine arts are entertainment. "splatter" will make use of conventional and non-conventional mediums to create large-scale artworks and interactive experiences during the event. Works of chalk, fruits and vegetables, bubbles, paint, and canned foods will be created on-site for the audience to view and, in some cases, participate in.

Some of the featured activities at the event include the SPLAT-demonium

– where patrons can personalize their event t-shirt as they run through an obstacle course while getting splattered with paint; CANstruction – a monumental sculpture made of canned food; and Food Network gold medal winning culinary artist and food sculptor, Chef Ray Duey.

General admission to "splatter" is free. There are both free and pay-to-play activities. Pay-to-play tickets can be purchased at the event. Tickets, or "passports" for the Tasting Pavilion are available online at www.dublinsplatter.com. A limited number of passports will be sold at the pre-event

rate of \$25.00, or may also be purchased on-site at the event for \$30.00. Each passport includes an event wine glass and allows 20 tastes of any combination of food and wine. The deadline to pre-purchase passports is Friday, September 21 at 12:00 noon, or until sold out. All pre-purchased passports will be available at Will Call at the entry to the Tasting Pavilion.

"splatter" will take place on Saturday, September 22 in Emerald Glen Park. The festival will be held from 10:00a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The event will conclude with a concert, featuring the high energy sounds of Double Funk Crunch, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., followed by an aerial fireworks show at dusk to commemorate the City of Dublin's 30th Anniversary.

"splatter" is a program of the City of Dublin's Parks and Community Services Department. For more information call (925) 556-4500.

Harrington Gallery Exhibit Will Feature the Work of Pleasanton Art League Members

The Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery will showcase the region's artistic talent with the annual exhibit of Pleasanton Art League (PAL) members' works September 15-October 20, 2012.

A reception and awards ceremony take place on Saturday, September 15, 2012, 1:00-3:00 p.m. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

Works at this visual arts exhibit will represent a wide variety of media including watercolor, oil, pastel, photography as well as two- and three-dimensional pieces. Also on exhibit will be the Pleasanton community drawing, "Alphabet

Soup," which contains drawings made out of initials of children who attended the Pleasanton Farmers Market on July 14, 2012. The drawing will be sold by a silent auction during the PAL exhibit with proceeds benefiting PAL's youth scholarship fund.

PAL membership is open to all interested artists in the Tri-Valley area and beyond. Membership forms are available at www.PAL-ART.com. More information is available from Linda Sailors, madammayor@comcast.net, or Norma Webb, normawebb@comcast.net.

Harrington Gallery hours are Wednesday-Friday 12:00 noon-5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. for one



Among the work will be "Firehouse Arts Center" by Amy Leung; "Foal" by Kathleen Hill; and "Italian Coast" by Linda Garbarino.

hour prior to each Firehouse Arts Center performance and during intermission. Donations are appreciated.

Call (925) 931-4849 for more information. More information is available at the Firehouse Arts Center website, www.firehousearts.org.



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WED SEP 19 7:30 pm

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Country Joe McDonald Pays Tribute to Woody Guthrie

Firehouse Arts Center will host Country Joe McDonald in his tribute to country music legend Woody Guthrie on Saturday, September 22, 2012, at 8:00 p.m.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

In a celebration of Guthrie's 100th birthday and McDonald's 11th year of performing his signature tribute to the country icon, McDonald will open with "This Land is Your Land" and continue with Guthrie's famous Dust Bowl ballads, children's songs, country songs and union songs.

Country Joe McDonald and the rock band, Fish, are most widely known for musical protests against the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1971 and for their significant influence on psychedelic rock. Their biggest hit was the anti-war "I-Feel-Like-I'm-Fixin'-to-Die Rag," which debuted the same year as the band, but became best known after McDonald's solo acoustic performance of it at the Woodstock Festival in 1969.

Though Fish disbanded after two years together, McDonald continued to perform with several other bands, recording 33 albums and writing several hundred songs during his 40-year career. In 2001, he was asked to perform with the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition "This Land Is Your Land: The Life and Legacy of Woody Guthrie," which rekindled his



Country Joe McDonald, of Woodstock fame, will perform his acclaimed tribute to country legend Woody Guthrie in celebration of Guthrie's 100th birthday on September 22nd at the Firehouse Arts Center. Photo by Jim Block.

connection with Guthrie and the state of Oklahoma. That experience evolved into McDonald's current one-man tribute to Guthrie, which he has performed in England and the United States for more than a decade.

Tickets are adults \$15, \$20 and \$25. Group discounts are available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org

up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance.

The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.



Mark Pitta

Comedy @Firehouse Opens with Headliner Mark Pitta

The Firehouse Arts Center's Comedy @Firehouse series will open the 2012-13 season with Bay Area comic Mark Pitta on a new week night, Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

The Firehouse Art Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

Pitta emerged on the San Francisco Bay Area comedy scene in the 1980s. "It was the best time to want to be a comedian," says Pitta. "The clubs created a cooperative nurturing environment almost like a baseball farm system. It got us all ready for Los Angeles when it was time to jump into that scene."

Pitta's career flourished in Los Angeles, first fulfilling his dream of appearing on The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson then subsequent appearances with Jay Leno.

Pitta became host of Totally Hidden Video for the FOX network, playing characters in hidden camera situations, and then hosted Friday Night Videos for NBC. He has made guest appearances on Mad About You and Third Rock From the Sun and also appeared on Comedy Central's Premium Blend.

A favorite on the comedy club, college and corporate circuit, Mark has opened for celebrity performers such as Chris Issak, Celene Dion, Vanessa Williams, Smokey Robinson, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, and Rick Springfield. He has hosted the ELAN AWARDS five times.

Pitta runs a comedy showcase every Tuesday at the 142 Throckmorton Theatre in Mill Valley, Calif., giving new comics an opportunity to develop.

Pitta's opening Firehouse act, Liz Grant, has shared the stage with comedians such



Liz Grant

as Robin Williams, and was a writer for George Carlin's laugh.com. She won The Brian Regan Impression Contest and is a regular guest on KGO's Headliners on Headlines with Brian Copeland.

According to Grant, she "wasted her talent on bartenders and drug dealers only to become just another 'bar stool astronaut'". Twenty years ago, after nearly losing her life, she got sober and now performs at national clean and sober conventions. She has recorded her 75-minute show into a DVD, Liz Grant's Extreme Makeover: Clean and Sober Edition.

A former San Francisco tour guide, Grant has written a show about the humorous history of San Francisco called The Comical History Tour. Her highly rated comedy show about her two divorces, *Deja Wince: Lessons From A Failed Relationship Expert*, ran for 23 weeks in San Francisco, Calif. and her new show, *The Science of Love: A Comedy Show by Liz Grant*, is due to debut this fall.

Tickets to Comedy @ Firehouse Arts are \$15 for general admission on a first-come, first-served basis. They may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office

The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.



Workshop to Focus on 'The Power of Creative Nonfiction - The Personal Essay'

Author Victoria Zackheim will be the guest speaker at the California Writers Club Tri-Valley branch monthly meeting. Zackheim is the author of the novel *The Bone Weaver* and editor of five anthologies. Her play, *The Other Woman*, based on her first anthology, is now in development at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Victoria's first screenplay, "Maidstone," was optioned by Identity Films for a feature film.

Zackheim teaches Per-

sonal Essay in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program and was a 2010 San Francisco Library Laureate.

The CWC Tri-Valley branch invites writers of all genres and experience levels to learn about their craft at its monthly meetings. The meeting will be Saturday, September 15, 2012, 1:30-4:00 pm at the Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard, Pleasanton, 94588 (south of I-580 between Owens Drive and Gibraltar Drive). The cost for CWC Members is

\$10, and nonmembers, \$15. Anyone interested in the program or the organization may attend with no obligation to join. Reservations required. For a seat, contact Deborah Bernal at reservations@trivalleywriters.org by Tuesday, September 11, 2012.

For more information about California Writers Club Tri-Valley branch contact Paula Chinnick at president@trivalleywriters.org or visit www.trivalleywriters.org.

A free one-hour concert will be performed by one of the Bay Area's pre-eminent bluegrass bands, the Crooked Jades (pictured above), in the Pleasanton Library's large meeting room. It will be held at 3 p.m. on Sun., Sept. 9. The program is free and open to all. No registration required, but come early to find parking and ensure a seat. "This San Francisco quintet keeps true to their old-time string band heart, yet in subtle, weird ways, they exaggerate the slightly-crazed aura of the rural pre-radio era music. It makes for a haunting, sophisticated trip to Appalachia. Mixing originals and traditional songs flawlessly, this might be the finest band to come out of the string-band resurgence." --Boston Herald Review. This concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Pleasanton Library, which brings you free music and other library services from the proceeds of their bi-annual book sales. Buy a book at the September 22 library booksale. For more info regarding the program call Penny Johnson at 931-3405.

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Aquatic Adventure Camp Teaches Participants about the Role of Water for Fun, Fitness and Nature

As a way of helping youth become comfortable with water in a variety of ways while reaching out to low-income families and ethnic minorities, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District offered its first Aquatic Adventure Camp.

Made possible by a \$10,000 grant from the California Department of Water Resources, this five-day adventure camp meets four of the 10 California

Outdoor Children's Bill of Rights: splash in the water, play in a safe place, explore nature and follow a trail. The benefits include improving fitness and health along with providing relaxing activities to reduce stress. The impetus behind the grant from the Department of Water Resources is to ensure all the state's reservoirs and aqueduct are safe for children, and partnering with park



Camp included a visit to Sycamore Grove Park (above left) and the Robert Livermore Community Center (above right) for some fun in the water.



districts allows this to happen.

Children ages 10 to 14 were eligible for the program, which hosted 18 participants for its first camp. Campers needed to be comfortable in the water already, with the goal of developing positive attitudes and safe practices around the water. The Aquatic Adventures Camp helps participants remove fear and anxiety for being in, on or near the water, while also developing a healthy awareness.

LARPD Aquatics Supervisor Sharon Grant said middle school

students are often an overlooked age group for programs. In addition, it is often an extra challenge for low-income families or ethnic minorities to participate. The weeklong camp was offered for only \$10 for campers.

"I just wanted them to experience different aspects of water safety and having fun in the water," said Grant, stressing that a main objective is just to allow campers to have fun.

The Aquatic Adventure Camp provided much more than just a swimming lesson – campers learned about the water

at a pool, in a stream and at a lake. At the Robert Livermore Community Center Pool, they reviewed swimming skills and got an introduction to rescue equipment. Grant said she hopes the camp could even be a springboard for future life-guards. Campers received a water education element by partnering with LARPD Park Rangers to learn about water flows, watersheds and stream life. They also learned about using clothing for floatation and other ways to help in an emergency. The camp spent a day at Del Valle Regional Park,

operated by the East Bay Regional Park District, hiking and at the lake. Lake Del Valle is a local watershed, which runs into the stream that goes through LARPD's Sycamore Grove Park, where the campers also visited.

The District plans to offer two more Aquatic Adventure Camps in June 2013. Interested families can look for more information when the summer brochure comes out, then apply for a scholarship to get into the program. For more information, call LARPD Aquatics at 925-373-5751.

ACROBATS

(continued from front page)

ment of complex routines that incorporate tumbling and dance sequences similar to floor routines in artistic gymnastics, all choreographed to any style of music.

On Sept. 30, WCTC will hold its first ever Cartwheel-a-Thon fundraiser to benefit the Taylor Family Foundation (10% of the event's proceeds will go to the WCTC Parents Club). From noon to 3 pm, athletes will perform as many cartwheels, back handsprings, aerials, or back tucks as they can. WCTC invites anyone, ages 3 and up including adults, to participate.

Each participant will set a goal for the number of cartwheels (or back handsprings, aerials, or back tucks) he or she would like to accomplish on the big day. Next, they will collect pledges from family and friends who will support them in their fundraising for every cartwheel they accomplish.

"The Cartwheel-a-Thon is intended to encourage kids and adults to be active and fit while raising money for charity in a fun and rewarding way. We really want to be part of this community," says Annonson. "Our goal is to have at least 150 participants this year and for the event to grow each year."

The event will also feature vendor booths and carnival activities outside of WCTC at 50 Wright Brothers Avenue (near the intersection of E. Jack London Blvd. and Isabel Ave.). WCTC acrobatic teams will also perform several exhibition routines.

To learn more about the Cartwheel-a-Thon, visit www.westcoastcartwheelathon.com. To learn more about WCTC, www.westcoasttc.com.



In the photo are (from left) Ani Smith and Kyle Bloom. and Cassandra Lim, Hannah Busha and Liselle Kitchens.



Pictured are Nikki Chin, Nicole Potepa and Haley Douglas and Ashley Porter, Brooke Luera and Kaylee Luera

Book Discussion for 4th, 5th Graders

The Livermore Public Library invites fourth and fifth graders to join Ms. Rebecca Hart for an hour of book discussion and fun at the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. This free book club will meet from 4:00pm to 5:00pm, the second Friday of each month from September 14, 2012 through January 11, 2013, in the Storytime Room.

At the first club meeting,

Ms. Hart will present several books for nomination. Book club participants will decide which book to read as a group. Each participant will obtain a copy of the chosen book and then read it.

Registration is required.

To register for this program or for more information, please contact the Youth Services Desk at (925) 373-5504, or visit the Library's website: www.livermorelibrary.net.

Register for Annual Walk for Education

The American Swim Academy is hosting the 4th Annual Walk for Education to benefit the Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF). The walk takes place at the Livermore High School football track in Livermore on Sat., Sept. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon. Members of the Livermore community, as well as students, friends and families from every Livermore Valley school, are invited to participate.

"Our students are so full of promise and so deserving of the best we have to offer as we do everything we can to ensure they received a top-notch, 21st century education," said Kelly Bowers, Livermore Valley Superintendent of Schools. "Thanks to the generous support of the Livermore community and the hard work and commitment of volunteers via the Livermore Valley Education Foundation, even in the midst of a major economic crisis and financial downturn, our 13,000+ K-12 students are not being short-changed."

Registration is open to the public. Download a registration form at www.americanswimacademy.com/LVEF. The entry fee is \$5. Each registered participant will receive a t-shirt and refreshments. There will also be a Family Fun Festival during

the walk featuring live entertainment, DJ music, family friendly booths and more. "The event will be fun for the entire family and a great way for the community to show support for the schools, said Andrew Pretari, Director of the American Swim Academy in Livermore. "We are hoping this walk is a step in the right direction toward a brighter future for our children."

LVEF works with teachers, students and parents to determine where funding is most needed and then oversees the distribution on a district wide basis. "Community partnerships with the Livermore Valley Education Foundation demonstrate strong local support, inspiring more people to donate which helps our youth get the education they deserve," said Victoria Schellenberger, President of the LVEF. "Completing the circle are the kids who come back to Livermore after college, getting jobs, raising families, and supporting local businesses. Working as a team increases our success in these difficult financial times," she added.

For more information about the 2012 Walk for Education, please visit www.americanswimacademy.com/LVEF or contact Jennifer Lee at 925-833-7946 x105.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

Bankhead Theater exhibit, 2012 "Tri-Valley Treasures" Plein Air competition and top 25 Freeze Frame photographs from Tri-Valley Conservancy 2011 competition. The exhibit will run through September 10. For more information about Tri-Valley Conservancy, the art exhibit at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore, or the upcoming 2012 Freeze Frame competition beginning August 27, please visit www.trivalleyconservancy.org.

Figures & Faces Exhibit at the Figurehead Gallery, exhibit of paintings, drawings, and photographs celebrating the human form. This show introduces the work of six Bay Area artists new to the Gallery in addition to new oil studies and drawings by local artist Carolyn Lord. The exhibit is from August until the end of September. The Figurehead Gallery, 2222 2nd St. Livermore. Gallery hours: Wed., 12-6pm, Thurs., 12-8:30pm, Fri., 12-6pm, Sat., 12-5pm, and by appointment. Call for information 925-353-0419.

Artwork of Alan Ryall, a Livermore artist who specializes in marine paintings, is on display at Prudential California Realty, 1780 First Street, Livermore, through Sept. 30. The public is invited to attend. The Prudential show is open for viewing during business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., or by appointment. For information, contact Cher Wollard at 925-824-4824 or cherw@cherw.com

13th Annual Eugene O'Neill Festival, Tao House - Through Artists' Eyes, Alamo-Danville Artists' Society Exhibit, The Village Theatre Gallery, Aug. 24-Sept. 22. 420 Front St., Danville, www.eugeneoneill.org.

Livermore Art Association Group Art Show will be open for viewing at the Livermore Library from September 1 through September 30. About 35 works of art will be displayed featuring local Valley artists and offering a variety of subjects from realistic to abstract. Livermore Civic Center Library, Artist Gallery at 1188 S. Livermore Ave. The gallery is open during normal library hours.

Art in the Plaza, Sept. 8, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in front of the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. No admission charge.

Arts Encounter at the Farmer's Market, Delucchi Park, next to the Farmer's Market in downtown Pleasanton, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 8. Hosted by the City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council. Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council and the Livermore Art Association - stop by to make your own 3D "upcycled" art.

Pleasanton Art League, fall members exhibit at the Harrington Gallery in the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. Sept. 15-Oct. 20. Reception and awards, Sat., Sept. 15, 1 to 3 p.m. www.firehousearts.org.

Call for Artists: Art in the Park is calling for Artists for its Inside Art Show October 6 and 7. Artists of the Bay

Area are invited to enter three pieces. Fees and sizes can be found on the application which can be downloaded from www.ADASAART.org. Preregistration required by September 24. The Inside Art Show is not juried. There are no separate categories. Awards will be chosen by Gerald Boyd, instructor and award winning artist. Art in the Park Arts Festival, will take place Saturday & Sunday, October 6 & 7 at a new location for the event, Central Park (Alcosta at Bollinger Canyon Road) in San Ramon. The Inside Art Show will be in the Fountain Room of the Community Center. Proceeds from the event will go to fund Art in the Schools of the San Ramon Valley School District and other art activities in the community. Sponsored by Alamo Danville Artists' Society, San Ramon Arts Foundation and the City of San Ramon. More information is on www.ADASAART.org or email normawebb@comcast.net or phone 925-828-9170.

Coming Off the Wall, Oct. 3-27, new works by Bill Paskewitz, exhibit at Figurehead Gallery, 2222 Second St., Suite 21, Livermore. Artist's reception Oct. 4, 6 to 9 p.m. 337-1799.

ArtWalk, Oct. 13, artists exhibit in pocket parks and plazas in downtown Livermore. www.bothwellartscenter.org.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Everything Poetry (in two parts), Second Saturday Soup-workshops 2nd Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-12 noon Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton; Third Tuesday Trope - poetry critiques 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street, Pleasanton. Contact Cynthia Bryant at PleasantonPoetry@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Preparation for Drawing & Painting the Figure Model, instructor Carolyn Lord, The series of classes 10 Mondays Sept. 10 - Nov. 19; morning series 9 to 11 a.m.; evening series, 7 to 9 p.m. Fee of \$250 includes all materials and professional model's fee. Call to sign up 925-353-0419 or stop by the Figurehead Gallery, 2222 2nd St., Livermore.

Introduction to Paper Folding: Pleating and Simple Fold, instructor Goran Konjevod. Taking signups for September and October series of 4 classes Friday evenings 7 to 9 p.m. \$80 fee includes materials. Call to sign up 925-353-0419 or stop by the Figurehead Gallery, 2222 2nd St., Livermore

Poet Laureate, Cynthia Bryant, will host a poetry critique group called "Tuesday Trope" from 7-9 p.m., on the first Tuesday of every month, beginning in June at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. This is an open group, need not be a resident of Pleasanton, free to all. Please bring 10 copies of one or two of your original poems to workshop. E-mail Cynthia at pleasantonpoetry@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

Figure Drawing Workshop, every Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists bring

their own materials and easels. Open to all artists. Professional artist models (nude). No instructor. Students under 18 need written parental permission to attend. Cost \$20 per session. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Coffee, tea and refreshments are available. Call or email Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@earthlink.net.

Art Critique & Coffee Hangs at Coffee Ali, Friday at 10 a.m. sharing latest work and a gentle critique to fine tune work. Original paintings from a group of Local Professional and Emerging artists, with a New Theme, create New Works each month. Grab a cup of coffee and pull up a chair to hear what we have to say and enjoy Original Fine Art. For more information Google: Poetry on Canvas Pleasanton or call Claudette 510-543-4776.

Preschool Art classes: Thursday mornings 9:45 - 10:45. Children aged 3-5 are welcome to join this class. Classes cover drawing, painting, print-making, sculpture and ceramics. For further information please contact Thomasin Dewhurst at (925) 216-7231 or thomasin_d@hotmail.com or visit <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/>

Livermore Art Classes, Artist and art instructor, Thomasin Dewhurst offers art instruction to children and adults. Classes cover painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, collage, animation and construction. For further information please call (925) 216-7231 email thomasin_d@hotmail.com or visit http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com

Piano lessons, Private and small group piano lessons available for beginning students. Lessons include playing practice, theory, expression and an introduction to various types of music and composers. Private classes are \$15 per half hour and group lessons are \$12 per student per half hour (up to 4 students). For more information please call (925) 216-7231 email thomasin_d@hotmail.com or visit <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/>.

Young Artists' Studio has openings in its school year art classes for youngsters in grades 2 through high school and beyond. Classes will begin in October. All kinds of drawing and painting as well as printmaking and sculpture are offered in our large and well equipped home studio. Peggy Frank has been providing art experiences for valley youth for over 30 years. Contact her by email at frank.a@comcast.net or by phone at (925) 443-8755.

WINERY EVENTS

The Winemaker's Pour House, "Happy Hour" with Livermore Valley Wine. Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 4 to 6 p.m. (925) 215-2656 or visit www.winemakerspourhouse.com.

La Luna Fridays, evening of tapas, live music and wines on the terrace of

Murrieta's Well on Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 6 to 9 p.m. 3005 Mines Road, Livermore. \$50 per person, \$40 Silver Spur Club members plus tax; ticket includes live music, tapas and wine. Reservations are required. Call 925.456.2395. www.murrietaswell.com

Tenuta Vineyards, Sun., Sept. 16, Vegan/Vegetarian interactive Cooking Class. 1 to 4 p.m. \$65 per person, all inclusive, tax, gratuity & wine. Menu items include Gazpacho, organic arugula/bee & blueberry salad, mushroom risotto with vegetable curry, Lentil, squash & apple stew and Apple & pear crisp. 633 Kalthoff Common, Livermore. (925) 960-1006.

Murrieta's Well, vineyard tour and tasting with co-founder Sergio Traverso. Sept. 22, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Space is limited. Reservations at www.murrietaswell.com, 3005 Mines Road Livermore, (925) 456-2390.

Livermore Valley Winemaker Dinner at Blackhawk Grill, Tues., Sept. 18, 6 to 9 p.m. \$95/person Livermore Valley Wines paired with dishes from Executive Chef Jason Buckley from Blackhawk Grill. Buy tickets by calling Blackhawk Grill at 925-736-4295.

McGrail Vineyards, Sunset wine concert with Sage, Sept. 22, 5 to 8 p.m. evening of wine and food. Soleil Pizza will be selling wood-fired pizzas, so please no outside food or beverages. Tickets available online or at the door. \$15/entry fee. Double Barrel Wine Bar Taste of Terroir Winners Pair up for Award Winning Winemaker Dinner m Tuesday, September 25, 6-9 p.m. To make reservations, please call Double Barrel (925) 243-9463. Grape Stomp at McGrail, Sept. 29, noon to 4 p.m. Full-est bottle in 30 seconds wins a prize. Soleil Pizza will be selling gourmet wood-fired pizzas. There will be live music. \$15/person to stomp (includes t-shirt). www.mcgrailvineyards.com, 5600 Greenville Road Livermore, (925) 215-0717.

Tenuta Vineyards, Movie night at the Vine Cinema (downtown Livermore). Thursday, September 27. 6:30pm. Come wine taste and watch "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." \$10 per person, includes movie and wine tasting. Purchase tickets in advance at www.vinecinema.com. More info contact us at (925) 960-1006.

Charles R Vineyards Mardi Gras Friday Night Uncorked - Friday, September 28 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. evening with wine, fun, food and music on the patio at Charles R. This Mardi Gras Friday features specialty appetizers paired to our award-winning wines. Featuring the sounds of James Nagel, one of Livermore's most popular artists. \$10 (\$5 for members). Cost includes appetizers and a glass of wine. Wine for purchase available by the glass and bottle. 8195 Crane Ridge Road Livermore, (925) 337-3315.

Tenuta Vineyards, Saturday, October 6. "Dances with Wild Game" Fall Festival BBQ. 6-9:30pm \$65 per person. Venison, Salmon, Duck & Turkey. Come

enjoy a night of great food, dancing and wine. 633 Kalthoff Common Livermore (925) 960-1006

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Music every Saturday in the tasting room from 12 to 4; open every day if the gate is open and for sure on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11 to 5. Red Feather Winery, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Information at 449-1871 or www.redfeatherwinery.com

Blacksmith Square, music every Saturday 3 to 6 p.m. in the courtyard, 21 South Livermore Ave., Livermore.

Tri-Valley Medieval and Renaissance Collegium playing session for amateur musicians, Peter Maund, director. Mondays 7:30-9:30 p.m. 7600 Dublin Blvd., suite 370, Dublin. \$25. Information collegium2011@gmail.com or 925-424-1209 or 925-984-4395

Authentic New Orleans Style/Danceable Dixieland Traditional Jazz now at Sunol Jazz Cafe. Comfort food served up with Smokin' Hot Jazz every 1st and 3rd Wednesday Mission Gold Jazz Band. Dinner orders begin at 6 pm; music from 7:30.

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band, plays at the Sunol Jazz Cafe (In the Center of Sunol) the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. The band features real Jazz from the 1920's,

The Tubes, Sept. 7 and 8, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Crooked Jades will perform in concert at 2 p.m. on Sun., Sept. 9 at the Pleasanton Library. The San Francisco bluegrass quintet is known for keeping true to their old-time string band heart. In subtle, weird ways, they exaggerate the slightly-crazed aura of the rural pre-radio era music. It makes for a haunting, sophisticated trip to Appalachia. Mixing originals and traditional songs flawlessly, this might be the finest band to come out of the string-band resurgence.

Guitar Fest Live!, Sept. 15, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Roslyn Kind, Sept. 15, 8 p.m., Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Howie Day 'Sound the Alarm!', Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Lee Oskar Harmonicas Presents Mark Hummel's Blues Harp Blowout with Lee Oskar, Kenny Neal, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Jazz Night with Gaucho, Sat., Sept. 22, 6 to 9 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. The music of Gaucho, a gypsy jazz sextet, will entertain following a barbecue dinner. Tickets are \$40/adult, \$25/child under 12. Everyone is welcome to purchase tickets - you don't need to be a member of St. Clare's. To purchase tickets, please call

Church office: 925-462-4802. www.stclarespleasanton.org

Annual Piano Recital, Saturday, September 22, 2012, 7:30 P.M. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. The community is Recital co-sponsored by the Alameda County East Branch of the Music Teachers' Association of California (MTAC) and Asbury. Award-winning Irvine resident and MTAC Young Artist Guild member Jessie Wang will perform. There is no charge for admission. Refreshments will be served. For further information: 925 443-2514; accoll@comcast.net

Dave Mason Duo, Sept. 22, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Mary Chapin Carpenter, Sept. 23, 7 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon; sanramonperformingarts.com. 973-3343.

Mindy Smith Celebrating 'Giant Leap', Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue,

Harmony Fusion Chorus of Sweet Adelines, Return to Vaudeville, Sat., Sept. 29, 2 p.m. matinee, 7:30 p.m. show. Danville Village Theater, 233 Front St., Danville. Information harmonyfusion.org. Tickets www.villagetheatreshows.com, 314-3400.

Jasper Wood, violin, David Riley, piano, Del Valle Fine Arts concert, Sept. 29, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Hot Buttered Rum Very Tasty!, Oct. 5, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Perla Batalla, Oct. 7, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Jake Shimabukuro, Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Pacific Chamber Symphony, Fri., Oct. 12, 8 p.m. Mozart: Symphony #40 in G minor Haydn: Sinfonia Concertante for solo quartet and orchestra. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Peppino D'Agostino & Carlos Reyes World Music, Oct. 12, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Close to You: A Live Tribute to the Carpenters, Oct. 14, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

Smokey Robinson, Oct. 20, 8 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, Albion Rd., San Ramon; sanramonperformingarts.com. 973-3343.

Natalie MacMaster, fiddle virtuoso, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

San Ramon Symphony Band - Let's Dance, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. Dougherty

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Valley Performing Arts Center, Albion Rd., San Ramon; sanramonperformingarts.com. 973-3343.

ON THE STAGE

Douglas Morrisson Theatre continues its 2012 "Family Portraits" season with *Grey Gardens*, the humorous and heartbreaking Broadway hit musical about Big Edie and Little Edie Bouvier Beale, the eccentric aunt and cousin of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Nominated for 10 Tony Awards and winner of three, *Grey Gardens* features book by Doug Wright (*Quills, I am My Own Wife*), music by Scott Frankel, and lyrics by Michael Korie. *Grey Gardens* previews on September 6, 2012, opens September 7, and runs weekends through September 30, 2012, at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third Street, in Hayward. The Douglas Morrisson Theatre is a program and facility of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District. (510) 881-6777; www.dmtonline.org

Role Players Ensemble, Eugene O'Neill's "Ah, Wilderness," weekends Sept. 7 to 22 at the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$20-\$28. www.villagetheatreshows.com, or 925-314-3400; or the Community Center, 420 Front St. More information: www.danvilletheatre.com.

National Circus of the People's Republic of China, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

A Moon for the Misbegotten, by Eugene O'Neill, 13th annual Eugene O'Neill Festival presentation, The Old Barn, Tao House, Danville. Sept. 27-29, 9 p.m., Sept. 30, 3 p.m., Sept. 28-29, 8 p.m. Tickets to show only, \$35. 820-1818. www.eugeneoneill.org. Presented by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service. On Sept. 28-29, pre-show fund-raiser in the courtyard: \$75 includes deli-boxed dinner, wine, beer, desserts, music, a presentation about the play and priority seating at performance. Transportation provided by shuttle service from the Museum of the San Ramon Valley by National Park Service.

Pleasanton Senior Players Present You Can't Get There From Here, Sept. 28, 7 p.m.; Sept. 29 and 30, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org

West Side Story, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre mainstage musical, weekends, Oct. 20-Nov. 4, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

California Theatre Center, The Sleeping Beauty, 9:30 and 11 a.m., Oct. 31, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Includes lesson guide. www.ctcinc.org, 800-606-0424.

COMEDY

Comedy @ Firehouse Arts, Mark Pitta, headliner; Liz Grant, opener, Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. For tickets, call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org

Comedy Uncorked, Retzlaff Vineyards in Livermore. Sept. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Johnny Steele, Larry Bubbles Brown, and Lynn Ruth Miller. Funds raised benefit Open Heart Kitchen. Advance tickets are \$30, tickets are \$35 at the door. For tickets and information, go to www.comedyuncorked.com. Retzlaff is located at 1356 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

Comedy@ Firehouse Arts, Greg Hahn, headliner; Marianne Sierk, opener, Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. For tickets, call 931-4848 or go to www.firehousearts.org

DANCE

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

Auditions, The Full Monty, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre production. Auditions 10/21 at 7pm & 10/22 at 7pm. Call-backs (by invitation only) 10/28 (5:30pm dance call, 7pm vocal and read). 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 101, Pleasanton. All roles open, no pay, no AEA. Bring resume, headshot and conflict calendar. Be prepared for and dressed to dance. For more information www.trivalleyrep.org/auditions

Auditions, Valley Concert Chorale, will hold auditions by appointment for their upcoming 2012-2013 concert season on the following dates: Mondays, Sept. 10 and 17. Auditions and rehearsals will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore. The church is located at the corner of 4th and L Streets. Rehearsals begin September 10, at 7pm. 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.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Association applications for the 40th annual Competition for Young Musicians deadline is Sun., Oct. 7, 2012. 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. Two winners will perform as soloists with the symphony on Feb. 23, 2013. Each winner/soloist will be awarded \$300. 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.

OPERA

Livermore Valley Opera presents La Boheme preview, Livermore Civic Center Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Sept. 23, 2 to 3 p.m. Part of the Friends of the Livermore Library Authors and Arts series. Professional singers will perform highlights from the upcoming production of La Boheme in October, as well as arias and duets from other famous operas. Information at 925-373-5505.

Livermore Valley Opera, free concert 2 p.m. Sun., Sept. 30 at the Pleasanton Library. Highlights from Rossini's La Cenerentola and a variety of opera arias. La Cenerentola, ossia La bontà in trionfo (Cinderella, or Goodness Triumphant), was composed in 1817 when Gioachino Rossini was just 25 years old, and is considered one of his finest vocal compositions. Come see Cinderella in a whole new light.

Livermore Valley Opera, Puccini's La Boheme October 6, 7, 13, and 14. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

MISCELLANEOUS

Museum on Main's latest visiting exhibit, "Wherever There's a Fight: The History of Civil Liberties in California," spotlights the unsung heroes whose struggles for fairness and equality helped cement the civil rights that all Californians enjoy today. Events range from the fight against slavery in the mid-19th century to the campaign for marriage equality in the 21st. Open through September 9. The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street in downtown Pleasanton. Its galleries are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1-4 on Sundays. More information can be found at the Museum on Main website: www.museumonmain.org or by phoning the Museum at 925/462-2766.

Political Issues Book Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, and reads books about issues and trends that are driving current affairs in both the national and international arenas. Topics that have been covered include politics, governance, economics, military affairs, history, sociology, science, the climate, and religion. Contact Rich **We're Talkin' Books! Club** is a member-centered book group led by a small

group of book club veterans, with reading selections based on member recommendations and consensus. No homework required—share your insights or just listen in! Contact Susan at 337-1282 regarding the *We're Talkin' Books! Club*.

Museum on Main, preschool pre-literacy program, M.o.M.'s Reading Time. For ages 2 to 5 and families, free reading program, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Reading at 10 a.m. with theme crafts following. Donations appreciated. No reservations required. Large groups or playgroups please phone in advance: 925.462.2766 or email: education@museumonmain.org. 2012 M.o.M.'s Reading Time Dates and Themes: September 12, Fiesta; October 10, Creepy Critters; November 14, Thank You, Veterans; and, December 12, Light Up the Seasons. The Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street in historic downtown Pleasanton.

Grandparent's Day, Museum on Main, Sunday, September 9 from 1pm - 3pm - bring grandparents. Create a family tree with the help of a Grandparent. Learn about what life was like when they were children and make a special gift to present to your Grandparent. Museum on Main family day. 603 Main St., Pleasanton. Free. For more information about current exhibits and programs, visit the Museum's web site at www.museumonmain.org or phone (925) 462-2766.

Ed Kinney Lecture Series, 7 p.m. An Evening with author John Boessenecker, Tues., Sept. 11. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. \$10 General Admission, \$5 Members & Seniors, \$3 Students/Teachers with ID. All tickets are paid at the door. All tickets are open seating. Information www.museumonmain.org or (925) 462-2766.

Go Back In Time, fund-raiser for Museum on Main, Brothels, bar rooms & bandits. Event includes ambling with friends and eating great food. Western attire encouraged. Cost includes BBQ dinner, gambling chips and the best entertainment in the west. Sat., Sept. 15, 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. Tickets available at Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton, or call (925) 462-2766. Cost: \$45/per person

O'Neill's Danville, 1937-1944, presented by former Danville Mayor Beverly Lane, Sept. 15, 10 a.m. The Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. No admission charge. www.eugeneoneill.org. Part of 13th annual Eugene O'Neill festival presented by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation.

Livermore Valley Coin Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary during its 2nd annual fall coin show. The event will be held on Sun., Sept. 16 at the Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur Dr., Livermore. A commemorative medal has been struck. It will be available for purchase at the show. This year's show will feature about 25 coin dealers who will provide free

appraisals and purchase coins. There will be a youth collectors table and an information booth. Admission is free. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Brothels, Bar Rooms & Bandits, Museum on Main's 4th annual fund-raiser, Saturday, September 15 from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center. A BBQ dinner, live entertainment, and beverage sipping are part of the festivities. Gaming tables (sponsored by the Pleasanton Lion's Club), live and silent auctions on tap. Western attire encouraged, but not the law. Tickets are \$45, includes BBQ dinner, gambling chips, and entertainment. Over 21 only. Buy a table of 8 tickets and receive \$400 additional gambling dollars! For tickets phone the museum at 925.462.2766 or mosey on down to 603 Main Street. Cash, credit cards, checks and gold nuggets are accepted.

Splatter, not your ordinary food, wine and art festival. Sept. 22, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., concert 6:30 to 8 p.m., fireworks at 8 p.m. Includes tasting pavilion, art-festival experience, culinary stage and more. Emerald Glen Park, Dublin. \$25 in advance. www.dublinsplatter.com.

Quilting in the Garden, Sept. 22 and 23, Alden Lane Nursery. Hosted by Alden Lane and In Between Stitches. Guests artists, quilt display, garden tour featuring the quilts, workshops, etc. 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. www.aldenlane.com or www.inbetweenstitches.com.

Livermore Valley Wine Country Wedding Faire, September 23, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. See the trendsetters of the season, taste the local wines and wedding cakes, be pampered with a facial, take a horse and carriage ride, compare prices and quality and start to create your own wedding memories. More information at www.livermore-downtown.com or 373-1795.

Jeans & Jewels Goes Gatsby, Thurs., Oct. 4, 6 to 10 p.m. Tri-Valley Conservancy annual gala fund-raising event. Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery, 410 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton. Hosted bar, dinner, dancing, cocktail, live auction. 449-8706. www.trivalleyconservancy.org.

Livermore Airport Open House, Sat., Oct. 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.cityoffi-

livermore.net

Ed Kinney Lecture Series, 7 p.m. An Evening with TV Horror Host John Stanley, Tues., Oct. 9. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. \$10 general admission, \$5 members & seniors, \$3 students/teachers with ID. All tickets are paid at the door. All tickets are open seating. Information www.museumonmain.org or (925) 462-2766.

Fall antiques and collectibles street fair, Oct. 14, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association, www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Halloween Brew Crawl, Downtown merchants, restaurants and local breweries will come together on Saturday, October 20 for the Halloween Brew Crawl, 5 to 8 p.m. Hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association, www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Harvest Fair, Sat., Oct. 20, noon to 6 p.m. Heritage Park and Museum, corner of Donlon Way and Dublin Blvd., Dublin; tractor pulled hay wagon rides, food, arts and crafts, Bluegrass Band music, historic schoolhouse and Kolb House Museum open for tours. \$5 admission. 556-4500.

Harvest Moon Barn Dance, Sat., Oct. 20, 6 to 8 p.m. Heritage Park and Museums, corner of Donlon Way and Dublin Blvd., Dublin. \$5 admission. 556-4500.

Livermore Downtown Halloween Carnival, Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 1 to 5 p.m. Activities for families with children in the 5th grade and younger. \$5 Fun Passes are available at the booths, day of, at Livermore Valley Plaza and J Street and at K Street. Livermore Downtown Association (925) 373-1795.

Pleasanton Fall Scavenger Hunt, Little boys and ghouls will line Main Street for a Halloween scavenger hunt, Museum on Main, 603 Main St., Pleasanton. Oct. 27, 10 a.m. to noon. Hosted by the Pleasanton Downtown Association, www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Revising Towards a Vision Workshop with Jose Faus, Oct. 20, noon. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Earth Tones/Heart Sounds a Special Poetry Event, Oct. 21, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.



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Do You Remember?



By Anne Homan
Livermore City Historian

The Purest and Best Beer

What motivated our ancestors to give up their nomadic lifestyle and plant cereal crops? Some botanists claim bread-making and others beer brewing. The Egyptian hieroglyph for food combines the symbols for bread and beer. Pressed into a Mesopotamian clay tablet dated approximately 1800 BC, the earliest known written recipe is for beer. Livermore citizens could once buy a beer brewed in their hometown, although not from this ancient recipe.

In downtown Livermore, on the south side of First Street between J and K streets, brass letters spelling the word "brewery" are still embedded into the sidewalk in front of the store at 2127 First. In December 1873 Charles Schwerin and a Mr. Schobel founded the Livermore Brewery. Wendell Jordan, a native of Bavaria, Germany, came to Livermore and bought the brewery from Charles Schwerin in June the following year. In December 1875 Jordan also acquired a single-story building to the west, William Sinkwitz's saloon, and Jordan used it as a saloon where the customers' choices included his local beer, Bavarian Lager.

Ten years later, Jordan tore down the old brew-

ery and rebuilt. His new building on First Street at the site of the surviving sidewalk letters had two stories, with the brewery below and family living quarters on the second floor. Originally, the brewery machinery was run by horses; in December 1882 Jordan had added a six-horsepower steam engine to put the machinery in motion. The brewery capacity at that time was 400 barrels per year. He took time off from his enterprise in April 1883 to marry Gertrude E. Bearer in San Francisco. When the couple returned to Livermore, friends met them at the depot and held a reception for them at their home.

In 1889 Jordan built an ice house at the back of the brewery to keep beer cold in the warm months. According to the *Echo*, he bought a "splendid" new brewery wagon made by local blacksmith F.A. Schrader in February 1896. In January 1897 he advertised in the *Herald* that the brewery carried Weiland's, Fredricksburg and United States lager beer, in kegs and large and small bottles that could be delivered to any part of town or vicinity. Jordan helped to organize the Livermore Fire Department and acted as foreman for more than 20

years. He also served as a town trustee for six years including a two year term as mayor.

Fred Tretzel remembered as a child stopping at the old brewery, but not for beer. "Your mother sent you to school with your lunch in a five-pound lard pail, and asked you to stop at Wendell Jordan's brewery on your way home to get some yeast in your pail, and she would make biscuits for supper."

On Saturday January 19, 1901, the *Herald* lead article stated, "One of the most terrible accidents that has ever occurred in Livermore, deprived the town on Thursday of one of its most respected citizens, Wendell Jordan." On Thursday morning Jordan had started cooking a new batch of malt. After the malt was boiling in the vat, he began to clean out a small tank nearby. Somehow he fell into the boiling malt. By the time his assistant had drained the vat enough for rescuers to pull Jordan out, his "flesh was literally cooked and the features were so badly disfigured as to be unrecognizable. Although death was not instantaneous, it is likely that the fatal plunge was not attended by any suffering as he must have become unconscious the moment he came in con-

tact with the boiling malt as he evidently struck head first." His wife and daughter, Ada, age 17, survived him. He was only 56.

Livermore businessman Dennis F. Bernal bought the brewery from Mrs. Jordan in July 1901. In the June 4, 1902, *United States Health Bulletin*, Dr. Amos Gray wrote an article entitled "A Safe Drink for Summer" that recommended beer. After having tested beer from all over the United States, Gray concluded, "The result of the investigation has proven the proper beer to be the purest and best to be the beer from the Livermore Brewery, Livermore, Cal."

In November 1908 the brewery building burned down, along with the one-story saloon next door. Bernal and his family, who had been sleeping on the second floor above the brewery, barely escaped the inferno in their night clothes. There was a bright spot in this sadness, however.



Wendell Jordan

Josephine Bernal told her husband that she had been saving a portion of her household allowance each week in a receptacle behind the chimney. The *Herald* article said, "Mr. Bernal dug in the debris as directed and expected to find a few dollars. To his utter astonishment, he found more than \$2,000 in gold coins, which had only been slightly discolored by the fire." The Bernal family did not rebuild, and the Livermore Brewery went out of business.

Keeping in mind our dual theme of beer and

bread, C.J. Stevens built the first flour mill in town in 1869, so for Livermore, bread came first.

Correction: I need to apologize to Paul Weiss for my incorrect statement in last week's column. He did not lend his own money to buy the land for Hillcrest Gardens. He acquired it from the Synod of the Golden Gate.

(Readers can reach me at am50homan@yahoo.com.)

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(Organizations wishing to run notices in Bulletin Board, send information to PO Box 1198, Livermore, CA 94551, in care of Bulletin Board or email information to edit-mail@compuserve.com. Include name of organization, meeting date, time, place and theme or subject. Phone number and contact person should also be included. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.)

Curbside cuisine with gourmet food trucks. Hosted by the Food Truck Mafia in conjunction with Livermore High School, the event will help raise funds for Education and Athletic Programs at Livermore High. The grand opening is Thursday, September 6, 5pm – 8pm in the lot on Church Street next to the football field (Cowboy Alley). Weekly curbside eats will start Wednesday, September 19. Food trucks will be announced the Monday before each event on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cowboynation or the Livermore High School's webpage www.livermorehs.schoolloop.com.

Garden Tour Featuring Quilts of Linda Schmidt. Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club is offering a garden and quilt tour of 10 beautiful and unique gardens on Saturday, September 22 and Sunday, September 23 from 11:00 to 5:00 each day. The quilts are made by Linda Schmidt, master quilter. The \$25.00 ticket will provide access for both days. Proceeds go the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club to support various community service projects. Tickets may be purchased in advance and on the tour weekend at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. Maps may be picked up at the Nursery on the weekend of the quilt show.

The Tri-Valley YMCA guest speaker Dr. Michael Ruscio, Tues., Sept. 18, 6-45 p.m. Topic will be Thyroid problems. Free to those who RSVP. The location is the Tri-Valley YMCA, located in Dublin. www.trivalleyymc.org

José Maria Amador Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. NSDAR, will hold its fall meeting at 10 a.m. Sat., Sept. 8, featuring a keynote speaker and new member installation. This nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization is dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education. Those interested in learning more about DAR membership, contact José Maria Amador Chapter Regent Diane Groomer at dggroomer@comcast.net or by phone at 510-886-4032. Or contact Registrar Carole Vercellino at carole_verc@hotmail.com, or send correspondence to Cindee Delavara at csdelavara@att.net

Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated Candidates' Night will be held Thurs., Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m. at Cattlemen's Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Rd., Livermore. Meet and listen to guest candidates: Elizabeth Emken-Senate, Ricky Gill-Congressional District 9; Mark Meuser-State Senate District 7; Al Phillips-Assembly District 16; Jerry Thorne-Pleasanton Mayor, David Haubert-Dublin City Council; Steve Cho-Fremont Mayor. Reservations and information by Monday, September 10. \$30 guests, \$26 members. Contact Phyllis Couper, 925-462-4931 or coupcan1962@pacbell.net

50's Dinner and Car Show. Fri., Sept. 7, Livermore-Pleasanton Elks Lodge #2117, Livermore. Car show 4 p.m. followed by dinner, dancing to the oldies and awards. Tickets \$12. RSVP to 455-8829.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club. Sat., Sept. 8, 42 miles San Ramon to Mt. Diablo Junction, meet 9 a.m. at Central Park, Peter Rathmann, 336-0973. Sun., Sept. 9, 80 miles (advanced ride), meet 8:30 a.m. Mike's Bikes in Sausalito, Emma Olenberger, 707-479-2549. Wed., Oct. 12, 29 miles 3 Bears, meet 9 a.m. at Lafayette/Moraga Regional Trailhead, Gail Blanco,

872-1001. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter. meets 9:30 a.m. first Saturday of the month from September to May at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore. DAR is a women's service organization. Members are descended from a patriot of the American Revolution and are dedicated to patriotism, preservation of American history, and securing America's future through education. Contact Pat at 447-8254 for more information.

Fall Restaurant and Shop Walk. 6 to 9 p.m. Tues., Sept. 18 in downtown Pleasanton. Fund-raiser for the Pleasanton Lions Club. Passports are \$25.00 each. Tickets must be purchased prior to the event as there is a limit of only 400 passports. A passport entitles the guest to sample foods and beverages from 19 participating restaurants and businesses located in downtown Pleasanton. For more information or to purchase passports: contact Pam Gries at 925-484-3524 / Donna DeVincenti 925-462-6525 or e-mail pleasantonlionsclub@comcast.net Proceeds from the event will be donated to a fund for two children from a local family who recently suffered the loss of their father, Mothers With a Purpose, as well as other local organizations supported by the Lions.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Tri-Valley Parent Resource and Support Group is a twice-a-month parent support group for parents with children to age 18 diagnosed with or suspected of having bipolar or other mood disorders. It meets First and third Tuesdays of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Pathways To Wellness, 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Suite #114, Pleasanton. The group is drop-in, no registration required and is free. Suzi Glorioso by phone: (925) 443-1797 or by e-mail: glorios4@comcast.net

Flea Market. Fraternal Order of Eagles, Sat., Sept. 15, set-up 6 a.m., close 4 p.m. parking lot, 527 North Livermore Ave., Livermore. Cost for a 15' x 5' space is \$20; \$5 for a table rental. Sign up for a space at the Eagles Social Room or call 449-6281 or 449-5807. Vendors welcome.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will meet on Thursday, September 13, 7 pm at Alisal School's multipurpose room, 1454 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. The speaker will be Trish Hildinger, a leader in gardening workshops in Santa Cruz. She will discuss Winter gardening and other gardening topics. Visitors are welcome. For more information call Bev at 925-485-7812 or visit www.lavgc.org.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club meeting, Mon., Sept. 17, 7 p.m. IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Discussion of three initiatives: 30 Millionaire's Tax, 32 Silencing Unions, and 38 Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs. Speakers with ballot measure positions will address issues and concerns. www.trivalleydems.com

Divorce-Care begins Sept. 17, 2012 and continues for 13 Monday nights (7-9pm). A seminar and support group for men and women who are contemplating or going through divorce. There is a \$25 fee for a workbook and other materials. Preregistration is required. Contact Mark Porter, 925-846-9693, mcporter@hotmail.com

Diabetes Self-Management Classes. This 6 week series will teach how to manage diabetes with exercise, healthy eating (including the foods you love) and medications, and answer questions about living with diabetes. Thursdays, Sept. 19 through Oct. 24, 9:30-11:30 am, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Class is open to adults of

all ages (not just Seniors) with pre diabetes or type 2 diabetes. Please call the Alameda County Diabetes Program at 510-383-5185 to register. Space is limited.

Armchair Travelers. a monthly program, will take place at the Livermore Civic Center Library on Thurs., Sept. 13, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Avid hiker Bob Coomber will share photographs of his adventures in the White Mountains of California, especially the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest. Adults are invited to this free program on the second Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Rooms of the Civic Center Library, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. For additional information please call 925 373-5500.

Widowed Men and Women of Northern CA., Lunch in Fremont, Sept. 12, 1 p.m., RSVP by Sept. 9 to Vickie, 510-656-1166. Brunch in Pleasanton, Sept. 16, 12:30 p.m. RSVP by Sept. 14 to Ruby, 462-9636. Lunch in Danville, Sept. 19, 11:30 a.m., RSVP to Marsha by Sept. 16. Happy hour in Pleasanton, Sept. 20, 5 p.m. RSVP to Marge by Sept. 18, 828-5124. Friendly bridge, Sept. 11, 1 p.m. RSVP by Sept. 15 to Marsha, 830-8483. Early bird dinner, Pleasanton, Sept. 26, 4:30 p.m. RSVP by Sept. 24 to Hilda, 398-8808. Mexican brunch in Pleasanton, Sept. 30, 11:30 a.m., RSVP by Sept. 27 to Hilda, 398-8808. Annual picnic, Pleasanton, Oct. 6, 2:30 p.m. RSVP to Ruby, 462-9636; checks to Ruby by Oct. 2.

Free computer training classes during September 2012, Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Internet for Beginners class on Monday, September 10th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Follow up with Searching the Internet on Monday, September 17th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Introduction to Microsoft Word class is on Monday, September 24th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Classes are hands on, first come, first served, and take place in Community Meeting Room B. Stop by the Civic Center Library Adult Information Services Desk or call 373-5505 for further information.

Finding Wellness, interactive series of five free classes that incorporates fitness, nutrition, medication awareness, stress management and other healthy living tips for seniors in the area. Pleasanton: Tuesdays 10/16-11/13 from 1-2:30pm; Livermore: Mondays 9/24-10/22 from 9:30-11am; Dublin: Mondays 9/17-10/8 from 1-2:30pm and Mondays 10/15-11/19, no class 11/12 from 1-2:30pm. Information, Lindsey Passmore, 918-1512.

2nd annual Paws in the Park charity dog walk and animal festival is Sunday, September 23 from 11 am – 3 pm, and registration for the walk is underway. Benefit for Valley Humane Society. The goal this year is to raise \$20,000 to support Valley Humane Society's pet rescue and community programs. Register yourself or form a "dog pack" and begin collecting pledges. www.valleyhumane.org

Military Banners, yellow military banners on 1st, 2nd and 3rd Streets from "L" to "P" Street have taken quite a beating. All the banners from that designated area will be taken down and evaluated regarding condition to prepare them to be relocated. Each family will be contacted and will have the option to have damaged banners replaced and relocated at the cost of \$12.00 each or the option not to replace the banner. Those who wish to save a damaged banner, please contact Kristin at kekvall@gmail.com or 925 443 7841 by September 15, 2012. If a banner is currently within the above specified area and is in good condition, it will be relocated to the area between "L" Street and Livermore Avenue. Banners currently located between "L" and Livermore Avenue will also be evaluated for their condition and only damaged banners will have the above option

to replace or retain. Those who do not hear from Kristin by Sept. 15, 2012, please call or email with instructions. All banners not relocated or replaced will be retained until January 1, 2013 and then honorably retired.

College Prep Classes in Livermore - LARPD is offering classes in Navigating the College Application Maze (9/11/12 - 6:30 - 9 pm), Strategic SAT Prep (Saturdays 9/8 - 9/29/12 - 9 am - noon on Mondays 9/10/12 - 10/1/12 - 6 - 9 pm), Last Minute SAT Prep (9/18/12 - 5:30 - 9 pm or 9/29/12 - 1:30 - 5 pm), and Writing Essays that Shine (9/8/12 - 2 - 4:30 pm or 10/8/12 6 - 8:30 pm.) Classes will be held at Robert Livermore Community Center 4444 East Avenue, Livermore. Register at 925 373-5700, or go to susanprep.com for additional information.

Pleasantonians 4 Peace, sponsoring a candlelight Vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main Street, downtown Pleasanton, 7 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 12. Participants will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Peaceful War Protest on the fourth Wednesday of the month, September 26, between 5 - 6 at the corners of First and Neal Streets. Questions?? Call Cathie Norman at (925) 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowning@pacbell.net. www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org

Alameda County Master Gardeners are on hand from 9:30 am to 11:30 am on the 2nd Saturday of every month to give advice and guided tours of the Earth-Friendly Demonstration Garden. Talks start at 10:00. The Demonstration Garden is located at the Martelli Event Center, 3575 Greenville Road in Livermore.

Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military" is a 501(c)3 non profit military support organization based in Livermore. S.A.M. has been in operation since January 2004. It is dedicated to the continued support of deployed troops. Preparation of comfort packages takes place every other week - all year long. Providing morale support for those deployed. All information provided is confidential and is not shared for security purposes. To submit a name and address, inquire about donations or helping, please visit www.operationsam.org, email operationsam@comcast.net or call 925 443-7620 for more information and the calendar of events.

RELIGION

First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. Contemplative Service in the Chapel, 10:30 Traditional Service in the Sanctuary and children's program. For more information www.fpcl.us or 925-447-2078.

Unitarian Universalist, 1893 N. Vasco Rd., Livermore. 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Information 447-8747.

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Information 931-1055.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations (csjo.org). Information, Rabbi Judith Seid, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews, 485-1049 or EastBaySecularJews.org.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Livermore, has services at 10 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday School for students (ages 3-20) is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. The church and reading room are located at Third and N Streets. The Reading Room, which is open to the public, features books, CDs and magazines for sale. For information, call (925) 447-2946.

Sunset Community Church, 2200 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. Nursery and children's church provided. A "Night of Worship" first Sunday

of each month at 6 p.m. Wednesday night program for all ages at 7 p.m. Information, call 447-6282.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. 1020 Mocho St., Livermore. Information, 447-8840.

Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. 8:30 a.m. worship (semiformal); 9:45 a.m. adult Bible study/Sunday school; 11 a.m. worship (informal). For information, call 925-447-1246.

Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Avenue, Livermore. 9 a.m. Sunday worship. Information 447-1950.

Calvary Chapel Livermore, Sunday Services 10:30 a.m. 545 N. L Street Livermore. (925) 447-4357 - www.calvarylivermore.org.

St. Matthew's Baptist Church, 1239 North Livermore Ave., Livermore. Services on Sunday at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. Prayer each Wednesday at 7 p.m. followed by Bible study at 7:30 p.m. 449-3824.

United Christian Church, celebrating 50 years in the Tri-Valley. 1886 College Ave. at M St., Livermore; worships on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Children's program on Sunday morning and first Fridays. The community is welcome. United CC is an Open and Affirming ministry. Call 449-6820 for more information.

Granada Baptist Church, 945 Concanon Boulevard, Livermore. Services: Sunday school - 9:45 a.m.; worship service - 11 a.m. All are welcome. 1-888-805-7151.

Seventh-day Adventist Church, 243 Scott Street, Livermore. 925-447-5462, services on Saturday; Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., worship 11 a.m. www.livermoresda.org/ All are welcome.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., Pleasanton, Sunday School for all ages 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Children's Church 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Intercessory prayer 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. Please call office at 846-8650 for weekly programs.

Trinity, 557 Olivina Ave., Livermore. Sunday worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday school or Bible study for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Awana is Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday nights there is adult Bible study at 6:45 and NRG and Re.Gen for youth, and children's choir for kids. Child care during all events. 447-1848, www.trinitylivermore.org.

St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave., Livermore. Meditation groups following the John Main tradition, every Monday 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. For details, contact Claire La Scala at 447-9800.

Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court, Pleasanton. Services: 9 a.m. blended with choir and band. Childcare offered for infants through age 6 and children start in the worship service. 10:40 a.m. (new time) contemporary worship led by a band. Sunday school for children and middle-schoolers. www.centerpointechurch.org 925-846-4436

St. Innocent Orthodox Church, 1040 Florence Rd., Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. For details please see our website at www.stinnocent.net or call Fr. Leo Arrowsmith at 456-0845.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, Services on Sunday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School & Chapel at 10:15 a.m. All are most welcome to come and worship with us and to enjoy our hospitality. For more information call the church office 925-462-4802.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Services on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information call the church office at (925) 447-3289 or SaintBartsLivermore.com.

St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church

follows the traditional 1928 Book of Common Prayer. 193 Contractors Avenue, Livermore. Sunday service at 10 a.m. Sunday school provided. For information, contact Fr. Ben Brown at 925/906-9561.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ at 4481 East Avenue, Livermore, worship service 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Sundays, all are welcome. 925-447-4333 (a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Unity of Tri-Valley Church, 9875 Dublin Canyon Rd., Castro Valley. More room for all the new classes, small groups, new children's and teen programs, and Sunday services (at 10 a.m.). All are welcome. Rev. Harriet Hawkins, minister. (925) 829-2733. www.trivalleyunity.com Check out Unity of Tri Valley on Facebook.

Little Brown Church, United Church of Christ 141 Kilcare Road, Sunol. 10:30 a.m. worship. All are welcome here. www.littlebrownchurchofsunol.org 925-862-2580

Pathway Community Church, 6533 Sierra Lane, Dublin. Contemporary Worship Service, Sunday 10:30 am. Children, youth, adult programs. Biblically based practical messages, nondenominational. All are welcomed. www.pathwaycommunitychurch.org (925) 829-4793.

Grief Workshops, there are stepping stones that are part of each grief journey. They will be explored in an eight-week series of workshops. St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr., Pleasanton. Eight Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM. Sept. 6 through Oct. 25. Pre-registration is requested. Space is limited. A one-time \$15 donation is requested. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. Please call Mary Hagerly at 925-846-5377 for more information.

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will be hosting a Rosh Hashana celebration on September 16, 2012 at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. Walk to Anyo Creek for Tashlikh for those who would like from 4:00PM to 5:00PM. Followed by a potluck dinner at 5:00. A secular humanistic ceremony will begin at 6:00 with music, readings and poetry. After the ceremony, will be a reception with apples, honey, and honeycake baked by Jewish Culture School Students. Please bring canned food for a local foodbank and a dish to share for the potluck. Children are welcome, although this is not a child centered event. Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore 94550. Free to members, \$15 donation for non-members, which can be applied to a membership. For more information call 925-485-1049, email culturaljews@aol.com, or visit website at tri-valleyculturaljews.org.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 486 S. J Street, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. worship service. Bible Study/Sunday School 10:20. Bible Basics Class, which explores the main teachings of the Bible, meets at 7:00 Sunday night. Call 371-6200 or email pmjrmueler@gmail.com for more info.

Tri-Valley Church of Christ, 4481 East Avenue, Livermore. 9:00 a.m. worship service. Update on classes for The Story 9:00 a.m. to 10:00a.m.. Worship Service 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Community HU Chant is the theme of a non-denominational prayer activity Saturday September 8 at 1:15 PM. The Community HU Chant is held once a month each 1st Saturday at The Parkway, 100 Valley Avenue, Pleasanton. For More Information contact <http://eck-ca.org/> by computer.

Bible and Brew. Members of the community are invited to join in a heartfelt fellowship, Bible Study, and a good cup of coffee every Wednesday. St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. Begins Wed., Sept. 26, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Membership in St. Clare's is not required to attend. Contact, Lucky Elliott - 925-361-8858

Milestones

Community



Ruby Hill Winery guests were treated to 'Wine Under the Stars' where adults and kids alike were able to view Twin Stars, Burning Stars, the Space Station, Mars, the Moon using high powered telescopes.

Open House to Celebrate 41st Anniversary of Hillcrest Gardens

Interfaith Housing, Inc. will celebrate the 41st anniversary of Hillcrest Gardens, its initial senior housing complex in Livermore, at a reception on Sunday, Sept. 9 at the apartment complex at 550 Hillcrest Avenue.

Incorporated in 1968, Interfaith Housing (IFH) is a coalition of representatives from local faith-based organizations whose mission is to provide safe, comfortable and affordable housing for low-income seniors. At present, Interfaith Housing's board of directors includes representatives from Asbury United Methodist Church, Congregation Beth Emek, First

Presbyterian Church, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, St. Michael Catholic Church and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Livermore.

Working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), IFH first welcomed seniors to the 54-unit Hillcrest Gardens apartment complex in 1971. Two other projects were subsequently built in Livermore — Vineyard Village (1981, 75 apartments), and Arbor Vista (1998, 80 apartments).

Today Hillcrest Gardens houses 62 residents whose rents are subsidized by HUD housing assistance programs. The original mortgage for the apartment complex was paid off this year. IFH is currently seeking a new mortgage

to finance renovations and improvements to Hillcrest's buildings.

All three of Interfaith Housing's senior apartment complexes are now managed by American Baptist Homes of the West (ABHOW), a non-profit, non-sectarian property management organization based in Pleasanton.

The festive anniversary reception will take place on the lawn of Hillcrest Gardens from 2:00 to 4:30 PM on Sunday, Sept. 9. Speakers will include John Marchand, mayor of Livermore; Randall Schlientz, president of Interfaith Housing's board of directors; Paul Weiss, who was instrumental in the purchasing and financing of Hillcrest Gardens in the early 1970s, and Ancl Romero, senior vice-president of ABHOW Affordable Housing.

AAUW to Kick-off Upcoming Year with Alviso Adobe Program

The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch of the American Association of University Women will host a welcome event kick-off for the 2012-2013 year at the historic Alviso Adobe in Pleasanton on Saturday, September 15, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pleasanton's Alviso Adobe Community Park is located at 3465 Old Foothill Road between Old Foothill Road and Foothill Road on the west side of Highway 680. There will be a tour of the park and a presentation from Eric Nicholas, City of Pleasanton Naturalist. Branch interest groups will have displays and a member will be available with information about their activities.

Light refreshments will be served.

This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of the L-P-D Branch. There will be a short program about possible topics for the coming year such as Title IX, Tech Trek, benefits for women under the new Health Care Law, and an explanation of the "Connection Corner." Ample time will also be available for socializing and meeting new and prospective members.

The L-P-D Branch is especially proud of the Tech Trek Program. This summer ten middle school girls from Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin were sponsored by the branch to attend the Trek Camp at Stanford University

for five days.

The girls were recommended by science or math teachers and competed for the scholarships which covered all room, board, and educational materials. Girls are chosen to attend the camp because they are excited by math and science, have active listening skills and at least a B- grade, and are likely to profit from the experience.

Tech Trek has been a project of AAUW CA since 1988. Instructors include both credentialed middle school teachers and women currently engaged professionally in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

The Alviso Adobe, the first adobe building in the Amador Valley, is the physical and interpretative centerpiece of the park. A re-creation of the historic Meadowlark Dairy milking barn and bunk house accommodate new uses and indoor interpretive displays. The site features a dramatic overlook of the Valley, and the grounds have been carefully landscaped with native plants and trees amid ancient heritage oak trees and a seasonal creek.

For further information about L-P-D AAUW or about the Welcome Event, contact Claire at 426-9957 or email at c.mcdonald@comcast.net.

Education

Sarah Bachleda of Livermore has enrolled as a freshman at George Fox University of Newberg, Ore., this fall. Bachleda is one of 419 first-year students joining the university. Classes begin Monday, Aug. 27.

Local students joined the Boilermaker community by participating in the annual Boiler Gold Rush program at Purdue University's West Lafayette campus. The participants included: from Dublin: Crystal Fisher, Alexandria Mace and Rachel Salinas; from Livermore: Kyle Messner and Cole Rao.

The mission of Boiler Gold Rush is to orient new students and their families during their transition to Purdue by creating a fun and stimulating environment, providing access to opportunities on Purdue's campus and in the Lafayette/West Lafayette community, and by offering meaningful activities and leadership opportunities to encourage student success.