

# Is Football Safe to Play? Death And Dementia Lead to Questions

By Jeff Garberson

When Mike Webster died of a heart attack in 2002, pretty much the whole, football-crazy city of Pittsburgh, Pa., mourned his passing. He was a legend, arguably the best center ever to play the game. He had helped make the Steelers professional football team a dominant power during the 1970s, a decade that included four Super Bowl victories. He was Iron Mike, a guy who never missed a game.

Under ordinary circumstances, his death might have generated a week or two of fond memorials and news reports, and then passed into football history. That didn't happen, however, because of the man who happened to be on duty that day at the country medical examiner's office. That man was Dr. Bennett Omalu, a pathologist with an extraordinary background. Omalu had immigrated from Nigeria, was

an expert in many medical fields including brain damage, knew nothing about football and felt a kinship with the spirits of the dead who lay before him on the slab. Omalu discovered damage to Webster's brain like that suffered by professional boxers who had been hit too hard too many times. It was a finding that the National Football League refused to accept - in fact, pressured Omalu to retract. Eventually, it led to

lawsuits, Congressional hearings and allegations of dishonesty on the part of the NFL. The story of Omalu's findings, of the NFL's reaction and of how other former players were found to have brain damage was told last week at Livermore's Bankhead Theater by a prominent journalist, Jeanne Marie Laskas. Laskas's 2009 article in GQ magazine, Game Brain, led to a

(See FOOTBALL, page 8)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Chasing bubbles was one of the activities enjoyed by those attending Dublin's annual Splatter festivities last Saturday at Emerald Glen Park. During the day, art, wine and beer tasting, live music and dance, and cooking demonstrations were among the attractions. The day concluded with an evening dance party concert.

## Three Candidates for Pleasanton Council

Three candidates are running for the two seats on the Pleasanton City Council. In November, voters will choose from among incumbents Karla Brown and Jerry Pentin and Planning Commission Chairman Herb Ritter. The Independent interviewed each on issues related to growth, including the growth rate, urban growth boundary and water. Candidates were also asked about the civic center and downtown specific plan update. The interviews are in alphabetical order.

**KARLA BROWN**  
Karla Brown is running for reelection because she believes there needs to be diversity on the council. "My two opponents are like minded. I bring a different point of view. I am an advocate for slow

growth, policies that have helped build our award winning city." She wants to look at the impacts of the 1800 units coming online to see how the city is affected by a large step-up in growth. She would like to slow things down until the city deals with infrastructure needs such as schools, traffic, water and a new library. The city has to zone land to meet regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) numbers. "Thirty units to the acre is a significant impact on neighborhoods and on traffic," she commented. In looking back over the past year, Brown is proud of the historic preservation ordinance that protects 88 homes in the downtown. She was a leader in prohibiting smoking at all downtown events. Her one decision that she would

relook at is approving three story homes in the Gateway area. "People don't like them," she observed. Brown voted against proceeding with the eastside plan on numerous occasions. She pointed out, "One thousand residents came out in opposition to the process. They wanted the area reserved for the future. It may not be needed to meet RHNA numbers." One of the provisions of a proposed eastside plan would have moved the urban growth boundary (UGB) to include 100 acres. "I saw no reason to move it. The UGB was put in place by a voter initiative. It must be respected." Brown has remained neutral on the Costco initiative. "I will support what the citizens decide this November." She did note that

(See PLEASANTON, page 5)

## Congressional Candidates State Their Views

Swalwell, Turner Discuss Congressional Issues  
By Ron McNicoll  
Congressman Eric Swalwell is running for a third term this fall. A Democrat, Swalwell faces opposition from Republican Danny Turner. The candidates were interviewed, asked the same questions, and were given the opportunity to speak on other topics of their choosing. The questions included the national debt, the Affordable Care Act, terrorist threats, immigration reform, infrastructure needs, economic opportunity, war and the Pentagon, cooperation in Congress, and college affordability. Candidates are listed alphabetically.

**ERIC SWALWELL**  
Swalwell, a former Alameda County Prosecutor and Dublin City Councilmember, was elected to Congress in 2012, defeating long-time incumbent and fellow Democrat Pete Stark. Swalwell serves on the House

Select Committee on Intelligence, and is the ranking Democrat on its subcommittee on the Central Intelligence Agency. Swalwell said that Congress can do "much more" to make sure law enforcement and the intelligence community can track people. "People leave the U.S., fight with ISIS, and possibly come back. We have to make sure we are prepared for a 'Lone Wolf' attack." Congress should authorize a "no-fly, no-buy" list so terrorists cannot buy firearms, if their names are on the federal no-fly list. Vigilance starts at the top. Law enforcement needs more agents, including more FBI agents. Grants for community policing would allow police to be more connected to the federal government, which can pass along information to them. The nation needs immigration reform. "It's hurting our economy. Too many people who want to be productive are living in the shadows. They are law-abiding. We should make sure they have a pathway to citizenship." People should not jump the line, but they

should not be sent back to their nation of origin and have to reapply for admission. On taking care of infrastructure, the price of steel is low now. That helps keep down costs of projects. So Congress should approve more money for infrastructure. Further, the federal gasoline tax, which is a user fee, has not been raised in about 20 years. "We all want to see better movement of goods and people, whether it's BART to Livermore, or expansion of freeways. On Afghanistan, Swalwell said that the United States invaded to eliminate a safe harbor for terrorists. U.S. troops are not in a combat posture now, but are training the Afghan army. "It is the best chance ever (for them) to be democratic," said Swalwell. Iraq is a different story. "We never should have invaded in 2003. It was under false pretenses. We did a great deal of damage. We will continue to pay for that damage for years to come." Swalwell said that his experi-

## Committee Lists Priority Areas to Focus Funds On

The Altamont Landfill Open Space Advisory Committee voted to establish priority areas that could be purchased. The committee also voted to send a letter to the state noting that funds are available to buy land, including property designated for use as an off-road vehicle park (Tesla/Corral Hollow). The priority areas don't designate specific properties. The top priorities on the eastside are Doolan Canyon area, Springtown

future water rates. The board will meet at a special starting time, 5 p.m., Sept. 27 in the board room at 100 N. Canyons Parkway in Livermore. Zone 7 has mailed out postcards to alert citizens of Sciences, including 30 Nobel Laureates. Not all signers were climate experts, but the prestige of many (like astrophysicist Stephen Hawking and biologist E.O. Wilson) added power to the letter's message. The letter, and three scientists introducing it in an online news conference on Tuesday, agreed that the scientific evidence is clear: (See CLIMATE, page 4)

(See WATER, page 9)

## Four Vie for 3 Pleasanton School Board Seats

By Ron McNicoll  
Three seats are up for election this November on the Pleasanton Unified School District Board, with incumbents Valerie Arkin and Jamie Hintzke running for their third terms. Chris Grant, who was

appointed in 2007, and ran for election in 2008, announced he will not seek another term. Two new candidates for the board are Steve Maher and Kathleen Rueggeger. Candidates were asked the (See SCHOOL BOARD, page 10)

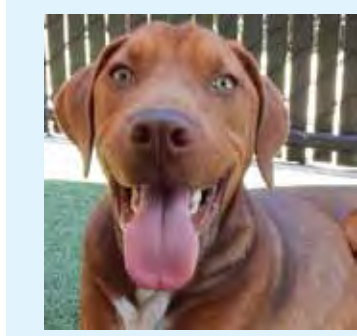


Photo - Doug Jorgensen

ArtWalk Livermore 2016 will take place on Saturday, October 8 in downtown. Jessica Betando sculpted the dragon. Students in Ms. Betando's 3rd grade class at Jackson Avenue Elementary School applied papier-mache to complete the work. All are invited to attend ArtWalk and help paint the giant dragon sculpture.

## INSIDE

<b>MAIN SECTION</b>	Sports .....	6
Classifieds .....	Obituaries .....	9
Editorial .....	<b>SECTION A</b>	
Mailbox .....	Art & Entertainment .....	8
Roundup .....	Bulletin Board .....	10
Short Notes .....	Milestones .....	12
Section A - 8		



**PET OF THE WEEK**  
The toughest thing about Harley is her name! A seven-month-old Redbone Coonhound mix, Harley is a puddle of love. She just gushes with affection, and nothing can dampen her desire to be with you. Adopt Harley today at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, Tuesday through Saturday from 10am - 4pm. For more information, visit valleyhumane.org or call (925) 426-8656. Photo - Valley Humane Society/V. Kelly

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# SPORTS NOTES

49ers' offense. There were excellent tackles by Luca Montalvo, Craig Magnuson, and John West. In the 4th quarter, Colts' Nate Lee intercepted a pass and took the ball almost to the end zone, masterfully assisted with a critical block by Royal Jones. An unrelated penalty nullified the play. The Colts' defense showed up consistently during this game, making it the 2nd game with no points scored against the Colts' dominant defense.

**LJFL Junior Falcons 32, FFL Panthers 6:** The Livermore Junior Football League Falcons faced the Panthers from Fremont in a hard fought game this past Saturday, September 17th. The Panthers started on offense and were able to put together an eight play drive before the Falcons stopped them near mid field. The Falcons then took the ball on offense and led a 3 play drive culminating in a rushing TD for quarterback Kyle Gillman. The Falcons' defense locked down the Panthers for the rest of the 1st quarter. The Falcons scored on their next two possessions on long runs by halfback Trenton Pearce and halfback Sean Evans Jr. Just before halftime the Panthers battled back with a long TD of their own by #98, leaving the score 20-6 at the half. In the second half it was all Falcons as they scored two more touchdowns and held the Panthers scoreless. The Falcons' offensive line of Jake Frazzitta, Kooper Salvador, Michael Remley, Dyllan Son, and Blake Bourne opened huge holes for the Falcons running game resulting in touchdown runs by backs Trenton Pearce and James Burgonio. On defense, Elias Ferran led the charge with a fumble recovery and several tackles for loss and safety Jadon Taylor made a few touchdown saving tackles to keep the Panthers scoreless in the second half.

The scores for the other Week 2 games were: LJFL Advanced Broncos 12, LJFL Panthers 30; LJFL Junior Raiders 27; FFL Saints 0

## Golf Tournament

The Sandra J. Wing Healing Therapies Foundation will host its 4th Annual Golf Tournament on the links at Castlewood Country Club on Thursday, October 13. Registration



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Dublin High School Gaels football team lost Friday's home conference and homecoming game to Granada, 23-7.

begins at 10:30 a.m. Shotgun start is at 12:00 p.m. Awards, appetizers and cocktails are at 5:00 p.m. Castlewood Country Club is located at 707 Country Club Circle in Pleasanton.

This year non-golfers are invited to join us for the evening after party. Tickets for the after party are only \$25.

Registration includes a round of 18 holes, awards, cocktails and ap-

petizers. Register as an individual or as a foursome. Sponsorships at four different levels are also available. For more info and to register, go to [www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org](http://www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org).

## Lacrosse Signup

Registration is now open for the Livermore Phantom Lacrosse fall

ball program. 12 weeks of lacrosse for only \$120. Sign up at [www.phantomlacrosse.org](http://www.phantomlacrosse.org).

## Correction

The game between the Fusion U8 Sassy Sisters and Cool Kickers ended in a tie, not with a Sassy Sisters victory as reported in the September 15 issue of the Independent.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Altamont Cruisers 27th Nostalgia Day Car Show will be held September 25 in downtown Livermore. There will be 700+ muscle cars, street rods, custom and classic cars on display. Arts & crafts, food, live '50s & '60s era music and hourly prize drawings are all part of the event. Proceeds benefit Tri-Valley youth programs that help keep kids off drugs and alcohol. The event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission charge. For information, go to [AltamontCruisers.org](http://AltamontCruisers.org) or call 925-461-2020.

## Festivities Part of Fall Horse Racing at the Fairgrounds

The new Fall Horse Race & Festival is coming soon to the Pleasanton Fairgrounds on September 25 and October 2. Kids can join in on the fun with free special attractions just for them.

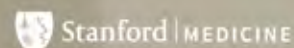
They include a game truck, hippity hop race, STEAM-themed arts and crafts, bouncy houses and Pokemon Pokestopes.

Sunday, September 25, will be Univision Festival Latino Day featuring live music with Banda Corazon Ranchero and 2 for \$7 Corona beers.

Oaktree Fall Horse Racing & Festival will run for two weekends: September 23-25 and September 30-October 2. Post times will be Fridays at 2:15 p.m. and Saturdays & Sundays at 1:15 p.m. General admission is free.

For complete schedule or information on special beer & wine tasting events, visit [www.alamedacountyfair.com](http://www.alamedacountyfair.com)

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### PRACTICES IN LIVERMORE AND PLEASANTON



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5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., STE 110  
Pleasanton, CA 94588











# TVLC Recognizes Teachers Union

**By Ron McNicoll**  
 Tri-Valley Learning Corporation (TVLC) has recognized its teachers' efforts to form a chapter of the California Teachers Association (CTA).  
 The announcement was made by board president Scott Lessard, after a closed session at the Sept. 12 board

meeting. Although the union is now recognized, contract negotiations still lie ahead with regard to salaries, working conditions, layoff procedures, etc.  
 The lack of union representation enabled TVLC to lay off seven teachers "at will" from the Livermore Valley Charter School

(LVCS), without the due process procedures that unionized teachers have in place. Another three teachers resigned, according to faculty sources.  
 Laying off teachers is part of a strategy to deal with TVLC's apparent \$3 million deficit.  
 Teachers at three of the four TVLC schools had their salaries cut by 10 percent for one year. The LVCS K-8 teachers will see a 15 percent reduction. Those salaries will go back up the following year, and include a 2 percent pay boost above that.  
 TVLC operates two schools in Livermore and two Acacia schools. The deficit for 16/17 is \$3,045,000 for the four TVLC schools.  
 The LVCS deficit is \$2.4 million, while Livermore Charter Preparatory School shows a surplus of \$250,000.  
 At the board meeting Sept. 12, directors also ap-

proved signing an MOU with the private California Preparatory Academy (CPA) to pay \$17,500 for this fiscal year in rent. It entitles TVLC's Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory to 50 percent use of the building at 3090 Independence Drive. It's a bargain for the prep school, since the annual "rent," in the form of a bond payment, is \$2.1 million per year.  
 The plan is for the private school that will share the other 50 percent of the building to pay the remainder of the money. The MOU signed Sept. 12 represents a one-year commitment.  
 CPA owns Squaw Valley Academy Bay Area (SVA-BA), a private academy. Eventual plans for enrollment range up to 150 students at full capacity.  
 A California Department of Education document online, dated Aug. 25, shows an enrollment at that time of

30 students. Listed are three full-time and two part-time teachers, four administrators, and two other staff.

## PRIORITY

(continued from front page)

expansion. The Vasco Landfill also pays the fee. Of the fee, eighty percent is to be spent on the eastside of the Tri-Valley; twenty percent on the westside. Pleasanton works with Dublin in determining use of the funds.  
 Decisions on spending the money are made by a committee comprised of representatives from Alameda County, Livermore, Pleasanton and the Sierra Club. The county, Sierra Club and Livermore vote on expenditures on the eastside; Pleasanton, the county and Sierra Club on the westside.  
 The idea behind setting priority areas was to determine what land makes the most sense to go after.  
 The decision to send a letter to the state regarding the potential for funding to purchase land in the Tesla/Corral Hollow was made because of the pending vote by the state to allow expansion of the Carnegie Off-Road Vehicle Park into the adjacent 3000 acres.  
 On Oct. 21st, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission will hold a meeting to consider approval of the Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) Draft General Plan and certification of the Environmental Impact Report. The session will take place starting at 10 a.m. at Sacramento City Hall, 915 I Street.  
 The letter will let the state know that there is \$12 million available to purchase land in east Alameda County. If land were available, the Altamont Committee would consider a grant application.

The letter would list all of the priority areas.  
 The committee heard a presentation from Save the Hill in Pleasanton, a group of residents in North Livermore. The land is zoned residential and lies within the urban growth boundary. There are 47 homes proposed.  
 They are interested in preserving a hill, possibly using a grant from the commission to purchase the land. They noted that development planned for the hill would impact ten threatened or endangered species.  
 There would not only be impacts to wildlife on the property, but visual impacts related to road cuts and buildings. In addition, runoff from the property would negatively impact the adjacent alkaline sink properties, such as the Garaventa Wetlands Preserve. Recently, the Livermore Tarplant, found in only one of three locations in the world, including the preserve, was approved as an endangered species.  
 City Planner Steve Stewart noted that the developer is revising the plan to provide fewer units on smaller lots with less grading. A bridge over the arroyo is also under consideration. However, regulatory agencies view the bridge as more impactful than the development, he added.  
 Cindy Anger of Save the Hill, said that the current design would be excellent on a flat piece of property. "We are looking for a willing buyer, willing seller and funding. We need to figure out how to make those things happen."

## DSRSD to Close Recycled Water Fill Station

Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) will close its recycled water fill station in downtown Dublin at the end of September. A larger fill station, located at the district's water recycling facility in Pleasanton, will remain open with expanded hours.  
 "As fall temperatures cool, it makes sense to reduce our costs and operate only one fill station," says General Manager Dan McIntyre. "We thank the City of Dublin's staff for hosting our fill station at their public safety complex over the last two summers. It allowed Dublin and San Ramon residents to pick up recycled water a little closer to home, and it helped us alleviate the traffic at the Pleasanton fill station."  
 More information is available at [www.dsrdsd.com/free-recycled-water](http://www.dsrdsd.com/free-recycled-water).

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Zone 7 Water Agency's Board of Directors to review water rates for 2017

**DATES:**  
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## Cultural Arts Council to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The Livermore Cultural Arts Council (LCAC) will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in the month of October. On Wednesday October 5, the LCAC is hosting a dinner at the Robert Livermore Community Center where current and past representatives and officers are expected to attend.

For more information, please visit the LCAC website at [www.lcac.org](http://www.lcac.org). LCAC is also participating in ArtWalk on Saturday October 8, manning a large tent in the Chamber of Commerce parking lot at 2157 First Street. Music will be presented throughout the day, with various video shows and historical memorabilia on display.

In the spring of 1966, interest was generated in the formation of some sort of arts commission or council. Cultural groups and private citizens felt that such a commission could be beneficial, both to the individual groups and to Livermore's cultural climate as a whole. Several meetings followed between city councilmembers, recreation district representatives and delegates from the local arts groups. It soon became clear the groups themselves felt they could best control their own activities by using a representative type of council, under the sponsorship of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD).

The first organizational meeting of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council was held on October 10, 1966, attended by representatives of all known cultural groups, LARPD, the City, and the School District. The initial Directors of the Corporation were Floyd Gelhaus, Cleo Graf, Evelyn Bankhead, Roger Ide and Robert Selden. Evelyn Bankhead was a member of the Council until 2008.

In 1971 the council applied to the State of California for recognition as a nonprofit corporation with goals to plan, promote, coordinate and present a program of cultural arts to the community; and to assist other groups in presenting cultural programs and to study the educational and cultural needs of the community.

Throughout its 50 years, LCAC has put on numerous city-wide events, including summertime Arts Festivals and German-themed Sommerfest celebrations, both of which lasted 25 years.

The LCAC decided to concentrate its efforts in promoting art education in the schools, particularly K-4, originally through the FAME program, and

(continued on page 5)

## Valley Concert Chorale Presents Season with 'Life Is a Never Ending Song' Theme

The Valley Concert Chorale as announced its 2016-2017 concert season entitled "Life is a Never Ending Song."

The season begins with the Annual Sing-It-Yourself Messiah on Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore.

Traditional Carols with a Twist will be performed Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at Lynnwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton, followed by a reception. The program will be performed at 3 p.m. Dec. 11 at the First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore.

The program features new arrangements of traditional carols including The First Nowell, Go Tell it on the Mountain, Ding, Dong Merrily on High, Silent Night and many others. And as always, audience sing-a-longs with the chorus.

March Madness with the Masters, featuring the music of four composers from four different periods in music history will be presented at 3 p.m. March 10 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. The composers are Monteverdi, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Mantyjarvi.

Eriks Ešenvalds Choral Festival: Eriks Ešenvalds

Artist in Residence program will be performed on May 19 in the East Bay with the venue TBA; and on May 21 at Mission Dolores Basilica, 3341 16th St., San Francisco, time TBA.

Litvan composer Ešenvalds, one of today's the most sought-after choral composers will be in residence with the chorus for four days, in collaboration with California State University, San Jose Choraliers, California State University, East Bay choirs and Bay Area ensembles and high school choirs, preparing for two performances of his works.

Tickets to performances are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. High school and college students \$10 with valid student ID. Children are free. Advance tickets may be ordered by visiting the Chorale's website at <http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org/>, or by calling the Chorale's information number at (925) 866-4003 to order tickets.

More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available at [www.valleyconcertchorale.org/](http://www.valleyconcertchorale.org/) or by calling the general information line at (925) 866-4003.

Valley Concert Chorale has been performed for over 50 years.



# Livermore Valley Opera: The Beginning

By Sarah Bobson

What do you do when you want to sing opera and you live in a small town where there is no opera company? You start your own. That's how Livermore Valley Opera (LVO) was born, out of a creative twinkle in the eye and a passion to sing. This season, LVO celebrates its 25th Silver Jubilee. I recently sat down with Raquel Holt, one of LVO's founders, and chatted about the company's beginnings. In her Livermore home, Raquel recalled the embryo of the idea that would develop over the years into one of the premier small opera companies in the region, a company that has 50 productions to its credit, and now attracts not only the best rising talent from near and far but also distinguished singers from several of the world's leading opera companies.

In the early 1990s, Raquel recalls, a group of Livermore residents -- Sue Sohm, Karen Schipper, Alan Frank, Doug Holt (Raquel's husband), and Raquel -- hit upon the idea in a roundabout sort of way. At the time, Sohm was taking voice lessons, Schipper was a part-time voice teacher at Las Positas College, Frank worked at Lawrence Livermore Labs and played the bass, Doug also worked at the Lab and enjoyed singing. Raquel was a teacher with the Livermore School District and liked singing whenever she could. "Basically," Raquel says, recalling the gestation period, "the five of us were very interested in singing on stage." They heard that a newly formed opera company called Mission Opera was going to present Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* and needed chorus members, so they joined and went to Fremont to rehearse. Raquel says, "When we performed in a high school, it seemed like



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

## Raquel Holt discusses upcoming production of "The Flying Dutchman."

there were more people on the stage than sitting in the audience, many of whom were friends and family of cast members."

After that, the light opera production was brought to Livermore and performed at Livermore High School, but not under the auspices of LVO. At that moment, they thought of themselves as chorus members, not opera producers. To prepare to present *The Mikado*, the group started the necessary legwork. Raquel says they went to Goodenough bookstore. "It was the only bookstore in town then, (but now gone) and approached the independent bookseller to be LVO's ticket outlet." They also approached *The Independent* to publicize the event. A sizable audience attended, which the group found very encouraging. The favorable response they received, Raquel says, sparked a collective idea

with the five.

"Something lit in our brains. We got people to come and watch our show, so we thought we could form an opera company here in Livermore. We met in homes to formally talk about this. We went through all kinds of nice-sounding names. We'd say, 'Oh, no, not that, that sounds like a real estate company.' Then someone suggested, 'Why not Livermore Valley Opera.'" Musing, Raquel said, "I felt very passionately that Livermore should be part of the name. It was not just the name of the city, but also the valley. So, that's how we started the Livermore Valley Opera."

In 1992, Livermore Valley Opera was officially incorporated. The company obtained its nonprofit status. The company would need money, soloists, chorus members, production people (various designers,

about opera production.

"We had scant knowledge about producing an opera. Today, we have designers for sets, costumes, wigs, makeup, lighting, a production manager, a production stage manager, technicians, stage director and artistic director. In the beginning, we got wonderful volunteers. Very often, people who worked as set building crew and stage crew came from the Lab." By day, the Lab people were engineers, technicians and scientists, and by night (and weekends) they helped build sets and prepare props backstage. "I think that made Livermore Valley Opera quite unique," Raquel says.

Of the singers, Raquel says. "We paid the singers about \$50, tops. Many of them did it pro bono because they just wanted to sing on stage. These singers came from the Bay Area. It was all by word of mouth or flyers that we put on school bulletin boards." As for the orchestra, "Early on we had a pickup orchestra. Some of them received a stipend, but a number of them donated the money back to the opera company."

It took about six months to pull together the company's first production. In 1993 LVO presented Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. Since then, the company has produced a diverse array of operas, two each year, ranging in style from light opera like Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* and Lehar's *The Merry Widow*, to grand opera audience favorites such as Bizet's *Carmen*, Puccini's *La Bohème* and *Madama Butterfly*, Verdi's *La Traviata* and *Rigoletto*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

That brings us to the challenges of the current production of Wagner's *The*

*Flying Dutchman*, which opens LVO's 2017-18 season. It has an expanded orchestra, larger chorus, and dramatic light projections.

"When I look back," Raquel says, "I am truly amazed at how this company developed and that we're still here. Look at a lot of other organizations that have folded. I am always saddened by something like that, that big companies are not making it, that the arts seem to be struggling. I truly believe in the arts being a big part of anybody's life. LVO survived, I believe, because we were fiscally conservative. I was the producer for many, many years. I stayed within the stated budget."

Raquel is proud of the fact that the company has never been in the red. One year, though, when it looked like they might go over budget, she says they decided to present an opera in concert form without sets or costumes rather than incur the high costs of a staged production. They called it, "Encore! Encore!" The company has always relied on contributions and efforts from its founders, patrons, fundraisers such as Opera in the Vineyards, membership in the Overture Society, its Legacy League, and ticket sales. Individual donors continue to be LVO's mainstay. The fact that the company has attracted singers and directors from premier opera companies such as the Met, and all with little grant money, is pretty phenomenal.

The company has not only survived, but thrived over the years. In 2007, with *La Bohème* as its production, LVO made the grand move from Livermore High School to the state-of-the-art Bankhead Theater. Raquel believes the company's survival is

(See OPERA, page 4)

# A Taste of Africa Offers Look at African Culture

Cheza Nami will present its 5th annual extravaganza and adventure into African culture October 1st, 2016 from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. This year's event will be held at the lawn areas and Theater of the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton.

Cheza Nami Foundation's Taste of Africa festival is a day of celebrating African art, dance, music, and food. This year's event includes free outdoor activities on the Firehouse lawn areas throughout the day from 10AM-6PM. A ticketed event inside the Firehouse Arts Center theater begins at 3PM and includes a silent auction and raffle in theater lobby, wine and food samplings followed by a Cheza Nami Stage production, a collaborative performance of traditional African music and dance by local master performing artists at 4pm.

Guests are invited to visit the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton, beginning September 9 through October 12 to view the Taste of Africa hallway exhibits, featuring work by Marion Coleman and Cynthia W. Ndwiga.

• Firehouse Lawn Area: starting at 10:00 am - African art/African food Vendors and kids activities as well as an outdoor stage with free musical programming. The center

piece of outdoor festivities will be the Gojo art installation celebrating East African architecture. The Gojo will house our photo booth.

• Firehouse Arts Center Theater: starting at 3:00 pm – silent auction (Theater lobby). Starting at 4:00pm - Cheza Nami Stage production, a collaborative performance "The Essence," by local master performing artists celebrating the philosophy of human kindness. The collaborating artists include, Ibou Ngom of Senegal, Mandjou Kone and Salif Malima Kone of Mali/Burkina Faso, Dandha Da-Hora of Brazil, Vivien Bassouamina and Loubayi Arnaud of Congo Brazaville.

Catherine Ndungu-Case, Founder and CEO of Cheza Nami, states, "This production showcases the diversity of African music and dance, but also tells the story of how we are all the same, even when we are so different. When we are able to value the individual person as a human and see beyond our differences, we are able to exist as a unit, as one unified race, the human race."

Cheza Nami in partnership with the Firehouse Arts Center Gallery will host a Taste of Africa art installation in the hallway areas of the theater. Guests are invited to visit the Firehouse Center beginning September 9 through

October 12 to view the hallway exhibits, featuring work by Marion Coleman and Cynthia W. Ndwiga.

Following the close of the event, a special gathering will take place at the Cellar Door across the street from the theater from 7:30PM-11pm. This program will feature acoustic performances by Malima Kone.

Tickets range from \$12 to \$25.

Cheza Nami Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization (EIN # 27-4568585), believes in a play based approach to cultural education. Cheza Nami is Swahili for "come play with me." For more information about Cheza Nami, visit [www.chezanami.org](http://www.chezanami.org) or call us at 925.398.3827

**L I V E R M O R E**  
— arts —  
**BANKHEAD THEATER**

**San Francisco Comedy Competition**  
ALL SEATS \$30  
Student/Military \$16  
FRI SEP 23 8pm



**The Flying Dutchman**  
LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA

Sat **SEP 24** 7:30pm  
Sun **SEP 25** 2pm

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## Concert to Feature Music from the Canary Islands

Hailing from the Spanish Canary Islands, timple virtuoso Germán López (pictured below) will bring the traditional music of the islands, flavored with his own contemporary style, to the Bankhead Theater on Friday evening, Sept. 30.

A diminutive five-stringed instrument intrinsic to the music of the Canary Islands, the timple (pronounced tim-play) is similar in size to the more familiar four-stringed ukulele but has a rounded shape and a

fuller resonance. López's music has been described as "small jewels ... ballads full of wonder and sensitivity" that express the joyful spirit of his native islands.

Gran Canaria is the largest of the Spanish Canary

Islands which make up an archipelago off the coast of Africa. Germán López learned to play the timple at an early age and was quickly identified as a musical prodigy, entering the Conservatory of Music in Las Palmas at the age of seven and receiving a master's degree in musical studies when he was just 15.

López has been praised as a highlight of the new generation of performers on the centuries-old instrument, able to bring together elements from widespread musical influences to create a style of his own that is both authentic and original.

LVPAC Presents World Music Series this season includes artists ranging from the legendary Irish folk group The Chieftains, to Germán López.

Tickets are available at the Bankhead Theater ticket office, 2400 First Street in Livermore, online at [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or by calling 373-6800.



## Looking Back at the Beatles' Last Concert

By Carol Graham

Though at the time she had been just 7 years old, Karen Anderson remembers the night well.

She remembers there was a full moon, and walking quickly with her older sister through the concourse to their seats. She remembers seeing the concert poster, program and Beatles wigs for sale. She remembers the sea of teenage energy all around her, and seeing stretchers on the field, ready to collect fainting girls.

She remembers not knowing it would be the Beatles' final public performance.

The date was August 29, 1966, a late summer night in most American cities, but so cold in San Francisco that between songs Paul McCartney remarked, "It's a bit chilly!" The 25,000 concertgoers at Candlestick Park didn't seem to mind.

This year, one day shy of the 50th anniversary of the final concert, the Livermore Library hosted a free presentation by musician Dulais Rhys titled, "Hello/Goodbye - the Beatles' Last Public Performance." Nearly 50 audience members gathered to relive the evening complete with opening acts, The Beatles' 11-song playlist, and behind-the-scenes stories about the group and the fateful concert.

"Dulais Rhys brought



Pictured at the Library are Renee Lau, Dulais Rhys, and Paul Sevilla.

back so many fond memories for me, especially hearing The Beatles' voices - both their comments as well as their songs - as was taped that night at Candlestick," says Anderson, of Livermore. "Showing the boys in their early days in Liverpool at The Cavern Club was interesting. I also appreciated Dulais making a point of the place The Beatles have made in history."

Rhys' interest in The Beatles had begun years before their Candlestick concert.

"In grammar (high) school in my native Wales,

we had an open-minded music teacher who was interested in the music that we as young boys listened to," said Rhys. "He would ask, 'What's No. 1 in the Top Ten?' We would reply, 'The Beatles, Mr. Thomas.' We'd bring in the 7-inch vinyl record that Mr. Thomas would play in class (quietly because the school's headmaster would do his rounds, listening outside classrooms), then he'd analyze The Beatles' song for us and explain why it was 'good music.' He discussed the

chords, form, lyrics, vocal and instrumental arrangements, and always picked out the hook - the musical event that made the song memorable."

Hello/Goodbye was Rhys' fourth talk at the library, which included 2013's "The Beatles and Their Songs: A Musical Revolution," a talk about the Fab Four's start and analyses of their music.

"Since then, patrons have been clamoring to bring him back for another Beatles talk, so we

did," said Public Services Librarian Paul Sevilla. "Every time Dulais played a Beatles song I couldn't help but nod my head and tap fingers along to the beat. He did a great job of giving fascinating background info about the songs The Beatles played at their final concert."

Tickets to the 1966 Monday night concert ranged in price from \$4.50 to \$6.50. The Beatles took to the stage at 9.27 p.m. and played: Rock and Roll Music, She's A Woman, If I Needed Someone, Day Tripper, Baby's In Black, I Feel Fine, Yesterday, I Wanna Be Your Man, Nowhere Man, Paperback Writer, and Long Tall Sally.

Like Anderson, Livermore's Mike Silva had also been at Candlestick for the final concert.

"It was something I will never forget. I remember The Beatles coming out of the dugout and heading toward the stage," said Silva. "I loved The Beatles' music and still do."

The presentation was sponsored by the Friends of the Livermore Library as part of the "Friends Authors and Arts Series."

"More musical events are coming up at the library," said Sevilla. "Internationally-acclaimed singer Ramana Vieira will

be performing Portuguese fado music at the library on September 18."

The event is free and begins at 2 p.m. at the Civic Center Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue.

"Dulais also informed me that he is working on another Beatles talk, this time on the 50th anniversary of 1967's Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album. We will definitely have him back again for that talk," said Sevilla. "I hope Hello/Goodbye attendees took away an appreciation for The Beatles' contribution to music history. They weren't just a group of rock-n-rollers from the '60s, but rather, revolutionary composers that deserve a place among the greats - Beethoven, Bach, Brahms and The Beatles."

It's a view shared by Anderson.

"Over the years I have grown to appreciate how I had the chance to see the Mozarts of our time period. I did not learn until years later that Candlestick was their last concert as mop-tops," she said. "Little did we know we were witnessing the end of an era."

To learn more, visit [www.livermorelibrary.net](http://www.livermorelibrary.net), or [www.dulaisrhysmusic-services.com/publiclectures.htm](http://www.dulaisrhysmusic-services.com/publiclectures.htm).

## OPERA

(continued from page 2)

due to one word: passion.

"I think it is tireless passion that has made us and kept us going. You see it with members of the Board and our volunteers. If you are passionate about something, then you strive for the highest quality that you are able to produce."

Looking back, Raquel says she and the founders never imagined that LVO

would become such a vital artistic force in Livermore.

That original desire to simply sing and that creative twinkle has since evolved into a respected regional opera company that is now celebrating its 25th Jubilee.

Bravo! Bravissimi. Standing ovation! LVO, take your curtain calls.

## The Flying Dutchman Launches LVO Season

The ghost ship of the Dutchman will haunt the stage of the Bankhead Theater when it opens Livermore Valley Opera's 25th Silver Jubilee season on September 24. The Flying Dutchman (Der Fliegende Holländer) by Richard Wagner will be performed Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 25, 2 p.m., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 2, 2 p.m.

LVO's anniversary season opens with a "first" for the company with Wagner's The Flying Dutchman (Der Fliegende Holländer), a commanding opera of dramatic music, large sets and numerous chorus members that is typically performed in large opera houses. With the Bankhead Theater's state-of-the-art design coupled with the talent of Music Conductor and Artistic Director Alexander

Katsman and stage director Olivia Stapp, audiences will experience this famous Wagner opera as if sitting in a grand opera house.

The well-known tale is of a ghost ship sailing the seas for all eternity with its cursed crew. The Dutchman can only set foot on land every seven years to search for a bride who can end the curse and bring him peace.

"Anybody who has seen and heard bass-baritone Philip Skinner knows how thrilling it is to see and hear him in any role," says Alexander Katsman, LVO Artistic Director. "Now we get to experience his mastery in the defining role of the Dutchman. Much the same could be

(continued on page 5)



# Bankhead to Host SF Comedy Competition

Known for launching such comedy greats as Robin Williams and Ellen DeGeneres, the annual San Francisco Comedy Competition fields approximately three dozen comedians judged over multiple weeks in multiple venues across the Bay Area.

The Bankhead Theater will welcome semifinal contestants on Friday evening, September 23, 2016, in one of the last three events before final rounds on October 1st. All tickets for the single performance at 8:00 p.m. are just \$30 each with \$16 student tickets available.

The SF Comedy Competition has served as a stepping stone for numerous comic legends, launching many of them to stardom, including Dana Carvey who won the competition in 1977 before going on to appear on "Saturday Night Live." The list of famous runner-ups is long as well, and includes Robin Williams, who placed second in the competition's inaugural year, and Ellen DeGeneres, who also just missed first place a decade



later. Although contestants have come from around the country, the most recent two winners hailed from the Bay Area: Myles Weber from Vallejo last year and Kabir Singh from Fremont in 2014.

The standup format of the San Francisco Comedy Competition is particularly challenging. From hundreds of applicants, approximately thirty comedians are chosen to perform short, three to seven minute sets in one of two preliminary weeks consisting of six shows in six venues. Each show has a unique group of judges who score the contestants in seven categories. Ten comedians proceed to the semi-finals for six more shows where the sets are

slightly longer, and the top five move to the finals. After sets of 12 to 15 minutes are performed at the finals, the winner is announced. As they were last year, the sets held at the Bankhead will be part of the semi-final rounds.

Originally founded and held in San Francisco, the venues for the competition are now spread across the greater Bay Area and surrounding regions. Competitors must polish their sets for a variety of venues include comedy clubs, bars, restaurants, casinos and theaters such as the Bankhead, as well as for a range of audiences.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets to all events can be purchased at the box office, online at [www.bankhead-theater.org](http://www.bankhead-theater.org) or by calling 373-6800.

The box office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. On performance days the ticket office is open from two hours before to 30 minutes after the scheduled start of each show.



Wild West fundraiser attendees.

## Evening of Wild West Events to Benefit Museum

Gamblers and bandits and wild women! Oh my! Step back in time at Museum on Main's 8th annual fundraiser A Wild West Evening: Brothels, Bar Rooms & Bandits on Saturday, October 8 from 6 PM to 10 PM at the Museum on Main in downtown Pleasanton. For the first time the event will be held at the Museum under the stars in the Museum's parking lot and on Division Street.

The event features a return to Pleasanton of the 1890s when it was one of the most desperate towns in the west. Guests will rub shoulders with local characters from yesteryear such as the well-known Senator George Hearst, Phoebe Hearst, John W. Kottinger, Leland Stanford and the ladies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU).

A ticket includes a catered gourmet BBQ dinner from Valley Catering, ice cream from Meadowlark Dairy, musical entertainment by Extended Roots and the Cool Tones Big Band and chips for gaming tables, sponsored by the Pleasanton Lion's Club. Additional chips and drink tickets for the no-host bar may be purchased at the event. Live and silent auctions feature themed baskets, sports memorabilia, getaways and more. Western attire encouraged, but not the law!

Tickets \$55 per person, over 21 only. For tickets go online to the Museum's web site ([museumonmain.org](http://museumonmain.org)), phone the museum at 925.462.2766 or mosey on down to 603 Main Street. Cash, credit cards, checks and gold nuggets are accepted.

## FLYING DUTCHMAN

(continued from page 4)

said about Plette, Brancoveanu and Gustafson, all LVO audience favorites."

LVO has also gone all out in assembling the largest orchestra and chorus it has ever had to plumb the depths of Wagner's magnificent music.

"As it is with all Wagner's operas, the music of Dutchman, is magnificent," says Olivia Stapp, stage director and veteran opera diva. "This opera provides opportunity for great creative staging to accompany the music and chorus including stormy seas with wild ghost ships suddenly appearing. We have a brilliant creative team with a lot of experience in innovative lighting and magical stage visualizations."

Jim Schmidt, LVO President agrees and is very excited about this anniversary production. "This is an opera whose appeal is the music, and a psychological insight

into the characters. All this is enhanced by the combination of shadowy intricate lighting and compelling videos that magnify the experience for the audience. We are thrilled to offer the community this magnificent opera to celebrate our 25th season."

Included in the ticket price are pre-opera talks held one hour prior to curtain time. LVO's traditional artist's reception is held in the lobby immediately following each performance. Tickets for adults are \$42-\$89; students 18 years and younger \$10 off on all days, all seating sections (student ID required).

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets may be purchased at the box office, online at [www.bankheadtheater.org](http://www.bankheadtheater.org) or by calling 373-6800.

## LCAC CELEBRATION

(continued from front page)

then through the LCAC Art Support Program. More recently, LCAC has helped coordinate the free summer concerts "Tuesday Tunes" and "Evenings on the Green" in front of the Bankhead Theater.

Today LCAC is again emphasizing its advocacy role by working with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to bring back music programs in the

early grades. LCAC is also intensely interested in the proposed downtown development, recommending that arts facilities be a key part of any development.

[Note: much historical information is taken from an article by Joan Boer that appeared in the Livermore Herald & News in 1969 and a history by LCAC past President Phil Dean.]



In photo, is a participant at last year's event.

## Dogtoberfest Aims to Set World Record

For the second year in a row, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is going to the dogs.

Dogtoberfest returns on Sunday, Oct. 2, for another year of amusement for canines and their human companions. The event will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Robert Livermore Park adjacent to the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. Parking will be available in the Loyola Way lot. Admission is free. The event is co-sponsored by the City of Livermore.

Dog lovers from Livermore and beyond are invited to bring their pooch pals to join in the attempt to break the Guinness World Record for "Most Dogs Wearing a Bandana." The current record stands at 764 dogs. The attempt will be held at 11:30 a.m. Each dog participant will receive an LARPD bandana. The official rules state dogs must be at least a year old, on a leash and well-behaved. World Record registration will be open from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Participants can also register their dogs in advance by emailing [info@larpd.org](mailto:info@larpd.org) their name, their dog's name and choice of small or large bandana.

Throughout the event, attendees can check out dog service vendors; food and drinks for people and pets – including beer for humans; adoptable dogs; pet photos; dog demonstrations and training; dog licensing; and face painting. KKIQ will do a live remote broadcast and Dave Lewis from KCBS will serve as master of ceremonies.

For more information on Dogtoberfest, visit [www.larpd.org](http://www.larpd.org) or call 925-373-5700.

# Dublin High Students Create Video That Will Be Aired Nationwide

Students in the Dublin High School Video Production Program have produced a public service advertisement for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) that will be distributed nationally in October. The 30-second video is part of M.A.D.D.'s national "No More Victims" campaign.

"It really drives home the message of the work we do," said Natasha Thomas, Program Director of M.A.D.D. San Francisco Bay Area.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving participated last spring in Dublin's "Every 15 Minutes" program, an anti-drunk driving event staged at Dublin High School every four years. Thomas said she was very impressed with the student-produced video that was part of the program.

"I assumed, like the other videos we've seen at this event, that it was made by a professional video team," Thomas said. "When I heard that students had filmed the entire video, I was floored. I knew we had to work with them."

Over the summer, seven current DHS students and 2016 graduates – Kyle Reed, Ethan Zalunardo, Sophie Butler, Evan Hancher, Andrew Turner, Madeline Nobida and Noah McMoyler - wrote, directed and produced the short film showing a young man being "erased" from his life during milestones such as graduation, his wedding day and family photos because of a drunk-driving accident.

"Our students came with the concept and ran with it and they have done a phenomenal job," said DHS Video Production teacher Michael D'Ambrosio. "It will definitely send a message."

Thomas said the quality of the work is "mindblowing." The video has been shared internally at M.A.D.D. and will be appearing nationally on AOL's Adap.tv digital platform and also shown at M.A.D.D.'s "Walk Like M.A.D.D." event as well as its "Tie One On For Safety" event. It could potentially be viewed by more than a million people.

Thomas said she is looking forward to working with DHS students again, on another project, a documentary film on the impact on lives after a DUI crash.

The video can be previewed on Dublin Unified's Vimeo Channel at <https://vimeo.com/183372318>.

## Book Sale at the Dublin Library

Friends of Dublin Library, Inc. will hold its fall used book and media sale Oct. 1 and 2 at the library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin.

On Sat., Oct. 1, members only shopping from 9 to 11 a.m. (memberships available at the door). Sale open to all from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Sun., Oct. 2, 1 to 4 p.m. will be bag day. Fill a paper bag (provided) for \$4. ½ off on selected audio-visual, vintage and specially priced items.

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 of extra value, vintage books, and a teacher materials section.

More information is available on the Library's website at [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org), the Friends' website at [www.dublinfriends.org](http://www.dublinfriends.org), or call the Library at 925-803-7252. The Library is wheelchair accessible.

## LHS 125th Year Kicks off at Homecoming Event on Sept. 30

Livermore High School turns 125 this year. It is the second oldest high school in California.

On Sept. 30, LHS will hold its annual homecoming football game. All past alumni are invited to attend a BBQ with their families. Admission is free with original school ID card (to the first 50).

There will be a parade around the football field for the decades. There will be a special alumni entrance on Cowboy Alley with gates opening at 5:30 p.m.

The week before homecoming, starting Sept. 23, First Street will be decorated in green and gold for the upcoming celebration.

Following the game on Sept. 30, all are invited downtown to reminisce at the following locations: 40's-50's meet at Zephyr Grille; 60's at Uncle Yu's on the patio; 70's at Sauced; 80's the patio at Paxti's Pizza; 90's the Ale House patio; and 2000's and later at the Beer Baron.

Additional events are planned in 2017. For fund-raising information and dates for events, contact Susan at [sdcanfield@comcast.net](mailto:sdcanfield@comcast.net) or Cheryl at [cperry415@aol.com](mailto:cperry415@aol.com) or go to the Facebook page: Livermore High School Alumni&/or lhs125

## New Brew Taps into Historic Hops

Eight Bridges Brewing™ taps into a deep Pleasanton/Livermore Valley beer history with the September 15 release of its new California Cluster Revival Pale Ale™. The California Cluster hop grown in Pleasanton was once one of the most popular hop varieties in the world until the early 1900's. Since then the hops have grown wild in the backyards of some of the older residences in Pleasanton and are used by many home brewers.

A new Pleasanton hop farm, Wobblies Hop Company, harvested its first crop grown with rhizomes taken from hop plants found on the edge of the old Pleasanton hop farm. Eight Bridges Brewing™ is the first commercial brewery to use these hops in a very long time. Brewmaster Justin Beardsley remarked, "This has been a two-year project helping Wobblies Hop Company find the hop rhizomes they needed, culminating in a unique beer with a unique story and history"

Over 50 lbs of these hops were used within 24 hours of picking in what is called a wet hop or fresh hop beer. The hops yield a pleasant, slightly citrusy aroma with hints of tea and fresh grass. The hints of tea and fresh grass are unique to wet hop or fresh hop brewing processes.

Eight Bridges Brewing, Inc.™ was founded in 2013 by the Beardsley family, George, Debbie, Justin and Caitlyn. Eight Bridges is located at 33 Earhart Way in Livermore.

## Fall Festival Set at Alviso Adobe Park

The third annual free Fall Festival will be held at Alviso Adobe Community Park on Saturday, September 24 from 11 - 3 p.m. The City of Pleasanton will host the event at the park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. This event is made possible with assistance from 4-H, California Fandango Project and the Meadowlark Dairy.

The day's schedule includes a presentation by Meadowlark Dairy, a visit with Fiona—the park's life sized, fiberglass milking cow, a live animal display by the local 4-H, authentic Californios music and dance by The California Fandango Project, and crafts for children.

The event will also feature hands-on activities and presentations from the Adobe's three distinct time periods: Ohlone, Californio, and the Meadowlark Dairy. Of special interest are demonstrations such as making apple cider, tortilla making, soap carving, adobe brick making, and ice cream churning. Enjoy the day with us as a taco vendor will be on-site selling tacos.

Of the more than 700 adobe structures originally constructed in the San Francisco Bay Area during the Spanish and Mexican periods, just a few exist today, including Pleasanton's Alviso Adobe. It serves as the centerpiece of a seven-acre park that tells the story of how one piece of California land has been inhabited and used in different ways since the time of the pyramids in Egypt. From its earliest recorded human habitation as a settlement of the native Ohlone Indians, to the days of the Spanish ranchos managing herds of cattle on the original 12,000-acre Rancho Santa Rita, to the turn of the century when it was home to California's first certified dairy, original portions of each historical period have been left intact.

Since its opening in October 2008, more than 200 third and fourth grade classes have visited the park to learn about local history. Additionally, the Environmental Education staff based at the park provided programming for more than 1,800 students last year with offsite visits to Pleasanton preschools and elementary schools to educate 4 to 7 year olds about regional natural history.

The site also features a dramatic overlook of the valley, with images of Pleasanton at different time periods. A small amphitheater seats 20-30 people for lectures and storytelling. Nearby are demonstration areas that involve visitors in the activities of the past, such as making adobe bricks, churning butter, and weaving baskets. The park grounds have been carefully landscaped with native plants, ancient Heritage oak trees, and a seasonal creek.

## Event Offers information on Funding College Education

The City of Pleasanton will begin the newcommunity education series on Wednesday, September 28, 2016 with "Funding Your College Education." This will be a workshop geared towards students and parents of high schoolers. The workshop will be presented by Andrea Silas, UC Berkeley Financial Aid Advisor from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the large meeting room of the Pleasanton Public Library at 400 Old Bernal Avenue.

Silas will teach students and their parents about the basics of financial aid, how and when to apply, who qualifies, and how eligibility is determined. Information and resources for student aid opportunities from the federal government, the State of California, post-secondary institutions, and private sources will be provided.

The event is free. Registration is recommended. Go to [pleasantonfun.com](http://pleasantonfun.com) and enter course code #63580.

For information on this event and upcoming Community Education Series events, please visit [ptownlife.org](http://ptownlife.org).

## 'N' the Story Behind Eugene O'Neill's Smash Hit, 'The Emperor Jones'

In 1920 American dramatist Eugene O'Neill had his first box-office hit on Broadway. It was *The Emperor Jones*. It helped establish O'Neill as a successful playwright.

The true story behind O'Neill's hit play is the subject of *N*, by playwright Adrienne Earle Pender, which will be presented by the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House in a staged-reading at the Old Barn at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Danville on Thursday, September 29 at 8:00 p.m. as part of the 17th Eugene O'Neill Festival.

Tickets for the single performance are available online at [www.villagetheatreshows.com](http://www.villagetheatreshows.com).

Pender's play was written during her residency last fall at Tao House, as part of the Travis Bogard Artist in Residence program of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. The play will have its World Premiere in February, 2017 at Theater in the Park in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The focus of *N* is a little known story concerning the relationship between actor Charles Gilpin – who originated the role of Brutus Jones in O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones* in 1920 – and playwright O'Neill, who was always very protective of his plays. The two men had a falling

out over interpretation in the play.

While O'Neill considered Gilpin a great actor, the two men disagreed on language and interpretation. The result was Gilpin's being replaced by actor Paul Robeson for the London revival of the play in 1924. Gilpin's work was later recognized by an award for acting from the New York Drama League, and was later honored by an invitation to the White House by President Harding.

The cast for *N* features Dorian Lockett, Kimberly Ridgeway and Dirk Alphin. The play is directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes, manager of artistic programs for the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. The three actors are also seen in the Foundation's current production of *The Emperor Jones*, with performances September 23-October 1 in the Old Barn at the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site.

Playwright Pender will be in Danville for a week prior to the September 29 staged-reading of her play in order to work in a rehearsal process with the director and cast on the new script.

"We're very excited to have Adrienne return to Danville for this public performance," said Florence McAuley who oversees the Travis Bogard Artist in Residence program for the O'Neill Foundation. "It's great to see how far her residency has been able to bring this project forward."

Adrienne Earle Pender began her writing career in 2001. Her first play, *The Rocker*, was a finalist in the FutureFest 2002 Festival of New Works in Dayton, Ohio. The play had its World Premiere in February 2004 at Theater in the Park in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her play, *Stone Face*, was a selection at the 2003 National Black Theater Festival. Pender holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Wilkes University, and is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the International Centre for Women Playwrights.

Information on the Foundation and its programs is available at [www.eugeneoneill.org](http://www.eugeneoneill.org).

For tours of Tao House, contact the National Park Service at (925) 838-0249.

## Native American Day Activities Planned

In 1968, then Governor Ronald Reagan signed a resolution calling for a holiday called American Indian Day to be held on the fourth Friday in September. On September 21st 1998, Assembly Bill 1953 was chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter 637, and titled "Public Holidays: Native American Day." This bill states that the fourth Friday in September is an official state holiday and referred to the day as Native American Day.

This year, to observe Native American Day, the Livermore American Indian Center and the Bankhead Theater will be hosting a free Native American Cultural Event in front of the Bankhead on the grass. It will take place from 4-6 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 23rd.

The event will include raising the tipi and tipi tours, cultural crafts for children, and Indian Dancers exhibiting their dance styles.

Everyone is welcome.









# Milestones

## Swalwell Honored for Efforts to Protect Parks, Shorelines and Open Space

The East Bay Regional Park District presented Rep. Eric Swalwell with the 2016 Congressional Park Champion Award Monday, Sept. 19th in recognition of his efforts to protect parks, shorelines and open space in the East Bay and beyond.

The award, given on behalf of the National Recreation and Park Association, calls out Rep. Swalwell as an avid park and trail user – including hosting numerous “ride with your rep” and “walk and talk” town halls. The award also acknowledges Swalwell’s commitment to the environment – particularly his work on wetlands restoration, clean air and water, and sustainable energy. As a member of the Science Committee,

Swalwell is aware of the impact a changing climate is having on our communities, shorelines and environment.

The Park District shares Swalwell’s commitment to environmental protection, especially regarding the impacts of climate change. For example, as stewards of 55 miles of Bay-Delta shoreline, the Park District provides the first line of defense against sea level rise for millions of people in the East Bay. The District recognizes federal, state, regional and local governments must work together to adapt to a changing environment.

With the passage of Measure AA, the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority’s “Clean and Healthy Bay” parcel tax in June, agencies

such as the Park District have an opportunity to finance shoreline resiliency projects before serious disasters actually occur. The Park District believes up-front investment in emergency preparedness should follow the same permitting protocols as actual emergencies. As the “Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Science Update” of 2015 points out, at least eight state and federal agencies are likely to have a role in the permitting process of Bay Area wetlands. In addition, shoreline projects may need local authorization from cities or counties, as well as those that cross paths with railroad tracks, pipelines, highways and utilities which require additional permission.

## Breedveld, Lewis Recognized by Alameda County for Their Commitment to the Arts

The Alameda County Arts Commission has recognize eight individuals for their achievements and contributions impacting the arts community and residents of Alameda County. The recipients of the 2016 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award are the following: Bruce Beasley, Kathleen Breedveld, MK Chavez, J.K. Fowler, Don Lewis, Susan Longini, Ayodele Nzinga, and Sergio Suarez.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors will commend these eight individuals during the Board’s public meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 10:45am at the Alameda County Administration Building, Supervisor’s Chambers, 1221 Oak Street, 5th Floor, Oakland. This event is also presented in conjunction with the County’s celebration of California Arts Day and National Arts and Humanities Month of October.

Among the recipients is Kathleen Breedveld of Livermore, who represents

Supervisorial District One: Kathleen Breedveld is the artistic director and general production manager for the Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre. For twenty-five seasons, Kathleen has brought community theatre and performing arts to the greater Alameda County. This has included Main Stage productions, smaller shows in a black box theater, adult and children’s chorus concerts, and kids’ camps. Thousands of adult and child performers have been encouraged by Kathleen’s performing arts leadership.

Don Lewis of Pleasanton, represents Supervisorial District Four: Don Lewis is a music artist and synthesizer innovator whose pioneering efforts are the subject of a documentary to be released in 2017, “The Ballad of Don Lewis.” He has taught courses at UC Berkeley Extension and guest lectured at Stanford University and San Jose State University. Don has mentored students through school programs and “Young

Expressions” performances. His “Say YES to Music!” assemblies have inspired thousands of students of all ages throughout the Bay Area and beyond. During his six decade career, Don has presented concerts worldwide, including the Newport Jazz Festival at Carnegie Hall, toured with The Beach Boys, and appeared with several symphony orchestras. Don is an active member of The Rotary Club of Pleasanton participating in service projects locally and internationally.

The Members of the Alameda County Arts Commission selected these individuals from a group of nominees whose names were submitted by the public. Award recipients were selected based on their achievements within the arts field and their contributions to the community. For more information about the program or the award recipients, contact the Alameda County Arts Commission at (510) 208-9646 or by email at [artscommission@acgov.org](mailto:artscommission@acgov.org)



Tri-Valley Haven held its annual Backpack Event on August 11th for area students returning to school. There were 429 children from 145 families who chose backpacks filled with grade-specific supplies. “Tri-Valley Haven reaches out to many families in the area that are experiencing hardship,” said Ralph Johnson, Director of Homeless and Family Services. The Haven would like to thank all of the corporations and community organizations that supported this event with donations of backpacks and supplies. Additional thanks go to the 64 volunteers whose many helpers stuffed and organized the packs by grade, including those from National Charity League-Pleasanton and Vista Oak chapters. The Tri-Valley Haven backpack event is held every August; visit the website at [www.trivalleyhaven.org](http://www.trivalleyhaven.org).

## Teachers of the Year in Livermore Announced

Debbie Burkle, longtime elementary teacher and professional coach in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), and Christine Buckley, Medical Occupations teacher in the Tri-Valley Regional Occupation Program (TV-ROP) are being recognized as Teachers of the Year for 2016.

Burkle has mentored LVJUSD educators as an instructional coach, classroom trainer, and Tri-Valley Teacher Induction Project Coordinator. LVJUSD Director of Curriculum, Amy Robbins, commends Burkle for her positive legacy. “Her work has touched generations and will continue to live on through others, teachers and administrators alike, who were coached or mentored by the broad, research-based toolkit and sincere passion

that Debbie possesses,” said Robbins. An educator for 43 years, Burkle has learned as much from her students as she has taught them. “Over the years I have worked with students from 4 years of age to adults. I am the person I am today because of all those who allowed me to share a part of their lives and their educational journey,” said Burkle.

Buckley engages high school students from throughout the Tri-Valley in hands-on learning in the medical field. “The work that Christine does with her students in the ROP is blurring the lines between high school and college and career, helping to make the transition seamless for youth,” said County Superintendent Monroe. Buckley prepares students in the classroom at Granada High School, and then supervises their intern-

ships in hospitals, medical offices, and veterinary clinics throughout the Tri-Valley. Before joining the ROP staff, Buckley taught science to middle and high school students in both Pleasanton and Livermore schools. Her students say that Mrs. Buckley is “awesome,” and Buckley shares that she is privileged to work with her students and be part of their lives.

LVJUSD Superintendent of Schools, Kelly Bowers, PhD, commended both Burkle and Buckley for their dedication to public education. “I am inspired by their outstanding commitment to our community.”

Burkle and Buckley will be recognized along with nominees from other districts at the Alameda County Teacher of the Year awards ceremony at 6:00 p.m. on October 6 at Castro Valley Center for the Arts.