



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.

Ballots Go to ValleyCare Members For Vote on Stanford Merger

By Ron McNicoll
 Ballots have been mailed out to ValleyCare Health System's 2200 corporate members seeking approval for an affiliation with Stanford Health Care. The ballot is the result of negotiations between the two hospitals, following a search by ValleyCare to find a way to survive as a health care provider. For the

past four years, ValleyCare has lost money annually, as high as \$5 million one year. It also faces \$85 million in debt over bonds, which are being paid off on a regular basis. The affiliation with Stanford would enable ValleyCare to designate Stanford as the backer of the bonded debt, and take on any obligation on annual debt. In addition,

Stanford would donate \$3 million to the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation to spend on delivery of health care to local residents. The foundation currently shows a balance of \$1.9 million. Most of the foundation's money is used for facilities and programs at the hospital. Stanford also would contribute \$50 million in

capital improvements in the first three years of the affiliation. This would significantly improve the hospital, said CEO Scott Gregerson. "I was telling staff today about their high performance. It will get even better when we have more medical equipment, computers, and updated software so we can do more," said Gregerson. All of the current corpo-

rate members of ValleyCare would be invited to become members of the charitable foundation. However, no corporate members would be part of the new corporate structure of the merged entities. Stanford would be the sole member of the corporation. The new entity's board of directors would be com-

(See MERGER, page 6)

Three Running for Two Dublin Council Seats

Three candidates are competing for two City Council seats in Dublin on the Nov. 4, 2014 ballot. They are Vice-Mayor Don Biddle, Councilmember Abe Gupta, and Sue Wakamoto-Lee.

In interviews with The Independent, candidates were asked their position on Measure T, the "Let Dublin Decide" Initiative. Other questions included whether they are satisfied with Dublin development so far, and what needs to be done to complete the city.

Candidates were asked whether they agreed with the downward trend in densities in development approvals on the East Side, and whether the Downtown Specific Plan is an appropriate place to make up the erased densities, in order to meet the state-set regional housing obligations.

The candidates also were asked whether they support Measure BB, the proposed county sales tax to benefit transportation, and whether Dublin has enough senior and low-income housing.

There were questions about whether candidates were happy with current and planned future retail areas, whether Dublin needs more

(See DUBLIN, page 7)

Four Seek Two Year School Term

Four candidates are running for a two year term on the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Education.

The two years complete the term of Tom McLaughlin, who resigned, then later died.

Seeking the seat are candidates McKinley Day, Joe Iguain, Efrain Melendez, and Chris Wenzel. The Independent interviewed three of the candidates. Joe Iguain did not keep an appointment and has not responded to phone calls or emails attempting to set up a second time for an interview.

During interviews they answered questions relating to what they saw as issues facing the district. These include implementation of Common Core, tenure, union relationships, and creation of partnerships to improve educational opportunities.

The interviews are in alphabetical order.

McKinley Day served in the Navy working radar aboard the USS Kittyhawk, worked as a repair and maintenance technician in Silicon Valley and as a postal clerk. While working for the post office, he was elected president of the Postal Union in Hayward. He says he learned how to bargain with management to create memorandums of understanding concerning wages, work,

(See LIVERMORE, page 10)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The 5th annual Walk for Education, a collaboration between the Livermore Valley Education Foundation and American Swim Academy, took place last Saturday. Livermore residents of all ages took part, walking walk laps around a track to earn money for Livermore schools. The festivities included DJ music, kid-friendly vendors and booths, games and prizes, a silent auction, martial arts demonstrations, masked superheroes, and more.

NIH Taps Lab to Develop System to Monitor Brain Activity

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) a grant to develop an electrode array system that will enable researchers to better understand how the brain works through unprecedented resolution and scale.

LLNL's grant-funded project is part of NIH's efforts to support President Obama's BRAIN (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies) Initiative (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/share/brain-initiative>), a new research effort to revolutionize our understanding of the human mind and uncover ways to treat, prevent and cure brain disorders. NIH is seeking exceptionally creative approaches to address major challenges associated with recording and manipulating neural activity for this endeavor.

The agency announced its first wave of investments totaling \$46 million in FY14 funds to support the BRAIN

(See BRAIN, page 9)

Four Running for Dublin Mayor

Four are seeking the Dublin mayoral seat, which will be open with the incumbent Mayor Tim Sbranti reaching term limits.

The candidates are Councilmembers Kevin Hart and David Haubert, former Councilmember Kasie Hildenbrand, and Shawn Costello.

In interviews with the candidates, The Independent asked if they were satisfied with Dublin growth so far, what needs

to be done to complete the city, and whether the candidates like the reduction of densities that have been occurring in East Dublin development approvals.

Tied in with that downsizing of East Dublin densities has been the shift of unbuild East Dublin units to the Downtown Specific Plan, in order to meet Dublin's state-mandated fair-share housing requirement. The council added 1200 units

(See MAYOR, page 8)

Candidates Discuss Congressional Issues

15th Congressional District incumbent Democrat Eric Swalwell faces Republican Hugh Bussell on the Nov. 4, 2014 ballot. Bussell narrowly defeated Demo-

cratic state Senate Majority Leader Ellen Corbett in the top-two primary election in June to qualify for the ballot.

The Independent interviewed both candidates,

asking them for whatever personal information they wanted to provide. They were asked their opinions of President Obama's an-

(See CONGRESS, page 9)

LVPAC Nears Fund-raising Goal

Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center (LVPAC) is close to reaching its goal of raising the funds required to meet its share of an agreement that

will keep the Bankhead Theater open.

The agreement involves the City of Livermore, Alameda County and the Bank of New York Mellon. Each

will contribute toward paying down the LVPAC construction debt.

Denise Watkins, LVPAC vice president, reports that

(See LVPAC, page 9)

County Measure BB Would Raise Funds for Transportation Projects

Measure BB on the November 4, 2014 ballot asks Alameda County residents to increase and extend a sales tax that would raise \$7.8 billion to fund transportation projects in the county.

The current half-cent sales tax is set to expire in March 2022. If Measure BB were approved by a two-thirds majority in November, the sales tax would

increase from a half cent to one cent through March 31, 2045.

The money raised through measure BB can only be spent in Alameda County.

As part of the measure, a Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP) has been developed listing how the tax proceeds would be spent. According to the plan, 48 percent of the tax proceeds

will fund BART, bus, senior and youth transit; 30 percent would go towards improvements to local streets and roads; 9 percent will go to highways in the county; 8 percent is earmarked for local bicycle and pedestrian paths and safety; 4 percent would fund community development investments and 1 percent would go to technology to manage transpor-

(See MEASURE BB, page 6)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Three generations from one family Alli and Izzy Kuntz and Susan Daniele placed their work on one of the trees. Devona Brazier also helped create the work, which depicts a fall landscape. For the story, go to page 12.

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PET OF THE WEEK

A rare find! Sweet and gentle, two-year-old mother Pearl is a petite polydactyl with lobster-claw paws who loves belly rubs. Don't be shellfish – open up your heart to Pearl! Dive in to Valley Humane Society today: 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm. For more info visit valleyhumane.org or call (925) 426-8656.

Bay Area Cyclists Ride to Combat Senior Hunger

On October 18th, 1,200 riders from every reach of the Bay Area and beyond will come together to cycle in the fight against senior hunger.

The Wheels for Meals Ride is for anyone looking to get some exercise, fresh air, and help feed the elderly homebound throughout Alameda County. This ride caters to all, with a 15 mile ride, great for families and beginners, a 35 mile ride, for those who are looking for more of a challenge, and a 70 mile, perfect as an end of season ride for the serious cyclist.

Out on the course, riders will cruise through autumn vineyards and stop off for

hydration and fun at various themed rest stops staffed by the Meals on Wheels programs. As the cyclists pass under the towering finish line and arrive back to Shadow Cliffs Park, a post ride BBQ, with a live band, games, massage, and refreshments await.

The Wheels for Meals Ride fundraiser addresses an epidemic. One in 7 seniors, more than 9.3 million nationwide, faces the threat of hunger and does not know where their next meal will come from. Whether a senior in need, a family member, or a cyclist in the Wheels for Meals Ride, most all can relate to the growing need for sustenance, companion-

ship and a sense of safety as we age.

This year's "Why I Ride" campaign brings awareness to the cause. For many of our cyclists, the Wheels for Meals Ride is personal. It is a way to say thank you and an opportunity to be immersed in a community collectively working to end senior hunger.

When registrants were asked why they ride, the responses hit close to home for many. "For my momma," said one rider. "Meals on Wheels provided meals to both my mom and my father-in-law before they passed away, allowing them to continue living in their homes as they became more frail,"

shared another cyclist.

Each Meals on Wheels meal costs about \$7.00 to prepare and deliver, but funding levels leave a deficit of \$2.25 per meal. As food

and transportation costs continue to rise along with the senior population, the deficit is rising too. You can help bridge the gap and feed homebound seniors in

need. Register now at www.wheelsformealsride.com. Registration ends at 12pm on October 17th or when we reach our maximum registration of 1,200 riders.

Tickets Available for Halloween Brew Crawl

The Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA) will host the fourth annual Halloween Brew Crawl in Downtown Pleasanton on Saturday, October 25 from 5-8 p.m. Downtown merchants and local breweries will come together for a night of adult trick-or-treating. Participants will sample a variety of craft beer and tasty bites at more than 30 locations on and around Main Street. To add to the festive Halloween spirit of this event, guests are encouraged to wear costumes.

Each participant receives beer tastings and tasty bites at more than 30 downtown locations, a commemorative beer glass and tasting map. Presale tickets are available for \$35 online as well as at Redcoats Pub - 336 St. Mary Street and Studio Seven Arts - 400 Main Street. On Friday, October 17, ticket prices will be raised to \$40. Tickets can be redeemed on October 25th from 4:30-7 p.m. at the starting location, Firehouse Arts Center located at 4444 Railroad Avenue. If the event is not sold out, tickets will be available for \$45 cash only the day of the event at the starting location.

Participating breweries include 21st Amendment Brewery, Altamont Beer Works, Deschutes Brewery, Drake's Brewing, E.J. Phair Brewing Company, Eight Bridges Brewing, Gordon Biersch Brewing Company, Handles Crafted Brews, Karl Strauss Brewing Company, Lagunitas Brewing Company, Lost Coast Brewery, Main Street Brewery, Mendocino Brewing Co., MillerCoors, Sourced Brewing Company, Schubros Brewery, The Mead Kitchen, Working Man Brewing Company and more.

The Pleasanton Downtown Association encourages everyone to enjoy downtown responsibly. To support this effort the PDA will be selling a limited number of designated driver tickets for \$10 on the night of the Brew Crawl. This event is proudly sponsored by Goodguys Rod & Custom Association, DeSoto Cab Company, and Ruby Hill Golf Club.

Event is rain or shine, no refunds. More information about the Pleasanton Downtown Association is available at (925) 484-2199 or www.pleasantondowntown.net.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
The Altamont Cruisers held the 25th Silver Anniversary Nostalgia Day Car show in downtown Livermore on Sunday. Funds raised from the show go towards helping local charities. Visitors viewed a variety of hot rods, street rods, and custom cars parked on First Street.

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"End Alzheimer's" Yard Sale & Bake Sale



**Saturday,
October 11th
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Election News

A forum featuring candidates for the 16th Assembly District will be held starting at 7:45 a.m. on Fri., Oct. 17 at the Doubletree by Hilton Pleasanton at the Club.

Catharine Baker (R) and Tim Sbranti (D) are seeking the seat currently held by Joan Buchanan, who reached term limits. They were the top two finishers in the June primary.

The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce will host the forum. The \$20 admission includes breakfast. The DoubleTree by Hilton is located at 7050 Johnson Drive.

For information, go to www.pleasanton.org.

Deacon Dave has endorsed Chung Bothwell for the Livermore City Council. Deacon Dave's house (The Dove House) is a major attraction each Christmas.

Water Meeting

Alameda County Water Agency Region 5 is hosting a program with the theme of outside-the-box approaches to watershed sustainability in the Tri-Valley.

The program will begin on Sunday, October 19 with a tour of the Del Valle Pumping Plant and Dam, followed by a program and networking opportunity at Las Positas Vineyards. On Monday, October 20, attendees will gather for a program at the Martinelli Center where they will hear regional insights on imported water, aquifer management, flood control, conservation, and water recycling.

Learn more at www.acwa.com/ACWARegion5

New Look to Website

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board approved entering into an agreement with Active Network for new recreation management software.

LARPD has used recreation management software for class registration, facility reservations and activities since

2000. In 2011, LARPD selected a new registration and reservation software, eTrak-plus. Over the last three years, it was determined the new software did not meet the District's needs as anticipated, despite the District's and the software company's best efforts.

In March 2014, LARPD sent out a Request for Proposal for recreation management software and received three responses. Active Network was determined to meet the District's needs best, as well as to have the most reasonable start-up costs at \$16,800.

Also during the meeting, the board authorized the General Manager to submit a grant application to complete the trail system and improvements in upper Sycamore Grove Park. With enactment of the California Wildlife Protection Act, annual funding is available from the State of California under the Habitat Conservation Fund Program for competitive grants to local agencies to develop facilities for public recreation as well as fish and wildlife habitat protection. The grant application LARPD will submit is for the construction of two natural surface loop trails, all-weather gravel-paved access roads and interpretive and panoramic view panels at the Vista Point.

Notification of grant awards will be sent out prior to July 1, 2015, which would mark the start of a grant performance period which would have to be completed within five years.

Corrections

Information about Pleasanton school board candidate Paige Wright was incorrect. She has not lived in Walnut Creek.

Remarks by Wright about Common Core were incorrectly represented. She did not state that students are expected to demonstrate four ways to solve a math problem. She told The Independent that she believes that there has been some confusion with the implementation of Common Core that has resulted in students being expected to solve a problem in multiple different ways, even when they correctly understand one approach.

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FAMILY PRACTICE

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John Louie, M.D.
Shazia K. Mughal, M.D.
Maliha Qadir, M.D.
Manisha Shingate, M.D.
Sanie Zehra, M.D.

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Michael R. Alper, M.D.
Nikhil M. Apte, M.D.
Vandana Boparai, M.D.
David Z. Chee, M.D.
Samata Kanagala, M.D.
Anthony Koh, M.D.
Stanley Ng, M.D.
Jyothi Ratti, M.D.
Marilena Sandru, M.D.
Robert T. Santos, M.D.
Betty M. Tam, M.D.
Deanna Ward, M.D.
Jerry Yen, M.D.

OB/GYN*

Scott Eaton, M.D.
William H. Phillips, M.D.
Jennifer Salata, M.D.
Gabrielle S. Schaefer, M.D.
Rebecca Stone, M.D.

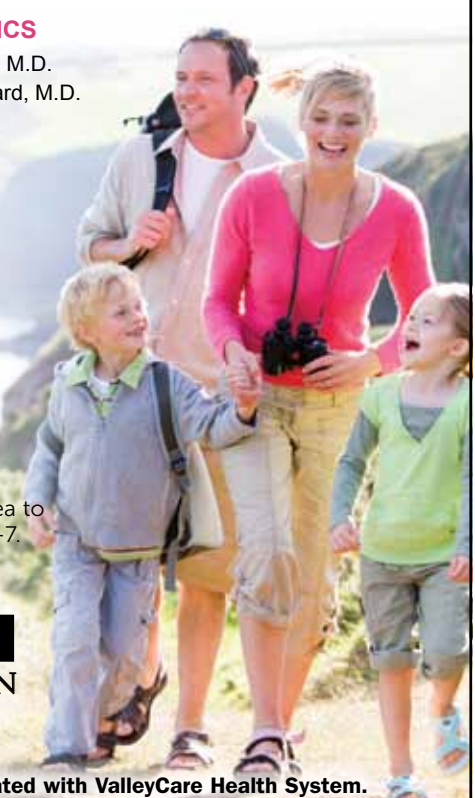
PEDIATRICS

Yatin Shah, M.D.
Deanna Ward, M.D.

*ValleyCare is the only hospital in the area to offer a highly skilled OB/GYN onsite 24-7.



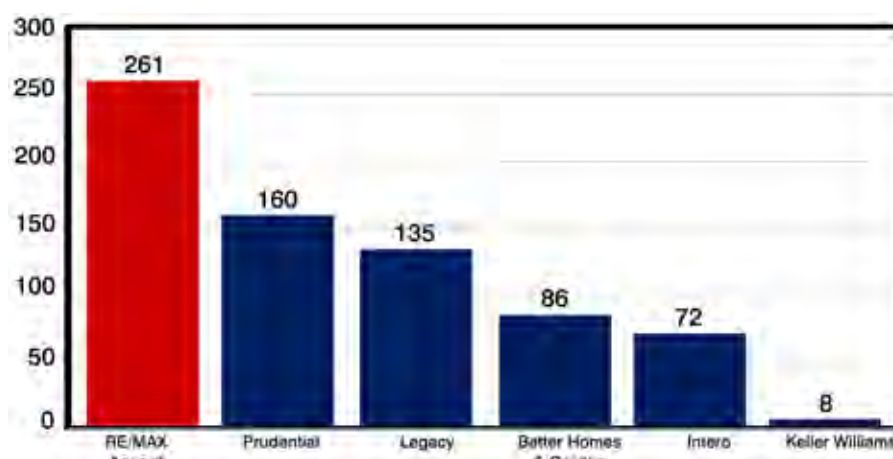
ValleyCare Medical Foundation is affiliated with ValleyCare Health System.



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EDITORIALS

Measure BB - YES

We urge voters to support Measure BB on the November 4, 2014 ballot.

The measure asks Alameda County residents to increase and extend a sales tax that would raise \$7.8 billion to fund transportation projects in the county. A two-thirds majority in November would be required to increase the sales tax from a half cent to one cent through March 31, 2045. The funds can only be spent in Alameda County on projects listed on the Transportation Expenditure Plan (TEP).

Those opposed to the Measure claim that money collected has not improved the traffic situation. Traffic would have been much worse without the following major projects that have received funding from the current Measure B: I-580 eastbound high occupancy vehicle lanes, auxiliary lanes on I-580; widening a portion of State Route 84, Vasco Road safety improvements, and the Rapid Bus. Under construction are westbound high occupancy vehicle lanes.

The TEP identifies specific projects that will all benefit local residents including the following: \$48 million for improvements to the interchanges at 580/680, Vasco Road, Isabel Avenue and Greenville Avenue; \$122 million to widen Highway 84; along with \$60 million for high occupancy and a toll lane on I-680 from SR-234 to Alcosta Blvd. There is \$400 million identified for a BART extension to Livermore. LAVTA would receive \$39 million for Wheels operations that include paratransit.

No one likes to pay taxes. However, we are willing to vote to tax ourselves when the request is deemed reasonable. Measure BB funding will make it easier for people to travel to and from destinations. It would do so by providing funding for transit, highway improvements, local street maintenance and repair, as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, such as trails. We believe the request to raise money to pay for this much needed infrastructure is indeed reasonable. Therefore, we recommend a "yes" vote on Measure BB.

Pleasanton City Council: Olivia Sanwong and George Bowen

Four candidates are in the running for two seats on the Pleasanton City Council. They include incumbent Kathy Narum, and George Bowen, Arne Olson and Olivia Sanwong.

The Independent recommends Olivia Sanwong and George Bowen. Both support providing affordable housing, protecting the urban growth boundary, and making sure infrastructure is in place for additional growth.

Sanwong would bring an interesting mix of skills and experiences to the council.

She says that issues such as water, schools, traffic, public safety services and city services in general should be part of a conversation when planning for growth. She supports Measure BB, the sales tax on the November ballot, as a way to obtain money for transportation that will help the local community. She grew up in Pleasanton and went through its school systems, so has a strong interest in working with the district to enhance education.

We do disagree with her on one issue, continuing to plan the eastside.

Sanwong serves as chairwoman of the city's Economic Vitality Committee. As such, she has expressed a strong interest in promoting Pleasanton as the place for businesses. She would look at policies and fees that impact businesses.

Bowen has expressed a desire to assess the impact of housing already approved before moving forward with plans for additional growth. He believes that any growth should occur in the spirit of the housing cap, slow and well planned. He is concerned about the availability of infrastructure such as water and schools.

Bowen supports construction of affordable housing, for both the aging population and younger people entering the workforce. He says that developers should be required to build more inclusionary housing and that transit oriented development is important. He personally does not support Measure BB, but has no problem with it if it were approved.

Bowen has a strong background in community involvement ranging from founding Impact Teen Drivers, now a national model, to organizing a concert for Wounded Warriors.

For their commitment to the quality of life in Pleasanton, we recommend George Bowen and Olivia Sanwong for city council.

Livermore School Board: Craig Bueno, Anne White, Belia Martinez

Of the five candidates running for three four-year terms on the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District Board of Education, we believe Craig Bueno, Anne White and Belia Martinez are the best choices. They would bring a diversity of backgrounds and interests to the board.

All three would focus on enhancing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education; implementing Common Core standards in the way that best fits the district and its students; and working with the community and local businesses to form partnerships to fill in funding gaps.

All three believe that programs should be provided for students who plan to go to college and for those who plan to enter the workforce after high school. Similar skills are needed in both cases. White points out, "Whether or not a student plans to go on to college, they should be prepared to do so. Similar skills are needed in college, as well as in the workforce. If students decide to go to college, instruction in K-12 should minimize the need for remedial math and English instruction. Sending students unprepared is a disservice to the students."

Craig Bueno worked as a professional firefighter for 28 years, retiring as Fire Chief of the Hayward Fire Department. As such, he would bring management skills and an understanding of what is needed to succeed in the workplace. His involvement with schools includes helping out at school sites for twenty years, coaching numerous youth sports and co-chairing the recent Measure G campaign. Among other things, if elected he would work to find scholarships so kids could go to college.

Anne White was first elected to the board in 1990. She brings an enthusiasm for the job, noting that as a board member there is a glorious opportunity to implement Common Core. She has been involved in education at the state level in selecting text books.

Belia Martinez previously served on the school board. She is a U.S. Army veteran. Her two children attend an elementary school in the district. She has worked managing a youth employment program that aids at-risk youth in obtaining employment and ensuring that they graduate from high school.

While they agree on many of the objectives to enhance education, they will each bring different perspectives to the task. Craig Bueno, Anne White and Belia Martinez are the three best candidates for the Livermore Board of Education.

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.)

Election David Williams Livermore

Thank you for informing Livermore's voters of the positions of the 4 candidates for the 2 council seats. Please print their campaign contributions as they are required to report them.

Our city doesn't need any more wasteful special interest projects. Fortunately the citizens prevailed over our Councils on the unhealthy 24/7 corporate jetport that would have reduced home values, over BART maybe in another 51 extra tax years, and the premature regional theater.

If you drive to nearby Sunol you'll see that its grateful citizens erected a statue of their late great Mayor Bosco in front of their US Post Office. During his 13 year tenure there were no wasteful special interest projects.

Thorne for Mayor Howard G. Seebach Pleasanton

I recommend Jerry Thorne be re elected Mayor of Pleasanton this November. His first term of office has seen stability, sound economic growth and the maintenance of our "small town" reputation and image.

Recent national magazine articles have confirmed Pleasanton's reputation as one of the best cities in which to live. Jerry's leadership has forged this continued reputation.

Jerry's leadership promotes our city's fine self management rather than excessive state interference.

His previous corporate work experience only helps his public service as our mayor.

Please vote for Jerry Thorne.

On One Issue Robert S. Allen Livermore

Neel Kashkari, running for Governor, calls it the "crazy train." Governor Brown, his cabinet, and the Democrat-dominated Legislature are boosting our gasoline taxes come January to help pay the huge cost.

I didn't vote for Kashkari in the Primary, but the way High Speed Rail is being planned, he's right. It's far from the "safe, reliable" high speed passenger train of 2008 Prop 1A. HSR needs a secure, (fenced, grade separated) right of way, and the Caltrain line they're pushing to use ain't that!

On this issue alone, Kashkari and most Republicans deserve our vote in November.

Thank You Lauren Doko Livermore

Thank you to Robert Voellinger at Orchard Supply Hardware for coordinating donations to Sunset Elementary School! Our Kindergarten staff and children are grateful for our playground's new umbrellas and stands, which provide much needed shade. We very much appreciate your support of our school. Thank you for making

our campus a better place for our children.

Bothwell for Council John Stein Livermore

I would urge you to join me in voting for Chung Bothwell for Livermore's City Council.

Chung has lived in Livermore for over 30 years and is active in many community organizations. She works as a financial analyst at LLNL and has both an MBA and Law degrees.

I have worked with Chung on the board of UNCLE Credit Union for many years and know that she has the temperament and skills that make an outstanding Councilmember. She is hard working and focused on long term planning. She listens to all points of view and tries to build a consensus that meets the goals of all concerned. She is passionate about Livermore and dedicated to meeting people's needs. Her legal and financial background give her the background to understand and implement Livermore's budget and General Plan.

Chung supports preserving open space and the scenic corridor. Chung wants to maintain Livermore's small town character and your quality of life. She will work to bring BART to Livermore on I 580 and ease traffic congestion downtown and on major freeways. Finally, she is focused on getting Livermore on a path that provides jobs and sustainable growth to insure our community's long-term financial security.

On November 4th please cast your vote for Chung Bothwell for a more diverse and responsive City Council and a better Livermore.

ValleyCare Merger Randall Frost Pleasanton

Stanford Hospital and ValleyCare Health System (VCHS) recently signed a nonbinding letter of intent to merge. While, at first glance, this might look to be great news for members of the Pleasanton and Livermore communities, the devil is in the details.

First, the medical treatment model used by Stanford is probably not suitable for most residents of the

TriValley. Patients have been harmed, for example, in Stanford's clinical trials when they would probably not have been in more routine approaches to treatment (see, for example, <http://www.sfgate.com/health/article/Stanford-Surgeon-s-Procedures-Raise-Ethical-and-3240298.php>.)

Second, Stanford already has a reputation for gutting another partner (UC San Francisco, which lost its emergency room at Mt. Zion Hospital) and then walking away from that merger when it became obvious that it was not working out (see, for example, <http://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/stories/2000/04/24/focus4.html?page=all>).

While VCHS has recorded operating losses over the past few years, reportedly losing \$5.1 million in 2013 alone, and creative solutions to this problem are definitely in order, merging with Stanford Hospital is hardly the best option for TriValley residents.

League Positions Barbara Hempill, Member Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters California (LWVC) supports Proposition 2, the measure to strengthen the State Rainy Day Fund (reserve) process.

However, LWVC opposes the Water Bond, Proposition 43, as it currently appears on the ballot.

LWVC supports Proposition 47 because the League believes that alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.

The LWVC has not taken a position on the other propositions on the ballot because it has not studied the issues.

A Thank You Jim DeMersman Executive Director Museum on Main

This past Saturday evening, the Museum on Main held their major fall fundraiser, A Taste of the West: A Wild West Evening. The Board of Directors, or Special Events Committee and

staff of the Museum would like to thank all who made the evening a huge success with the largest crowd ever to celebrate the Museum and its work in the community.

We were honored to have as part of the crowd that evening, the Sister City delegation from Tulancingo, Mexico who has been visiting Pleasanton this past week. Many members of the local host committee in Pleasanton were also in attendance and we are thankful for being included in the itinerary for the week. The Mexican contingent actually had costumes made for this particular party and it added greatly to the evening.

We would also like to thank the Pleasanton Lions Club for doing an excellent job in providing the "gambling" portion of the evening. Brent Schwager and the staff at Handles Gastropub was nothing simply short of amazing in providing a fantastic venue, great food and hospitality. Extended Roots, a local bluegrass/folk band, provided the perfect music accompaniment in creating an ambiance for the evening with their awesome musical sound.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the merchants and services throughout Pleasanton and Livermore that provided items for our silent and live auctions. Your donation was a gift to us that helped us to raise a considerable amount of money for the Museum's programs. We are extremely grateful for the continuing growing support of the Museum on Main.

Re-elect Wieskamp Don Biddle

City of Dublin, Vice Mayor Ayn Wieskamp is running for re-election to the East Bay Regional Park Board. I encourage everyone to vote for her on November 4. She has proven to be a good representative for the cities in the Tri-Valley.

Dublin now has the Dublin Hills Regional Park in the western hills at Donlon Point. She understands the importance of keeping Doolan Canyon from being developed. Recently, the Iron Horse Trail was extended from the Dublin BART Station to Santa Rita Road benefiting Dublin residents.

Her experience and knowledge of what the community wants is invaluable. Vote for Ayn Wieskamp so she can continue to represent us.

Best Candidates Jean King Livermore

Bob Woerner and Steven Spedowski are the best candidates for Livermore City Council.

They support the preservation of the valley open space, continued vitalization of Livermore downtown, improving traffic and parking conditions and solutions to our drought problems.

Their experience will enable them to continue the work they have already done for Livermore. Bob Woerner served on the City Planning Commission before he served on the City Council since 2011 including presently being Vice Mayor. Steven Spedowski served on the City Beautification Committee before serving on the City Planning Commission including being Chair.

Please vote November 4 for Livermore City Council Bob Woerner and Steven Spedowski.

No on Measure BB Rajinder Ghatoora Pleasanton

We got tricked by the Alameda County at the last elections to pay Sales tax increase. Now they are back again asking for another 1% Sales Tax increase for 30 years while the existing increase in tax has still 8 years to run? You cannot trust such skullduggery. They think people will not notice and make claims like money for BART to Livermore etc.

People in the Valley have been paying for BART for ages and we should not be paying any more. We need to ask BART to, "Show me the money."

Further, CA has the highest tax and sales tax in the nation. The Department of Equalization increased the gas tax by 3.5 cents a gallon without reason and now we have the highest gas tax in the nation. The Governor also increased the sales tax in the last election and billions of dollars are coming into

(More MAILBOX, page 9)

THE *Independent*

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Zone 7 Board Endorses Water Bond

Zone 7 Water Agency directors unanimously endorsed Proposition 1, the \$7.5 billion water bond, which will be on the Nov. 4, 2014 ballot.

The board voted its support at its Sept. 17 meeting. If passed, the bond would support the state's Water Action Plan, which includes money for sustainable groundwater storage projects and sustainable management, water recycling, water conservation, and watershed protection.

None of the bond money would go toward financing the controversial twin tunnels infrastructure that Gov. Jerry Brown is advocating as a Delta water bypass.

On a related item, general manager Jill Duerig told the board that recent groundwater governance legislation passed by the Legislature and signed by Brown mentions Zone 7 as an example of good groundwater management practices. Zone 7 shares the honors with 15 or 20 other agencies in the state.

Zone 7's policies are designed to maintain a prudent level of water in the groundwater basin. With the cooperation of the Valley water

retailers' water conservation efforts with customers, the agency has been able to minimize the draw on its reserves in this drought year.

The board also agreed to financial terms for a renewal of its participation in the State Water Project, which is the source for 80 percent of the wholesaler's water. Zone 7 is one of 29 state water contractors that negotiate as one with the Department of Water Resources to fulfill the State Water Project's commitments.

The agreement approved by the board spells out only financial arrangements, which basically iron out what could have turned out to be a very high payment on the current contract in 2035. The agreement will extend payments so that each payment won't cost as much.

Directors also approved a Tri-Valley Reciprocal Agreement designed to save duplication of costs by agreement signatories for certain expenditures.

In addition, the board voted 6-1 to continue to sell water to livestock ranchers whose water supplies have dried up. Zone 7 and other

water agencies, and in the Bay Area, as well as cities, have been encouraged by Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty to provide the water on an emergency basis. The board will look at the policy again in a few months, to see what the drought situation and water supply prediction will be next year.

Director Angela Ramirez-Holmes voted against the livestock policy. She said there should not be any water sold to water users who live outside the Zone 7 service area. She referred to an Independent story in which an area rancher in the Altamont was buying water at the Zone 7 Patterson Pass plant, and trucking it 20 miles to Contra Costa County.

The rancher, Darrel Sweet, has a one-year lease on the Contra Costa pasture, which is approximately 325 acres. The pasture owner needed the grass mowed. Sweet, like most ranchers in the Valley, needs to find grass during the drought.

Although Sweet lives nearby, Ramirez-Holmes'

concern was that ranchers from outside the Zone 7 service area anywhere could come in and fill up trucks. Director Jim McGrail also was concerned about the same issue, but he voted with the majority, since directors agreed to discuss it further when the board takes up the topic again.

Board president John Greci said that this is a time of need for area ranchers. Livestock need water, and the humanitarian thing to do is to provide it. Similar comments came from other directors.

General manager Jill Duerig said that the water sold to livestock operators so far during the drought has been tiny in comparison with how much has been saved. There have been 10 or 20 acre feet sold, and 31,000 acre feet conserved.

In a notice sent to newspapers, Zone 7 reminded residents that sprinkler timers should be set to run a maximum one day a week during October and November. They should be completely shut off December through March.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Dogs of all sizes and shapes took time out from the busy schedules to take part in Valley Humane Society's 4th annual Paws in the Park. The dog walk and animal festival, held in Pleasanton, benefits animal rescue and community programs.

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- ✓ A successful businessman

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- ✓ Leadership as Board President
- ✓ That he is a champion for struggling students

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THIS WEEK, DO I HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH?

We've begun a look at 'The 10 Commandments lived out in Matthew's Gospel'. Over nine Sundays (9th & 10th Comm. together) we'll see how the commandments came into play in Jesus' ministry, and their place in our lives.

- **October 12 - Our 14th Anniversary Service** with a special service and social.
- **October 26 - Favorite Hymn Festival.** People vote for their all-time favorite hymns and the top eight are featured, along with background material on each.
- **Nov. 9 - Our Harvest Celebration.** Games for the kids, a cook-out and block party remind us of all the blessings God gives to us. All are welcome!

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October 2014

Community Health Education Programs

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

Women's Health

Dublin Center
4050 Dublin Blvd.
Dublin
(925) 875-6464

Oct. 14, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Megan Beatty, M.D., Nicole A. Jeffrey-Starr, M.D., Michelle Oliveira, M.D.
PAMF Obstetrics & Gynecology

Join us to learn more about three important women's health topics: breast health, menorrhagia (heavy menstrual bleeding) and menopause. Learn the latest on screening, diagnosis and treatment options.

Dublin Center
4050 Dublin Blvd.
Dublin
(925) 875-6429

A Mother's Place: Postpartum Support Group

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



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

Childbirth and Parent Education Classes (650) 853-2960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breastfeeding Your Newborn • Childbirth Preparation
Nutrition and Diabetes Classes (510) 498-2184	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Well with Diabetes
Weight Management Programs (510) 498-2184	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bariatric Surgery Information Sessions (Dublin) • New Weigh of Life (adult weight management)

Palo Alto Medical Foundation Sutter Health
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pamf.org/education

Gas from Trash Converted to Energy

Republic Services, Inc. unveiled its latest Landfill Gas-To-Energy (LGTE) projects involving its Forward and Vasco Road Landfills, both located in the Bay Area. The combined projects will generate 8.6 megawatts of energy for the local electric grid, or enough energy to power more than 5,100 area homes annually.

Landfill gas is a natural byproduct of decomposing waste. These projects involve extracting gas from within each landfill, processing the extracted gas, and then distributing the processed gas to a generator where it is converted into energy that supplies the local electric grid.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), LGTE projects reduce reliance on non-renewable energy resources, such as coal or petroleum. The EPA estimates that 8.6 megawatts of energy produced from landfill gas is equivalent to removing carbon emissions from 47.6 million gallons of gasoline consumed.

Rick King, general manager of Republic Services' Vasco Road Landfill, stated, "This is the 72nd project of this nature opened around



Scott Haggerty, Vice President Alameda County Board of Supervisors, at the podium.

the country. We are committed to developing innovative uses with our partners for the landfill gas – it is a resource, so nothing goes to waste."

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty stated, "Few understand the complexity of such an operation and its relationship to the environment. Alameda County appreciates the proactive approach which Republic Services employs as it carries out its responsibilities to its customers,

the communities in which it serves, and its stewardship of the environment and doing this in a way that ensures the economic viability of the company – a win-win all the way around."

"I am proud that the Alameda County organization is also a leader in sustainability, a leading steward of the environment," added Haggerty. "Our county is a designated 'Cool County' one of the first in the U.S. to officially commit to im-

plementing sustainability practices within its own operations. Thanks to the planning, investment and collaboration between partners like Ameresco and Republic Services, our county just took another leap forward on our goals for sustainability and environmental stewardship."

"It's not just words. It's action that we are taking on behalf of a better California," added Haggerty. "We're excited to be here to

see this facility come online. It strengthens our resolve to see this project go from drawing board to reality. With projects like this we can all get excited about our future and take pride in the fact that here in Alameda County, we are a beacon for environmental stewardship."

Haggerty noted that landfill gas to energy technology represents a growing percentage of clean, renewable power in the State of California. "It's a homegrown resource, a stable and constant form of energy that we can depend on."

Republic Services partnered with Ameresco, Inc. on the design, development and management of the new projects. Republic Services and Ameresco have partnered on seven other projects nationwide, generating more than 65 megawatts of power.

Republic Services operates 72 LGTE projects nationwide. These projects harness enough electricity to meet the needs of 192,000 homes, or gas to heat another 201,000 homes. According to the EPA, the landfill gas that is captured and reused is equivalent to removing more than 4 million cars from the road or planting more than 4.5 million acres of trees.

MERGER

(continued from page one)

prised of eight members nominated by Stanford and three nominated and elected from among the ValleyCare board.

Local input in the new arrangement would come through the three ValleyCare board appointees. The appointees would have the responsibility of monitoring Stanford's actions.

VCHS board president John Sensiba said he already has been hearing feedback from corporate members who have received their ballots. Everyone has been very positive and complimentary.

"Some corporate members would like to see local control retained forever, but that didn't seem the best way," said Sensiba. ValleyCare needed the financial anchor provided by Stanford to continue its mission, he said.

ValleyCare officials are also enthused about affiliating with Stanford, whose medical reputation "is one of the best on the planet," because of its medical research, said Gregerson.

Sensiba had special praise for Gregerson, who was hired in 2011 to help turn around the hospital's finances.

The new agreement gives Stanford hiring and firing power over ValleyCare administration, so Gregerson was putting his job in possible future vulnerability by working out the agreement, said Sensiba.

"Scott has taken on this role in an uncertain time. I have great admiration for what he did. He put his own role in jeopardy, and risked his professional career to help with the merger."

Gregerson said that he was honored by Sensiba's compliment. He said he did not want to get in the community's way of exploring the best solution for the hospital's future.

The board made the decision to proceed with the merger, after consulting with an expert who explored various potential institutional partnerships. VCHS has been facing increased competition from other health care systems moving into the Valley, including Palo Alto Medical Center in Dublin and John Muir in Pleasanton.

Ballots from corporate membership will go directly to an auditor. They are due by Nov. 14. If the auditor's tally finds a majority "yes" vote, the next step will be the need to gain the approval of the state attorney general. The attorney general's office would have 135 days to rule on the agreement.

MEASURE BB

(continued from page one)

tation systems.

An independent Watchdog Committee would be created to review and oversee all expenditures. The committee would report directly to the public on an annual basis.

For local 580 highway improvement projects, \$48 million will be allocated for improvements to the interchanges at 580/680, Vasco Road, Isabel Avenue and Greenville Avenue; \$122 million for widening Highway 84; along with \$60 million for high occupancy and a toll lane on I-680 from SR-234 to Alcosta Blvd. There is \$400 million identified for a BART extension to Livermore. LAVTA would receive \$39 million for Wheels operations. Projects such as El Charro Road improvements, Dougherty Road, Dublin Boulevard and Greenville Road widening and Bernal Bridge are listed, but do not include a number.

Arguments for and against the measure raise differing issues.

Signing the argument in favor of Measure BB are Sylvia J. Stadmir, Senior Advocate United Seniors of Alameda County; Janet Kathleen Quick, Convener - Alameda County Council of the Leagues of Women Voters; Barbara A.

Price, President, Alameda County Taxpayers Association; James Earp, Executive Director, California Alliance for Jobs; and Scott Haggerty, Chair, Alameda County Transportation Commission and an Alameda County Supervisor.

They point out that four years of careful planning in collaboration with seniors, business and community leaders, environmentalists, transit activities and taxpayer advocates went into the TEP. Funds would expand BART, keep fares affordable, fix roads, reduce traffic congestion and provide good transportation for county residents. It would create jobs and grow the local economy. A recent study by the Bay Area Economic Council found that Measure BB would create 150,000 jobs and provide nearly \$20 billion in economic investment in the county.

Those in favor also note that every city council in the county voted to support Measure BB.

Those opposed to Measure BB include Bob Feinbaum, Co-Founder Bay Area Transportation Working Group; Gerald Caution, Treasurer - TRANSDEF; Sherman Lewis, former BART Director; Douglas L. Mann, Pleasanton business owner; and Paul D. Cum-

mings, Jr., Oakland-Based Association Executive.

They argue that approving the measure would saddle Alameda County's struggling middle class, seniors, poor and small businesses with the highest county sales tax in California. Yet, if approved, the measure would buy nothing but a \$7.8 billion mixed bag of unrelated projects. Despite the billions of transportation dollars spent in Alameda County over the past 25 years, not much has changed for the better. On the contrary, during this period, public transit use has declined and traffic congestion has gotten worse. If approved, Measure BB would bring more of the same.

For example, the measure would allocate \$400 million toward a \$1.2 billion BART extension to Livermore. This is plainly not a prudent use of tax dollars. There are far more cost-effective ways of providing excellent transit service to the County's outlying communities. They said voters should reject the measure and ask for a plan that increases transportation choices while reducing our carbon footprint and doesn't squander money on another low-ridership, high-cost BART extension. "This plan costs too much, does too

little and hurts too many."

Those signing the rebuttal to the argument in favor are Thomas A. Rubin, CPA, Transportation Consultant, Former AC Transit CFO; Suzanne Carol, Chairman Alameda County Republican Party; Mary B. Steel, president, Citizens Alliance for Property Rights SF Bay Chapter; Kay Ayala, former Pleasanton City Councilmember; David Miller, Chairman, Alameda County Taxpayer Coalition and a Pleasanton resident.

They ask have the billions of tax dollars already spent on Alameda County transportation resulted in fewer freeway backups? Are city streets smoother and less congested bus and BART improved?

The claimed average of 5,000 jobs/year are largely temporary or part-time. The "watchdog" committee will be comprised of favored stakeholders and Measure BB supporters. That's political payback, not independence, transparency or accountability.

"We have eight more years to get this right. Send this failed plan back to the drawing board."

Those signing the rebuttal to the arguments against include Janet Kathleen Quick, convener, Alameda County

Council of the Leagues of Women Voters; Abel Guillen, board member, League of Conservation Voters of the East Bay; Bill Harrison, Fremont mayor; Keith Carson, chair, East Bay Economic Development Alliance and President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors; and YuTing (Elizabeth) Lam, the Sierra Club.

They say that the opponents miss the point. "They seek to confuse voters with false information and fail to mention a four-year detailed planning process."

Among those who support the measure, because it will slow the increase in vehicle miles traveled are the Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters, Transform, Bike East Bay, and many others. The United Seniors of Alameda County have endorsed the measure because it will expand service and keep transit affordable.

Those in favor of the measure state, "Nearly everyone who has studied this measure supports it. The measure will expand BART and transit, protect our seniors, disabled and young people, decrease traffic congestion, and generate 150,000 new Alameda County jobs."

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DUBLIN

(continued from page one)

office buildings, and what the candidate would do to bring more jobs to the city.

Another question concerned support for the council's recent action in banning transfers of funds from another election campaign to the local campaigns for council or mayor of more than \$500 from an individual donor. They were asked whether any other campaign reforms are needed.

Candidates were asked whether Dublin planning has been well-coordinated with the school expansions, and, if not, what should be done.

They could bring up other issues that were not in the interview, and were offered the chance to name up to five endorsers.

The candidates are listed alphabetically.

DON BIDDLE

Don Biddle has served on the city council for six years, after four years on the planning commission, and the school board for 12 years. He also works with Dublin Partners in Education and Dublin Integrity in Action.

As an engineer, Biddle worked in construction for more than 30 years. He is retired.

Biddle said that he is running again because he wants to keep progress going in Dublin. "We survived the economic downturn. Dublin was selected an All-American City in 2011. There is a challenge coming up. Tim (Sbranti) has been a great mayor. We will transfer to a new mayor, and I want to make that transition as smooth as possible."

Biddle opposes Measure T. The council adopted the rival "Open Space Initiative." Biddle said, "I think it accomplished what we wanted to do. The Open Space Initiative preserves Doolan Canyon, and establishes our relationship with Livermore. It defines our four borders, with the county line, Interstate 580, the open space initiative on the West Side, and now the one on the East Side," said Biddle.

Biddle is satisfied with development so far. "We have attracted quality developers in residential and commercial areas. We are working with Whole Foods and other commercial developers to try to balance residential with commercial."

The city needs to keep following the General Plan, and discuss the imbalance between commercial and residential. The city plan calls for levels of housing around the BART stations. "The city provides really good public service. We recently developed a committee for community social services. A lot of our (social services) grants have been coming through the county, but now that we are over 50,000 population, a lot of the grants will be coming to us, so we have to define how to structure the application process."

In general, Biddle supports the city's downward trend in densities, because it can provide housing for all income levels, and opportunities for open space. The council allocated 1200 units earlier this year to the Downtown Specific Plan, joining 1100 units already in the plan. Biddle was one of four council members to vote for the motion. "Mixed use development will help improve our downtown areas. The city is working on a plan to develop the old Crown Chevrolet site with commercial on the main floor, and residential on top and behind. Also, we will work with Eden Housing to build more than 70

units of veterans' housing.

"We are a city that believes in affordable housing. Developers provide 12.5 percent of their units as affordable, or pay into a fund. We also have a first-time homebuyers fund."

Biddle supports Measure BB. "It would provide funding for BART to Livermore, which will benefit Dublin." It will reduce westbound Dublin Boulevard traffic coming from Livermore. Measure BB would help pay for construction of road improvements, pathways and bike trails in Dublin.

Biddle is satisfied generally with the amount of land zoned for retail. A new committee will look at commercial zoning. "It's a matter of determining which areas are best. We don't need to rezone for commercial. We have enough of it."

Dublin could definitely use more office sites. There is more office zoning around the BART station.

Biddle voted for the rule that limits transfers of campaign funds of more than \$500 from any single contributor from one campaign to a local city council or mayoral campaign. "We have to look to continue to improve the ordinance. I'm afraid big money would get involved in local elections. Eventually, we may have to limit the amount of money that a candidate can raise and spend."

On the council's cooperation with schools, Biddle said, "We certainly have a good working relationship with the schools." School enrollment has been booming, which is not unusual in a growing community.

"The issue now is placing a state school construction bond on the ballot. We can lobby at the state level, and work with other Tri-Valley cities," added Biddle.

Biddle's endorsers include Congressman Eric Swalwell, Mayor Tim Sbranti, County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Assemblymember Joan Buchanan, and District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.

ABE GUPTA

Abe Gupta was appointed to the city council in 2013. He replaced Eric Swalwell after Swalwell resigned to take his seat in Congress.

Gupta was born and raised in the East Bay. "I'm a proud homeowner in East Dublin. I live with my fiancée and my dog." He was an undergraduate at Stanford in civil engineering, attended law school at University of San Francisco, and is a practicing attorney.

Gupta said that he is running to continue the work he began during the past year and one-half. "I wanted to join the council because I felt strongly about where residential growth was going, and about the needs related to schools, and preserving our canyons, hillsides and ridgelines."

"I've been proud of my work with public safety, developers and schools. We can serve development, continue to keep Dublin one of the safest cities in California, make sure our schools are the best in the state, and keep attracting residents who want to raise families, and put down roots."

Gupta does not support the "Let Dublin Decide Initiative" (Measure T on the November ballot). He pointed out that he and Sbranti wrote the ballot argument against it. "I oppose any kind of development in Doolan Canyon. I would like to see that land preserved for our children."

Past growth has been a mixed bag. Some of it was

not good from a transportation perspective, said Gupta. "A lot of work remains to be done to ensure that development projects provide the best possible bargain for the residents." That would include holding development to a very high standard in mitigating its impact on schools, roads, and services.

"I'm proud we held the line on the DiManto property. They wanted residential zoning, but the last thing we needed was houses at a location that is good for commercial. We made sure the land was zoned for shops and restaurants. I'm proud we were able to put in place an Urban Growth Line. The alternative was to lay out the red carpet for 2000 residential units in Doolan Canyon."

Gupta states that to complete Dublin's growth, "The city needs to work on modernizing our parks, and maintaining them. We need to make sure our schools have adequate capacity for our children. We need to support the (Measure BB) transportation measure, to make sure we can get from one end of Dublin to the other quickly."

"I supported measures that alleviate traffic congestion on Dublin Boulevard. I would support another connector within the city, which would have to be a new street." Gupta also backs extending Dublin Boulevard to Livermore's North Canyons Drive, to take pressure off I-580.

Gupta says that Dublin has done an amazing job providing social services. The Live Healthy Dublin program has been a success. Dublin receives an "A" from the American Lung Association for its focus on non-smoking programs. Dublin is also one of the safest cities in California.

Gupta does not agree with high density residential in the city's future. "We made it clear to developers we want them to make their projects less dense. I have clearly not been supportive of high density."

On senior and low-income housing, Gupta said, "We are blessed with a great housing stock. It is diverse. There are some individuals who need affordable housing. They can start there, and move up."

Gupta supports passage of Measure BB. The existing version has helped Dublin with Dougherty Road and fixing Dublin Boulevard.

On the sufficiency of amount of commercial land, Gupta said that in the past there were commercial areas that the council rezoned residential. "I oppose that. In the future, we must make sure we hold the line."

Dublin needs more offices to house tech entrepreneurship. There are significant pieces of land available. More companies are relocating, as has SAP. There will be more demand from start-ups that are looking for more economical office land and easy access to BART.

Gupta said he does not support residences higher than two stories. "It's important that Dublin retain its small-town charm. To me, it goes to height and density."

Gupta supports the council's action of banning campaign transfers above \$500 per individual donor from other campaigns to Dublin council campaigns. "As I said at the city council meeting, elections should be financed by people, not by corporations, and not by developers. There is something wrong if the code allows a handful of developers to donate thousands of dollars to a candidate."

Transparency is impor-

tant. "Every councilmember should disclose money from developers." Further, Gupta thinks the city is transparent. However, residents having to go to City Hall to look at the records is not the same as accessing the information on-line.

The council is cooperating well with the schools, and recently in a joint meeting discussed a swap in which the district would receive a free 99-year lease of a city park site to use for a school at Jordan Ranch. If the deal goes through, the city would build its park at another Jordan Ranch location.

On housing in the downtown, Gupta said that he does not support adding more. "However, we were obligated to meet statewide requirements. During that council vote, I voiced my disagreement about being told by the state that we had to create more housing. If and when those projects do come to the council, I would not be in favor of them," said Gupta.

Gupta said it is important to have business executives and CEOs meet with the mayor, and to tell them about Dublin, especially its sales tax incentives.

Gupta's endorsers include Mayor Tim Sbranti, the entire Dublin council, Sheriff Greg Ahern, the entire Dublin school board, and Congressman Eric Swalwell.

SUE WAKAMOTO-LEE

Sue Wakamoto-Lee serves now on the Dublin Human Relations Commission, and previously on the Parks and Human Relations Commission. She is married, has two children, and has lived in Dublin almost 20 years.

Wakamoto-Lee lost her earlier bid for city council in 2002. Now that her children are older, she said she wants to "make sure that Dublin is a place they want to come back to after college."

Measure T, the "Let Dublin Decide Initiative," is strongly favored by Wakamoto-Lee. "Measure T leaves planning development in the area in Dublin's hands, she said.

Wakamoto-Lee likes the growth so far in Dublin. She said that she is "proud that Dublin" has a good range of housing that includes mixed use, transit villages, housing for young and single, for married couples in townhouses and single-family homes.

However, she would like to see more senior housing. "I don't like residents having to leave the community. We still have closed elementary schools. Residents in those areas are empty nesters." Some may choose to stay in those homes, but others don't have any place to go, including any place affordable.

There can always be more social services. "On the Human Services Commission, we looked at a needs assessment. The needs definitely have changed since I moved here. Now we are dealing with the working poor. We didn't have that situation before."

Some people are one paycheck away from losing a place to live. The city could work with a non-profit or religious organization to help, she added.

Wakamoto-Lee said she has no problem with high densities, "as long as they are designed correctly." She was able to find housing as a single mother in Dublin, but a friend in the same circumstance could not find housing, and had to take her child to a different community. Two other friends were widows, and could not find senior housing in Dublin, so they moved to another city.

Dublin needs to continue to assess how much low-cost housing it needs. The city has done a good job so far. On senior housing, older people would find it helpful to have a small community with single homes, small patios, a lawn or a garden. "You can build a smart blend of fair-market and subsidized housing."

Wakamoto-Lee said that she does not know enough about Measure BB to comment on it, but added that she is a BART rider.

Asked about current and planned retail areas, Wakamoto-Lee said that from what she has seen so far, it has been good.

Dublin definitely needs to look at the possibility of more office buildings. "I work for a high-tech company. We talked about a campus. I would love to see it located in Dublin. I'd love a five-minute commute. It would be a great destination for folks who don't want to commute to Sunnyvale."

"Growing retail and restaurants would be really appealing, or smaller companies that are starting," she stated.

Wakamoto-Lee said that she "has no problem at all" with the council's action to put a limit on transfers of campaign funds in Dublin. As far as any other reforms are concerned, "We are doing fine, as far as campaigns go."

Asked about the council's cooperation with the school district, "I'm not aware of any problems between the city and the school district, but there is always room for improvement. From what I understand, there is a good relationship, with two former school board members serving on the city council."

As the parent of two school age children, Wakamoto-Lee said she could also provide a city council connection to the schools.

Endorsers include former Mayor Janet Lockhart, former Vice-mayor Claudia McCormick, and DSRSD board president Georgan Vonheeder-Leopold.

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ANNABELLE (R)	3:45 6:15 8:45	
LEFT BEHIND (PG13)	12:45 3:35 6:35 9:15	
THE EQUALIZER (R)	12:25 3:35 5:30 6:45 8:30 9:55	
THE BOXTROLLS (PG)	12:00 12:45 2:30 3:10 5:00 7:30 10:00	
THE MAZE RUNNER (PG13)	12:50 1:50 3:45 4:45 6:40 7:35 9:35	
THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU (R)	1:15 3:55 6:55 9:45	
A WALK AMONG THE TOMBSTONES (R)	12:25 3:25 6:30 9:30	
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY (PG13)	12:20 3:30 6:30 9:30	
DOLPHIN TALE 2 (PG)	12:45	
PREVIEW OCTOBER 9:		
DRACULA UNTOLD (PG13)	8:00	
ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY (PG)	7:00 9:15	

Public Notice

ValleyCare Health System (whose formal legal name is The Hospital Committee for the Livermore-Pleasanton Areas) is soliciting written ballots from its corporate members seeking approval for amendments to the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. These amendments are being proposed, and must be approved, as part of a potential affiliation between the Corporation and Stanford Hospitals and Clinics, dba Stanford Health Care ("Stanford").

Written ballots have been mailed to members. Ballots must be submitted to the Corporation by 5:00 pm on November 14, 2014 in order to be counted.

ValleyCare Health System will be holding the following informational meetings for the corporate members to discuss the proposed affiliation with Stanford Health Care and the proposed amendments to the Corporation's Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation

At LifeStyleRx, 1119 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore:

- Wednesday, October 8, 2014; 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Monday, October 20, 2014; 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

At ValleyCare Medical Center Cafeteria, 5575 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton:

- Tuesday, October 14, 2014; 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 21, 2014; 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Voting is by ballot only. No formal action will be taken at the meetings, and you do not need to attend a meeting in order to vote.

If you have questions, please contact ValleyCare Marketing/Public Relations at 925-373-4563, or email the board of directors at boardadmin@valleycare.com



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THE SKELETON TWINS
Fri - Sun: 12:45 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:15

DR. STRANGELOVE - OCT. 9 at 7:15
Maggie Smith & Kevin Kline

Kristen Wiig & Bill Hader

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN - Oct. 23 @ 7pm
BEETLEJUICE - Oct. 30 @ 7:15pm

Vine Cinema & Alehouse
1722 First Street - Livermore www.VineCinema.com

MAYOR

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there, in addition to 1100 units already planned for the downtown.

Candidates also were asked their views on Measure T, the "Let Dublin Decide Initiative," and whether there is enough senior and low-income housing in Dublin. Their position on Measure BB, the Alameda County transportation tax measure was sought.

There were questions about how much retail and other commercial zoning there should be, including offices. Campaign reform was another topic. Did they agree with the council's new limit of \$500 on transferring one individual's donation from one campaign committee to another? Is any other campaign reform needed?

Candidates were also asked whether Dublin's planning has been well-coordinated with the school district's enrollment expansion, and, if not, what they think should be done. They were invited to bring up any topics not covered by The Independent, and could list up to five endorsers.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

SHAWN COSTELLO

Shawn Costello said that he has been running for public offices since 1984 in Dublin. He attended Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College over the past 14 year, taking classes in math, drama and other subjects.

Costello says he is running for mayor to make this a better place for everybody. He said that in the past, he has helped the city improve the safety of sidewalks by touring them in his wheelchair and pointing out to city government what needs to be done.

Costello has served as a Dublin representative on the accessibility committee of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA).

He offered no position on Measure T.

Costello said that he is not satisfied with Dublin's development so far. "They are going too fast. This is why I'm running. They say they want to keep all this land in open space, but they are taking it away. The land belongs to the animals, whether people know it or not, when they drive quickly through."

Costello said, "I support growth, when necessary. Right now growth is for rich people who make \$300,000 and above."

Seniors have a difficult time affording housing, and rents are going up.

Costello continues, "Dublin was fine the way it was. Now we have an overabundance of restaurants that are repeating themselves. We don't really need to do that. We need a diverse mix."

Costello said that as a person using social services, "I support them. We need to provide more hours for the disabled, with caregivers. It affects everyone (in the state). They cut my caregiver's hours by almost half."

Costello backs the density cuts that occurred in East Dublin. "We already have a traffic problem. I live near the BART station. They are building even more units there. That will create even more traffic for me to deal with."

Costello does not favor the council's action that added 1200 units to the General Plan downtown. Adding more units adds more traffic that leads to gridlock.

Costello supports Measure BB. He serves on the ACTC paratransit advisory board, and voted with membership to endorse BB.

He stated that he supports any and all retail that will be beneficial for all disabled people to be able to work.

As for having more office buildings, "Dublin doesn't need to change anything."

Costello said that the council's recent action that bans transfers of more than \$500 of an individual's contribution from one campaign to another is agreeable to him. On further campaign reforms, Costello said, "Everybody needs to be fair to each other."

Asked about school growth coordination with city planning, Costello said that he is not informed about the issue.

Costello concluded, "No matter how disabled I am, I can do the job. I want the people to understand I am just as good as a regular office person. I am not going to give up running for office. I'm doing it for the people."

KEVIN HART

Councilmember Kevin Hart is a 31-year veteran of the county sheriff's department, and has been married to his wife for 20 years. They have a blended family of seven children, and four grandchildren. Hart has lived in Dublin since he was 10 years old.

Hart earned a bachelor's degree at Cal State Hayward, and a master's in leadership at St. Mary's College. He has taught criminal justice classes at Las Positas and Chabot community colleges and the University of Phoenix.

Hart said he is running for mayor in order to continue working on things on which he has worked for his past six years on the council. The city needs leadership at the top to implement the smart-growth concept, and not overbuild. "As someone with expertise and the political background, I can navigate through issues such as the schools and the impacts growth has on them."

Hart is not satisfied with Dublin's development so far. "I am not relishing the fact we were the fastest growing city in the state last year. There are problems related to traffic, infrastructure, fire and water. We need to slow down a little, plan strategically for the future. so we are not overbuilding for the infrastructure."

In the future, Hart would like to see "nice high-paying, high-end restaurants." The city needs to balance commercial with residential units.

Hart said that social services are working well. The city awards grants to social service programs. "We are actively engaged, and have low- and medium- income housing. On a lower economic scale, people still have the opportunity for recreation, sports and education. The senior programs are good, and the city is working to build veterans housing."

Hart said that he spearheaded the reduction in densities on the East Side. "I've been saying it since I got on the council in 2008. I'm not a high-density individual, with the exception of the transit area."

Hart cast the lone "no" vote against adding 1200 residential units to the 1100 already planned for the downtown. He said he understands the city is under pressure to zone for units to meet its state-mandated regional housing obligations. However, moving the units sends the wrong message. Gridlock is going to be the result if transportation opportunities are not increased. The city needs to look elsewhere in the city to disperse those 1200 units.

Hart opposes Measure T. He said it carves out an area for a developer to build. "If it were something other than that, I would seriously look into it." With the "Open Space Initiative," which the council adopted, "if citizens want (development in Doolan Canyon), they can vote for it."

Hart "absolutely" supports Measure BB. The current version of it brought in many jobs and some infrastructure to Dublin. "We have shovel-ready projects, such as the expansion of Dougherty Road. We need to do a better job on bike and pedestrian safety. People use wheelchairs, and they ride bikes."

The eastside needs places to eat, and a good grocery store. "We don't even have a gas station there, though there is one under construction. The commercial doesn't match the housing."

Dublin is doing well now on office space, thanks to the recovering economy, said Hart. However, there could be a need in the smaller class of offices.

Hart was the councilmember who brought up the topic of banning transfers from one campaign fund to another if the transfers are more than \$500 from an individual. The point of the ban was to keep in line with the city's \$500 limit on individual donations.

Transfers from outside campaigns such as from Assembly or Senate campaigns were allowed from state office campaigns, which this year has a cap of \$5100 per individual during each campaign. Hart said it was a loophole that violated the spirit of Dublin's \$500 limit. The council voted unanimously for the change.

Hart serves on the liaison committee with the school district. He was a member of the school board for eight years. He said that it will be important to push for a state school construction bond in 2016 to help the district. Also, the council is talking about leasing a park site on the East Side to the school district free on a 99-year agreement. Currently, the site on the Jordan Ranch is planned for a park, but the city would relocate the park.

Hart said that he does not ask political officials to endorse him. "I don't want to owe anyone." He has endorsements from the Alameda County Firefighters Association, the Deputy Sheriff's Association, as well as PORAC, a police officers association.

DAVID HAUBERT

David Haubert was elected to the City Council two years ago. Prior to that, he served on the school board starting in 2002.

Haubert and his wife of 23 years are the parents of three daughters. The family has lived in Dublin for 14 years. Haubert consults and advises consumer packaged goods companies and retailers in all areas of business.

On satisfaction with growth so far, Haubert said the General Plan is only partially completed. "We are having to catch up on some elements, such as pedestrian-friendly retail shopping, and destination shopping venues."

Remaining to be built out is Emerald Glen Park, with indoor and outdoor pools, and indoor recreation. "It will be an amazing new amenity in Dublin."

The city also will complete the Fallon sports park by adding turf, soccer pitch and lighted softball fields.

On social services in Dublin, Haubert said that he was "devastated when he heard that a homeless person died of exposure in the cold in Dublin. He said the city should be looking into what actions it might take to enable faith-based organizations to offer more help for the homeless. For example, an ordinance might be needed to allow a faith-based program to shelter people overnight.

Haubert supports the density drop in East Dublin, assuming that it was market-driven. "Areas away from the freeway are ripe for density reduction. On the Wallace Ranch, there were many more units per acre than were realistic. I applaud reduction of density there."

Haubert joined the four-member council majority on the vote to transfer to the downtown plan 1200 left-over units from East Dublin downzoning over the past several years. He told The Independent that the reason for having to transfer the densities was the zoning to meet regional housing allocation required by the state. He said that Dublin is ill-equipped and unprepared to deal with the housing. "We are forced to plan for it. But it is nothing more than pie in the sky. It won't happen. Our schools will never support it."

Haubert said that the numbers are assigned by disconnected regional planners, who have no idea about the impact they create on our school system. "We can't afford what we have now. Our schools are underfunded, so there is no way we could support schools to meet the growth," said Haubert.

Haubert opposes Measure T. The whole council

voted to oppose it. "It's important to remain united on the vote the council took," said Haubert.

Haubert said he is aware of only two senior housing developments, but there probably isn't enough senior-only housing. As for lower income housing, "we struggle as a region, but Dublin is doing its part. We should stay the course, and maybe wait for others to catch up."

On senior-only housing, "there has not been an outcry for it. The data doesn't jump out that there is a need, but my gut says, probably there is room to grow. The thing that's attractive is that senior housing does not affect the schools."

Haubert supports Measure BB. "It will fund BART to Livermore. People in Livermore paid the tax, as we all have." Further, the tax would help Dublin with projects that the state really ought to be funding.

Areas of Dublin designated for commercial are good ones.

Haubert said that he would love to see more offices in Dublin, but city staff and commercial brokers said that no one wants to build an office campus now.

Haubert said that the council's action to limit campaign fund transfers to \$500 from an individual "was all about transparency. I absolutely support the transparency. I believe it's the way we should go. You should live by the spirit of the rule as intended."

In January, the council ought to look at other ideas concerning campaign reform. "My suspicion is that on-line reporting makes sense. I'm not a big fan of spending limits for campaigns, as they have in Pleasanton. But we could look at it. I don't know enough about it, and am not opposed at this time."

On working with Dublin schools, Haubert said, "We need to do a better job of coordinating with the school district. In the past, the city would tell the school district what was coming. What they never did was to ask them, 'How is that working for you? Can you handle it?' It was one-way communication."

Haubert said he changed that by asking the school district for a letter, confirming that they were aware of the impacts of the project, they felt comfortable, and could provide education for the development.

Haubert said he also asked the city manager to lease the undeveloped park in Jordan Ranch (for a school site). It was the subject of a joint city council/school board meeting a month ago.

Haubert listed as endors-

ers Dublin school board members Greg Tomlinson, Sean Kenney and Dan Cunningham, Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne, and San Ramon Mayor Bill Clarkson.

KASIE HILDENBRAND

Kasie Hildenbrand served for eight years on the City Council, including four years as vice-mayor. She was termed out. Dublin's term limits allow former office holders to come back to office after two years out of office. In Hildenbrand's case, she must confine any new terms to the mayor's office which she had not held previously.

Hildenbrand arrived with her family in Dublin in 1997, among the first residents of East Dublin. She became active in issues when the San Jose Sharks wanted to build an ice rink in her neighborhood. She thought the use was incompatible with the residences there. With help from others, she formed Friends of Dublin, and managed to turn away the Sharks' proposal.

Hildenbrand has served on the city's affordable housing task force, the citizens watchdog committee on Measure B, and on the Parks and Community Services Commission.

Hildenbrand said "yes and no," when asked whether she was satisfied with the city's development to date. East Dublin was planned in the 1990s. The voters voted for Smart Growth, and the planning of it looked good. The reality is different. It make sense to build high density near the freeway and BART. The retail and commercial (plans) went away, but the housing trudged on. "We see a lot of housing, but little commercial and retail to fill it in," said Hildenbrand.

"We need to slow down growth, or change it and manage it better. In my eight years on the council, developers would ask for higher density. We had to approve regulations just to get a minimum of a backyard. It was ridiculous. You should expect a backyard for kids. You should not expect to have to go to a neighborhood park." Plus, the park is generally not finished until five years after people move in.

For the future, park facilities need to be built. "We owe it to the community to finish the facilities to continue to make Dublin a healthy, vibrant community."

On social services, Hildenbrand said, "We should embrace people with different socio-economic backgrounds as we grow. We need to bring in veterans housing, and make sure services are available here

for them."

Hildenbrand supports the trend to lower densities. "We need to manage this growth." Its design is important. One development may have a 30-foot side yard on one side, but a very short distance on the other side.

Adding 1200 units downtown will help the city meet its fair-share housing requirement. However, it's an area of big-box stores. "With redevelopment no longer an option, how would Dublin make the area more livable? Walkable mixed uses in the downtown is very challenging. The 1200 homes still require cars."

Hildenbrand opposes Measure T. She states, "Keep Doolan Canyon the way it is -- pristine." Voting against Measure T will ensure preservation of open space.

Lower income housing should be mixed in with affordable market rate housing. "We made a pledge on the council never to group affordable housing in one area so it looks like a housing project."

The city also needs to obtain funding that allows for more first-time homebuyers, or family rental assistance.

Hildenbrand supports Measure BB. The earlier version, Measure B, accomplished everything that was planned and finished projects much earlier than scheduled.

Hildenbrand likes the current and planned future retail areas. "It's great that WholeFoods is coming in." It should spark some retailers' interest in the BART Transit Center.

Dublin needs more commercial office development. Instead of going for more digital companies, it might be better to try to build a "mini-biotech area," and draw on resources from LLNL and Sandia to create the businesses.

Hildenbrand supports the council's ban on transfer of more than \$500 per individual donor from one campaign fund to another.

Planning between the school district and the city is well-coordinated. "Whether or not schools can keep up with development is a different issue. It's a school board issue." In her opinion, the district's demographers did not come up with the right numbers when predicting population growth. Keeping up school construction also depends on school funding, and not city government.

Hildenbrand is endorsed by the Alameda County Democratic Party, the Alameda Labor Council AFL-CIO, the Tri-Valley United Democratic Club, Pleasanton Councilmember Cheryl Cook-Kallio, and Danville Councilmember Mike Doyle.

Las Positas College to Present First Speaker in Seminar Series

Las Positas College will present Windy Mc Nerney, Ph.D., Sarah Felix, Ph.D and Kris Kulp, Ph.D. from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), as the first speakers in the Annual Science and Engineering Seminar Series at the College.

This year's series is the fifth joint effort of Las Positas College and Lawrence Livermore Labs to explore the overall issue of "Theory to Practice: How Science Gets Done." Mc Nerney, Felix and Kulp will discuss the topic An in vitro Tissue-on-a-Chip Platform: Overview and Applications for Neuroscience.

They will explain the following: a) there is a growing need for the reliable prediction of toxicity of chemical agents on humans, as animal models are not adequate; b) the iCHIP (in-vitro chip-based human investigational platform) project aims to develop a human tissue-based platform containing cells from multiple tissue systems connected through microfluidics for toxicant research throughout the body; and, c) the iCHIP project has developed an optically transparent electrode microarray fitted with microfluidics that is capable of non-invasive recordings of electrical activity from cultured neurons while simultaneously imaging calcium dynamics from those neurons. One example, involving exposure to the organophosphate pesticide chlorpyrifos and how it may cause neuropathic pain via oxidative stress will be discussed.

Mc Nerney is a postdoctoral researcher in the Biology Division at LLNL. She received her B.S. in psychobiology at UC Davis and her Masters and Ph.D. at the University of Notre Dame. Felix, Ph.D. is currently conducting research in biomedical microsystems and neural technology at LLNL. She earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering at Boston University and her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley. Kulp is the Group Leader for the Pharmacology and Toxicology Group and the Director of the LLNL Institutional Post-Doctoral Program. She received her B.A. in Chemistry from Knox College in Galeburg, Illinois and her Ph.D. from UC, Davis.

The evening with Mc Nerney, Felix and Kulp is open to the general public. They will be speaking in the College's Multi-Disciplinary Building Lecture Hall, Room 2420 at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 7. There is no charge for admittance but visitors are reminded that the campus has a \$2 parking fee. Daily tickets are available from vending machines in the campus parking lots. The College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore 94551. For more information, contact Biology Professor Nan Ho at 925-424-1344 or nho@laspositascollege.edu.

Three additional events in this year's seminar series will be announced shortly and will also be open to the community. Each evening function will present a unique view of how science and engineering theory evolves into practice.

Commenting on the success of the first three years of the program, Professor Ho noted: "I have been impressed with how our College, the Labs and general community have embraced this special series. It is a real win-win for both Lawrence Livermore and LPC. We bring the Lab to the greater community so that it can share its research. This, in turn, gives our students and the general public a truly unique community college experience."

CONGRESS

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nouncement of aiding forces in Iraq and Syria to opposes ISIS, and whether they expect the President to prepare an exit strategy. The interviews were conducted before the President ordered aerial strikes against ISIS forces.

Candidates also were asked about immigration policy, the Affordable Care Act, and what roles the federal government should have in education, and what should be done about Social Security.

Other questions concerned campaign financing limits, federal policy on climate change, the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to Texas, and whether tighter regulation is needed on rail shipments of the more volatile Bakken crude oil that has been the subject of explosions on three trains.

Candidates were asked about fracking in California's Monterey shale deposits, and about the handling of the national debt. They were invited to comment on any issues not mentioned in the interviews.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

HUGH BUSSELL

Hugh BusSELL lives in Livermore, has a physics degree, and taught math and science at the high school level. He has worked at Cisco Systems, and currently is a tech manager at Workday in Pleasanton. He and his wife have three children. He has attended Crosswinds Church for 21 years, where he is an elder.

On whether to back President Obama's choice to oppose ISIS militarily, BusSELL said that if he had been in Congress, he would have voted for the President's request. "Congress should allow a lot of latitude and deference to the commander-in-chief on issues of defense," he said.

BusSELL said, "I was very disappointed to hear the President say, not long ago, that he had no exit strategy. I'm sure he is working very hard with his staff to create one, and will articulate it to us."

The nation needs a plan to protect its border, said BusSELL. A law was passed to build a wall along the Mexican border, a first step in controlling immigration there. The children coming across the border should be cared for, "and protected, and helped to return to their families."

BusSELL said he thinks that a reduction in immigration enforcement encouraged people south of the border to send their children north.

The nation is starting to see the effects of the Affordable Care Act. It has not been fully implemented yet. More people will see how it will affect them. For many, health insurance costs have increased. The program has fallen short of insuring the uninsured, said BusSELL.

Education is primarily a local issue. The federal government can have a role in pointing out good solutions and examples, but it should not compel individual states or communities "to follow its mistakes."

As a former teacher, BusSELL said that he is aware of how helpful standards can be. California has had "pretty effective ones for academic subjects." Some states that decided not to use Common Core were threatened by the Education Secretary with withholding of money.

If there were no changes to Social Security, there won't be enough money to pay full benefits to everyone who is owed. "That would be a fundamental betrayal of American workers," said BusSELL.

Any changes that are made should not affect current recipients, or those who expect to collect Social Security in the next 10 years. However, changes must be made to ensure Social Security will still work in 20 or 30

years. Balancing the federal budget would bring more money to Social Security. The retirement age should not be raised, added BusSELL.

About aging infrastructure, the government should set priorities about what needs fixing. "We need to control our spending so we have funds available to implement those plans. "I am not advocating raising the gas tax."

BusSELL called the current campaign financing laws Byzantine and difficult with unintended consequences. "We should reevaluate the whole system. I don't support a Band-aid solution. We probably need a whole new approach. I'm not sure how to make that happen in the current environment." Congress should have that discussion.

Federal policy on climate control should be based on the best science available. It should balance the needs of the poor and the desire to control the climate.

BusSELL supports the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to Texas. "The petrochemicals coming out of Canada will be used, whether we build the pipeline or not. If we don't build a pipeline, the oil will be shipped to other countries, and refined there, with less careful standards than in the United States.

On the three major explosions of rail tank cars containing volatile Bakken crude oil, BusSELL said that it underscores the value of having modern pipelines to transport it. "I'm sure they are working in the oil industry to prevent those kinds of incidents in the future. I haven't seen that new regulations are required at this time."

BusSELL said in regard to outlawing fracking of Monterey shale that Congress should use the best technology and science to protect the water underground and above ground. "I don't know that Monterey shale is an appropriate place for fracking," he said.

The national debt should be reduced tremendously. "We simply have a spending problem." The temptation to spend is great, because the federal government does not have to balance its budget. Failure to shrink the debt reduces the chance to spend more money elsewhere in the budget, for example, financing a strong military, and meeting Social Security obligations.

BusSELL named as his endorsers House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, California Assembly Majority Caucus Leader Connie Conway, state Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff, former Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena, and the California Republican Party.

ERIC SWALWELL

Congressman Eric SwALWELL grew up in Dublin, and served on the city council there before running for Congress two years ago, defeating 20-term incumbent Pete Stark, also a Democrat.

SwALWELL is a member of the Dublin Lions Club, Hayward Rotary, Cornerstone Church in Livermore, and serves on the advisory council of Tri-Valley Conservancy.

A member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, SwALWELL said that dealing with ISIS offers a way to protect America. However, it must be done with allies in the region, something the United States learned in the Iraq War.

There must be an exit strategy. "The President must come to Congress so we can make sure we are not mired in a Middle East conflict, with U.S. troops taking heavy casualties. What does success look like? That's one of my biggest questions."

The nation must make its border secure. An unprecedented number of children are coming across the border. "We must remember they are children seeking what we were born into

-- freedom and opportunity.

"We must look at why they are coming across the border, at the threats to their lives from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. "Each case should be considered on a humanitarian basis. "If they are not qualified as a refugee, they should return. There should not be a blanket policy of returning every child," said SwALWELL.

On the Affordable Care Act, "I believe 'Mend it, don't end it.'" Costs are decreasing this year for Covered California. SwALWELL said that Kaiser Permanente officials told him that their new premiums as part of Covered California will be lowered.

As for the federal government's role in education, it should be "a national obsession, but a local possession." Federal policy should be guided by what local experts say is needed.

SwALWELL does not support No Child Left Behind. "There is an obsession with testing. It demoralizes our teachers. Also it doesn't teach to individual needs in this economy. The need is for creativity. I would like to see them roll back their testing requirements."

SwALWELL supports the state's participation in Common Core. "It was created by states on input from local districts. It is not perfect, but achieves the goal of graduating well-rounded students. As it evolves, we will see success."

SwALWELL said that when the President wanted to change the Social Security formula to a Consumer Price Index key, he opposed it, because it would reduce cost of living benefits to Social Security recipients.

Currently, people with income over \$113,000 don't have to pay any higher amount into Social Security. That cap should be removed, said SwALWELL. The amount paid could be indexed geographically, "because \$113,000 represents different purchasing power in Omaha than in the Bay Area."

On the issue of aging infrastructure, there should be a long-term highway bill, instead of the short-term highway bills that have been passing. "Now we have 90-day and 120-day continuing resolutions that don't serve any of us well."

SwALWELL contends, "We need five years, at least, to give priority for roads, bridges and tunnels, and local transportation funds. I support Measure BB, which will extend BART to Livermore. It will buy highway improvements, more pedestrian and bicycle access, and increase access to transit and Wheels."

New laws are needed on campaign spending. "A Constitutional amendment would reverse the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, and the McCutcheon decision. They said that corporations are considered people, and can spend unlimited amounts, with little transparency. It has poisoned our ability to get things done in Washington."

SwALWELL said that he has voted for bills that set up matching funds for financing candidates, which can go a long way eliminating outside donations.

SwALWELL believes that Climate Change is one of the greatest threats to face humanity. It's a real, evolving threat. Failure to address it will threaten "our children and their health. The time to act was yesterday."

SwALWELL voted against the Keystone XL pipeline. "It's bad for the environment. It uses America as a middle person. Canada exports the dirtiest fossil fuel, and it is burned around the world. We should spend our efforts on renewables."

SwALWELL is the senior Democrat on the Energy Subcommittee of the House Science Committee. He participated in the hearings on the issue of shipping Bakken crude oil. He is concerned.

The committee scrutinized routes to make sure everything is as safe as possible.

"The long-term solution is to invest in clean sources of energy. Much more can be done. Our national labs are leading the way. Right now it's still a 'drill, drill, drill' mentality."

On fracking of Monterey shale, SwALWELL said, "If we can't make it safe, we should not allow fracking. Moreover, if we can't ensure that fracking will not cause earthquakes, we should not allow fracking."

About paying off the national debt, SwALWELL said that Congress should be

mindful of the debt, and be responsible with taxpayers' money. Overall spending should be reduced, but there should be more spent on the National Institutes of Health. "If we have treatment and cures for what ails us, we can bring down the overall cost of Medicare and Medicaid, which would help bring down the debt."

SwALWELL said that the government needs to go after Medicare fraud and managing federal contracts in a more competitive way, which will cut down on how much is spent on government contractors. "I sponsored legislation to create

more contracts for small and medium businesses" in the science field."

Defense spending should not be immune to budget cuts.

Support for a "Made in America" jobs program is important, one that would reward companies that keep jobs in the United States. Businesses that go offshore should pay a higher tax.

Among SwALWELL's endorsers are the entire Livermore City Council, President Obama, the California Democratic Party, Supervisor Scott Haggerty, and Sen. Diane Feinstein.

LVPAC

(continued from page one)

with a major deadline coming up October 6, the non-profit is within \$252,000 of reaching the required \$3,004 million that it must show that it has received. LVPAC has raised \$2,752 to date for its share of the bond debt; \$2.69 million is needed. An additional \$314,000 goes toward fees and other costs that must be paid on closing.

Alameda County will determine its participation in the agreement when the Board of Supervisors votes

at its October 7 meeting.

"We are hopeful the result will be positive, as was the case with the City of Livermore. With the bank's approval, LVPAC will then proceed with the Bond Redemption Notice," Watkins explained.

She continued, "We are developing plans and strategies to stabilize the organization and set a new path for the future. However, until the October 6 milestone is reached, the approved agree-

ment cannot be completed and the issue of bond construction indebtedness put behind us."

Donations can be made on-line under the "support us" link at mylvpac.com, by mail, or over the phone 925-583-2305.

Watkins stated, "We deeply appreciate what everyone has done so far. We could not possibly have reached this point without the extensive support and enthusiasm of the community."

MAILBOX

(continued from page 4)

the government trough, a lot more than budgeted. With the highest gas tax and the State reaping in billions of dollars in sales tax increases, the need for further funding the Alameda County's sales tax increase to continue does not make sense.

There are ample funds in the gas tax to take care of the infrastructure. Alameda County gets money from the Federal Government and the State also. It is time for our politicians to live within the means like the rest of us than continue to tax the hard working people? We are now paying over 60 percent of our wages in Taxes. Just say "no" to BB.

Vote Narum and Olson Daina Schlegel Pleasanton

I am a resident of the Eastside of Pleasanton, so the issue of growth is one I have been following closely the past few years.

With the upcoming Pleasanton election, it is imperative that those who support balanced and smart growth vote for Kathy Narum and Arne Olson.

Both candidates bring strong fiscal experience as well as their understanding of our community. They understand the need to balance

our commitment to the state against our unique and personal needs for Pleasanton.

Arne Olson is also a resident of the eastside of Pleasanton, so the growth issue is right in his backyard. I feel better having a City Councilmember who lives on this side of town being part of the planning process.

I was proud to see that Pleasanton has been recognized nationally as one of "The Best Places to Live in America".

Let's continue to keep our city moving in a positive direction- debt-free, with smart growth. Please join me in voting for Kathy Narum and Arne Olson.

Spedowski for Council Ray Reed Livermore

With elections near and a city council position open, there is one truly remarkable candidate that you should know about: Steven Spedowski.

I have had the pleasure to meet and witness Mr. Spedowski as he sat on the planning commission board these last two years. My neighborhood outreach group has persistently fought a housing development on two knolls in North Livermore.

We felt that our group not only got the opportunity

to be heard as citizens, but we were also encouraged to become active in the process of local government.

Steven Spedowski listened and now he should be heard. He went to great lengths to reaffirm the facts he was provided with by the developers and ourselves, and researched our community, the knolls, and the proposed environmental issues. He identified the problems associated with the hasty plan for urban growth, but he still recognizes the perks of a well-thought plan. It would have been easy to just vote yes or no, but he is a doggedly determined individual who gets the facts right before making key decisions.

Steven Spedowski is exactly what Livermore needs. He is not anti-growth, he is for sensible growth. He cares a great deal for the environment, is a proponent of open space, has extensive knowledge on traffic management and can help

Livermore with current traffic flow issues that are becoming increasingly worse.

Steven Spedowski will make a great city council member who will vote in favor of the betterment of Livermore. Will you vote in favor of the betterment of Livermore?

BRAIN

(continued from page one)

Initiative's goals. More than 100 investigators in 15 states and several countries will work to develop new tools and technologies to understand neural circuit function and capture a dynamic view of the brain in action.

The Lab is developing a neural measurement and manipulation system that will be packed with over 1,000 tiny electrodes surgically embedded in different areas of the brain to record and stimulate neural circuitry.

The goal is to create a system that will allow scientists to simultaneously study how thousands of neuronal cells in various brain regions work together during complex tasks, such as decision making and learning.

The biologically compatible neural system will be the first of its kind to have large-scale network recording capabilities that are designed to continuously record neural activities for months to years.

"This is an incredible opportunity for us to develop a technology that is going to advance neuroscience research for the community," said Vanessa Tolosa, an

engineer at LLNL's Center for Bioengineering, who is a principal investigator on the project. "The brain is a dynamic and complicated system. Though neuroscientists have uncovered a lot about the brain in the last couple of decades, there is a pressing need for new technologies that'll enable us to study more brain regions over longer periods of time."

The NIH project is a collaboration between LLNL's Neural Technology Group (neurotech.llnl.gov); the laboratory of Loren Frank at UCSF; Intan Technology; and SpikeGadgets.

Housed at the Center for Bioengineering, the Neural Technology Group will work with UCSF researchers to design and build electrode arrays that can record hundreds to thousands of brain cells simultaneously. Their goal is to develop a 1,000 plus channel arrays that can eventually be expanded to 10,000 channels.

These arrays will use new microchips designed at Intan. Data will be sent to a system developed at SpikeGadgets. UCSF will coordinate these efforts and

test the technologies. The arrays will penetrate multiple regions of the brain without interfering with normal functions during the experiments, allowing for detailed studies of brain circuits that underlie behavior.

The system will also be designed for compatibility with optogenetic stimulation, a technique that uses light sensitive proteins and light to manipulate neural activity. This technique allows researchers to target specific neurons or cells for recording.

The initial study will last three years. Then a determination will be made whether or not to move to clinical trials.

LLNL's project is one of 58 BRAIN-related projects funded by NIH. The others include creating a wearable scanner to image the human brain in motion, using lasers to guide nerve cell firing, recording the entire nervous system in action, stimulating specific circuits with radio waves and identifying complex circuits with DNA barcodes.

LIVERMORE

(continued from page one)

and benefits. After leaving the union presidency, Day said that he continued to represent employees, "I set up to help the needy, not the greedy."

He retired from the post office in 2003 taking the early out offer. He began teaching after earning a credential in industrial tech education, teaching computer science at a middle school in Concord. He found that he needed math, so earned a second credential in general subjects and an authorization to teach math.

"I learned through the process that how a teacher relates to students can make or break a student's success in math. If students liked you, they would work for you." Day taught middle and high school classes and at a continuation high school with a focus on math.

When he was hired to teach in Livermore, he says it was the first time he had worked in a district that had resources and good students who were well behaved. He relates that upon announcing that he was leaving teaching, parents and teachers gathered to tell him he had done a good job. "The kids liked my teaching style. If you convince kids that something hard is fun, they forget how hard it is," he stated.

He was asked by parents to tutor their students. In 2005, he established his "A Train Math Ministry," with the mission to help students with math to sell them with the goal of going for an "A." The nonprofit works with teachers, students and parents to develop a curriculum to meet the needs of each student.

His purpose in running for the school board is to bring his math ministry forward with the goal of helping to create a curriculum for the district to address Common Core math standards. Teachers are not fully trained in the concepts, he states. Common Core is not a curriculum; it is a set of standards. There is a need to create a curriculum based on those standards. "I would use what I do to help students navigate Common Core." He said that he doesn't expect to be paid.

He said that he has discussed Common Core implementation with educators in Detroit and learned of the mistakes made there. I can help the district to avoid mistakes in implementing math instruction. "It takes a curriculum creator. It's a skill that I would bring to the school board."

Day pointed out that it is his understanding that each board member adopts a school. He would like to work at Junction K-8 to use the authority of the school board to help the principal and math teachers with Common Core. His goal would be to help schools that are lower performing. "All parents want their kids to succeed," he states. "I can donate as much time, energy and money needed to make the ministry work for these kids." He proposes setting up a tutoring class at district headquarters, where students who need help with math could come.

Athletics and arts are important. Art helps to give students a unique perspective, particularly drama. What kid is not influenced by music, he asks.

He says that one of the objectives of his ministry is to support the arts and music. He would also like to bring in chess as an after school activity. Chess, he said, helps in the thinking process. Day is a self taught chess player who now participates in tournaments.

He says the local schools are safe. "I've worked in the worst. I have the experience to know how to deal with issues that may arise."

Day doesn't like the idea of tenure. He believes that five years is ample time for a teacher to rise to the level of expectation when teaching. He does not support life-time employment.

Efraim Melendez would bring a background in teaching to the board. He earned a bachelors degree and secondary teaching credential at the University of Arizona and a masters degree in administration and elementary teaching from Cal State Los Angeles. He taught for 34 years, with the last fourteen at Portola and Smith elementary schools in Livermore.

His teaching experience includes special programs such as bilingual, Title I and GATE (gifted and talented education) at both the school and district levels.

His wife teachers in the Livermore school district. Melendez said that if elected, he would not participate in discussions regarding salary or union issues.

"I am totally interested in serving on the board because of the opportunity to be part of the local control accountability plan, Common Core standards and assessment, and helping with the direction education is going in providing high quality education. It is an exciting period in education," Melendez stated. He says that his experience in education may help the district avoid pitfalls in implementing the accountability plan and Common Core.

He describes the role of the board as building trust with parents and the public that the district is doing the best for its students. "I think the superintendent has it right. She has focused on making students the number one priority." He would continue the collaboration that exists among staff, the unions and the public.

He chose the two year term in order to be involved in guiding education, while assessing his own feelings about serving on the board. Melendez points out that he knows the programs and staff. "I feel I could be effective right away."

Melendez says of Common Core, "It's a wonderful opportunity for the district. It provides a roadmap toward very high quality of educational experiences for all students, not just those who are college bound. The standards provide what is necessary for students to learn academically. They tie into real life experiences."

He said that what he would tell parents of Common Core is that the future needs adults who can work collaboratively, collectively and creatively, who have language and problem solving skills, and the tenacity to see something through to the end. Common Core standards lend themselves to providing that type of education. "We don't know what the future will be like with the speed at which technology changes."

Athletics and the arts are both important. He notes that all areas of the human brain need to be developed. Research has shown that music and art help with cognitive thinking. Melendez would like to expand fine arts offerings at the middle school level. "It's unfortunate that those are the areas that are cut during budget downturns." At the elementary level, he points out that the schools offer musical plays. In addition, there are individual teachers who provide arts education.

With athletics he takes a different view. He would like to expand intramural programs to provide more experience for students in different sports. As for the traditional sports programs, they do provide a roadmap towards a career. It's a matter of priorities and money what type of sports program would be offered.

Safety is an area that the district is very aware of and on top of, said Melendez. They have worked with the police department to make campuses more secure. A dress code helps to stop gang activities. In addition, there are parent awareness programs that teach parents how to look for certain behaviors as a way of stopping problems before they start.

Having taught in the district, Melendez said he is aware that there are differences among the schools. "However, Livermore is united in its effort to educate children. Service groups step up. There are grants available." He adds that is one of the good things about the new local control funding. It may be possible to fill the gaps at some of the lower income schools.

Melendez called tenure a two headed animal. He was instituted as a way of establishing a process in which teachers could be let go. Tenure is good in that due process is served. The process can be improved.

As for programs the district offers, Melendez would keep what exists now and work to enhance them. He would bring in more partnerships and funding or look for internships. It is important to build ongoing relationships with representatives from business and the community. He would enhance the regional occupation program (ROP) adding career technical education and have the trades provide real life experiences.

Chris Wenzel has lived in Livermore for seventeen years. "I have always been a public servant," he declares, serving 26 years in law enforcement in the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department and as Police

Chief in Danville. He notes that Danville contracts with the sheriff's department for services. That is how he took on the police chief job.

After retirement, he began volunteering. He was a co-chair of Measure G, approved by voters last June.

He is a member of the 100 Club in Contra Costa County, which supports families of fallen firefighters and police officers. He has volunteered at elementary and middle schools and helped with special events. He coaches, including CYO basketball. As a member of the Granada Little League board, he helped develop a program that raised \$30,000 to improve the fields.

Wenzel said that he is seeking a seat on the board as a way to problem solve for the district. "I don't know all there is to know about schools. The quality of education is very good. I want to improve the schools on both the academic and facilities levels. It's about people getting involved in building partnerships that include parents, businesses, and teachers. Upping the quality of education improves a community. The value of homes increases. Property taxes go up. The city receives more income for its services. Everyone benefits."

He chose to run for the two year term. That would give him time to determine if he were the "best guy" to serve on the board.

He sees the role of board members as that of communicators, relating policy and overseeing implementation of policy.

Money is an issue. As a board member, Wenzel said he would go after money that he knows is out there. Examples include Prop. 39, which will provide funds to add solar arrays to schools. That will provide local jobs. Another grant potential would be to apply for the state's earthquake retrofit monies. "We need to make sure we get our share," he commented.

He likes Common Core. He attended the recent educational session hosted by the district at Granada High School. He learned that Common Core provides a foundation and other ways to solve problems. It teaches a child to be creative, to look at things differently to reach a solution. Wenzel would continue to assess the program and look to improve it. "If we find something we don't like, we can change it."

For him, the main issue as a board member would be to retain what the district has; then look for ways to move forward to establish priorities; then implement those priorities.

Safety is another issue. "I think the schools are safe. The city has done an excellent job working with the schools on the issue of gangs. The gangs are out there. It is important to stay on top of the issue."

He supports both athlet-

ics and the arts.

The arts provide the creative aspect. Not everyone plays sports. It is important for students to have the opportunity to learn and expand their skills. Art, music and drama are all building blocks for an individual.

Sports are important, too. Sports teach discipline and team work. Keeping kids on campus keeps them out of trouble. In addition, if they want to play, they have to keep their grades up. He said he would like to see more involvement on the part of local businesses.

He is aware that some schools are able to provide more programs, while others may not. He recalls Junction K-8 did not have the money to hire coaches. Wenzel said the goal is to work with people to see how to make something that is wanted, happen. Any program chosen has to be sustainable.

Tenure should include performance evaluations based on established guidelines. He says that it is not fair for one teacher to be re-ally working, while another at the same tenure level is just existing. People who work hard should be compensated. "C players should not receive the same money as A players," he stated.

ROP programs providing options for careers for kids who might not be able to attend college are important. The charter school provides an option for parents. That is the beauty of charter schools, he stated.

WINE COUNTRY

Sunny Sangiovese Idealismo for Italian Heritage Month

By Harry Stoll

October is Italian Heritage Month and enjoying some sangiovese is an appropriate way to celebrate it. (Of course it's good the year round.) Sangiovese, by Italian law, is the predominant wine in any wine carrying the Denominazione di Origine Controllata "Chianti." As you all know, Chianti isn't a wine, it's a district that runs from Tuscany to Sienna and has seven sub zones. It's typically dry and bright. According to winefolly.com it typically contains flavors and aromas of tart cherry, red plum, strawberry fig and sometimes roasted pepper, tomato, leather, clay, brick, tobacco, smoke, oregano, thyme, and dried roses. I'm sure, like me, you can separate out each of those.

Years ago, about around the Summer of Love, we Americans discovered Sangiovese, only we knew it as Chianti, thinking that was the name of a wine. We bought it in those stubby reed-covered bottles (still available at fine, and not so fine, grocery stores everywhere.) Tasted good to me, although in retrospect it was a fiasco, which is what the Italians call those flasks. One evening I had a certain (well I was certain, anyway) woman over for dinner. A half-fiasco sat on my red-checked tablecloth, along with two finished fiascos with lighted candles stuck in them. Arty. It was October and amore when the harvest moon hit our eye as the pizza guy knocked.

Today's Sangiovese has overcome the perhaps bad rap hip hopping around about those fiascos, which I think should make a comeback, but with good Sangiovese in them. That would probably take a market miracle.

Sangiovese, more than most wines, gains its characteristics from the appellation where it's grown. It ripens slowly. It's a light delight, in the general category of Pinot Noir and Tempranillo, which to me is good company. While it's light, it's not wimpy, there are plenty of tannins and body. It goes with many foods; Italian of course is a natural. Personally, I stick to lighter foods. Sangiovese is a good pairing with vegetarian fare. Some wineries juice it with Cabernet Sauvignon to give it a harder hit. Marketers have dubbed the result Super Tuscans, a name that makes me squirm, but I do like the results, although too much cab is just that.

California features a Mediterranean climate so is a spot on spot for Sangiovese. Wines described below are from Contra Costa County, Livermore Valley, and Lodi, all of which produce prima sangiovese.

2012 Big White House Sangiovese Lodi Ripken Vineyard (\$28). This light and fruity Chianti-style sangio, has a medium body, and a nicely acid tongue with whiff cranberry, rose, and not all spices but certainly all spice. The slightly citrus flavor also gives you the raspberry. It finishes smooth and takes its time sighing separazione. Excellent with honeyed and all spice pork chops.

2011 Rodrigue Molyneux Sangiovese Livermore Valley (\$30.) This newly released delicioso is a ruby duby du color that shown nicely in the sun on a Tuesday when she didn't take her love to town. The nose answers the question of wouldn't it be lovely, with aromas of orange peel, tart cherry and oak, with good acidity. Pizza me, a pizza you. As a label wonk I point out that innocuous words "estate bottled" on the label officially means it was grown and harvested in vineyards owned (or otherwise controlled by the winery, and fermented, aged and bottled at the winery that is in the same appellation as the vineyards. Rodrigue Molyneux owns the vineyards surrounding the winery. No other variety is added.

2010 Garré Sangiovese Livermore Valley (\$26). Sunny, light and lively, it evokes the wines of Montefalco Rosso with its delicate floral and strawberry aromas forever. I loved it with a light meal of asiago cheese on Pugliese bread. Sante! By the way Garré will soon close the charming tasting room where I've always looked for Hansel and Gretel. (It was a chicken coop on the original ranch.) It will soon move to the restaurant that will move to the new event center.

2009 el Sol Sangiovese Contra Costa County (\$24). Authentic words from the label say it all: "Spicy yet smooth.. and pairs well with Italian meals of course! Is this a part of a famous blend from Italy? Yes!! But we decided not to blend it. Too delicate and rich. The Winemaker who grew it says, "Never again!!" Going to stick to making wine." I had it under the Tuscany sun with Rosemary Clooney singing "Baciarmi" to mi. I didn't need to eat, that was a match for the el Sol sangio.

Other valley wineries offering sangiovese include Mitchell Katz, Rubino Estates, Ruby Hill, and Tamás Estates.

This column is made possible by The Independent and readers like you.

College and Career Fair Scheduled

Tri-Valley School Districts will host the 2014 Tri-Valley College and Career Fair. Take steps to "Reach Your Goal" will be held on Wednesday, October 15th from 6:30 - 8:30pm at Livermore High School, 600 Maple Street, Livermore, in the large and small gymnasiums.

This free event gives Tri-Valley students and their families the chance to explore higher education and career options, gather and compare data, and talk to admission representatives

about the best preparation for specific programs. Over 100 representatives from the University of California system, California State University system, California Independent/Private Colleges, Community Colleges, Out-of-State Colleges, Technical Schools, United States Military, and local education companies will be in attendance.

This annual community event serves students from the Livermore, Pleasanton, and Dublin School districts and routinely draws crowds

of more than 2000 people. In addition to school lots and street parking, parking will be available across the street from Livermore High School at St. Michael's School.

To make the most of the fair, students are advised to do some preparation beforehand. Students can visit their high school career centers to get a list of participating institutions so they can identify those in which they are especially interested. They are encouraged

to review the corresponding websites and prepare questions to ask representatives. The fair will be crowded and students may not have time to get all of their questions answered, so they should choose questions that are not easily found on the institutions' websites.

For more information about the Tri-Valley College and Career Fair, contact Paula-Ann Cabading at pcabading@lvjUSD.k12.ca.us or (925) 606-4812 x2330 for more information.

Sandia Lab report draws lessons learned from 'perfect heists' for national security

In 2003, the unthinkable happened at Belgium's Antwerp Diamond Center. Thieves broke into its reputedly impenetrable vault and made off with hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of diamonds, gold, cash and other valuables.

Through years of meticulous planning, they got past police officers less than 200 feet away, access controls into the building, a combination-and-key-lock vault door, a magnetic seal on the vault door and motion, infrared, light and seismic detectors within the vault.

The Antwerp Diamond Center theft and other sophisticated, high-value heists show that motivated criminals can find ways to overcome every obstacle between them and their targets. Can the Energy and Defense departments, responsible for analyzing, designing and implementing complex systems to protect vital national security assets, learn from security failures in the banking, art and jewelry worlds?

Sandia National Laboratories systems analyst Jarret Lafleur set out two years ago to answer that question. "There are many insights to be gained from studying high-value heists and related crimes that could be applied to Sandia's work in physical security," he said. "Our work focuses on securing nuclear materials and other assets. Those kinds of attacks and threats are extremely rare, which is good, but give us very little historical information to draw upon."

Lafleur, Luke Purvis,

manager of Sandia's National Security Systems Analysis group, and Alex Roesler, manager of the Assurance Technologies and Assessments group, published the research in a report "The Perfect Heist: Recipes from Around the World" (SAND 2014-1790), which details 23 crimes, their categorization and lessons learned. Lafleur also presented the "The Perfect Heist" to numerous audiences.

Lafleur found there hadn't been a comprehensive study of sophisticated and high-value heists in more than two decades. "When we dug into the details, we found several areas worthy of further study that could inform our approach to physical security," he said. "Two examples are the roles of insiders in successful heists and the ways that redundancy in a security system can affect the behavior of humans in the loop."

Using public information sources, Lafleur chose 23 worldwide heists that occurred in the past three decades, notable for the value of assets stolen, innovation and complexity. Those include the Vastberga Helicopter Heist (Sweden, 2009) in which thieves descended from a helicopter into a cash depot by smashing through a skylight; the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Art Heist (United States, 1990) where burglars posed as police officers to deceive and subdue museum guards; and the Securitas Cash Depot Heist (Britain, 2006) that saw robbers abduct the manager, his wife

and their child to force him to let them into the depot and provide key details about its security.

Lafleur, Purvis, and Roesler compiled the results in a Heist Methods and Characteristics Database. They analyzed the results qualitatively and quantitatively to describe the range and diversity of criminal methods and identify characteristics that are common or uncommon in such high-value heists. The analysis focused on seven areas: defeated security measures and devices; deception methods; timing and target selection; weapons employed; resources and risk acceptance; insiders; and failures and mistakes.

While methods and implementation of the heists varied greatly, there were common factors. At least one form of deception was used in 21 of the heists, ranging from impersonating law enforcement to use of decoy vehicles to concealing surveillance equipment. Insiders — willing, unwitting and coerced — played a role in the majority of cases. The Antwerp Diamond Center's building manager even provided blueprints to the heist mastermind, thinking he was just another tenant.

"I learned from this study that these thieves have a lot of patience. Most spent months and even years planning. They were very deliberate in how they defeated security measures and those methods were often very low-tech, like using hair spray to disable infrared



Sandia National Laboratories managers Alex Roesler, left, and Luke Purvis, center, and systems analyst Jarret Lafleur shown inside a Bank of Italy vault in a historic Livermore, California, building, studied 23 high-value heists that occurred in the last three decades for lessons learned that can be applied to designing complex security systems to protect vital national security assets. (Photo by Dino Vournas)

sensors," said Lafleur. "In most of these heists, multiple security measures were defeated."

Another finding is that weapons aren't needed to steal a lot of money. Four of the top five heists, in terms of value, were weaponless.

Film on Dyslexia to Be Screened in Pleasanton

A screening of the film "The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia," with a follow-up discussion will be held at the Pleasanton Public Library on Saturday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Presented by the Northern California branch of the International Dyslexia Association, this 51-minute award-winning documentary was a featured selection at the 2012 Sundance Festival. It was directed by James Redford and has been previously aired as an HBO special.

Following the film will be a panel discussion with Frances Dickson, a Learning Specialist at San Francisco Friends School, and John Santonastaso, a Reading Specialist for Fremont Unified School District, and a question and answer session. This program is intended for adults and children ages 12 and older.

By conservative estimates, one in five people are dyslexic, and it is the most common learning disability.

For more information about this and other library programs, visit the library at 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton or call the Children's Desk at (925) 931-3400 ext. 3. Information is also available on the library's website at <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-and-events.html>.

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The Rotary Club of Livermore raised \$750 over the summer to purchase 280 whiteboards for students at Joe Michell K-8 School. Laura Lembo, Principal of Joe Michell, stated, "With the new whiteboards, every student will get to participate in class discussions by writing his or her own answer, or asking questions, or offering his or her own opinion." This instant participation enables the teacher to identify quickly the students who need additional practice from the students who have mastered the task at hand. This type of formative assessment is critical to planning future lessons that target the individual needs of the students. The Rotary Club worked closely with school administrators to identify a project to assist teachers in the classroom. In addition to this club donation, the Rotary Club of Livermore supports the schools and community nonprofits through its Mini-Grants program. In 2013-14, the Rotary Club of Livermore distributed \$12,000 in mini-grants. For additional information on grant opportunities or to learn more about Rotary Club of Livermore please contact Club President Milly Seibel at mseibel@comcast.net or visit the Livermore Rotary website at livermore-rotary.org. In the photo are Kelly Bowers, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Lumbo, Joe Michell Principal; Milly Seibel, Rotary Club President; and Christian Chukwuma, Rotary Community Service Director along with the class teacher and students.

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SPORTS NOTES



Fusion U7 Cheetah Girls played a great game against the Seahawks on Saturday. Cheetah Girls started the game strong with Jordynn Booe scoring a goal within the first minute of the game. She scored 3 more goals over the course of the game. Jade Selway and Ella Philippe also played well, each scoring a goal. The Seahawks held strong with Anna Van Essen scoring for their team. Overall, the girls had a lot of fun playing. Pictured are the Cheetah Girls keeping control of the ball.



Veronica Valenton (right) running well on her way to a 6th place finish in the CYO cross country girls grades 6-8 race at Joaquin Miller Park.



The West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy Level 4 team won third place in the Vineyard Classic competition, in Livermore on September 28th.



Pleasanton Rage U-14 girls with coach Amanda Luxford earn silver medals in the Dublin Fall Classic Youth Soccer Tournament. Photo courtesy of Tom Monsen



Shivering Pleasanton Seahawks' swimmers pictured are Caroline Eckel, Daniella Hawkins, Marissa Lawrence and Emily Claridge.



The West Coast Kaos U12 girls are on a roll with their second tournament championship. Kaos delivered 4 shutouts to bring home the Stockton Triad Title. Pictured on the bottom row: Maddie Sullivan, Kate Zeck, Katie Reid, Mariana Medrano, and Cassidy Garza. Middle row: Gaby Casillas, Bridget Yocham, Brooke Schiabile, Jennie Barron, Hailey Miller, and Maddie Reid. Top row: Jenna Nielson, Maddie Allum, Kelsey Brumm, and Taylor Sprott. Not pictured: Alan Cox and Coach Marlon Fernandez.



Pleasanton Rage U14 Orange Pride captured the title at the 2014 Walnut Creek Fall Classic Tournament. Pictured are (back row) Coach Gary Brown, Coach Ben Eeo; (middle row) Alexandra Greth, Jamison Gray, Mollie McKay, Summer Reeves, Jenna Brown, Lexie Freeland, Audrey Emmett, Erika Shinn, Caroline Field, Emma Tsztoo, Coach Clifford Wu; (seated, front row) Lindsey Schroeder, Alyssa Wu, Jielin Eeo, and Kristin Kye.



Fusion U6 boys: Great game between the U6 Dragons, coached by Tom Kelleher and the Thunderbolts, coached by Greg Kubiak and Lance Hooker. For the Dragons, great hustle on offense by Grant Weber and Graden Cardwell and being first to the ball. Jonathon Gerlovich was great at the goal line and some good pressure defense by Finn Morrison. For the Thunderbolts' offense, Colton Salamida put on good hustle throughout the game driving the ball to a scoring position. Daniel S. and Noah Estes made some great offensive plays and Cohen Knuth and Myles Rosales did super on defense.



In U6 Boys Fusion Soccer, the Fast Cheetahs have played hard, smart, and with an edge of gusto this whole year. The team has battled and have been focused throughout every practice and every game. The members of the Fast Cheetahs are Joseph Tenca, Brayden Benjamin, Ty Rankin, Viggo Jensen, Brandon Hahn, Khalif Ford, Caden Romero, and Chasyn Haskins.



The Livermore Fusion U12 Boys Maroon team captured another tournament championship, winning the 2014 Adidas Invitational in Livermore this past weekend. The boys went 3-1 during the tournament, outscoring their opponents 15-5. Outstanding teamwork and efficient passing were highlights of their wins over Athletico Santa Rosa, PSA Royals, and Evolution FC. Overall, the Fusion boys competed hard all weekend and turned in some great performances on both offense and defense. Pictured are (top row, left to right): Ryan Hoopes, Caleb "Moose" Chance, Dane Winslow, Aiden Lewis, Joey Keller, Abraham Zarate, Dylan Baxter, Michael Grant, and Coach Matt Caution; Bottom row: Logan Arlt, Mateo Wilde, Edwin Zabala, Colton Trudeau, Landon Ratinho, Ethan Voelker, Parker Moore, and Taha Diah.



The Fusion SC U13 girls Bronze Select Lynx celebrate after finishing third in the Santa Cruz Classic Soccer Tournament, Sept. 27-28. After losing their first game 0-1, the Lynx came back strong to win their next three games and allow only one additional goal. Pictured are (from left, back row) Coach Rich Garcia, Miyah Bullis, Kayla Hebebrand, Marisa Marquez, Sarah Davison, Emma Hyde, Sabrina Pertica, Hailey Lopez, Amanda Price, Sarah Adams, Coach Mike Lopez; (front) Madeline Turk, Madeline Koning, Bella Grajeda, Gianna Sansoni, Catherine Linney, Kaleigh Garcia. On ground, goalkeeper Jenna Swartz, taking a well-deserved rest.



The Fusion Maroon U12 Girls recorded 4 straight shutout wins in weekend play to take the championship trophy at the Adidas tournament. Hosted by the Livermore Fusion Soccer Club, the tournament featured the top teams in Northern California. Fusion didn't allow any goals in two days of play, shutting out premier teams from Central Marin, West Valley, CVSC United and CV San Jose. Pictured is the winning Fusion team, led by Coach Alec Taylor, celebrating their victory.

Livermore Jr. Football

Livermore Junior Football League results:

Junior Division: Raiders 6, Lions 6

Intermediate Division: Ravens 18, Vikings 18: The Vikings were able to shut down the dangerous Ravens' passing attack with outstanding coverage by Eric Hall, Karl Meyers, and Kyle Sands. The Vikings' defense shut out the Ravens in the first half. The Vikings, however, were able to score late in the half on a 37-yard TD pass from Dylan Prusso to Shaun Smith, making it

6-0 going into halftime. Both teams made adjustments and came out strong in the second half. The Vikings' running game came alive with two TDs by Shane Waechter, running behind fantastic blocking by Taite Lewis and Max Serpa. The Vikings took a two TD lead going into the 4th quarter, but allowed the Ravens to creep back in and finish with an 18-18 tie. These two teams played hard and left it all on the field, and it was a fun one to watch.

49ers 20, Eagles 14: The 49ers won their 4th consecutive game of the season, making their record 4-0. The first 49er score came in 1st quarter

when the offense drove the ball down field with several great running plays including a 20 yard run by Matthew Polaski and 20 yard run by John Joiner. The drive culminated in a 4 yard TD run by Peter Storjohann. Peter Storjohann caught a pass for the 2-point conversion. The 2nd quarter was highlighted by another successful long drive by the 49er offense. That drive ended in a TD by Matthew Polaski. The 2nd quarter also had some excellent plays by the 49er defense including a critical tackle by Nathan Lloyd. In addition, there was consistently great defensive coverage by Alec Phillips. The 2nd half started with the game tied at 14. The 49er defense took over in the 2nd half of the game with several critical plays that prevented the Eagles from scoring. In the 3rd quarter there were many key defensive plays, including one by Ryan O'Neill who made an excellent tackle resulting in negative yardage. The only score of the 2nd half came when the 49ers offense put together a long drive capped off by another TD by Matthew Polaski, making the score 20-14. Cameron Salazar and Vance Mowrey filled in on offensive line and did a great job in helping the offense run the ball. The 49er defense can be credited with preventing the Eagles from scoring in the 2nd half which proved crucial to this win. This included consistently strong performances by the defensive line Dominic Zayas, Diego Mack, Chase Cardone, and Joe Schweig.

The Eagles played a fantastic game against the 49ers on Saturday. It started with a bang when on the first snap of the game running back Royal Jones, with his speed and agility, ran the ball 70 yards to score the first touchdown of the game. Jones went on to score a second touchdown, then quarterback Peyton Hendricks threw an impressive two-point conversion. In the second half, first year defensive linebacker Aaron Stone assisted on three tackles, including driving the 49er's running back out of bounds preventing him from making a first down. Kicker's may not get a lot of recognition, but Tanner Lewis really got his leg into it all day long, with deep kicks. The Eagles may have lost

the game, but they proved to be strong contenders.

Advanced Division: Broncos 6, Bears 8: Broncos started out strong with Jacob Gutke's touchdown catch from QB Nolan Smith. The drive was helped by a couple of penalties on the Bears. The Broncos ended the first quarter 6-0. Second quarter Broncos showed some strong defense including Dalton Johnston stripping the Bears' Tyler Morano of the ball and some great tackles by Jeffrey Fairbanks. Quentin Ayers recovered a fumble with two minutes left in the second quarter to end the first half of the game Broncos' 6-0. Jeffrey Fairbanks had a fumble recovery with 7 minutes left in the 3rd quarter. Overall a strong defensive presence, with the Bears able to score in the 4th quarter which ended the game 8-6 handing the Broncos a defeat.

Colts 20, Jets 20: It was truly a battle to the very end on Saturday afternoon as the Colts and Jets tied 20-20. Both offensive units were challenged early in the game to move the ball leading to an unusual number of punts as the teams fought hard for field position. Josiah Knight had three impressive punts for the Colts to keep the Jets deep in their end. The Colts' defense stepped up with hard hits, sacks and tackles from Jackson Brown, Blake Teixeira and Zachary Fumero throughout the entire game. Late in the second quarter the Colts' offense was ignited with a long TD pass from Cole Gibson to Josiah Knight cutting the Jets' lead to 14-6. With another Jets' touchdown in the third, Nick Hill stopped the attempted 2 point conversion to hold the Jets' lead at 20-6. An aggressive Colts' defense shifted the fourth quarter momentum. At 6:29, Matthew Hagan recovered a fumble to hand the ball back to the Colts offense. Only one play was needed for Gavin Napier to run in for a touchdown putting the Colts within striking distance, 20-14. With minutes left to play and the Colts kicking off, Josh Martin recovered a second fumble to once again turn the ball over to the Colts' offense. A long drive led to 1st and goal, setting up a TD QB sneak by Cole Gibson to tie the game.

The Jets showed up ready to

Dublin Teacher Throws First Pitch at Oakland A's Game

A Dublin first grade teacher put the spotlight on education on Tuesday night as he tossed the first pitch at the Oakland A's game against the Los Angeles Angels. Garrett Fogel, from John Green Elementary School in Dublin, stepped up to the pitcher's mound as part of Chevron's Fuel Your School program. The program is returning to Alameda and Contra Costa counties this fall to help educators receive necessary tools for students to learn, explore, and get excited about school.

Fogel received new classroom supplies with the help of the Fuel Your School program in 2010, 2012 and 2013, including iPads and architecture kits. He has submitted a new request eligible for this year's program, including Lego building sets and tablets to support engineering and math-related projects, which will help prepare his students for jobs of the future.

Last year, Chevron's Fuel Your School program helped fund projects in 358 public schools in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, including Mr. Fogel's class. This year, Chevron will contribute \$1 to help fund eligible classroom projects when consumers purchase 8 or more gallons of fuel from Oct. 1 to Oct. 31 at participating Chevron and Texaco stations, up to a total contribution of \$1 million in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties alone. DonorsChoose.org will then use funds generated through the Fuel Your School program to help purchase and distribute classroom materials for eligible projects at local public schools.



Garrett Fogel is shown with Nate Freiman of the A's.

SPORTS NOTES

challenge the undefeated Colts. Joey Gomez had another amazing game scoring 3 TD's. Bryce Beasley had a series of great runs with many yards gained. JJ Knight and Travis Silva also contributed with some impressive runs. Offensive linemen, Drake Demo and Owen Hopkins opened up holes with key blocks throughout the game. The defense played hard and never gave up. Jake Hager, Joe Hager, Blaze Hill, and Austin Lane were able to break the Colts' offensive line and halted the Colts' run game. Kacen Shreffler and Nick Lydon made key tackles. While Hunter Kronmal shut down the edge allowing only minimal gains.

Senior Division: Giants 0, Packers 0; Chiefs 28, Steelers 22

Livermore Fusion

Livermore Fusion Soccer results:
Fusion U8 Boys - Gators: The Gators displayed good teamwork on Saturday. Nash Lay and Joseph Yano made good defensive plays for the Gators. Nolan Lehw and Eli Wigginton played aggressively to help the Gators' offensive.

Pleasanton Rage

In this weekend's Fall Classic Youth Soccer Tournament hosted by Dublin United Soccer League, Pleasanton Rage Orange U-14 girls held their opponents scoreless during four games. Penalty kicks ultimately determined the tournament's U-14 Girls' winner, with Pleasanton Rage taking silver.

Rage took to the field aggressively against the Mustang Rampage in an early morning game on Saturday. Rage mid-fielder Allison Defazio drilled the first of her multiple shots on goal within the game's first two minutes, while Hannah Gossett kept the ball on the Rampage half. Rage's Gabriella Smith was on form, particularly when firing off corners. Smith's third corner of the game bent beautifully to teammate Taylor Metz, who chipped the ball in for the game's first and only goal.

Brooke Delaney, Rage goalie on Saturday, delighted with her daring saves against both Mustang and Rage's afternoon opponent, the Dublin Strikers. Rage shots on goal against the Strikers on Saturday included strong efforts by Emma Monsen, Hunter Faria, Lauren Londono and Lucia Castaneda. The Strikers and Rage game ended in a 0-0 tie.

On Sunday morning, Rage battled Los Gatos Black girls in another defensive contest. Rage's Isabella Clark had several breakaways, and teammates Jessica Stubbs and Ashley Lopez moved the ball quickly through the mid-field, but the Los Altos defense proved too powerful. Responding with equal ferocity was the Rage defensive squad that included Cierra Lofthouse-Wolf (goalie), Ariyana Walling, Juliana Pereira, Sarah McKeever, Samara Ayooob, and Emma Monsen. The third game resulted in a 0-0 tie.

With one win and two ties, Rage earned a spot in Sunday's U-14 championship game. Rage and the Dublin Strikers battled hard with most of the action in the mid-field and few shots taken on goal. Scoreless after both regulation and overtime, penalty kicks decided the bracket winner. The final result: 2-3 in Dublin's favor.

Pleasanton Ballistic

Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club results:

U10: Verona vs. Napoli: John Enders and Joshua Young did a fantastic job in offense, creating many goal scoring opportunities. Dylan Gray made a spectacular goal in the last seconds of the game. William Zhai, Zidane Sellami, and Khilan Serapaneni scored goals. Verona Top Offensive Players: John Enders, William Zhai, Khilan Surapaneni; Top Defensive Players: Nathan Ishaya, Kadin Sellami, Jake Loeffler

U12: FC Bayern Munich vs. Borussia Dortmund: Fantastic job by goalie, Mason Purnell, who mastered eight saves. During this tough game, striker Gabe Payne scored one goal with a great pass by Ethan Kuo.

Pleasanton Rage

The Pleasanton Rage Orange Pride U14 participated in their first tournament of the season at the Walnut Creek Fall Classic. The round robin play provided some excellent competition.

The first match was against the Dublin Earthquakes. The Earthquakes put up a formidable defensive effort throughout the entire game. Neither side was able to mount much of a sustained offensive attack. There were very few opportunities and fewer shots on net. The half ended 0-0. The second half was a continuation of the first half. With 10 minutes remaining, Jielin Eo feathered a soft pass to Jenna Brown. Jenna was able to send a well-placed ball into the corner of the net before the Earthquakes could collapse on her and gave the Pride a 1-0 lead. With just a few minutes remaining, Kristin Kye was able to dribble around several defenders and passed to a wide open Mollie McKay who blasted a shot off the keeper's hands to give the Pride a 2-0 victory in their opening match.

The Pride opened up the scoring early in their second match against the Walnut Creek Fusion. Just minutes into the game, Jamison Gray delivered a cross from the right side and Jenna Brown put it into the back of the net. Summer Reeves was able to push the ball from just beyond the mid-line and past the Fusion defenders. Jenna Brown outraced everyone for a breakaway goal to put the Pride up 2-0. Jamison Gray scored halfway through the half and scored again, out-muscling two Fusion defenders for the ball and putting it past the keeper. Audrey Emmett finished off the scoring off a feed from Jamison Gray to give the Pride a 5-0 lead at the half. The Pride kept up their offensive pressure in the second half, but the Fusion were up to the challenge and the game finished at 5-0.

The final game of pool play pitted the Walnut Creek Wildcats versus the Pride. The Wildcats packed their defensive end and the Pride was unable to unleash any offense in the first half. The Pride finally found the right combination midway through the second half when Alyssa Wu found Jenna Brown open in the middle. A quick spin and shot by Jenna into the corner put the Pride up 1-0. The Wildcats seemed more determined and carried play in the Pride half of the field. A well-placed shot by the Wildcats went in over the Pride keeper to knot the score at 1-1. This time it was the Pride's turn to take over the game. A great combination from Jamison Gray on the left to Jenna Brown in the middle to Audrey Emmett streaking in from the right for a score put the Pride back up 2-1. With five minutes remaining, Mollie McKay made a beautiful cross to a wide open Audrey Emmett who popped in the final goal giving the Pride a hard fought 3-1 victory which put the Pride into the championship game against winners of the other bracket, the Pleasanton Rage Aftershock.

The Pride opened up the scoring early in the game on a rocket shot on the right side by Audrey Emmett that ricocheted off the post to Jenna Brown who managed to deflect it to an Aftershock defender. Continued pressure by



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Amador Valley High School shutout Granada High 28 to 0 in its EBAL opening varsity football game. The win improved the Dons's season record to 4 and 0.

Audrey and Jenna forced the defender to attempt a clear from deep in her defensive zone that resulted in an own goal. Some precise passing through the mid-field, a pass from Jamison Gray for Alyssa Wu's one-time shot at the top of the box made the score 2-0 in favor of the Pride. Towards the end of the first half, Summer Reeves popped a pass to Jenna Brown who headed it to Mollie McKay. Mollie was able to elude the last defender and scored to make it 3-0 for the Pride at the end of the first half. The Pride kept up the offensive pressure in the second half. Kristen Kye one-timed an attempted clear by the Aftershock defense and popped it over the outstretched hands of the keeper. The Pride's final score came on precise passing from Alexandrea Greth to Jamison Gray. The Aftershock keeper had no change against Jamison's blast making the final score 5-0 securing the championship for the Orange Pride.

The Pride were able to control the midfield with major contributions from Lindsey Schroeder and Carly Field. Their constant pressure against their opponents caused many turnovers and their timely passes helped transition the Pride to several breakaways, which resulted in several scores. Alexandrea Greth, Lexie Freeland and Emma Tszoo led the Pride defense. Time and again their speed and quickness frustrated the opposition. Erika Shinn, the Pride keeper, provided steady goal keeping and came up with key saves throughout the tournament. Her leadership was one of the big reasons for the Pride's successful run at the tournament.

West Coast Soccer

U15 West Coast Whiplash were unstoppable this past weekend at the Soccerpalooza Premier Tournament in Union City, going 4 for 4 and emerging with a first place finish. The first game, led by forward Kira Karter with two beautiful assists to Alize Perez and Paige Sutter, got Whiplash on the board against WCCYSL Dynamites, 2-0. The Dynamites answered back with a second half goal. Strong mid-field play, resulted in Taylor Petersen dribbling one in around the Dynamites' goalkeeper for Whiplash's first win, 3-1.

The second game against Juventus Explosion saw Whiplash focused and determined, as they dominated for the majority of the game. The shutout by the Whiplash defense, led by Madison Stewart, Celia Portugal, Jenna Radwan, Rachel Foley, Tara Collier and GK Taylor Sullivan was well earned with a final score of 2-0. Forwards Kira Karter and Natalie Carey delivered the goals for the West Coast win.

The 3rd game of the tournament tested Whiplash's tenacity, as it was physical game against Milpitas Panthers, with Whiplash down by one at the half. In the second half, forward Alize Perez smashed a shot into the goal to tie up the game. The Whiplash would net the game winner on a beautiful run by Taylor Petersen, with a well placed shot earning them a spot in the Championship match.

The championship game saw the Whiplash face Union City Premier Fusion, a much higher ranked team. The Fusion team got on the board in the first half early, but it was answered by a well-placed shot into the corner by Whiplash's Natalie Arruda, on a beautiful pass from Alize Perez. It was tied up at half, and both teams came out strong with the attack going back and forth, until a late second half goal by Jenna Tidwell, helped clinch the victory, and West Coast Whiplash brings home the championship trophy.

The West Coast U12G Kaos, delivered 4 shutouts to bring home the championship title at the 2014 Stockton Triad Tournament. In the first game of the tournament, Kaos faced East Sacramento. Within the first twenty minutes, Kaos moved ahead 2-0 with goals from Forward Taylor Sprott. This was both the first victory of the tournament the first of four shutouts for Kaos.

Game two proved to be a little tougher with a close match against East Bay Eclipse. In this match, Kaos dominated with possession but couldn't convert several shots on goal. The Kaos defense kept East Bay Eclipse out of the 18 to prevent any serious offensive attacks. Late in the second half, Sprott found a hole on the right side of the net to move Kaos into a 1-0 lead. The match ended with a Kaos shutout and the win.

In game three, Kaos easily handed the home team, Stockton Lightning, a brutal 6-0 defeat. Forwards Sprott, Maddie Allum, Cassidy Garza, Midfielder Jennie Barron, and Fullback Kelsey Brumm shared the six Kaos goals.

In the championship game, Kaos once again faced the East Bay Eclipse. Throughout the game, Kaos was on an offensive assault with several shots on goal. Midway through the first half, Sprott fired off a stinger that went through the legs of the Eclipse goalie giving Kaos a 1-0 lead going into the half. The second half continued with Kaos domination on offense and an impenetrable defense. In the final few minutes, Eclipse made a last ditched effort to score but was called offside. The match ended with Kaos winning 1-0 and the championship.

This is the second tournament championship for the West Coast Kaos U12 girls.



The West Coast Wildfire U15 girls faced teams from Diablo FC and Mustang to bring home a draw and a state cup win. In California Regional League play, West Coast met up against a top ranked Diablo FC to bring home a 1-1 draw. In Norcal State Cup play, team Wildfire easily handled Mustang Blast to bring home a 3-1 win. Pictured is West Coast Wildfire goalie Nicole Pastrikas preventing Diablo from scoring off a corner kick.



Pictured are West Coast U15 Whiplash players Natalie Carey, Madison Stewart, Rachel Foley, Jenna Radwan, Jenna Tidwell, Natalie Arruda, Coach Vanessa Miskella, Ireland Johnson, Paige Sutter, Celia Portugal, Tara Collier, Taylor Petersen, Devyn Montesinos, Alize Perez and Taylor Sullivan. Not pictured Kira Karter, Kierra Stanek.



West Coast U18 Katz captured the Champions Cup for second year in a row. West Coast started off defending the cup with a 2-2 tie against Madera Vipers and then a 1-0 win over Bullard United. Katz beat CenCal 2-0 from Fresno in a semifinal to reach the final again with the home side Monarcas Academy. Monarcas Academy held the Katz scoreless in the first half, Katz had scored in each game since. After the half, Katz started finding their groove. Alyssa Rodreguz placed a perfectly placed pass to Kylie Long who drove home a shot to get them on the score sheet early in the second half. Kylie Long would strike again extending the lead to 2. Katz enjoyed a comfortable 2-0 lead to the final whistle and defended their spot as the top U18 team in the Champions Cup.

ten minutes to go. On an offensive assault with the few minutes remaining Wildfire got close with several shots on goal but couldn't sink the go-ahead score. The game ended in a tie 1-1, a successful outing for Wildfire and a mental defeat for Diablo.

In the second game of the weekend, West Coast Wildfire faced Mustang Blast in a state cup game preliminary game. Ten minutes into the first half, West Coast defender Tori Diehl sent a beautiful cross from the left into the right corner of the goal area. The ball was deflected by the Mustang goalie and quickly followed up on by Wildfire Bella Barbero who delivered a chest bump to knock the ball into the left side of the goal. The second goal was scored by West Coast's Paola Samaniego. Mustang answered the 2-0 lead with the goal of their own making the game 2 to 1 midway through the second half. With 15 minutes to go in the game, midfielder Amanda Zeck passed to Meghan Giamona who then

flipped a ball through a hole back to Zeck who dribbled past the defenders to fire off a beautiful shot into the right corner over the goalie's hands.

Pleasanton Seahawks

The Pleasanton Seahawks swim team started the new season with many new best times as well as many new standard achievements. The 'Crow Canyon Sharks' hosted a meet on September 20-21, 2014 at Doherty Valley High School in San Ramon, CA. (See SPORTS, page 14)



The photo of the Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club U10 battle between Verona and Napoli shows William Zhai after he scored a goal.



Livermore Junior Football League's Shane Waechtler evades tacklers for a big run.



John Joiner makes an impressive run in the Livermore Junior Football League Eagles' game.



Miles Kluball attempting to get the ball over the goal line for a point after in the Livermore Junior Football League Intermediate 49er versus Eagles game.



West Coast Wonder U16 surged to the top of the 2014 Champions Cup. They took on Cap Valley Crossfire where Lauren Sandy would take care of business by scoring two goals, assisted by Leslie Jimenez and Marissa Pletschette. Wonder girls put 5 past CenCal from Fresno, two goals coming from Pletschette and McKenna Booty, Lauren Sandy scored to make it 5-0 win. McKenna Booty continued her scoring streak with a solid goal to move the Wonder past Madera Vipers 1-0. The final would be a showdown between two tough teams and the bracket B winners Sacramento United. Wonder battled the Sac United team to a 3-3 tie back in June before their trip to North Carolina for the National Championship. Wonder showed their improvement by defeating United 5-2 in a well played final match.

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By Carol Graham

The little girl in the wheelchair could neither speak nor get her body to do what she wanted.

For a gentle giant named Moonie, that presented no problem.

"We introduced the girl who had cerebral palsy to the horse Moonie, and stood back to let Moonie be Moonie," remembers Cleo Home, Vice-President of the Tri-Valley Trailblazers. "Moonie brought her head down to the little girl and explored all around the wheelchair, gradually working up to the little girl's hand and then her face. I watched the little girl's eyes and her entire face light up with a big smile. Moonie didn't move, just stood there and let the little girl feel the love. It's an amazing thing to see."

The Tri-Valley Trailblazers are hosting their "3rd Annual Horse Faire" on Saturday, October 11th at Robertson Park in Livermore.

"This is a benefit for the Livermore Rodeo Foundation's 'Li'l Parners' and Rowell Ranch Rodeo's 'Special Partners,' as well as for the East Bay Regional Park District's mounted police program," says Trailblazer Marilyn Russell. "The first two faires were devoted to Reins in Motion, an adaptive riding program in Livermore for special needs children, adults and veterans. Since this year is the Chinese Year of the Horse, a very auspicious sign for our event, we think this year will be the best ever."

Admission and parking are free, and all are invited to attend the benefit.

"The way most organizations raise funds is through admission and parking fees for an event. We don't," says Homes. "We want to make it as easy as possible for families to come have a day of fun and see commu-



Riding rocking horses are an attraction for the younger set.



nity horse-based programs they may not be aware of. We are fortunate to have local businesses that place ads in our program, donate products, and sponsor different aspects to pay for key expenditures. We sell boutique shopping booths and each vendor donates an item to the silent auction; local businesses also donate products or services to the silent auction and this has enabled the auction to be successful each year."

The day-long event offers fun for all attendees. The "Li'l Cowpoke Rodeo Corral" is designed for those with special needs - which range from autism to language disorders to severe burns - although all

individuals are welcome to enjoy the corral's activities.

"We offer a 30-minute play increment for free so an individual can safely play under the guidance of a PATH-certified (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) instructor while the parent or guardian has respite," says Home. "This is not typical of fair environments. The entire family can play in the corral or they can individually decide how they'd like to enjoy the faire."

Activities include demonstrations, training clinics, food, games, and shopping at specialty boutique and collectible booths.

"To ensure we can meet everyone's needs to play in

the corral, we won't have live horses in the arena except at noon when Reins in Motion will present an exhibition of the riding portion of adaptive riding," says Home. "People will be able to see firsthand how the horse and rider interact."

The Tri-Valley Trailblazers is a nonprofit recreational equestrian group with approximately 60 members primarily from the East Bay Area. The Trailblazers meet monthly, and participate in rides, campouts, play days, local parades, and safety and educational clinics.

For individuals both with and without special needs, horses are known to be therapeutic.

"Physically, the horse's walk uniquely duplicates the walk of a human. Individuals in wheelchairs who may not be able to walk on their own can sit on a horse and, as the horse walks, exercise and stretch their muscles as if they were walking," says Home. "Although the physical rehabilitation and relationship are incredible to be part of, it's the emotional connection where the magic is truly humbling. Animals have a set of skills and the ability to connect that goes beyond any logical explanation. It's particularly magical with horses; maybe because they're so big or because of their size, we don't see how they can be so gentle and

soft. Everyone in this work has stories where we've seen horse magic at work.

"My favorite moments of the faire are when I stop and look around," she adds. "Everybody I see has a smile, and they're engaged in what they're doing in an inclusive, supportive environment. For me, it just doesn't get any better than that."

For more information, visit www.trivalleytrailblazers.com.

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Tree Sweaters Benefit for Pets

An exotic Tree Sweater Forest sprouted in downtown Livermore over the weekend, with trees adorned in creative works that resemble legwarmers.

The Downtown Tree Sweater project is a collaboration involving the City of Livermore, Livermore Downtown Inc., and Jo-Ann Fabrics and Craft Stores to benefit the Valley Humane Society.

A program last Saturday introduced the artists and discussed the program. Brian Fagundes, representing the Livermore Downtown Inc., stated, "As a downtown business owner, I like to see projects like this that make Livermore unique."

Mayor John Marchand echoed that sentiment. "I never cease to be amazed by the creativity and volunteerism in Livermore. This time people have come together to help pets."

He noted that 180 hours were spent measuring trees and designing projects; 1025 hours knitting or crocheting; with over 275 skeins of yarn used. Most of the materials were donated by Jo-Anns.

The fiber art project will remain on view through Nov. 22 when a closing activity will be held at the Flag Pole Plaza. Then the "sweaters" will be removed from the trees and donated to Valley Humane Society where the cats and dogs will be able to use them as blankets.

Marchand presented a check for over \$1500 to the Valley Humane Society director Melanie Sadek raised through business sponsorships.

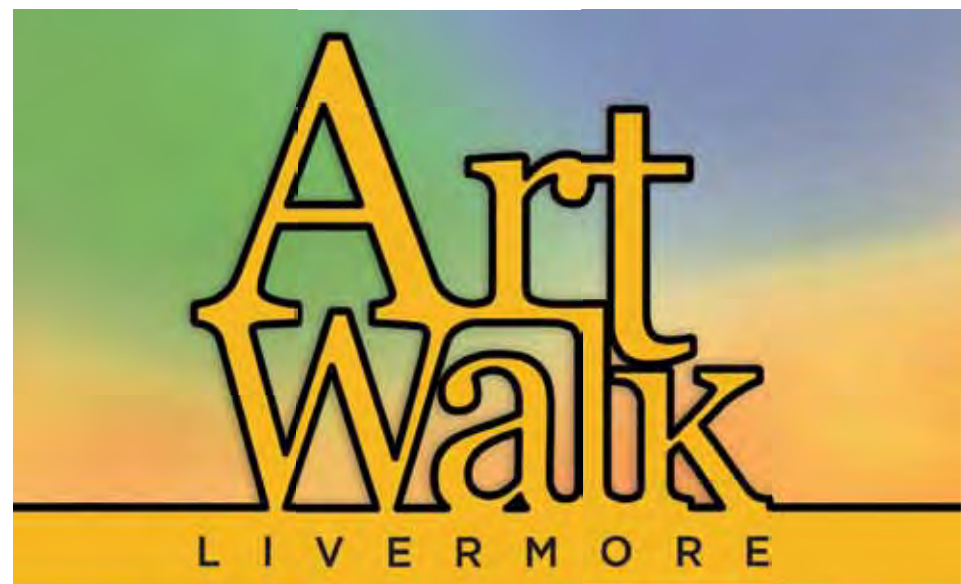
Sadek commented, "Through the process, the artists from Livermore and Pleasanton have generated excitement surrounding the project. The animals will love the sweaters." She added that when a pet is adopted, it will be taking its sweater to its new home.

Marchand stated, "It has been a labor of love, beautifies the downtown, helps pets and it is fun."

Artist Rachel Flory agreed. "It was fun. I hope they do it again." Her sweater depicts a Livermore garden at sunset that includes grapevines and owls.

Livermore poet laureate Kevin Gunn wrote a poem to commemorate the occasion.

The Tree Sweater Forest was inspired by a global trend called "yarn bombing," a kind of fiber graffiti. There are 37-trees sporting sweaters. A map showing the locations of the trees, along with the names of the artists is available on the city's website.



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QUATTRO Brings Popzzical Vibe to the Firehouse

QUATTRO hits the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Saturday, October 11, for an 8:00 p.m. performance.

The group everyone is talking about since the Latin Grammys last year brings its dynamic “Popzzical” vibe (Pop + Jazz + Classical) to the East Bay’s intimate concert venue. QUATTRO consists of four solo performers: cello, percussion, violin, guitar, plus vocals. They came together from seemingly un-related professional music worlds, and melded into the dynamic group that everyone is talking about since the Grammys.

Reserved seating tickets for QUATTRO are \$18-\$28, and can be purchased online at www.firehouse-arts.org, by calling 925-931-4848, and in person at the Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday - Friday 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and two hours prior to the performance.

Giovanna Moraga Clayton: cello and vocals. Clayton currently holds positions with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and the New West Symphony as well as



Group to perform in Pleasanton.

being an in-demand cellist in the Los Angeles recording scene, having recorded on hundreds of film scores, soundtracks, TV shows and records.

Lisa Dondlinger: violin and vocals. She has performed and recorded with top artists ranging from Christina Aguilera to Luciano Pavarotti, and plays in the house band for television shows such as American Idol, Dancing with the Stars, The Tonight Show and many others. She has performed on the Grammy Awards, the Academy Awards, is active in the film industry, and is

(continued on page 3)

Guitarist Leo Kottke Returns to the Bankhead

Acoustic guitarist Leo Kottke returns to the Bankhead Theater in October with the signature sound and innovative fingerpicking style that has made him one of the foremost guitar players of our time.

Described as “a guitarist who plays like two” by The New York Times, Kottke is known for the rich and luscious instrumentals he produces from his six- and 12-string guitars. This is his second appearance at the Bankhead Theater since performing as part of the LVPAC Presents opening season in 2007. Tickets for Leo Kottke’s single performance on Friday evening, October 3, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. are \$42 or \$60 for adults and \$16 for students.

In his four decades as

a performer, Kottke has established a reputation for blending folk, pop, blues, jazz and classical elements into his own unique musical style. He moved several times during his childhood, absorbing and enjoying the many musical influences he encountered. Despite a partial hearing loss suffered as a child, when he landed in Virginia for high school he took up music, playing the trombone before eventually finding his way to the guitar. After serving in the Navy, Kottke settled in Minnesota and played in local coffeehouses and small clubs. His growing popularity eventually led to the 1969 recording of “6- and 12-String Guitar,” a landmark album still revered by guitarists

worldwide.

Kottke’s ability to bring forth what some called “torrents of notes” from his guitar was instrumental in his rapid rise in the music world, but also nearly resulted in the end of his career. In the 1980s, he suffered from debilitating tendon damage caused by his intense finger picking style. In order to continue playing, Kottke developed a completely new method, repositioning his hand and combining jazz and classical playing techniques. This original fingerpicking style, combined with unconventional tuning of his six- and 12- string guitars, has set Kottke apart with a unique and identifiable sound.

Kottke has collabo-



Leo Kottke

rated with musicians of all genres and has been nominated for two Grammy

Awards. Next summer, he will be joined by other expert guitarists and friends

in the first “Leo Kottke’s Dunk Tank,” a weeklong

(continued on page 3)

Bay Area Musicians Featured in Del Valle Fine Arts' First Concert of the New Season

Two of the Bay Area's most celebrated musicians will open Del Valle Fine Arts' 2014-2015 season at the Bankhead Theater on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 8:00 pm. Peter Wyrick and Roy Bogas have programmed an evening of sublime cello and piano duets.

Many composers who have written for the cello have commented that, of the string instruments, its character is closest to the human voice. Therefore it is ideally suited to communicating songful, heartfelt sentiment and romance. These attributes are in abundance in their program.

Beethoven's Cello Sonata, Op. 102 is the last chamber work that he wrote for the instrument. It displays the emotional intensity and searching qualities that characterize Beethoven's work toward the end of his life. Cellist Steven Isserlis noted, "Beethoven gives us a full slow movement, a prayer that must surely be the most beautiful movement ever written for cello and piano."

The three short Fantasy Pieces by Robert Schumann exhibit a broad spectrum of moods, from dreamy to fiery, typical of this most mercurial of the Romantic composers.

From the 20th Century, the program turns to Swiss-born composer Ernest Bloch (who had strong ties to the Bay Area as an educator at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and U.C. Berkeley). In the 1920s Bloch composed a number of pieces exploring his Jewish heritage. His Three Pictures of Jewish Life is one of several works featuring the cello, whose cantorial "voice" evokes the musical and emotional character of both Jewish sacred



Peter Wyrick (left) and Roy Bogas to perform.

and folk music.

The program concludes with a masterful Sonata in A Minor, Op 36, by one of the last true Romantic composers, the Norwegian Edvard Grieg. The last movement in particular, with its spirited tunes and rustic dances, will bring smiles of recognition, as the music is so unmistak-

ably from the pen of the man who composed the popular and tuneful Peer Gynt and Holberg Suites.

Peter Wyrick has served as associate principal cello of the San Francisco Symphony since 1999, with frequent appearances as soloist with that orchestra. He entered Juilliard at age eight, studying under the legendary Leonard Rose, and made his solo debut at twelve. He has collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Yefim Bronfman, and numerous other world renowned musicians, and appears at the most select music festivals.

Roy Bogas was one of the top award winners of the Second International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow (1962) and then served as accompanist to such luminaries as Yehudi Menuhin, Joseph Szigeti, Jaime Laredo, and Michael Rabin. As a soloist, he has appeared with leading orchestras around the world and is principal solo pianist for the San Francisco Ballet. He is also the founder and artistic director of MasterGuild, a chamber music series at Holy Names University in Oakland.

Tickets are \$42/\$35/\$28 and are available at the Bankhead box office, 2400 First Street in Livermore, by phone at (925) 373-6800 or online at www.bankheadtheater.org.

High school students are free but tickets must be arranged by calling or going to the box office. College students are \$10 on the day of the performance.

The remaining DVFA concerts are the Avenue Winds on November 8, the Cypress String Quartet on February 14, Stanislav Kristenko on the piano on March 28 and violin/guitar Duo Rendezvous on May 2.

Sunol AgPark to Host Harvest Festival

SAGE (Sustainable Agriculture Education) will host the 2nd annual Sunol AgPark Harvest Festival and U-Pick Pumpkin Patch, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5 at the Sunol Water Temple AgPark. The AgPark is located at 505 Paloma Way, Sunol (on Hwy 84, ½ mile west of Hwy 680).

The event, which is free and open to the public, celebrates the bountiful harvest season with Sunol AgPark Farmers.

A highlight of the Harvest Festival will be u-pick pumpkin patches, grown in the fields of Sunol AgPark farmers. Pumpkins of all sizes will be waiting for toddlers through teenagers to lug home.

The AgPark farmers will also have their farm products for sale, including heirloom tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, aromatic melons, fresh eggs, flower bouquets, and more. Decorate the pumpkins with help from Happy Acre Farm, learn about saving tomato seeds with Terra Bella Family Farm, meet the chickens and rooster of Foolish Hens Farm, and arrange a beautiful bouquet of flowers with Root and Bloom Farm.

The AgPark farmers will also offer farm tours and talk about their farming practices and crops. Sunol Community Gardeners will host tomato talks, kids' crafts, face painting, and seed packet making.

Community organizations will offer a variety of fun and education activities for all ages. Get information on converting a lawn to a garden, take a nature hike around the AgPark, get hands in the dirt in planting in the farm's hedgerow, and explore the AgPark through scavenger hunts, while learning more about different conservation and sustainability organizations in the Bay Area.

Bicycle hay rides can transport visitors throughout the 18 acre farm site, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own bikes, trikes and wagons to ride around the farm themselves. Bring a water bottle to fill up at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission water station. Food from local Sunol and Bay Area eateries will be available for purchase, and local wineries and a brewery will be selling and pouring wine.

The Niles Canyon Artisans will be selling their specialty crafted wares. The festival will also feature live

music from The GroWiser band, a Caribbean inspired jazz and soul band.

More details can be found at SAGE's website: <http://www.sagecenter.org/news-events/harvest-festival/>, or contact Charlotte Hryse by email: charlotte@sagecenter.org or by phone: 510-526-1793 x5.

'S Is For . . .' Program Planned by Concert Band

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band presents the family concert, "S is for . . ." at the Firehouse Arts Center at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 19.

The band will perform music by composers with "S" names: Strauss, Stravinsky, Seitz, Sousa, and S'more.

Doors open at 1:40 p.m. The concert is free, although donations are appreciated. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

For more information about the band and its programs, call 846-5897 or go to www.pleasantonband.org.

Musical 'SPANK! The Fifty Shades Parody' at the Bankhead

A box office hit that has been met by enthusiastic audiences across North America, "SPANK! The Fifty Shades Parody" reaches Livermore with its clever reimagining of the best-selling book's characters this October. Characterized by Chicago Public Radio as "a hilarious satire of practically every trope in popular culture," the show delivers comedy, ribald musical numbers, and steamy performances by "the leading hunk in a grey tie."

"SPANK! The Fifty Shades Parody," which is targeted for mature audiences, will be at the Bankhead Theater for one performance only on Friday evening, October 10, 2014. Ticket prices are \$52 and \$69.

Even those who are not among the millions who have read the book have found themselves laughing along with the unauthorized parody's outrageous humor and over-the-top performances. The talented cast knows how to work the stage with a combination of wit, vocal talent and humor that amuses without offending fans of the novel.

Featured in the show are Amanda Barker as E.B. Janet, a role that won her three Broadway World Awards, David Raposo as Hugh Hanson and, as Tasha Woode, Danielle Trzcinski, who also wrote the lyrics to one of the musical's key songs. "SPANK! The Fifty Shades Parody" is a fast-paced show, filled with laughs and hilarious pop culture references from its entertaining opening number, through to the final punch line. Audience members are invited to arrive early for pre-show cocktails and to stay after the show to meet the cast and pose for pictures in the lobby.

Throughout the year, LVPAC Presents at the Bankhead Theater welcomes a variety of entertainment, including music, theater, dance and comedy. Following "SPANK! The Fifty Shades Parody" are several other comedy



Amanda, David and Danielle in scene from Spank!

QUATTRO

(continued from front page)

currently performing with Celine Dion in her latest production: Celine.

Kay-Ta Matsuno: guitar and vocals. Born in Osaka, Japan, Matsuno relocated to Boston at age 20 to study at Berklee College of Music. The broad scope of his playing style (from Gospel, R&B, country, jazz, and rock) helped kick-start his career as a session guitarist in Los Angeles. His already long list of credits includes: David Foster, Baby Face,

Natalie Cole, Keiko Matsui, Lalah Hathaway, Amerie, Chante Moore, Jackiem Joyner, Daniel Bedingfield, Malcolm Jamal Warner, Steve Porcaro, Virgil Donatti, Tony Macalpine, Jody Watley, and many more.

Jorge Villanueva: percussion and vocals. Tijuana, Mexico native Villanueva's musical resume includes touring engagements, recording, and movie soundtracks with

artists such as Beth Hirsh of "Air", Diego Amador, Alex Acuña, Abraham Laboriel, Israel Varela, Debi Nova, Christian Castro, and

Alexander Pires. Known for his unique percussion combinations, Villanueva brings QUATTRO's audiences to their feet.



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First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets may be purchased at the box office, online at www.bankhead-theater.org or by calling 373-6800.

KOTTKE

(continued from front page)

immersion in guitar playing that includes opportunities to listen, learn and make music in a lovely California coast setting.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400

shows, such as "The Official Blues Brothers Revue" which arrives March 7, 2015. Presented by Dan Aykroyd, Judy Belushi and music director Paul Shaffer, this combination of music and fun features Wayne Catania as Jake and Kieron Lafferty as Elwood. Later the same month, the Chicago comedy group's current touring show, "The Second City Hits Home," puts a hilarious hometown twist on the latest headlines and hot button issues. Finally, May 1st brings the annual return of The Capitol Steps with their political satire that puts "the mock in democracy."

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 or by calling 373-6800.



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Review

Livermore Valley Opera's 'Rigoletto' Rises to Challenge

by Sarah Bobson

Livermore Valley Opera's current production of Verdi's 1851 opera masterpiece, *Rigoletto*, which opened Saturday night at the Bankhead to a nearly sold-out audience, is a difficult undertaking for any opera house. Ravishing music coupled with a tragedy of Shakespearean depths about depravity and parental love require the utmost in vocal and acting stamina, and LVO rose mostly to meet the challenge.

Eugene Brancoveanu's powerful baritone, almost too big for a small theater like the intimate 500-seat Bankhead, tended to overpower the other principal voices, but was in great form, as usual. The role of Rigoletto is a stretch for him since it is usually performed by older singers. Despite a long grey wig, aging lines drawn on the face, and a limp, Brancoveanu's youthful fitness and vigor threatened to reassert themselves in the unconscious moments. He spent the first act settling into the character, a deformed court jester ridiculed by society. By Act II, after his beloved daughter Gilda has been kidnapped, we begin to see a heaviness of body and soul creep into his movements and gestures. When he is lying prostrate on the ground, asking for the pity of the court in returning his daughter, he looks like the lowly insect everyone views him to be. By the end of the third act, when he is cradling his murdered daughter in his arms and he lets out the

piercing, piteous, primordial cry of a wounded animal, we see a Rigoletto in the full tragic bloom of agony.

Kathleen Magee, originally from Livermore, sang Gilda, Rigoletto's innocent and ill-fated daughter, with a robust, full soprano. In her first scene with her father at their house, her voice didn't always project. By the time she sang her crowning aria, "Caro nome," where she ponders the name of her beloved, a false name he has given her, she was in possession of her instrument. Characterizing Gilda as the sweet, innocent girl she is, Magee sang the runs and coloraturas simply, sensitively, and purely, with a crystalline, bell-like quality, without theatricality or acrobatics.

Michael-Paul Krubitzer sang the role of the Duke of Mantua with a beautiful, strong tenor voice. His portrayal of the wanton Duke, though, seemed stiff in Act I. But by Act II, he began to evolve into the lothario who has Rigoletto procure women for him, and by Act III, when he groped the breasts of the prostitute, Maddalena, he embraced the character's reputation as a rake. His rendition of one of the most famous and successful arias ever written, "La donna e mobile," both on and off the stage, was splendid.

The staging by Joseph Bascetta, artistic director of Fresno Grand Opera, of the Francesco Maria Piave's libretto based on a Victor Hugo story, while appropriate for Liver-



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

A scene from 'Rigoletto' now playing at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

more's community theater, did not always succeed in portraying the lascivious, sinful, unrepentant behavior that defiles goodness and is at the core of the opera. Raising the curtain during the prelude, to reveal actors frozen in place, undermined the dramatic effect of the music, an encapsulation of the opera's story arc. In the opening scene of Act I, one of the Duke's regular bacchanals is taking place at his palace, but the courtiers' stylized poses and motions make them look like regal mannequins rather than raunchy libertines. It becomes ludicrous, then, when Count Monterone, whose daughter the duke has seduced, arrives and says he has come to disturb the orgy. What orgy? The only hint of foulness we get is Count Monterone's daughter, a fallen woman, who is brought to the party from another room

in the palace, probably the Duke's bedroom, and thrown to the ground. The courtiers, posing as elegant patricians, pretend not to know what is going on. This interpretation works on some level, but it robs us of a more vibrant sense of the Duke's dirty dealings. It also dilutes the intensity of the drama of a buffoonish, hunchback court jester who procures women for his master, the Duke.

The sets by Jean-Francois Revon, consisting of steps both up- and downstage, and the lighting work fairly well. Considering the company's tight budget, LVO has made good use of projected images, in this case on hanging panels, to give the appearance of building exteriors, stained glass windows, and, most effectively, of lightening. I wonder, though, whether more somber lighting

throughout the opera would have heightened the drama, albeit one interspersed with comedic moments, by increasing the sense of foreboding and the dark, sinister underbelly of the life of the nobility. Act III, which takes place at an inn, does use a darker set to reflect the bleakness of the story's tragic end where Gilda's cloistered romantic notions are smashed when she sees the Duke philandering with a prostitute, and afterward where Rigoletto realizes that the assassin he has hired to kill the Duke has, instead, killed his own daughter, Gilda, the only bright spot in his otherwise dark and dismal life.

In addition to the leads, this production has a fine cast of supporting actors. Philip Skinner's Sparafucile was deliciously sinister, projecting his character's debaseness with a strong bass. Anders

Froelich, as Count Ceprano, has a strong bass voice. Richard Block, another bass (there are a lot of them in this opera), made a brief, but strong appearance. Of all the supporting roles, Molly Hill as Maddalena stood out. Not only does she have a commanding, rich mezzo-soprano, but she captured the spitfire nature of her character in the few minutes she was on stage.

The men's chorus did an outstanding job and never sounded better. The 21-member orchestra, under the baton of LVO Music Director Alexander Katsman, sounded vibrant throughout, although on a few occasions their exuberance tended to drown out the singers.

All performances take place at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore.

Tickets for next Saturday evening's performance, October 4th at 7:30 p.m. (an hour earlier than usual), and next Sunday's matinee, October 5th at 2:00 p.m., are available at the box office, at 925-373-6800, or at www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

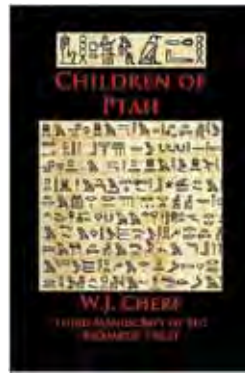
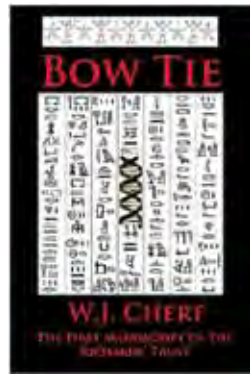
Prices are: adults \$39-\$84; students 18 and younger \$10 off on all days, all seating sections (student ID required). Included in the ticket price is a pre-performance lecture one hour prior to curtain. A traditional artist's reception is held in the lobby immediately following each performance.

For more information about LVO, visit www.livermorevalleyopera.org.

Library Program to Offer a Glimpse of Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt Revealed is the focus of a slideshow to be presented at 2 p.m. on Sun., Oct. 5 at the Pleasanton Library.

The presenter will be W.J. Cherf, author of a series of historical science fiction books based on reality. The books contain themes of time travel, Cold War psychology, genetics, love and murder.



Covers from two of Cherf's books.

Cherf holds a master degree in Egyptian Archeology and a Ph.D. in Ancient History. He lives in Denver where he is president of the Egyptian Study Society.

Cherf's first book, "Bow Tie, the First Manuscript of the Richard's Trust," based on genetic mutation sets the pace for all of them. The source was extraterrestrial. Bow Tie chronicles how

an international scientific effort resolved the situation by using a most unusual means for prosecuting a most unscrupulous task – time travel and murder. This is the first manuscript published by the Richards' Trust in accordance with the posthumous wishes of Egyptologist Joseph William Richards, Ph.D., who disappeared.

Those attending are invited to bring questions

about Egypt.

His books are available online at Amazon and in Pleasanton at Towne Center Books, 555 Main Street. There will be available for purchase and signing at the program.

There is no admission charge to attend. The library is located at 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton. For additional information, call 931-3400.



California Fandango Project will entertain visitors with authentic Californios music and dance at a free Fall Festival at Pleasanton's Alviso Adobe Community Park on Saturday, October 11.

Fall Festival Features at Alviso Adobe Variety of Activities

The City of Pleasanton will host a free Fall Festival at Alviso Adobe Community Park on Saturday, October 11th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The public is invited to this free event. The park is located at 3465 Old Foothill Road. The event is also made possible with assistance from 4-H 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, site tours, a live animal display by the local 4-H, authentic Californios music and dance by California Fandango Project, and games and crafts for children.

The event will also feature hands-on activities and presentations from the Adobe's three time periods: Ohlone, Californio, and the Meadowlark Dairy. Of special interest are demonstrations such as apple cider pressing, acorn grinding, blacksmithing, and ice cream churning. Other activities include cow and horse roping, short birding hikes, and introduction to the park's new Exploration Backpacks which can be checked out with activities relating to the history of the site. Guests will also be treated to complimentary burritos.

For more information, please call (925) 931-3439.

FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER

Announcing The New 2014 / 2015 Season



Quattro

Latin + Pop + Jazz + Classical
Sat, Oct 11 • 8pm



The World of Webber

Tribute to the Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber
Fri, Oct 10 • 8pm & Sun, Oct 12 • 2pm



Halie Loren

...the Next "Big Thing" in Jazz Vocalists
Thur, Oct 16 • 8pm



Will Durst in Boomeraging

From LSD to OMG
Fri & Sat, Oct 17 & 18 • 8pm

TICKETS:

Phone 925.931.4848 Online www.firehousearts.org/events
Box Office 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton



NEW Firehouse Arts Membership Program

For more information about the program, or to become a member, visit www.firehousearts.org/memberships

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

Livermore Art Association Gallery, located in the Carnegie Building, offers art classes, unusual gifts, painting rentals, art exhibits and information pertaining to the art field, 2155 Third St., Livermore. The gallery has been open since 1974 and is run as a co-op by local artists. Hours are Wed.-Sun. 11:30-4 p.m. For information call 449-9927.

Members of the Pleasanton Art League Public Art Circuit are currently exhibiting art at six businesses in the Pleasanton - Dublin Area. Viewing locations are: Bank of America at 337 Main Street, Pleasanton; Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce at 777 Peters Street, Pleasanton; Sallman, Yang, & Alameda CPA's at 4900 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton; US Bank at 749 Main Street, Pleasanton; Edward Jones at 6601 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin; and The Bagel Street Café at 6762 Bernal Avenue Pleasanton. Information regarding the Public Art Circuit, call John Trimmingham at (510) 877-8154.

The Art of Porcelain Painting, works by Eugenia Zobel at Museum on Main, 608 Main St., Pleasanton. Work will be exhibited August 27 through October 12, 2014.

Pleasanton Art League 5th Annual Members' Juried Exhibition at the Harrington Gallery. Art media of all types will be represented, including watercolor, acrylic, printmaking, photography, oils, collage, 3-D, and collage. This popular show will feature a variety of fresh new works by member artists, most of whom live in the Tri-Valley area. Awards will be selected by special guest juror Jane Hofstetter, noted national artist, teacher, author and adjudicator. Free public reception with artists will be held on Monday, September 29, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Regular gallery hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Harrington Gallery at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, 4444 Railroad Avenue. Donations always appreciated. The exhibit will run September 27 through October 25.

Special Fall Exhibit: Dan Petersen. September 11 through October 18. The Harrington Gallery and Firehouse Arts Center present the extraordinary watercolors of Dan Petersen in the Grand Atrium, mezzanine, and "Across the Glass Bridge" exhibition spaces. Peterson has had over 50 one-man shows, received 150+ awards, including over 30 top statewide awards, plus several top National Awards at Watercolor USA. His work is in university collections and in hundreds of private collections. Former president Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev were collectors. The public is invited to explore and enjoy the exhibits during Firehouse Arts Center open hours. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 12:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Donations always appreciated. For more information, contact Gallery Director: JFneigan@cityofpleasantonca.gov, or call the gallery: 925-931-4849.

ArtWalk, Oct. 11, downtown Livermore, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - art displays, music, etc. Free admission. www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Interplay: Texture and Luminosity, exhibition of mosaic art, Harrington Gallery, Nov. 7-Dec. 31. Reception, Nov. 6, 7 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

Pleasanton Art League, Livermore Art Association, meeting 7:30 p.m. Mon., Oct. 13 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Guest artist will be Martin Lasack, who recently showed his work in the "For the Birds" show. There is no admission charge. Information at www.livermoreartassociation.org or www.pal-art.com.

Open Mic Night with My Friends at Pleasanton Public Library, 2nd Monday of most months. Nov. 10. Poets, Prose and Songwriters invited to share latest poem, excerpt from your novel, or perform an acoustic musical composition with a supportive audience. Sign up between 6:00 and 6:15 pm for a 5 minute slot. Program free and open to the public. Some subject matter and language may not be appropriate for ages under 16. Contact Jordan Bernal at openmic@trivalleywriters.org or call the library at 931-3400 ext. 4. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Show and Tell, Artists are invited to a monthly function at the Bothwell Arts Center, called "Show & Tell. 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. Artists bring finished or unfinished work to show and if desired, receive a critique from the group. Refreshments are brought by the artists, and a donation of \$5.00 is desired although not mandatory. Contact for this event is D'Anne Miller at danne_miller@att.net, or Linda Ryan at LRyan@Livermoreperformingarts.org.

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 e-mail Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@earthlink.net.

Composition Workshop - learn to create dynamic compositions with visual aids and hands-on techniques. For beginning and intermediate students who want to improve their artwork. Six hours of instruction, 9 to noon Sat., Oct. 18 and 9 to noon Sat., Oct. 25. Instructor Maryann Kot. Location, Bothwell Arts Center 2466 8th St. Livermore. Sign up, Way Up Art and Frame 925-443-3388

Colored Pencil "Basics and Beyond". Instructor, Maryann Kot. Starting at 9:30-noon on Mon, Oct. 20 for five weeks. Classes will be held at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore. Space is limited. Signup

at Way Up Art and Frame, 1912 2nd Street, Livermore. 925-443-3388

PPL/Pleasanton Poetry League, now meeting the 1st Thursday and 3rd Wednesday of each month 7:00 at The Corner Bakery Cafe in Pleasanton. Join us as we challenge ourselves to poetically relay our thoughts, emotions and experiences through poetry. Become a member & share your work - Contact PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com for more info on Theme Challenges, Membership & Opportunities.

Ukulele Circle, Meetings held the 2nd and last Saturday from 12 noon-1 p.m. at Galina's Music Studio located at 1756 First St., Livermore. Confirm participation by calling (925) 960-1194 or via the website at www.GalinasMusicStudio.com. Beginners are welcome. Bring some music to share with the group. Ukuleles are available for purchase. Small \$5 fee to cover meeting costs.

WINERY EVENTS

Wine Wednesdays, Livermore Valley wineries will be hosting "Wine Wednesdays" each Wednesday through October. One featured winery will be open from 5 to 8 p.m. to help guests "wine-down" from the work week or just grab a taste of wine before going out to dinner in the Tri-Valley. Oct. 8, Mitchell Katz Winery; Oct. 15, Retzlaff Estate Winery; Oct. 22, Nottingham Cellars; Oct. 29, Dante Robere Vineyards. Check for the winery listings at www.livwine.org.

The Winemaker's Pour House, Live music: Oct. 3, 7-11 p.m., Speakeasy Night with Tumbledown House; Oct. 4, 9-11 p.m., Souled Out. 2241 First St., Livermore. www.winemakerspourhouse.com or 215-2656. Live music:

Las Positas Vineyards, Fri., Oct. 3 "Evening in the Bineyards, free concert from 6 to 9 p.m. featuring live music by Joey T & Mark Waterford with "The Girls." Wine, non-alcoholic beverages and artisan pizza's hand crafted by On the Wine Catering available for purchase (sorry no outside food or beverages permitted) Tom make reservations please visit our website at www.laspositasvineyards.com. Sunday, October 5th "Sunday Funday" special wine & cheese pairing flight. \$15 for club members & \$20 for non-members. For more information please contact us at 925-449-9463 or email curt@laspositasvineyards.com

Wente Vineyards, harvest tour and tasting, Sun., Oct. 4, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$20 per person, \$15 Club Wente members. Wente Vineyards Estate Winery & Tasting Room, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 456-2300.

Murrieta's Well, T Murder Mystery Dinner, Fri., Oct. 17, 6 to 9 p.m. Help solve a murder mystery, includes three course family style meal paired with Murrieta's Well estate wines. \$160 for Silver Spur club Members; \$170 Public includes: passed hors d'oeuvres, a three course dinner, wine and entertainment. www.murrietaswell.com. 3005 Mines Rd., Livermore.

Lineage component tasting with Steven Kent Mirassou at The Steven Kent Winery, Livermore, Saturday, October

4th, Two sessions available, 12-1pm or 3-4pm. Reservation Required Tasting Fee; \$25 Club Members, \$50 General Public Tasting Fee applied toward qualified purchase. LineageWine.com.

Murder Mystery Dinner, October 17, 6 to 9 p.m. Murrieta's Well, Livermore. Solve a murder mystery while you enjoy a delicious three course family style meal paired with Murrieta's Well estate wines. \$160 for Silver Spur club Members; \$170 Public. 3004 Mines Rd., Livermore. www.murrietaswell.com

Charles R Vineyards Mystery Dinner: "Death is a Cabernet, or Chum." Investigate the death of Cabernet vintner Malcolm Melee. 6 p.m. Oct. 25, play and dinner included in ticket \$65, \$55 club members. Seating limited to 32. Tickets available at Charles R Vineyards winery located at 8195 Crane Ridge Road or email: bonnie@charlesvineyards.com

MUSIC/CONCERTS

Leo Kottke, acoustic guitar. 8 p.m. Fri., Oct. 3, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The World of Webber! A Tribute to The Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Oct. 10 at 8 p.m. Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

QUATTRO: Latin + Jazz + Pop + Classical. Saturday, October 11, 8:00 p.m. Latin Grammy nominee for Best New Artist last year, QUATTRO hits the Firehouse with their hot Latin Pop, Jazz, Classical sounds. One performance only, no opener. Reserved seating tickets are \$18.00-\$28.00; available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

Del Valle Fine Arts, Peter Wyrick, cello and Roy Bogas, piano; 8 p.m. Oct. 11 Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Halie Loren, The Next Big Thing among jazz vocalists, Oct. 16, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, family concert, 2 p.m. Oct. 19, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Orchestra "Canned" Concert, Las Positas College Main Theater, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 23. Includes canned food drive. Center for the Performing Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. <http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts>

The Lettermen, 7:30 p.m. Thurs., Oct. 23. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore-Amador Symphony Pops Concert, Fri., Oct. 24, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Theme will be Star-Spangled Pops. Doors open 7 p.m., concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets and 430, 447-6454. livermoreamadorsymphony.org.

Foothill High School Band Review, October 25, 2014. Parade on Main

Street at 8:30 a.m. free and open to the public. Field Show at Foothill High School, 4 to 10 p.m., general admission \$10. www.foothillmusic.org

Jeni and Billy, Appalachian Folk Duo. 2 p.m. Sun., Oct. 26, Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue. Free concert. (925) 931-3400.

Jake Shimabukura, ukulele virtuoso. (Sold Out) 7:30 p.m. Tues., Oct. 28. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Mariachi Sol de Mexico, 7:30 p.m. Thurs., Oct. 30. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. November 2, Nationally-renowned classical guitarist Peter Fletcher will perform a free concert as part of a nationwide tour, under the auspices of Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, to promote his Edward Grieg CD. www.cityoflivermore.net

Del Valle Fine Arts, Avenue Winds, 8 p.m. Nov. 8. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Pacific Chamber Symphony, 2 p.m. Nov. 9, The Sorcerer's Apprentice meets The Hobbit, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Manhattan Transfer, 7 p.m. Sun., Nov. 16. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band & Allen Toussaint, 7:30 p.m. Thurs., Nov. 20. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Abbey Road, classic albums live - the Beatles. 8 p.m. Fri., Nov. 21. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

2nd Annual Holiday Youth Music Festival, Nov. 29, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

December People Holiday Rock 'n' Roll Favorites, Nov. 29, 8 p.m. at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, holiday concert, 2 p.m. Nov. 30. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Pacific Chamber Symphony, 2 p.m. Nov. 30, Frideric Handel—Messiah. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

Treasure Island, San Ramon Community Theater production based on the story by Robert Louis Stevenson; directed by Roger Craig. All performances will be held at the Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd. in San Ramon. Sept. 26-Oct. 12, 8 p.m. Fridays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. info@sanramoncommunitytheater.org. www.sanramonca.gov/Parks/theater

Dr. Doolittle Jr., Family Theater per-

formed by local youth! Presented by Civic Arts Stage Company in partnership with Bay Area Children's Theater. Based on the classic stories by Hugh Lofting about "the doctor who can talk with the animals." The youth musical theater production trots, crawls, and flies onto the Firehouse Arts Center stage from September 26 through October 5. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; matinees Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12, \$15, \$18; Child or Senior: \$6, \$9, \$12. Tickets available at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

Michael Krasny: Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life. 7:40 p.m., Oct. 9. Rae Dorough Speaker Series, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org, 373-6800.

Spank! The Fifty Shades Parody. 8 p.m. Fri., Oct. 10. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Avenue Q, Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre, Oct. 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31; Nov. 1, 2, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Senior Players Present... Always a Bridesmaid, Oct. 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Creatures of Impulse Presents: Nightmare 2014, Oct. 30-Nov. 1. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Children's Theater Aesop's Fables, Oct. 24, 7 p.m. and Oct. 25, 3 p.m. Las Positas College Black Box Theater, Performing Arts Center, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. <http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts>

Singin' in the Rain. Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre, Nov. 7-23, Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Candide, Nov. 7-30. Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St., Hayward. Program and facility of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District. www.dmtonline.org or 510-881-6777.

LUMA: Theater of Light, 8 p.m. Fri., Nov. 14. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

The Comedy of Errors, Nov. 14-23, Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m. and Sun. 2 p.m. Las Positas College Main Stage, Performing Arts Center, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. <http://laspositascollege.edu/performingarts>

COMEDY

Will Durst in Boomeraging, Oct. 17 and 18, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

DANCE

Square dancing for all ages 8 years and up, Thursdays from 7:00-8:30pm at Del Valle High, 2253 5th Street,

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Livermore. Families and friends welcome. September classes are free to new dancers. Questions? Margaret 925-447-6980.

OPERA

Rigoletto. Livermore Valley Opera, Sept. Oct. 4, 5. Written by Verdi as a social commentary on a corrupt and abusive nobility. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

MISCELLANEOUS

Storied Nights: An Evening of Spoken Word.

2nd Thursday of each month. Features local authors reading their work 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Peet's Coffee and Tea, 152 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Sponsored by LVPAC and Peet's. Information go to <http://facebook.com/StoriedNights>

Fall Rose Show at Alden Lane Nursery in Livermore. October 4 and 5, 2014. This year's show is dedicated to the memory of David Lowell. Enter roses for judging Saturday from 7 to 10 am. Help is available for novices. Open to the public for viewing Saturday 1 to 5 pm and Sunday 9 to 5 pm. Free admission. 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Co-sponsored by Mt. Diablo Rose Society. (510) 331-6115.

11th Annual "Toasts & Tastes of Fall" culinary competition and fundraiser benefitting Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation will be held Friday October 17, 2014 at a new location, Castlewood Country Club, from 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm. Event proceeds benefit the foundation and its programs supporting every student in the Pleasanton Unified School District. Silent

auction. Tickets are \$75 per person and can be purchased online at www.ppie.org, or by check, made out to PPIE and noting "Toasts & Tastes" in the memo line. Mail checks to PPIE, 333 Division Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Include guest names, as no tickets will be mailed and names will be placed on a guest list at the event. Guests must be over 21 years old to attend. For more information about PPIE, log onto www.ppie.org.

Ghost Walk 2014. Oct. 17, 18, 24, 25, 90 minute guided tour of Pleasanton's most haunted sites along Main Street. Museum on Main event. \$18 adults, \$13 children age 12 and under. Tours depart the museum every 30 minutes between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets purchased online at www.museumonmain.org by calling 462-2766 or in person at 603 Main Street, Pleasanton.

An Evening with Albert Einstein. October 21st, 7 p.m. Museum on Main 2014 Ed Kinney Speakers Series, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$7 seniors, \$5 members, and \$3 students/teachers with ID. Tickets may be purchased at Museum on Main during regular operating hours or by phoning the museum at (925) 462-2766. Tickets purchased by phone will be available for pick up at Will

Call in the lobby of the Firehouse Arts Center on the evening of the event.

Tri-Valley Conservancy hosting Jeans & Jewels on Emerald Isle, Thursday, November 6th, 6pm-10pm, the Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery. Proceeds used to preserve open space, agriculture, recreation trails, wildlife habitats and natural resources. Get details and tickets at www.trivalleyconservancy.org

Kelly Corrigan: Family History - Can We Escape It? Author of "The Middle Place" and "Glitter and Glue." 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13. Rae Dorrough Speaker Series, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org, 373-6800.

Holiday Craft Boutique. Saturday, November 15, 2014, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Presented by the Dublin Senior Center and the Dublin Senior Foundation. Selection of original handmade arts and crafts. Entrance is free. For more information call (925) 556-4511 or email seniorctr@dublin.ca.gov.

Livermore Library. 1188 So. Livermore Ave. November 16: Best-selling sci-fi author, and Livermore High School graduate, Andy Weir will speak about his book "The Martian." www.cityoflivermore.net

Special 'Philanthropy' Wine Release to Benefit ValleyCare Charitable Foundation

The ValleyCare Charitable Foundation is hosting a Wine Release Event on Saturday, October 11, 2014, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at the Rubino Estates Winery, 1188 Vineyard Avenue in Pleasanton.

Rubino Estates Winery has produced a 2012 Zinfandel named "Philanthropy" for ValleyCare Charitable Foundation. "This is the first ever Wine Release Event for ValleyCare," says Bob Shapiro, co-chair of the Charitable Foundation. "We are pleased that Rubino Winery offered to work with us to produce the wine. A portion of the proceeds from the sales will go to the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation and our capital campaign to raise \$1 million towards patient monitoring equipment for the Cardiac Catheterization Lab."

Tickets are \$20 per person and include light appetizers and two glasses of wine. For every bottle of wine purchased, participants will be entered into a chance drawing. Raffle prize donors include Celebrity Cruise Line. Proceeds benefit ValleyCare Charitable Foundation.

"As a not for profit health system, ValleyCare relies on the generosity of our +community members to help meet the health care needs of the Tri-Valley," adds Shapiro. "Working together we can continue to deliver compassionate, state-of-the-art health care right here in our community."

Seating is limited and tickets for the Wine Release Event may be purchased online at www.valleycare.com/fundraisingevents, or by calling the Charitable Foundation office at 925-373-4560.

Unitarian Church to Host October Religion Chat

The October Religion Chat, sponsored by Interfaith Interconnect, will be held at the Unitarian Church, 1893 Vasco Road, Livermore, on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, from 5:00 to 6:00 PM.

The discussion topic will be "Practices/Rituals Honoring Someone Who Has Passed Away." Speakers will be from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the Unitarian-Universalist Church. Afterwards, there will be an opportunity to talk to each other in small groups. The event is open to the public and is free of charge.

Religion Chat is a monthly interfaith forum held on the second Wednesday of the month at one of Interfaith Interconnect's sixteen participating congregations in Livermore and Pleasanton. The group's mission statement reads, "To enrich, inform, and educate ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our Valley"

In order to accomplish the mission, a variety of events are held each year. To contact the group, e-mail interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com.

Friends of the Vineyards to Host Guided Tour of Historic Dos Mesas Winery

Friends of the Vineyards is sponsoring a guided tour of the historic Dos Mesas Winery. The tour will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Dos Mesas Winery operated in Livermore from 1883 to 1923. Ranger Darren Segur of the Livermore Area Recreation and Parks District will lead the tour of the winery providing a view into the early days of wine-making in Livermore.

The event will start with a picnic lunch at the Group Picnic Area at Veteran's Park followed by a short walk to the winery.

The price is \$30 for FOV members and \$35 for non-members. The fee includes



Historic winery

wine and a gourmet lunch box prepared by Double Barrel Wine Bar. Lunch boxes include organic vegetarian and meat options

plus a homemade cookie.

Space is limited to 30 participants. For more information and to purchase tickets go to www.fov.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

Look for Bulletin Board in the main section of The Independent.

Fire Safety Expo Set for Saturday

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LFPD) joins the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in recognizing Fire Prevention Week from October 5-11. In observance of this week, LFPD will host a free Fire Safety Expo on Saturday, October 4, 2014. The event will be held at the Fire Training Tower located at 3333 Busch Road in Pleasanton from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

This year's Fire Prevention message focuses on "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives." According to the NFPA, when smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries.

The event will feature giveaways, firefighter demonstrations, fire escape planning, information on fire safety, and much more. The public can interact in our Fire Safety Trailer, learn how to use a fire extinguisher, and obtain disaster preparedness information. A children's obstacle course is also included in this family event, along with various other demonstrations and activities.

To kick-off the fun, the Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation will host a Pancake Breakfast that begins at 8:00 a.m. and continues to 11:00 a.m. Donations will be accepted in support of the Fallen Firefighters Foundation. LFPD personnel will be on hand throughout the event to answer questions and assist the community in protecting their loved ones from fire.

For more information, please visit www.lpfire.org or call (925) 454-2361.

Milestones

Community

Local Student's Essay Chosen for Migrant Seasonal Farmworker Children's Art and Essay Contest

The 2014 winners for the annual Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Children Essay and Art Contests have been selected. A Livermore student is among the top winners. Evelyn Arroyo, 10, won second place for her essay entry in the age category 10-13.

As the third-place winner, her essay appeared in AFOP's September issue of the Washington Newsline. Her essay will also be compiled along with other selected essays and artwork entries in a booklet to be presented to key members of Congress. Additionally, she received a cash prize to be used for school-related needs.

The theme for this year's contest was From Our Hands to Your Table, which drew entries depicting the hardships farmworkers in America endure to put the fruits and vegetables we eat each day on our tables. Children across the United States, ranging in ages from 10-18, submitted

descriptive essays or powerful works of art describing their lives and goals.

Children as young as 12 are legally allowed to work for an unlimited amount of hours outside of school in our nation's fields and orchards. Despite agriculture being consistently ranked the most dangerous occupation in America for children, as many as 500,000 children work to harvest the fruits and vegetables that end up on our tables. Burdened with an overload of school and work responsibilities, health injuries related to pesticide exposure, musculoskeletal problems, and the prevalence of accidents with machinery, their future often looks a lot like their present. AFOP gives these children a chance to have their voices heard in their annual Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Children Essay and Art Contests.

The Children in the Fields Campaign is a project of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP), a national federation of non-profit and

public agencies that provide job training and services for America's farmworkers.

Evelyn Arroyo, 10

Translated from Spanish

I have challenges. I remember the time when I was 4 years old. My mom, Mamá Leonor and Papá Jose Luis would wake up very early. It seemed like it was night when they were preparing their food and their tools for work. My mom carried me in her arms, blanketing me and my head leaned on her shoulder. This is how she carried me to the car and fastened me to my seat. Later, she carried me with covers and did the same with my brother for us to go.

In the nursery, after lunch, we played with toys and did an activity with the teacher. On the patio the kids and my brothers were playing but I took care of the plants and watched the bugs walk. After we were given a meal to eat and went to sleep again. My aunt Pina picked us up because my mom was working. Among other things, my mom works

in the melon harvest. She brought me my favorite fruit, the melon. My mom would pack the melons. Each box weighed up to 30 pounds and fit 9, 12 or 15 melons. At night my mom had cramps on her fingers and they hurt, they swelled in a way that her hand could not make a fist.

My mom tells me about the dangers of the field. One is the temperature. Sometimes it is up to 105 degrees. You can have heart attacks, headaches, or faint of dehydration. The fertilizers are chemicals that are also dangerous. The most used fertilizer is called "Sulfur". They help the plants to grow more and produce fruits, beans, and vegetables quicker, but they hurt the little bugs so that they don't eat the plants. The worst is also that it affects the health of the workers. It causes irritation in the eyes and skin and can get in the lungs.

We do not always go together to follow the seasons. Sometimes only my brothers, my mom and I stay. I cannot see my father when

he goes for cotton, alfalfa, or for grapes. He works very hard. My parents inspire me to study hard at school and I know that I will achieve what I want to.

I will study and achieve my dream. I am going to be an engineer. For now I

work making scarves with two needles and a hook to sell. I have saved some 200 dollars. My new project is to embroider blouses by cross stitching in order to sell them and this way to save more. With effort, I will realize my dreams.

Military

Matthew R. Yersak has received an Army ROTC (Reserve Air Force Airman Sean F. Flanigan graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Flanigan is the son of Brian K. Flanigan of Pleasanton. He is a 2013 graduate of Amador Valley High School, Pleasanton.

Army Pfc. Donald R. Webb has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

Webb is the son of Brenda and Donald Webb of Tracy, Calif. He is a 2000 graduate of Livermore High School, Livermore.

Kurt J. Cofer, (pictured at right) an Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadet at Chapman University, Orange, Calif., has graduated from the Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Knox, Ky.

The 29 days of training provide the best possible professional training and evaluation for all cadets in the aspects of military life, administration and logistical support. Although continued military training and leadership development is included in the curriculum, the primary focus of the course is to develop and evaluate each cadet's officer potential by exercising the cadet's intelligence, common sense, ingenuity and physical stamina. The cadet command assesses each cadet's performance and progress in officer traits, qualities and professionalism while attending the course.

Cadets usually attend LDAC between their junior and senior years of college, and they must complete the course to qualify for commissioning. Upon successful completion of the course, the ROTC program, and graduation from college, cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army, Army National Guard, or Army Reserve.

Cofer is the son of Suzanne and Al Cofer of Livermore, Calif. He is a 2011 graduate of Livermore High School.



Realtors, staff and friends of the Livermore office of Prudential California Realty (at right) work on sprucing up the North Livermore home of a senior citizen Friday. The efforts are part of the annual company wide Community Service Day. The crew spent the day painting, doing yard work, making small repairs and cleaning the property. They also arranged for an inspection by Sherman Roofing Co. The homeowner was referred to them by Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley.

