

THE INDEPENDENT • SECTION A



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.

Under 'Preferred Concept,' Tesla Would Be Fully Developed For Off Road Use

The off-road division of the California Parks Department issued a "preferred concept" planning document for the Tesla site that would turn it into a comprehensive off-road-vehicle park, expanding the recreational opportunities that now exist at the smaller Carnegie site next door.

Tesla is owned by the Parks Department, whose Off-Highway Motor Vehicle

Recreation Division is expected "to acquire, develop, and operate state-owned vehicular recreation areas," according to its official literature.

Under the preferred concept, Tesla would be developed for a wide range of off-road vehicle skill levels, from training routes for young and beginning riders to advanced trails for the highly experienced.

In addition, it would have new entrances, parking, classroom/meeting space, services areas and sites for camping and picnicking.

The planning document was released last week by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division at a public meeting held at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton. The meeting was crowded with nearly 400 attendees, mostly advocates for converting Tesla to off-road use.

That's a remarkable intensity of interest for a public discussion of off-road recreation plans, according to Randy Caldera, Acting Sector Superintendent for the Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area.

By comparison, in a series of public meetings held in 2011-2012 to discuss development of the small Clay

Pit off-road park near Oroville, the largest attendance was "around 24" people, he wrote in an email.

The largest attendance at public meetings to discuss the general plan of the larger Prairie City off-road park near Rancho Cordova was "around 20," he wrote.

Organizers of the much more heavily attended Tesla meeting last week estimate that off-road advocates out-

Pleasanton OKs Funds to Purchase Castleridge

The Pleasanton City Council approved the expenditure of \$1 million from the Altamont Landfill Open Space fund to enable the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) to purchase the 231-acre Castleridge property. The land is adjacent to the Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park and near the Adobe Alviso Park.

Mayor Jerry Thorne commented, "This will be a major addition to our open space and ridgeland protection area."

The funding comes from the 20 percent of the settlement open space funds reserved for grants in the western area. Expenditure of these funds must be approved by the City of Pleasanton and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Earlier the Open Space Advisory Committee recommended approval of the EBRPD application.

As of October, the balance of the trust fund for the Western Area (20%) was \$932,048. Funding the request from EBRPD would reduce the funds to below what is currently in the account. However, a deposit of funds will occur at the end of this year making it feasible to disburse funds for the Castleridge property in time for the purchase to

(See CASTLERIDGE, page 4)

EBRPD Agrees to Purchase 'Eddie's Flat'

The East Bay Regional Park District Board unanimously approved purchase of 79 acres adjacent to the western edge of Brushy Peak Regional Preserve.

The property is commonly referred to as "Eddie's Flat." Ayn Wieskamp, who represents Livermore and Pleasanton on the EBRPD board, said, "The purchase protects the view of Brushy Peak from Vasco Road, and is excellent for habitat restoration. I'm very happy about it."

The cost of the land is \$550,000. The property would be acquired with \$250,000 from both the Alameda County Altamont Landfill and Resource Facility Open Space Advisory Committee and Dougherty Valley Settlement Agreement funds. The \$50,000 balance of the purchase price will be provided by either another third party funding source or from the District's Murray Township acquisition funds.

In October 2013, staff submitted requests for grant funding from the Altamont Landfill Committee, as well as City of Livermore staff and Citizens for Balance Growth for funds available

(See PURCHASE, page 4)



Jordan Brown and Farah Rahhal explain their project to Glen Sparks and Kevin Johnson during a celebration of the new biomed classes at Foothill High School.

Foothill Launches Bio-med Program

By Ron McNicoll

Foothill High School in Pleasanton inaugurated its bio-med career track with a ribbon-cutting attended by parents, students and the two teachers who are leading the classes.

The event on Nov. 13 drew about 25 to 30 people, said one of the instructors, Josh Hill. He and fellow teacher Ken Cuozzo say they are excited about the new approach to teaching the kind of science involved in the

bio-med courses.

The course is in tune with the coming Core Curriculum, which puts an emphasis on the inductive method of learning. This approach is considered the backbone of scientific inquiry.

Approximately 150 students attend five sections every day. All four grade levels at the high school are represented.

Despite their age differences, nearly all of the

(See FOOTHILL, page 9)

Pleasanton Trustees Name Local Control Funding Panel

The Pleasanton school board appointed a Local Control Advisory Committee comprised of eight adult members and one student.

The board voted unanimously at its Nov. 12 meeting for the appointees, who were selected from among a field of 26 adults and two students who applied.

As outlined at the board's Oct. 8 meeting, the district expects the panel to provide feedback concerning the best programs on which to spend local control funds. The money comes from the state under the new funding formula. The panel would be strictly advisory. Members will serve two-

year terms, and will meet monthly.

The committee is not a "budget advisory committee," superintendent Parvin Ahmadi said at the Oct. 8 meeting. Instead, the overall view of programs, as envisioned through the district's strategic plan, will be the emphasis.

The members appointed are Traci Cook, Tony Ellis, Beth Gallagher, Amy Liu, Debbie Look, David Pascual, Samuel Santiago, Nila Shroff and student Neha Nirkondar.

The board also discussed a staff report about how to allocate one-time state funding of \$3 million over

the next two years to implement the Common Core standards.

The administration met with teachers to learn what they thought would be a good allocation among the three state-permitted categories, which are teacher training, instructional materials

(See PANEL, page 5)

Foundation Hits Home Run for School Athletics

Livermore middle school students will enjoy a full slate of competitive sports, thanks in part to the The Livermore Valley Education Foundation (LVEF), which has awarded \$7,000 to middle school sports programs in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. The money will help cover the cost of boys' and girls' fall and winter sports teams.

Barons Jeweler contributed over \$4,000 of the funding, even though the business is located outside the Livermore school dis-

trict. "The Tri-Valley is one big community and many of our clients are from Livermore," said Barons President Ronnie Heller. "We are happy to be able to give back to help the schools and the kids in this area. Barons is located in Hacienda Crossings in Dublin. That's just a stop or two down the freeway from Livermore."

The middle schools approached LVEF after having exhausted their other funding sources. "We are delighted to be able to lend a hand during these tough

(See LIVERMORE, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Emerald Glen Park in was a popular place during the recent fine fall weather. For other fall photos, go to page 8.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Ash is just a pup, but he dreams of being a real dog! At four months old, the spry terrier mix is wide-eyed and eager to please. You could wish on a lot of stars before finding another pup as cute as Ash—no lie! Visit him today at Valley Humane Society (VHS), Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 am – 4 pm and Sundays from 11 am – 2 pm, 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. For more information please call (925) 426-8656 or visit valleyhumane.org. Photo - Valley Humane Society/V. Kelly



A ground-breaking ceremony was held last Friday to signal the start of the construction of Cayetano Creek Park in North Livermore. Pictured are (adults, from left) LARPD Vice President David Hutchinson, Project Manager Larry Kerbs, Land Development Purchasing Agent Brady Stephenson, Shea Properties Vice President Jeff Melrose, LARPD President Maryalice Faltings, LARPD General Manager Tim Barry, LARPD Director Beth Wilson, LARPD Assistant General Manager John Lawrence and LARPD Director Bob Coomber. The park has an anticipated opening date in late fall 2014. It will include a synthetic turf field, tot lot, dog park, restrooms, basketball court, a grass practice field and picnic areas. Photo - Gina Halferty for LARPD

Bowser Will Run for County Superintendent of Schools

Pleasanton school board president Jeff Bowser is announcing his candidacy for the office of Alameda County Superintendent of Schools.

Bowser will make his formal announcement on Nov. 25 at a fund-raising party to be held at a restaurant in Hayward.

Bowser told The Independent that he is running because education is a passion of mine. "I have really enjoyed serving on the school board. I find that I can make a difference in bringing people together."

Bowser's experience in-

cludes a 13-year career as a teacher and administrator, before changing to a job in telecommunications. He continues his career in telecommunications, working in the sector that deals with technology to help school districts and governments.

Part of his career was spent as an assistant principal at Amador Valley High School, and as a principal at middle schools. He worked in the school district office at Union City as a coordinator of technology.

Six of Bowser's years as an educator were spent as a teacher at Village High

School, the Pleasanton district's continuation school. Bowser said that with the new Local Control Funding Formula from the state, the county superintendent will play an important role in making sure that districts with high populations of at-risk students spend the extra money allocated in the new state formula for at-risk students on the students.

Bowser is married to a teacher in the Pleasanton district. Their two children were educated in Pleasanton schools, and are now attending college.

Scientists Find Precipitation, Global Warming Link

The location and intensity of rain is changing around the globe.

A new study by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory scientists shows that observed changes in global (ocean and land) precipitation are directly affected by human activities and cannot be explained by natural variability alone. The research appears in the Nov. 11 online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Emissions of heat-trapping and ozone-depleting gases affect the distribution of precipitation through two mechanisms. Increasing temperatures are expected to make wet regions wetter and dry regions drier. Changes in atmospheric circulation patterns will push storm tracks and subtropical dry zones toward the poles.

"Both these changes are occurring simultaneously in global precipitation and this behavior cannot be explained by natural variability alone," said LLNL's lead

author Kate Marvel. "External influences such as the increase in greenhouse gases are responsible for the changes."

The team compared climate model predications with the Global Precipitation Climatology Project's global observations, which span from 1979-2012, and found that natural variability (such as El Niños and La Niñas) does not account for the changes in global precipitation patterns. While natural fluctuations in climate can lead to either intensification or poleward shifts in precipitation, it is very rare for the two effects to occur together naturally.

"In combination, man-made increases in greenhouse gases and stratospheric ozone depletion are expected to lead to both an intensification and redistribution of global precipitation," said Céline Bonfils, the other LLNL author. "The fact that we see both of these effects simultaneously in the observations is strong

evidence that humans are affecting global precipitation."

Marvel and Bonfils identified a fingerprint pattern that characterizes the simultaneous response of precipitation location and intensity to external forcing.

By focusing on the underlying mechanisms that drive changes in global precipitation and by restricting the analysis to the large scales where there is confidence in the models' ability to reproduce the current climate, "we have shown that the changes observed in the satellite era are externally forced and likely to be from man," Bonfils said.

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Homeless Count Stays Nearly The Same in Alameda County

There was no appreciable growth or decrease in the number of homeless people in Alameda County in 2013 compared to 2011, according to data from a homeless count earlier this year.

There were 4178 homeless people counted in one day, only 86 more people than two years ago, so the difference was statistically insignificant, said the report from EveryOne Home, a coalition of agencies trying to solve the homeless problem.

The report does not break down the count by city.

The outlook is promising for meeting the 2015 goal, which says there will be no more homeless in the county, said Elaine de Coligny, executive director of EveryoneHome. The agency has been commissioning the survey every two years for the past decade.

De Coligny said that the lack of real growth in homeless numbers shows there is a leveling point for attacking the problem. Now, in

order to reduce the number of homeless down to zero, solutions need to be accelerated, said de Coligny. "We clearly require more affordable housing in the form of subsidies," said de Coligny.

Such things as Section 8 housing, where tenants pay what they can afford, and government subsidizes the remainder of fair market rent for the landlord, is one important tool.

However, even outside housing categories of funding there is help. The Affordable Care Act makes it possible for tenants who have physical or mental health needs to take care of

that portion of their expenses, leaving more money to be able to afford housing, said de Coligny.

Asked whether the threats in Congress to shut down the federal government is endangering money to create new homeless solutions, de Coligny said that they are.

"The government shutdown created cash flow problems for some non-profits. More problematic is sequestration and automatic budget cuts. It shows up with housing authorities. They are struggling to keep the number of certificates they have," said de Coligny.

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Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Giving Them Another Chance

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Supervisor Haggerty Holding Open House

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty will open the doors of his district office, the Heritage House, located on the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, for a second annual holiday open house. The event will take place on Tuesday, December 10, from 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

Supervisor Haggerty, his staff, family and friends will be there to welcome constituents, commissioners, elected officials and anyone who wishes to stop by, meet the Supervisor and spread some holiday cheer. This will be an informal social event complete with light refreshments.

The open house will also serve as a great time to drop off a toy or non-perishable food item as contribution to this year's food and toy drive benefitting local charities, Open Heart Kitchen, Abode Homeless Services and Tri-Valley Haven. Those who are unable to attend the open house can drop off a food or toy donation at the Heritage House anytime between November 18th and December 20th.

The historic Heritage house will be adorned with lights and décor beginning late November and lasting through the holidays. Tours of the house are always available upon request.

For more information on the holiday open house, please contact Leah Doyle-Stevens in the office of Supervisor Haggerty at (925) 551-6995.

Disaster Relief Fund

Alameda County has reactivated its Disaster Relief Fund to enable its approximately 9,000 employees and people in the community to voluntarily donate funds to benefit the victims of the devastating typhoon that struck the Philippines.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors activated the fund on Wednesday in the wake of continued reports of deaths, injuries and devastation across the Philippines caused by Typhoon Haiyan, which is believed to be one of the strongest storms ever to make landfall.

The Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund was initially established in response to the September 11, 2001 tragedy in the United States and has been reactivated for the South Asia Tsunami/Earthquake in 2004, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, earthquakes in Haiti and Chile in 2010, and the Northern Japan Earthquake/Tsunami in 2011.

The Disaster Relief Fund enables Alameda County employees and people in the community to contribute cash donations to help with the recovery effort in the Philippines. County employees may also have

the option to donate up to 5 days of their accrued vacation time, compensatory time and/or holiday in-lieu time.

Cash donations may be contributed by sending a personal check payable to the Alameda County Disaster Relief Fund, c/o the Auditor-Controller Agency, 1221 Oak Street, Room 238, Oakland CA 94612. Donation instructions and additional information are available at www.acgov.org.

Businesses Cited

The Pleasanton Police Department Special Enforcement Unit, in collaboration with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, conducted a minor decoy operation throughout the City of Pleasanton on Nov. 15. The purpose of the program is to ensure retail businesses are complying with the law by refusing to sell alcoholic beverages to minors.

Four volunteers ranging in age from 16 to 19 years made attempts to purchase alcoholic beverages at ABC licensed restaurants, bars, liquor stores, and other businesses that sell alcohol. Decoys visited 37 businesses in the City. 26 establishments asked for identification and denied the attempted purchase of alcohol. However, employees at eleven businesses sold alcoholic beverages to the decoys. Citations were issued to individual employees at the following locations:

Mama Rosa Pizza and Pasta, 6770 Santa Rita Road; Alberto's Restaurant, 435 Main Street; New York Pizza, 690 Main Street; Lee Garden Restaurant, 5588 Springdale Avenue; Ashoka Indian Cuisine, 3550 Stanley Boulevard; India Garden, 210 Rose Avenue; Joy Chinese Cuisine, 30 W. Angela Street; Senro Sushi, 30 W. Neal Street; Sozo Sushi, 2835 Hopyard Road; Round Table Pizza, 4855 Hopyard Road; and Bejiing Bistro, 6654 Koll Center Parkway

In addition to the employee citations, the listed establishments will face administrative action against their liquor license by Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Typical administrative action consists of fines and/or suspension of a liquor license.

Lockyer Endorses Swalwell

California Treasurer Bill Lockyer has endorsed Congressman Eric Swalwell for re-election to Congress in 2014. Lockyer stated, "I'm for Congressman Eric Swalwell because I've seen him bring great energy and smart thinking to his job, and the determination to listen well to the people and work very hard for them every day. He has earned another term in Congress."

Swalwell stated, "I am honored to have the support of Treasurer Bill Lockyer. He has always been a fierce defender of his constituents and committed to improving the lives of the middle class and those less

fortunate. I share his priorities to improve our economy and responsibly manage the people's money."

Branding and Marketing Research

The City of Dublin is seeking community participation in interviews and focus groups to help develop the City's new branding and marketing campaign. The meetings will take place November 19-22, 2013, at the Dublin Civic Center. To participate, please contact Yashin Griffith at (925) 833-6650 or yashin.griffith@dublin.ca.gov.

Bookings for the daytime interviews and late afternoon/evening focus groups will occur on a first come, first serve basis. Interviews will last 30 minutes, while focus group sessions will take up to 90 minutes.

As part of Dublin's 2014 Ten-Year Strategic Plan, the Dublin City Council identified a need to develop a comprehensive branding and marketing plan. More than a slogan or a logo, an effective brand focuses on a cohesive message and consistent feel that expresses the unique identity of Dublin, both to members of the Dublin community and to people located outside of Dublin.

With the assistance of branding consultant North Star Destination Strategies, work is currently underway to develop the City's brand identity.

Upon completion of the project, the City will use the developed brand to create interest in Dublin as a destination for visitors, families, businesses, and events.

Police Looking for Robber

Livermore Police are seeking the public's help in finding a suspect who robbed Citibank on Tuesday.

A male suspect walked into the bank and stood in line for an available bank teller. Once a bank teller was available, the suspect approached and handed the teller a note demanding the money. No weapon was seen during the robbery. The teller complied and gave the money to the suspect. The suspect then turned around and fled out of the bank.

The suspect is described as a light skinned Hispanic male, approximately 5'4" tall, thin build, wearing a black baseball cap, a black sweatshirt with a hood, and sunglasses.

LPD is also attempting to locate any additional witnesses in this case. If anyone has information about this case, they are encouraged to call the Livermore Police Department at (925) 294-7531. Those who wish to remain anonymous may do so.

Correction

A story about the Dublin City Council's approval of Dublin Crossing erred by incorrectly stating that "SunCal is not a developer, but acquires large areas, and negotiates with developers for construction."

SunCal is a master developer throughout the United States. In Dublin Crossing, SunCal is preparing the master plan, and will install streets, utilities, and grade the lots. After all the ground is prepared, SunCal will select partner home-builders, sell to them, and also set the theme for the architectural design, said SunCal spokesman Joe Aguirre.

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EDITORIAL

Housing for Seniors

The Pleasanton City Council approved 185 units of housing for low income seniors at its last meeting. They will replace 90 aging and outdated homes at Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens.

MidPen Housing Corporation was selected to build the \$62.8-million project. The city will contribute \$10 million from the its in lieu affordable housing fund.

Pleasanton Gardens, which is owned by a non-profit, will transfer its land, section 8 contracts and available financial reserves to the city. In exchange, the city will house current Pleasanton Gardens residents in the new development at the current rental payments.

The plan will include single story cottages as well as two, and three-story apartment buildings. The new housing will feature greater storage, energy efficient construction, and air conditioning, and easy access for those with mobility problems.

A task force began work in 2003 to develop an integrated project that would increase the number of units available on the two adjacent sites.

A first proposal for rebuilding the two senior facilities called for closing Pleasanton Gardens, selling the site and constructing a multi-story, high density apartment building to replace the cottages at Kottinger Place. The idea was rejected by the council and opposed by the neighbors.

Councilmembers were enthusiastic about the new proposal, with such comments as, "This is a project whose time has come." "This type of housing is exactly what the in lieu fund was established to provide."

There are often complaints about how long it takes for a project to move through the city's process. In this case, the final plan was worth the wait.

Creation of New Highway Is Projected To Ease Some Valley Traffic

A dozen people turned out for a meeting in Livermore to learn more about the future State Route 239 (SR 239), which planners say offers the prospect of cutting some of the expected increase in vehicle trips by 2040 on Interstate 580 and making a dramatic change for Vasco Road.

The meeting was held in the city council chambers Nov. 12. Representatives of Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCTA) and consultants were on hand to explain the first step -- a feasibility study. They showed maps of four different highway segments of the project, and a fifth, which is a transit link. The entire project could be completed by 2040, depending on funding.

The study area is bounded by I-205 and I-580 in the south and State Route 4 to the north. The project is predicted to ease congestion on I-580 and improve safety on Vasco Road.

Four highway links would be constructed at an estimated cost \$750 million. There is no cost projection for the transit link cost, since it is still in early discussions.

The officials presented figures for the expected congestion relief that the project would provide. For example,

Vasco Road, with its ongoing congestion problems, reported 22,000 two-way trips in 2010. If there were no SR 239, that volume would grow to 31,000 trips in 2040. However, with the project, Vasco Road traffic would shrink to 19,000 trips in 2040, according to officials.

On I-580, the traffic count was 164,000 in 2010. That would grow to 220,000 in 2040 without the project, but lower to 200,000 with it. Vasco Road safety also would be improved, with new left-turn lanes and medians, two lanes in each direction, and dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The project would offer several benefits, say officials. It can route truck traffic from the Central Valley more directly to the North Bay without adding congestion to Highway 4, help take care of the increase in traffic congestion resulting from growth already planned in east Contra Costa, and reduce pollution throughout the area by reducing miles traveled for trips.

Effects cited at the meeting include reduction of 4 million annual miles traveled by 2040, which would result in a drop of 400,000

metric tons of carbon dioxide, and a saving of 40 million gallons of fuel.

The fuel savings for motorists would amount to \$160 million per year. "If we had a way to access the money (saved by motorists), we could recoup the cost of the project in five years. However, we don't have any way of doing that," said David Early, the consultant who made the formal presentation.

If congestion were measured in terms of hours of delay for vehicles, the level would go down by 57 percent, said Early.

The meeting was not a city council meeting. However, the council will hear a presentation on plans for SR 239 at its Nov. 25 meeting.

The feasibility study will go to the project's policy advisory committee on Dec. 18 for a vote about whether or not to continue. The board is comprised of 10 representatives from among the three participating counties -- Contra Costa, Alameda and San Joaquin -- four cities in the region and three agencies.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty and Livermore Mayor John Marchand represent the Valley.

Comments on the proj-

ect's process will be open for one more year. The public can follow the process and make comments on the web page for the project. It is a virtual meeting on-line. The URL is <http://trilink239.org>.

The Ohlone Audubon raised questions concerning the project in its most recent bulletin. The bulletin notes that the proposal would result in a new freeway through eastern Alameda County ranch lands at the base of the Altamont Pass. "The region is prime foraging grounds for raptors . . . now we face the potential of this freeway paving over this vital resource that helps keep the raptor populations out of the wine turbine farms."

If all goes well in the roll-out process, the first shovel-full of dirt for the first segment could be turned in 2024. Between now and then, the process will include formal roadway design and environmental review, which will take about five years. In the following five years, specific project approval, and right-of-way acquisition will be completed.

Meanwhile, officials will be looking for funding from federal and state sources, and local categories, such as transportation impact fee programs, user fees, and Contra Costa Measure J.

PURCHASE

(continued from page one)

from the Dougherty Valley Settlement Agreement. Both committees unanimously approved the District's request.

Eddie's Flat is located north of the city limits of Livermore between Vasco Road to the west and Laughlin Road to the east. The property has historically been used for cattle grazing and is currently under a year-to-year grazing lease which expires on September 30, 2014.

The property lies within the Alameda Creek Watershed and the Livermore

Vernal Pool Region.

Acquisition of the parcel will expand the habitat corridor created by the contiguous preserved open space of Brushy Peak Regional Preserve, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District's Brushy Peak Open Space, Contra Costa Water District's Los Vaquero Reservoir watershed lands, the Park District's Vasco Caves Regional Preserve, and the recently acquired Vasco Hills and Byron Vernal Pools properties, a 28,000-acre combined wildlife corridor.

Rapid Bridgelux Growth Recognized

Livermore's Bridgelux Corp. was recognized this week by Deloitte, the professional services giant,

which for the third consecutive year named the local company in its listing of the fastest growing technology companies. The honor comes three months after a

comparable recognition by Inc. Magazine.

With revenue growth of 546 percent over the past four years, Bridgelux was ranked 192 this week on Technology Fast, a Deloitte list of the 500 fastest growing technology, media, telecommunications, life

sciences and clean technology companies in North America.

In September, Inc. Magazine named Bridgelux 871 among the top 5000 companies for growth. It was Bridgelux's third consecutive year to be recognized by that ranking as well.

Bridgelux is a leading developer of LED lighting technologies. Its efforts have helped drive down the cost of LED lighting and transform the global lighting market. It moved to Livermore from Sunnyvale in 2010. Local employment is approximately 200.

LIVERMORE

(continued from page one)

economic times," said Vicki Schellenberger, LVEF President. "Academics are the District's top priority, but we feel it is vital to keep sports programs alive to help give our kids a complete, well-rounded school experience."

Janet Loughran-Smith, interim principal at Junction Avenue school, commented, "Without this funding from LVEF, we would need to cancel or at least substantially cut back some of our programs. Sports are really

important to our kids and their families. We are deeply grateful that LVEF has our back".

In January 2014, the LVEF Board will work with school administrators to determine if additional funding will be needed to support athletics through the end of the school year.

"LVEF has given the District tremendous support over the years", states Kelly Bowers, Superintendent of Livermore schools. "If not for LVEF, we would have had a much more difficult time getting through the budget crises that we have had to face on a regular basis."

Since being founded in 1991, LVEF has raised over \$3.8 million through

individual and corporate donations. LVEF is staffed entirely by volunteers and operates with minimal overhead. As a result, over 98% of money raised by LVEF directly benefits Livermore school programs. LVEF supports a wide variety of academic and extra-curricular programs, reflecting the Foundation's mission to promote Straight A's in Academics, Arts, and Athletics.

LVEF is now accepting applications for Board members. To apply for a Board position or to join LVEF as a volunteer, visit <http://livermorevalleyedfound.wordpress.com/> or email livermorevalleyedfound@gmail.com.

CASTLERIDGE

(continued from page one)

take place.

The Castleridge property represents a rare opportunity to acquire and protect a large, contiguous landscape with mostly intact and diverse plant and wildlife communities. The property contains important habitat for protected species such as the golden eagle, California red-legged frog and Alameda whipsnake.

The Castleridge property will be operated as part of EBRPD's Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. The park is currently over 8,800 acres in size, contains three ridgelines, is home to nearly a dozen creeks and tributaries, has a rich cultural history and countless plant and animal species. The property has a peak elevation of almost 1,500 feet, so on a clear day park users can enjoy 360 degree views of the San Francisco Bay and the Peninsula to the west, the pastoral hillsides and wooded valleys of Mt. Diablo to the east, and exposed peaks of Mission Peak and the Sunol/Ohlone Wilderness to the south.

Together with over 8,800 acres already protected in

adjacent Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park and more than 6,000 acres at EBRPD's nearby Garin/Dry Creek and Vargas Plateau parks, the Castleridge property will become part of a preserve being assembled in Niles Canyon around the East Bay's largest watershed, Alameda Creek. According to the Upland Habitat Goals Project, acquisition and permanent protection of the Castleridge property is essential to regional conservation goals.

At a Sept. 3 meeting of the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors, the board authorized the application for the \$1 million grant through the Alameda County Altamont Landfill and Resource Facility Open Space Advisory Committee to acquire the land. The grant funds will be matched by Measure WW funds to complete the acquisition for a total purchase price of \$2.2M in early 2014.

In 1999 various environmental groups and Alameda County (County) entered into a settlement agreement regarding the increased traffic in the I-580 corridor

due to the expansion of the Altamont landfill facility. The parties to the lawsuit, Alameda County, Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC), the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton and various environmental groups, agreed that the County would charge WMAC a per ton fee on

waste disposed at the landfill. WMAC is required to pass the fees on to its franchisors and other jurisdictions that use the landfill. Of those fees, \$0.75 per ton must be spent on acquisition of open space, either by purchasing the land or obtaining conservation easements over it.

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.)

High Explosives Alison Forrest Livermore

The Department of Energy Inspector General received a tip from a Livermore Lab employee expressing concerns about inadequate safety procedures at the Lab. A report was recently published, which found that the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory was, in fact, not being safe and secure with high explosives.

The High Explosives Application Facility had

become lax with access to the building in order to accommodate construction in the area. Anyone with a high security badge, but no training with high explosives, could freely enter and exit the building.

There are few doors in this facility, so the high explosives were easily accessible. The system for tracking explosives was a white board and makers. Any removal of high explosives from the facility could go unnoticed.

People could walk away with high explosives used to detonate nuclear weapons and no one could possibly track it. This makes me feel uncomfortable and worried for this community. How could the lab be so negligent? It makes me wonder what other features at the Lab I should be worried about.

Park and Walk Mary McMahon Livermore

Are you making a list

and checking it twice? Here is a suggestion for a gift for yourself. LARPD has the year long parking passes for Sycamore Grove for 2014. After a few visits they have paid for themselves. By hanging your tag on the rear view mirror, it may remind you to stop and take a quiet walk or a brisk run. You will feel better.

Sold Out Success Susan Houghton President, Sunflower Hill

On behalf of the Sunflower Hill board of directors and the families within our organization, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Tri-Valley community for supporting our 'sold out' 'Starry Night' Wine and Painting fundraiser on November 2 at Crooked Vine Winery in Livermore.

We raised more than \$17,000 and we could not have done it without our partners, sponsors, donors and attendees. Special thanks to our event sponsor, Tri-Valley Solar Universe

for leading our sponsor brigade as well as providing additional funding opportunities. We had delicious food from Checkers Catering and we were fortunate to have their great desserts sponsored by Lynn and Joan Seppala. Kudos to our Benefactors, Alan Cerro of Dutra Cerro Graden, Patricia Mickens and Stephanie Peek as well as to our Star sponsors, Doug and Nadine Horner, First Republic Bank, Sharon Sisler and Rodman Elfin.

Thanks to the talents of Sharon Costello of Brushstrokes and Wine Notes, we all learned how to paint a little Van Gogh! We are also grateful for the assistance of Little Rae Photography, Chris LeBel, the JRB Group and Cindy & Partners. Sunflower Hill seeks to develop an intentional, sustainable residential community for individuals with special needs. More information can be found on our website at www.sunflowerhill.org

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Editorial information may be submitted by editmail@compuserve.com.

TESLA

(continued from page one)

numbered opponents at a ratio of about 10 to 1.

Located at the eastern border of Alameda County on the south side of Corral Hollow Road, Tesla's high hills and deep valleys define wildlife corridors while protecting rare and endangered plant and animal species.

The long-deserted mining town from which the site gets its name is a source of Old California history. It had economic ties to Livermore and the rest of the state dating from the 19th Century, when it was a major source of coal. Native American artifacts long predating European settlement can be found at Tesla. According to some authorities, it was probably a sacred site.

Many of the terrain features that create exciting off road recreation opportunities also motivate conservationists to urge protection against the severe damage that they are convinced follows inevitably from the spinning tires, oil leaks, exhaust fumes and engine noise that accompany off-road motor sports.

They point to barren hillsides at the Carnegie off-road park next door to the east, where vehicles have gouged ruts in the soil, as visual proof of this damage. Aerial photos of other off-road parks show similar damage; for example, Prairie City, near Rancho Cordova, appears rutted and stripped of vegetation at a State Parks website, <http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/pages/1170/files/pc-coyote-creek-project-map.pdf>

The conservationists also note that the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division has failed in court proceedings to show that it has managed Carnegie in conformance with environmental laws.

A Livermore-based grass roots organization, Friends of Tesla Park, was created to organize opposition to off-road development at Tesla. It is active in its own right and supported by local, regional and national conservation groups. California Sports Fishing Association, the Regional Parks Association, Friends of the Vineyards and the Sierra Club are among the organizations that identify with the goals of Friends of Tesla Park.

The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division claims that its efforts balance the legitimate needs and wishes of off-road enthusiasts with responsible environmental and site protection.

Randy Caldera, the Carnegie area acting sector superintendent, thinks there has been "a huge misrepresentation of the OHV Departments responsible practices of protecting environmental resources, cultural resources and historic resources."

He said that at the existing Carnegie site, "no off-highway vehicle activity" takes place in historic and

cultural areas, which "have been fenced off."

There was no environmental preservation of either the Carnegie or the Tesla site prior to their purchase by the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, he wrote in an email. Given Tesla's identification as "a historically and culturally sensitive site," state law will require historic and cultural review "before any development begins," he wrote.

Asked how the Division responds to the feeling among conservationists that Tesla simply has too many valuable and vulnerable resources for off-road recreation, he repeated that their mission is to "protect/preserve all environmental resources, historic resources and cultural resources while providing diverse, responsible recreation."

The Parks Department's purchase of the site is "the best thing that could have happened to this piece of land," he wrote.

PANEL

(continued from page one)

and technology.

The teachers said they want to see \$1 million going towards professional development activities, which include such areas as summer institutes, parent outreach, community forums, professional learning communities, and schoolwide AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) strategies. AVID is an approach that focuses on students who are in the academic middle, to provide challenges and opportunities based on individual needs.

Also earmarked in instructional category would be \$820,000 for an additional development day not only for teachers, but also for classified staff involved in learning.

A flexible category of grants would go to school sites, where the money can be spent on any or all of the three categories. The grants will total \$521,500, and be doled out to each site in the amount of \$35 per student.

Instructional materials aligned to Core Curriculum standards would receive an allocation of \$358,500.

Technology is allotted \$300,000 out of the \$3 million. It could pay for a lending library of technology devices, such as iPads and Chromebooks, for socio-economically disadvantaged students. It could also help update computer labs, and improve technology infrastructure, as needed.

The amount is small,

SERIES

(continued from page one)

regional teams from the U.S.

Next year marks the 75th Anniversary of Little League®, and the celebration will culminate at Little League's nine World Series Tournaments. Stephen D. Keener, Little League Baseball and Softball President and CEO, announced the dates and sites of the nine 2014 Little League World Series tournaments, which the Little League International Board of Directors has approved.

Starting with the first pitch of the Big League Baseball World Series on July 23, there will be 33 straight days of Little League Baseball and Softball tournament action, with nine world champions capturing the banners.

Starting with the Big League Baseball World Series (Easley, S.C.) from July 23 to 30, the five additional baseball World Series tournaments will continue with



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Pictured is the 2013 winning team from Osaka, Japan.

the Little League Intermediate (50/70) World Series (Livermore, Calif.) from July 29 to August 4; the

Junior League World Series (Taylor, Mich.) and Senior League World Series (Bangor, Maine) from August 10

to 16 and the Little League Baseball® World Series (South Williamsport, Pa.) from August 14 to 24.

compared to the district's ultimate tech needs, which Ahmadi said will be \$12 million. Switching to Common Core will require a transfer of instruction and testing to computers and other devices.

Trustee Chris Grant said that although the district has been conducting its own research concerning future technology needs, he would like to see a small portion of the one-time grant spent on bringing in outside expertise to help the district think what the district's tech future "could truly look like" in the next two or three years.

Ahmadi responded that after meeting with experts in technology, she asked how to equip the schools for three to five years from now. "They responded, 'You don't talk about three to five years from now. It's 12 or 18 months, because things shift so quickly.'"

The item will be back on the board's agenda on Dec. 10.

In another action, trustees rejected by a 3-2 vote a staff recommendation to give themselves a \$20 per month pay increase. State statute allows school board members to increase their pay annually by as much as 5 percent.

Board vice-president Valerie Arkin made the motion. Jamie Hintzke seconded it. Trustees Joan Laursen and Grant, and board president Jeff Bowser voted "no."

Arkin said that the increase would be a "very

small amount. There has not been an increase in over 10 years. We all do a lot of work. I look at it as the district appreciating what we do."

Laursen agreed that it's a small amount. However, if there are "extra dollars to spend on the board," she would like to see them put into board development. She added she did appreciate the sentiment.

Grant said, "This board and predecessor boards decided to forego increases in compensation to "ensure (money) ends up in the classroom." He added, "I don't want to raise the amount because of the message it sends. These are still difficult times. Compared to where we were, only a fraction of state funds have been restored."

"There are two different philosophies. Neither is right or wrong. I'll vote for an increase when we restore funding to where it has been

historically," said Grant.

Arkin said that the board voted pay increases for management and teachers this year. "If we had sent out layoff notices, as in previous years, I wouldn't be seeking this."

Hintzke stated that the

raise would amount to \$1200 a year for all five of the board members.

Bowser stated that the district is in a good financial situation, because of the money the teachers gave up. "I don't feel comfortable taking more dollars."

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LIVERMORE
CALIFORNIA

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

Beautification Committee: Reviews and recommends to City Council beautification projects for parks, roadsides, medians, city gateways, and standards for landscape maintenance districts. Public outreach achievements include Arbor Day and Annual Appearance Awards. *Meets: 1st Wednesday at 6:00 pm, Maintenance Service Center, 3500 Robertson Park Road. Next meeting: 12/4/13.*

Human Services Commission: The Human Services Commission provides a forum for discussion of community social needs, monitors the expenditure of Housing and Community Development Funds, assists local agencies in procuring appropriate grants, and submits an annual report to City Council on the status of social conditions and progress toward achieving solutions to human needs. *Meets: 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Multi-Service Center Conference Room, 3311 Pacific Ave. Next meeting: 12/10/13.*

Livermore Area Youth Advisory Commission: The Youth Advisory Commission brings together youths and adults, and private and public sectors of the community to address responsibility for the care, health, safety, welfare and education of Livermore's young people. *Meets: 1st Monday at 7:00 pm, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue. Next meeting rescheduled to: 12/9/13.*

Livermore Housing Authority: The purpose of the Housing Authority is to administer and oversee the 125 low-income housing units at Leahy Square, the Section Eight Certificate Program and the Voucher Program for subsidized housing. *Meets: 2nd Wednesday at 5:30 pm, 3203 Leahy Way. Next meeting rescheduled to 1/8/14.*

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

Applications are due to the City Clerk's Office by Monday, December 30, 5:00 pm.

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SPORTS NOTES



Pleasanton BUSC U9 Deportivo and Real Madrid battled. Juliano Casentini and Zidane Sellami were standouts on defense. Dylan Gray assisted Terrence Yu's beautiful goal from the 6 yard line. Derek Wang scored two goals, one from the 18 yard line. Andrew Weckwerth did a great job pushing the ball forward. Ethan Jackson played defense and offense, scoring Deportivo's final goal of the season. Great game and season for both teams.



The Livermore Aquacowboy Swim Team's senior level group competed recently in the trial and final Senior IV Terrapin meet. This meet brought swimmers from all over the Bay Area and Northern CA, Northern Sierra, Central Valley, as well as from far away as Santé Fe, NM, to compete for a spot in the finals. Alex Gonzalez, Bryce McLaggan and Trent Trump each made finals and swam their best un-tapered times in the season. The Aquacowboys are preparing for USA Swimming's Junior National competition to be held in Greensboro, North Carolina and the Washington Husky Invitational in Federal Way, Washington. Pictured are (back row) Alex Gonzalez, Trent Trump, Katie Kulp, Haley Hamza, Sam Yoon, Bryce McLaggan; (front row) Celine Nguyen, Shelby Diehl, and Nathan Boas.



Pictured are members of the Pleasanton Rage U9 Gray Team at the NorCal State Cup Tournament on November 17, 2013. After defeating the Alameda Islanders Red team, in the semi-finals of the NorCal State Cup Tournament, the Pleasanton Rage U9 Gray team finished second in the championship final game against the San Francisco Vikings Courage Red team.

Granada Water Polo Has Banner Year

On Wednesday, November 13, the Granada High School girls' water polo team capped off its most successful season on record by facing the San Ramon Valley Wolves in the semi-final game of the NCS tournament. They lost that night to the eventual conference champions, but it didn't put a damper on the season. The girls finished their run with a 22-5 record, losing to only three teams all season: Monte Vista, and Livermore and San Ramon twice each.

In the first round of NCS the girls beat a tough Alameda team 11-9 in OT, which allowed them to advance to the quarterfinals and face their friends and

cross-town rivals at Livermore High for what would be their third match-up. This marked an historic game regardless of the victor, as no Livermore water polo team had previously advanced to the third round of NCS. The game was played at the Robert Livermore Community Center Aquatic Center in front of a loud hometown crowd. Matt Croghan, who has worked with many of the girls on both teams over the years as a coach with the LARPD Lazars Water Polo Club, gave the pre-game announcements of rules and rosters.

The outstanding Livermore team had won both previous contests 8-7 and 8-4, but this was Granada's day. It was tight from the start, with no score after the first quarter and Granada up just 2-1 at the half. But thanks to a career best 18 saves by goalie Rebecca Bernstein, and solid defense by the field players, Granada came out on top 6-3 when the final buzzer sounded. Coach Tricia Vieira said, "Livermore HS is a fast team and we were able to make up for that with great game sense. From the beginning of the season through the end, each athlete was intense, focused, and excited to play. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with such exceptional girls."

By season's end, senior Greta Kohlmoos had broken her own single-season scoring record set last year by 6 goals, with a total of 152, and set a Granada career record of 428 goals. She signed a National Letter of Intent on Wednesday to attend UC Davis next fall and play water polo there.

Granada's JV team had a solid showing this year as well, with a season record of 15-5. Many strong and experienced players are ready to join returning varsity players Cheyenne Peña, Stephanie Divita, Elizabeth Bukus, Hannah Borjon, Nya Mitchell and Makinna Newkirk next fall to fill the caps of graduating seniors Kohlmoos, Bernstein, Adrianna Rocha, Sarah Guilford, Sydney Hardman and Clayton Wolfe.

Edge Gymnastics

The Edge Gymnastics Level 4 team competed on Friday-Sunday, November 15-17, at the NorCal State Championships in Redwood City, CA. This is the final meet of the season and represents the highest achievement for gymnasts at this level. The team placed 6th overall out of the 70 teams that competed.

The following are 2013 Level 4 State Champions: Carli Collopy - Beam; Katie Corbett - Bars and All-Around; Kathy Haidinyak - Bars and Beam; Katelyn Lewis - Bars and All-Around; Lily Madrigal - Floor; Isabella Romano - Bars, Beam, Floor, and All-Around
Individual results: Child B Division: Zoey Contos - Bars: 2nd (8.850),



Pictured are West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy compulsory gymnasts from Pleasanton. They competed at the Norcal Level 5 State Championships in Oroville.



The Mavericks Fastpitch 12U ended the season on a strong note by finishing in third place at the USSSA tournament held in Vacaville November 16/17. The team battled hard against strong competition. Pictured (back from right) Steve Pepperdine, Emily Andrassy, Brianna Wheelock, Melanie Laronde, Kylie Roberts, Mackenzie Wallace, Rachael Gomez, Doug Roberts and John Sprugasci; (front) Ally Sprugasci, Anna Ramirez, Jay Louangrath, Ally Gordon and Megan Shehab.



Pleasanton Seahawks' Senior Elite swimmers Tony Shen, Iris Brand, Nick Silverthorn, Erika Brown, Maxime Rooney, and Moriah Simonds, who just returned from Tokyo after qualifying for, and swimming in the 2013 FINA World Cup.



Defending State Cup Champions West Coast Kryptonite advanced to the 2013-14 State Cup campaign with a 10-0 win over Dublin United. Over the last decade, West Coast Kryptonite has won three state Cup Championship in a row a National Championship in 2011 and National Finalist in 2012 & 2013. With only four returning veteran players for this year it would be a hard task and some big shoes to fill to be able to compete for a 4th State Cup title. The new players have worked hard under the West Coast banner and have placed themselves in a position to move onto the next round of State Cup. With a group play record of 2-0-1 with 14 goals for and only 1 goal against, team Kryptonite is looking good. They will be playing in the College Showcase on November 23rd & 24th.



The Granada High School girls' water polo team poses for a picture after their semifinal game vs San Ramon HS. Pictured are (back row) Sydney Hardman, Elizabeth Bukus, Cheyenne Peña, Stephanie Divita, Greta Kohlmoos, Adrianna Rocha, Hannah Borjon, Morgan Mayhew; (front row) Clayton Wolfe, Nya Mitchell, Rebecca Bernstein and Makinna Newkirk. (See story in Sports Notes) Photo - Melanie Peña.



The Livermore Fusion SC Lynx U12 girls had an amazing season, taking in first place in their select copper division. The Lynx were undefeated and did not allow a single goal in regular season games. Pictured are (from left back) coach Rich Garcia, Kaleigh Garcia, Kayla Hebebrand, Hailey Lopez, Emma Hyde, Katie Muzzall, Pascale Badders, Maddie Turk, and coach Mike Lopez; (front row) Madeline Koning, Amanda Price, Tori Trautwein, Ariana Racanelli, Jenna Swartz, and Olivia LaBarbera; (center front) Sami Schley. (Photo by Dan Badders)



The U9 Pleasanton Rage Orange girls capped a stellar season by finishing 3rd out of 88 teams for the Norcal State Cup. On Sunday November 17 in Manteca the Rage Orange defeated the Elk Grove Navy 2-0. The Rage Orange scored early when Samantha Riter took a pass from Kiana Tahmassebi and put it in the net. The Rage defense, led by goalie Tasha Laberge-Shusterman and defenders Paige Morgan, Andrea Castillo, Alura Hagan, Kelly Queen, gave Elk Grove very few chances to score. The Rage Orange offense, led by Riter, Tahmassebi, Olivia Soble, Kaitlyn Lemus, Ava Hofstede and Alana Owens, kept the pressure on Elk Grove all day. The Rage Orange tallied a final goal when Soble set a shot past the Elk Grove goalie. This final victory of the season capped a season that saw the Rage Orange finish 24-5-5. The Rage Orange were undefeated in the Gold division of Norcal. The Rage Orange played to 3rd place finishes in the Rage Showcase and Mustang Stampede tournaments and a 2nd place finish in the Ajax United Fall Classic tournament. The Rage Orange were led by coach Dave Shaw.



The Livermore Junior Football League season concluded at Livermore High School on November 16 with the annual "Joe Rose" Bowls between Livermore Junior Football and Pleasanton Junior Football Leagues. Each league selected 24 players in Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14 age groups. The Joe Rose Bowls are named after Tri-Valley Sports Hall of Fame member, Joe Rose. Joe was a founder of Pleasanton Junior Football over 45 years ago and also was a founder of Livermore Junior Football. Joe has coached some of the finest players to come out of the Tri-Valley. Joe continues to coach every season. In the Under 10 games, Livermore prevailed over Pleasanton 13 to 6. In the Under 12 game, Livermore out scored Pleasanton 20 to 6. But, in the Under 14 game, Pleasanton walloped Livermore 44 to 0. In the top photo, John Joiner head downfield on a long run against the Pleasanton All-Stars. Shane Waechter with the carry against the Pleasanton All-Stars is pictured in the bottom photo.



Floor: 3rd (9.225), All-Around: 2nd (36.050); Child H Division: Emma Wright - Bars: 2nd (9.370)

Junior C Division: Emily Walsh - Beam: 3rd (9.300), Floor: 2nd (9.250T), All-Around: 2nd (36.325T); Junior D Division: Lily Madrigal - Bars: 3rd (9.150), Floor: 1st (9.325T), All-Around: 2nd (36.375); Junior G Division: Katie Corbett - Bars: 1st (9.400), Beam: 2nd (9.575), All-Around: 1st (37.150T)

Senior A Division: Tracy Zhao - Beam: 3rd (9.500); Mariah Murphy - Floor: 3rd (9.300); Senior B Division: Katelyn Lewis - Vault: 3rd (9.100), Bars: 1st (9.500), All-Around: 1st (36.700); Senior E Division: Kacie Donaldson - Beam: 2nd (9.425T); Senior G Division: Carli Collopy - Bars: 2nd (9.325), Beam: 1st (9.475), Floor: 2nd (9.400), All-Around: 2nd (36.900); Kathy Haidinyak - Bars: 1st (9.350), Floor: 1st (9.475), All-Around: 3rd (36.775); Senior H Division: Isabella Romano - Bars: 1st (9.150), Beam: 1st (9.750), Floor: 1st (9.700), All-Around: 1st (37.725); Senior I Division: Arianna Standish - Bars: 2nd (9.225T), Beam: 3rd (9.300)

Wheeler, Sammi Scranton-Mlay, and Lindsay Smith

Pleasanton Ballistic

It was the Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club (BUSC) U19 Select at the beginning and the end, but all Turlock in the middle, as the Select fell 4-2 in their final regular season game. Luis Garcia made a run on the right and was blown up in the box for a resulting PK. Sebby Perry stepped to the mark and calmly converted for the 1-0 lead in the 6th minute. It was then all Turlock for the rest of the half, with scores in the 24th and 35th for a 2-1 halftime lead. Defensive miscues lead to two more Turlock goals in the second half. Drake Foote gave the Select fans a final cheer, taking a pass from Grant Petrie and finishing in the 89th minute for the 4-2 final.

The Select completed their season 9-9-2, 2-4-2 in Norcal, and now take the winter break for high school before returning in the spring for State Cup.

WCOGA Gymnasts

The team is coached by Earl

SPORTS NOTES



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Granada High School defeated Amador Valley 24 to 20 in the first round of the NCS Division 1 varsity football playoffs. Granada will face perennial powerhouse, De La Salle in a 7 p.m. game on Nov. 22.

West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy (WCOGA) compulsory gymnasts from Pleasanton competed at the Norcal Level 5 State Championships, November 9, 10, 2013, in Oroville, California.

Level 5 individual results: Child G - Lauren Swenson-Lennox placed, 4th on uneven bars, 5th on balance beam and 4th all-around.

Child F- Megan Brennan placed 5th on floor, 3rd on balance beam and 8th all-around. Child F- Allison Reilly had personal bests on vault, beam and all-around. Junior E- Lydia Muentz placed 8th on uneven bars and 7th on balance beam. Junior B- Laura Stavila placed 8th on uneven bars and 7th on beam. Senior B -Audrey Ong placed 4th on uneven bars, 5th floor and 6th all-around.



The Livermore Fusion SC Team Heat U14 Boys Select took 1st place and secured the title of NorCal Champions in their division. They went 6 - 1 - 1 during the regular season and a combined 7-1 in tournament play, taking 2nd place in the Pleasanton Ballistic Tournament with a 3-1 record and 1st place in the Fremont Kick or Treat Tournament with a 4-0 record. Pictured are (back row from left) Coach Mike Perry, Leaiith Rawasheh, Nico Chavez, Ernesto Cruz, Jack Perry, Javier Guerra, Luis Gres-Lugo, Mark Silverthorn, Oscar Franco, Connor Sweeney, Weston Everett, and Coach Scott Silverthorn; (front row from left) Hayden Brackett, Marco Perez, Grant Murphy, Anthony Renouf, Cade Shortridge, Miles Larson, and Miles Gomez.

Miciah Madison who struck the ball past the Mustangs' goalkeeper. West Coast would put on another powerful attack in the second half earning 5 cornerkicks and 11 more shots on goal. With the 1-0 victory over Mustang, West Coast Wild finished on top of the State Cup group play with 3 wins and 9 points, scoring 9 goals and 0 goals allowed. Next up for West Coast Wild is the NPL showcase where they will be playing the #1 team from Oregon.

PGSL Registration

2014 Registration is now open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls living in Pleasanton, Dublin or Sunol are eligible to play. Visit the PGSL website for registration information (www.pleasantonsoftball.org). Register by December 1, 2013 to avoid a late fee. For more information, contact PGSL Registrar-Kris Jernstedt. Evaluations for grades 3-8 are scheduled for December 7-8, 2013.

Former Livermore Resident Carries Olympic Torch in Russia

Tammy Sue Bradley, a former Livermore resident, ran with the Sochi 2014 Olympic Torch in the city of Tver, Oct. 12 2013.

She is a senior manager of human resources for Contemporary International (CI). She is currently overseeing Workforce Operations for the CI Event Services project in Sochi.

Tver, 167 kilometers north of Moscow, was the 8th stop on the Torch Relay which will visit 132 locations (including a trip to outer space), and feature 14,000 runners.

Tammy Sue represented CI. She smiled, waved and thoroughly charmed everyone. A press release issued by CI notes, "We believe she had her photo taken with more people than any other Torchbearer in Tver, including young children who stopped her on the way home, and the entire staff of Tver station.

"The friendly smiles and true goodwill that we witnessed from the Russian Torch Team and thousands of onlookers who lined the streets, was truly inspirational and representative of the Olympic spirit."

To follow the torch go to <http://torchrelay.sochi2014.com/en/relay>.

She has played an integral part in the planning and operations of 7 Olympic Games.

Times and location TBD.

Lacrosse in Livermore

Learn to play the fastest game on two feet. Registration for the Livermore Phantom Lacrosse Spring 2014 season is still open but spots on teams are filling fast. Boy's rules teams are forming for players born between September 1, 1998 and August 31, 2006. Boy's rules team are open to both boys and girls. The season runs early-January through May. For more information and to register on-line go to www.phantomlacrosse.org.

Fastpitch Tryouts

The Mavericks' Fastpitch 12U team will be holding tryouts December



Tammy Sue Bradley waves at the crowd.

She joined the CI team in 2001. Tammy Sue's credentials also include several major sport events including

2 Commonwealth Games and 2 FIFA World Cups, making her an experienced and valued member of CI.

8, 2013 from 10 to noon. Please arrive 15 minutes early to fill out paperwork. The league is looking for players born in 2001 or 2002. Please check the website at www.mavericksfastpitch.com for more information about the Mavericks and send an e-mail to mavericksfastpitch@hotmail.com for more information regarding the tryout.

Girls Softball

LGSA Registration: Livermore Girls Softball Association welcomes all Livermore girls aged 5-18, no experience necessary. Online registration is open now at LivermoreGirlsSoftball.org, or register in person on December 17 from 6-9pm at Joe Michell School. Visit the website or email registration@LivermoreGirlsSoftball.org for more information.

levels are welcome, however athletes must be able to swim two laps (50 yards) without stopping. Register for the LAZERS team. To register, call LARPD at 925-373-5700, or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us. For more information about the LARPD LAZERS, visit lazerswaterpolo.weebly.com or e-mail lazerswp@gmail.com.

All practices are held at the Robert Livermore Community Center. The 14 & Under Level I Co-Ed team practices begin on Mon., Dec 2 at 4pm, and the Level II team begins on Tues., Dec 3 at 4pm. 15+ Girls and 15+ Boys teams begin practicing on Tues., Dec 3. 15+ boys will practice at 5:30pm, 15+ girls will practice at 7pm. There will be no practices 12/23-1/3 or 1/20.

Granada Little League

Registration for Granada Little League for Spring 2014 is open. Register now online at www.granadalittleleague.com or attend the walk-in registration on December 3rd at Mountain Mike's Pizza in Livermore from 6:30-8:30. Fees will increase on December 4th.

Winter Water Polo

LARPD sponsors a USA Water Polo team (USWP), the LAZERS, which encourages high standards of play and good sportsmanship. As a USWP club team, all practices and competitions will be sanctioned, requiring all participants to be registered with USWP. All experience

CYO Basketball

Boys' 7th Grade SMSC (St. Michael's/St. Charles) 715, aka Spartans, lost to CCOP (Catholic Community of Pleasanton) 712 in CYO basketball action. SMSC showed great teamwork and defensive skills. Spartans' top scorers included Max Bauer with 5 points, followed by Jacob Blaha and Jacob "JP" Peterson. Top defenders and rebounders were Ben Leggat, Gabriel Parrish and Hadi Zeid. Standouts for CCOP were top scorers Hunter McDonald and Chase Pederson.

West Coast Soccer

West Coast Wild, defending U16 State Cup Champions finish 1st in this year's state cup bracket play. After defeating Juventus 4-0 and Impact Confusion 4-0, Wild would face off against local club rival Mustang in a battle for the top honor as bracket leader. Mustang pressure was no match for team Wild's defense, as they were only able to take one shot on goal. Wild on the other hand fired 12 shots in the first half alone, but could not get the ball inside the frame of the goal. West Coast would pour on the attack in the second half and finally break through with a nice crossing ball from Autumn Smithers that was knocked forward by Tori Nicolo to

Over 400 Runners Compete in Race to the Flagpole



Pictured are 5K winners Doug Wichard Jackie Fenner. At right is the start of the race.

The Livermore-Granada Boosters hosted the 4th Annual "Race to the Flagpole" on Veterans Day weekend, November 9. The event drew over 400 runners who competed in the 5K, 10K, Half Marathon and one-mile fun runs through Independence, Sycamore Grove and Holdener parks.

Livermore's Craig Whichard won the half marathon in a time of 1:27:18. Alexandra Arjannikova of Livermore was the top female runner with a time of 1:41:43. Doug Whichard, a former Granada High student and Olympian Scholarship winner won the 5K race with a time of 18:12 and Jackie Fenner won the 5K women's division in

20:58. Nick Sherrell from Santa Cruz won the 10K with an impressive time of 35:04. Sara Johnson from Soquel won the women's 10K division in 47:30. In the one-mile fun run, Crisenda Mikulic from Rancho Las Positas Elementary won the female division in 7:06 and Christopher Baker from Arroyo Seco Elementary was the fastest male with a time of 6:29.

"We were very pleased with the turnout this year and the wonderful support from our community", said Race Director Mike Nagel, "Our participants ranged in ages from 5 to 85 years young. The event encour-



aged awareness and appreciation for fitness, as well as community pride".

The proceeds support the Livermore Granada Boosters' scholarship program. For 65 years, the Boosters have honored varsity scholar athletes from both high schools at their annual May awards banquet. Substantial scholarships are awarded to young men and young women who exemplify athletic excellence and high academic achievement. The Boosters believe students who excel in academics, athletics, and community service become

exemplary civic leaders. Since 1958, the Boosters have awarded more than \$240,000 in scholarships.

The event also featured a flag presentation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the National Anthem sung by Livermore High student Crystal Ebrado.

Livermore High school won the award for having the most participants by a Livermore school and received a cash donation of \$250. For more information about the Livermore Granada Boosters, results and photos of the race visit www.livermore-granadaboosters.org.



West Coast Wild player, Tori Nicolo, sprints past an opponent to provide the game winning assist.

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Livermore Sanitation

Thanksgiving Collection Schedule

- During the week of Thanksgiving, Livermore Sanitation will provide service one day late to some customers.
- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday customers will have no change in their service day.
- Thursday customers will receive service on Friday, November 29; Friday customers will receive service on Saturday, November 30.

Call or visit our website for more information.
925-449-7300
www.LivermoreSanitation.com

LIVERMORE CALIFORNIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Livermore City Council will consider the following item at the November 25, 2013 meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm, Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue.

Consideration of a ground lease agreement with Five Rivers Aviation, LLC, for an Airport Full-Service Fixed Base Operator facility (FBO). A full-service FBO is a private aviation support business located at an Airport which provides aircraft fueling and line services, aircraft maintenance, and other aviation-related activities.

The staff report and recommendation will be available for review in the City Council agenda packet from the evening Friday, November 15, 2013, in the City Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue as well as on the City of Livermore website at www.cityoflivermore.net. Agenda materials will also be available for review in the City Clerk's Office, 1052 South Livermore Avenue.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the full service Fixed Base Operator are available at http://www.cityoflivermore.net/citygov/pw/airport/airport_fbo_facts.asp.

For more information, please contact: Public Works Director Dan McIntyre by email at dbm McIntyre@cityoflivermore.net or by phone at (925) 960-8003.

Inspiring Tomorrow's Astronauts Today

Livermore Rotary Club's READY Program is working with today's Junction Avenue students in an effort to inspire them to be tomorrow's astronauts.

Students from Junction Avenue K-8 School, grades 5th-8th, spent Saturday morning soaring bottle rockets into the sky. They assembled the bottle rockets and then experimented with them to determine which rocket design worked the best, how much water propellant was needed and how much air pressure kept the bottle rockets in the air the longest. Rotarian mentors explained certain laws of physics. The students were then able to experiment and do their own estimates. Students were encouraged to experiment with different wing designs including no wings at all. Students used



Junction Avenue K-8 School students launched bottle rockets from the school's track field.

stop watches to time how long the rockets were suspended in air.

The weather cooperated with blue skies and a mild breeze. After launching multiple rockets, students critiqued what they had been doing and what they

believed they had learned.

Rotarian Nile Runge, a retired science teacher reviewed the science of the Enrichment activity. Rotarians Bob Cowan and Don Wentz, two retired engineers, mentored the students on rocket assembly and



rocket components.

The students "ooh's and ah's" could be heard as the different rockets soared skyward. At lunch, a number of students, both boys and girls, said they would be astronauts if the country continues into outer space.

READY, which stands for "Rotarians Enriching And Directing Youth" is an education program sponsored by Livermore Rotary Club to mentor students in low achieving schools to achieve their best in the classroom as well as pro-

vide low income, bilingual students enrichment opportunities by engaging them in hands-on opportunities leading to career explorations and a better understanding of why classroom subjects are important.

Cal Water Livermore's Operation Gobble Program Helps the Needy

For the 25th consecutive year, California Water Service Company (Cal Water) will donate Thanksgiving turkeys to local needy families through a program called "Operation Gobble."

Since its inception in 1988, the state-wide program has fed hundreds of thousands of needy people. Local legislators participate in the program by recommending charities in their districts that can help with distribution.

This year, Cal Water will be distributing 925 \$15 gift certificates, good for the purchase of a turkey or any turkey product, to local charities. Donating gift certificates rather than frozen turkeys will give additional flexibility to the charities and families that participate in the program. For example, if a family does not wish to prepare a whole turkey, it can purchase ground turkey, turkey breasts, or even turkey bacon. Distributing gift certificates rather than heavy frozen birds eliminates the need for delivery trucks, which is better for the environment.

Distribution of the gift checks will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 21, 2013 at 195 S N St in Livermore. This year's recipients are Haven Food Pantry, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Saint Michael's Food Cupboard, Buenas Vidas Thrift Store and Open Heart Kitchen.

Operation Gobble was initiated by the California Water Association (CWA), a consortium of privately-owned water utility companies throughout the state. Cal Water is a member of CWA and is the largest privately-owned water utility in California. Additional information about the company may be obtained online at www.calwater.com.



Downtown Pleasanton Plans Festive Holiday Events This Saturday

Downtown Pleasanton will kick off the holiday season on Saturday, November 23 for three "magical" community events.

Earlier Than The Bird ushers in great deals from 22 downtown merchants from 7 to 11 a.m. This event is designed to launch the holiday shopping season in a festive and entertaining way. Additionally, shoppers who arrive wearing their pajamas and check in at the Museum on Main located at 603 Main Street will receive a free reusable Downtown Pleasanton shopping bag.

The first annual Holiday Spirit Stroll set to take place on Saturday, November 23 from 4-7 p.m. 15 downtown merchants will be paired with local breweries, wineries and bars for a festive night sampling beer, wine and cocktails. Tickets are available for \$30 online at instagift.com/pda as well as at Studio Seven Arts - 400 Main Street, Clover Creek - 670 Main Street, and Berry Patch - 350-A Main Street through November 22. Tickets can be redeemed on November 23 from 3:30-6 p.m. at the Museum on Main. If available, tickets will be on sale at the event for \$35 cash. Ticket price includes wine, beer or cocktail tastings at 15 downtown locations and tasting map. Approxi-

mately 500 tickets will be sold. The Pleasanton Downtown Association encourages everyone to enjoy downtown responsibly. To support this effort the PDA will be selling designated driver tickets for \$5 cash on the night of the Holiday Spirit Stroll and the event programs will include taxi contact information. Event is rain or shine, no refunds.

The Spirit Stroll will coincide with Magical Holiday Evening from 4-7 p.m., an annual shopping event in downtown Pleasanton. 23 downtown merchants are participating. Streets come alive to usher in the season with live music, special offers, refreshments and an early visit from Santa Claus. Children can take pictures with Santa in front of the Museum on Main from 4-7 p.m.

The events are presented by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. For information, call (925) 484-2199 or go to www.pleasantondowntown.net.



The fine fall weather has added color to the landscape. The photo at left by Doug Jorgensen focused on the vineyards in their bright seasonal colors. The top photo by Ray Rychnovsky shows Abby Andrews, Ashley Yamamoto, Hayley Thompson and Kendall Yamamoto (left to right) enjoying the lovely fall weather with a hike in Sycamore Grove Park.

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| | | 443-SHOW | |
| HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG13) DLP-CC | 11:45 12:45 3:00 4:00 | 6:15 7:15 9:30 | |
| HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG13) DLP-DBOX | 1:45 5:00 8:15 | | |
| HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE (PG13) DLP | 2:15 5:30 8:45 | | |
| DELIVERY MAN (PG13) DLP | 1:10 4:05 6:50 9:35 | | |
| BEST MAN HOLIDAY (R) DLP | 12:40 3:50 6:55 9:40 | | |
| THOR: THE DARK WORLD (PG13) DLP | 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50 | | |
| ENDER'S GAME (PG13) DLP | 1:30 4:15 7:10 9:50 | | |
| FREE BIRDS (PG) DLP | 12:10 2:30 4:45 7:05 9:20 | | |
| LAS VEGAS (PG13) DLP | 1:20 4:10 7:15 9:55 | | |
| JACKASS: BAD GRANDPA (R) DLP | 12:05 2:25 4:50 7:25 9:55 | | |
| CAPTAIN PHILLIPS (PG13) DLP | 12:35 3:40 6:45 9:40 | | |
| GRAVITY (PG13) DLP-3D | 11:50 2:15 4:40 7:20 9:50 | | |
| PREVIEW, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26: | | | |
| FROZEN (PG) DLP | 7:00 | | |
| HOMEFRONT (R) DLP | 8:30 | | |
| OPENS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27: | | | |
| FROZEN (PG) DLP | 1:00 3:45 6:45 9:25 | | |
| HOMEFRONT (R) DLP | 1:30 4:25 7:05 9:45 | | |

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December 7th & 8th
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THE BOOK THIEF - Starts Wednesday Nov. 27th!

Shepherd's Gate

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SHORT NOTES

One Warm Coat Drive

Brownie Troop 30321 along with Daisy Troop 33483 will be collecting gently used coats for the homeless and the local Livermore Community.

Troop members will be in downtown on November 24th in front of Sanctuary (2369 First St) from 10 to 2. Please bring coats, jackets, sweaters etc. to donate to fellow Livermore residents

who need warmth and comfort as this cold season is well on its way.

Last year the Troops were able to collect over 300 coats to donate. The goal is to collect the same number this year. The coats stay in the community and serve those less fortunate.

Nature Programs

Creepy Crawly is the topic of the Sat., Nov. 23

FOOTHILL

(continued from page one)

students have taken Algebra I, and are well-equipped to handle the math involved in the class. Not everyone has studied biology. However, Cuozzo and Hill teach students enough of biology to provide the foundation to solve the problems posed in the classes. The students who have already taken biology regard the repetition as a refresher, said Cuozzo.

When students began the course this fall, they found a chalk line on the floor. It represented the outline of a body that had been lying there and then removed. (That was the one element of fiction here.) Simulated blood and vomit were on the floor.

The challenge for the students is to determine why the woman in question died. Just as TV shows such as CSI work out solutions, the students had to determine the blood splatter patterns and what they told about the death. Math was the tool used to detect what the pattern said, after measuring it at intervals of various centimeters.

Some students said the splatter patterns showed the person was falling, but others came to the opposite conclusion. Who is right? "There was no clear answer. That was part of the answer, and part of the learning process," said Cuozzo.

"We (teachers) step back. We are building a file here.

We are spending a whole year searching for the 'right answer,'" said Cuozzo.

The question, "was the body falling" at the time of the splattering, eventually answered, with one group seeing that the solution did not take into account certain things that the other group had included in its analysis.

Studying the blood splatter is just the start in learning what happened to the person who died. Since this is a bio-med program, the students are also looking into various causes of death. These include diabetes, which involves a search that takes them into medical career areas, for example endocrinology, and nutrition.

The diabetic emergency is the class's topic currently. However, in the future other potential causes or contributors to the death to be investigated include sickle cell disease, high cholesterol, and a bacterial infection.

It's early in the life of the bio-med program. However, in the long run, Cuozzo and Hill see the potential for field trips to hospitals to see how an emergency room works. Outside speakers from the medical field will also be invited to speak in classes.

"This is the kind of science course that science teachers want to teach. It puts the emphasis on the student solving problems. That's really what science is," said Cuozzo.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger program. Meet Ranger Danny Haberman at 2 p.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Road.

This program will look at what the turkeys are eating to plump up and other creatures that are catching a bad rap with these turkey lunches.

On Sun., Nov. 24, the topic will be Turkey Time! Meet Ranger Amy Wolitzer at 2 p.m. at Sycamore Grove Park, 5049 Arroyo Road.

Turkeys aren't just on the table, they're in our parks, too. Join this program to learn about wild turkeys and hopefully find some to admire. This will be an easy wander of less than a mile and will be fun for all ages.

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

Holiday Book Sale

Friends of the Dublin Library will hold a holiday book sale from noon to 3 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 7.

The sale will take place at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza. Shoppers will find a great selection of hardcover books in excellent condition suitable for gift giving. There are children's books, holiday books, gourmet cookbooks, gift books, and more.

For information, contact the Dublin Library at (925) 828-1315.

Community Outreach

Girls Night Out Networking (GNON), which celebrated its 5 year anniversary in June, will be hosting a Community Outreach project. GNON will hold a special drive for Quail Gardens Assisted Living.

Quail Garden is a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly. It is located in a quiet, residential neighbor-

hood, close to downtown shopping and conveniences in Old Town Livermore.

GNON will be collecting goods for stuffing Christmas stockings for the Quail Garden residents at the December 5th Christmas party to be held at Studio 7 Fitness, 5860 W Las Positas Blvd. in Pleasanton, from 5pm to 8pm. Donations of various goods such as personal toiletries, socks, slipper socks, candy (regular and sugar free) and word search books are being sought.

Those interested in finding out more about GNON or in donating to this project, please contact GNON Founder/Director, Frances Hewitt at (925) 487-4748 or at gnoners@gmail.com or visit www.gnontrivalley.com.

Holiday Postcards

A new exhibit is open at the historic Glass House featuring Holiday Postcards from the 1900s.

See at snapshot of history on a 4" by 6" card. Deltiology is the official name for postcard collecting. The new exhibit entitled: "Greetings! - Holiday Postcards from the 1900's" showcases rare and beautiful holiday postcards from the Forest Home Farms Historic Park collection.

The exhibit includes hand-colored cards, rare leather postcards and historic photo cards, all dating from before 1920. The cards will be on display from December through February at the Glass House Museum and can be seen as part of a Glass House Museum tour.

The Victorian era Glass House Museum is decorated for the holidays and is open on the second Saturday of each month from 10am to 2pm and at Holiday on the Farm on Saturday, December 7th and 14th.

Group tours are also available by appointment. For more information, call (925) 973-3284.

Forest Home Farms His-

toric Park is located at 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd. in San Ramon

Innovate Finalist

Innovate North State announced the finalist from Livermore who will be vying to earn the top spot in its respective category at the 29th annual Innovation Awards on Tuesday, December 3 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Chico State's Bell Memorial Union. The finalist representing Livermore is Sandstone Diagnostics, competing in the Start-up of the Year category.

A Business Expo and Networking Reception occurs immediately prior to the dinner event, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Co-Title Sponsors for the Awards Dinner are Tri Counties Bank and Recology.

Visit www.innovate-northstate.com to register or call 530-892-1707 for more information about the event, including opportunities to sponsor an award or to get an exhibit table.

Scholarship Success

The Livermore Public

Library invites local high school students and parents to attend an informational evening on college scholarships, "Scholarship Success!"

This free event will take place Wednesday, December 4, 2013 in the Storytime Room of the Livermore Public Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. The program will be offered at two different times: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. The same information will be provided at each of the sessions. No registration is required.

Learn where to search for educational scholarships and financial aid resources, get tips on how to successfully fill out applications, and receive valuable information about local and federal college financing. Experts will be on hand to discuss key financing strategies and answer any questions.

For questions or more information, please call Jennifer at 925-373-5576, or visit the library website www.livermorelibrary.net.

Workshop Planned to Hear Public Input on LARPD Master Plan

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District board of directors received an update on the ongoing Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan process.

A workshop to obtain feedback from citizens about future LARPD services and facilities will be held 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, at Leo Croce Elementary School, 5650 Scenic Ave.

RJM Design Group, the consultant, is conducting research on community demographics, confirming District assets and programs offered, identifying com-

munity resources available, interviewing stakeholders and partner agencies, organizing public meetings and preparing surveys. The consultant has also met with LARPD and City of Livermore staff to discuss a joint trails master plan.

Three focus groups comprised of invited citizens who have shown an interest in the topic area will take place to cover the areas of Parks, Playgrounds and Sports Fields; Open Space, Trails and Equestrian Facilities; and Recreation Programs and Facilities.

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth "Betty" (Thomas) Manzanares

Feb. 18, 1938- Nov. 6, 2013 (Former Livermore resident) Resident Of Manteca

Betty Passed into Heaven peacefully on the evening of November 6, 2013 at the age of 75, after a 2 year battle with Liver Cancer. She was



surrounded by her husband Chuck and her family.

Betty was born in San Francisco, resided in Newark, CA for 12 years and Livermore, CA for 29 years, before retiring to Manteca with her loving husband and soulmate Chuck Manzanares.

Betty was a strong, loving wife, mother to four: Theresa Cleaver, Patty Manzanares, Eileen Brooke, and Mitch Manzanares; grandmother to seven: Amber Brooke (Deceased 1997) Adam Brooke, Bonnie Cleaver, Steve Cleaver, Shauna Manzanares, Mitch and Marina Manzanares; and great grandmother to four: Lacey and Amberlyn Gunn, Lily Brooke, and

Lanaya Manzanares.

Betty was a strong, loving woman who enjoyed the outdoors taking trips in a motorhome with her husband to Arizona, Half Moon Bay, Yosemite, and Burney Falls, along with her dogs "Sara" Sadie and Jake. She was a wonderful wife and mother and everyone that knew Betty and the humorous personality she always shared, will not ever forget her.

Throughout her battle with liver cancer she always managed to keep a positive attitude with a humorous word, and a smile.

Celebration of Life Service will be held at Callaghan Mortuary, Thursday November 21, 2013 at 1 p.m., 3833 East Avenue, Livermore. Lunch reception to follow at Livermore Eagles Hall.

Donations would be welcome to Hospice Of San Joaquin, Stockton, CA.

Alan S. Wiel

Alan S. Wiel, age 101, passed away in the hospital in Pleasanton, CA, on November 7, 2013, after a three day bout with pneumonia and resulting complications.

Alan was born on March 14, 1912 in San Francisco CA. He is survived by his two



children, Stephen Wiel and Susan Wreden; by his four grandchildren Colin Wiel, Devon Cohn, Christopher Wreden, and Jeffrey Wreden; and by nine great grandchildren.

Alan was a hunter and also took up competitive trapshooting in the 1970's. He won the state championship a record four times: in 1978 in the veterans class (over 60), in 1984 in the seniors class (over 70), in 1985 in the seniors class, and in 1997 at the age of 85 again in the seniors class.

He was an officer and active member of REACT in San Francisco.

No services are planned now.

Donations may be made to the NRA or charity of your choice.

Lucile Ann

McKinley Phair

Resident of Livermore Lucile was born in Oakland, CA on March 20, 1939. She passed away on Saturday, November 16, 2013, surrounded by her loving family.



After attending UC Berkeley, Lucile worked at the Sears store in Livermore for over 23 years. She and James enjoyed family vacations, as well as traveling throughout the United States and Canada with their longtime friends Bill and Cathy Lewis.

She is survived by her husband, James, two daughters; Laura Phair and Peggy Sharp of Livermore, CA, and two grandchildren; Andrea Sharp of Livermore, CA and Kevin Sharp of Oakland, CA; one great-granddaughter, Michelle Sharp of Oakland, CA; cousins Dr. Edward McKinley and Ann

McKinley Gibson; nieces Angie Wetherall Lewis, Emily Wetherall, Yvonne Wetherall Codde and nephew Bill Wetherall. She was preceded in death by her parents William J. McKinley and Mabel E. Schofield and her sister Sandra McKinley Wetherall.

A private Graveside Service will be held at Memory Gardens Cemetery in Livermore, CA.

Contributions in her memory can be made to the Salvation Army or Hope Hospice.

Kevin Darryl Sawyer

July 4, 1961 - Nov. 16, 2013

He is survived by Wife Sandy and son Calvin.

Livermore resident for more than 30 years.

Celebration of life will be

held on Sunday, November 24; 1 p.m. at Sunrise Mobile Park Recreation Center (856 Sundial Cir.), Livermore, CA.



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Obituaries are published in The Independent at no charge. There is a small charge for photographs in the obituaries.

Memoriam ads can also be placed in The Independent when families want to honor the memories of their loved ones. There is a charge for memoriam ads, based on the size of the ad.

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Fair Board Adds Three Directors

Three new Directors have been selected to serve on the Board of the Alameda County Agricultural Fair Association. As one of the largest non-profit organizations in Northern California, the Fair Association's 26 Board Members oversee the operations of the Alameda County Fairgrounds which attracts over three million visitors each year. New members are George Pacheco, Jr. of Castro Valley; Craig Smith of Pleasanton; and Timothy Weaver of Livermore. President of the Fair Board, Janet Lockhart states, "The leadership, fiscal expertise, and community service commitment by these three talented individuals will be a benefit to the Fair Board and the Fair community."

George Pacheco, Jr. of Castro Valley, has been president of Pacheco Brothers Gardening, Inc. since 1979, and brings expertise in business, horticulture and construction. Pacheco's community involvement includes work with Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club. "I would like the Fairgrounds to continue to keep all events safe; safe for families to bring their children. The Fairgrounds are in a great location and a great asset to the community," says Pacheco.

Pleasanton's Craig Smith serves as Chief Operating Officer for Dorhmann Insurance. His expertise includes business and livestock. A long-time resident, Smith has participated in raising and showing livestock at the Fair since he was 9-years-old. "The Alameda County Fair is the largest event in the county and I believe community involvement is essential for continued growth," says Smith.

Livermore resident Timothy Weaver, President of Weaver & McCartney Accountancy Corporation, brings over 40 years experience as a CPA working with numerous businesses and non-profit organizations. Weaver is an active member of community organizations including the Lions Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and serves on the Valley Care Health System Board of Directors. "My goal is to contribute to the long range planning, to maximize the best use of the Fairgrounds for the future of Alameda County, Fair guests, and the Tri-Valley economy," says Weaver.

The Fair Association is well underway preparing for the 2014 Alameda County Fair to be held June 18 through July 6. Visit the Fair's website at www.AlamedaCountyFair.com or call 925-426-7600 for more information.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

The late Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Captain Paul Chenkovich was honored with a Line of Duty Death memorial last Friday. A procession of fire engines led the way as his casket was taken from Livermore to St. Augustine Church in Pleasanton. Members of the public showed their respect along the way. A firefighters' Honor Guard and Bagpipe and Drum group supported the arrival of Captain Chenkovich at St. Augustine Church. Donations for the Chenkovich family may be made by visiting any Bank of America branch and donating to the Chenkovich Family Account #164110012484 or donations can be mailed to: Livermore-Pleasanton Firefighters Foundation, C/O Chenkovich Family, 4847 Hopyard Rd, Suite 4 PMB 303, Pleasanton, CA 94588-2713.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 484377

The following person(s) doing business as: Liberty Painting Services, 1959 Park Street, Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Kirk Farnam, 1959 Park Street, Livermore CA 94551. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 7/1/2008. Signature of Registrants :s/ Kirk Farnam. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2013. Expires October 25, 2018.

The Independent Legal No. 3550. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 482876

The following person(s) doing

business as: In & Out Check Cashing, 10220 International Blvd., Oakland, CA 94603, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Martha L. Carrillo, 601 Silver Sage Ct, Livermore, CA 94550. This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 6/14/07. Signature of Registrants :s/ Martha Carrillo. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on September 29, 2013. Expires September 29, 2018.

The Independent Legal No. 3551. Published October 31, November 7, 14, 21, 2013.

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NO. 1-11-CV-202525

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): ERIC DEBLASI, an individual and DOES 4 THROUGH 100, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY

PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Antonio and Ines Ocegueda, Jorge Orejel and Gricelda Garcia and Judy Jones, and all others similarly situated

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in a proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk

for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Website (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30

días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tien 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su

suelo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

Plaintiffs are seeking \$982,812 in compensatory damages, \$300,000 in punitive damages, and reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, and costs of suit.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA 191 N. FIRST STREET SAN JOSE, CA 95113**

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): **CAM T. PHAN 1000 MARSH RD MENLO PARK, CA 94025 (650)614-7400**

DATE: (Fecha): APRIL 3, 2013
s/: DAVID H. YAMASAKI, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CLERK

s/: Clerk, by (Secretario) ROWENA WALKER, Deputy (Adjunto)

The Independent Legal No. 3552. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 484344

The following person(s) doing business as: Open Lotus Wellness Center, 1617 Second Street, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Divine Spiritual Healing, Inc, 1617 Second Street, Livermore CA 94550. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. Signature of Registrants :s/ Sheila McCarthy, Officer of Divine Spiritual Healing, Inc. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 24, 2013. Expires October 24, 2018.

The Independent Legal No. 3556. Published November 7, 14, 21, 28, 2013.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES... Date of Filing Application: October 4, 2013... To Whom It May Concern: The Names(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: CAA RESTAURANT GROUP LLC... Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control 1515 Clay St. Ste 2208 Oakland, CA 94612

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 484641-2... The following person(s) doing business as: (1)Guaranteed Parent Training (2)Misophonia Treatment Institute... (1)Thomas Hudson Dozier, II (2)Pamela Sue Dozier, 5801 Arlene Way, Livermore, CA 94550

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 484676... The following person(s) doing business as: Trigmack, 7531 Rolling Hills Circle, Dublin, CA 94568... Paul Abillana Alcantra, 7531 Rolling Hills Circle, Dublin, CA 94568

NOTICE OF INVITING BIDS Notice is hereby given that sealed competitive bids will be accepted in the office of the GSA-Purchasing Department... Kristy and Company Estate, Ranch and Land Ladies... Kristy Nancy Danielle Wendy... Cindy Greci REALTOR, GRI... Dominic Greci REALTOR, GRI... RYAN ANDERSON (925) 371-RYAN (7926) www.371RYAN.com

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5 Reasons for Home Buyers, Sellers To Be Grateful

By Cher Wollard

The economy seems to be rebounding in fits and starts, but the real estate market has been a steady bright light throughout 2013. That makes this a good time for home buyers and sellers to stop and consider all there is to be grateful for. Such as:

- 1. Homes are selling briskly. Some say too briskly. "The housing market has improved over the past year, and we expect this trend to continue into 2014," said Don Faught, president of the California Association of Realtors... 2. California is at the heart of the growth in real estate, and the Bay Area is at the heart of California's rebound. In fact, earlier this year, Livermore was designated the "hottest real estate neighborhood in Northern California" and the fifth hottest in the country...

Professionals Choice Real Estate Directory. Local guide to the Valley's Leading Real Estate Professionals & Services. Includes ads for Fracisco Realty & Investments, Ivy Livermore's Top Producing Real Estate Agent 2012, Sandee Utterback, Gail Henderson, Steve & Lorraine Mattos, Sabrina Bascom, Donna Garrison, Susan Schall, Rebecca L. Evans, Kristy and Company, Cathy and Company, Tammy Yau & Steven Wang, CPA, and 371-Ryan Real Estate Sales.

- 3. Interest rates remain very low. This week they are hovering under 4.5 percent for 30-year fixed rate mortgages. That's a little higher than a year ago, but still well below historic levels of 7.5 to 8.5 percent. With Janet Yellen likely to succeed Ben Bernanke as chair of the Federal Reserve, chances are the Fed will continue its "easy money" policies... 4. Prices have leveled off. Sellers should be pleased that home prices have risen dramatically this year. For example, the median price of a detached single-family home in Livermore last month was \$545,000 - up from \$435,000 a year earlier.

- 5. Tax breaks for homeowners remain in place. Despite the political maelstrom that has entangled Congress this year, the National Association of Realtors was able once again to hold off efforts to undermine the tax deduction for interest on home mortgages. This popular benefit has been on the table during discussions about how to keep the federal budget deficit in check... 5. Tax breaks for homeowners remain in place. Despite the political maelstrom that has entangled Congress this year, the National Association of Realtors was able once again to hold off efforts to undermine the tax deduction for interest on home mortgages.

And, if that's not enough to be grateful for, just remember that we live in the Bay Area, one of the hottest housing markets in the nation and, in this writer's opinion, the very best place to live. Cher Wollard is thankful to be a Realtor with Prudential California Realty, Livermore.

Cities to Hold Workshops to Explain Grant Application Process

The cities of Livermore and Pleasanton will co-sponsor two application workshops for the following fiscal year 2014-15 grant programs: City of Livermore Housing and Human Services Grants; City of Pleasanton Housing and Human Services Grants; and the City of Pleasanton Community Grants – Youth / Civic Arts.

The workshops are designed for non-profit organizations that serve Tri-Valley residents. The grant programs offered by the two cities provide funding for a wide variety of human services, community development, housing, youth, and civic arts projects and programs in the Tri-Valley. Most of the grants are focused on activities that benefit lower income residents.

In the current fiscal year (2013-14), the cities are collectively providing over \$1.4 million to projects and programs including: medical visits and health care access for the uninsured; child abuse prevention services; meals and supportive services for seniors; mental health care; substance abuse counseling; domestic violence and homeless shelters; rental assistance for job training participants;

fair housing counseling and tenant-landlord services; housing rehabilitation for low income homeowners; community cultural events; art projects and programs; and many more.

City staff will discuss the application processes and distribute application packets at the workshops. Attendance at one of the scheduled workshops is mandatory in order to apply for City of Livermore fund-

ing and is strongly encouraged for the City of Pleasanton. Both workshops will be identical in format and content, and it is only necessary to attend one workshop.

The first workshop is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Pleasanton City Council Chamber, located at 200 Old Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton. A second workshop will be held on Tuesday, December

10, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Livermore City Council Chamber, located at 3575 Pacific Avenue in Livermore.

To RSVP for attendance at one of the workshops, please contact Sheryl Jen-

kins, City of Livermore, at (925) 960-4434, or email sljenkins@cityoflivermore.net.

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Scrooge Snarls Again at Dickens Christmas Faire

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"Bah, humbug!"

Those words immediately evoke the character of Ebenezer Scrooge, the protagonist of Charles Dickens' novella about "a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner" who hated Christmas — partly because custom decreed that he give his only employee a single day off with pay.

A Christmas Carol, written in London 170 years ago, is still very much a part of our world today. It has been made into plays and movies many times over, with the character of the wealthy but miserly Scrooge played by the likes of Lionel Barrymore, Basil Rathbone and, more

recently, Jim Carrey.

Tri-Valley residents will have an opportunity to see Scrooge in all his cold-blooded meanness at the Dickens Christmas Faire presented by St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Livermore from 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, Nov. 30, and from noon to 5 PM on Sunday, Dec. 1.

Using a stage adaptation of Dickens' book by Mike Ferrians and Brenda Chapman, A Christmas Carol will be presented as a series of individual scenes each day. The director is Patrick Moore, a veteran actor who has performed with Perseverance Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Cal Shakes and the Livermore Shakespeare Festival. Dave Rettinger, who taught Industrial Arts in Santa Clara before retiring after 33 years, will be reprising his role of Scrooge from last year's Faire. Other key roles are played by Livermore residents Gil Stratton, Steven Chiolis, and the Rev. Joyce Parry Moore, rector of St. Bart's.

Patrick notes that the story has been told many different times in different ways.

"Its essence is that

we get drawn away from the spirit of Christmas. I think we all feel that way at some point during the holidays, so there's a little bit of Scrooge in all of us — and that's why we can relate to him. Who would Scrooge be in this day and age? A politician? A corporate executive? He'd be where you're least likely to expect Christmas.

"Redemption is a major aspect of the story: Scrooge is redeemed by examining the path that he's taking," Patrick said, adding that "One of the themes that runs through civilization — ancient or today — is how do we deal with the poor."

Appropriately, the Dickens Christmas Faire will benefit needy people in Livermore by raising funds for the church's community programs, among them the Big Heart Wellness Center, which provides health and nutrition information, legal counsel and other assistance to clients of the Interfaith Sharing Food Pantry.

A Christmas Carol is presented at the Dickens Christmas Faire as individual, stand-alone scenes. Since most people already know the story, Faire-goers



Director Patrick Moore explains a point to Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Dave Rettinger, at a rehearsal for A Christmas Carol, to be performed Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 during the Dickens Christmas Faire at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Livermore.

will appreciate the arc of each scene as a complete piece of work. This year most scenes will be presented in the London marketplace setting designed by theater professional Rand Enlow and created in St. Bart's Parish Hall, so that the audience is as much a part of Scrooge's world as the actors, Patrick said.

Faire-goers are encouraged to wear Dickens' era costumes as they watch the

play and enjoy between-the-scenes activities such as dancing, singing, visiting Father Christmas, having tea, or drinking at Miss Mattie's Pub.

"We're bringing a Scrooge who is more relevant, more understandable, because he's not just on a stage, but in the setting of the whole Faire," Patrick noted.

There will be vendors offering hand-crafted items

— soaps, toys and more, and a lavish "High Tea" will be presented each day at 4 PM. Admission is \$10 for both days, with kids 5 and younger free. All proceeds benefit St. Bart's community programs.

St. Bart's is located at 678 Enos Way in Livermore.

For further information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.saintbartsLivermore.com.



Livermore-Amador Symphony Concert Features 'Gems'



Avanti Winds (above) and Joyce Johnson Hamilton to perform with the Symphony.



Dr. Arthur Barnes (inset) conducts the Livermore-Amador Symphony.



Livermore-Amador Symphony (LAS) opens its fifty-first season with "Gems from the Past and Present" on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. This is the beginning of a yearlong festival honoring Dr. Arthur Barnes' fiftieth season as the LAS music director, one that will be full of great music, fun and surprise.

The first concert will include Beethoven's Symphony No. 2, Benjamin Lees' Concerto for Woodwind

and Orchestra, Concerto for Trumpet written by Dr. Barnes, and Gershwin's "An American in Paris."

Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 2 was written in 1802 during Beethoven's 'early period.' It was influenced by Mozart and Haydn. Beethoven dedicated his second symphony to Prince Karl Lichnowsky, a friend and financial supporter during his early career. Beethoven himself was the conductor when it premiered in April 1803 at the Theater

an der Wien in Vienna.

Beethoven's first symptoms of deafness had appeared in 1796, but he hid his condition as long as possible. In 1802, during the time he composed the Second Symphony, Beethoven wrote a letter to his brothers that he never sent. In the letter he discussed suicidal thoughts and his anguish over his growing deafness. Even though Beethoven composed the piece during a time of crisis, the Second Symphony is a happy symphony full of vitality. The third movement is a playful scherzo, with an oboe and bassoon quartet. Symphony No. 2 encompasses a large range and has hints of the new direction his music would take beginning with his Third Symphony.

Benjamin Lees' Concerto for Woodwind and Orchestra will feature Avanti Winds. This quintet, whose members hold day jobs as engineers and teachers, is comprised of Ellen Crawford, flute; Audrey Gore, oboe; Jeffrey Wolfeld, clarinet; Jennifer Barnes Wolfeld,

bassoon and Liane Sharp-Fuccio, horn. Avanti Winds formed in 2006. Dr. Barnes has known Jennifer Barnes Wolfeld all her life, since she is his daughter.

Benjamin Lees, born in China in 1924, was raised in San Francisco. He studied composition at the University of Southern California and taught at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore after spending several years in Europe. The modern, robust Concerto for Woodwind Quintet and Orchestra was commissioned by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as a Bicentennial celebration. It was first performed in 1976. Benjamin Lees is known for his concerti; his music has a style that is easily recognized.

Dr. Barnes went to Stanford University to pursue his doctorate in orchestral conducting. He arrived in 1963, the year that the Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band (LSJUMB) went on strike to protest the dismissal of the Band director during a reorganization

of the music department. Stanford offered Dr. Barnes the position of director of the Band. He did more than direct the Band; he won the hearts of the students by arranging, or 'charting' popular songs into two-minute pieces for the Band to perform, and by allowing band members a great deal of autonomy in the direction the Band took during performances. These changes transformed the LSJUMB from a traditional marching band into the lively student-led ensemble that remains to this day. While he was at Stanford, Dr. Barnes charted more than three hundred selections of popular music into two-minute pieces for the Band. He remained on the faculty at Stanford for thirty-five years. In October of this year he was honored by the Band and Band Alumni Board for "his incomparable contributions to all the great things the Band is and does."

Dr. Barnes' Concerto for Trumpet was written in 1991 in celebration of Stan-

ford University's Centennial. It was performed on that occasion by soloist Joyce Johnson Hamilton, with Dr. Barnes conducting the Stanford Symphonic Band. Johnson Hamilton subsequently performed the work with the Diablo Symphony and also in Seoul, Korea with the Seoul Philharmonic. In addition to the orchestra and symphonic band score, the work is also scored for the British brass band and has been performed by one of Britain's outstanding brass bands.

Joyce Johnson Hamilton, who will once again perform the trumpet concerto, is an accomplished conductor and trumpeter, as well as a Lecturer at Stanford University. From 1980 until 2011 she conducted the Diablo Symphony Orchestra. She served as conductor of several other orchestras and as principal trumpet of the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, the Oakland Symphony, San José Symphony and

(continued on page 10)

British Group The Jive Aces Feature Energetic Jump Jive Sound and Big Band Swing



The Jive Aces (left) and Satin Dollz to perform at the Bankhead Theater.

The Jive Aces, considered to be the United Kingdom's top jive and swing band, will light up the Bankhead Theater stage when they arrive for a Saturday evening performance on November 23rd. The Jive Aces put their own spin on swing era tunes by such greats as Cab Calloway, Louis Prima, Bobby Darrin and Louis Armstrong, plus their own original songs.

Their stop in Livermore is part of a worldwide tour promoting their latest album "King of the Swingers: A Salute to Louis Prima." It features guest vocalist Toni Elizabeth Prima, daughter of the renowned bandleader, and The Satin Dollz, whose song and dance style evokes the World War II era. Tickets for the single performance at 8:00 p.m. on November 23, 2013 range from \$36 to \$55 for adults and \$15 for students.

The Jive Aces have been together for over a decade and are nearly as well known for their yellow-suited style and

lively stage show, as for their hot jump jive rhythms and swing sound. After the release of their first CD "Jumpin' with the Aces" in 1992, their popularity quickly spread throughout Britain and Europe. They have since appeared in more than 30 countries on nearly every continent. The Jive Aces burst onto the global music scene in 2012 when they became the first-ever band to reach the semi-finals of the television show "Britain's Got Talent" and also appeared as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Over the years, they have made hundreds of TV and radio appearances and worked with such artists as Van Morrison, John Travolta, Isaac Hayes, Lisa Marie Presley and many others.

"King of the Swingers: A Salute to Louis Prima" was recorded in Hollywood. It includes the Jive Aces' hit version of the classic song "Bring Me Sunshine." Their video of the song, which has been called an "instant mood lifter," has had over two million views on YouTube

and won seven film festival awards. The new album also features their original tune "King of Jive" about Louis Prima and Keely Smith, who were regular performers on the Las Vegas entertainment circuit throughout the 1950s. The inclusion of their daughter, vocalist Toni Elizabeth Prima, on this Jive Aces tour brings their story full circle.

The members of vintage dance group The Satin Dollz were brought together from all corners of the United States in 2005 to recreate the top-notch entertainment style reminiscent of the WWII USO Camp Shows offered to soldiers between 1941 and 1947. With sleek harmonies, crowd-pleasing tap dance numbers, retro costumes and winning smiles, their lively shows have charmed audiences of all ages throughout the US and overseas.

Big band music has been a staple of Bankhead Theater programming since the venue opened in 2007 with tributes to the classic music of Duke Ellington

and Glenn Miller, as well as the modern swing style of Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and many others. Coming in March 2014 will be a big band tribute to Frank Sinatra and the Harry James Orchestra featuring Sebastian Anzaldo, considered one of the finest Sinatra tribute artists. Vocal group The Four Lads will add their hits such as "Moments to Remember" and "Standing on a Corner," and will be joined by comedian Paul Boland and singer/dancer Mary Lou Metzger from the Lawrence Welk Show.

Tickets to see The Jive Aces with The Satin Dollz on November 23, 2013, or for "A Tribute to Frank Sinatra and the Harry James Orchestra" on March 31, 2014, as well as for all other events in the 2013-2014 LVPAC Presents season are now available.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets may be purchased at the box office, online at www.bankhead-theater.org or by calling 373-6800.

BANKHEAD THEATER
SEASON
13/14

TONIGHT!



The Passion and Fire of Brazil
Bolé Folclórico do Bohio
thursday nov 21 at 7:30pm

Solo Show Starring Julian Sands
A Celebration of Harold Pinter
DIRECTED BY John Malkovich
friday nov 22 at 8pm
SPONSORED BY Dr. Susan DuPree



An Engaging Night of Swinging Song
The Jive Aces
WITH THE **Satin Dollz**
saturday nov 23 at 8pm

Crazy About Bach
Pacific Chamber Symphony
sunday nov 24 at 2pm

Celebrating 20 Years of Holiday Joy!
Smuin XXMAS Bollet
nov 29 at 7:30pm 30 at 2 & 7:30pm



Yuletide Spectacular
Bollet Folclórico Costa de Oro
tuesday dec 3 at 7:30pm
SPONSORED BY Jean Shuler

Fresh New Voice in Indie Pop
Mariah McMonus
wednesday dec 4 at 7:30pm

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BANKHEAD
THEATER

Eclectic Mix of Holiday Programs Scheduled at the Bankhead

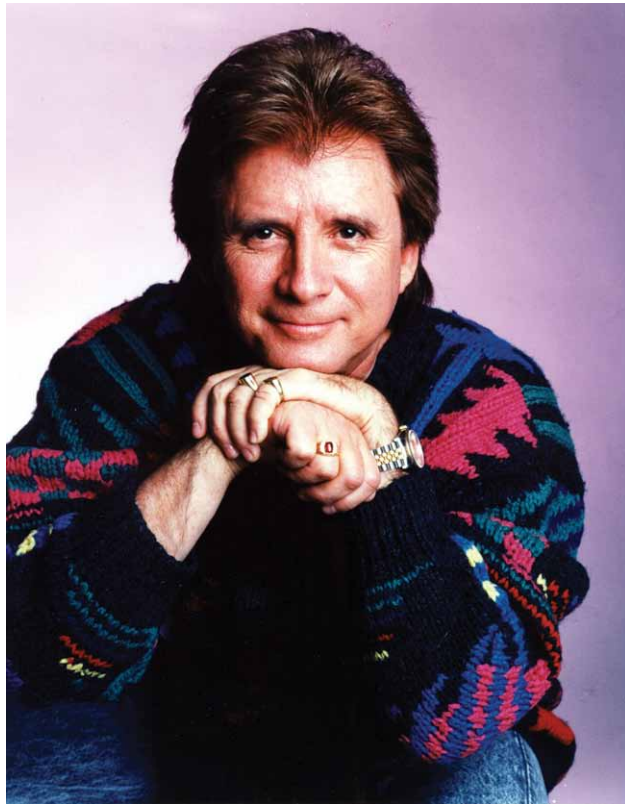
Now in its seventh season, the Bankhead Theater in Livermore will present seven holiday-themed range of events with music, dance, and comedy for all ages.

Dance in its many forms provides a vivid and spectacular backdrop for the season with three very different programs.

First, the sizzling new "XXMAS Ballet," a 20th anniversary celebration of classical dance and lively character numbers, will be presented by the San Francisco-based Smuin Ballet, who return to the Bankhead for three performances beginning November 29, 2013. They will be followed by Ballet Folklórico Costa de Oro's colorful south-of-the-border showcase of Mexican holiday music and dance traditions, "Fiestas Navideñas," on December 3rd. Valley Dance Theatre, a Bankhead Theater resident company, returns with eight performances of their charming fully-staged production of the world famous classical ballet, "The Nutcracker," accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony.

New this year at the Bankhead will be a Doo Wop Holiday Celebration on December 8th, featuring Hit Parade Hall of Famer Johnny Tillotson, The Vibrations, "Remember When: A Tribute to The Platters," and comedy host Steve Bruner in a Sunday afternoon of seasonal songs delivered in finger-snapping, toe-tapping style. Reaching back to an earlier era, Andrea Marcovicci sings sentimental favorites of the 1940s and beloved holiday classics on December 10th.

Bringing the year to a close will be "The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show," an evening of live stand-up comedy helmed by political comedian Will Durst on December 27th, and the annual LVPAC Pres-



ents New Year's Eve Celebration on December 31st with the rocking contemporary blues of Roy Rogers and the Delta Rhythm Kings, which includes a festive champagne and desert reception in the lobby following the performance.

The seven holiday-themed events scheduled at the Bankhead Theater for 2013 are:

- Smuin's "XXMAS Ballet": A combination of classical ballet and rollicking character numbers that offers something for everyone, from traditional Bach and sacred carols, to gospel songs, holiday favorites and a touch of Elvis. Three performances, Friday, November 29 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday November 30 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

- "Fiestas Navideñas": Ballet Folklórico Costa de Oro's traditional holiday fiesta features a Christmas processional (posada), Mexican holiday songs (villancicos), a visit from the Three Wise Men, a festive piñata

scene, and a vibrant, colorful finale. Tuesday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m.

- A Doo Wop Holiday Celebration: Best of Doo Wop delivers an afternoon of classic songs of the season with Hit Parade Hall of Famer Johnny Tillotson, pop band The Vibrations, A Tribute to The Platters, music by the Flashback Band, and comedy host Steve Bruner. Sunday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m.

- The Nutcracker: The complete classical ballet by Tchaikovsky is staged in an enchantingly elegant production by Valley Dance Theatre with full orchestral accompaniment by the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Eight matinee and evening performances from December 14-22.

- "Home for the Holidays: A WWII Christmas": Gifted interpreter of the classic American pop song, Andrea Marcovicci brings an elegant and sophisticated style to stories, poetry and the timeless songs of the



WWII era together with holiday favorites in an enchanting evening of unforgettable music. Tuesday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.

- "The Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show": Celebrating its 21st year of holiday shows, this is a PG-13 night of hilarious stand-up comedy, improvisation and loosely written sketches looking back at the news of the past year helmed by premier political comedian Will Durst. Friday, December 27 at 8:00 p.m.

- LVPAC New Year's Eve Celebration: The annual event at the Bankhead starts with the contemporary blues, Americana and roots music of top slide guitarist Roy Rogers and The Delta Rhythm Kings and continues after the performance with a festive champagne and dessert reception in the lobby. Tuesday, December 31, at 8:00 p.m.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets for events may be purchased at the box office, on-line at www-bankhead-theater.org or by calling 373-6800.



Performing during the holidays are (above, left) Johnny Tillotson in a Doo Wop Holiday Celebration; Smuin dancer Susan Roemer struts onstage as the iconic "Santa Baby;" and Andrea Marcovicci in "Home for the Holidays: A WWII Christmas,"



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The annual Victorian Yuletide at Ravenswood will be held on Dec. 8.

LARPD Offers Holiday Events

The holiday season is fast-approaching. The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has something in store for a variety of interests.

- Step back in time for the annual Victorian Yuletide at Ravenswood Historic Site from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. Admission is free and includes a look into the 1890s Victorian home decked out for the season. There will be entertainment throughout the afternoon, buggy rides, drinks and desserts for sale, visits with Old St. Nicholas and a holiday gift shop. The event is presented by LARPD and the Ravenswood Progress League. Ravenswood is located at 2647 Arroyo Road. For more information, call 925-443-0238.

- The LARPD Senior Services Holiday Brunch will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12. Enjoy the holiday season with decorations, festivities, food and fun, plus a performance by the Air Force Band

of the Golden West Holiday Ensemble. Tickets are \$8 and must be purchased by 4 p.m. Dec. 5.

- Breakfast with Santa will take place at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. This fun event is open to families with children ages 10 and younger. A sit-down pancake breakfast will be served. Children will have the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and make a holiday craft. Preregistration is required – no tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets are \$10 per person; everyone needs a ticket.

- Santa is available for 10-minute visits during the hours of 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20; Saturday, Dec. 21; and Sunday, Dec. 22. Packages may be left on the porch for Santa to bring in and deliver directly to children. Visits are \$45 to Livermore addresses. Sign-ups open from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Robert Livermore Commu-

nity Center on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration will continue after Dec. 3 until spaces are full.

- The Holiday Basketball Tournament is open to youth in third through eighth grades. Teams of boys or girls can sign up for \$225 a team to play a three-game minimum, round-robin format. Third through fifth grades will play Dec. 20, 21 and 23; sixth through eighth grades will play Dec. 27 through 29. To register, contact Zack Silva at 925-373-5733 or zsilva@larpd.dst.ca.us.

- There's still an opportunity to get into the Santa spirit with Letters from Santa. Children can receive a personal letter from the North Pole through this fun service. Cost is \$3.50 per letter and application can be obtained by calling 925-373-5700 or visiting www.larpd.dst.ca.us. Registration opens Dec. 1; last day to request a letter is noon on Dec. 19.

- Kids have a variety of

(continued on page 10)

Dublin Festivities Include Tree Lighting, Musical Celebration of the Season, and More

The City of Dublin has a number of events planned in celebration of the holiday season. From a craft boutique to the annual tree lighting ceremony and breakfast with Santa Claus, there is something for citizens of all ages taking place in the city this season. While many of the events are free, some events require reservations and payment through the City of Dublin's Parks and Community Services Department.

A new exhibit, "Keep Calm and Merry On: Holidays on the Homefront," will debut at the Dublin Heritage Park and Museums on Sunday, December 1. Exploring the bittersweet holidays during wartime, this free exhibit will be on display through January 12, 2014. It can be viewed during regular Museum hours, Wednesday through Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

The City of Dublin's 30th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 5, from 7:00 - 8:30 PM, at the Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza. The Dublin Unified School District Children's Choir, under the direction of Irene Fong, and the Fallon Middle School Jazz Band, led by Lee Carpenter, will provide seasonal entertainment. Free refreshments will be served after the performance, and children may meet a visitor from the North Pole.

Residents can enjoy a

Holiday Tea on Saturday, December 7, or Sunday, December 8, in the Sunday School Barn at the Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, 6600 Donlon Way. The country tea lunch will feature an array of scones with lemon curd, dainty sandwiches, fruits, cheeses, and elegant desserts. Following the tea, participants may tour the 1911 Kolb House, which will be decorated for the holidays. Tickets are \$25 each, and seating is limited.

A Bay Area jazz band, Four and More, will perform in a holiday concert, a "Musical Celebration of the Season," on Saturday, December 7, and Sunday, December 8, from 3:30 to 4:30 PM, in Old St. Raymond Church at the Dublin Heritage Park and Museums. Four and More will perform some swingin' tributes to the holiday season, as well as more traditional tunes. Four and More is a five-piece band, featuring vocals, sax, piano, bass, and drums. Pre-sale ticket prices are \$5 for children, 12 and under, and \$8 for adults. If the event does not sell out, tickets may be purchased at the door for \$7 (children, 12 and under), and \$10 (adults).

"Breakfast with Santa," a Dublin tradition, will be held on Saturday, December 14, at the Shannon Community Center, at 11600 Shannon Avenue. Families are invited to enjoy a hot pancake breakfast, served with sausage,

fruit, coffee and juice, followed by the arrival of Santa Claus. There will be three seatings for this event, at 8:30 AM, 9:45 AM, and 11:00 AM. Ticket prices are \$11 for residents, and \$13 for non-residents. This event benefits the Dublin High School Irish Guard and Band.

The festivities this year will also include a holiday philanthropy project, "Warm the Winter Chill," hosted by City of Dublin employees. Residents are encouraged to visit the Dublin Civic Center or the Dublin Senior Center, and select a gift tag. Each tag represents the wishes of Dublin seniors, families, Veterans, or children in need. Participants will purchase the item, then deliver the wrapped gift, along with the tag, to the Dublin Civic Center, Shannon Community Center, Senior Center, or the Emerald Glen Preschool (4201 Central Parkway). For more information, call (925) 833-6606.

Participants may register for any of the pre-sale events at www.DublinRecGuide.com, or by visiting the Parks & Community Services offices at the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Avenue, in Dublin. For more information about any of the holiday events, visit www.dublin.ca.gov/holidayhappenings, or contact the City of Dublin Parks and Community Services Department at (925) 556-4500.

See Bradbury's Vision Of Our Future

By Susan Steinberg

Fahrenheit 451 shocked and chilled America in the 1950s. After horrible revelations of inhumane atrocities by the Nazis in World War II, people yearned to create an ideal utopia on earth. The United Nations was established to maintain peace and civilized governance, and the hope of space travel became a reality, possibly leading to the discovery of brave new worlds and peoples.

Farsighted authors like Ray Bradbury had been publishing stories about life in outer space, and his picture wasn't pretty. But all that seemed far away and into the future, so it was comfortably titled "Science Fiction." It couldn't happen here.

Then, in 1953 Bradbury published Fahrenheit 451, a shattering prediction of our own planet becoming a "dystopia," the horrifying opposite of utopia. Set in a recognizable contemporary community, it described a society in which information was controlled and independent thinking prohibited. Books, the repository of human thoughts, feelings, and reason, were explicitly banned, and were sought out and burned by a ruthless cadre of "firemen." All commentaries, opinions, or intelligent dialogues were gradually eliminated until thinking itself was suspect, as were those who questioned.

The few people who had merely feebly protested at the outset finally retreated into safe isolation, as "good people" all over Europe had done, too afraid of personal risk. A despairing old professor admits how it might have been stopped if enough right-minded citizens had led an early resistance,

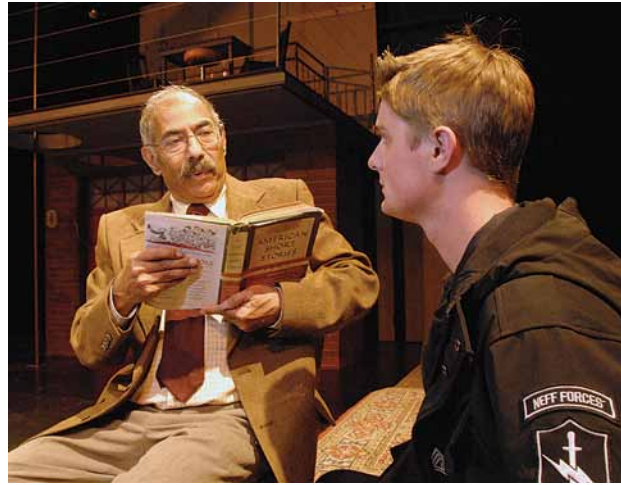
but being a coward, he himself had failed to do so. America also had passively watched as the Nazi regime that began with book burning proceeded to incinerating human beings on an unimaginable scale. The concept was real and frightening. Could it happen here?

In the '50's, Sen. Joseph McCarthy and his House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) was busy attacking exactly that thinking segment of society: authors, artists, philosophers, and scientists, ruining their careers and their lives, sometimes even causing their deaths. In the novel, phone threats to the gentle old professor literally scare him to death. In the play, watching and hearing the verbal menace take its toll, intensifies and personalizes the horror.

Perhaps Bradbury was thinking about the fate of Dr. Richard Condon, the mild-mannered and highly respected director of the National Bureau of Standards. In a radio broadcast heard around the world, McCarthy accused Condon of being "the weakest link in our security chain." Subsequently the distraught scientist suffered a fatal heart attack.

The Soviet Union, formerly our "heroic ally" was being revealed as a totalitarian police state, whose victims, usually well-educated or creative thinkers and questioners were quietly eliminated to preclude dissent. The specter of a Secret Police monitoring people's activities, conversations, and even thoughts suddenly became a reality. Why not in America?

In his work, Bradbury tried to warn us about the dangers of groupthink, thought control, and the



Fireman played by Alex Draa (right) is introduced to books. Photo- Doug Jorgensen

mindless enjoyment growing ever more popular in the US. It was called television, and it occupied people's attention more than reading, which the author considered an ominous trend. So he presented a bookless, thoughtless society, where people were content to be entertained by huge wall screens, showing programs devoid of intelligent content.

The book-burning Fire Chief, apparently relishing his role, describes how it all happened. Books were too depressing, too confusing – the authors all had different points of view, making people disagree and causing unhappiness – so they had to be banned. They were too long, so they had to become shorter and shorter, devolving into stories and then being abandoned altogether. Classics became comic books and then plot outlines, and finally discarded in favor of mindless media. The media itself became less "in-depth," eschewed commentaries or burdensome explanations for news-bytes and finally just headlines. (He certainly would have included TWEETS, the final reductio ad absurdum of thoughtful communica-

tion.)

The new society encourages speed - rush, rush, without enjoyment of the journey, going so quickly on the highway that there is no time to view the landscape. The radio must be turned up so loud that the brain can't think, while the senses become drunk. Theaters have been closed to avoid thinking and discussion, while public attention is re-focused on constant organized sporting events. Entertainment now consists only of sports, with lots of fast action, no commentary, no thinking, just an endless flow of scores - nice safe numbers.

Only a few stubborn souls hold onto their minds and their books, but an implacable Fire Department is searching them out and eliminating each "threat" by burning their books. Guy Montag, an ordinary fireman, accidentally meets one of these intellectual refugees in the innocuous guise of a sweet young girl. She begins asking him unsettling questions such as, "Didn't firemen used to put out fires, instead of starting them?" (Shades of Max Frisch's "Fireburgs").

Gradually he starts to think about these things,

and is subverted from his mindless life routine. He is beginning to question The System, obviously a dangerous path with Big Brother watching him. He is unnerved by watching an old lady refuse evacuation, and be burned to death surrounded by her beloved books, and is disturbed that no one else shares his revulsion. Intrigued by what must lie within those cherished covers, he hides a book to bring home and begins to read. It is the start of his mind's journey back to knowledge, wonder, and deep thoughts considered subversive in his world. He is becoming an outlier.

Questioning his wife and her friends to make them actually turn off their reality show and think really upsets them, prompting his own spouse to report him to the authorities who will pursue him to his death, restoring peace to everyone. Will they succeed? Will Guy escape? What can possibly resolve this impossible situation? Is it just Montag's problem, or is it ours as well?

Like fellow activist Arthur Miller, Bradbury obviously hoped to rouse his audience from their lethargic complacency to think and question the actions of government encroaching on personal freedoms, the shortening of the school day and dumbing down of educational textbooks, the substitution of soundbites and slogans for real political debate, and the appeal to partisan passions rather than rational discourse. It was a hard sell then, and seems even harder now, but encouragingly, audience members reported being "profoundly disturbed" by the play's implications.

This reviewer is hopeful that Las Positas Drama Department's technology-

enhanced production will, as Bradbury wished, be a thought-provoking topic of discussion. It's exactly the kind of theater that would have been banned in the play's society. So take advantage of the rare opportunity to see a brave example of principled dissent, written in a real time of witch-hunt trials and persecution by political accusation

Applaud a cast that works to achieve the illusion of real terror and oppression, and especially the principle leads: Alex Draa as the increasingly conflicted fireman, and returning veteran Adam Vergino as the seemingly ruthless and conscienceless Fire Chief, finally revealed as a secret bookaholic.

Director Wendy Wisely and Producer Wes Morgan have obviously tackled a formidable subject, and deserved plaudits for their choice. Students both in the show and the audience were equally impressed with this eye-opener, and perhaps will constitute an alert and thoughtful future citizenry. Adults renewing their acquaintance with the story were jolted by its uncanny prescience, and its relevance to the news of NSA spying, secret detentions, and killings by long-distance.

See what the buzz is about for yourselves at Las Positas College's Black Box Theater, with performances Friday and Saturday nights at 8 PM, Sundays at 2 PM, only through November 24. Tickets are available at the door. (Cash or checks only) or at 1 - 800 - 838 - 3006 (Brownpapertickets.com) with prices \$12 general admission, \$8 students and seniors (plus a two dollar parking fee payable in each lot).

By Sarah Bobson

During the 60s, I didn't pay much attention to Walter Matthau. There were too many other actors who grabbed my attention, gorgeous, leading men like Sean Connery, Paul Newman, Marlon Brando, and Robert Redford. Matthau wasn't the leading man type. He wasn't handsome, and he wasn't rugged, the kind of man I could picture wielding an ax, or even a hammer for that matter. So it came as a complete surprise when Rose, who was like a second mother to me, told me quite casually one night as we sat in the kitchen of her apartment where I rented a room, that one weekend Walter Matthau fixed the roof of her bungalow.

"Come again," I said, "THE Walter Matthau?" This incongruous tidbit popped out of nowhere and I needed further explanation. Rose provided it.

In the 1940s, she said, her daughter Lenore was performing in summer stock in New England. Rose was helping out with the productions. At the beginning of the summer, she offered to let one of the

Giving Tree Located in Police Department Lobby

The Livermore Police Department Citizen's Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA) and the Livermore Police Department will be conducting its annual "Holiday Giving Tree" again this year. The Giving Tree will be in the lobby of the Livermore Police Department, located at 1110 S. Livermore Avenue through Friday, December 13th, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Several Livermore Families, seniors and veterans have been selected for the Holiday Giving Tree program. All are in need of some assistance to make this holiday season a little more special. Everyone selected

young thespians stay at her bungalow free of charge (that's all she had room for) because she knew none of them had any money. That thespian turned out to be Walter Matthau. Over that hot, muggy summer, Rose and Matthau got to know each other as they built sets, rehearsed lines, and had long talks.

"He was a nice boy," Rose said, "and very funny, but to tell you the truth, I didn't think he'd make it as an actor. He was too quiet and shy."

During one of their conversations, Rose said Matthau confessed he was very inexperienced when it came to women. He was afraid he'd never get married. I have always wondered about this, especially since years later I read that in the 70s Matthau was already married to his second wife. However, Rose's story was more or less confirmed when in the

has defined their special needs that they have this holiday season. Those needs are then placed on tags and the tags are hung on the "Giving Tree."

Select a tag and purchase the item(s) on the tag. Bring the item(s) to the Police Station and place them in the large "chimney" box in the lobby with the tag attached. CPAAA volunteers will then wrap all of the collected gifts and donations deliver them to the recipients shortly before Christmas.

Please help spread the holiday spirit to some of our needy families in Livermore by your participation.

Yesterday into Today

WALTER MATTHAU

early 80s I saw Matthau on the Dick Cavett Show, where he admitted to the world audience that he had been a very naïve young man.

After summer stock, Rose said Matthau continued to pursue acting as a career on the stage and eventually in Hollywood, and they lost touch.

As a result of Rose's stories, I became interested in Walter Matthau the actor. Although he was a gangly, 6'2," somewhat klutzy man with poor posture, who shuffled across the screen like a vulture closing in on the kill, he really was a fine dramatic actor. This can be seen in such memorable 60s films as "Charade," where he played an odious, fake CIA agent, and in "Fail-Safe," where he portrayed a political scientist discoursing dispassionately about war games. The film industry recognized his talent. In 1971, he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor in "Kotch," and in 1973 for a BAFTA award for Best Actor in "Charley Varrick."

As much as I came to appreciate Matthau's dramatic roles, I liked his comedies the best, especially the ones based on Neil Simon plays, which displayed Matthau's brilliant timing and delivery. Who can forget "The Odd Couple," the iconic 1968 film about two incompatible men who get on each other's nerves while sharing an apartment? Or the 1975 film "The Sunshine Boys," about another mismatched pair, a couple of ex-vaudeville comics who can't stand each other.

Rose insisted that I see "The Sunshine Boys"

with her at Radio City Music Hall where, to this day, the famous Rockettes still kick up their heels in perfect unison. Rose led the way through the ornate lobby and down the aisle to the accompaniment of the glorious sounds of the Wurlitzer grand organ. As the house lights dimmed, I caught sight of her sitting next to me with an excited yet regal air of anticipation.

Then Matthau appeared on the screen as Willy Clark. In the opening scenes, his nephew Ben, played by Richard Benjamin, tries to convince his Uncle Willy, a cantankerous has-been who lives alone in a stuffy New York City apartment, to reunite one last time with his ex-partner, Al Lewis, played by George Burns. After the first few laughs, I looked at Rose. She was beaming like a proud mother, forgetting, I suppose, that she had once told me she didn't think Matthau would make it as an actor. Now, here he was a big Hollywood star. After the show, as we walked out of the auditorium she whispered, "I helped him get his start, you know."

Whether or not Rose helped Matthau in those early years, I didn't think she had any further contact with him until one bitterly cold winter day in the mid-80s. Rose, just back from Coney Island all rosy cheeked, said she spent the afternoon on the Boardwalk with Walter Matthau and his mother.

Rose used to take the subway at least twice a week, winter or summer, to breathe in, as she described it, the clean air of Long Island Sound, to cleanse her lungs of the polluted

Manhattan air. I knew why she was there, but Walter Matthau and his mother?

"What were they doing in Coney Island in 20-degree weather?" I asked.

"Walter's from New York, you know," she said. "He grew up on the Lower East Side. During the summer, to escape the heat of the tenements he and his buddies used to hang out in Coney Island."

Yeah, during the summer, I thought.

Rose said that at the end of the afternoon Matthau drove her home.

Needing to corroborate this latest story, I went downstairs to the lobby and asked the doorman if

he had seen Rose arrive earlier in a car.

"Si," Jose said, "in a big black limousine."

As more recent corroboration, I read in the only biography I could find on Walter Matthau, entitled *Matthau: A Life*, by Rob Edelman and Audrey Kupferberg, that Matthau said his mother insisted on living in Coney Island, although he lived in California, because the only thing that gave her pleasure was gazing out to sea.

"Walter was a good man and a good son," Rose had always told me. "He was a real mensch."

I know Rose felt privileged to have known Walter Matthau before he was a Hollywood star, and to feel that in some small way she gave a little boost to his career by allowing him to stay in her bungalow that summer while he was in summer stock.

THIS YEAR, CHEAT ON THE NUTCRACKER

XXMAS

THE CHRISTMAS BALLET

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

LIVERMORE | BANKHEAD THEATER
NOV 29-30 | 925.373.6800

OUR 20TH SEASON

SMUIN BALLET

smuinballet.org

Photo by: Patricia Fraser. Dancers: Janice Smith and Terez Deen.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

Pleasanton Art League (PAL) at the Community Center, Nov. 1-31, open for viewing during regular business hours, Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. www.pal-art.com.

Remnants: Recent Works by California Fiber Artists. New exhibition of eclectic and colorful two- and three-dimensional artwork created with a fusion of fiber and other materials using a wide variety of methods. 29 artists and over 60 works. November 6 through December 18 at the Harrington Gallery in the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton. Special Gallery Event: November 19 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. artist and gallery docent Claudia Hess will speak about textile arts, history, materials, and specific works on display. Suggested donation for the session is \$7. Regular gallery 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.

Landscapes, Peggy & Alan Frank, paintings and photographs, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Nov. 13-Jan. 6.

The Livermore Art Association Gallery is inviting artists and crafters to join the Gallery Membership in a Holiday Boutique that runs Dec. 6th through Dec. 24th. The event will be held at the Carnegie Building Gallery at 2155 3rd Street, Livermore. Pick up applications at the Gallery or Way Up Art & Frame 1912 Second St., Livermore. For more information email maryannkot@gmail.com

"Where We Live," the beauty of the Livermore Valley, is the theme of an invitational art show at Prudential California Realty. Artists displaying work are Carolyn Ramsey, Nova Starling, Bette Goosman and John West. The show will be on display at the new office at 1983 Second Street through January 13, 2014. The public is invited to view the show during regular business hours or by appointment. For information, contact Cher Wollard at 784-4679 or cherw@cherw.com.

Pleasanton Art Group Art Critique & Coffee exhibition, work displayed in the Firehouse Arts Center lobby and hallway Nov. 14-Dec. 16. Theme is "A Passion for Art." The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

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@Livermoreperform-

ingarts.org
ACC / Art Critique & Coffee meetings now at New Leaf in Pleasanton's Vintage Shopping Center on Bernal & Vineyard. Brings together professional, local and emerging artists meetings each Friday at 10:30 a.m. to share latest work, fine tune each piece with gentle critiques and share tips, techniques and opportunities. Join the mailing list and receive the latest news on when and where the next meeting will be held. PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com

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.

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 2222 Second St., Suite 2, Livermore. Please 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.

MTAC Piano Master Class with Hans Boepple. Las Positas College, Nov. 17, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free admission. Main Stage Theater, Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore.

WINERY EVENTS

2014 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition: San Francisco Chronicle is currently accepting wine entries for the 2014 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition, the largest wine competition of American wines in the world. The deadline for entries is November 25, 2013. Information and entry forms are available at www.winejudging.com.

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. Check for the winery listings at www.lvwine.org.

The Winemaker's Pour House, Live music: Nov. 21, 6:30-9:30, BoSo Duo; Nov. 23, 7-19, Tumbledown House;

Nov. 26, 6-9, Glenn Osur at the piano; Nov. 30, 6:30-9:30, Joey T. 2241 First St., Livermore. www.winemakerspourhouse.com or 215-2656.

McGrail Vineyards and Winery, www.mcgrailvineyards.com. 5600 Greenville Rd., Livermore, (925) 215-0717. An Educational Evening of Oaks, Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m. winemaker, Mark Clarin will offer information on differences between each type of oak used in making Cabernet. Taste our Patriot, Good Life, and James Vincent Cabernet side-by-side to learn the impact the oak has on each wine. Advanced Reservations Required. Buy your tickets online at: www.mcgrailvineyards.com. \$25 per wine club member; \$35/guest

Cuda Ridge Wines, 5th annual "Salute to Harvest," Saturday and Sunday, November 23rd and 24th from 12:00 - 4:30 at the winery. Cuda Ridge wines paired with Thanksgiving style appetizers to help select wine for Thanksgiving dinner. Live acoustic music both days with Roger Kardinal on Saturday; and Tim Gomes on Sunday. 'Thanksgiving on a Crostini', a Smoky Jim creation, is an Artisan style toasted Ciabatta bread with a slice of oven roasted turkey breast dredged in a savory turkey gravy covered with Italian stuffing and served on the side a fresh cranberry relish. AndysCandy will also have samples of Milk and Dark Chocolate Toffee's to pair with the wines. AndysCandy will be available for purchase. The Tasting Flight is \$10.00, complementary to Cuda Cadre wine club members. Cuda Ridge Wines is located at 2400 Arroyo Road, Livermore. For more information call 510-304-0914 or go to www.CudaRidgeWines.com

Thomas Coyne Winery Fall Open House, new location, 2405 Research Dr., Livermore. Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1 noon to 5 p.m. New wine releases: 2011 California Merlot, 2010 Vino Tinto Reserva, 2010 Livermore Valley Zinfandel, 2012 Livermore Valley Pinot Blanc, 2009 Contra Costa Mourvèdre. (925) 373-6541, http://thomas-coynewinery.com

Las Positas Vineyards, Friday, November 29th, Black Friday, tasting room will be open from 12-5pm. Come join us and enjoy a tasting flight or relax on our patio with a glass of wine after shopping. 1828 Wetmore Rd., Livermore. www.laspositasvineyards.com, 449-9463.
Holidays in the Vineyards, Dec. 7 and 8, noon to 4:30 p.m., a Livermore Valley Wine Country tradition: Wineries showcase their decorated tasting rooms offering special wines, arts and crafts, holiday music, activities and more. Guests are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys to their favorite wineries for donation to the local Toys for Tots program. Admission is free, but tasting fees may apply and vary by winery. More information can be found at LVwine.org

MUSIC/CONCERTS

The Jive Aces with the Satin Dollz, Sat., Nov. 23, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater,

2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Pacific Chamber Symphony, Crazy About Bach: The Brandenburg Concertos. 2 p.m. Sun., Nov. 24. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Lady K and the Kings of Swing, Winter Wonderland big band holiday show, Nov. 30, Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramonperformingarts.com or 973-3343.

Teen/Youth Music Festival, holiday variety show, Nov. 30, 2 and 7 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, an international holiday concert, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. Free. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

The Amethyst Trio, Dec. 1, 2 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Eclectic program comprised of the fiery Beethoven Piano Trio in C Minor, an elegant trio by French baroque composer Loeillet, two Argentinian tangos, The Fantasia on Greensleeves by Vaughan-Williams, and a selection or two on Celtic harp. Admission is free. Along with cellist Samsun Van Loon, the trio is rounded out for this concert by violinist Cathie Lowmiller, concertmaster of the San Jose Lyric Theater. 925-373-5500.

Mariah McManus, pop singer-songwriter. Wed., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Music Department Recital, Las Positas College Dec. 4, 12:30 p.m. Free admission. Main Stage Theater, Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore.

Happy Holidays Musical Review, Dec. 6-22, San Ramon Community Theater production. Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramonperformingarts.com or 973-3343.

Livermore-Amador Symphony, Gems from the Past and Present with work by Gershwin, Barnes, Lees and Beethoven. Joyce Johnson Hamilton, trumpet, soloist. Dec. 7, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org. 373-6800.

Traditional Folksongs of the Winter Holidays, Dec. 8, 2 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Folksinger, storyteller, and autoharp virtuoso Adam Miller will perform well-known (and not so well-known) sing-along songs of the holiday season featuring traditional folksongs, carols for the New Year, Hanukkah, Christmas, and the Winter Solstice--from pre-Christian Europe to the 21st Century. 925-373-5500.

A Doo Wop Holiday Celebration. Sun., Dec. 8, 2 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.



British actor Julian Sands delivers a humorous solo show that offers a rare and intimate view into the works and literary legacy of Nobel Prize-winning poet and playwright Harold Pinter. Sands will present "A Celebration of Harold Pinter," at 8 p.m. Fri., Nov. 22 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore. Tickets are available at the box office, online at www.bankheadtheater.org or by calling 373-6800.

Vita Voci, a Tri-Valley a capella ensemble, will perform on Sunday, December 8, 2 PM at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton. Works of the Renaissance and more modern eras will be presented. The Congregation Beth Emek Choir will join Vita Voci in Salamone Rossi's Elohim Hashivenu. Small donation asked. For more information contact: David Yaffe, 925-455-8139.

Asbury Christmas Concert — Asbury United Methodist Church will hold its 17th Annual Christmas Concert at 7 PM on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013 in its Sanctuary at 4743 East Ave., Livermore. All of Asbury's vocal choirs, the Asbury Band, several instrumentalists and the Asbury Ringers will be performing. Asbury's pipe organ will also be part of the evening's musical offerings. The concert is open to the public. A free will offering can be made at the door. There will be a punch and homemade cookie reception

immediately following in the Fellowship Hall. For more information call Jean Braun at 449-4168, the church office at 447-1950 or e-mail: TerriG@asburylive.org

Amador Valley High School Wind Ensemble 1, 7 p.m. Mon., Dec. 9. The ensemble chosen to perform at the 67th Annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago on December 19, 2013. This is arguably the highest honor a school music program can receive. These advanced instrumentalists are one of just four high school bands chosen from across the country to perform at this prestigious event. The award winning ensemble will perform their program for this home audience. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Andrea Marcovicci, Home for the Holidays, a WWII Christmas. Tues., Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Instrumental Concert, Las Positas

College orchestra and wind ensemble, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. Main Stage Theater, Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Tickets www.brownpapertickers.com or 1-800-838-3006.

December People, holiday/pop/rock, Dec. 13 and 14, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

Jazz Night Concert, Las Positas College instrumental jazz, Dec. 14, 8 p.m. Main Stage Theater, Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Tickets www.brownpapertickers.com or 1-800-838-3006.

The Beatles and Their Songs: A Musical

Revolution, Dec. 15, 2 p.m. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave. Dulais Rhys delves into the quality, variety, and the longevity of the Beatles' music. His presentation on The Beatles outlines the history of the group's formation and focuses on their songs, influences, form, stylistic development and legacy. The talk includes musical examples and audience interaction—singing along is encouraged. 925-373-5500.

San Ramon Symphonic Band, Dec. 20, 7 p.m. Horns for the Holidays. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramonperformingarts.com or 973-3343.

Country tribute: A Cash Country Christmas featuring James Garner, Dec. 21, 2 and 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

New Year's Eve Party. Tues., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Master slide guitarist Roy Rogers and the Delta Rhythm Kings deliver a night of contemporary blues, Americana and roots music, followed by a festive reception in the theater lobby. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

ON THE STAGE

Little Shop of Horrors: Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre production. Directed by stage and TV veteran Ken Baggot, choreographed by Shellie Award winner Suzanne Brandt. The campy "comedy-horror-rock musical" is the affectionate spoof of 1950s sci-fi movies, and tells the tale of nerdy florist shop worker Seymour and Audrey II, a plant with which grows into an ill-tempered, foul-mouthed R&B singing carnivore with a secret. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m., November 8 through 24 at the Firehouse Arts Center. Reserved seat tickets are \$17-\$38, and youth, senior, and group discounts are available. Purchase online at www.firehousearts.org, 925-931-4848, or at the center Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton.

Fahrenheit 451, based on Ray Bradbury's book. Las Positas College Theatre Arts Department. Nov. 22, 23 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m.

at the Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. brownpapertickers.com or 1-800-838-3006.

Julian Sands, A Celebration of Harold Pinter. Fri., Nov. 22, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Creatures of Impulse Presents, teen improv troupe, Holiday Shorts, Dec. 5 and 6, 7:30 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

A Child's Christmas in Wales, by Dylan Thomas, Dec. 11, 2 and 7 p.m. Swirl on the Square, 21 So. Livermore Ave. Presented by Shakespeare's Associates, Inc. Tickets \$35 includes performance, tapas sampler and glass of wine. www.LivermoreShakes.org or 1-800-838-3006.

Civic Arts Stage Company Presents

Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka Jr.* Dec. 13-22, Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton, 7:30 p.m. Fri. and Sat., 2 p.m. Sat. and Sun. www.firehousearts.org or 931-4848.

A Year with Frog and Toad, Bay Area Children's Theatre, Dec. 21 and 22 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramonperformingarts.com or 973-3343.

COMEDY

Big Fat Year End Comedy XXI, 8 p.m. Fri., Dec. 27, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankhead-theater.org or 373-6800.

MOVIES**Classic Films at the Pleasanton**

Library, 7 p.m. first Thursday of each month through June 5, 2014. Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Public Library present "Make 'em Laugh" Series" Hosted by Candy Klaschus, film historian and Coordinator of the Humanities Program at Las Positas College. A brief talk about each film is presented prior to the screening. Refreshments are served. For more information, call Penny Johnson, 925-931-3405. Admission is free. 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

DANCE

Balé Folclórico da Bahia. Thurs., Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankhead-theater.org or 373-6800.

Smuin XMAS Ballet. Fri., Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m. and Sat., Nov. 30 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankhead-theater.org or 373-6800.

Ballet Folklórico Costa de Oro, Yuletide Spectacular. Tues., Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

A Modern American Nutcracker, Jim Hurley adaptation. Las Positas College dance and orchestra, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. Main Stage Theater, Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Tickets www.brownpapertickers.com or 1-800-838-3006.

The Nutcracker, Valley Dance Theater production, full-length ballet, accompanied by the Livermore-Amador Symphony. Dec. 14, 15, 20, 21, 22. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

2013 "Handel's Messiah Ballet," Dec. 14 at 7 p.m., Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. The Grand Theatre, 715 Central Avenue, Tracy \$20-\$40, Tickets at (209) 831-6858 or online www.attheatrand.org. Presented by Anastasis Ballet Company. Classical ballet and excerpts from Messiah are paired for a holiday performance. For more information, please visit www.anastasisballet.org or contact us at info@anastasisballet.org.

CHORAL
Valley Concert Choral - Sing it Yourself Messiah, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. www.valleyconcert-chorale.org

CHORAL

Vocal Jazz Concert, Las Positas College jazz ensemble, Dec. 8, 3 p.m. Main Stage Theater, Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Tickets www.brownpapertickers.com or 1-800-838-3006.

Cantabella Children's Chorus, Winter Concert, Noel Nouvelet. Saturday, December 14th at 1:00 and 4:00 PM at Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 S. Livermore Ave, Livermore. Repertoire includes classical seasonal favorites sung in English, French, Latin, Spanish, Basque, Hebrew, German and Ukrainian, and less familiar ones by composers such as Eleanor Daley, Nikolai Kachanov, Javier Busto and Bardos Lajos. Audience participation. Tickets are \$7-\$20. Children 11 and under are free (limit 2 per accompanied adult). For information and tickets, go to Cantabella.org/tickets.

Valley Concert Choral: Winter Wonderland, two performances. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14 Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton and 3 p.m. Dec. 15, First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L Streets, Livermore. www.valleyconcertchorale.org

MISCELLANEOUS
Magical Holiday Evening, annual "open house" and evening of shopping and dining. Downtown Pleasanton, Nov. 23, 4 to 7 p.m.

1st Annual Holiday Spirit Stroll, downtown Pleasanton along Main Street, Nov. 23, 4 to 7 p.m. Sample a variety of local beer, wine and cocktails at 15 downtown locations. Listen to carolers and pose with Santa. \$30 pre-sale, \$35 night of the event, if available. Tickets can be purchased at Studio Seven Arts, Clover Creek and Berry Patch. All guests must be 21 or older. Redeem tickets by 6 p.m. at Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Tickets and information at www.pleasanton-downtown.net

Great Train Expo, Nov. 23 and 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton. Features operating model railroads, train dealers, collectors, hands-on exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, and much more. www.GreatTrainExpo.com

Deacon Dave's 31st Annual Christmas Display will open Saturday, November 30th at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to gather in the closed street in front of the darkened property to await the arrival of the colorful Advent/Christmas Procession. The Procession moves down Hillcrest Ave. from Fordham at Hillcrest. During the opening ceremonies Deacon Dave will announce this year's theme and bless the lights and the gathered folks.

Dickens' Christmas Faire, November 30 from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, December 1 from 12 noon to 5 pm. Admission is \$10 per person for both days, with children 5 and younger free. Proceeds benefit a variety of programs serving the community. Stroll the streets of Olde London where crafters ply their wares. Live performers will enact scenes from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol throughout the weekend, with dancing and musical entertainment between acts. Costumes are encouraged. High Tea will be offered both days, \$15 per person. A

Home for the Holidays, December 7, noon to 4 p.m. in Downtown Livermore. Kick off the holiday shopping season downtown and enjoy horse drawn carriage rides, holiday performances and snow in Lizzie Fountain. Downtown Livermore Merchants will be celebrating the Season with an Open House!

Annual Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade and Tree Lighting, 6 p.m. Sat., Dec. 7. Downtown Livermore. Marching bands, music, light displays, and Santa Claus. Tree lighting to follow parade.

Hometown Holiday Parade and Tree-Lighting Celebration; Dec. 7, Pleasanton, Parade down Main Street begins at 5 p.m. followed by tree lighting at the Museum on Main. City of Pleasanton, (925) 931-5352, hometownholiday@cityofpleasantonca.gov

Holiday Tea, Sat. and Sun., Dec. 7 and 8, Dublin Heritage Park and Museums, \$25 per person. Country tea lunch inside the Sunday School Barn. Lunch will begin with scones, lemon curd and a hot pot of tea, followed by finger sandwiches, cheese and an indulgent dessert. Tour the Kolb House, decorated for a farm Christmas morning. Seating is limited, so make reservations early. Please call (925) 556-4500 for more information.

Yuletide, A Victorian Christmas at Ravenswood. Dec. 8. Noon to 4:00pm. Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Entertainment, holiday fun. Tours and Gift Shop. Operated by Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. www.larpd.dst.ca.us

Celtic Christmas Concert & Gathering, Sun., Dec. 8, 6 to 9 p.m. Gathering and potluck 6 p.m., concert 7 p.m. live music by Pog Mo Thoin and special guest, Steve Kritzer. Bring a potluck dish to share, and get in the Christmas Spirit! Cider and tea. \$15 at the door, children 12 and under free, benefiting the Bothwell Arts Center. Produced by Gabe Duffin. Tickets at www.mylvpac.com

Mele Kalikimaka, an island style holiday celebration, Dec. 8, 2 and 6 p.m. Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon. www.sanramonperformingarts.com or 973-3343.

Journey to Living Bethlehem, Thurs.-Mon., Dec. 12-16. Adjacent to St. Michaels School, corner of Third and Church St., Livermore. 6:00 to 9:00pm. Repeats every 30 minutes. Free admission. More <https://www.facebook.com/LivingBethlehem> journeytolivingbethlehem@gmail.com or 510-377-9711

Stories and speeches, Las Positas College speech department, Dec. 13, 7 p.m. Free admission. Main Stage Theater, Mertes Center for the Arts, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore.

Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 14, Shannon Community Center. Three seating times are available at 8:30am, 9:45 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Guests will enjoy a delicious breakfast of pancakes with syrup, sausage, fruit and juice or coffee. Proceeds from this event directly benefit the Dublin High School Irish Guard Band. Photos with Santa will also be available. For more information and to purchase tickets, call (925) 556-4500. www.ci.dublin.ca.us

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“Sing-It-Yourself Messiah” Slated

Valley Concert Chorale will host its annual “Sing-it-Yourself Messiah” on Fri., Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The community is invited to sing Handel’s choral masterpiece. The event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton.

Now a Tri-Valley holiday

SYMPHONY

(continued from page 2)

Oregon Symphony. She has performed with numerous groups around the country and is a frequent conductor/arranger and trumpet soloist with the Seoul Philharmonic.

The concert will conclude with George Gershwin’s “An American in Paris”, which was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic. This symphonic tone poem recalls Gershwin’s time in Paris in the mid-1920s. Wanting to present the energy and street sounds of Paris, he included saxophones, the celesta and automobile horns in the score. He even brought taxi horns to New York from Paris for the premiere at Carnegie Hall on December 13, 1928. Gershwin began composing the piece in Paris and completed it in

tradition, VCC’s “Sing-it-Yourself Messiah” is open to all singers in the community who will join in singing Part I of Handel’s great choral masterpiece, also known as the Christmas portion of “Messiah.” The performance concludes with a powerful rendition of the “Hallelujah Chorus.”

New York on November 18, with less than four weeks to spare before “An American in Paris” made its debut. Gershwin showed a strong interest in music at a young age, learning to play piano on an instrument that his parents bought for his older brother, Ira. In his short life, (he died of a brain tumor at the age of 38), George Gershwin accomplished much, composing popular and classical music that is widely recognized today.

The concert begins at 8:00 PM, preceded by a prelude talk from 7:00 – 7:30. The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Ticket information can be obtained at the box office, online at www.bankhead-theater.org or at (925) 373-6800.

“This is our eighth year of hosting the event for the community,” says Valley Concert Chorale President Dave Brunswick. “Each year the number of singers increases with well over 100 singers from around the Tri-Valley and beyond. With this being our 50th Anniversary season, it’s great being able to offer this musical experience to the area, complete with professional soloists and accompaniment by our

internationally-known concert pianist Daniel Glover.”

Singers are encouraged to bring their own copy of “Messiah,” though extra copies will be available to borrow. The event is also open to those who wish to listen to the performance.

Tickets are \$10. Advance tickets may be ordered by calling (925) 866-4003, by visiting the Chorale’s website at www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

LARPD EVENTS

(continued from page 5)

camp and classes just for them during the holiday breaks from school: Mad Science Mad Machines & Robots runs from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 25 to 27 for ages 8 to 11. Kids will learn to construct machines and build robots. \$110. Secret Agent Camp will be from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 30 to Jan. 3 for ages 6 to 11. Campers will examine the science behind spy tools made famous by the world’s greatest spies. \$110. LEGO Jedi Master Engineering will run from

9 a.m. to noon Nov. 25 to 27 for ages 7 to 12. Kids will build machines and structures based on designs from a galaxy far, far away. \$110. LEGO Super Hero Masters Engineering will be from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 26 and 27 for ages 7 to 12. Discover how gadgets work using real-world concepts in physics, engineering and architecture. \$93.

For more information or to register for these Holiday Happenings or classes, call 925-373-5700 or visit www.larpd.dst.ca.us.



BULLETIN BOARD

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

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUES

Holiday Boutique. Fri., Nov. 22, 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat., Nov. 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cedar Grove Community Church, 2021 College Avenue, Livermore. Handmade gift items including aprons, baby items (towels, blankets, bibs), American Girl doll clothes, door stops, pillowcases, scarves, baked goods and vintage jewelry.

Holiday Craft Boutique. Livermore Eagles Auxiliary will be hosting its Annual Holiday Craft Boutique on Sat., Nov. 23rd from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The event will showcase handmade crafts from local vendors. Raffles and a Bake Sale will be part of the event as additional fund-raisers benefiting local charities. The Eagles Hall is located at 527 N. Livermore Avenue in Livermore. Please email Linda at ylorse@comcast.net with any questions regarding this event.

St. Michael Christmas Boutique, November 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parish hall, 458 Maple St., Livermore. A full house of vendors, food, drawings, prizes, crafts for the kids.

Christmas Holiday Boutique. Boutique will be Sat., Dec. 7th in Pleasanton from 9am-1pm. For more information contact Valerie Fleming at Valerie@HarvestValley.org or 925/484-2482 ext. 121. Fund-raiser for mom2mom at Harvest Valley Church.

Holiday Boutique. Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association annual event will be held on Dec. 14th at the Veterans Building located at the corner of South “L” and 5th Streets, Livermore. The time of the boutique is from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The snack bar will be run by members of the Los Positas College Veterans First Program. All proceeds from this boutique goes to help the Veterans.

REGULAR CALENDAR:

Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, December 7, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Tri-Valley YMCA, 6693 Sierra Lane, Dublin. Breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, fresh fruit and juice. \$10 per adult, \$7 per child. Bring your cameras for free photos with Santa. For more information, call 925-263-4444 or email tvinfo@ymcaeastbay.org.

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will meet on Tuesday, December 10, 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton. Theme now is Serendipity. Have you ever stumbled across an unexpected discovery about your ancestors? Come hear about the results some of LAS members will share about their genealogical searches. Visitors are always welcome. For addition information contact Pat Northam, Program Chairperson. Email: program@L-AGS.org.

ABC Music Choir is beginning rehearsals for its holiday session. New members are welcome. This choir is open to students ages 8-12. It meets Wednesday evenings at ABC Music (2156 First St., Downtown Livermore). No experience is necessary and there are no auditions. For more info, call ABC Music at 925-443-1244 or email the choir director: KimmyLuty@gmail.com.

Birthright of Livermore needs volunteers: Birthright Crisis Pregnancy Service in Livermore is looking for substitute office volunteers, board members, computer tech and website assistance. A grant writer, a CPA to review the books annually & assist with tax

forms, a fund-raising chairman, publicity/advertising chairman and an administrative secretary are also needed. Office is open M-Tu-W-F, 10 am-2 pm and Th eve. 6-9 pm. To discuss a variety of volunteer opportunities please call John M. Kupski evenings at 606-8230 (or Thursday evenings 6-9 pm at Birthright office 449-5887). Birthright offers free pregnancy tests, guidance, adoption and medical referrals, baby and maternity clothing, and more. Those in need of services, please visit the Livermore office at 1520 Catalina Ct., or call (925) 449-5887 during business hours. The 1-800-550-4900 Hotline number is staffed 24 hours a day. Please see our website at www.birthright.org for more information. All Birthright services are free and confidential.

Dress a Girl Around the World, meetings once a month, next Sew-Fest is Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Augustine Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Help is needed sewing, ironing, cutting. (Those planning to stay all day should bring a bag lunch.) There is a lot of fabric and pillowcases, so there are many kits ready to sew. Those who can’t make the Sew-Fest but would like to sew, please arrange for kits that can be sewed at home. Questions? Suzanne Beck, 925-352-8447 or suzbeck@yahoo.com

Take Back Your Power, the movie will be shown Sat., Nov. 23 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA. This 107 minute film argues that “Smart” Meters are not only injurious to health; but, that they are possibly connected to an international Smart Grid invading our privacy. Special Guest Speaker, Josh Hart, founder of StopSmartMeters.org, will conduct a Q & A discussion after the film. A meet & greet potluck starts at 6:30 PM, the film begins around 7:00 PM. This event is free (a \$3.00 donation is appreciated), is not affiliated with any special interest groups, and is wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 925-462-3459 or email flickknight@gmail.com.

Tri-Valley CARES’ 30th Anniversary Party: At this free event, the organization will celebrate 30 years of accomplishment and will debut a short documentary film about Tri-Valley Valley CARES. There will be food and drinks, music, and great company. Everyone is invited. Tri-Valley CARES works to strengthen global security by stopping the development of new nuclear weapons in the US and promoting the elimination of nuclear weapons globally.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) Pleasanton, meets Wednesdays 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. St. Clare’s Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton (not affiliated with the church. Information at www.dbsalliance.org/pleasanton or contact chapter leader, Al Pereira, 462-6415.

Valley Spokesmen Bicycle Touring Club, Sat., Nov. 23, 53 miles Val Vista Park in Pleasanton through Livermore over the Altamont Pass and back through Patterson Pass and along Vineyard Ave., meet 9 a.m., Brahm Satoutah, 963-7024. Sun., Nov. 24, 35-50 miles from Central Park to Cull Canyon, choice of rides, meet 9 a.m., Gail Blanco, 872-1001. Wed., Nov. 27, 45 miles, from San Ramon Centra Park to the summit of Mt. Diablo, meet 10 a.m., Alberto Lanzas, 510-825-9581. Anyone planning to go on a ride is asked to call the leader for details on where to meet and what to bring.

Crab Feed, benefit for St. Michael’s/St. Charles CYO basketball. Sat., Jan. 25, Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindberg Ave., Livermore, 6 p.m. to midnight. All you can eat crab or chicken, pasta, salad, bread. Raffle prizes. Tickets \$40, at www.smccyo.org. Additional information at nfjromindy@yahoo.com or 216-2519.

Art Studios Open During Earlier Than the Bird

Artists pay it forward during the Happy Small-idays events at Bothwell’s Downtown Art Studios.

Local artist Anne Hartwell will donate 100% of the sale of her mini art canvas assemblage jewelry (or will sell a the kit to make your own) to Courage House, a nonprofit which helps end sex trafficking and helps rehabilitation start for girls with shattered lives. Artist Linda Ryan will give 100% of the sale of her 60” tall St. Nick painting (pictured at right) back to the Bothwell Arts Center to benefit ArtWalk, and many of the exhibiting artists are donating a percentage of their sales to the studios.

The next Happy Small-idays events are during Earlier than the Bird on Saturday, November 23 from 7am to 11am, and on December 12th from 6pm to 7:30. The Studios are located at 62 South L Street, Livermore. See www.bothwellartscenter.org for more info or join the Facebook event page.

Milestones

Community



Drs. Bueno and Sellick present a check for \$20,000 to ValleyCare Health System representatives for the "Women In Need Fund" at ValleyCare.

Dentists Donate to 'Women in Need' Fund

ValleyCare Charitable Foundation recently received a \$20,000 donation for the "Women in Need" fund. The sizable donation came from the recent Tri-Valley Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by Dentists Against Cancer.

Drs. Jeff Bueno and Tom Sellick founded Dentists Against Cancer in memory of their mothers, Barbara Bueno and Margaret Sellick, both of whom passed away following courageous battles with breast cancer. They wanted to make a difference in the Tri-Valley and in 2009 started Dentists Against Cancer, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to help women battling breast cancer.

The "Women in Need" fund began in 2010 with money from this same golf tournament. It allows ValleyCare to provide financial assistance to underinsured and underprivileged women in need of a diagnostic mammogram if their screening mammograms show area(s) of concern. It also can help defer costs for wigs, post surgical compression sleeves, bras and swimsuits for breast cancer patients during and after treatment.

With one in eight women being diagnosed with breast cancer in the U.S., regular, screening mammograms are time-tested exams capable of detecting cancer in its earliest stages —up to two years before a woman might

feel a lump. Since a woman's risk for breast cancer increases with age, experts recommend a mammogram every one to two years for women ages 40 and older.

"We are very pleased ValleyCare is able to partner with community members such as Dentists Against Cancer and provide assistance like this to women in our area," says ValleyCare CEO Marcy Feit.

Women who live in the Tri Valley and are in financial need for a mammogram or other breast cancer services, can call for more information on how to apply for assistance. Contact Sherry LaSalle, RN, ValleyCare's Breast Cancer Patient Navigator at (925) 734-3313.

Granada Senior Recognized for Achievements

Julena Negron, a senior at Granada High School in Livermore, has been recognized for her achievements. She is the daughter of Juan and Arlene Negron.

The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) selected her to become a member of the organization. The Society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship, and community commitment. The announcement was made by NSHSS Founder and Chairman Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prizes.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that Julena has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said Mr. Nobel. "Julena is now a member of a unique community of scholars - a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

"Our vision is to build a dynamic international organization that connects members with meaningful content, resources, and opportunities," stated NSHSS President James W. Lewis. "We aim to help students like Julena build on their academic successes and enhance the skills and desires to have a positive impact on the global community."

Membership in NSHSS entitles qualified students to enjoy a wide variety of benefits, including scholarship opportunities, academic competitions, free events, members only resources, publications, participation in programs offered by educational partners, personalized recognition items, and publicity honors.

This past summer, Julena received a scholarship to attend and completed the B.O.S.S. (Business Opportunity Summer Session) Smeal College of Business at Penn State University. Julena was the only student from California and the West Coast. All other students were from the East Coast area.

She will graduate June 2014 and plans to go on to college to study computer science and computer engineering. At Granada, she served as president of the Art Club for the past three years

and received special recognition for the Art Club's contribution to the Wheels Bus Shelter Art Mural Project. The recognition came from with the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority. The agency worked in collaboration with Granada High School and the Livermore Commission for the Arts.

The certificate of appreciation notes, "Your creative talents have enhanced the streetscape aesthetics and enriched the arts experience within the City of Livermore."

First Teen Poet of the Month Selected

The Livermore October Teen Poet of the month is Taylor Sutfin. The theme of the first competition was, "Facebook."

Taylor's winning poem is titled: "Apples' Web."

secrets
falling off their tongue
like spiders
descending down a web
these spiders
sick of slick secrets
spin a web on the ground
society stumbled
in the lacework of the weave
we were attached
like insects
there was no match
now us flies hold apples in our hands
barricaded and hypnotized
the arachnid acting like royalty
feast on us
sucking out everything
But the underlying reality
We're all just vermin
catching carcasses

The theme of the next teen poet of the month (November) is Gratefulness. Entries are due Nov. 25.

Livermore Poet Laureate Kevin Gunn is hosting the competition. Poems must be 30 lines or less. There is no fee to enter.

Email poems to Mr. Gunn at: livermorepoetry@gmail.com Include name, phone number and email address on each entry.