



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.

Pleasanton's AP Scores Put District on National Honor Roll

The Pleasanton school district has been honored for its growth in the percentage of Advanced Placement (AP) students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams, while simultaneously increasing access to AP courses.

Pleasanton is one of 539 districts in 44 states and Canada to be placed on the third annual AP honor roll. Pleasanton has been on the honor roll all three years.

The honor roll is published by the College Board,

which was founded in 1900 to help recruit more students to higher education.

Pleasanton has increased participation by 8 percent since 2010, while adding 161 more students who received a score of 3 or more on the AP exams, which have a 1 to 5 grading scale.

Students may take AP classes without taking the exams. Some do so to gain a flavor of what a college class is like. If a student tests at 3 or higher score, the credits

from that class may be accepted as a completed course by a college or university.

With enough AP credits in college, a student may want to complete a four-year curriculum in three years, or remain for four years and explore other classes in a field, said Pleasanton superintendent Parvin Ahmadi.

Ahmadi said, "We really believe in providing multiple opportunities for students, as they go through our schools. We want to make sure stu-

dents have choices. Offering such an array of AP courses allows students to make choices about what they are passionate about."

Some students and parents have been concerned that the rigor of AP classes, especially if a student were taking several of them, puts them under more stress. Ahmadi said that the district limits how many AP classes can be taken by a student.

Part of dealing with any potential stress problem is

the need for the district to inform parents that the work is definitely college level and will be different from high school work. Ahmadi also cited peer pressure on some students, who might question why a friend is taking "only one" AP class, while others are signed up for more.

Other Bay Area school districts on the AP honors list are San Ramon Valley, Palo Alto, Fremont and the Catholic Diocese of San Jose.



Francis Slakey

Scientist-Adventurer To Describe Physical and Spiritual Journeys

The first man to climb the highest peak on every continent and surf every ocean will speak next week about the exotic adventures he faced, including near escapes from death, and the personal transformation that he experienced in the process.

His talk will take place Wednesday night, Nov. 28, at 7:30 at Livermore's Bankhead Theater as part of the Rae Dorough Speaker Series.

The speaker, Francis Slakey, a physicist and professor at Georgetown University, undertook the extended climbing and surfing adventure to test his personal limits and break out of the confines of daily academic routine.

He was not the first to climb all the highest continental mountains, but the first to combine that feat with worldwide surfing.

Livermore's Jay Davis, who has worked extensively with Slakey on science policy issues, expects the Bankhead talk to be fascinating. One unusual feature is the challenge of preparing simultaneously for mountain climbing and surfing. The

(See SLAKEY, page 12)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The holidays are in full swing. Santa Claus dropped by during the Magical Holiday Evening in Pleasanton to hear what children wanted him to bring for Christmas.

AgPark Thriving in Sunol

By Carol Graham

For the past six years, the Sunol Water Temple AgPark has fostered sustainable farming and public education while protecting natural resources in the Alameda

County Watershed.

"I loved the variety of experiences provided for the children, from tasting herbs, eating fabulous strawberries, harvesting tomatoes, and learning about soil and

water supply," said an Oakland field trip chaperone. "The pace was perfect, just what kids need - time to enjoy their senses and be in nature."

Sunol's AgPark was es-

tablished in 2006 through a partnership between the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and SAGE (Sustainable Agriculture Education), a program that

(See AGPARK, page 10)

Chamber CEO Moving to Tri-Valley Innovation

Dale Kaye, Livermore Valley Chamber of Commerce CEO, has announced plans to leave the post at the end of the year.

She will be hired by Tri-Valley Innovation to manage the organization.

Kaye notes, "I have worked on Innovation Tri-Valley for several years as a board member and have

been given the opportunity to lead this initiative by its board of directors. For some time, this Chamber has both led and been the infrastructure for Innovation Tri-Valley. To be a success, this regional organization must have a dedicated staff with laser like focus on its objectives. With that focus,

(See DALE KAYE, page 4)

Youth Ranch Beginning to Repower Bingo Games

By Ron McNicoll

The Ranch Bingo, the major source of income for the Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch, was shut down for a few weeks, and it is taking awhile to bring it back up to speed.

Executive Director Amba Johnson has found much cooperation in plans to revitalize the Bingo Ranch. It became clear that community volunteers would have to staff the facility.

Johnson is putting out a

call to all interested parties to sign up to help out at the Bingo Ranch. People who are interested in volunteering may call Jennifer at the Buenas Vidas thrift store at 449-1177.

Buenas Vidas was founded in the 1970s by the Shattuck family of Livermore. It provided a rural location for a limited number of boys who needed a new direction in their lives.

The boys worked with (See BINGO, page 10)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Foothill High School lost to California High School, 36 to 6 in the quarterfinals of the North Coast Section Division I football playoffs. The photo shows Foothill defenders trying to take the ball away. Meanwhile, Amador Valley High School advanced to the semifinals defeating San Ramon Valley 28-25. The fifth seeded Dons have won five straight games. They will face top seeded De La Salle on Friday at 7 p.m. Amador Valley rushed for 296 yards on the ground to boost the victory. Leading the way was Alejandro Apodaca, who had 20 carries for 161 yards and two touchdowns.

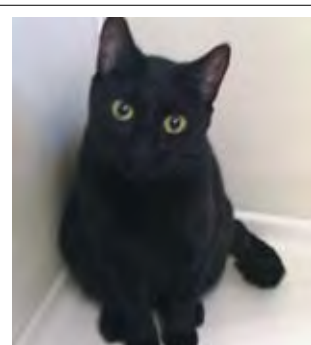


RABBIT ADOPTION

My name is Sugar Plum. I'm a baby girl. I'll fall asleep on your shoulder. Adopt me this holiday season and I'll bring laughter, happiness and love into your life for many years. To meet Sugar Plum stop by this Saturday from 12-3 pm at the Adoption Event at the Dublin Petco, 11976 Dublin Blvd. For more info, call 925-519-1723, or email ebrabbit@comcast.net. Visit www.eastbayrabbit.petfinder.com to see more pet profiles.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Éclair is a stunning 2 year old female black cat so ready for her forever home after having spent months at VHS. It took her some time to find her place in the world, but now that she has, we are sure she will make you very happy. While she is fine with dogs she is not too sure about cats- she's still experimenting there. Éclair along with all VHS black or mostly black cats will be free on Black Cat Friday (11/23) from 12pm-4pm at VHS. More information about the cats and the event is online at www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton and the phone number is 925-426-8656. Photo by Pat O'Loughlin



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty places a turkey in one of the storage units.

New Units to Be Used to Store Donated Food for Local Pantries

Tri-Valley food pantries will have enough refrigeration and freezer storage to accommodate the more than 1,000 turkeys that are donated for the region's hungry this holiday season as the result of a new refrigeration/storage unit that emerged as a collaboration of corporate, government, and local non-profit agencies.

The City of Pleasanton broke ground in May on the Regional Food Storage Project that established three storage units (dry,

refrigerated, and freezer) accessible to participating pantries in the Tri-Valley. Having a storage facility to store perishable food has been an ongoing challenge for Tri-Valley pantries, that many times must turn away donations, particularly during the holidays.

The City of Pleasanton provided the located site for the storage unit at its Operation Services Center.

To finance the storage units, \$116,000 was raised

through grants and donations from the Cities of Pleasanton and Livermore, Open Heart Kitchen, Safeway Inc, and Measure A funding through Alameda County Board of Supervisors Districts 1 and 4.

The day-to-day operation of the three food storage units will be led by Open Heart Kitchen. Food pantries, including Tri-Valley Haven and Interfaith Sharing Pantry, will have access.

Volunteers Sought for Pleasanton Festivities

The City of Pleasanton will once again host the Annual Hometown Holiday Celebration. It will be held on Saturday, December 1, 2012 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. along Main Street in downtown Pleasanton. The centerpiece of this free event is a community-based parade followed by the lighting of a holiday tree in front of the Museum on Main.

The parade always kicks off with one of Pleasanton's award-winning high school

marching bands from either Amador Valley High School or Foothill High School. The band is followed by dozens of holiday inspired entries including Pleasanton's own Balloon Platoon, the Pleasanton City Council, hundreds of Cub Scouts and Brownies, local car clubs and dog clubs, and much more.

Main Street will close to vehicular traffic at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 1.

The Hometown Holi-

day program relies on the support of the community to make the event a success and volunteers are still needed. Those interested in volunteering for the event are encouraged to visit www.hometownholiday.com.

In the event of rain, a parade cancellation telephone hotline will be implemented and updated each hour after 2:30 p.m. on parade day, December 1. The Cancellation Information Phone Line is (925) 931-5352.

Cities to Host Grant Application Workshops in December

The cities of Livermore and Pleasanton will co-sponsor two application workshops for the following fiscal year 2013-14 grant programs: City of Livermore Housing and Human Services Grants, City of Pleasanton Housing and Human Services Grants, and 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 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

(2012-13), 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 funding 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 slated for Tuesday, December 4, 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 Thursday, December 6 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 Terry Snyder, City of Pleasanton, at (925) 931-5343, or email tsnyder@cityofpleasantonca.gov.

Been an awful good girl, Santa Baby.

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

East Pleasanton Workshop

The first community workshop will be held to hear ideas on land use, design, circulation and sustainability for the East Pleasanton planning area.

An East Pleasanton Specific Plan Task Force is currently preparing a recommendation for approximately 1,000-acres located generally east of Valley Avenue and Busch Road and north of Stanley Boulevard. Much of the area is comprised of what will become the Chain of Lakes when quarrying is completed.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, November 29 at 6:30 at Mohr Elementary School in the Multi-Purpose Room, 3300 Dennis Drive.

More information about the process can be found on the city's website www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us

Sandbags Available

The City of Pleasanton reminds local residents and businesses that free sandbags are available to those concerned about flooding. Residents can pick up free sandbags at the City of Pleasanton Service Center, located at 3333 Busch Road in Pleasanton. The sandbags can be picked up at anytime. They are located in the parking lot under a brown tarp. The sandbags are for Pleasanton residents only and are not available to contractors seeking sandbags for work sites.

City crews prepare in advance of the rainy season to clear culverts and drains, and residents are encouraged to clear leaves from neighborhood drains as a part of this effort. Operations Services crews spend six weeks implementing an annual leaf pick-up program in advance of the rainy season.

Those who see flooded areas should call the Operations Services Department between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at (925) 931-5500. Flooding should be reported to the Police Department at (925) 931-5100 on weekends, holidays and during the regular work week, Monday through Friday, between 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Funds for Alternative Fuels Plan

As part of the Obama Administration's energy strategy, the Energy Department announced that the Bay Area Air Quality Management District has been awarded a new project to help cut red tape and develop the infrastructure, training and regional planning needed to help meet the demand for alternative fuel cars and trucks, including vehicles that run on

natural gas, electricity and propane.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District will develop templates and best practices for permitting alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure and will work with fleet to implement petroleum reduction strategies.

EBRPD Head of Land Division

Robert Nisbet has been selected as the new Assistant General Manager of the Land Division for the East Bay Regional Park District. He will replace Nancy Wenninger, who will retire at the end of November 2012.

Nisbet has over 20 years of professional management experience, most recently as general services director for Santa Barbara County in Southern California. Prior to his twelve-year tenure with the county, he was employed as the public works director for the City of Carpinteria, California, and before that as a project engineer for Martin, Northart and Spencer, Civil Engineers and Construction Managers.

Nisbet has a long history of public service, with experience in complex project management, real property negotiation, municipal budgeting, and strategic planning. Nisbet began working for the County of Santa Barbara in 2000 as a capital projects manager, before being promoted to assistant director of general services, and in 2005, general services director.

"Bob's varied local government experience makes him an excellent choice for the position," said General Manager Robert E. Doyle. "Bob has considerable experience working in both the public and private sectors as well as with nonprofits, community groups, and citizen advisory groups; and he has managed projects that included the creation of trails in the Los Padres National Forest."

Along with Nisbet's strong management skills, Doyle is also impressed with his keen understanding of California environmental regulations. "In his new role, Bob will lead projects and acquisitions that will literally shape the East Bay Regional Park District's future. I look forward to welcoming him to the team."

Correction

A story in the Nov. 8 Independent about a mock election at Arroyo Seco School did not mention that one of the students wrote-in a third party candidate for President. As part of a civics lesson on voting, this is an option open to voters.

Pleasanton Police Begins Giving Tree

The Christmas season is quickly approaching and the Pleasanton Police Officers Association (PPOACD) is again giving back to the community of Pleasanton with its Annual Giving Tree Program.

The PPOACF wants to let residents know that it will be collecting gifts for local families in need of special care this upcoming Holiday season. The PPOACF not

only provides to families in need, but also to many senior citizens that are often overlooked.

The PPOACF has received the names of families and seniors within the community and are now seeking those interested in providing Christmas cheer to those in need.

Those interested in donating to a needy family or senior in Pleasanton,

can pick up gift tags at the Pleasanton Police Department beginning November 29th. These tags list the gifts requested by those families and seniors in need.

Anyone with questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Officer Ryan Dawson, Officer Michael Rossillon or Dispatcher Betsy Jones at the Pleasanton Police Department at 925-931-5100.

Livermore Giving Tree at Police Dept.

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 located in the lobby of the Livermore Police Department, at 1110 S. Livermore Avenue through Tuesday, December 14. The lobby is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Several Livermore families and seniors 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 has defined 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 and they will be delivered to the families shortly before Christmas. There will also be a donation box placed at Lizzie Fountain during the Holiday Sights and Sounds Parade on December 1. People can drop a gift into the box with or without a tag from the "Giving Tree."

Any questions about the Giving Tree Program can be directed to Nicole Aguon, 925-371-4978.

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Wed. 11/28 • 10:30 AM

Hickory Pit
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Thu. 11/29 • 10:00 AM

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SPORTS NOTES



The Foothill High School varsity girls tennis team finished the season ranked second in the EBAL. The team made it to the semifinals of the North Coast Section playoffs on Nov. 10. The second-place league ranking gives Foothill a solid fifth-place ranking in the entire North Coast Section, which includes high schools from throughout Northern California. The team includes Genesis Aguila (not pictured), Sophia Angst, Valentina Bunnell, Karen Chang, Jessica Chen, Leeane Chen, C.C. Gerlach, Alexa Hanson, Catie Kim, Katarina McGaughy, Ariana Motavalli, Melissa Muller, Kelsey Ouyang, Allison Wong, and Alicia Yang. The team is led by coach Kendra Zierau and assistant coach Yvonne Hoppe.



Livermore Fusion U11 Girls Maroon team moved one step closer to clinching the League Championship on Saturday by beating first place Walnut Creek 6-2. Fusion came out strong and dominated from start to finish. Ten minutes into the game Defender Claire March sent a direct kick rocket into the goal giving Fusion the lead. Fusion would keep the pressure on as Sierra Street scored two, Drew Pagtakhan two and Lexi Borgna one. Pictured from left front are Gracie Dupuis, Dani Groth, Drew Pagtakhan, Sydney Keshmiry, Claire March, Top left, Lexi Borgna, Lilly Ackerman, Sierra Street, Coach Paul Nicholson, Isabella La Rosa, Kayla Lewis and Justynne Thomas (not pictured and missed - Mia Mendoza).

Over 400 Compete in the Race to the Flagpole

The Livermore-Granada Boosters hosted the 3rd Annual "Race to the Flagpole" on Veterans Day weekend, November 10. 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 Adam Morrison won the half marathon in a time of 1:29:32. Sharon Adam of Cupertino was the top female runner with a time of 1:41:46.

Mendenhall's Matthew Reddick won the overall men's division in the 5K with a time of 19:40. Teresa Pena captured the 5K women's division in 23:03. Eric Horning was first in the 10K in the men's division with a time of 40:04. Tara Carreira had an impressive finish to win the women's 10K division in 40:47.

The event proceeds support the Livermore Granada Boosters scholarship program. For 64 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 \$211,000 in scholarships.

"We were very pleased with the turnout this year and the wonderful support from our community," said Race Director Mike Nagel, "Expanding the event to include the additional distances was based on the feedback we received from our past participants. It was great to see the wide range of abilities

and ages. Our participants ranged in ages from 5 to 86 years young. The event encouraged awareness and appreciation for fitness, as well as community pride."

The event also featured a flag presentation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and National Anthem song by Livermore High senior Brooke Bistline.

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 visit www.livermore-granadaboosters.org.



Pictured are members of the California Gymnastics Academy's Level 4 Team who competed at the Nor-Cal Level 4 State Championship Meet held in Oroville, CA, November 17-18.

West Coast Soccer

West Coast Soccer Wrath U12 girls played a U12 league game against Azuri. The team includes Tyler Rene Enderlein, Kaylie Lawsen, Kylie Karter, Kate Wallace, Anneliese Widmann, Kalea Bartolotto, Leila Anzo, Hayley Thompson, Lindsey Phillips, Abby Andrews, Abby Hoobing, Kelsi Green, Brianne Radloff, Francesca Hyde and Aryanna Shakoov.

Wrath played the last game of the league season against a well-organized Azuri. Wrath started the game well, and pushed the Azuri defense continually. Azuri soaked up constant pressure from Wrath's midfield and strikers. The goal-keeper made several good saves before Kalea broke the deadlock, after a shot from Abby H. was partially saved and Kalea poached the goal on the rebound. Just before half-time Wrath added a second after Anneliese shot from outside the box and despite a good save, Kate was there to finish and put Wrath into a 2-0 lead.

In the second half, Wrath continued to press. A solid Wrath defense (Aryanna, Kaylie, Lindsey, and Fran) minimized any chances for Azuri. Brianne remained in goal but took several of the free kicks to further threaten the Azuri goal. Paul rotated his midfielders and strikers throughout the second half (Tyler, Kylie, Kate, Abby A Abby H, Kalea, Hayley, Leila and Anneliese). Leila and Hayley had several shots saved. Kylie, Kate and Lindsey continued to help pressure the defence. Finally, after another corner, Tyler scored the third goal. Azuri never gave up and battled to the final whistle as all the girls tried to increase the score. Final score 3-0 for Wrath.

The West Coast Wicked (U15G) solidified second place in league play with a 1-0 victory over the Montclair Clippers' Red Rockets. The Wicked peppered the Montclair goal with shots by Carleigh Thurman, Misha Brewster, Adi Ruiz and Molly Scheid, just missing the target, hitting the post or being saved by the Red Rocket's keeper who had several diving saves. Shasta Grant also had multiple attempts and put away the game winning goal. Kalyn Ganz, Kate Chase and Nadia Ranagan, was instrumental in controlling the mid-field and feeding the ball forward to Shannon Holt and the rest of the front line. The Wicked defense, lead by keeper Jessie Cahill who had a few of her own diving saves, was solid the entire game. In the last few minutes, Red Rockets countered with several attacking drives only to be denied by Cameo Shubert, Jordan Volponi and Mackenzie Paulo. The Wicked's win was a team effort with many of the ladies playing multiple positions and stepping up to whatever was asked of them.

West Coast Karma U16 Girls, guided by Coach Vanessa Miskella and Bob Montano, ended their inaugural season with a record of 8 wins and 1 loss taking 1st place in league play. The girls went into their season never having played a game together

and outscored the opposition 31-1. Karma demonstrated a strong offense with leading goal scorer Daehsa Brown (6), along with forwards Hunter Wells (5), and Eli Mendoza (2). The midfielders were also successful in possessing, attacking, and scoring lead by Ashley McDaniel (4), Shayla Bannert (2), Breana Maitia-Mellhargie (2), Amanda Montano (1), Ariana Mancieri (1), Alessandra Rodriguez, and Gabby Parker. Karma's defense anchored by Rachel Esser, Gabriele Enzmann, Michelle Hagelston, Molly Stolz, and Rachel Braun shut down their opposition allowing only 1 goal all season while managing to score a few goals as well. Goalkeeper Amanda Valentine had an outstanding season in goal. Karma finished their season by placing second in their bracket for State Cup.

CYO Basketball

St. Michael's/St. Charles (SM/SC) CYO 6th grade boys' basketball team 622, aka Fireballs, fell to Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) 626 on Sunday but not for lack of heart or effort. For CCOP, Parth Gupta was high scorer with 16 points. The Fireballs showed great teamwork and sportsmanship right up till the end and Jack Molitoris scored 6 points, Ben Leggat scored 4, and Logan Finch scored 2. Jack Molitoris and Eric Valdez were the Fireballs' defensive standouts with the most rebounds.

Pleasanton Rage

The Pleasanton Rage U9 Orange played a very competitive game against the Stockton Storm in the State Cup Finals. Rage had many attempts in the first half to score, but the Storm battled defensively against Rage to keep the score 0-0 after the first half.

Great defensive plays were made by Maggie Nostrand, Isabella Guerrero, and Caitlin Currie. Hayden Jolley played her best game as goalie, stopping shot after shot. Many great offensive plays were made by Olivia Martin, Olivia Soble, Maddie Benson, Avery Clark, and Sophia Minnite. Ashley Belshe had many great corner kicks and great shots throughout the game. Towards the end of the second half, one goal was made by the Stockton Storm to make the final score 1-0.

California Gymnastics

California Gymnastics Academy's Level 4 Team competed at the Nor-Cal Level 4 State Championship Meet held in Oroville, CA, November 17-18.

CGA's girls brought home a total of 9 Nor-Cal Championship titles and 3 of the girls finished in the top 10 out of 356 gymnasts competing, regardless of age.

Delaney Watkins is the Nor-Cal Senior H Bars (9.4), Beam (9.575), Floor (9.55) and All-Around Champion (37.875).

Juliette Gosselin is the Nor-Cal Junior B Bars (9.6), Beam (9.575) and All-Around Champion (38.0). Juliette




Pictured is Kaylie Bartolotto of the West Coast Wrath U12 driving down the pitch.



Pictured is a West Coast Wicked U15 player setting up to play the ball in for another scoring opportunity.



Livermore Aquacowboys swim team competed in the WCAB Zone 2 Last Chance B/A+ Meet hosted by the Walnut Creek Aquabears on November 16-18, 2012. The Livermore Aquacowboys swam away with many new best times. Representing the Livermore Aquacowboys were Faith Carroll (7), Anneliese Combitis (8), Minnhna Kawamura (7), Jack Davis (7), Melinda Davis (10), Kylie Peters (10), John Coltrin (10), Taber DaCosta (9), Daniel Geissbuhler (10), Daiki Nishikawa (10), Wilson Schwegler (9), Amanda Butcher (12), Tori Carroll (12), Paige Chew (12), Katy Dabney (12), Julia Rocha (11), Megan Wilcox (12), Paige DaCosta (11), Chris Gonzalez (11), Matthew Hayes (12), Jared Tovera (11), Collin Trump (11), Hunter Woffinden (12), Emily Chong (13), Megan Fairbanks (14), Katelyn Johnson (13), Sofia Moufarrej (13), Victoria Moufarrej (14), Celine Nguyen (14), Sarah Swanson (14), Jared Brandley (14), Alex Gonzalez (14), Ben Rocha (13), Brandon Siu (13), Jenna Chew (15), Jessica Paul (16), Adrianna Rocha (16) and Kyle Chong (15). The swimmers faced rain and wind in Walnut Creek with 865 swimmers representing 29 teams with 5200 total entries over the three days.



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SPORTS NOTES

(continued from page 6)

also placed 2nd on Vault (9.375) and 3rd on Floor (9.45).

Mariah Murphy is the Nor-Cal Senior C Bars Champion with a score of 9.65. Mariah was 2nd on Vault (9.55), 3rd on Beam (9.025), 2nd on Floor (9.325) and placed 2nd All-Around with a score of 37.550.

Calli Renner is the Nor-Cal Junior F Bars Champion with a score of 9.65. Calli placed 2nd on Beam (9.375), 3rd on Floor (9.4) and was 3rd All-Around (37.775).

Chiao Chiao Hsia, Junior G, placed 3rd on Bars (9.2), 3rd Floor (9.15), and 4th All-Around (36.6).

Jessica Drobick, Child A, placed 2nd All-Around with a 2nd place finish on Bars (9.15), 3rd on Vault (9.2), 3rd on Beam (9.125).

Annie Holm, Child C, was 8th on Vault (9.125) and finished 10th All-Around (35.1).

Girls Softball

PGSL Registration: 2013 Registration is now open for all divisions in the Pleasanton Phantom Girls Softball League. All girls in grades K-12 living in Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol are eligible to play. Two ways to register: 1) Online - visit our website at www.pleasantonsoftball.org; 2) By check & postal mail - Download a registration form on the league website and mail to PGSL, P.O. Box 911, Pleasanton, CA 94566. For more information or questions, email Christine Tanis at christine.t@pleasantonsoftball.org.

PGSL Player Evaluations: Player Evaluations will be held December 8-9, 2012, for all players in grades 3-8. No prior experience required. Exact times and location are to be determined and will be published on the PGSL website (www.pleasantonsoftball.org). Remember to register by December 1, 2012 to avoid the late fee.

LNLL Registration

Livermore National Little League registration will be held on Dec. 12th at Mountain Mikes Pizza on 1st Street in Livermore from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

LHS Soccer Camp

Livermore High School Girls' Soccer Program invites boys and girls ages 6-14 to participate in a soccer camp on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at the Livermore High School Football/Soccer Field. Price of camp is \$40 and includes a T-shirt.

This camp promotes soccer development through warm up and technical drills as well as fun games to increase skill and understanding of the game in an enjoyable and positive atmosphere. Camp will begin at 10:30 a.m., end at 2:00 p.m. and will be run by the Senior Varsity players with the support of the high school Varsity, JV, and Freshman coaches.

At 5:00 p.m., the LHS Girls' Varsity Soccer team will play against Dublin High School. All participants are invited to return to LHS and cheer on the players that coached the camp.

Go to www.cowboyboosters.org for more information and participation forms.



Photos - Doug Jorgensen

Livermore and Pleasanton launched the holiday shopping season with the annual Earlier Than the Bird events last Saturday. Rich Larrabee along with Bridget, Lilly and Elliott (at left) were on hand for the Pleasanton event. Above right, Angela Bruggeman and her daughter Mary admire ornaments at Main Street Designs in Livermore.

Tri-Valley Bank to Hold Grand Opening at New Livermore Office

Tri-Valley Bank will hold a grand opening for its new Livermore office at 1987 First Street on Monday, November 26. Branch staff, Board members and members of the bank's senior

management team, including CEO Arnold Grisham and Senior Vice President and Regional Manager Brian Kehoe, will be on hand to host customers, shareholders and the community. The

event will run from 4 to 6 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

"Our Livermore branch office is distinctive from offices of many other banks," said Kehoe. "We have three

senior-level officers who have lived in this community at least 15 years and bring a stability of professional financial service experience that businesses need and appreciate," he said. "Our staff is also closely involved with key community organizations such as the Chamber, Livermore Downtown, Rotary Club, the Convention and Visitors Bureau and many local non-profit groups," he added.

"The key to our success has been about the relation-

ships and service we provide to our customers," said Kehoe. "We provide value to them as financial advisors, and we answer the phone when they call us!"

Tri-Valley Bank focuses on serving Livermore-area manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, service companies and contractors, as well as individual consumers. The bank has offices in Livermore and San Ramon, and serves customers throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Stoneridge Mall Plans Activities

SimonProperty Group, Inc. has announced that Stoneridge Shopping Center opened at midnight last night for "Black Friday."

"In response to feedback from our shoppers," said Carrie Williams, Director of Marketing & Business Development at Stoneridge, "We have decided to open our doors at midnight to accommodate eager shoppers who want to get an early start on their holiday purchases."

Black Friday activities include:

Unwrap the Package Prize Giveaway: Enter for

the chance to win one of 10 prize packages to be given away a 6:00 a.m. Entries will be collected at Simon Guest Services from Midnight to 5:59 a.m. at 6:00 a.m., 10 winners will be drawn. Those 10 winners will then have the chance to open on of 10 wrapped packages to see what they've won. Packages will contain American Express® Simon Giftcards® ranging from \$50 to \$500. Entrants must be present to win.

Entertainment: includes a Dickens-era holiday brass group will kick off the shop-

ping season for all early risers. Later in the day, the Dix Bruce Jazz Trio will entertain with holiday classics.

Black Friday shoppers will be able to document their day of shopping with a Stoneridge-branded flipbook made just for them in the Grand Court.

Keurig will be onsite in Grand Court demonstrating their coffee makers and offering free samples to shoppers. Sampling will continue every Saturday and Sunday throughout the holiday season.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Build-A-Bear
Build-A-Bear Workshop, the interactive entertainment retailer of customized stuffed animals, has opened its newly designed store at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Comcast Appointment
Comcast has named Henry "Hank" Fore as Regional Senior Vice President for California.

Comcast Appointment (continued)
Fore will report to Steve White, President of Comcast's West Division, and will oversee Comcast's video, high-speed Internet and telephone operations in both the Bay Area and Central California.

Mary Kay Business
Leslie Poage King of Livemore is among working for Mary Kay business. She recently achieved the status of Independent Sales Director.

KoKo FitClub
Koko FitClub encourages people to toss out the bathroom scale and focus their attention on a far better way to measure and manage their health.

Pak Mail
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Audit Finds Park District Is in Solid Financial Condition

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is in very solid financial condition.

That was the comment made during the LARPD board meeting last week by Maze & Associates following the annual audit of the district finances. LARPD received an "unqualified" opinion, which in accounting terminology is the best opinion the District can receive.

General Manager Tim Barry pointed out that the district has no unfunded liabilities or guarantees to fund benefits in the future. "That makes us unique for a public agency," he stated. The funding is in place for retirement benefits for the next fourteen years.

The board approved renewal of a contract with the City of Livermore to provide

the district with planning and engineering services. The contract is for the next two years.

LARPD has contracted with the City since 2004 for planning and engineering services. Barry called the relationship a great example of two agencies working together to get the "most bang for the public's buck."

Directors also authorized LARPD to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District to collaboratively apply for 21st Century Grant Funding through the California Department of Education. If received, the funding would be used to open LARPD-staffed Believes programs at Joe Michell K-8 School and Jackson Avenue Elementary School.

The Believes program,

already in place at Junction Avenue K-8 School and Marylin Avenue Elementary School, provides educational enrichment to low-income families in coordination with the District's Extended Student Services (ESS) school-aged childcare program. This funding would help fill the gap left by State grant funds the District lost for the ESS program last summer.

The Believes program extends the school day with a focus on academics. There would be no cost to the district to provide the program if the state grant funds were received. No amount was listed regarding how much money is being requested.

General Manager Tim Barry also swore in President Beth Wilson and Director Bob Coomber, who are beginning new terms in office. Director Steve Good-

man, who was absent, will be sworn in at a later date. Wilson and Goodman faced no opposition in the November election. Coomber was elected to complete two years of the term vacated when Laureen Turner was elected to the city council.

Other information provided to the board includes the following:

- The LARPD Foundation donated almost \$5,000 to provide park rangers with a Trikke stand-up, three-wheeled vehicle to help them patrol parks and assist visitors.

- Sycamore Grove Park calendars for 2013 are on sale now at the Robert Livermore Community Center or through forms on the LARPD website at www.larpd.dst.ca.us. Calendars are \$10 each or \$6 with purchase of an annual parking pass to

the park.

- Aquatics Supervisor Sharon Grant recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bay Area Public Pool Operators Association for her contributions to the field.

- The District is nearing

completion on expansion of the Community Garden at the Robert Livermore Community Center. The garden is expanding from 46 plots to 70 plots. New spaces will become available in the spring to those on the waiting list.

SLAKEY

(continued from page one)

combination requires an unusual range of training, "a little like being both a ballet dancer and a weight lifter," Davis explains.

On a personal basis, Davis recalls being surprised, after spending so many hours with Slakey on an arms control project, to learn that he was just coming to the end of his climbing-surfing effort. There had been no indication that he had even been involved in such an extended challenge. "He just seemed like a normal physicist!" Davis says.

Slakey recounted his experiences in a best selling book published earlier this year, *To The Last Breath: A Memoir Of Going To Extremes*.

The book opens with what Washingtonian magazine calls "one of the most terrifying moments in non-fiction this year," as (Slakey) dangles 2,000 feet above Yosemite Valley on the face of El Capitan in the middle of the night and realizes his gear is failing.

That is only one of the close encounters with death

during expeditions that took him all over the world, including exotic places like Mt. Everest, the Antarctic and the Indonesian jungle.

Along the way, he confirmed the power of some of the analytical abilities that he had learned as a scientist, but also encountered phenomena that he could not readily explain.

Introverted and self-absorbed since childhood, perhaps because of the early death of his mother, he met inspirational people whose lives taught him to care more for others. He found himself trying to right wrongs, unexpectedly motivated toward political activism.

In short, what began as a quest for achievement became a journey of spiritual and emotional growth. A review published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science describes it as a "personal transition from physics lecturer to someone who teaches students to use science to make policy and improve people's lives."

Motivated by his experi-

ences, Slakey set up the Program on Science in the Public Interest at Georgetown. The program "promotes direct dialogue with the government, industry, and the community on critical scientific issues and helps to develop the next generation of citizen scientists," according to its website.

Today, Slakey is active in areas where science and public policy intersect. At Georgetown, he is Upjohn Lecturer on Physics and Public Policy. He is also Associate Director of Public Affairs at the American Physical Society, again with a combined focus of policy and science.

He has published more than 50 articles for major newspapers and magazines including the New York Times, Washington Post and Scientific American. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a MacArthur Scholar and a Lemelson Research Associate of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore. Tickets may be purchased at the box office or online at www.bankheadtheater.org



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Christmas Opera 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' To Be Presented by Livermore Valley Opera

For the first time, Livermore Valley Opera, in collaboration with First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, presents the long-standing Christmas season favorite Amahl and the Night Visitors, a one-act opera by Gian Carlo Menotti.

Performed in English, this story of a crippled boy and his mother who are visited by the three kings on their way to Bethlehem, offers a unique opportunity for holiday family entertainment.

Performances are Sat., Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Tickets at \$12-\$25 can be purchased at www.livermorevalleyopera.com and at the door.

"We are very excited about bringing this special chamber opera production to the Tri-Valley," says Raquel Holt, LVO Board member. "This opera is so delightful with a heartwarming story that is perfect for families."

Amahl was originally written for television and was commissioned by NBC and first performed by the NBC Opera Theatre December 24, 1951 when it was broadcast live as the debut production of the Hallmark Hall of Fame. Menotti wrote Amahl with the stage in mind even though it was intended for television and asked his friend and fellow composer

Samuel Barber to complete the orchestrations. Upon completion of the first rehearsal prior to the premiere, NBC's Symphony conductor Arturo Toscanini told Menotti that the opera was the best he had ever done.

Amahl became an annual Christmas special that appeared on or around Christmas Eve through most of the 1960s and 1970s, until it went to cable television in the early 1980s.

Though the performance of Amahl will be the first for LVO, it is the fourth for director and producer Sylvia Amorino who collaborated with LVO's Artistic Director Alexander Katsman for her opera company Solo Opera from 2001 to 2003.

"When Alex Katsman asked me to direct and produce Amahl for LVO with him this December, I said, 'Count me in!'" says Amorino. "I can't imagine working with anyone else. When Alexander plays and conducts, his heart and soul is shared with everyone. This is especially true in the Amahl opera. Every time I heard him conduct the opening bars of the opera, it would bring tears to my eyes. It is heartwarming music and he conducts it very well. Like Alexander, I am dedicated and passionate about my directing and take it very seriously. I think we make



Jonathan Telander and Sophie Morgan (pictured) perform the role of Amahl. Michelle Rice plays Amahl's mother.

a great operatic team."

Amorino says that because the chamber opera is in English and under an hour, it is the perfect piece for children and families. And, because the main

character Amahl is a young boy, children can identify with his role.

The opera typically stars a young boy soprano as Amahl, but for LVO's production, the part is

double-casted due to the back-to-back performances in one day. Jonathan Telander, who already has an extensive opera career at the age of 11, recently performed as Gherardino

in the Stockton Opera Association's production of Gianni Schicchi. Sophie Morgan, a local singer and eighth-grader from Livermore will share the role with Telander. Morgan, who most recently performed in LVO's production of La bohème, is also a member of Livermore's award-winning Cantabella Children's Chorus.

Other cast members include soprano Michelle Rice as Amahl's mother who has performed in a number of LVO productions including Roméo et Juliette, and solo performances at LVO's annual Opera in the Vineyard. The cast of shepherds, members of First Presbyterian Church of Livermore's own choir, will be led by choral director Janet Holmes, who will also provide piano accompaniment for the opera.

With the opera's Christmastime appeal, young singers and heart-warming story, Amahl makes for a great family holiday experience says director Amorino.

"Amahl is a wonderful way to introduce children to opera. This is LVO's opportunity to create a new generation of opera lovers. And, with a story of a mother, a boy, a star, the Three Wise Men, and a miracle, you couldn't ask for a more meaningful way to start the holiday season!"



Teen improv troupe takes time out to pose for group photo.

‘Holiday Shorts: A Long Winter’s Tale’ at Firehouse

Creatures of Impulse, the City of Pleasanton’s teen improv troupe, will perform a fourth season of their popular holiday-themed improv show, "Holiday Shorts: A Long Winter’s Tale," in three performances this month at the Firehouse Arts Center.

Performances are scheduled on Thursday, November 29 and Friday, November 30 at 7:30pm. A free preview show is also scheduled for Tuesday, November 27th at 7:30pm. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

Local troupe Creatures of Impulse will perform "short-form" improvisational games and scenes in the first act of Holiday Shorts. During intermission the audience will vote on which one of those scenes or games is performed as an improvised holiday "play" in the second act.

"I can't wait for this show. There is such great energy created among the performers and audience members

with 'Holiday Shorts' each year. At intermission, it is so fun to watch both the audience and the performers wait with this collective nervous energy to hear which game or scene is voted into an improvised play. I really think this is the new holiday tradition at the Firehouse Arts Center," says Creatures of Impulse Director Mark Duncanson.

The 26-member troupe recently performed their popular improvised teen horror show, "Nightmare," at the Firehouse Arts Center and will soon begin puppet-making workshops this month for the spring tour of their brand new show "Puppets of Impulse." The new show is an improvised teen puppet musical scheduled to close the big Chicago Teen Comedy Festival in Chicago, Illinois in May 2013.

For more information on Creatures of Impulse Improv Troupe or Holiday Shorts: A Long Winter’s Tale contact Mark Duncanson at 925-931-4828 or mduncanson@

cityofpleasantonca.gov

General admission tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Student tickets are \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org, by calling 925-931-4848, and in person at the Box Office, 4444 Railroad Avenue, Pleasanton. Box Office hours are Wednesday - Friday 12:00 noon-6:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm, and two hours prior to the performance. Free parking.

Valley Concert Chorale Presents “Holiday Songs of Joy”

Award-winning Cantabella Children’s Chorus also to perform

Begin the holiday season with a multitude of carols and audience sing-along by attending the Valley Concert Chorale’s annual holiday concerts. Joining the Chorale is the Tri-Valley’s own Cantabella Children’s Chorus, which will perform additional holiday selections.

There will be two performances of "Holiday Songs of Joy." The first is 3 p.m. Sun., Dec. 2 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton; the second, 7:30 p.m. Sat., Dec. 15 at the First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore.

"The Chorale’s annual holiday performances of familiar and traditional carols are guaranteed to fill your spirit with the joy of the season," says John Emory Bush, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Chorale. "The Cantabella Children’s Chorus will perform songs of its own as well as sing with the Chorale. And, there is always the audience sing-along of familiar holiday songs. No one will leave without a smile on their face."

Featured songs include Conrad Susa’s medley of traditional carols entitled "A Christmas Garland," and a variety of carols from countries around the world

such as Estonia, Germany and South Africa.

Two choirs from the Cantabella Children’s Chorus will perform, one at each of the holiday performances. For the December 2 performance, Cantabella’s Honors Choir will perform Seven Joys of Christmas, arr. by K. Mechem, Op. 25b, and on December 15, the Cantabella Chamber Choir will perform Veni Emmanuel by Zoltan Kodaly, and Hiru Eguberri Kanta (Three Christmas Songs) by Javier Busto. Both performances will be directed by Eileen Chang, who helped the chorus bring

home two silver medals from The World Choir Games this past summer.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. High school and college students \$10 with valid student ID. Children under 12 are free. Advance tickets may be ordered by visiting the Chorale’s website at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or by calling the Chorale’s information number at (925) 866-4003 to order tickets.

More information about the Valley Concert Chorale is available at www.valleyconcertchorale.org, or by calling (925) 866-4003.



Special Day Set to Find Homes for Black Cats

Visit Valley Humane Society (VHS) Friday, November 23, for Black Cat Friday and adopt any black or mostly black cat fee-free. Adoption fees will also be reduced on other styles of cats.

With thousands of years

of superstition to contend with, black cats are often the last to find homes. Yet black cats are always fashionable, they never fade, and with their vibrant personalities, it’s easy to find one that fits a particular lifestyle. VHS

carries all sizes. Doors open at 12 noon, and the event runs until 4 pm (or while "supplies" last). Standard adoption criteria apply. VHS is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton.

VHS rescues and re-

habilitates companion animals, champions responsible caretaking, shares pets’ soothing affections with people in need of comfort, and supports and preserves existing pet-guardian relationships.

Performing Groups Work Together to Offer a Sampler of Classical Music

A rich tradition of classical music groups has developed throughout the years in the Tri-Valley. A new cooperative effort is underway to expand awareness of their music. Four resident companies of the Bankhead Theater have been bringing classical symphonic works, opera and chamber music to the community for a collective 130 years. They are offering a chance to hear one production of each company at a deeply discounted price.

The Livermore-Amador Symphony was founded 50 years ago; Del Valle Fine Arts was established over 30 years ago to bring chamber music to the community; Livermore Valley Opera just celebrated its 25th anniversary and the Pacific Chamber Symphony will commemorate its 25th year in 2013. These organizations have their own boards, often with some common members, and are now actively pursuing how to work together to introduce the classics to a new audience. Since all groups perform at the Bankhead Theater, conflicting schedules are a thing of the past. However, the audience of one company may not be fully aware of what the other companies are presenting.

To this end, the four classical groups are rolling out a program to encourage a wider recognition of their performances. Purchased separately, a mid-range single ticket for one performance from each of the groups would cost \$154. This special offer allows the chance to buy a ticket sampler, one performance from each company, for only \$92 per person, a sav-



ings of 40%. The groups encourage patrons who are already attending many performances to use this offer as a holiday gift for others.

To order the Classical Music Sampler for \$92, call the Bankhead Theater at 925.373.6800, or visit the ticket office at 2400 First Street, Downtown Livermore, Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.



These 11 performances listed below are included in their offer:

- DEL VALLE FINE ARTS: Chiara String Quartet | February 16th, 8:00 p.m.; Archetti Baroque Ensemble | March 23rd, 8:00 p.m.; The Debussy Trio | April 27th, 8:00 p.m.
- LIVERMORE-AMADOR SYMPHONY: Celebrating 50 Seasons |

December 1st, 8:00 p.m.; Vienna Bonbon and Russian Drama | February 23rd, 8:00 p.m.; Guest Conductor Potpourri | April 6th, 8:00 p.m.; Ode to a Joyous 50th Season | May 18th, 8:00 p.m.

• LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA: La Traviata by Verdi March 9 & 16 8:00 p.m., March 10 & 17 2:00 p.m.

• PACIFIC CHAMBER SYMPHONY: Handel's Messiah | November 30th, 8:00 p.m.; Mike Marshall, Mandolin | March 3rd, 7:00 p.m.; Works for Chorus and Orchestra | May 11th, 8:00 p.m.

The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in Downtown Livermore. The ticket office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. To purchase tickets call 925-373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.



Messiah

Bring a student to the Pacific Chamber Symphony
Friday, November 30th at Bankhead Theater, Livermore
(925) 373-6800

50% OFF ADULT TICKET
With a student ticket purchase

Students: \$7 / Adults: \$50, \$42, \$35

Pacific
Chamber Symphony

Opens its 25th Season
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www.pacificchambersymphony.org

BANKHEAD THEATER

SEASON 2012
2013



Smuin Ballet Christmas

A Sparkling Holiday Celebration
FRI & SAT **NOV 23-24** 2 & 7:30pm

Francis Slakey To the Last Breath: A Personal Quest

Rae Dorough Speakers Series
WED **NOV 28** 7:30pm



Handel's Messiah

Pacific Chamber
Symphony
FRI **NOV 30** 8pm



Celebrating 50 Seasons

Livermore-Amador
Symphony
SAT **DEC 1** 8pm



The Nutcracker

Valley Dance Theatre with the
Livermore-Amador Symphony
DEC 8,9,14,15,16 2 & 7pm

Chanticleer Christmas

A Glorious Holiday Favorite
WED **DEC 19** 7:30pm



Willie K's Hawaiian Christmas

with the Kalama Brothers
An Island Holiday Aloha
FRI **DEC 21** 8pm

CALL
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Soloists Set for the Pacific Chamber Symphony's "Messiah"

The Pacific Chamber Symphony directed by Lawrence Kohl, will once again present "Messiah," the well known work by G.F. Handel, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. This year's performance will be on Friday, November 30. This will be the 5th consecutive year for what has become a holiday tradition in Livermore.

The Pacific Chamber Symphony Chorus and the Las Positas College Chamber Chorus, both under the direction of Rob Lappa, will join the orchestra for this concert. As an encore to the performance, the audience will be asked to join the orchestra and chorus in a reprise of the famous "Hallelujah" chorus.

Maestro Kohl has engaged a lineup of soloists for the concert; soprano Christine Brandes, alto Elsbeth M. Franks, tenor Christopher Bengochea and baritone Daniel Cilli.

Noted for her radiant, crystalline voice and superb musicianship, soprano

Christine Brandes brings her artistry to a repertoire ranging from 17th century to newly composed works. She has performed at many of the world's most distinguished festivals and concert series in programs spanning from recitals and chamber music to oratorio and opera.

She has sung for opera houses in San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, Houston, Minnesota, San Diego, New York City Opera, Philadelphia, Glimmerglass, Portland and Arizona, and with orchestras in Cleveland, Chicago, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Atlanta, Detroit, Seattle and Minnesota.

British-born alto Elsbeth Franks is known for her unusually wide vocal range and engaging stage presence. One of the West Coast's busiest singers, she performs many roles throughout the mezzo, alto and soprano repertoires.

Recent engagements



have included: "Chandos Anthems" with the California Bach Society, and performances with the Philharmonia Baroque Chorale and the San Francisco Opera. Elsbeth resides in San Francisco with the world's two most wonderful cats, Pizzicato and Magnificat.

Tenor Christopher Bengochea has delighted audiences with his unique combination of vocal and dramatic interpretations in performances ranging from oratorio to opera.

This Basque American tenor began his musical career as a pianist then moved into the study of



opera during his time at Montana State University and later the University of Montana. After becoming an award winner at the Northwest Regional Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and winning third prize at the International Societa Concertistica Vocal Competition in Santa Margherita-Ligure, Italy, he decided to pursue singing exclusively.

He was a resident artist at Opera San Jose during the years 2005-2008.

Richard Scheinin of The Mercury News said, "to hear Bengochea expand into big, lusty high notes — Verdi specials — were



thrilling . . . Bengochea could be the tenor the company has been waiting for."

Baritone Daniel Cilli holds vocal performance degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music and Stetson University, and has studied Lieder at the Franz Schubert Institute of Baden bei Wien, Austria.

Cilli was a principal baritone at Opera San José for 2006-2010. He has performed with Des Moines Metro Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Central City Opera, Utah Opera, San Francisco Lyric Opera, West Bay Opera and Amarillo Opera. In concert



Pictured, from left, are Daniel Cilli, Elsbeth Franks, Christopher Bengochea, and Christine Brandes.

he has performed at Aspen Music Festival, Utah Symphony, Tanglewood Music Festival, San Juan Symphony, South Valley Symphony, University of California Santa Cruz, and at Lawrence University.

The concert will be at 8:00 on Friday, November 30, at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$50/\$42/\$35, \$7 students, and are available at the Bankhead Theater Box Office, 2400 First Street, Livermore, by phone at (925) 373-6100, or online at livermoreperformingarts.org.



Tapestry to Perform A Musical Potpourri of Yuletide Wishes

Tapestry, the Bay Area's only combined vocal and handbell ensemble, present, "Dear Santa, A Musical Potpourri of Yuletide Wishes."

Performances will Friday, November 30 at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Ave. in Walnut Creek and Saturday, December 1 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton. Concerts begin at 7 PM and are free to the public.

Tapestry will be singing and ringing music to please listeners of all ages as they usher in the Christmas season. The dynamic and much loved group, which entertains to raise donations for local, national, and global charities, raised \$4000 for Open Heart Kitchen through their holiday 2011 and spring 2012 concert performances. This season, Tapestry's concerts are in support of The Alzheimer's Association of the East Bay. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

For more information about Tapestry and their holiday concert season, visit their website at www.TapestryRingersandSingers.org or call Susana Taylor, 925-768-8025.

(Tapestry is pictured at left.)

A Taste of the Tri-Valley: Inaugural Wine & Food Festival

by **Laura Ness**

Rain showers, downpours, breaks of sun, brooding clouds, a parking lot filled with the brilliance of autumn leaves and rainbows around the bend: such is a Saturday in November. Despite all, the Tri Valley Wine & Food Festival at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton brought in a good gathering of wineries, brew pubs and food purveyors to keep a modest crowd of 200 or so imbibers intrigued, entertained and educated, if not satiated.

The pours were generous, the music energizing and the vibe celebratory,

Search Underway for Historic Photos

Pleasanton art patrons, Nancy and Gary Harrington, have created a historical mural of Pleasanton's pioneer founders. They have been unable to find any photos or pictures of three of the founders: Walter Briggs/Meadowlark Dairy; Tom Orloff/Orloff Dairy; Con Nevin/Hop Farming Company. They have searched the Pleasanton Museum on Main, met with local historian, Charles Huff, visited/spoken with the historical societies of both Livermore and Dublin.

The Harringtons are asking for help in locating pictures of these three historical figures. Anyone who has lived in the area for many years and who might have in their family albums any pictures of any of these three men, please contact them at nancyrh1@sbcglobal.net or call 925-846-9757.

as many wineries in the Livermore Valley region, including Concannon, Garre, Crooked Vine, Fenestra, Las Positas, La Rochelle, McGrail, Rodrigue Molyneaux and Steven Kent shared the spotlight with those from Santa Clara (Guglielmo) and the Santa Cruz Mountains (Poetic Cellars and Roudon-Smith).

There was literally a "Wall of Wente," with everything from the best-selling Wente Riva Ranch Chardonnay to entwine to Murrietta's Well and of course, Tamas Estates. It was fun to see all the new screwtops from the latter, including their ever-popular Double Decker red and the serviceable, refreshing Pinot Grigio. The 2009 Nebbiolo shows some real tanga promise. The Sorrento is certainly a wine aimed squarely at the millennial palate, with its lush and slightly sweet middle, owing to gobs of ripe Viognier and Chardonnay fruit.

Newcomers Bill and Sandy Thomson of Harris Tesla, poured their lovely Cabernets for the first time ever in a public setting, and got a rousing reception for their 2007 and 2008 estate grown wines from the vineyard that surrounds their Livermore home. They sell fruit to Rhonda Wood of Wood Family, who produces a Thomson Ranch designate Cabernet from the property, as well as to Collin Cranor of Nottingham Cellars, and to a handful of others in the area, including the The Wine Group.

Women loved the 2007 Harris Tesla Cabernet, while men preferred the woodier, heat packing 2008, prompting Julie from Winemaker's Pourhouse to

admit this did not surprise her, since the 2009 was far oakier: "I guess men like more wood!" This seemed particularly appropriate, since there was a golf show going on concurrently next door. Quite a few golf shoppers made the transition through the food truck court to imbibe in the simple pleasures of the grape and the hop. Several beer vendors, including Half Moon Bay Brewing and Schubros of San Ramon, also plied their wares.

Entrants received a logo'd glass, 12 tasting tickets good for food and wine, along with a plate and bamboo spork, a combo of fork and spoon, with which to indulge in the various delicious delights, which included a truly tasty Greek salad by Café Main in Pleasanton. It was the right amount of everything, including tanga feta cheese and olives: yum! Downright delicious with the Nottingham Chardonnay.

I was impressed by the flavors of roasted chicken and pepper crostini, (nice with Crooked Vine 2008 Syrah). My husband, Greg, enjoyed the seared Ahi tuna with aioli on pita chips, both prepared on site by Jeffrey's Catering of Pleasanton (jeffreysfin-catering.com). The people were incredibly friendly and polite, totally efficient. Looking for a caterer for an upcoming party? They should be on your list.

Truly the lamb chops from Pleasanton's Baci Bistro were the bomb, especially when paired with the 2009 La Rochelle Sleepy Hollow Pinot Noir from the Santa Lucia Highlands, or with the 2009 Guglielmo Barbera (Santa Clara Valley), alive with dancing fruit and plenty of

acid to cut the fattiness of the lamb.

People kept saying how well the Pourhouse's turkey chile complimented the "Il Segreto" blend of Barbera and Zin being poured by Rodrigue Molyneaux, while the Poetic Cellars "Mirage," a rose of Syrah from Livermore vineyards, really excited those looking for the perfect Thanksgiving wine. Winemaker Katy Lovell still owns vineyards in Livermore off Tesla and Vasco, from which she sources the majority of her fruit, including the well-built, cherry-cigar filled 2007 Minstrel Vineyard Merlot, and the intense, brambly, plummy 2006 Reserve Syrah.

Concannon Vineyard was right next to Monterey Bay Chocolate Company, which was fitting, as their

Petite Sirah and Crimson and Clover blend of Petite Sirah and Zin, are natural companions to anything chocolate. I particularly enjoyed the Concannon Chardonnay, as it has that right amount of lively citrus and happy stonefruit flavors that keeps this beverage from going down the common rathole of melted butter in a bottle. No, Concannon winemaker Julian Halasz has more class than to turn a delightful grape into something resembling oak-chip tea.

Speaking of tea, there was also a tea vendor providing Chai samples and selling organic teas of all permutations and persuasions. I don't generally mix tea with wine, so cannot comment on their prolific offerings. Similarly, I did not indulge in the wine

grape ice cream, but I watched as my friend Jim enjoyed every last slushy looking bit of purpleness.

The band, Sandor Y Mecanica, from Santa Clara University, really kept a nice Latin jazz beat going, and except for the numbers where the blaring, nearly deafening horns came to life, made a pleasant backdrop to an informal social gathering with a decidedly upbeat, casual block party feel.

Hats off to Geoffrey Sarabia-Mason, VP of Tourism and Sales Development for the Tri-Valley Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and his enthusiastic team, for pulling off a successful first effort. Looking forward to the next iteration of this event next year.

Dublin Begins Holiday Festivities With Annual Tree Lighting on November 29

The City of Dublin is offering a variety of seasonal activities and events to celebrate the Holidays.

The 29th annual Holiday Tree Lighting will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Thurs., Nov. 29 at Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza (in the plaza area near the fountain). The Dublin Unified School District Children's Choir will provide entertainment along with the lively sounds of the Dublin High School Jazz Band. Refreshments will be served after the performance. Be on the lookout for a very special visit from Santa Claus. Admission is free.

A Holiday Faire will be held from noon to 6 p.m. at the Heritage Park and Museums. Make traditional holiday crafts, shop for

unique, handcrafted items, and listen to holiday favorites performed by the Merrie Old Christmas Carolers. Old-Fashioned St. Nick will arrive by jingle bell wagon at noon to start the festivities. Mulled wine, hot cider, pretzels and streusel will be available for purchase. Admission is free; a \$5 wristband is needed for craft making and a wagon ride.

Breakfast with Santa will be held Sat., Dec. 1 at the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Avenue. Families are invited to enjoy a hot pancake breakfast served with sausage, fruit, coffee, juice. Santa Claus is the special guest. Photos with Santa will also be available for a donation benefiting the Dublin High School Irish Guard and Band. Cost is \$10.00 for Dublin Resi-

dents and \$12.00 for Non Residents. Registration is required. Seating times are: 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.

A Holiday Tea will be served at 1 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 15 at the Heritage Park and Museums. The event will be held in 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. Following tea, there will be a tour the Kolb House, decorated for "A Farm Christmas Morning." Seating is limited, so please make reservations early. Cost is \$25 per person.

For more information please contact the Parks and Community Services Department at 556-4500.

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan
Livermore City Historian



Pumpkin Pie First?

Susan Ivy Graham loved sweets and, according to her granddaughter, Frances Nissen Prevost, she “insisted upon eating dessert as a first course in order to have an empty stomach to completely enjoy the feast.” Frances owned Susan’s original cookbook—the majority of its entries are cake.

Susan Ivy Graham came with her husband, Robert W. Graham, to Laddsville, California in 1869. Laddsville was the earliest incarnation of Livermore; the hamlet was centered around the intersection of Old First Street and Junction Avenue. The Grahams built and operated a general merchandise store there. By 1870 Robert Graham had become Livermore’s first postmaster. On the 1880 census Graham gave his occupation as the town of Livermore’s Justice of the Peace. City clerk Elmer G. Still noted that Graham had been appointed Justice of the Peace in 1878 and held that position until his death in 1887. The Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Society holds several of his court docket books in their Pleasanton museum.

Deciding to become a mortician, Graham gave up his store and attended a special school in San Francisco, passed required tests, and received a license. His first “undertaking a specialty” local newspaper ads are extant

from 1884. Susan was definitely an active partner in the firm of Graham Mortuary, which was located on First Street and later on the northwest corner of Second and South L. Perhaps like the early Schweer Mortuary at 706 Main Street in Pleasanton, the Graham Mortuary had a large glass window in front to display the embalmed bodies in their coffins, the custom of the time. The Livermore Grahams were not related to the Pleasanton Grahams, even though they were both in the undertaking business.

The Graham family home, a white clapboard, was at the southeast corner of Sixth and South K. Susan Ivy and Robert Graham had married in San Francisco in 1864, when he was 31 and she was 17. All but three of their children died before the age of five. Little Katy, Roberta, Mary, and Winnie are buried at Roselawn Cemetery with their parents. On a Friday evening in late November 1887, as Judge Graham and another man were driving out of Roselawn Cemetery, one of their spring wagon’s wheels sank into a hole, causing the seat to tip over. Graham was thrown out and suffered a badly bruised hip. Unfortunately, he also had internal injuries not at first apparent, and he died five days later.

Susan Graham was 40 years old and eight months pregnant. She still had her older daughter and nine-



Pictured are (at left) Susan Ivy Graham; (at right) twins Susan and Robert Graham (Photos from collection of Rae Terry)

year-old twins to support. After the stillborn birth of her last child, she followed in her husband’s footsteps to become an undertaker and receive an embalmer’s license—the first woman in California to achieve these goals, according to her granddaughter and a *Herald* article at the time of her retirement. The *Echo* noted in November 1890 that she was taking lessons in the art of embalming from a “leading” firm of San Francisco undertakers. She was “now prepared to preserve bodies for any length of time.” In September 1894 in addition to the “funeral car” she had recently acquired, she purchased “an equally elegant white hearse for use at the funerals of children.” Both of these vehicles were pulled by horses.

Her granddaughter described her: “Although not tall, Susan made a striking figure with her auburn hair and sweeping long black skirts, a gold lapel watch pinned to her blouse. She was said to be the first matron locally to

have trouser pockets sewn in her skirts, convenience prevailing over femininity.” On call day and night, she was a familiar figure in Livermore and on byways outside of town in her one-seater buggy drawn by a roan horse. After a broken hip left her with a noticeable limp, she carried a black walking stick with her initials on its gold knob. Jim Elliott remembered that his uncle’s funeral in Livermore in 1911 was handled by “the lady mortician with a limp.”

Needing connection with a livery stable to conduct her business, she first took Louis Schaffer and then Arthur Fiedler as partners. John C. Reimers’ Fashion Stable later bought Fiedler’s business, and Graham sold out to Reimers when she retired in 1917 after falling ill with cancer. Reimers built an elaborate stucco mortuary at the site of the old Graham mortuary on L Street. Later, Leo Callaghan bought Reimers Mortuary. The *Herald* commented on her retirement, “Mrs.

Graham could tell of many curious and grisly experiences during her long years of service, especially in the early days, but undertakers never discuss their experiences and many thrilling stories are lost to the world.”

When she died in 1919 at age 72, outliving her husband by 30 years, she was survived by two daughters—Hazzie, who married farmer William H. Galway, and Susan, who married into Livermore’s Nissen clan. Graham Nissen was named for his grandparents. Susan’s twin brother, Robert, had died at age 22 of injuries resulting from a bicycle accident.

One of Frances Prevost’s favorite keepsakes is a Graham Mortuary sales sheet with a cake recipe hastily scribbled on the back by her grandmother. Surely, Susan I. Graham would approve of eating pumpkin pie garnished with a generous dollop of whipped cream before tackling the turkey.

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



Local Collectors Go Wild with “Animal Attractions” at Museum on Main

Animal lovers of the Tri-Valley will be sharing their collections with the public in Museum on Main’s fourth *Treasures of the Tri-Valley* showcase: *Animal Attractions*.

The exhibit features selected treasures from the troves of nine local collectors. It includes displays devoted to elephants, eagles, Scotch terriers, cats, pigs, bison, and other members of the animal kingdom.

Animal-themed objects on display range from small pendants and figurines in glass and metal, to household wares and framed prints, to a painted crosscut saw blade and a chair carved from solid wood.

An associated display is devoted to the Great Livermore Pet Rock Napping of 1976, and includes the victim, the original ransom note, and examples of the story’s coverage in the Bay Area press. *Treasures of the Tri-Valley: Animal Attractions* is scheduled to run through January 20, 2013.

Museum on Main is located at 603 Main Street, Pleasanton. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

There is no admission fee, but donations are always appreciated.

For further information contact 925.462-2766 or curator@museumonmain.org

Yesterday into Today

The Newport Folk Festival: July 1968

By Sarah Bobson

Janis Joplin's tribute performer at the *Monterey International Pop Festival: 45 Years Later* this past September reminded me of July 1968 when I saw the real Janis, live at the Newport Folk Festival in Rhode Island.

Still fired up from the Columbia University protests earlier that year, I now felt a part of the tribe that created its own rules, its own ways of dressing and behaving, and its own music. Although I was not familiar with Janis, I heard she was a phenomenal singer, someone bigger than life, a force of nature, so when I heard she was performing, I wanted to go. The question was: How would I get there? I didn't have a car. Chris, my boyfriend at the time, was in Niger with the Peace Corps. He had joined in order to obtain a military deferment. I approached Rodney, his buddy, who was still around, a sitting duck waiting for his own invitation from Uncle Sam. Rodney preferred country-western music, but when I told him about the festival, he agreed to drive and, more to the point, act in Chris's absence as my chaperon.

• • •
We hopped into Rodney's creaky 1955 Oldsmobile early Saturday afternoon the 27th expecting to traverse the approximately 170 miles from New York City to Newport in three to four hours. We figured we would arrive at the festival in plenty of time to see Janis, and perhaps even catch an act or two before her. We headed out on the Westside Highway. We pushed through the normal congestion, connected to I-95 somewhere in the Bronx, and then, following a map, breezed through a series of back roads. I thought to myself: *Everything is going great.*

Then it happened: The traffic began to slow. As we inched our way, we talked and sang with the music on the radio to pass the time. After an hour and a half, I could see we weren't getting anywhere. I got out of the car and telescoped the bumper-to-bumper long lines snaking the country road ahead. I

asked someone how far it was to the ferry. "About a mile, man," he said. "Groovy," I replied, and turned to Rodney. "At this rate, we'll never get to the festival. Why don't we leave the car on the side of the road and walk to the ferry? We can pick up the car on the way back." To my great surprise, he agreed. So we hopped out, locked up, and took off, not questioning how we would get back late at night (would we walk, find a ride), or even whether the car would still be there.

We trudged over grassy mounds, and then boarded the ferry, the only two hoofing it on foot. I turned to look at the gridlock trail we left behind and reassured myself we made the right decision.

Once off the boat, we squeezed and shuffled our way along with the hordes across a field, supposedly toward the stage, which I couldn't see anywhere. We continued to move en masse as the light dark-

ened into dusk. Suddenly, people began to applaud and cat whistle. Startled, I followed their gaze to this tiny, distant vision in billowing red that moved across what I figured must be the stage. The vision took off the red, flung it theatrically to the ground, and then, clad in something short and black, began to wail in a pointed twang the lyrics to "Piece of My Heart." The crowd erupted. This must be Janis, I thought. I turned to the man standing next to me to confirm this, but when I saw a look of absolute rapture on his face, I didn't bother. I don't remember all of the songs, but the one that sent the men in the crowd into an absolute frenzy was "Ball and Chain." Janis sang with the intensity of a runaway locomotive, charging her guts into every note. I had never heard anything like it.

Then it was all over. We had come for the happening, and it had happened.

Now it was time to leave. We made our way back to the car, which miraculously, or perhaps not so miraculously, given the times, was just where we had left it.

After that, I became a devoted fan of the girl from the place in Texas I had never heard of, the girl with bad skin and frizzy hair who wanted to break free from the white middle-class values she was born into in order to express her intense feelings. Janis Joplin has been hailed as not only the greatest female singer of the 60s but also one of the two or three greatest singers of the 20th century. Her star, which began to ascend at the Monterey International Pop Festival that Summer of Love in 1967 when she appeared with her psychedelic, acid-rock band, Big Brother and the Holding Company, seemed destined to continue to rise. She played the Fillmore West, Woodstock, the Hollywood Bowl, and a host of other

venues across the country. She appeared three times on the Dick Cavett Show, and her picture ran on the covers of Time, Newsweek, and Rolling Stone. Then she overdosed and died in a hotel room in Los Angeles on October 4, 1970, at the age of 27.

I've often wondered what would have happened if she hadn't died so young. Would she have married and had a family, which she had said she wanted according to her sister Laura Joplin in *Love, Janis*, despite the fact that she was bisexual and fiercely independent? Would the extraordinary singer have continued to defy musical categories, blending her own mix of blues, soul, and rock? How would Janis have entered middle age and her senior years? Somehow, I just can't imagine her as a member of AARP. And, I don't want to. I want to remember her as that electrifying original, the woman who dressed flamboyantly in funky clothes, wore masses of rings and gypsy bracelets and strings of beads, and adorned her wild hair with ostrich feathers; the woman who spoke with a Texas drawl and belted out her soul in song.

Livermore Valley Wineries Plan Special Events for Thanksgiving Weekend

Livermore Valley wineries will be open the day after Thanksgiving, as well as during the weekend.

Cedar Mountain Winery will open noon to 4 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 23. The tasting room will be filled with holiday gifts and ideas. Wine tasting fee is \$5. 7000 Tesla Rd., Livermore. www.cedarmountainwinery.com

Occasio Winery will release the 2010 vintage Cabernet Sauvignon. The

tasting room will open Nov. 23-25, noon to 5 p.m. each day. Wine tasting fee is \$5. 2245B South Vasco Road, Livermore. www.occasiowinery.com

Eagle Ridge Vineyard is celebrating "No More Turkey Friday" on Fri. Nov. 23rd. Instead of fighting the malls, head out to Eagle Ridge & enjoy the food/wine pairing of Clam Chowder and Pinot Grigio. See the early arrivals for holi-

day shopping and enjoy a relaxing day with family and friends. 30% off a case of wine and complimentary tasting. Open 12-4:30 Friday, Saturday, & Sunday. 10017 Tesla Rd., Livermore. 447-4328.

Crooked Vine Winery will be open Fri., Nov. 23 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for wine tasting (fee \$5). 4948 Tesla Rd., Livermore. www.crookedvine.com.

Wente Vineyards Estate Winery & Tasting Room will offer a holiday preview Nov. 23-25, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. New holiday merchandise, wine tasting featured. 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. www.wentevineyards.com

Thomas Coyne Winery will host its fall open house Nov. 23, 24 and 25 from noon to 5 p.m. Five new wines will be released including the first Sparkling

Wine methode champenoise. New releases: 2011 Viognier, California, 2011 GRUV, California, 2010 Zinfandel, Livermore, 2011 Sparkling Wine, 2007 Port, California. A selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served. 51 East Vallecitos Road, Livermore. www.thomascoynewinery.com

Fenestra Winery presents a Prelude to Christmas with Pizza, Port and Puffs,

Nov. 23-25, noon to 5 p.m. each day. Event features Ken's Wood Fired Pizza, new releases of Tawny and '09 Souzao ports, and a mobile cigar lounge. Shop for unique gifts from local artisans. \$5 for Fanatics, \$15 others. 83 Vallecitos Road, Livermore. www.fenestrawinery.com.

Other Livermore Valley wineries will be open regular tasting hours.

Milestones

Community

Work in Technology Transfer Earns Recognition

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory researchers and the Lab's economic development director have been tapped by the Federal Laboratory Consortium to receive three regional awards for technology transfer.

This year's awards were presented Sept. 6 during the FLC's three-day Far West/Mid-Continent regional meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

Started in 1974, the consortium assists the U.S. public and private sectors in utilizing technologies developed by federal government research laboratories.

LLNL shared in awards for the development of a new breast cancer diagnostic system, the commercialization of a transmission electron microscope, and the work of an innovation center that assists small firms in

advancing transportation or renewable energy technologies.

A new medical technology, dubbed the "Intelliprobe optical breast cancer diagnostic system," can provide immediate cancer diagnoses and has been developed by scientists from the Russian Federal Nuclear Center, a Livermore-based company, BioTelligent Inc., and LLNL. The "Intelliprobe" system may eliminate or substantially reduce the need for biopsies, tissue sample analysis by doctors, and the time for patients to obtain their medical results.

In clinical tests on 165 volunteer patients in Russia, the system provided immediate diagnoses at accuracy levels that rival surgical biopsies and other conventional procedures in detecting cancerous cells. The system was tested in Nizhny Novgorod Regional

Oncology Center.

Three LLNL employees – Alexander Rubenchik, a physicist; Paris Althouse, the program manager; and Annemarie Meike, a business development executive – worked on the Intelliprobe project. One of the Lab's two partners, the Russian Federal Nuclear Center, is located in Sarov (formerly called Arzamas-16), about 230 miles east of Moscow.

An instrument – called the dynamic transmission electron microscope, or DTEM – that has been developed by LLNL scientists provides never-before-seen details of material processes in 15-nanosecond (billionth of a second) single-shot exposures. This breakthrough allows material samples to be viewed under extreme conditions to see what happens at the micro- and nano-structural level when materials are subjected to extreme

temperatures, high pressures and reactive chemicals.

The DTEM technology, which has been licensed to a Belmont, Calif.-based company, Integrated Dynamic Electron Solutions (IDES), won an FLC award as an example of an "outstanding commercialization success."

In developing the DTEM, LLNL solved the problem of integrating pulsed lasers into a transmission electron microscope and, through the use of a weak lens coupling system, operating the machine with one million times the electron beam current it was originally designed to use.

LLNL condensed matter physicists Thomas LaGrange and Bryan Reed have led the DTEM development efforts. Ida Shum, a business development executive in the Lab's Industrial Partnerships Office, has overseen the commercialization work.

Lab Researchers Receive Grants

The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Office of Science (SC) announced that 46 research grants totaling \$14 million have been awarded as part of the Joint Program in High Energy Density Laboratory Plasmas (HEDLP). Contemporary advances in laser, particle beam and pulsed power technologies have made possible the creation of increasingly high energy density states in the laboratory. Studies of such states of matter are providing in-

sights into fields ranging from astrophysics to fusion energy.

A total of 147 project proposals were received in response to the solicitation. The evaluation process, which included a rigorous peer review by outside experts, led to the selection of 37 projects for funding.

Local projects receiving grants include the following:

Diverging supernova explosion experiments on NIF: Tomasz Plewa, Florida State University (\$135,000)

Electronic structure of warm dense matter via mul-

ticenter Green's function technique: Duane Johnson, AMES National Laboratory (\$192,000) and Brian Wilson, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (\$180,000)

Fast ignition high energy density science: Pravesh Patel, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (\$1,800,000)

Isochoric heating of reduced mass targets: creating star-like plasmas in the laboratory: Kramer Akli, Ohio State University (\$147,000) and Scott Wilks, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (\$92,000)

Measuring magnetic fields in collisionless shock experiments on NIF: Hye-Sook Park, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (\$145,000)

Scaled Eagle Nebula experiments on NIF: Marc Pound, University of Maryland (\$47,000) and Jave Kane, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (\$225,000)

XAFS study of electron-ion equilibration in warm dense matter: Yuan Ping, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (\$300,000)



2013 Tri-Valley calendar to benefit Open Heart Kitchen-Sue Evans Photography has again created a unique desktop calendar which highlights the beauty of the valley and is donating a portion of the proceeds to Open Heart Kitchen. The calendars are available at Studio 7 in Pleasanton and directly through Sue Evans. For further information contact Sue Evans at 925-989-4113 or sueevansphotography@comcast.net.



The Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory presented a drama, "The Mystery of Daniel Hand," Nov. 8-10. The play was directed by John Warren. Pictured in a closing moment in the play are Closing moment in the play. Shannon (Julie De Simone) and Jeremy (Noor Gill).

Photo - John King

Milestones

Community



The Harvest Park cheer team opened up their competition season by qualifying for Jr. Nationals. Sunday, Nov. 11, the Harvest Park cheer team competed in a USA Regional competition at Sonoma State University. They took 2nd place and qualified for USA Jr. Nationals in Disneyland March 1st and 2nd, 2013. Pictured are (back row) coach Jessica Becker, Mckenna Shaffer, Sophia Herzfeldt, Audrey Morse, Loren Curry, Allison Mercer, Julia Oltman, Hannah Macsata, Claire Fuller; (middle row) Kate Cole, Savannah Fried, Jessica Lawer, Kaitlyn Letourneau, Emma Clopton, Allyson Murphy; (front row) Sierra Picone, Emily Mercer, Mckenzie Fields, Dina Parks, Taisa Hrynewycz, Sarah Shackelford, and Kayla Fulmer. Their next competition is December 8th at Merrill West High School in Tracy.

LPFD Battalion Chief Retires

Battalion Chief-Training Officer Chris Johnson of the Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) retired on November 16, 2012. Chris began his fire service career as a firefighter in 1982 with the Orange County Fire Department in Southern California. He joined the Livermore Fire Department in February 1985 and

was promoted to Captain in 1996 and Battalion Chief-Training Officer in 2011.

During his career with LPFD, Chris has been involved in Public Education, Training, and Suppression Committees. He represented the Fire Department as member of the Alameda County Training Officers Association, Bay Area Re-

gional Transit and COL Safety Committees.

Chris and his wife have three children and are the grandparents of two granddaughters and a soon to be born grandson.

The traditional last roll call was held on Friday, November 16 in front of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Headquarters in Pleasanton.

Hope Hospice Names New CEO

Victoria A. Emmons, MPA, CFRE, of Pleasanton has been named chief executive officer of Hope Hospice in Dublin, according to David Karlsson, CPA, president of the Hope Hospice Board of Directors.

Emmons has held leadership positions in the health care field for more than 25 years. Most recently, she served as vice-president of development and communications at Hospice of the Valley in San José and is the former chief executive officer of Community Health Partnership, Inc., a non-

profit consortium of community health centers that serve the ethnically diverse populations of California's Silicon Valley. Emmons was formerly vice president of public affairs & marketing at Regional Medical Center of San Jose, vice-president of corporate & community health at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, and executive director of the Washington Hospital Healthcare Foundation in Fremont.

A Pleasanton resident since 1999, Emmons earned a Master of Public Adminis-

tration degree in Healthcare from the University of San Francisco and served as adjunct faculty at USF and San José State University. Emmons was named Rotarian of the Year at the Rotary Club of Los Altos and won a first place Pinnacle Award for excellence in publications. She is a past winner of the YWCA's TWIN awards for women leaders and the Silver Fox Award for excellence in management and leadership.

For more information, call 1-800-HOSPICE or visit www.hopehospice.com.

Foothill High School - Falcon Royales' Return a Big Success

The Pleasanton Hilton on Saturday, Nov. 3 was the site of Foothill High School's first Falcon Royale gala in over six years. The event raised over \$110,000 for both academic and athletic programs.

The event was co-sponsored by the Foothill Academic & Activities Booster Club and the Foothill Athletic Boosters for the benefit of all Foothill students.

The booster groups held a teaser event, Denim &

Diamonds, in the spring, which proved there was enough support to re-launch the annual Falcon Royale event.

"I just want to say how impressed and appreciative I am regarding (the) efforts toward what I perceive as nothing short of a huge success with Falcon Royale. Pleasanton resident and business owner Joe O'Loughlin said, "It's one thing to 'carry the torch' and continue on a tradition or an-

nual event, but to resurrect/re-invent an enormous fundraising endeavor without a blueprint to follow is quite an undertaking."

The booster groups have raised \$165,000 in 2012 with the help of community sponsors: Heart of the Valley Pediatric Cardiology, Hilton at the Club, E*Trade Financial, Olympic Orthodontics, DeBernardi Development, Better Homes & Gardens Realtor Cindy Gee and Alain Pinel Realtor Julia

Murtagh, plus donations made by local and Bay Area businesses and families.

The 2012 Falcon Royale kicked off with an online auction three weeks before the live event. The live event featured an elegant dinner, casino games and dancing, along with silent and live auction items. Some of the most sought-after items were a package for a VIP courtside experience to this year's Foothill vs. Amador basketball game and desserts

created by Foothill students.

Event co-chairs Donna Truex and Brenda McFarlane were delighted by the support and results.

"I personally had a great time seeing old friends and making new (friends) and generally seeing the smiles on the faces of everyone who took the time to support our kids," parent Katrina Edwards said. "This can be nothing but a huge step in the right direction. Here's to 2013."



The cake, created by an FHS Freshman student, fetched an \$700 during the live auction. Photo courtesy of Katrina Edwards.