

Art, Community, & Education



Find Out What's Happening

Check out the second section

Section II is filled with information about arts, entertainment and special events. There are education stories, a variety of features, and the arts and entertainment and bulletin board list

Dublin Tree Lighting Set For Dec. 1

The annual Dublin Holiday Tree Lighting will be held in the Civic Center on Thursday, December 1, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The City's holiday tree and City Hall will become aglow in red, white, and blue in honor of Dublin's "All-America City" status. Free refreshments will be served. Those attending will sing carols as they await the arrival of a certain gentleman from the North Pole.

The Dublin Unified School District Children's Choir and the Wells Middle School Jazz Combo will perform.

Those attending are asked to bring a donation of a warm coat.

ValleyCare Opens Clinic In Livermore Walmart

Walmart and ValleyCare Medical Foundation, in affiliation with ValleyCare Physicians Associates, announced Livermore's newest location for basic health care services - "The Clinic at Walmart" operated by ValleyCare Medical Foundation. This clinic opened November 21 inside the Walmart, 2700 Las Positas Road.

On opening day Nov. 21, some 45 customers stopped by to check out the facility. "They were thrilled," said ValleyCare Foundation COO Pam Marini. Two patients also stopped in for treatment.

The facility is staffed by a nurse practitioner and an assistant, who can communicate with physicians on duty via computer and a web cam. One big attraction, besides the location that is handy for many residents, is the lower cost to the patient, because of cost savings made available to ValleyCare by Walmart, said Marini.

The clinic will provide affordable access to basic health care services, seven days a week, with no appointment necessary. The walk-in health clinic is the first owned and operated by ValleyCare Medical Foundation, in a Walmart. The clinic will be open for walk-in care Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday noon to 6 p.m.

For busy customers who need care, especially after working hours or on weekends, the clinic will treat common health ailments and offer routine services. These include, but are not limited to, the following: sore throats, sinus infections, upper-respiratory infections, earaches, bladder infections, insect bites and stings, vaccinations, routine physicals, pregnancy testing, suture removal, fever, migraine, heartburn, nausea and vomiting, and seasonal allergies.

"By joining with Walmart to operate 'The Clinic at Walmart,' ValleyCare Medical Foundation is improving access to health care in our community," said ValleyCare Medical Foundation COO Pam Marini. "Our clinic is staffed with licensed health care providers, supervised by physicians in ValleyCare Physicians Associates Medical Group. The clinic will have extended and weekend hours. Our mission is to serve all members of this community, and the clinic is one more way we fulfill our mission." Bruce Shepard, Walmart's (See CLINIC, page 4)

Uncertain Future for High School Athletics

By Patricia Koning

As state funding to K-12 education decreases, school districts can no longer afford to pay for enrichment and extracurricular programs. Parents either bear the financial responsibility to keep those programs alive, or they are eliminated. You could plug almost anything into that formula - music, art, drama, or athletics, which was one of the topics at the Nov. 15 meeting of the Liver-

more Board of Education.

"It's difficult to overstate the importance of extracurricular activities, including athletics, in a comprehensive high school program," said assistant superintendent Chris Van Schaack. "Over the past three years, we've asked parents to contribute more and more. I'm fearful we are pricing families out of athletics. Are we missing opportunities for connections with students?"

The District has steadily reduced the amount of funding for high school athletics over the last few years. Last spring, all funding for high school athletics was eliminated.

In response to the reductions, parents were asked to contribute a "fair share" donation per student per sport. According to Van Schaack, the fair share donation was about \$150 in 2008 but has increased to about \$600

in the current school year. The percentage of parents donating has dropped, from 85% in 2008 to 65% in 2011.

While the fair share donation is voluntary and no student can be turned away for not contributing, Van Schaack expressed concern that there are "students who just aren't coming to the table." The fair share donation, he explained, originally was intended to be on par with fees for community

sports programs like recreational soccer and little league.

The athletics programs at Livermore and Granada High Schools cost approximately \$580,000 at each site. Most of that money goes towards equipment (\$205,000), coaching stipends (\$145,000), and miscellaneous costs, such as trainers, travel, and maintenance (\$155,000). Other costs are trans- (See ATHLETICS, page 4)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The children at Cottage Preschool at Trinity Baptist Church in Livermore hosted a Thanksgiving Feast for their families and friends. The children prepared a special turkey dinner complete with all the trimmings. In the photo, students perform special songs they rehearsed for the occasion.

Livermore Makes Case for BART Extension on County Tax Ballot

Livermore residents and their supporters made their case to include \$400 million for a BART extension and an Isabel Avenue station on the list of projects to be funded in Measure B3.

However, they met opposition from backers of other transportation projects in north and central county at a meeting Nov. 17 in Oakland.

The transportation projects would be funded through Measure B3, a countywide sales tax measure. Currently, hearings are being held to determine which projects would be on the list to receive money.

The Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) is faced with whittling down \$30 billion worth of proposed projects to \$7.7 billion. The election would be held in November 2012.

If voters respond with the necessary two-thirds approval, the current one-half percent sales tax that goes to pay for transportation projects all over Alameda County would be raised to 1 percent.

Instead of sunseting in 2022, as had been the case with the current one-half cent sales tax, the one-cent sales tax would continue in perpetuity. It would fund the \$7.7 billion of projects that will be selected to be placed on the ballot early enough next year to meet the November deadline.

A coalition of groups based mainly in Oakland signed a letter by Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, who represents Berkeley and parts of Oakland, supporting a four-page "Community Vision Platform."

The Platform calls for money for AC Transit service restoration, repairs on the BART tunnel, bicycle/pedestrian project and program funding, money for local roads, and an eco-pass. The transit pass would be free to all middle school and high school students in the county.

The Platform wants money for its projects, and specifically asks ACTC to keep the Livermore BART extension and the Highway 84 widening out of the planned projects on the ballot. The coalition's document calls the extension a "low benefit/high costs massive transit project."

Dawn Argula, Chief of Staff, Operations to Supervisor Haggerty, pointed out that 60 percent of the money is going to bike and pedestrian programs, AC Transit and paratransit; 40 percent to capital projects. BART to Liver-

(See BART, page 4)

Valley Panel Looks at Health Care Law

How successful California's new Health Insurance Exchange will be depends on how many use it, said Brent Barnhart, director of the state Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC).

Barnhart addressed a Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce

luncheon Nov. 16. Three local panelists contributing knowledge about the Valley health care situation.

The three panelists were Kaiser Permanente representative Ron Wetter, ValleyCare Health System president/CEO Marcy

Feit, and Sue Compton, CEO of AXIS Community Health.

Starting in 2014, the California Health Benefit Exchange is projected to make it easier for individuals and small businesses to compare plans and buy health insurance on the private market.

Barnhart pointed out that the Health Exchange won't eliminate private coverage. However, he expects, "It will be refreshing, because everyone will have choices."

Those choices will have an (See HEALTHCARE, page 5)

New Lab Program Aimed at Speeding Up Technology Transfer

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's history is steeped in innovation.

The Lab's Industrial Partnership Office is launching a new program intended to meet the rapidly rising number of requests for nondisclosure and material transfer agreements, letters of support, cooperative research and development agreements and license agreements. The program intends to accelerate the rate of technology transfer out of the Lab and into business. The Lab is partnering with the Keiretsu Forum, the world's largest network of angel capital investors in the world, to recruit investors who want to return to their roots as successful entrepreneurs and explore technologies from the National Laboratory.

A press release from the Department of Energy notes that for 60 years, the U.S. government, and in turn the public, have benefited from breakthrough technologies that have sprung from the Lab's fundamental research. Tapping the entrepreneurial spirit of its surroundings, the Lab has leveraged the research of some of

the world's most talented scientists and engineers and returned to the Valley a legacy of intellectual property - a legacy that includes the launch of hundreds of successful companies.

During just the past 20 years, five entrepreneurs from the Lab have founded four companies with a current market capitalization of \$8.4 billion: Cadence Design, Rambus, Digital Globe and Cepheid. From sub-micron IC design (in essence, designing very, very tiny circuits) to DNA sequencing, the Lab's research has contributed to the technology behind smartphones and tablet computers, new generations of pharmaceuticals and a brand new perspective on how we see our own planet via the Google Earth application.

"Any time is the right time for business to benefit from government-funded work," said Erik Stenehjem, who leads LLNL's Industrial Partnership Office. "But the current economy demands that we must move ideas out of government labs and into the hands of entrepreneurs who (See TECHNOLOGY, page 5)

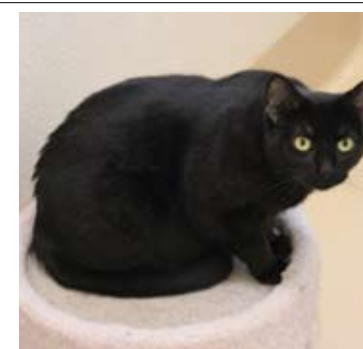


Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Palm Event Center in Pleasanton was transformed into a Christmas wonderland during the ValleyCare Foundation's annual Christmas Tree Lane. Proceeds from the event, held last weekend, benefit The Breast Cancer Patient Navigator Program and ValleyCare Emergency Room Expansion.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Macadamia Nuts, a 2 year old female kitty eager for her forever home after living at VHS for over six months. Don't be so suspicious; black cats are not spooky! Often times, they are the best cats out there. Not only are they cuddly and very attractive little kitties, they are also usually always the last to find homes in shelters. We need to make an effort to start saving the lives of these beautiful felines. Join us on Black Friday 11/25 for Black Cat Friday from 1-4PM at Valley Humane Society for discounted animal adoptions. To learn more, call 925-426-8656 or visit the website www.valleyhumane.org. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Hours are Tues.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Photo courtesy of Trina Cort

Photos - Doug Jorgensen
 Last Saturday, Pleasanton and Livermore hosted special events to kick-off the holiday shopping season. The Earlier Than the Bird was held in both cities. Shoppers were dressed in pajamas as they checked out the decoration and gift ideas at downtown stores. At the Main Street Christmas Store in Livermore (lower left) are Cynthia Long and Terry Manica-Keller. In Pleasanton (lower right) are Pamela Boggs, Cynthia Nielsen, and Patty Takens. In the evening, Pleasanton's annual Magical Holiday Evening included entertainment, children's activities, holiday treats and Santa and his helpers. Downtown windows were dressed up for the holidays. In the photo, The Wine Steward (upper right) featured a small village, which drew the attention of many.



Long-range Water Adequacy Biggest Concern

The future supply of water remains the biggest concern of the four water retailers in the Valley, according to an annual report from the Tri-Valley Water Retailers (TVWR).

Livermore, Pleasanton, DSRSD, and California Water Service are the retailers.

Pleasanton councilman Matt Sullivan, one of the city's two delegates to TVWR, said that the supply forecast by water wholesaler Zone 7 Water Agency "is probably pretty good," although there were no details in the report.

However, beyond 20-plus years, "the outlook is questionable," said Sullivan.

The current environmental planning uncertainties around the Delta, which is the conduit for most of the water that Zone 7 sells to the retailers, clouds the horizon of predictability.

There has been a cutback in water to the Valley since 2006, which was the last time the Valley received 100 percent of its allocation from the State Water Project. Even in a good water year, such as 2011, with a big Sierra snowpack, the state provided Zone 7 only 80 percent of its normal allocation.

A court ruling after 2006 about retaining enough fresh water in the Delta to help fish and plant life resulted in a lower level of reliability on obtaining water from the Delta.

With more population growth coming to the Valley Zone 7's

proposed solutions to reliability may not be 100 percent workable, said Sullivan.

One of the proposed solutions — an East County desalination project located on the Carquinez Strait — may not be a solution as much as hoped, because of the high capital and energy costs involved.

Another solution involves use of more recycled waste water. Again, initial costs are high, so much will depend on a finance plan.

What concerns Sullivan most is that with Pleasanton possibly growing by 3000 more units, with 2000 of them the result of a lawsuit settlement, the city will have to factor in how much more water the city will need to handle the added population. In turn, that means Zone 7 will have to include the numbers in its estimates about water need.

"The TVWR report doesn't even bring growth into the equation," said Sullivan. However, the Pleasanton council is aware of the growth issue and plans to include a discussion of it at a meeting soon, he said.

Zone 7 does plan out five years, obtaining new growth figures each year from the cities. Also, the Zone conducted an in-depth report about the long-range availability of water, which contributed data to the TVWR report. Zone 7 also recognizes that in terms of long-range planning, there are variables that must be taken into account.

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VALLEY ROUNDUP

Election is Final

The results of the Nov. 8 election in Livermore are now official. The Alameda County Registrar of Voters issued the certified results last week.

The new mayor, John Marchand, and new councilmembers, Laureen Turner and Stewart Gary, will be sworn in at the next city council meeting on Monday, Nov. 28.

The final totals for mayor are John Marchand, 7100; Barbara Hickman, 6798; and Minuete McKernan, 912. Council vote counts are Laureen Turner, 7807; Stewart Gary, 7396; Bobby Dale Turner, 6493; and Marshall Kamena, 6204.

The tally shows that 32.77 (14,986) percent of Livermore's 45,727 registered voters cast ballots. In the race for council, 1997 people selected only one candidate.

Easement Acreage Increases

The Tri-Valley Conservancy (TVC) has accepted two conservation easements on about 60 acres of vineyards owned by the Wentz Family Estates. Today there are over 5,000 acres of vineyards with more than 50 percent preserved because of agreements between landowners and TVC.

The additional acres bring the total preserved in the South Livermore Valley Area Plan to 4,309 acres, which includes other agricultural uses and open space.

"This is a great example of how landowners and the TVC can partner to support the continued success of the South Livermore Plan. As landowners for over 128 years, the preservation of the valley and the goals of the plan are extremely important to the Wentz family," said Kevin Zollinger, executive vice president at Wentz.

Free Rides on Wheels

Wheels is offering free bus rides home when boarding at Hacienda Crossings and Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Starting the Day after Thanksgiving until Christmas Day, passengers board for free ev-

eryday at Hacienda Crossings in Dublin and on Saturdays and Sundays at Stoneridge Shopping Center in Pleasanton.

Free rides are courtesy of promotion partners, Hacienda Crossings and Stoneridge Shopping Center.

For more information on the Wheels 2011 Holiday Ride Home Free promotion, bus schedules and bus stop locations, call Wheels Customer Service at (925) 455-7500 or visit us online at www.wheelsbus.com.

Livermore Survey Underway

The City of Livermore is conducting citywide research to measure satisfaction with the Livermore community and municipal government. Distribution of the National Citizen Survey began this week with the mailing of 1,200 surveys to randomly selected households. The City typically distributes the citizen survey to residents to gather information about community livability indicators before development of its two-year budget. This will be the fifth time since 2004 the City has participated in the National Citizen Survey™.

Feedback obtained will be used to set benchmarks for measuring and tracking the quality of level of services provided to residents. Community feedback will assist in program planning, goal setting, budgeting and performance measurement. It will also help the City Council make decisions that affect the community.

"Resident input on quality of life helps the City provide the best level of service to the community," said Mayor Marshall Kamena. "The survey takes only minutes to complete but greatly helps the City Council understand the needs of this community."

The survey was developed by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and The National Research Center, through a low-cost resident survey service for local governments.

For more information about the citizen survey, please call 925-960-4000.



Santa Claus took time out from his busy season to recognize volunteers who help to stage the annual Pleasanton Hometown Holiday parade and tree lighting. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman thanked him, suggesting that he might have more important business to take care of such things as making toys and lists of good little girls and boys. (Photo Ken Mano)

Volunteers Make Hometown Holiday Celebration a Success

The City of Pleasanton will host the Annual Hometown Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 3, 2011 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. along Main Street in downtown Pleasanton. The centerpiece of this free event is a festive 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 leading the way. 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 dog clubs, and much more.

Main Street will close to vehicular traffic at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 3.

The Hometown Holiday pro-

gram 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 3. The Cancellation Information Phone Line is (925) 931-5352.

Report Finds No Negative Environmental Impacts from Operations at Lab

Environmental monitoring of operations at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 2010 found no adverse impact to public health or the environment from Laboratory operations. The findings are presented in the Laboratory's Sitewide Annual Environmental Report 2010.

The report assesses the impact of LLNL operations on public health and the environment, summarizes the Lab's regulatory compliance with environmental standards and requirements, describes LLNL's environmental protection and remediation

programs, and records results of environmental monitoring for the main Laboratory site, as well as for Site 300, the Laboratory's experimental test facility near Tracy, Calif.

In addition, the report documents the actions the Laboratory has taken to comply with federal, state and local environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and National Environmental Policy Act, among others.

The following is a summary of findings in Lawrence Livermore

National Laboratory's Environmental Report 2010. The complete report may be accessed on the Web at <https://saer.llnl.gov/>. It also is available in the environmental sections of the Livermore and Tracy public libraries.

• Environmental management - In 2010, the Laboratory was certified to the ISO 14001:2004 standard. This standard specifies requirements for an environmental management system enabling an organization to develop and implement a policy and objectives that take into account legal requirements and other require-

ments.

- Air monitoring - Air at the Laboratory and throughout the Livermore Valley and in the Tracy area is monitored by some 70 instruments at 38 separate locations. In 2010, radionuclide and beryllium concentrations in air were well below the levels that cause concern for the environment or public health.
- Water monitoring/groundwater remediation - Data show LLNL has good control of its discharges to the sanitary sewer, and the measurements of discharges to surface water indicate that

LLNL's best management practices for storm water pollution prevention are effective. At both the Livermore site and at Site 300 remediation activities continued to remove contaminants from groundwater and soil vapor that resulted from past operations.

• Terrestrial radiological monitoring - The impact of LLNL operations on surface soil in 2010 was insignificant.

• Biota - The Laboratory studies, preserves and attempts to improve the habitat of five animal and plant species at Site 300 that

are covered by the federal or California Endangered Species Acts, as well as species that are rare and otherwise of special interest. The Laboratory meets the requirements of federal and state regulatory acts covering endangered or sensitive natural resources.

• Radiological dose - Annual radiological doses from emissions at the Livermore site and at Site 300 in 2010 were found to be well below the regulatory limit for radiation protection of the public.

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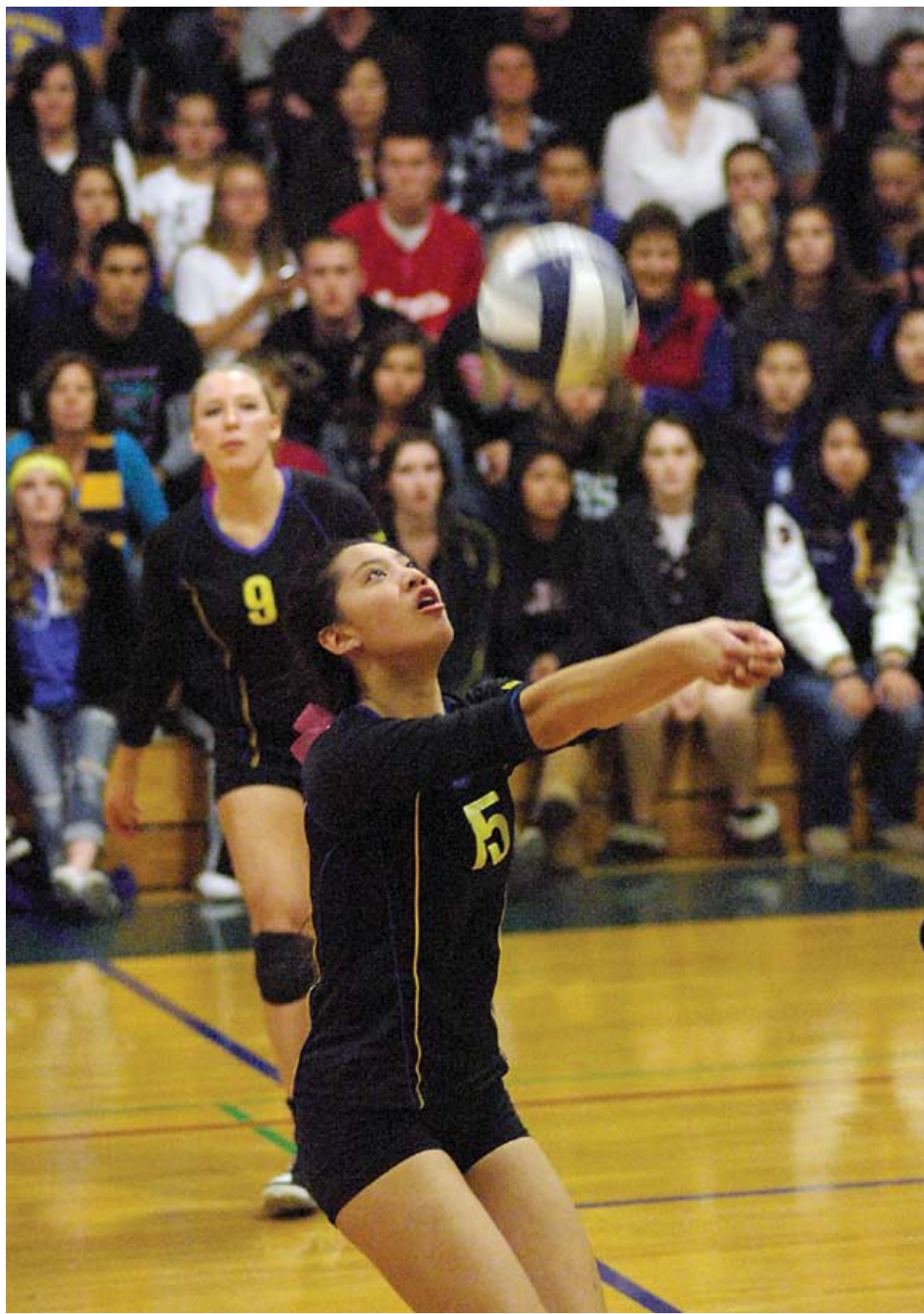


Photo - Doug Jorgensen

San Ramon Valley High's girls volleyball team upset top seeded Foothill High, 3 to 1, to win the North Coast Section Division I volleyball title. Foothill won the first game, 25 to 13; San Ramon swept the next three, 25 to 19, 25 to 18, and 25 to 17. San Ramon heads to the state semi-finals on Nov. 29. The state championship will be played on Dec. 3. Pictured in action are Foothill players Amanda Tuazon (15) and Jennifer Corbin (9).

LPC Student Athletes

Eight Las Positas College Men's Soccer Team players won awards at the recent California Community College Athletic Association Coast Conference.

"This year, our Las Positas Men's Hawks had a great time and focused on development, improvement, making new friends and experiencing soccer at the college level," said Las Positas College Men's Soccer Head Coach Larry Aguiar. "We create a professional training atmosphere and the student athletes appreciate this."

Following are the student athletes who were recognized with Conference Players Awards:

- First Team All Coast Conference:
 - Andres Plascencia, Midfielder Utility Player (all positions), of Oakland; Bishop O'Dowd High School graduate.
 - Silvano Lopez, Center Supporting Back, of Livermore; Granada High School graduate.
- Second Team All Coast Conference:
 - Christian Gonzalez, Center Midfielder, of Livermore; Livermore High School graduate.
 - Josue Macias, Midfielder and Forward, of Brentwood; Liberty High School graduate.
- Honorable Mention:
 - Gabriel Rissato, Midfielder, International Student from Brazil.
 - Jon Hoeksema, Midfielder, of Pleasanton; Amador High School graduate.
 - Kyle Foreman, Right Supporting Back, of Turlock; Turlock High School graduate.
 - Alessandro Tili, Goalkeeper, of Castro Valley; Valley High School graduate.

Las Positas College offers eight inter-collegiate team sports: men's and women's soccer, cross country, basketball, and swimming and diving. Its state-of-the-art facilities include a gymnasium, an all-weather turf field, an all-weather track and multi-use field, and an aquatic center. For more information about the athletic program and sports events, please call (925) 424-1290 or visit the website at www.laspositascollege.edu/athletics.

Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

Pleasanton Ballistic

Pleasanton Ballistic United Soccer Club 99 Premier hosted Tri-Valley Bayern Sunday in the final game of the season for the two NorCal Gold under 13 soccer teams. Four 2nd half goals pushed Ballistic 99 Premier past Bayern. Tri-Valley had clinched the league a week prior and brought an untarnished 8-0 record into the game. Ballistic on the other hand entered the match between the two top teams in the league with a record of 6 wins, 1 loss, and 1 tie. Ballistic was focused and determined to play a great game.

Ballistic took the opening kickoff and quickly created two scoring chances in the opening minutes that were turned aside by fine saves from Bayern's keeper. Shortly after the two quick shots on goal Tri-Valley was able to penetrate down the left flank and get off a cross to the far post that was brilliantly buried for an early 1-0 lead. Pleasanton remained composed as the team had faced this situation before. The half ended with Ballistic having nothing to show for their 16 shots while Tri-Valley scored 1 goal on two shots.

In the second half, Ballistic quickly picked up where they left off, keeping possession and creating scoring opportunities. In the 3rd minute Ballistic put together a nice sequence of passes initiated by Garrett Howell. Howell dropped the ball for outside back Nick Carreon who then sent a one-time pass into the midfield for Ryan Murray. Murray took two quick touches sending a diagonal ball to winger Bryce Taylor who then executed a wonderful "give and go" with Youki Chiba. Facing a one on one with the Bayern keeper Taylor finished with one touch to the far post tying the game.

Taylor got right back to work 1 minute later as the winger pressured his defender and stripped him of the ball. Taylor then sent a cross into the box for striker Blake Tucker. Tucker dribbled across the box sending a pass to midfielder Garrett Howell that the Captain easily finished from 12 yards out for a 2-1 lead.

In the 5th minute of the second half Ballistic struck again as midfielder Jared Wilson's pressure forced a turnover to Taylor. Taylor quickly sent a through ball for Tucker who then beat the Bayern keeper in a 1 v 1.

The 3 goals in the first 6 minutes of the half had Ballistic flying high. Ballistic closed the scoring with Garrett Howell's 55th minute corner kick that Nick Carreon "dummied" at the near post allowing the ball to sneak past several Bayern players and the surprised keeper into the net.

The unsung heroes of the game once again are the Ballistic defenders and holding midfielders. Ryan Murray, Jared Wilson, Nick Carreon, Daniel Ferguson, Jacob Guzman, Jacob Dremalas, and Kyle McClanahan combined with keeper Blake Stanford to limit Tri Valley to 4 total shots in the game.

With the win Ballistic finishes league in 2nd place with a record of 7 wins, 1 loss, 1 tie. The teams 49 goals scored is tops in the league.

BUSC Division 4:
The BUSC U-12 Rampage beat the Ravens 3-1 to win the D4 Division Championship. Danny Lopez led off the scoring with a beautiful cross, and followed that goal with two additional rockets to the net. Anthony Campa also had an amazing game and is credited with scoring the Rampage's two additional goals. The entire team played very well, with Arnab Bhalla, Josh Ose, Brandon Brown and Brady Scanlon contributing with many great passes and attempted shots on the forward line. The midfield was anchored by Akash Patel, fondly known as "Da Wall". His strong play resulted in many turnovers, and together with aggressive play from Ian Rondoni, Luke Carter, Adam Chase, Jake Gebb, Mark Vera and Mustafa Afzal, the halfbacks were an impenetrable line. The defense, led by Jake Bell, Luke Bell and Robin Sequiera, limited the Ravens shots on goal. Keeping the Ravens at bay with many graceful goal saves were goalies, Mark Vera and Josh Ose.

Pleasanton Rage

The Pleasanton Rage U12 Flight Her-ricanes completed their amazing season by winning the inaugural Mission Valley United Recreation Super Cup tournament.

The Her-ricanes opened up play on Saturday by defeating a previously undefeated Castro Valley Goals R Us, 3 - 1. Goals R Us opened the scoring on an unfortunate deflection off a Her-ricane defender in the first half to take a 1 - 0 lead. The Her-ricanes came roaring back in the second half on a power shot by Catherine Cho. Several minutes later, Mollie McKay chose an opportune time to score her first goal of the season and put the Her-ricanes up for good, 2 - 1. The defense, led by Alyssa Wu, Emma Tszoo, and Marissa Lawrence shut down Castro Valley in the second half. Catherine scored late to seal the first win of the tournament.

The second game of the day pitted the Her-ricanes against the Eclipse. The Her-ricanes and the Eclipse battled to a scoreless first half, 0 - 0. The strong midfield play of Summer Reeves, Allison DeFazio, and Kristen Kye pinned the Eclipse in their defensive end during the first half. The Her-ricanes scored on a direct kick just outside the box by Catherine. Five minutes later, Catherine scored again on a direct kick. The Her-ricanes showed their defensive domination led by Gianna Lyng and Kyra Shah. A break away goal from Jenna Brown secured a 3 - 0 victory.

Sunday, the Her-ricanes wrapped up round robin play against an undefeated Fireballs. The Fireballs matched the Her-ricanes speed and the first half ended 0 - 0. Audrey Emmett and Megan Gee pestered the Fireball defense and provided great chances which resulted in several near goal opportunities. The second half was a tense, see-saw battle. The game ended in a 0 - 0 tie and the Her-ricanes moved to the championship game based on a tie-breaking greater



The Foothill High School varsity girls tennis team wrapped up a victorious season. Led by head coach Kendra Zierau and assistant coach Yvonne Hoppe, the varsity girls tennis team won this year's East Bay Athletic League championship title after playing 14 league matches. They went on to compete in the North Coast Section, finishing in the semi-finals after playing against powerhouses in Northern California. During the season, the team also participated in the Logan High School Tennis Tournament and took home the first place title. Team members are Navdeep Chahal, Jessica Chen, Leeane Chen, Shivani Doraiswami, Kayla Haykin, Taylor Hoppe, Camille Lusher, Melissa Muller, Kirtana Nadella, Ellen Ouyang, Kelsey Ouyang, Terri Scott, Alison Wong, Alicia Yang; Coaches Kendra Zierau and Yvonne Hoppe.



California Gymnastics Academy's Level 4 pictured are (left to right, starting with back row) Julia Humphrey, Anna Foehner, Delaney Watkins, Karinna Stevenson, Sydney Sullivan, Callie Renner and Carly Oniki. Photo by Martin Delfino

What Our Readers Are Saying...



My wife Sue and I have been in Pleasanton since 1976 and have been receiving The Independent all those years. It has always done an excellent job of covering subjects and events in the Tri-Valley communities.

I also look forward to The Independent's new online event calendars, which are additional ways The Independent reaches out to this community. In fact, I will try to be sure the meetings and fundraisers of organizations I am involved with are on the Community Events calendar each week.

Tom Fox

Broker Associate with Keller-Williams TriValley Realty, current President of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton, Board of Directors of Rotaplast International, Board of Directors of Children's Emergency Food Bank in Dublin.

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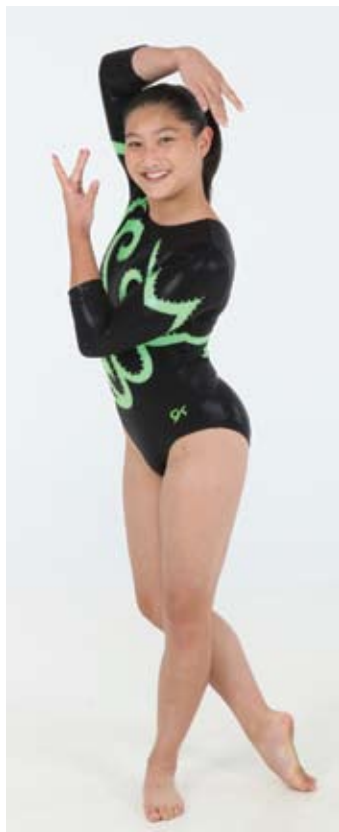
SPORTS NOTES



The West Coast Wildfire U12 girls wrapped the Norcal league season with a 2-1 win over the Burlingame Flash. Defender Amanda Zeck took top honors in the game by dominating on the left with several steals, loose ball wins, shots on goal, and perfectly placed serves to the front line. Goals were scored by mid-fielder Davi Porter and forward Sydney Schultz. Pictured is Amanda Zeck in full command of the backfield.



Marissa Unpingco, of Edge Gymnastics Training Center in Dublin, has been awarded a full athletic scholarship for gymnastics to San Jose State University. She signed her letter of intent on Wednesday, November 9. She will be a Freshman at San Jose State in Fall, 2012. Marissa is a Level 10 Regional All-around Champion, and two-time State All-Around Champion. In addition she has won multiple State and Regional titles on Vault, Uneven Bars, Balance Beam, and Floor Exercise, with six titles State and Regional titles on bars alone. She trains at Edge Gymnastics Training Center in Dublin.



Serena Leong, of Edge Gymnastics Training Center in Dublin, won a full athletic scholarship for gymnastics to UC Berkeley. She signed her letter of intent on Wednesday, November 9. She will be a Freshman at Berkeley in Fall, 2012. Along with being a three-time Level 10 National Qualifier and Western National Beam Champion, she excels academically at Chinese Christian High School in Alameda. Serena, from San Ramon, has earned numerous titles through her Junior Olympic career, including Level 7 and 8 State All-Around Champion, Level 9 Western National Beam Champion, Level 10 State Floor Champion. She is also a Level 10 Region One Team Member.



Livermore Smoke 14A Fall Softball Team finished in first place with a 4 and 1 record in the final tournament of their season. Each of the girls contributed over the weekend to make it to the final championship game on Sunday. The final game was won 2-0, with Sam Whalen pitching the complete game. Team includes: Taylor Cole, Kiara Arias, Missy Nunes, Ashley Balestreri, Savannah Ruiz, Jackie Granados, Sam Whalen, Savannah Vasquez, Courtney Ganguet, Sue Vi, Alex Villazon and Lily Rebello. Coaches Gary Vignola, Andrew Sprecher, Toff Garcia and Randy Villazon.



Alejandro Tellez took 1st place at the second annual community-wide "Race To The Flagpole" through downtown Livermore on Nov. 12. Alejandro is an 8th grader at Junction K-8th School, Livermore.

event, entrants can either download this application and send in with money or online, at Active.com

LNLL Registration

Livermore National Little is still accepting early bird registration until Nov. 30, 2011 please visit the website www.eteamz.com/lnll for details. LNLL will have a final walk in registration on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at Mt. Mike's Pizza, 1304 First St., Livermore, from 6:30-8:30pm. Please provide copy of birth cert & current proof of residency.

UTEP Signing

2010 Granada High School graduate Alanna Leasau has signed with the University of Texas El Paso, where she will play Division-1 softball.

Leasau played a major role in helping Tallahassee to the NJCAA Region 8B Championship and a third-place finish at the NJCAA Division I Softball Tournament in 2011.

Leasau, the team's third baseman, was a first-team All-Panhandle Conference selection in 2011 after batting .364 with ten home runs and 27 RBIs. Her 2011 postseason was capped by an all-tournament performance at the NJCAA Tournament. In Tallahassee's six games in St. George, Utah, she batted .444 (8-for-18) with two home runs and four RBIs.

Leasau is the third Tallahassee player to sign with UTEP in the past four years. Shea Lodes signed with the Miners in 2007 and Becky Smith inked with the school a year later.

"UTEP is a very family-oriented school and I loved the community," said Leasau. "The team is very close knit and the coaches work hard to keep the players on track ac-

demically, and that's something I wanted both on and off the field."

Basketball Clinic

Pro Shot National touring basketball clinic is coming to Dublin on December 3

Making his first appearance in Dublin will be "Shot Doctor" Paul Hoover, creator of the Pro Shot Shooting System. Participants will learn the Shooting Release of MJ and Kobe; the shooting secrets that only the best NBA players possess; develop unstoppable confidence and gain "the edge" over any defender; become the quickest shooter in your league or city; and understand the mindset of what it takes to become a consistent shooter.

Third to 5th grades, 9 a.m. to noon, 6th to 8th grades, 1 to 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 3, Stager Community Gymnasium; \$50 residents, \$60 nonresidents. www.dublin.ca.gov.

Lacrosse Registration Update

Join the fastest growing sport in North America. There are still a few player spots left for the Livermore Phantom Lacrosse Spring 2012 season. Limited spots are available for the U9 boys' team and the U13 - U15 girls' teams. Please see www.phantomlacrosse.org for details. The season runs mid-January through May. Register on-line at www.phantomlacrosse.org.

Bocce Kits for Rent

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is now making bocce ball kits available for rent to the public.

Bocce ball kits can be checked out for a week at a time from the Robert Livermore



Livermore Fusion Soccer Club Team Heat took first place in the U12 Boys Recreation Plus Division. The Heat team members are (first row from left) Jason Wigginton, William Eads, Alex Frazier, Nate Frazier, Miles Gomez, Darren O'Neill, Cameron Aslin, Ethan Compton; (middle row from left) Oscar Franco, Anthony Kumar, Nick Lloyd, Mark Silverthorn, Samiron Bora, Weston Everett; not pictured Ben Knuth; (back row from left) Coaches Scott Silverthorn, Jugma Bora, and Gary Aslin.



West Coast U11 Girls and Tri-Valley U11 Girls surround food donations displaying community support and team spirit. West Coast Soccer reached out to local teams and asked for support for their food drive for Sheppards Gate. Tri-Valley responded with great enthusiasm and generous contributions. West Coast Soccer would also like to thank U-16 Fusion Girls for their contribution. All Tri-Valley players played wearing shirts marked with #21 and "Breezy" to express support for team mate Breezy who is undergoing cancer treatment.



West Coast Wild draws many fans including some who go to the extreme to show their support.

Community Center. The kits are available at the front counter from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Rental for one week is \$20, plus a \$40 refundable deposit by credit card or cash - a total of \$60. The \$40 deposit is refundable if equipment is returned in good condition. Kits are rented on a first-come, first-served basis;

reservations are not available in advance. Rental of a bocce ball kit does not guarantee a bocce ball court will be available.

The Robert Livermore Community Center is located at 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Bothwell Park is located at 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. For more information, call 925-373-5700.

Bring Toys for Tots Donations to Pleasanton Swim Meet

The City of Pleasanton's Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center will be the host site for a large swim meet in the coming weeks. The Pleasanton Seahawks Swim team will host an age group swim meet on Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11. New, unwrapped toys will be collected at the meet for the annual Toys for Tots program.

The meet is expected to draw about 1,200 swimmers plus their families who will begin to arrive

each morning at 7:00 a.m., with competition beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meet will continue each day until approximately 6:30 p.m.

The City of Pleasanton has been working closely with the Seahawks to develop plans for a both a successful competition and reduced impact on the neighborhoods surrounding the Aquatic Center, located at 4455 Black Avenue near Santa Rita Road. Congested traffic conditions are

anticipated on Santa Rita Road and Black Avenue each morning as the swimmers begin to arrive for the day's competition.

Accordingly, City staff has developed a traffic flow system for the Aquatic Center to facilitate competitor drop-off, and participants have been notified of pre-designated parking locations that would reduce the impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods. The Gingerbread Preschool, Alisal Elementary School, and Amador

Valley High School parking lots will be used as overflow parking. Swim meet parking is prohibited in any of the business lots on the south side of Black Avenue and in the Amador Shopping Center parking lot. For more information, please contact Aquatics Supervisor Michelle Stearns at (925) 931-3423.

LIVERMORE CINEMAS		2490 FIRST STREET 443-SHOW	
	Matinees Fri-Sun	Daily	
HUGO 3D (PG) DLP THX	10:20	1:05	4:00 6:50 9:30
THE MUPPETS (PG) DLP	10:30	11:35	1:00 2:05 3:35 4:35 6:10 7:05 8:40 9:40
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS 3D (PG) DLP THX	11:00	1:20	3:50 6:45 9:20
ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (PG) DLP		12:00	2:30
TOWER HEIST (PG13) DLP		6:55	9:25
BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (PG13) DLP	10:15	12:15	1:15 3:15 4:15 6:15 7:15 9:15 10:00
HAPPY FEET TWO 3D (PG) DLP		11:30	1:50 4:10 6:45 9:10
HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) DLP	10:40	1:10	3:40 6:05 8:30
JACK AND JILL (PG) DLP		12:10	2:30 4:50 7:10 9:20
PUSS IN BOOTS (PG) DLP		11:45	2:10 4:25 6:40 9:05
J. EDGAR (R) DLP		12:25	3:30 6:35 9:35
IMMORTALS (R) DLP	10:10	12:50	4:10 7:00 9:40

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MONEYBALL FRI-SUN: 3:45 8:55
PLEASE CALL FOR MON-THURS TIMES

Workshop Offered to Nonprofit Organizations

The Las Positas College Foundation Center Cooperative Collection will host a free workshop for nonprofit organizations, "Proposal Budgeting Basics," on Friday, Dec. 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Building 2400, Room 2416.

Registration is required by phone at (925) 424-1355 or online at <http://grantspace.org/Classroom/Training-Calendar/San-Francisco/Proposal-Budgeting-Basics-2011-12-09-Livermore-CA>.

The workshop will be led by Scott Ullman of the San Francisco Foundation Center. The session provides an overview of the process of strategically thinking through the budget line items to

be included in a grant proposal. The workshop is designed for organizations considering or currently seeking grants from foundations.

The following learning outcomes will be accomplished during the workshop:

- How to determine reasonable expenditures
- What to include under the personnel section and how to calculate it
- What types of expenses are considered overhead
- Determining the level of detail to include for non-personnel expenses
- Financial documents to include in the proposal package

Through the Foundation Center of New York's Cooperating Collection designation, Las Positas College has expanded its services to the community. Located in the Learning Resource Center on the Livermore campus, the Las Positas College Cooperative Collection Center is available to nonprofit organizations and other grant seekers in the Tri-Valley area looking for funding sources.

For additional information, contact Vicki Shipman at (925) 424-1355.

Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

Asante Africa Foundation's Escape to Zanzibar a Success

Guests were greeted at the door with rich African music and dance as Asante Africa Foundation's biggest night of the year began on Saturday, November 12th. The sold out event boasted an evening filled with laughter, dance, music, traditional African fare and incredible generosity.

The evening included the presentation of the first "Power of WE" award to Orion Alternative School, located in Redwood City, CA. In April 2011, the students of Orion held a Walk-A-Thon to raise funds for desks at one of our partnering schools in Kenya. Students raised \$3500 during their Walk-A-Thon, enough to provide approximately 100 desks for students at Montonyak Primary School.

Escape to Zanzibar was a memorable and successful event for all in attendance and more importantly for the future of East African students.

Asante Africa Foundation envisions African communities and families in which all children have the opportunity to receive quality education to illuminate their paths toward brighter futures. Asante Africa Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization with global headquarters in the U.S.A. (1334 Carlton Place, Livermore, CA 94550). Asante Africa Foundation's mission is to provide quality education through three guiding avenues of impact: Create safe and healthy learning environments, strengthen teach-

ing quality and enhance learning, and provide education through merit-based scholarships.

Since its inception in 2006, Asante Africa Foundation has stewarded the completion of fifty projects, provided thousands of valuable teaching supplies and resources to classrooms, and awarded hundreds of scholarships. Asante Africa Foundation's current partnerships with forty-one schools and collaborations with twenty-two villages have flourished, directly impacting almost 30,000 children in Tanzania and Kenya.

To learn more about Asante Africa Foundation or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit us at www.asanteafrica.org

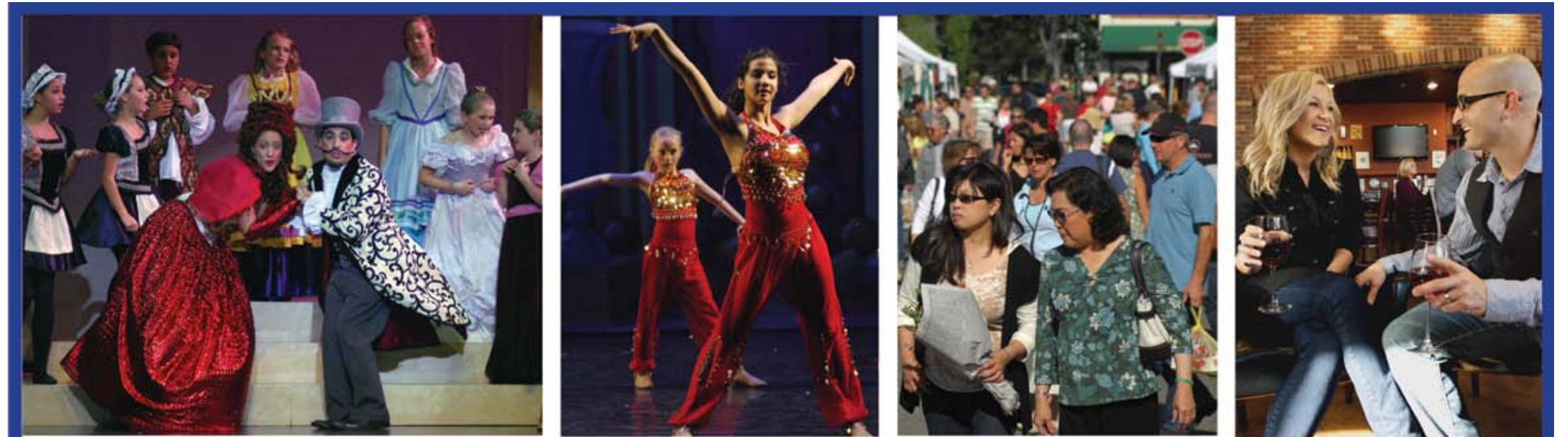


Photo - Doug Jorgensen

The Amador Valley High School marching band provided the music at the grand opening of the new Safeway store in the Gateway Center Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton.



Safeway officials including Northern California Division President Karl Schroeder as well as Chairman, President and CEO Steve Burd and Executive Vice President Larree Renda presented a \$20,000 check to Open Heart Kitchen Executive Director Linda McKeever (second from left) at the November 18 Grand Opening of Safeway's new Lifestyle store in Pleasanton.



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 457434
The following person(s) doing business as: Aahmes Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore, CA 94551, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Temple Corporation, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore, CA 94551
This business is conducted by a Corporation
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 8/1/11.
Signature of Registrants: /s/ Wayne Green, Gen. Partner/Secretary
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 19, 2011. Expires October 19, 2016.
The Independent Legal No. 3108. Published November 10, 17, 24, December 1, 2011.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 458024
The following person(s) doing business as: (1)Prie Winery (2)Prie Cellars (3)Prie Vineyards, 3022 Verdala Dr, Livermore, CA 94550, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): One Varia LLC, 3022 Verdala Dr, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by a Limited liability company
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
Signature of Registrants: /s/ Lisa Gash, Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on November 4, 2011. Expires November 4, 2016.
The Independent Legal No. 3110. Published November 10, 17, 24, December 1, 2011.
SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NO. 662411
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDO):

GADIEL SERRANO, and DOES 1 through 20
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): PHILIP BRIGGS
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in a proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse

nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelp-california.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the

court will dismiss the case. **¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tien 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en lacorte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte

que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre

cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): **STANISLAUS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 801 10th Street, 4th Floor Modesto, California 95354**
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): **GARY C. NELSON, ESQ. #122821 LAW OFFICE OF GARY C. NELSON 421 13th Street Modesto, CA 95354**

(209)524-9200 (209)524-9300 fax
DATE: (Fecha): FEB 17, 2011
Clerk (Secretario) Karime J. Martinez
By /s/: Deputy (Adjunto) Karime J. Martinez
The Independent Legal No. 3112. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 457622-23
The following person(s) doing business as: (1)Talk of the Town (2)Talk of the Town Hair Design, 43353 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): (1)Bonnie K. Lewis (2)Robert L. Lewis, 2384 Bettina St, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by a Husband and wife
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/22/93.

Signature of Registrants: /s/ Bonnie K. Lewis; Robert L. Lewis
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 25, 2011. Expires October 25, 2016.
The Independent Legal No. 3113. Published November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 2011.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 457641
The following person(s) doing business as: Bits and Pieces, 43353 Mission Blvd, Fremont, CA 94539, is hereby registered by the following owner(s): Bonnie K. Lewis, 2384 Bettina St, Livermore, CA 94550
This business is conducted by an individual
The registrant began to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/22/92.
Signature of Registrants: /s/ Bonnie Kaye Lewis
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Alameda on October 26, 2011. Expires October 26, 2016.



Terry Bell discusses his work. In the background are examples of his art.

Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Versatile Artist Stripes Baby Strollers, Draws Rock Posters

By Ron McNicoll

Terry Bell of Livermore is doing his bit to revive the rock concert poster art of the 1960s.

Bell, 59, retired from the post office six years ago, and started taking the Visual Communication department's art classes at Las Positas College.

Bell will have a one-man show in the college's gallery, featuring his rock posters and other work. Included in the exhibit will be a \$3500 baby stroller that he pinstriped to add a hot-rod look to an otherwise placid product.

The show will run from Nov. 29 to Dec. 9, with a reception from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Nov. 30. The gallery is in the Barbara Fracisco Mertes Center for the Arts at the college, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore.

Long a spare-time artist working in traditional media, Bell experienced a boost by enrolling in LPC's classes. The chair of the Visual Communications department, Fredda Cassidy, who retired last year, encouraged Bell to enroll at LPC after seeing his art. Cassidy showed him what he could accomplish in the new world of drawing with computers.

Bell likes working in the new medium, especially in creating such things as logos, because correcting a work is so easy, compared to having to destroy a drawing, and having to start all over again. However, he said

that he still has a preference for the feel of pen and pencil.

Bell was a teen-ager in the 1960s when the great rock poster artists, such as Victor Moscoso and Stanley Mouse were turning out their work. Those posters announced rock concerts by such groups as the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, and Quicksilver Messenger Service. The venues were in San Francisco, at the Avalon Ballroom and the Fillmore.

As Bell said about his own work, the style in the '60s was a mixture of Art Deco and Art Nouveau styles, and with pin-striping that resembles the kind that hot rodders hire custom painters to do for their cars.

Bell met Mouse and another poster artist, Rick Griffin, at a rock art festival in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco earlier this year. He obtained their autographs, which cost in the range of what some baseball players charge to sign baseballs, around \$50 to \$100.

Bell still does some hot rod custom stripes, but is busy with the posters and a new line of work: decorating baby strollers.

The stroller has now gone upscale, priced in the \$1800 to \$3500 range, thanks to another Livermore man, Joe Iacono. He crossed two ideas: the stroller and the new dad.

Iacono figured that new fathers might like to push more of

a "boulevard cruiser" down the sidewalk. To accomplish that, he called on Bell to trick out the vehicles with pin-striping and other hot rod touches.

The idea has worked for Iacono. He is selling across the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. He is entering into negotiations with a new distributor to handle all of his work in Asia, he told The Independent.

Since Iacono designs the strollers and builds them all by hand, he doesn't produce many per year. However, it can be a pretty exclusive market. NBA star LeBron James, reality show star Courtney Kardashian, and various baseball players have all been customers.

Iacono knew Bell from their old hot rod culture days in Livermore, and approached him about doing the work. Bell has worked on 55 strollers so far.

Bell has an art pseudonym, that he uses to sign his posters. It's TBonez, pronounced just like the steak. "When I was in high school, I had the artist name Starbuck, after reading Moby Dick and the Starbuck character in that book. It came up three times in a couple of hours, from other students, too. So that was the name I used on pin-striping in the '60's," he said.

As to his current handle of TBonez, Bell said, "I don't know where that came from. It just came up."

Higher Solar Rebates Available To Alameda County Residents

Local homeowners can now qualify for additional rebates of up to \$2,000 through February 2012 for energy-saving home improvements. These additional rebates are being offered for a limited time exclusively to homeowners in the Bay Area, and are on top of the existing rebates — up to \$4,000 — available through the statewide program Energy Upgrade California.

In addition to the money available for home upgrades, \$300 rebates are being offered to help pay for a home energy assessment — the first step toward Energy Upgrade California's Advanced Package. The Advanced Package, which is tailored to the needs of each individual home, has been selected by 99 percent of Energy Upgrade California participants in Alameda County so far.

Since the program's launch in March, Alameda County is leading the way with the most energy upgrades (30%), with Santa Clara County (22%) and Contra Costa County (14%) closely following.

"We're excited to see the growing interest in home energy upgrades," said Wendy Sommer, Principal Program Manager at StopWaste.Org, the local government agency that is leading Energy Upgrade California in Alameda County. "Participating contractors are reporting an uptick in business, which is exactly what we'd hoped would happen. Our goal has always been a win-win-win that saves homeowners money, creates local jobs and protects our environment."

An energy upgrade can increase a home's efficiency by 10 to 40 percent through fixed improvements like insulation, duct sealing and energy-efficient windows. To achieve the greatest energy savings and help homeowners qualify for the largest incentive available, Energy Upgrade California emphasizes a "whole house" approach, rather than piecemeal improvements, as the most efficient and effective way to save money while saving energy.

To find the best energy upgrade package to suit their budget and needs, Alameda County homeowners can choose from the following options:

Basic Upgrade Package — Qualifies for a \$2,000 rebate and achieves an average 10 percent reduction in energy use through a short list of simple, low-cost home improvements that can be completed by a participating contractor in just a few days. Advanced Upgrade Package — Qualifies for up to \$6,000 in rebates and can reduce a home's energy use by as much as 40 percent. A home energy assessment is the first step to identify the right upgrades for an individual home; \$300 is available to all Bay Area homeowners to help cover the cost of the assessment.

Select cities within Alameda

County are also offering local rebates and incentives, increasing the potential savings even further. Additional discounts and rebates are currently available to residents of Hayward, San Leandro, Piedmont, Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton.

Energy Upgrade California in Alameda County has just launched a new fundraiser for schools called Energize for the Prize: When Alameda County homeowners sign up for a home energy upgrade, the local school of their choice will receive \$100. The school that signs up the most households between now and April will earn an additional \$5,000.

For more information, homeowners can visit EnergyUpgradeCA.org or call 1-855-464-8484.

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Art, Community, & Education

Holiday Performances at the Firehouse



James Garner

Cash Country Christmas

James Garner returns to the scene of his sold-out show earlier this year with Cash Country Christmas at the Firehouse Arts Center on Saturday, December 17.

Garner and his band will pay holiday tribute to the songs of Johnny Cash, performing favorites from Cash's many holiday albums, 1963 and 1991.

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

Garner is committed to presenting the "Man in Black's" music with its original "Boom-Chicka-Boom" sound pioneered by Johnny Cash, Luther Perkins and Marshall Grant in 1954. His bass player, Rick Duncan, emulates Marshall's driving bass beat that was interwo-

ven into the Cash sound for more than two decades. Steve Hutton adds the drumming subtleties and expertise that underscore every Cash album and Denny Collier provides the signature sound that Luther Perkins originated and Bob Wootton carried on after Luther's death.

Yelena Wells of Atherton, Calif. wrote, "If you are a true lover of country music, this is the band for you. They are highly professional and almost 'Hollywood' in their approach to entertainment. It is not your typical 'variety' band—it is a highly fine-tuned and professionally produced show. Everything from equipment to talent to lights to the appearance of their charming

(continued on page 3)



Trumpeter Jeff Bordes.

Jazzy, Bluesy Christmas Show

Jazz trumpeter Jeff Bordes and friends will bring a jazzy, bluesy Christmas show to the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton on Saturday, December 10. Joined by acclaimed artists Zakiya Hooker, Don Lewis and The Cooltones Big Band, Bordes will combine the jazz sounds of New Orleans, the swing of Big Band and the soul of the Blues in a toe-tapping tribute to the holiday season.

The performance will be Sat., Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

Merging the sounds of New Orleans, the swing of Big Band, and soul of the Blues with the spirit of Christmas, the accomplished artists will present a jazzy, funky, bluesy holiday celebration.

Playing since childhood, Bordes has performed live and on recordings with many acclaimed jazz artists such as Branford Marsalis, Alex Acuna, Giovanni Hidalgo, Tom Petty, Stevie Nicks, Sheryl Crow, Dana Carvey and, most recently, John Mellencamp. He has toured in Japan and across the United States with various groups such as the Bill Berry Big Band, Dizzy Gillespie, and others and is a respected educator who teaches in schools and music festivals throughout the world.

The Chico Synthesis wrote, "Jeff Bordes solos with the inspirational improvisation of a jazz veteran. He is a true seasoned pro."

Zakiya Hooker made her debut performance in 1991 with her father, John Lee Hooker, at the

Kaiser Center Theatre in Oakland, Calif. Since that time, she has performed with artists such as Etta James, Charles Brown, John Hammond, Taj Mahal and many more.

Hooker has performed across Europe and at world famous venues and festivals and has graced the cover of well-known trade magazines, including Billboard Magazine. Her voice can be heard on the soundtrack of the movie "Chalk", which won both the Camera d'Or at Cannes, France and Grand Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in San Francisco, Calif.

Hooker has created an ardent following with blues songs such as "Hey Lady," "Baby You Busted," and "Protect me from the Blues."

(continued on page 3)

Holiday Classics Performed in Livermore



Variety of dance styles featured during Holiday Classics.



The Jazz Company of Livermore School of Dance presents a show with the theme of Holiday Classics on Sun., Dec. 4 at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore.

There will be two performances, the first at 1 p.m. the second at 5 p.m.

Holiday Classics is a dance performance featuring themes such as *The Nutcracker*, *Polar Express* and *Elf*, along with a journey to Broadway and celebration of modern holiday traditions. A section on contemporary dances with a holiday twist will also be performed.



A variety of dance styles are included, such as Hip Hop, Tap, Broadway, Bollywood, Modern and Vintage Jazz, and more. Holiday Classics music is comprised of many holiday favorite songs as well as popular contemporary music, including Josh Groban, Brian Setzer, and Trans-Siberian Orchestra. Meet and greet the dancers at a reception after the show. A light dessert will be served immediately following each performance in the front lobby.

Livermore School of Dance will also be hosting a Toys for Tots toy drive at this event. Please consider bringing an unwrapped gift of your choice. Toys will be given out to children in local communities.

Tickets are available for \$18, \$22, \$26, and \$15 for Seniors and students. Please go to the Bankhead's website at www.livermoreperformingarts.org to purchase tickets. The Bankhead Theater is located at 2400 First Street in downtown Livermore.

Double Salute to the Bard Scheduled This Summer

The Livermore Shakespeare Festival's 10th anniversary season will feature a double salute to the Bard.

This summer, two Shakespeare plays will be performed: *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, a comedy of comeuppance, and *Hamlet*, one of the most powerful and renowned dramas in the English language.

For ten years, the Festival has grown hand-in-hand with the City of Livermore. Like Livermore, it now boasts some of the Bay Area's finest talent—and finest wine. Its tenth anniversary season offers the opportunity to look back and look forward. *Merry Wives* is in line with the comedies that initially defined the Festival's bold, original style; by contrast, *Hamlet* is a mature play for a matured company. The title role will feature Bay Area favorite and seasoned professional Patrick Jones, who was last seen at Livermore Shakes as Henry in *The Real Thing*.

Producing Artistic Director Lisa A. Tromovitch anticipates that the all-Shakespeare anniversary season will not only mark the Festival's past and present, but also raise the bar for its future. "Over the past ten years, Livermore Shakes has grown from an infectious idea into a tradition, a part of Livermore's cultural identity," she says. "Professional artists working together with local volunteers brought us to this milestone. It's only right to celebrate and set the bar to become an indispensable part of the greater Bay Area's cultural landscape."

The 2012 Livermore Shakespeare Festival will run July 12 through August 12 at Concannon Vineyard. Performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 7 pm. Tickets range from \$25-\$39, day-dependent with discounts for seniors, students, and educators. For more information, visit www.LivermoreShakes.org.



The Fog City Stompers, playing the great old standards from the 1920s and 1930s, including tunes made famous by Bix Beiderbecke, will play a free concert at the Pleasanton Public Library on Sun., December 4 at 2 p.m. The Fog City Stompers play in the traditional dixieland jazz style. Admission is free. This concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Pleasanton Library. It will be held in the Pleasanton Library's meeting room. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Come early to find parking and ensure a seat. For more information regarding the program call the Reference Desk at 931-3400, ext. 7. No registration is required.



Tapestry, under the direction of Cindy Krausgrill (right) perform Dec. 10 in Pleasanton

Handbells, Vocals Combine to Present the 'Magic of Christmas'

Tapestry, the Bay Area's only vocal and handbell ensemble, presents its holiday program, "The Magic of Christmas."

The performance will be held Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd. in Pleasanton. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served following the concert.

Under the direction of Cindy Krausgrill, "The Magic of Christmas" will feature both sacred and secular music for the holiday season. A free-will donation will be accepted to benefit Open Heart Kitchen, a program that has been feeding the Tri-Valley's hungry since 1995.

For more information, please visit www.tapestryringersandsingers.org or facebook: [tapestryringersandsingers](https://www.facebook.com/tapestryringersandsingers).



JAZZY CHRISTMAS

(continued from page front page)

Her fourth CD, "Keeping It Real", was released June 16, 2009. Bordes says, "Zakiya is a regal combination of sass and soul. 'Keeping It Real' defines her legacy as a

CASH

(continued from page front page)

lead singer is sure to impress the most discriminating critic."

Tickets are Adult: \$15, \$20 and \$25; Child: \$12 and Senior: \$20. Group discounts are available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.

woman singing the blues."

At Tuskegee Institute, Don Lewis performed with the Tuskegee Chorus and played for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Freedom Rallies. Later, uniting his interest in engineering with his musical talent, Don became one of the pioneers in synthesizer use and technology. He designed and built a synthesizer system that was an inspiration for Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI), now on display at the Museum of Making Music in Carlsbad, Calif.

Lewis has taught courses in the history of gospel music, multimedia, and synthesizer technology at University of California at Berkeley Extension, San Jose State University and Stanford University. In 1987, he created Say "Yes" to Music!, which has brought inspiring musical assemblies to thousands of students and teachers across the United States and Canada. Recently he has adapted

his program to include the business community with his highly successful Creating Harmony in the Workplace seminars.

Based in the Tri-Valley, the 17-member The CoolTones Big Band has provided jazz entertainment across the San Francisco Bay Area and numerous venues, festivals and private events. The band attracts large audiences with its family-friendly Big Band sound.

Tickets are Adult: \$15, \$20 and \$25; Child: \$12 and Senior: \$20. Group discounts are available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by phone at (925) 931-4848, or in person at the Firehouse Arts Center Box Office. Box Office hours are Wednesday-Friday, 12 noon-6:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and for two hours prior to the performance. The entrance to free parking is on Spring Street near First Street.

BANKHEAD THEATER

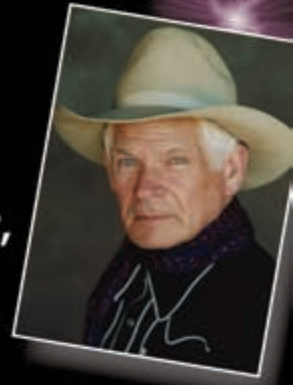
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Dec 2 at 8pm
Pacific Chamber Symphony

Beethoven, Wagner, and Sibelius

Dec 3 at 8pm
Livermore-Amador Symphony



Holiday Classics

Dec 4 at 1/5pm
Livermore School of Dance -
Jazz Division



Don Edwards

Dec 4 at 7:30pm
A Bottomless Repertoire
of Cowboy Standards

THE Nutcracker

Dec 10 - 18 at 2/7pm
Valley Dance Theatre with the
Livermore-Amador Symphony



Stacey Kent

Dec 14 at 7:30pm
An Enchantingly Elegant Mistress of Jazz

Restless Heart Christmas

Dec 23 at 8pm
Seven Time Country Music
Award Nominee



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www.bankheadtheater.org

2400 FIRST STREET | Downtown Livermore

Performance of Handel's 'Messiah' at Bankhead

Although the joyful "Hallelujah Chorus" is the best-known movement of George Fredrich Handel's monumental oratorio "Messiah," the more contemplative passages are its soul. They express the awe and reverence that Handel wanted his audience to feel.

These passages will be sung by the chorus and four accomplished soloists when the Pacific Chamber Symphony and Chorus comes to Livermore's Bankhead Theater on Dec. 2. It is the Symphony's only Bay Area performance this year of the seasonal favorite.

Singing in English, with texts from the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, are Aimee Puentes (soprano), Sonia Gariaeff (alto), Thomas Glenn (tenor) and Daniel Cilli (bass). All four have performed with professional opera companies in the Bay Area and elsewhere throughout the country.

Conductor Lawrence Kohl says, "The Messiah, unlike the rest of the oratorios of his day, does not have a person who is the Messiah in it, rather this is the story of what it is like and what it means to have the Messiah in our midst. What Handel does in musical tone painting, and the librettist Jennings does with words, the singers must, as great dramatists, do in song."

"I have found in Aimee Puentes (soprano), Sonia Gariaeff (alto), Thomas Glenn (tenor) and Daniel Cilli (baritone) the ideal balance of vocal purity, clarity, emotional range and theatrical presence. They don't just sing it pretty, they will convince you of the story being told and that this is the only way it can be told. Join us and bask in the freshness, urgency and rapture of this great classic."

Choral director Robert Lappa comments, "This fine combination of soloists, chorus and orchestra will bring the spirit of Handel's musical and dramatic genius to life. Messiah is perhaps the most frequently performed choral work in history - and for good reasons.



Featured soloists will be Aimee Puentes (soprano) and Sonia Gariaeff (alto), together with returning favorites Thomas Glenn (tenor), and Torlef Borsting (baritone).

The blend of joy and passion that Handel creates with his musical settings of the texts has an immediate appeal to both performers and listeners."

Mr. Lappa adds, "For singers, Messiah is both a challenging and rewarding experience. The technical challenges come from the numerous difficult musical passages that Handel employs for dramatic effect. The psychological challenge comes from knowing that nearly all of the arias and choruses are so well known. Trying to live up to those expectations while attempting to add something fresh and personal to a performance

of Messiah can be a formidable task."

Director Lawrence Kohl formed the Pacific Chamber Symphony 20 years ago with professional musicians who enjoy working with a smaller orchestra that is at home in more intimate spaces than grand concert halls.

The performance is at 8 pm at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First Street, Livermore. Tickets at \$39/\$34/\$29 (\$7 students) may be purchased at 925-373-6800, online at www.livermoreperformingarts.org, or the Theater Box Office. For more information, go to www.pacificchambersymphony.org.

Music Review

Interpretive Ruminations and the Triple Forte Trio

By Richard Yates

In the November 7th New Yorker magazine, there is an excellent biopic of Hélène Grimaud, the tantalizing French pianist, written by D.T. Max. Among other descriptors, the author cites "independence," and "drive" as Grimaud's character-dominating features. Grimaud has either been lauded as a revelatory interpreter, or criticized thoroughly for deviating too much from convention. She has been known to radically disregard the markings of the score in order to realize her own total conception—a stance brandishing risk-taking inventiveness over fastidious reproduction.

To form an artistic conception, a performer is tasked with reinventing the work through his or her own lens, while at the same time attempting (however futilely) to reinterpret and reconcile the distant intentions of an often-deceased composer. This balance of spontaneous generative rendering and informed telepathy considerably raises the hurdle of a successful interpretation. Grimaud may be at one end of the extreme, her willingness to disregard the printed indications of the score a clear break with most performers of "classical" concert music. But what about a performance that takes more of a middle ground in terms of interpretive flights? Is it possible to create great artwork in a seemingly less individual vein of artistic expression? At what point does something become a reproduction instead of an interpretation? While these are fundamental artistic concerns that have no easy answers, shifting perspective to look at a different performance experience may help.

The Canadian piano trio, Triple Forte, serves as an example of an ensemble that enlivens the music on the page with finely wrought interpretive destinations, yet balances an individual approach with

the seasoned game of sticking to the score. Their concert at the Bankhead on Saturday, November 12 was part of the Del Valle Fine Arts series.

Triple Forte's program of Beethoven's Piano Trio in E-flat major, Op. 70, No. 2, Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 1 in C minor, Op. 8, and Ravel's Piano Trio in A minor was a rare opportunity to hear a world-class ensemble play music with a spellbinding ambience. Throughout the evening, the trio projected a strong sense of intention that could only indicate a solid artistic conception of the music they shared.

The Ravel Trio, composed in 1914, was masterfully executed, eliciting both a passion and sadness indicative of France at the outbreak of World War I. The trio captured the richly evocative score, playing into the inherent dramas, and communicating the true breadth and profundity of a music whose surface level could at times be construed only as an exquisite artifice. However, to transform these individually fleeting moments of serenity or tension into laden discourses capturing complex emotional states such as insecurity, despair, or elation, the performers needed to connect these events into a seamless space of forward trajectory. To be sure, they worked at spinning out, interweaving their lines into something of an ephemeral tapestry. Their overarching job was of balancing the technical, emotive, and spontaneous into a unified creation. With a score like Ravel's and a performance as deeply felt as this trio's, a profoundly impactful artistic conception was undoubtedly given resonance.

The trio's performance makes plain that renderings of all sorts have the potential for acute transformations of raw materials into rich constellations, both vivid and relevant.

The final responsibility falls, though, with the listener. It's also how open we are to the far-ranging interpretations, the varying sonic and stylistic idioms, and the unknowable, spontaneous elements, that give the potential for transcendental moments (or humdrum redundancies). Plainly, there are reasons why a great performance is hard to find.

St. Michaels to Present Two Holiday Programs

St. Michael's Church will present two special holiday programs.

The first, Lessons and Carols, Ecumenical Advent Celebration, will be performed on Mon., Nov. 28 starting at 7 p.m. at the church, 458 Maple St., Livermore.

Admission to the celebration is free. Please bring a nonperishable food item. Donated food will be

shared between the Interfaith Food Pantry and St. Vincent de Paul.

For more information, contact Barbara Pinto-Choate at musicministry33@yahoo.com or 447-1585 ext 18.

•••

A Holiday Concert is set for Fri., Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St.

Michael Parish, 458 Maple St., Livermore

This concert features the Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bell Ringers, and the Amici Brass Quintet, as well as St. Michael's Music Ministry.

All proceeds from this concert will go toward the Monsignor Ad-

ams Memorial Pipe Organ.

Ticket donations are \$15 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, \$10 seniors/students, and \$35 for family (immediate family).

For tickets, please contact Barbara Pinto-Choate at musicministry33@yahoo.com or 447-1585 ext 18.

Opera San Jose's Dramatic double bill

by Susan Steinberg

Two mirror-image love stories make up the current double bill at San Jose Opera, and both are equally gripping.

In a bold move, Leoncavallo's popular "I Pagliacci" is paired with an unfamiliar work: Francis Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine* ("The Human Voice").

Poulenc's dreamy clouds of impressionistic chords and progressions were reminiscent of Debussy's "Pelleas and Melisande," including some tense chromaticism at dramatic moments.

Described as a "monodrama," the one-act play/opera features just one woman, who must be both a strong singer and captivating actress to carry the entire 40 minute solo performance. Suzan Hanson was a marvel in the role of a distraught woman who has just been dropped by her lover of 5 years.

As the curtain rises, she is wandering around her apartment, disheveled and disoriented, recovering from a failed suicide attempt with sleeping pills. Many elements of the décor are obviously askew, a visual reflection of her distracted psychological state.

This has been a solo pantomime, incredibly detailed and realistic, engaging the audience in her silent suffering. When the phone rings she begins a heart-breaking one-sided conversation with her ex,

and everyone follows her words intently, imagining the unheard other side of the dialogue.

Why is this event so terribly painful? The time frame is the early 20th Century when a woman, whether wife or mistress, would be completely dependent on a man, both financially and emotionally. After a 5-year relationship, such a loss would be devastating.

But the pain goes far deeper. When the woman describes how difficult it is to suddenly be sleeping alone, her anguish is palpable. "Understand how I suffer...it's been 5 years that I've lived for you, breathed your air, had nothing to occupy me but you... I AM ALONE!"

Listeners winced at that naked cry of despair, realizing that abandonment of any kind is traumatic, leaving a legacy of unbearable misery.

The singer tries to reassure her ex with, "Don't worry, I'm better. If you hadn't called I would have died." By now, the audience is furious at his callousness. He has told her he plans to marry someone else and take her to their favorite vacation spot. She begs him to at least stay at a different hotel, as this would "hurt less."

Finally realizing that her situation is hopeless ("What is finished is finished"), she thanks him for his "kindness" in calling her. Reassuring him that he needn't worry

about her ("One doesn't attempt suicide twice"), she admits pathetically, "I was going to say, out of habit, 'See you soon'. Please hang up quickly."

Still murmuring "goodbye," she replaces the receiver, opens the large window, and stands poised as the lights go out. The audience sat in silent shock for a few minutes, and then exploded in a long ovation for a woman who had carried everyone so completely into her psyche, a rare tour de force from a world-class performer with incredible stamina. Also taking bows was Layna Chianakis (LVO's superb "Carmen"), directing a role she herself had sung.

The second opera needed little introduction. "I Pagliacci" is an overwhelmingly popular work, with its lush romantic melodies, well-known characters, and the realistic tragedy of a man who discovers his beloved wife is unfaithful. It's a story as familiar as the latest headlines in our daily papers.

But when it was written, such gritty realism (called "verisimo") was uncommon in opera. To help the audience understand this new genre, (and to give the baritone a stunning aria), Leoncavallo composed the famous Prologue. Tonio, a traveling commedia player, steps forward and addresses everyone.

Instead of the usual reassurances that actors only pretend

to suffer, he insists that they are "humans of flesh and blood," like ourselves, and their tears and cries of pain are real, taken from the fabric of life itself. The author, he relates, began with an old memory, so painful that he wept while writing, with "his sobs beating out the tempo". (This claim, supposedly based on a murder case his own father had judged, actually helped Leoncavallo fend off legal charges of plot plagiarism.)

Whatever the truth of its origin, the story dramatically incorporates an exciting combination of jealousy, lust, love, rage, and murder – the usual ingredients of Italian opera – along with its beautiful musical score.

Jouvanca Jean-Baptiste as Nedda, the unfaithful wife, evoked sympathy as a young woman married to Canio, a "brutal" older man she cannot love, and tempted by Silvio to follow her heart and elope with him. Her gorgeous soaring aria to a flock of birds reveals her longing for freedom from a sordid life.

Alexander Boyer as Canio, the betrayed spouse, looked and sang like a young Caruso, especially in his famous "Vesti la Giubba" ("Put on your costume") aria, describing his terrible pain at having to make the crowd laugh while his own heart is breaking.

As he struggles to control himself and finish the play, Tonio, who

has been rejected by Nedda, uses sarcasm to goad his boss into a fury. Jason Detwiler was a superb acting singer with a rich resonant baritone. Krassen Karagiozov played a sturdy and passionate Silvio, while tenor Michael Dailey sang the helpful clown Beppe.

The finale focuses on Canio, who throws off his clown hat and declares, "No, I'm no longer Pagliaccio! I'm the poor fool who raised you, starving, from the gutter, who expected, if not love, at least gratitude, kindness, mercy.

Tension rises as the onstage audience (including Silvio) realizes that Canio is no longer acting, and that Nedda is in real danger. In wild fury, Canio stabs her and Silvio to death, brokenly announcing, "The comedy is finished."

A full house cheered the triumphant cast, stage director Cynthia Stokes, and energetic conductor Bryan Nies. The double bill touched many hearts with truthful depictions of love and betrayal, and the tragic results.

The production continues through November 27 in the lavishly restored "Hollywood Moorish" California Theater, 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose. For tickets call 408-437-4450, or visit www.operasj.org. Arrive 1-1/2 hours early for the Bay Area's best pre-curtain talk, and the magical music of the lobby's rare "Mighty Wurlitzer" organ.

by Sarah Bobson

There's a scene in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* that makes me nostalgic for the 60s.

In the 1967 film, Spencer Tracy as Matt Drayton, a highly regarded San Francisco newspaper man, drives his wife, Christina, an art gallery owner, played by Katharine Hepburn, to a drive-in soda fountain to get a particular flavor of ice cream he remembers fondly from years past. The parking lot is studied with Volkswagen beetles, pickup trucks, and teenagers sitting atop T-bird convertibles listening to loud jukebox music. A young gum-chewing waitress holding a small horizontal tray atop her palm strolls over to his car and asks what he would like to order. He says, "When I had ice cream before, I had a special flavor I liked very much, but I can't remember what it was." She rattles off some flavors: Daiquiri Ice, Honeycomb Candy, Coco Coconut, Jamocha Almond Fudge, Mocha Mocha Peanut Butter and Jelly, and Cinnamon Banana Mint. He recognizes none of them. He's ready to leave when she says, "Fresh Oregon Boysenberry Sherbert." That's it! That's the name that rings with familiarity, so he orders a dish, but when he tastes it, he scrunches his face and

puckers his lips in disappointment and says, "This is not the stuff. I never had this before."

I understand that disappointment. Like Matt Drayton, I too long for a taste from the past. For me, it's the taste of that perfect hot fudge sundae I used to get after attending a high school football game.

In the crispy fall air in Miami, Florida, my friends and I would sit on backless bleachers high up in the back of the Orange Bowl and scream our guts out, cheering our team to victory. Afterward, we would pack into cars and head over to the ice cream emporium. Some of us would order banana splits, but for me there was only one choice. Sitting on a stool at the counter, I would watch the waitress drop three scoops of vanilla ice cream into a tulip-shaped dish. Next would come the part I was waiting for: She would top the ice cream with a thick blanket of hot, rich fudge. She'd bring the delight

over and push it in front of me. The fudge would still be steaming. Steaming! That first bite into the contrasting textures and temperatures would send me into a state of near-nirvana. Today's version just doesn't cut it. The ice cream isn't nearly as smooth and rich, and what is labeled as hot fudge tastes more like cold chocolate syrup. I've checked with my brother and he corroborates my findings (no wonder we're related). I think ice cream parlors ought to come clean and call it like it is: just rename the damn dish Cold Chocolate Syrup over Vanilla Ice Sundae.

One reason Matt Drayton longs for a certain flavor of ice cream is that he wants to freeze time. His life is changing, but in far more serious ways than just ice cream flavors. Matt's daughter, Joanna, nicknamed Joey and played by Katharine Houghton, Hepburn's real-life niece, has brought home the man she intends to marry, Dr. John Prentice. Sidney Poitier plays

the brilliant physician who is, of course, black. This landmark film, produced and directed by Stanley Kramer, was groundbreaking in its treatment of interracial marriage.

The sparks begin to fly when Matt and Christina must confront the liberal ideals they instilled in their daughter as she was growing up. The ideals by which they profess to live are further put to the test when Joey invites not only her intended, but also his parents, to dinner.

When I first saw the film shortly after its release (I've seen it many times since), it made me feel uncomfortable. Intellectually, I delighted in its message, that skin color shouldn't matter, and that a person's character and talent are what counts, or should. But this was, after all, only three years after enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Seventeen southern states still made miscegenation, sexual relations between a Negro and a white, illegal. So, while I gave

lip service at the time to being a liberal, and I would have given my prized collection of Elvis Presley records (well, maybe not the whole collection), to have the opportunity to hug and kiss Mr. Poitier, on the inside, where vestiges of my conservative, southern upbringing still resided, I felt uncomfortable seeing a black man and a white woman embracing and kissing on the screen.

I felt even more uncomfortable seeing a black man and a white woman married to each other in real life. Martin and Sally (not their real names) were friends of good friends of mine. We hung out socially, and in time they became my friends too. Martin, tall and slim but not skinny, had the finely sculpted features one would imagine of an Ethiopian prince. He was the blackest person I had ever seen. A statue carved out of ebony. Sally, on the other hand, also tall and slim, had the very white, creamy complexion of a porcelain doll. Martin was from the north and Sally was from deep in the heart of Dixie. When they married, Sally's parents disowned her.

The couple chose to live in Manhattan because they felt the metropolitan area's melting pot of

(continued on page 6)

Yesterday into Today

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner



Harpist Dan Levitan (above) will perform with Cantabella. The photo at right was taken during the 2010 winter concert, Rob Lappa conducting.

Cantabella Presents A Britten Masterpiece

Cantabella Children's Chorus will perform its Winter Concerts, *A Ceremony of Carols*, on Saturday, December 10, 2011, at the First Presbyterian Church, Livermore.

For twenty years, the staff of Cantabella Children's Chorus, led by founding and current director Bee Chow, has been teaching vocal production and choral artistry to young people aged kindergarten through high school in Livermore and Pleasanton, and now Dublin. More than two hundred young people rehearse weekly in three training choirs and three performing choirs: Cantabella Children's Choir, Chamber Choir, and the one-year-old Honors Choir.

The title of the concerts refers to Benjamin Britten's choral work. It will be performed in its entirety at the 2:00 p.m. concert, and in part at the 4:15 p.m. concert. Benjamin Britten had left his homeland, England, in 1939 and achieved major successes during his three-year stay in America. He determined to return to England and made a dangerous five-week North Atlantic crossing in March and April, 1942. It was during this time at sea that Britten used medieval and 16th century poetry for the text, and ancient melodies for the music, and composed nine choral "movements" accompanied by harp which illuminate events surrounding the Holy Birth. An additional movement, which occurs at the midpoint of the composition, is a hauntingly sublime harp solo. Renowned bay area virtuoso harpist Dan Levitan will perform with Cantabella.

In addition to the Britten work, Director Bee has programmed a mix of classical, traditional and contemporary pieces from around the world.



The choirs will be accompanied by piano and other chamber musicians. These include *A Song for Hanukah*, *Laudamus Te* from Vivaldi's *Gloria*, familiar carols from German, Ukrainian and Caribbean Island traditions, and a rendition of *Deck the Halls* in a contemporary rhythm. At the 4:15 concert Cantabella's youngest choristers will also perform pieces from Russian, French, Israeli and American traditions. There will be a "sing-along" at both concerts.

The community is invited to "hear the joy" in all the music at the Cantabella Children's Chorus Winter Concerts, Saturday, December 10, at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth Street, Livermore. The 2:00 concert will feature the performing choirs. The 4:15 concert will feature the performing choirs and the training choirs. Tickets in advance online at Cantabella.org: adults \$12, children 10 and under \$8. At the door: adults \$15, children 10 and under \$10. More information: 925-292-2663.

Holiday Winter Market in Dublin

Dublin will host a traditional Holiday Winter Market complete with crafts, holiday goodies, entertainment and hot soups on Saturday, December 3, 2:00-7:00 p.m. at the Dublin Heritage Park & Museums, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin.

The Festivities begin at 2pm when 'Old St. Nick' arrives by 'Jingle Bell Wagon' and vintage tractor.

Visitors can create fragrant ornaments from spices, fruit, pinecones and popcorn that they can use to dress up their own homes or give as gifts. Children can visit with St. Nick and families may take holiday photos with St. Nick.

Peek into the windows of the Kolb House to view a '*German-American Christmas Morning 1942*.' Make ornaments of birdseed and peanut butter for special tree for the park's wildlife.

At 3:30 pm there will be a very special performance by *The Merrie Old Christmas Carolers*. The carolers, dressed in Victorian costume, will perform traditional carols, accompanied by the sounds of sleigh bells, finger cymbals, tambourines and kazoos.

Visitors may stroll the grounds and shop for unique handcrafted items including, decorations, toys, soaps and more. Guests are invited to enjoy dinner or warm-up with soup, pretzels, mulled wine, hot cider and streusels that will be available for purchase.

The event will close with a candlelight gathering around the Wildlife Tree. A \$5 wristband covers all activities and helps support the Dublin Heritage Park & Museums.

YESTERDAY

(continued from page 5)

diverse races and ethnicities would allow them to live together relatively unnoticed. When we would go out to dinner or to a movie, however, I couldn't help but notice that eyes, judgmental or just curious, would look askance. In the beginning, I was overly sensitive to those stares, but after a while I didn't even notice them.

One day, Martin proudly announced that Sally was pregnant. In my head, I could hear the "tsk-tsk-tsk" responses I knew my relatives and neighbors back home in Miami would surely make if they heard such news. I wanted to discuss

the difficulties Martin and Sally would face having a biracial child with my friends. I didn't bring it up, fearing, I suppose, that I would appear politically incorrect. Guess *Who's Coming to Dinner* brought up the issue for me.

Spencer Tracy as Matt Drayton looked old but very wise, deep lines carved into his face by the years he has lived and learned a thing or two. Tracy/Drayton became the sage, the father figure who provided the characters and me with the advice we all needed. After a day of soul searching, and before going to dinner that evening, Drayton admits to the two

families that the young couple will have problems as they go through life, but that he will not stand in the way of their marriage. In the end, he says, they must follow their hearts, implying that hearts are wiser than heads.

Tracy died 17 days before the film finished shooting, and six months before the film's release. I mourned his passing, not only because he was one of Hollywood's greats, but also because he served, especially in this film, as my mentor, my wise elder, my tour guide through the labyrinth of life that had an unusually large number of twists and turns during the 60s.

Victorine to Release 2011 Estate Olio Nuovo

Victorine Valley Farms will be releasing its 2011 Estate Olio Nuovo on Thanksgiving weekend. Rather than going through the usual resting period this oil is bottled immediately after pressing and is the freshest and healthiest olive oil available. It has a wonderful green fragrance and color along with a beautiful olive flavor and strong peppery finish.

Victorine Valley Farms is a small family-run farm located between Livermore and Danville, California. They produce a Tuscan Blend extra virgin olive oil that includes, Leccino Frantoio, Pendolino and Maurino olive varieties.

The 2011 Estate Olio Nuovo can be found at the Danville or San Ramon farmers' markets on Saturdays, the Livermore farmers' market on Sunday, or at the tasting room at 21 So Livermore Ave, at Blacksmith Square, Livermore or online at www.victorinevalley.com.



What do Great Horned Owls, almond blossoms and a Hobbit Tree have in common? They're all part of the unique beauty of Sycamore Grove Park and are showcased in the park's 2012 calendar. Created by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District ranger staff, 2012 marks the fourth year of production for the Sycamore Grove calendar. All photos were taken by LARPD Park Rangers Glen Florey and Amy Wolitzer in the 774-acre open space park. In addition to park photos taken throughout the seasons with information on park animal and plant life, the calendar keeps the public up-to-date on park closing times during the year. Calendars are available now. Proceeds from calendar sales will help benefit open space programs and facilities. Calendars are \$10 each or \$6 when purchased with an annual Sycamore Grove parking pass. Calendars can be purchased at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., or by mail or phone at 925-373-5700 with a \$3 shipping fee for up to five calendars mailed anywhere in the United States. Order forms as well as a calendar preview can be found online at www.larpd.dst.ca.us.

Author to Discuss Book at Livermore Library

Author Michael David Lukas will discuss his novel *The Oracle of Stamboul* at 2pm on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center, 1188 S. Livermore Avenue.

There is no charge for this event. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

In his debut novel *The Oracle of Stamboul*, Michael David Lukas paints an atmospheric portrait of the mighty Ottoman Empire in its twilight, as seen through the perceptive eyes of a remarkable young girl. Only eight when she arrives in the bustling city at the center of the empire, Eleonora Cohen is a savant whose keen understanding of circumstances well beyond her years will place her in a vortex of political intrigue. When her preternatural abilities are brought to the attention of the Sultan, and she becomes the confidante to this most powerful of men, Eleonora discovers she may hold the key to changing the course of history.

Kirkus Reviews calls *The Oracle of Stamboul*, "A lyrical debut....A



passionate novel that beautifully conveys the flavor of Turkish culture." "An enchanting, gorgeous read," says Siobhan Fallon, author of *You Know When the Men are Gone*. "Lukas captures the scents and sound, the vivid beauty, the subtle intrigue, and simultaneous naivete, of the Ottoman Empire unaware of its imminent demise."

A compelling story, elegantly told, *The Oracle of Stamboul* introduces a gifted writer with a wholly original vision and voice.

Michael David Lukas has been a Fulbright Scholar in Turkey, a late-shift proof reader in Tel Aviv, and a Rotary Scholar in Tunisia. A graduate of Brown University and the University of Maryland, his writing has been published in VQR (Virginia Quarterly Review), Slate, National Geographic Traveler, and Georgia Review. He has received scholarships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Squaw Valley Community of Writers, and the Elizabeth George Foundation. He currently lives in Oakland, California, less than a mile from where he was born. When he isn't writing, he teaches creative writing to third and fourth graders.

The Friends of the Livermore Library have underwritten this program as part of the Friends Authors and Arts Series. For additional events, check the library's website at www.livermorelibrary.net.

After the bell had rung, the custom in earlier days was for students to line up in the school yard and walk to their classroom with their teacher. "I can see her yet, when we got in line, standing with her long pointer. I didn't ever get hit with it, but I always sort of half expected to," Leona Johnson McGlinchey remembered of Miss Emma C. Smith. "She would be sure the line was perfectly symmetrical." Young voices piping the words "Good morning, Miss Smith" started the class day of kindergarten children from 1877 to 1919 in Livermore. Miss Smith, a tiny energetic lady, was the teacher of what was then called the "receiving grade." After her death in 1939, Maitland Henry wrote an editorial that praised her efforts: "For all those youngsters Miss Smith held that unique distinction, she was their first teacher. She was the first person they knew out of their own homes as a guide and leader. The impression she made on them is still vivid for, as with all successful teachers, she had a personality and lovable traits."

Miss Smith's parents, Henry C. Smith and Mary Harlan, came across the plains to California with different parties in 1846. They married in 1847 and lived in a cabin in what is now Oakland; Henry was cutting redwood lumber to the east of the area. After a brief spell in Coloma after the discovery of gold, the Smiths moved to Mission San Jose, where Emma Caroline Smith was born on 8 February

1850. Henry and his brother, Napoleon, became partners in a mercantile business. According to Emma's mother, the business was very successful: "many days the receipts would be from \$1,000 to \$1,500." Henry C. Smith was appointed *alcalde* (mayor) of Mission San Jose by the military governor of California. Smith could speak Spanish fluently. Many Hispanic citizens came to him for help in this confusing time of a new American state created from a Mexican land. Smith purchased 800 acres and laid out the town of Alvarado.

Smith was elected to the California legislature in 1852 from Santa Clara County. He is sometimes referred to as the "father of Alameda County" because he drafted the bill to create Alameda County from portions of Santa Clara County and Contra Costa County. He also had Alvarado named the new Alameda County seat. Later, despite Henry's efforts to promote Alvarado, the county seat was changed to San Leandro and then to Oakland.

In 1853 the family moved to Alvarado. Henry continued in the mercantile business there and later began farming. In 1867 the Smith family bought 160 acres and built a home on the old Altamont Road near Livermore. They lived here, with their sons, Frank and Charles, farming and stock-raising for about eight years. Henry was elected the Murray Township Justice of the Peace in October 1871 and continued in that role until he died at Livermore in 1875. He was buried in Oak Knoll Cemetery. His widow, Mary, moved into Livermore with Emma and bought property on L Street that is now under the footprint of the modern First Presbyterian Church built in 1965.

Emma attended the Livermore College, a private high school in Livermore. After graduation, she studied at the San Jose Normal School (state teachers' college). Her first teaching assignment was May School in 1870. She taught for one year at Tassajara School and moved to Deer Valley

School in Contra Costa County and then to schools in Stanislaus County; she came back to work at Livermore in 1877. The Livermore Public School was a two-story wooden building at the site of Fifth Street School (now the Del Valle Continuation School). Emma joined the First Presbyterian Church in 1881 and was an active member. For thirty-five years she was secretary and treasurer of the Sunday School. She also served as President of the Women's Guild; her niece wrote that she "was ever ready to direct an entertainment at the church bazaar when funds were low." Emma never married and lived with her mother, known as "Aunt Mary" to the community, in their small cottage at 462 South L Street.

When Emma was 57 years old, her friends gave her a wedding shower that was unusual, since she was still single, in spite of the many offers of marriage she had, according to the *Herald*, "declined in her gentle, kindly manner that has left her suitors still

devoted if hopeless admirers." About 60 of her friends descended on the L Street cottage with gifts for the "sprightly little lady who would not be a bride." In June 1919 at age 70, Miss Smith retired from teaching. Her fellow teachers gave a surprise luncheon in her honor and presented her with a gold and amethyst brooch. She moved with her mother to Oakland, where they lived quietly until Aunt Mary's death in November 1922.

In the summer of 1924 Emma traveled with friends on a European tour. Five years later she traveled to Alaska. One of her greatest thrills was crossing San Francisco Bay on the Bay Bridge on 19 February 1937, three months after it opened. She noted in her diary, "The bridge was like a dream, beautiful beyond words. I was so thrilled it brought tears to my eyes, to think I had lived to see such a wonderful feat of engineering." Even while living in Oakland, she kept in close touch with Livermore. Every summer she organized a picnic at Mosswood Park in Oakland that was open to all residents, past and present, of Livermore. In 1937 over 125 people attended. Her niece described her: "She was a keen observer and a wonderful storyteller, with a delightful sense of humor." She died at Alta Bates Hospital on 27 March 1939. The Livermore School District named an elementary school in her honor.

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

Do You Remember?

By Anne Homan



"Good Morning, Miss Smith"

ART & ENTERTAINMENT



The Livermore Art Association (LAA) Gallery invites the public to its annual holiday reception on Sat., Dec. 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. Meet the Gallery artists, enjoy tasty desserts, and browse the collection of handmade gifts such as jewelry, pottery, accessories, and paintings. The Gallery is a co-op run by the artists themselves. It is located, along with the Livermore Heritage Guild, in the historic Carnegie Building at 2155 Third Street, Livermore. The public is always welcome to visit. Admission is free. Hours are 11:30-4:00 Wed.-Sun. For more information call the Gallery at 925-449-9927. Pictured is a snowflake from Christine McCall's Kaleidoscope collection.



The Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Avenue, is hosting an art exhibit by Livermore Art Association (LAA) Gallery artists, the month of December. Located on first floor, the show includes a colorful variety of drawings, paintings and photographs. The LAA Gallery is an art co-op run by the local artists themselves. The community center is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Pictured are artworks in the show, "Reflections" by Julie Wright and "New Mexico Adobe Wall" by Lenore Kreit.

ART/PHOTO EXHIBITS

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

Firehouse Arts Center's Harrington Gallery, 2010 traveling exhibit of the National Watercolor Society October 26-December 10, 2011. 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton. Admission is \$5. A companion exhibit, "Five Palettes," features works by five

California Watercolor Association artists. Harrington Gallery hours are Wednesday-Friday 12:00 noon-5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., for one hour prior to each Firehouse Arts Center performance. Call (925) 931-4849 for more information or visit the Firehouse Arts Center website, www.firehousearts.org.

Charlotte Severin, watercolors painted from life en plein air and still-life displayed the Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Nov. 1 to 30. 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. The public is invited to attend. There is no admission charge.

Livermore Art Association (LAA) Gallery exhibiting Angela Johal's colorful collages during the month of November. Johal's latest work draws from pop culture, consumerism and the sea of images and choices that tend to leave one void. The LAA Gallery, is open 11:30-4:00 Wed-Sun, and is located in the historic Carnegie Building at 2155 3rd St. Livermore. For more info call the Gallery 925-449-9927.

Collage Collection, Livermore Art Association exhibit, Dec. 1 to 30, Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Open for viewing during regular library hours.

MEETINGS/CLASSES

'Tis the Season to SING!, ages 7 to 11 invited to join ABC Music Store & Academy's Holiday Choir. Wednesdays, November 30th - December 21st 7 p.m. (45 minutes). Caroling performance on December 21st at 7:45 in front of ABC Music. Fee of \$60 (includes all materials). For more information and to sign

up, please contact the instructor Kim Luty lutytunes@gmail.com, or call ABC Music Store at 925-443-1244.

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

Figure Drawing Workshop, every Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Artists bring their own materials and easels. Open to all artists. Professional artist models (nude). No instructor. Students under 18 need written parental permission to attend. Cost \$20 per session. At the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Coffee, tea and refreshments are available. Call or email Barbara Stanton for more info about the workshop, 925-373-9638 - microangelo@earthlink.net.

Art in Public Places, join a local group of artists and paint on selected Friday mornings around town. ACC/Art Critique & Coffee invites artists to express themselves in watercolor, acrylic, oil For more details check out the website for Poetry On Canvas Pleasanton or contact Claudette at PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com ~ ACC Meets each Friday at various locations.

Tuesday Afternoon Art Classes for Grades K - 5 in Livermore, includes introduction to history of art. Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30/5 p.m. Some materials included in fee. Ongoing. thomasin_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-7231; <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com>

Art Classes for teens and adults, Livermore Saturdays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Mondays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some materials included. Please email instructor a materials list to purchase supplies. Watercolor, oil paints, charcoal, pastel, colored pencil, collage, printmaking. Classes also introduce the History of Art to students. thomasin_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-7231; <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com>.

LARP'D Friday morning Art Classes for Homeschoolers 4-10 years, Livermore, Fridays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Some materials included. Please email instructor for a materials list to purchase supplies. thomasin_d@hotmail.com ; (925) 216-7231; <http://childrensartclassesprojects.blogspot.com/>.

Girls Night Out Classes, Make family memories by attending a class together. Painting, jewelry making & paper art are now available to experience locally. Classes led by artist Claudette McDermott. For more information e-mail or call to sign up for classes 510 543-4776 PoetryOnCanvas@Mac.Com ~ Individual and group classes available.

Holiday Themed Classes, choice of Pumpkin-Santa-Trees-Snowman-Angel, choose from Stained Glass, Mosaic Tiles or Fused Glass methods. Class is 3 hours. \$60-75. Thurs. 11-2p, Fri. 5-8p, Sat. 2-5p, Sun. 12-3p. Art Glass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglassstudio.weebly.com

Beginning Stained Glass, start and finish a small stained glass window (14" x 14") using cutting and manufacturing skills. Learn how to use basic glass tools. Limited to 8 students. Additional studio hours are available at a daily, weekly or monthly rate. Tools and supplies are \$174. Does not include glass. 5 week class, 2.5 hours each. Wed. 10-7p, Thurs. -Sat. 10-9p, Sun 10-4p. Classes are ongoing. ArtGlass Studio, 174 South L St., Livermore. For more information contact Roberta Jones at: 925-447-1962 www.artglassstudio.weebly.com

WINERY EVENTS

Holiday Preview, Murrieta's Well, 3005 Mines Rd., Livermore. Friday through Sunday, November 25-27, 2011, 11 am to 4:30 pm. New holiday merchandise, holiday favorites, and gifts for friends and family.

Thomas Coyne Winery, 51 East Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Fall open house Nov. 25, 26 and 27 from noon to 5 p.m. each day. Release of five new wines. A selection of fine fruits and cheeses will be served. 925.373.6541, <http://thomascoynewinery.com>. New wines are 2010 Viognier, California; 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon, Livermore Valley; 2006 Petite Sirah, El Dorado; 2009 Petite Sirah, Livermore Valley, Late Harvest; and 2009 Barbera, Livermore Valley.

Fenestra Winery, Prelude to Christmas, Nov. 25, 26 and 27, noon to 5 p.m. Winery decorated for the holidays; wine and food tasting. \$10 charge. 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. www.fenestrawinery.com, 447-5246.

Wood Family Vineyards will be pouring wine Thurs., Dec. 1 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the First Street Wine Co. in downtown Livermore (near the flagpole). Sneak preview of the 2008 Syrah, Madden Ranch. \$5 tasting fee.

"No More Turkey! Eagle Ridge Vineyard this Friday, Nov. 25 from 12:00 - 4:30 sample the food-wine pairing of Taco Soup & Cabernet. 10017 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Also, open Sat. & Sun. 12:00 - 4:30. 10017 Tesla Road, Livermore, (925) 447-4328

MUSIC/CONCERTS

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

Tri-Valley Medieval & Renaissance Collegium playing session for amateur musicians, Peter Maund, director. Mondays 7:30-9:30 p.m. 7600 Dublin Blvd., suite 370, Dublin. \$25. Informationcollegium2011@gmail.com or 925-424-1209 or 925-984-4395

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band, plays at The Sunol Jazz Cafe (In the Center of Sunol) the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month 7:30-9:30 p.m. The band features real Jazz from the 1920's, 30's, 40's.

St. Michael's Parish is hosting an Ecumenical Lessons and Carols on Monday, November 28 at 7:00pm. The Lessons and Carols will include participants from Asbury Methodist Church, as well as St. Bartholomew's Church. Admission is free. Those attending are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to be donated to Interfaith Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. St. Michael Parish is located at 458 Maple St., Livermore. 447-1585.

Music Department Recital, Las Positas College, Wed., Nov. 30, 12:30 p.m. Mertes Center for the Performing Arts, on the Las Positas Campus, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Ticket prices are \$12 general admission and \$8 for students & seniors. www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College, or call 1-800-838-3006.

A Charlie Brown Christmas with David Benoit, jazz, Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Asbury Christmas Concert - Asbury United Methodist Church will hold its 15th Annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday Dec. 4, 2011 in its Sanctuary at 4743 East Ave. in Livermore. All of Asbury's vocal choirs, the Asbury Band, First Watch, and the Asbury Ringers bell choir will be performing. Asbury's pipe organ will also be part of the evening's

musical offerings. The concert is open to the public. A free will offering can be made at the door. There will be a punch and cookie reception immediately following in the new Fellowship Hall. For more information call Jean Braun at 449-4168, the church office at 447-1950 or e-mail: JoanneP@asburylive.org

Pacific Chamber Symphony, Handel's Messiah, Fri., Dec. 2, 8 p.m. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Livermore Amador Symphony, concert Sat., Dec. 3, 8 p.m. works by Beethoven, Wagner and Sibelius performed with the Pacific Masterworks Chorus. Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band, holiday concert Sun., Dec. 4, 2 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org. No admission charge.

Advent and Christmas music, "Joy to the World," at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 4, Our Savior Lutheran Ministries, 1385 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore. The choirs, handbell groups, instrumentalists and contemporary ensemble will perform sacred music that includes traditional carols, a bit of jazz, and contemporary Christian music. The audience will also be invited to sing along on several carols. The concert is free. Offering for assistance to victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey. The concert will be followed by a reception with samples of Christmas treats from around the world.

Asbury Christmas Concert - Asbury United Methodist Church will hold its 15th Annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday Dec. 4, 2011 in its Sanctuary at 4743 East Ave. in Livermore. All of Asbury's vocal choirs, the Asbury Band, and the Asbury Ringers bell choir will be performing. Asbury's pipe organ will also be part of the evening's musical offerings. The concert is open to the public. A free will offering can be made at the door. There will be a punch and cookie reception immediately following in the new Fellowship Hall. For more information call Jean Braun at 449-4168, the church office at 447-1950 or e-mail JoanneP@asburylive.org

Don Edwards, country and western, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Holiday Concert, Fri., Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Michael Parish, 458 Maple St., Livermore. Golden Gate Boys Choir and Bell Ringers, and the Amici Brass Quintet, as well as St. Michael's Music Ministry. All proceeds from this concert will go toward the Monsignor Adams Memorial Pipe Organ. Ticket donations are \$15 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, \$10 seniors/students, and \$35 for family (immediate family). For tickets, please contact Barbara Pinto-Choate at musicministry33@yahoo.com or 447-1585 ext 18.

Jeff Bordes and Friends Featuring Zakiya Hooker, Sat., Dec. 10, 8 p.m. Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton. www.firehousearts.org.

Bay Bells Winter Concert, featuring over 100 bells and chimes. Sun., Dec. 11, 3 p.m. Dublin Senior Center, Adults \$8, youth 12 and under \$5, children 5 and under \$3. 556-4500.

Stacey Kent, jazz, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. LVPAC Presents, Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. www.bankheadtheater.org or 373-6800.

Jazz Night Concert - vocal and instrumental, Las Positas College, Fri., Dec. 16, 8 p.m. Mertes Center for the Performing Arts, on the Las Positas Campus, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Ticket prices are \$12 general admission and \$8 for students & seniors. www.brownpapertickets.com with the venue of Las Positas College,

Romance

Couple Exchanges Vows at San Juan Capistrano

Carrie Marie Damschroder and Daniel Adam Chambers, both of Aliso Viejo, CA, were married on September 5, 2011, at Franciscan Gardens in San Juan Capistrano, CA. Deacon Eddie Salgado of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Laguna Beach, CA, officiated.

The bride, who was escorted by her father, is the daughter of Paul and Diane Damschroder, of Helena, OH. The groom is the son of Frank and Diane Chambers, of Livermore. Anna Damschroder, sister of the bride, served as maid of honor. Stanley Alachniewicz, friend of the groom, served as best man. Groomsmen were David Dunwoodie and Ryan Marshall, both friends of the groom.

The bride wore an ivory gown with satin asymmetrical ruches and a v-shaped back. The one-shouldered neckline was adorned with a Swarovski crystal accent; a sweep

train and bubble hem completed the style. She wore her maternal grandmother's wedding rings and carried a bouquet of magenta cocomb, green trick dianthus, cream hypericum berry, moonvista carnations, red roses, big chief green cymbidium orchids, and mini green Peruvian hydrangeas.

The maid of honor wore a sleeveless eggplant charmuese dress with origami detail and carried a bouquet of super green roses, mini green hydrangeas, and green hypericum berries.

A reception was held at Franciscan Gardens immediately following the wedding. A six-piece band entertained guests after the plated dinner of roasted garlic and herb-marinated beef tri-tip and grilled portobello mushroom stacks. A traditional red velvet cake filled with cream cheese butter cream and frosted with vanilla French butter

cream was served for dessert.

The bride is a 1998 graduate of Gibsonburg High School, a 2001 graduate of Bowling Green State University, and a 2003 graduate of Miami University of Ohio. She is employed as the Director of Documentation at Eyefinity in Irvine, and teaches part-time as a lecturer in the English Department at California State University, Long Beach.

The groom is a 2001 graduate of Granada High School and a 2006 graduate of California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. He is currently working towards his MBA at the University of California in Irvine, and will graduate in June 2012. He is employed as a program manager at the Walt Disney Studios in Burbank.

After honeymooning in French Polynesia, the couple settled into their home in Aliso Viejo, CA.



Carrie Marie Damschroder and Daniel Adam Chambers

Valley Humane Society Thanks Donors

The Valley Humane Society held a thank-a-thon at the shelter on Tuesday to personally offer a thank you to supporters who gave \$100 or more in the last year. Volunteers, board members, and the Executive Director gathered in Valley Humane Society's classroom and start to call nearly 700 people to simply offer thanks.

Valley Humane Society announced in late July that without significant community support, the local no-kill shelter would be forced to close their doors in Pleasanton. The outpouring of support was tremendous and ultimately

raised over \$320,000. With that support the organization is back on its feet and setting goals to nearly double pet adoptions in 2012.

"We are fortunate this year to have a large donor list. It wasn't possible for us to call everyone, so a pre-recorded message will go to donors who contributed under \$100.

"Their support was significant. We really wanted to recognize everyone," said Melanie Sadek, Executive Director.

Not all Valley Humane Society supporters received a phone call, simply because the organization

wasn't able to retrieve their phone numbers.

During these phone calls no request for future support was made. The Thank-a-thon is simply an opportunity to celebrate the holiday season and donors.

Valley Humane Society is an animal welfare organization advocating responsible pet ownership. The organization seeks to provide the community with educational outreach and collaborative programs that enrich the bond between people and companion animals and eliminate unnecessary euthanasia.

Community

Landmark Launches Campaign

Landmark Mortgage Group launched its new campaign "Our Landmark is YOU" during the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Pleasanton branch, on November 16th, 2011.

The new office space, at 5075 Hopyard Road in the Hacienda Business Park, is a strategic move to further the creation of synergy

with their real estate partners.

Todd Utikal, a Landmark Mortgage Advisor and an active member of Pleasanton's Rotary club stated, "We have been in Pleasanton for a few years, but wanted to be closer to our real estate partners that we work with on a daily basis. We are looking forward to further foster the strategic partnerships and create a shared success." The new campaign highlights Landmark Mortgage Group's advisory based business model and commitment to their clients, referral partners and team members.

Vice Mayor Jerry Thorne and members from the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce were on hand to perform the formal Ribbon Cutting. The event was attended mostly by Pleasanton's real estate and business community, but anyone was welcome to stop by.



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Milestones

Education

Military

Air Force Airman 1st Class Travis W. Edwards graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Edwards is the son of Louie Edwards of Mariposa. He is a 2004 graduate of Granada High School, Livermore. He earned a bachelor's degree in 2010 from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Community

TripleGift, Inc. Opens

TripleGift, Inc.™ of Pleasanton has opened for business with the launch of its signature Spend Save Share™ holiday greeting cards for children. The cards are designed to help adults add meaning monetary gifts by educating young recipients about the importance of saving for the future and sharing with others while enjoying spending money on themselves.

Unlike customary cards that accommodate one bill, check or gift card, Spend-Save-Share cards are designed with four sections. The first contains the holiday greeting and is followed by sections devoted to spending, saving and sharing. The latter three sections feature slits to accommodate monetary gifts and whimsical illustrations that suggest age-appropriate items to purchase (sports equipment, video games, princess dolls), possible future goals for saving (car, college, travel) and charitable causes (animal rescue, the environment, children in need) where they may be inspired to share.

The initial six cards on sale now include four Christmas cards and two Hanukkah cards for boys and girls, with birthday cards available in 2012. They are available for purchase on-line at <http://triplegift.net> and at several retail outlets, with more being added weekly. Currently, they are available at Towne Center Books, The Golden Apple Learning Store and Berry Patch in Pleasanton, and Pleasant Thoughts in Danville.

"The Spend Save Share cards are original, very unique, and give people the opportunity to take care of the card and gift with one purchase," says Towne Center Books owner Judy Wheeler. "In addition, the cards have an important educational component, which our customers love."

The Spend Save Share greeting card concept was created by local businesswoman and grandmother, Barbara Lewis. "As is often the case, I was inspired by my grandsons, Joey and Matt," she says. "We live in such a beautiful, privileged area that, at the beginning, I just wanted to encourage them to make philanthropy a regular part of their lives, to participate in taking care of others and their world. As the idea developed, it occurred to me that enjoying one's money and saving for the future are just as essential as sharing if one is to grow up to be a confident, happy, well-rounded adult. I tried out the idea with handmade Spend Save Share cards for their birthdays when they were eight and six years old and, to my delight, the boys liked the cards and "got" the concept. They started thinking and talking about money, what they would buy, save for, and how they would share. With that and friends' encouragement, I was off and running."

"I love the concept and believe the cards are a fun way to encourage youngsters to save and share," says Pleasanton grandmother Susan Davis. "They are perfect for my grandchildren who have the 'spending' part down fine, but could use some guidance in the 'save' and 'share' areas."

Talk Hawks Bring Home More Honors

The Las Positas College Speech Team, the Talk Hawks, swooped in to finish in first place among 23 participating institutions at the recent Mustang Invitational Speech Tournament. The event featured teams from the University of California at Berkeley, California State Universities and other community colleges. Each member of the Talk Hawks brought home an award.

"This might be the most impressive showing of the season," said Las Positas College Director of Forensics Tim Heisler, "We not only finished ahead of every community college at the tournament, but we beat every university in the competition as well."

In their four weekends of competition this semester, Talk Hawks team members have come home with three first place team awards and 59 individual awards.

In 2009, the Talk Hawks brought home the Second place Sweepstakes Award from the International Forensics Association's Speech and Debate Tournament held in Montreal, Canada. It is

their goal once again to attend this prestigious tournament scheduled in March 2012 in Rome, Italy.

Heisler expressed appreciation to American Equipment Rental of Redwood City for its donation of a previous Talk Hawks' tournament entry fee. "Because of the drastic cuts colleges have experienced, we will require generous contributions like this to enable our program to continue at this high level," he said. Organizations and individuals who would like to support the Talk Hawks are encouraged to contact the Las Positas College Foundation at (925) 424-1010 or www.lpcfoundation.org.

Following are the Talk Hawks students and their awards from the recent Mustang tournament:

Salim Razawi of Dublin: 1st place - Communication Analysis, open division, 3rd place - Duo Interpretation, open division, finalist - Prose Interpretation, open division, finalist - Poetry Interpretation, open division, 3rd top speaker of the Tournament;

Adam Neylan of Tracy: 1st

place - Dramatic Interpretation, open division, 3rd place - Speech to Entertain, open division, finalist - Oral Interpretation of Literature, open division, 5th top speaker of the Tournament;

Weston Toste of Livermore: 3rd place - Persuasive Speaking, open division; Sarah Kellner of Brentwood: 3rd place - Duo Interpretation, open division, finalist - Speech to Entertain, open division; Lex Newman of Pleasanton: finalist - Poetry Interpretation, open division; Top Novice Speaker in the event;

Alex Penn of San Ramon: 1st place - Communication Analysis, novice division; Karina Krue Anderson of Pleasanton: 1st place - Informative Speaking, novice division; Shea Wigton of San Ramon: 1st place - Speech to Entertain, novice division; Scott Ault of Pleasanton: finalist - Prose Interpretation, novice division.

Las Positas College is located at 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

Junction Offers Variety of Programs for Students

Students at Junction K-8 School have a myriad of choices to extend their learning beyond the traditional school day. After School Clubs are a part of the culture and the overall Junction K-8 experience. From academics to visual and performing arts; sports to special interests, there is something for everyone, free of charge. Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District applauds the staff of Junction K-8 for its creativity in bringing a multitude of programs to the students. Each of these clubs allow students to grow, learn, and engage in positive ways.

Academic Enrichment: Students involved in the *Extraordinary Earth* enjoy learning how plants turn sunshine and water into food and the air we breathe, discover the importance of weather and how tornadoes form, uncover how rocks and gems are formed, hunt for dinosaur fossils and make molds of the bones found! *Math Counts* engages students with challenging mathematics activities which promote problem solving and mathematical thinking and provide opportunities for math skills practice culminating in participation in a City-wide competition. *After School Tuto-*

rials and Homework Clubs are learning opportunities designed to support student academics so that all student will reach and exceed grade level expectations. These clubs are facilitated by Junction teachers and open to all students free of charge.

Visual and Performing Arts: Students can take walk down the Yellow Brick Road with Dorothy and her friends as part of the *Drama Club* full scale production of the *Wizard of Oz*, complete with staging, costumes and lighting. *Stop Animation Film* allows students to work on a crew with professional filmmakers, to image and create characters, plan, shoot and edit their own animated film. In the *Game Design* club students design and create their own video game. For those wishing to explore the cultural aspects of music and dance, *Ballet Folklorico* is an opportunity to learn traditional Mexican folk dances while the *Mariachi Club* engages students in learning traditional Mariachi music on several instruments, including voice. Junction students are fortunate to work with local instructors who are highly regarded in the Mariachi world. If students prefer a current, popular style of dance, they can create their own *Break Dance* rou-

tines in groups under the guidance of accomplished break dancing artists. Interested in playing a musical instrument? Basic folk guitar skills are taught in the *Folk Guitar Club* while the *Instrumental Music Club* offers beginning through advanced players the opportunity to learn, practice and perform with our outstanding Orchestra and Band instructors.

Athletics: Basketball, volleyball, golf, and wrestling are competitive *Team Sports* open to students at Junction K-8. And of course, Junction K-8 *Cheerleaders* support their teams with cheers they've designed themselves. The *Color Guard* students learn and perform routines in competitions representing Junction Avenue K-8 School. *Open Gym* gives students the opportunity to participate in team sports and games, including a climbing wall, in an open gym environment. A unique competitive sports opportunity for students is *Futsal*, a traditional South American game, played on a court specifically designed and built for Junction K-8 students.

Cooking / Nutrition, Garden, Woodworking and Chess Clubs top off the broad range of clubs available. These clubs are open to all students free of charge.

