

Livermore," said Mike Ansell,
(See COLLEGE, page 9)

Pleasanton, Dublin Plan Bicycle Activities

May marks the month of Bicycle Safety and Awareness in the cities of Dublin and Pleasanton. In the Tri-Valley, the cities of Dublin and Pleasanton will host many events to promote bicycle safety and bicycling as a healthy way to travel, including the Bay Area's 18th Annual Bike to Work Day where thousands of commuters are expected to participate.

On May 10, the cities along with Hacienda Business Park Owners Association, BART, Alameda County Public Works Agency and Dublin Cyclery will host an Energizer Station at the East Dublin/Pleasanton BART station from 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. where cyclists can stop and enjoy refreshments, receive free bike t-shirts and commute bags as well as sign up for a raffle drawing for prizes donated by numerous local businesses. Additional Energizer Stations will be available at the West Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station from 7:00 - 9:00 a.m., hosted by REI Dublin, and at Pleasanton's Foothill High School from 7:00 - 8:30 a.m., hosted by the Earth Club. The first 50-100 cyclists to visit either of these stations will receive a bike commute bag and can enter the raffle drawing.

The City of Dublin and Dublin Cyclery will host a Flat Tire Repair Clinic on Saturday, May 5 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on the Iron Horse Trail at the intersection of Amador Valley Blvd. On Saturday, May 12 from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at REI Dublin, 7099 Amador Plaza Road, the City of Dublin, REI Dublin and Cycles of Change are teaming up to host a Bike Donation Drive. Cyclists visiting the "Bike to the Market" Booth at the Dublin Farmer's Market on Thursday, May 17 from 4:00
(See ACTIVITIES, page 9)

The board of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation acted last week to reorganize the foundation. The decision came after an audit found that the fund-raising required to maintain the level of program support provided by the foundation was not sufficient to meet its growing financial obligations.

Judge Hyde said there is no cause for worry about support of services. "All of the programs through Alameda County are on

track. We continue to provide philanthropic funding, depending on how much is available.

"We are just trying to get a handle on the spending. There was a lack of attention to some spending issues. There were expenditures that the board was not aware of nor had it approved," Judge Hyde explained.

Upon receiving the audit information, the board acted on a number of fronts to address the issues. First, Board Chairman

Ronald Hyde was elected foundation president. According to a press release, he is replacing David Rice. Hyde stated, "We plan to move quickly to resolve issues and slowly to avoid mistakes."

Second, a more detailed analysis is being conducted by the board and its independent auditor of the foundation's current expenses and obligations. The next step was to actively look for opportunities to reduce administra-

(See FOUNDATION, page 5)

tion facility at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

This is the second movie to be filmed at the Lab. Part of the original "Tron" movie was shot there.

The current set is closed to the public. In keeping with that, there won't be any public information provided by Paramount Studios, either, said Livermore Valley Film Commission director Dale Kaye.

Kaye, who had years of experience as a TV and movie pro-

ducer.

Abrams writes, produces and writes the music for his films. Abrams was executive producer on the last "Star Trek" movie and also worked on the last two "Mission: Impossible" films.

On television he has been executive producer on "Person of Interest," "Fringe," and "Alcatraz." He has won two prime-time Emmys.

Even the filming of just a few scenes by a Hollywood company can have a big economic impact

(See STAR TREK, page 5)

Ground broken on new synthetic turf project at Robertson Park

By Patricia Koning

Representatives from the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARP), Fusion Soccer Club (SC), and Tri-Valley Bank wielded shovels on Tuesday afternoon to officially break ground on a project to convert two Robertson Park soccer fields to synthetic turf. The new fields

will be complete in August, in time for the start of the fall soccer season.

"It is my privilege to celebrate the start of construction here at Robertson Park," says Brent Koch, former president of Fusion SC. "This underscores a common aspect of the three

(See SYNTHETIC, page 12)

Wilson Wants Cities to Back Tassajara Cemetery Plan

By Ron McNicoll

The Pleasanton City Council has been asked to back development of a cemetery proposal that has drawn opposition from its potential neighbors in the Tassajara Valley.

Former San Ramon mayor Abram Wilson said that he would like to see the Tri-Valley's five cities work together, pos-

sibly with a bond issue, to create the cemetery.

Wilson addressed the Pleasanton council at its meeting April 17 to talk about the idea. He said that he is personally interested in seeing a cemetery for the Tri-Valley.

The property proposed for the cemetery is at 7200 Tassajara
(See CEMETERY, page 5)



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Members of the Fusion Soccer Club were on hand, along with representatives of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, for the start of the construction of synthetic turf fields at Robertson Park in Livermore. The Club is providing funds to help pay for the turf.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Hello there, I'm Dot. I am one very curious kitten. I am a little older than most kittens, I am about six or seven months, but I am very playful. In fact, just the other day my friends at VHS caught me playing with a rollie-pollie bug that somehow managed to get inside of Kitty City. I am white and orange with fur so soft. I really like to be active and love to be played with. Come on down to VHS and help me find my forever home with you. For more information, Call us at 925-426-8656 or go online to www.valleyhumane.org or www.facebook.com/ValleyHumaneSociety to see other adoptable dogs and cats. Valley Humane Society is located at 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton. Tues. & Wed. 9AM-2PM, Thurs. & Fri. 12-7pm, Sat. 10-4pm, and Sun. 12-4pm. Photo taken by Trina Cort

ACTIVITIES

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– 8:00 p.m. with evidence of bicycling to the event such as a helmet or bike, will receive a free “Carrot Cash” voucher, valued at \$5, to use at one of the market booths.

In Pleasanton, all three middle schools are promoting a Bike to School Day on Friday, May 11. Two of the three, Hart and Harvest Park Middle Schools will host energizer stations where cyclists will receive refreshments and goody bags filled with bicycle safety items. Energizer stations will be located at the schools’ bike storage areas beginning at 8:00 a.m.

The Alameda County Safe Routes to School Program’s Bike Mobile were at Foothill High School on Wednesday, May 2 to offer student cyclists a bike repair clinic. Pleasanton Police representatives facilitated helmet fittings and free helmet giveaways May 1-3 at the three middle schools and Foothill High. Dublin High School is encouraging students and teachers to participate in a Bike to School Day on Thursday, May 24; an energizer station distributing

refreshments and giveaways to cyclists will be located adjacent to the bike storage area. Finally, Dublin, Kolb, and Murray Elementary Schools are participating in Bike to School Week May 21-25. Students attending the schools are encouraged to bike each day—a surprise will be attached to their bicycles one day during the week.

For more information on Dublin events, visit www.dublin.ca.gov/btwd; for Pleasanton events, go to www.pleasanton-greenscene.org.

The San Francisco Bay Area’s 18th Annual Bike to Work Day will take place on Thursday, May 10, 2012. Hacienda Business Park is a lead sponsor of Bike to Work Day in the East Bay. Bike to Work Day is just one day of many events taking place in May as part of National Bike Month.

Pledge to bike to work or wherever you need to go on Bike to Work Day, May 10th, and enter your name in a raffle to win a bike and other fun prizes. Simply follow this link to register: www.youcanbikethere.com/user/register.

COLLEGE

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Chemistry Instructor and club advisor for the Students Organization for Sustainability.

The purpose of the event is to encourage riders, once they realize how fun and affordable cycling is, to continue to ride whenever possible.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand said the Alameda County Transportation Commission spoke about “Bike-to-Work Day” at its meeting last week. “I think it’s great,” he said. “Many of the commissioners have also committed to bike to work on May 10.”

A look at the country’s 20

show how important commuting by bike is to us and what an impact it can have on the environment,” said Livermore Cyclery’s General Manager Pete Howard. “Many of our staffers, including myself, regularly ride to work. We strongly encourage it.”

“Bike to Work Day” was originated by the League of American Bicyclists in 1956 as part of National Bike Month. The League was founded in 1880 when bicyclists (known as “wheelmen”) joined together to improve poor riding conditions stemming from rutted, gravelly roads and antagonism

Grand Cru Collection: As Only La Rochelle Could Do

by Laura Ness

What is a Grand Cru vineyard and do we have them in California? That’s a hot and potentially controversial topic, but a worthy one. With centuries of history and countless vintages, some storied vineyards in France were deemed to be superior to others. They became known as Grand Cru, or “great growth,” a term signifying a vineyard known to produce wines of significant merit. Until recently, with less than 70 years of viticultural data to mine since Prohibition, the US has not been considered a contender. However, if you think 20 or 30 years of continual production from a single site can lead you to the conclusion that wine from this place is always special, than you can make the argument that we do, indeed, possess Grand Cru vineyards here in these United States.

Certainly, it cannot be denied that the Pisoni Vineyard in the Santa Lucia Highlands, home to great Pinot made by dozens of top-name producers over the last 30 years, could be considered one of the finest. Gary Franscioni, who owns Rosella’s and farms Garys’ and Soberanes with the Pisonis, absolutely thinks it is a Grand Cru vineyard, and said so at a recent 30 year retrospective on Pisoni Vineyard Pinot at a seminar at Pebble Beach Food & Wine.

Winemaker Tom Stutz and proprietor Steven Mirassou believe firmly in the existence of Grand Cru vineyards here in California and Oregon, and have created a rare collection of the finest Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs from the most sought-after sites in California. At a recent “Grand Cru” dinner, prepared by Chef Jimmy Connors, the

is not in the same class as these Grand Cru Chards. “We want these Chardonnays to be exemplar.” So far, so grand.

Diners enjoyed three 2010 Chardonnays, from Rosella’s Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands, Ferrington Vineyard, Anderson Valley, Morrelli Lane, Russian River Valley and a 2009 Pinot Noir, Donum Estate, Carneros.

Of the three, the Rosella’s is by far the softest and most supple with butterscotch, honey, toasty nuts and baked pears, wearing its 50% new French oak prominently. It made a nice match with roasted brussel sprouts and hazelnuts, but didn’t like the marinated cabbage that boat-anchored the dish. Note: vinegar is not a friend of Chardonnay. That’s what Riesling, Gewurz and sparkling are for.

At the northern extreme, Ferrington is the most acid-driven, minerally and intense, while the Morelli walks the middle line deftly. For me, the Ferrington Chardonnay has that ethereal quality on the palate that engages your every sense, and makes you fixate on what’s happening in your mouth. It reverberates from lemon zest to tropical papayas with bright crisp apple in between. It was paired with a butter poached lobster and rainbow chard “involtini,” in a tropical fruit sauce that perfectly complemented the wine.

The 2009 Donum Pinot is another animal altogether. From the Buena Vista estate, these wines were originally French imports planted in the 70s and then replanted in 1989. The aromas of chokecherries, wet cedar and hints of soy-infused roasted portabello mushroom preface a complex detective story. I

by saying, “this wine has cleavage!” It was a beautiful dance partner with a braised Kurobota pork shank, with mushroom jus, pomegranate and caramelized shallots, that melted in your mouth with earthy, yet soaring goodness.

The Grand Cru Collection is a mailing list allocation program. The Chardonnays are all priced at \$65, Pinot Noir, \$75. Approximately 100 cases of each were made and Tom indicates there are many more sleeping beauties in the cellar, including upcoming vintages from Freestone Hill and Deer Meadow. If you’re fond of exceedingly well-made Chardonnay and Pinot, you should get to

know La Rochelle’s Grand Cru Collection.

In another debut, Steven Kent proudly presents the 2009 Cabernet Sauvignon, “The Premier,” Ghielmetti Vineyard, Livermore Valley, \$100 per bottle, only 40 cases made. This wine will be presented at the Steven Kent Winery, Friday, May 4th, - 6-7:30, In the Barrel Room. Complimentary for SK/LR Club Members, \$10 General Public: please RSVP, as space is limited, 925-243-6442 or by Email, at wineclub@stevenkent.com

Perhaps some day, and maybe soon, the Ghielmetti vineyard itself may come to be considered a Grand Cru.

PDA Is Accredited National Main Street Program

The Pleasanton Downtown Association (PDA) has been designated as an accredited National Main Street Program for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Trust Main Street Center®.

Each year, the National Trust and its partners announce the list of accredited Main Street® programs that have built strong revitalization organizations and demonstrate their ability in using the Main Street Four-Point Approach® methodology for strengthening their local economy and protecting their historic buildings.

“We congratulate this year’s nationally accredited Main Street programs for meeting our established performance standards,” says Doug Loesch, director of

teria determine the communities that are building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts and include standards such as developing a mission, fostering strong public-private partnerships, securing an operating budget, tracking economic progress, and preserving historic buildings. For more information on the national accreditation program, visit <http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/about-main-street/the-programs/national-programs.html>.

The Pleasanton Downtown Association also announced that Executive Director, Laura Olson, has been elected as an Officer of the Board of Directors of the California Main Street Alliance. As a board member, Laura will work with California Main Street Alliance to advocate on behalf of