

Amador 2nd in We the People Nationals

Amador Valley High School's Competition Civics team finished second in the 27th annual We the People national finals in Washington, D.C.

Judging was announced on April 30. Amador finished second in the finals last year, too. The finals in the past two years have been won by two different schools in Portland, Oregon.

Amador won the national competition in 1995, when Skip Mohatt was the school's first Civics Competition coach. Brian Ladd, the coach this year, was a new teacher at that time. He worked with Mohatt, and trained subsequent coaches, before taking over the job.

Amador won second place in 2006-08, 2011, and 2013. The school was third in 1994 and in 2009.

The contest at regional, state and national levels is organized around knowledge of various aspects of the U.S. Constitution. Amador won the state competition, winning the right to represent California in the national competition. Foothill High finished second at the state level.

Amador coach Brian Ladd said that the team "performed incredibly well. In the 22 years of Amador Valley teams, this was the best performance I have experienced at the national competition."

"The students were on the top of their game. When asked questions about their testimony by state Supreme Court judges, lawyers, lobbyists, and elected officials, they did not hesitate to offer, on point, substantive answers with passion and with great depth. I cannot express how proud I am of this team," said Ladd.

Ladd is reducing his involvement with the team next year, turning the advisor's job over to English teacher Stacy Sklar. "She will do a great job. I will continue to be active in the program in helping not only Amador Valley, but other schools in the area," said Ladd.

The Amador team of 24 seniors spent more than 15,000 hours collectively in study and preparation. They competed against 1500 of the brightest students in the United States.

Members of the team are Bianca Bacaltos, Eric Chan, Naomi Chan, Alexandra Gonsman, Donnall Hegarty, Daniel Huang, Liana Huynh, Nisha Kale, Almas Khan, Kathryn Kitayama, Shilpa Krish, and Emly Lu.

Other members are Armin Mahini, John Malchar, Kaitlyn Mallie, Kabir Sethi, Lillian Sun, Jennifer Teitell, Kristina Vateva, Rose Wang, Jarry Xiao, Christine Xu, Jennifer Yip, and Tandy Yuan.

Principal Turns into Wrestler to Benefit Haven

Eric Dillie put his old high school wrestling skills to the test, and helped raise \$1,000 for Tri-Valley Haven.

Dillie, principal at Livermore Valley Charter Prep (LVCP), coaches the school's wrestling team. A student suggested a charity wrestling match to benefit the Haven. Dillie liked the idea, and a goal of \$1000 was set.

Students were out on the prep school grounds at the former Portola Avenue School at 10 a.m. on May 1, putting their money for their favorites into buckets marked for Dillie or his opponent, LVCP senior Nick Toro.

Toro wrestles in the high school heavyweight division, and will be playing football this fall for a private liberal arts college in southern California.

As Dillie describes the bout, "We were very evenly matched while on our feet, and neither of us could gain an advantage. I chose the down position to start the second period. Nick took me to the mat. I held him off for almost two minutes, but my fatigue and his 100-pound weight advantage finally kicked in and he pinned me."

For people who want to see the action, YouTube has it at <http://YouTube/rS8wfh15AjE/>.

Ann King, executive director of Tri-Valley Haven, said, "We really appreciate it. It's a very great gift, and the fact it was a student's idea, makes it even sweeter."

The Haven operates the only domestic violence shelter for homeless women and children in the Valley. It also runs a year-round shelter for homeless families, Sojourner House, and a food pantry.

"We are not able to do what we do, without community donations. We would not even come close to covering it," said King.

Dublin to Host Small Business Development Forum

Starting and growing a business can be both inspiring and overwhelming. To help residents obtain the right knowledge to build a successful company, the City of Dublin, in partnership with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and the California Small Business Development Center, will gather a panel of experts together for a "Meet the Business Resources" event on Tuesday, May 20, from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, at the Dublin Library.

Dublin Mayor Tim Sbranti says, "The City of Dublin is dedicated to the growth and success of our small business community, and we are excited to bring this new event to our small business owners. This event will allow them to have direct access with the key resources in establishing or growing a business."

- Attorneys discussing business formation, intellectual property, and employment law
- A certified public accountant providing information on record keeping and taxes
- A lender offering information on how to get a loan
- Insurance agents discussing professional liability, errors and omissions, and general insurance

- A SCORE counselor offering advice on business planning, marketing, and free business resources
 - City of Dublin staff discussing permits, licenses, zoning, and incentive programs
- Lee Lambert, Director of the Alameda County Small Business Development Center, said, "This program gives small business owners the knowledge, tools, and contacts to launch and to grow. We look forward to working with Dublin businesses to enable local businesses to progress."
- Interested parties may register at www.dublin.ca.gov/meetthebusinessresources. For information, call (925) 833-6650.

Exhibit Looks at Events in China

By Carol Graham

The young man bound to a chair is bathed in golden light. His face is raised toward a hand that reaches down from above, while a swarm of demonic creatures threaten from below.

The painting, Uncompromising Courage, is based on the true story of Liu Chengjun, a Chinese citizen who in 2002 was sentenced to 19 years in prison for his involvement in broadcasting programs that revealed the truth about Falun Gong.

Falun Gong is a spiritual discipline first introduced in China in 1992 that combines the practice of meditation, moral teachings and slow-moving exercise. Although it initially enjoyed support from Chinese officials, by the late '90s the Communist Party viewed Falun Gong as a potential threat due to its size, independence from the state and spiritual teachings.

Tensions culminated in April 1999 when more than 10,000 Falun Gong practitioners gathered peacefully near Beijing's government compound to request legal recognition and freedom from state interference. This demonstration is widely seen as the catalyst for the suppression that followed, including the torture of many thousands of practitioners in an effort to "transform" them.

Uncompromising Courage is one of 25 paintings featured in the Truth-Compassion-Tolerance International Art Exhibit at the



Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Xiao Wang is shown in front of some of the work on display at the Livermore Library.

Civic Center branch of the Livermore Public Library throughout May.

"I worked to bring the exhibit to the library again this year after last year's big success," said Livermore's Xiao Wang, a mechanical engineer who volunteers with the Asian Art Foundation. "This exhibit offers an excellent chance to share what is happening in China, and the courage, persistence, compassion and peacefulness Falun Gong practitioners manifest when facing severe suffering and persecution. Many people are moved to tears when they view these paintings."

Much of the exhibit's artwork arises from the personal experiences of its eight featured artists.

"How horrible and severe the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners is!" said Wang. "Thousands of people have been tortured to

death, and tens of thousands are put into jails or labor camps. Yet they maintain the ideals of goodness and courage to stand up to brutality with an unwavering commitment. They hold the firm belief that good will prevail over evil."

Wang has firsthand experience with how devastating the Falun Gong persecution can be.

"In 2010, my dad was illegally arrested and sentenced to four years in prison," Wang said of her father, a well-respected judge. "After suffering much torture he was released in March and is recovering at home. But the persecution is still going on in China. We hope more people can join us to stop it."

In addition to the exhibit, Pleasanton author Margaret Zhao will be speaking about her book Really Enough, a True Story of Tyranny, Courage and Humor at the

Interact Car Wash Set for Sunday

Between May 17 and May 31, car wash fundraisers throughout Alameda County will demonstrate how these events can benefit organizers while minimizing water use and protecting local waterways from pollution caused by wash water runoff entering the storm drains. Once in the storm drain system, that water goes directly to creeks, wetlands and the Bay, without any treatment.

With help from the Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program, four fundraising groups have partnered with local self-service car wash businesses to use the facilities for the duration of the events, ensuring proper treatment of the wash water. Just like during

traditional car wash fundraisers, organizers will wash patrons' cars for a donation. The following fund-raisers are scheduled:

In Livermore, the Granada High Interact Club will host a car wash starting at 3 p.m. on Sun., May 18 at Livermore Car Wash, 2855 Old 1st St.

Besides harsh detergents, car wash water contains motor oil, lubricants and heavy metals from brake linings, tires and exhaust—all washed off the car along with regular dirt and grime. When cars are washed on the curb, these pollutants enter the storm drain system and are carried directly to local creeks, wetlands and the Bay, harming fish and other aquatic life. Commercial car

wash businesses are required to collect and treat the wash water before discharging it to the sanitary sewer system, which carries the wastewater to treatment plants.

Commercial car washes also use significantly less water than home car washing. While 10 minutes of home car washing with a typical 5/8" garden hose uses more than 100 gallons of water, washing a car at a self-service car wash with a high-pressure wand uses only 11-13 gallons per 3-minute cycle, according to the International Car Wash Association. In addition, many commercial car washes recycle the wash water for multiple uses before discharging it to the sewer system.

Applications for Tourism Grants Are Due Soon

The City of Livermore is accepting applications for 2014-2015 Tourism and Special Event Grants. Under this program, five (5) grants of \$1000 each will be awarded to organizations that successfully demonstrate that their event will directly benefit Livermore downtown businesses and local wineries.

Events must at least: 1) be held within the grant period between July 1, 2014-June 15, 2015; 2) generate the largest attendance (minimum of 1,000 expected attendees); and 3) encourage tourism to the area. Grant funds cannot exceed fifty percent (50%) of the event expenses and groups must demonstrate that at least fifty (50%) of the event expenses will be generated from other sources.

Organizations inter-

ested in being considered must submit an application form along with supporting documentation to Theresa De La Vega, Economic Development Specialist, 1052 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550. The application period is May 12-30, 2014. Completed applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on May 30, 2014 to be considered.

The application form and guidelines are now posted on the City of Livermore website and is also available at City Hall, 1052 S. Livermore Avenue. For questions or to request a copy of the application form, contact Theresa De La Vega at (925) 960-4049 or tbdelavega@cityoflivermore.net.

library on Sunday, May 18 at 2 p.m. Zhao will talk about her experiences growing up in Communist China when her wealthy family was unjustly branded an Enemy of the State.

The Truth-Compassion-Tolerance International Art Exhibit has been shown in 200 cities throughout 40 countries worldwide. Following Livermore's exhibition, it will move to the State Capitol in Sacramento. The artwork, as well as smaller prints, are available for purchase with all monies raised being donated to Friends of the Falun Gong.

For Wang, the painting Lotus Candle holds a special significance.

"Numerous candlelight vigils have been held around the world to remember Falun Gong practitioners who have died from torture in China," she said. "The lotus flower is a symbol of cultivation and purity in Chinese culture because it rises from the dirt at the bottom of a pond. It lives in the silt but keeps unstained from the filth. Its stem can bend easily but won't break. Lotus Candle shows the contrast between the peacefulness and compassion of Falun Gong practitioners and the ferocity and brutality of their persecutors."

As for Liu Chengjun, his imprisonment turned out to be much shorter than his 19-year sentence. Within two years, he was dead from injuries he sustained while being tortured. The film he had been punished for broadcasting revealed that, as with other genocides throughout history, propaganda was used to demonize one group while inciting terror in others.

Yet in the painting, Chengjun, like the lotus flower, remains clean, unmarred and reaching for the light. For more information, visit www.falunart.org.

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GODZILLA (PG13) DLP-CC	1:00 1:55 4:00 5:00 7:00 8:00 9:50
GODZILLA (PG13) DLP-3D-DBOX	12:00 3:00 6:05 9:00
MILLION DOLLAR ARM (PG) DLP	12:20 3:25 4:45 6:30 8:15 9:35
LEGENDS OF OZ: DOROTHY'S RETURN (PG) DLP	12:05 2:15
NEIGHBORS (R) DLP	12:00 1:00 3:00 4:00 5:50 6:50 8:30 9:35
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 (PG13) DLP	12:00 1:55 3:20 5:20 6:35 8:45 9:45
THE OTHER WOMAN (PG13) DLP	1:00 3:50 6:40 9:30
RIO 2 (G) DLP	1:00 3:25 5:50 8:15
CAPTAIN AMERICA: WINTER SOLDIER (PG13) DLP	1:10 4:10 7:10 10:00
HEAVEN IS FOR REAL (PG) DLP	12:00 2:25 4:55 7:25 9:55
PREVIEW, THURSDAY, MAY 22:	
X-MEN: DAYS OF FUTURE PAST (PG13) DLP-2D AND 3D	10:00
BLENDED (PG13) DLP	7:00 9:45

Indie Hits, BELLE & CHEF both Start Friday May 23rd



INDIANA JONES and the LAST CRUSADE
Thursday May 22 @ 7:15

Both films playing for the LAST week!
Colin Firth & Nicole Kidman

THE RAILWAY MAN
Fri - Sun: 12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 8:55

THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL
Fri - Sun: 12:20 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:00

Please call (925) 447-2546 for Mon. - Thurs. times!

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



presents

Coffee & Seduction

Firehouse Art Center
4444 Railroad Ave, Pleasanton
Saturday, May 24 at 2pm

Two one-act classic comedies are given a fresh East Bay twist in this hilarious double bill. These family friendly masterpieces will charm you with their stunning music, and tickle your funny bone with lots of laughs. Comedies sung in Italian with English projections.

The Coffee Cantata
by Johann Sebastian Bach
by Tenor-Michael Desnoyers
Soprano-Maya Kherani, BSME
Bass-Baritone-Sergey Khalikulov

La Serva Padrona (The Servant Mistress)
by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi
by Tenor-Alan Briones
Soprano-Gabrielle Traub
Bass-Baritone-Sergey Khalikulov

Tickets: \$10-35
Purchase: (925) 931-4848 or www.livermorevalleyopera.com

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Events includes a tasty reception with Opera Singers and Alex Katsman