

## Camp season quickly approaching

So many choices nearby for a summer of fun

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

**M**any years ago, my independent 8-year-old son went away to a week-long YMCA camp near Yosemite. My husband and I watched with mixed emotions as he gamely climbed aboard the bus, ready for adventure.

Upon his return, he enthusiastically told us that the first day someone stepped on his tube of toothpaste, squirting it all onto the floor. He was proud of how he coped: He went the rest of the week brushing his teeth with just water.

It can be hard to let children take this step toward independence. Now, 40 years later, there are many choices for camping experiences, overnight for a week or two or for just a few days, and day camps as well as specialty camps for every possible interest and talent.

Investigating camps with your children can be a fun activity — and you may be surprised what you learn about them in the process. Browsing online can reveal special interest camps you may not have known existed, and stimulate curiosity in the would-be camper.

Overnight camps give children a taste of freedom and independence while parents know they are with responsible adults. And they provide a break from the daily routine for everyone.

For an overnight camp, ask what kind of training the staff receives, the ratio of campers to staff members, how conflicts are handled, what a typical day is like, and how often the child will be able to contact home.

Ask yourself: Does your child feel comfortable sleeping away from

home with friends or relatives? If a camp has a lot of water activities, is your child a good swimmer and comfortable in the water?

Day camps include offerings on every subject, from astronomy to robotics, arts, dance and drama. The Pleasanton tennis center has camps for various ages and abilities in tennis as well as table tennis, badminton, volleyball and chess. Adventure camps might include backpacking, biking and rock climbing.

Options on summer camps that span the subject spectrum can be found on [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com) via the “Camp Connection” page as well as the camp listings that will run in the print paper for the next months.

You can also go to the city website to check out its 2019 Summer Camp Guide, which includes Ridge Runners for all ages

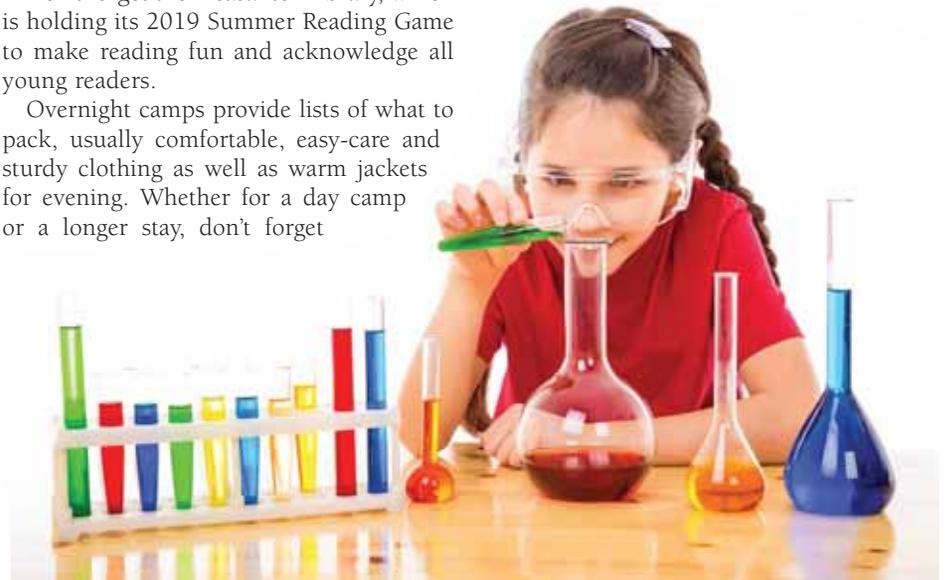
to explore trails and wildlife in the area parks. It also has a wide assortment of engineering and tech camps and offerings for drama, art, dance, music, science and pages of Lego activities, special interests and sports.

Don't forget the Pleasanton library, which is holding its 2019 Summer Reading Game to make reading fun and acknowledge all young readers.

Overnight camps provide lists of what to pack, usually comfortable, easy-care and sturdy clothing as well as warm jackets for evening. Whether for a day camp or a longer stay, don't forget

to label, label, label. Whether a sleepover camp or a day camp, be sure to tell your children you are confident they will do well.

And if your child goes away to camp, you might want to pack an extra tube of toothpaste. ■



GETTY IMAGES

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### World fusion sound

Quarteto Nuevo will perform world fusion sounds for the second event in the new “Bothwell Presents” series, which features smaller groups in a less structured setting, at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St. in Livermore. The quartet combines Western classical, Eastern European folk, Latin and jazz with an organic contemporary feel, uniting their different musical influences and improvising on core melodies for a unique fusion. The show starts at 8 p.m. next Friday (April 26). Tickets are \$20. Call 373-6800 or visit [lvpac.org](http://lvpac.org).



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## Camp Connection

Summer 2019



TV30

Students at last year's TV30 Summer Camp monitor a television broadcast.

## TV30 calling all campers

Special camp teaches all aspects of video production

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

The TV30 Summer Camp still has openings for its two sessions this summer, being held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day in two one-week sessions: June 10-14 and June 24-28.

The two camp sessions, each 20 hours long, include an introduction to studio production, field production, writing, producing and digital video editing.

"This is the original and only video camp available locally that provides students with a real-life experience in a working television station," said Melissa Tench-Stevens, executive director at TV30.

The camp is held at the TV30 studio for students in grades six to 12, aimed at those who are thinking of a career in video or television production.

"The campers work with our staff and learn to use the professional equipment," Tench-Stevens said. "The campers produce a TV program that will be broadcast on TV30 and can be seen via Comcast, AT&T U-Verse and all over the world on our website."

The fee is \$558 per camper. For more information, visit tv30.org or call the station at 462-3030.

TV30 Summer Camp is being held for the 11th year. ■

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## Presenting! 'Smokey Joe's Café'

Tri-Valley Rep at Firehouse with musical revue of legendary songs

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre opens "Smokey Joe's Café" at the Firehouse Arts Center next week, a musical theater revue of 40 of the greatest songs of the past century.

The show celebrates the music of the legendary songwriting duo Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, who as much as anyone invented rock 'n' roll, providing hit after hit for icons such as Elvis Presley, Ben E. King, the Coasters and the Drifters. Now their songs provide electrifying entertainment that illuminates a golden age of American culture.

The show features an idealized '50s setting, as the themes of love won, lost and imagined blend with emotions in such show-stopping classics as "Stand by Me," "Hound Dog," "Love Potion No. 9" and "Charlie Brown."

"Smokey Joe's Café" is produced by Kathleen Breedveld; directed and choreographed by Christina Lazo; with musical direction by Sierra Dee. The cast includes Equity actor Dave J. Abrams, Dominic Lessa, Justin Sabino, The T, Chris Poston, Tanika Baptiste, Elizabeth Curtis, Vida Mae Fernandez, Katherine Dela Cruz and Courtney Jacobs.

The show, which is rated PG, opens at 8 p.m. next Saturday (April 27) and continues through May 12 with evening performances Fridays and Saturdays, and matinees Sundays. ■



BOB BRONZAN/DC SCARPELLI

Women at "Smokey Joe's Café" are (from left) Elizabeth Curtis, Katherine Dela Cruz, Vida Mae Fernandez and Tanika Baptiste.

### Smokin' theater

What: "Smokey Joe's Café" musical revue

Who: Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre

When: 8 p.m., April 27, May 3, 4, 10, 11

2 p.m., April 28 May 4, 5, 11, 12

Where: Firehouse Arts Center, 4444

Railroad Ave.

Tickets: \$22-\$41. Go to www.firehousearts.org,

call 931-4848, or purchase at the theater box office.

## Spring choir and jazz concert

LPC show to feature special guest star M-PACT

By **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

The Las Positas College Department of Music will present its Spring Vocal Concert featuring guest artist M-PACT at 7 p.m. next Wednesday (April 24) at the Las Positas College Main Stage, 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore.

The show includes the Las Positas College Chamber Choir and vocal jazz student groups, Vocal East and the Late Set.

“As artists, it is our ongoing goal to honor our selected music through the best performances of which we are capable,” said Ian Brekke, LPC director of choral and vocal studies. “We hope to motivate, uplift and inspire our audiences. People choose to attend live performances for hundreds of reasons, and we aspire to offer at least something for everyone.”

Vocal East has prepared five songs including arrangements by Darmon Meader, “I Can’t Believe You’re in Love with Me,” and Phil Mattson, “I’ll Be Seeing You.” The Late Set will perform three selections including Stevie Wonder’s “Have A Talk With God,” arranged by M-PACT’s Matthew Selby.

The Chamber Choir will sing seven pieces including the Moses Hogan arrangement of “The Battle of Jericho,” Sam Robson’s arrangement of “One Day I’ll Fly Away,” Johannes Brahms’ “Warum,” the Honey

Whiskey Trio-arranged “Who’s Gonna Be Your Man” with the Chamber Choir’s sopranos and altos, the David Wright-arranged “Hello Mary Lou” performed barbershop-style with the Chamber Choir’s tenors and basses, Ludovico de Viadana’s “O Sacrum Convivium,” and Jonathan Rathbone’s “Sakkijarven Polkka.”

Brekke said the students have been preparing for the show since January, putting in time beyond the groups’ two rehearsals each week.

“I am extremely proud of the hard work and diligence the students have put into these sets,” he said. “Their overall growth as ensembles and musicians has been fantastic and will make for a wonderful evening of artistry. Our program is also very excited to host M-PACT, a highly renowned vocal group based in Los Angeles.”

M-PACT has been performing for more than 20 years, domestically and internationally at concert halls, performing arts centers and festivals. The group is currently working on a sixth album while maintaining a steady tour schedule for their show, “Signed, Sealed, Delivered I’m Yours.”

Tickets for the concert are \$10 for general admission; \$5 for students, seniors and military; and \$15 at the door. Go to [laspositascollege.edu/music](http://laspositascollege.edu/music). ■

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Camp Begins June 2019

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