

Oak Grove OK'd

Judge invalidates citizens' petition > **page 5**

Rev up for rally

School community
to protest state
budget cuts

> **page 5**

Vol. IX, Number 9 • March 28, 2008

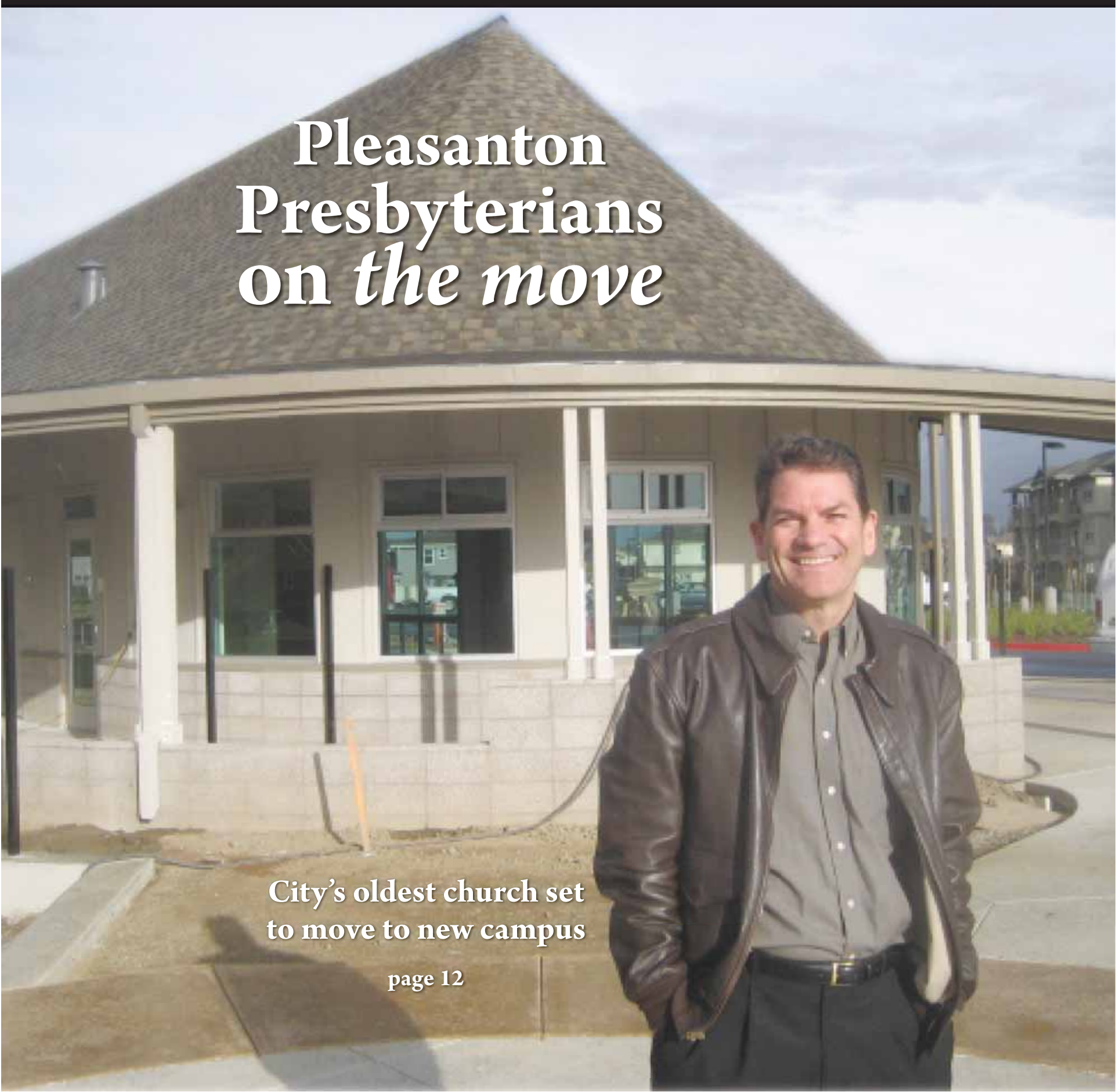
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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Musical expression

Don Lewis, new
crew back for
annual concert

> **page 14**



Pleasanton Presbyterians *on the move*

City's oldest church set
to move to new campus

page 12



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Remembering Marilyn Kane

Many of us who never knew Marilyn Kane personally remember her affectionately as the "sandwich board lady," the enthusiastic environmentally-focused individual who probably had more influence than anyone on the City Council's decision to develop the Bernal property as a public park. Now we know more about Marilyn, who died of cancer in November 2006, thanks to her loving husband Jim and their three children: sons Bruce and Tom and daughter Lisa Kane Walsh. They were together at a City Council meeting earlier this month to formally present a check for \$500,000 to pay for a trail on the Bernal site, where Marilyn frequently walked. The family promised another \$300,000 check in a few months once the money can be pulled out of a trust fund. Together, this is the largest personal donation the city has ever been given.

There were tears all around at the council meeting as Jim Kane talked about his wife, who on the night she died, with her family at her side, urged them to continue her campaign to preserve Bernal as open space with trails for hikers, like herself. It's a passion she's had for the 510-acre site since 1963 when Jim and Marilyn moved here, and she applauded the gift of 318 acres free of charge to the city for public use by the developers who built homes and apartments on the rest. She loved open space, especially large expanses of land that were left free of structures and open to the public. Once the city had its own Bernal acreage, she lobbied frequently at task force and council meetings to keep Bernal an open space park. She spoke out against early development plans that called for buildings and "things" (as she put it), afraid that special interests were about to clutter up her dream of turning Bernal into a centrally-located park with natural landscape and trails for all to enjoy.

Jim Kane said that Marilyn's favorite was Lithia Park in

Ashland, Ore. It was a place they always stopped on trips to the Pacific Northwest. On one of these, Marilyn took a batch of photos which she pasted on a sandwich board and, placing it on her shoulders, stood up at several town hall meetings on the future of Bernal to ask that it be turned into Pleasanton's own Lithia Park. We saw her at planning, council and other public meetings, even walking down Main Street to talk about her vision with passers-by. In the end, with the help of then Mayor Tom Pico and task force chairwoman Jennifer Hosterman and other Bernal Park advocates such as Kurt Kummer of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Marilyn's ideas were adopted and the park she envisioned is what's being planned for Bernal today.

She loved open space, especially large expanses of land that were left free of structures and open to the public

Jim Wolfe, the city's Director of Parks and Community Services, has worked closely with Jim Kane in planning the Marilyn Kane trail to make sure it follows as closely as possible the route she liked to walk. It will be a 10-foot-wide pathway with three vista points near the Arroyo de la Laguna and terminating close to Bernal Avenue, where there will be a staging area, parking lot and water. It will be paved for the ease of strollers, wheelchairs, those with walkers and normal hikers, with an additional 2-foot section alongside of softer composition for joggers, with a sign somewhere along the way to remind all of us of Marilyn's passion for Bernal and her family's generosity to the city she loved. ■

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About the Cover

The Rev. Mike Barris, pastor of Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, stands in front of school and fellowship buildings on 6-acre campus at Valley Avenue and Busch Road that the church is developing. The multi-million-dollar project, which now includes a blimp-like Sprung building to be used until the main sanctuary structure is built, will be dedicated next month when the church will also be renamed Centerpointe Presbyterian Church. Photo by Jeb Bing. Cover design by Shannon Corey.

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Streetwise

Q: If you could choose, what would be your ideal occupation?

Asked Downtown



Austin Shenfield
Student/Cab Driver

Being a firefighter will be my ideal job. I'm in school working toward that goal right now. Firefighters have great benefits and flexible schedules. I think it will be very rewarding.

Shari Zeager

Accountant

I'd love to own a clothing boutique. Owning my own business would be very rewarding. I'd like to be my own boss. I'm really into fashion. I think I could help people out there who like to put outfits together that don't really work for them.



Brad Wolfe

Scientist

I love my job right now but if I had to choose, I would love to be a sculptor. I love figure sculpting, something artistic, three dimensional. I enjoy working with clay, stone, anything.

Jinhwa Jung

Electrical Engineer

I would love to be a jewelry designer, creating jewelry from platinum and silver. I'd love to work for a company, then after I gained experience, I'd open my own shop.



Kim Fanene

Travel Agent

My ideal occupation would be to water ski and jet ski at Marine World or Sea World. I don't want to be the dainty one being carried. I want to be the one doing the twists and turns, jumping the waves.



Life After Prostate Cancer

Free Educational Seminar



The Prostate Cancer Support Group at San Ramon Regional Medical Center invites the community to learn about issues related to life after prostate cancer. Many men experience urinary incontinence and impotence following prostate cancer treatment. Our board-certified urologist, Parminder Sethi, M.D., will discuss surgical and non-surgical treatments of these side-effects. Family risk is another concern. Dr. Sethi will discuss the risk of prostate cancer in sons, brothers and other close relatives. He will explain when male relatives should seek screening and testing for the cancer. The physician will be prepared to answer questions on other medical topics related to life after prostate cancer. Partners and family members are invited and encouraged to attend. The Prostate Cancer Support Group meets the second Tuesday of the month from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., and the community is welcome to attend at no charge.

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Parminder S. Sethi, M.D.
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Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Hart students perform at Carnegie

Thomas Hart Middle School's string orchestra and symphonic band presented six pieces at the famous Carnegie Hall in New York City yesterday as a part of the 2008 National Youth Concert program. "Heart of the City," composed by Dr. Gray P. Gilroy, was a tribute to the late Juanita Haugen, a longtime school board member. "Erin Isles Sketches," composed by Elliot Del Borgo, honored the late Thomas Hart Jr., the school's namesake, and his wife Mary.

Community band returns to Amador Theater

The Pleasanton Community Concert band will perform the 33rd annual Spring Concert at 2 p.m. April 6 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. This year's theme is "Salute to Spring and Leroy Anderson," and will feature "Trumpeter's Holiday," "Clarinet Candy," "The Syncopated Clock" and other favorites. The concert is free, but donations are appreciated. Doors open at 1:40 p.m. For more information, call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasantonband.org.

Library's classic film series continues

The Pleasanton Public Library has teamed up with Las Positas College to present "Famous Film Couples: A Classic Film Series" with Dr. Candy Klaschus, a film historian. Shown the first Thursday of the month through June 5, the next film to show will be "The Quiet Man" at 7 p.m. April 3. The program is free and all are welcome, although some films may not be suitable for children. Call 931-3405.

Scholarships offered for Foothill students

Rotary Club of Pleasanton North will award two \$4,000 scholarships to Foothill High School graduates. Candidates will be selected based on scholarship achievements, high school activities, community service and future plans and goals. The memorial scholarships honor Chuck Pickens, the first president of the Pleasanton North Rotary, and Robin Barnett, a former teacher at Foothill. Seniors planning a college education can get applications at the counseling office, which are due April 10. Call Jack, 846-2146 for more information.

Judge OKs Oak Grove project for homes, park in southeast hills

Invalidates citizens' petition; Kay Ayala group appeals ruling

by Jeb Bing

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch has made permanent his earlier tentative ruling that rejected a citizens' coalition's plea, led by former Councilwoman Kay Ayala, to block the proposed Oak Grove housing and land transfer project in Pleasanton's southeast hills.

The ruling, made last Friday, in effect affirmed the City Council's 4-1 vote last November that approved the Oak Grove plan and gave the go-ahead for a public, 496-acre nature park and 51 custom lots at the end of Hearst Drive in the hills above Kottinger Ranch and Vintage Hills.

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern

cast the lone vote against the project and threw her support to the Ayala coalition.

The plan evolved during a four-year public review process that included nine public hearings and was favored by the city's Parks and Recreation Commission, the Trails Ad Hoc Committee, the Housing Commission and the council.

The court's decision came after a month of deliberation by Roesch that followed a Feb. 22 hearing on a suit by land owner and developer Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic to invalidate a petition by Ayala and her citizen's group known as Save Pleasanton's Hills. The petition, signed by more than 6,000, with more than 4,000 of the signatures verified as registered Pleasanton voters by the county Registrar's office, called for a voter referendum to overturn the council's decision.

The referendum was initially planned to go to voters during the June 3 state primary balloting.

But the Lins, through their attorneys Andrew Sabey and R. Clark Morrison of the San Francisco law firm of Cox, Castle & Nicholson, filed a suit in the Alameda County Superior Court to toss out the petitions on grounds that the signature-gathering process violated state laws.

It's that plea by the Lins that Roesch accepted in his ruling, made public Friday. He ruled that Ayala's group, while having copies at hand during their signature-gathering efforts of the home development and land grant ordinance and development agreement, should have had much more, including the project's design guidelines and a map showing the various lots, their sizes and locations. Because these were lacking, he ruled that the coalition's effort was "non-

compliant" with state law, thereby nullifying the effort.

On Friday, immediately after Roesch's ruling, Ayala's attorney Christopher Lagras of the Palo Alto law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, filed a notice of appeal. If the appeal proceeds, it would eventually be heard by the First Appellate District Court in San Francisco, a process that could take more than a year and cost up to \$50,000. In the meantime, the Lins cannot proceed with building their proposed development or turn the 496 acres over to the city of Pleasanton.

"Essentially, with the appeal being filed, it basically keeps everything in a holding pattern in terms of what happens to the referendum petitions and the project," explained City Attorney Michael Roush. "This could take a year or

(continued on page 7)



Attendants wheel the caskets of Ernest Scherer Jr. and his wife Charlene Abendroth, followed by pallbearers and family members, to hearses after funeral services for the couple last Saturday.

Sheriff investigators search for clues in couple's death

Deputies still stumped on who murdered Castlewood pair

About 90 volunteer detectives from the Contra Costa County and Alameda County sheriff's offices scoured an area around the Castlewood Country Club last Saturday looking for clues regarding the recent slaying of Ernest Scherer Jr., 60, and his wife Charlene Abendroth, 57, in their home near the club.

The couple's bodies were discovered March 14, although investigators believe they were murdered possibly a week earlier. They were last seen leaving a dinner at the country club about 8 p.m. March 7. Scherer missed a meeting he had scheduled the following Saturday

morning on March 8 and the two were never seen alive again.

In addition to volunteers and dogs searching through the brush-filled rural area near Pleasanton-Sunol Road, sheriff's search and rescue team divers waded into the water of the Arroyo De La Laguna, which flows through the country club's property.

"We are searching for anything connected with the homicides," Alameda County Sheriff's Office Sgt. J.D. Nelson said. "We're working to tie up those loose ends. We have

(continued on page 8)

PTA hosts rally over budget cuts

Protest scheduled for April 4 at Amador Valley High School

by Emily Atwood

Community members will come together next Friday at Amador Valley High School to protest Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposed state budget. The Pleasanton Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Council said this rally will be one of many held throughout the state in April.

Sen. Ellen Corbett and Assemblymembers Mary Hayashi and Alberto Torrico are said to be participating in the rally along with members of the Pleasanton PTA Council, California School Employees Association and the Association of Pleasanton Teachers. Assemblymember Guy Houston was invited to the rally, but has legislative floor sessions that day in Sacramento.

Debbie Look, Pleasanton PTA Council legislative vice president, called the cuts a "real serious blow to education" for students in Pleasanton and throughout the state.

"We are encouraging people to take action," she said. "We want to tell [the state] that we don't think the budget is acceptable."

The rally will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Students and parents, as well as representatives from participating groups, will speak about the budget's impact. Participants are encouraged to make and bring their own signs.

California schools could face fewer teachers, counselors and staff, resulting in larger classes and less individualized attention.

As for students in the Pleasanton Unified School District, the \$4.5 million in cuts could mean fewer or no reading specialists,

(continued on page 8)

Ponderosa shows plans for gated senior community in Ironwood

110 detached single-family homes for 55+ to go on former school site

by Janet Pelletier

If built, it would be the first gated senior residential development in the city.

Proposed by Ponderosa Homes is a 110-unit single-family home community for residents who are 55 and older. Company executives laid out their plans to the Planning Commission at its March 19 meeting.

The last portion of the master plan for the Ironwood residential development off of Valley Avenue and Busch Road, the senior complex would be built on land previously reserved for a public school. The Pleasanton Unified School District, which has a five-year option agreement on the 23-acre site, has told Ponderosa that they don't intend to exercise the option, according to a city staff report.

The complex would join the Ironwood community, which was approved in 2002 and consists of 175 single-family homes, 16 duets and a 172-unit senior apartment community. The senior apartments and most of the single-family homes have been built and the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church is completing a new church facility there as well. The senior home community would be built on the eastern edge of Ironwood, bordered by the city's Operation Service Center to the south and the Old Mohr Avenue right-of-way and a Zone 7 Water Agency (former

Hanson Aggregates quarry) lake to the north.

Pam Hardy, manager of land planning for Ponderosa, said the complex would offer seniors the advantage of home ownership as well as a sense of security with it being gated.

But Commissioner Phil Blank said he disliked the idea of the gate and private streets, citing that the city's General Plan discourages gated communities.

"There's too many gated communities in Pleasanton," Blank said. "I don't think that's the community spirit. If we keep allowing them, someday all of Pleasanton will be gated."

But Hardy said there are a number of benefits to having the community gated.

"It adds another layer of security," she said. "Seniors take extended trips and they're not at home a lot. Residents will also be single women who want the security of a gate."

She added that fire and police personnel would be able to access the property during an emergency with a special code.

Commissioners Greg O'Connor and Arne Olson said they were in favor of the gate.

"I think the reasons to have a gated community here are overwhelming," Olson said.

City planner Steve Otto told the commission, which was missing members Kathy Narum, Jennifer

Pearce and Anne Fox, that other project proposals that have recently come to the city's planning department including the Lester property west of Foothill Road and Staples Ranch have proposed gates in their developments.

The homes would be for seniors who are 55 years of age and older. A spouse can be 45 years and older and caregivers and disabled children are also allowed to live in the homes, Hardy said. Four one-story models ranging from 1,900 square feet to 2,670 square feet would be offered and one of the models is two stories. The complex would include a 4,400-square-foot clubhouse with a kitchen, wine locker, meeting room, office, exercise room, restrooms and storage areas. Outdoor amenities include a pool, spa and bocce ball court.

John Knight, who lives nearby on Sagewood Court, said he would like have access to the Iron Horse Trail. Hardy said Ponderosa has looked into the matter, but said that it would be impossible to connect to the trail along the planned emergency vehicle access road because it is a private road. The city's Community Trails Master Plan shows a future trail along the northern side of the site.

The meeting on the proposal was a work session to get feedback from commissioners. The plans will return to the commission in the near future for approval. ■



Janet Pelletier

Demonstrating for peace

Fred Norman, center, reads a poem to a large crowd that gathered for a peace vigil last Wednesday, the fifth anniversary of the War in Iraq. About 100 people participated in the event, which was held in front of the Museum On Main Street. Norman has been a frequent activist for peace and attends every City Council meeting to hold three minutes of silence for soldiers who have died in battle. Councilman Matt Sullivan was an organizer of the event along with Norman and his wife Cathe.

ValleyCare appeals \$25,000 fine

Pregnant woman and her baby's life were threatened after painkiller overdose

by Emily Atwood

ValleyCare Health System was recently fined \$25,000 by the California Department of Public Health after a dosage mistake last August 2007 that threatened the lives of a pregnant woman and her baby.

Cindy Noonan, chief operating officer of ValleyCare, said the situation was self-reported and they have appealed the state's decision.

A total of 11 hospitals in California were fined as a part of bill signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006 that took effect Jan. 1, 2007. The nearest hospital to be fined was Washington Hospital in Fremont after an elderly patient died of an

alleged medication mix-up.

According to a state health report, ValleyCare failed to "provide medication as prescribed to one patient, resulting in a medication error and that caused life-threatening events in two patients" as well as implement immediate, corrective actions to prevent future mix-ups.

The report continues to say a 23-year-old woman was admitted to ValleyCare Aug. 3 and scheduled for a vaginal delivery. After asking for pain medication, the patient was intravenously (IV) given .05 milligrams of Sufenta. However, the report shows the

(continued on page 8)

New portion of Iron Horse Trail opening

\$1.6-million project includes two segments running from Santa Rita Road, across Mohr Avenue to Busch Road

The newest leg of the 33-mile Iron Horse Trail will be dedicated in a ceremony Monday.

The one-mile segment of the trail runs from Santa Rita Road, across Mohr Avenue, to Busch Road in two segments. The trail features a 10-foot wide paved path with a 2-foot wide decomposed granite lane, offering versatility for walkers, runners, skaters and cyclists alike, according to city spokeswoman Joanne Hall. Other amenities include benches, distance markers, a water fountain, various landscaped sections and a traffic crossing device at Mohr Avenue.

The \$1.6-million project was a cooperative effort between the City

of Pleasanton, Ponderosa Homes, which is the homebuilder of Ironwood, East Bay Regional Park District and the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA). ACTIA contributed \$450,000 in funding for the Santa Rita Road to Mohr Avenue segment of the trail through a grant that was administered by the East Bay Regional Park District.

Ponderosa Homes donated design services, funded and constructed the Mohr Avenue to Busch Road segment of the trail. Both segments of the trail will be maintained by the city and patrolled by the park district.

—Janet Pelletier

Take Us Along



A gardening Weekly

Gayle Furukawa reads the Weekly at the Hotel Garden in Siena, Italy. She also toured France on her vacation.



Whistler, a gondola and bears, oh my!

Sal, Maddy and Marlisa Zamora read the Weekly 6,000 feet above sea level at Whistler Mountain in British Columbia, Canada. Sal reports the family rode a gondola to the top, then hiked to the Harmony Hut Tea House for tea and scones, did some horseback riding and even saw some black bears. Vancouver and Whistler are currently preparing for the 2010 Olympics there.

Mayor upbeat about State of City

Budget surplus and \$26 million in the bank will allow city to continue projects, improvements

by Janet Pelletier

"We remain a force to be reckoned with," said Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, as she delivered the State of the City address last Friday, telling the audience that while economic forecasts are dim, the city is in sound financial shape and continues to find new ways to improve its future. The speech was given to an audience of about 100 Chamber of Commerce members at the Pleasanton Hilton Hotel.

"In Pleasanton—our corner of the world—sound financial planning, a diverse economic base and an active and deeply involved community have provided us with a quality of life that is the envy of many," she said.

In the short-term, Hosterman said the city's finances look good. Last year, a \$1.5-million surplus contributed to that and discretionary reserves total \$26 million.

While the mayor acknowledged it's unclear what effect the faltering economy will have on Pleasanton, she said she does know there will be a reduction in revenues associated with residential development in the way of property taxes and building permit fees, though she didn't provide any financial estimates.

Despite that, she said commercial development continues to grow with such projects as:

- an expansion to Stoneridge Shopping Center, which was recently acquired by Simon Property Group;
- construction of a second BART station across from the mall;
- a 25,000-square-foot building that will house new tenants in the Hacienda Business Park;
- an expansion to the CarrAmerica

Corporate Center to include new office buildings and a 130-room hotel;

- the city's ongoing effort to annex the Staples Ranch property in northeastern Pleasanton, which plans to house an auto mall

Hosterman said businesses are attracted to the city's highly educated and skilled workforce.

"With over 61,000 employees working within the more than 19 million square feet of commercial, office and industrial space throughout the city, we remain a force to be reckoned with," she said.

A green building movement is expected to create a number of new jobs, Hosterman said.

"Someone has to install rooftop photovoltaics, and someone has to glaze windows on those renovated green buildings," she said. "And, that glazier may become a foreman, and that installer may become, with some education, an engineer."

"This is the largest opportunity for job creation that this country has seen in many years," she added.

With the state in the midst of a water crisis stemming from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta due to the declining levels of the Delta smelt fish population, the city is aware that it needs to institute ways to ration water usage, Hosterman said.

"The council will entertain a three-tiered approach to billing for water consumption—so that those who want to support vast lawns will pay a little more," she said.

Current projects the city is planning include:

- a goal to build the Firehouse Arts Center by restoring the old

Fire Station No. 1 downtown for art classes, gallery space and theater productions;

- the restoration of the historic Alviso Adobe west of Foothill Road to offer visitors a look at Pleasanton's history with dairies;

- work to the Bernal property, which is slated to have sports fields.

The city has also made a strong effort to continue providing safety to residents, Hosterman said.

In an apparent reference to the recent double homicides that occurred in Castlewood, Hosterman said "the rare, recent acts of violence that have taken place remind us that even Pleasanton is not exempt from crime and of the importance of maintaining a constant vigilance on the safety front."

Recognizing that the number of traffic collisions has decreased due to what police cite as an increase in traffic citations, Hosterman said the city continues to work on ways to improve the ever-talked about issue of congestion. Hosterman traveled with other Tri-Valley mayors in January to meet with Congressman Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, in Washington, D.C. to lobby for traffic circulation funding.

Among the projects to get under way include:

- a 13-mile high occupancy vehicle lane on eastbound Interstate 580, which will break ground in two months;
- widening to State Route 84 and I-580;
- new high-occupancy lanes on I-580 (eastbound) and Interstate 680 (southbound), which are expected to decrease cut-through traffic in town. ■

Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

longer to resolve."

Last month, Ayala and coalition co-leader Alan Roberts, a homeowner in the gated community of Grey Eagle that is adjacent to the proposed Oak Grove housing site, asked the City Council to file an appeal if Judge Roesch ruled against the citizens' petitions in favor of the Lins' development plan. Ayala said the city should pay for the appeal.

Roush said that at some point the council will weigh in on whether it wants to appeal the decision.

However, with four on the council having approved the Lins' project, it's questionable if they would vote to appeal a ruling that went in their favor.

Besides ruling against Ayala and her petitioners, Roesch also denied her bid to have the Lins pay the costs of her signature-gathering efforts and legal fees. It's unclear what those costs are. The coalition bought newspaper advertisements, printed banners and brochures and copied thousands of pages of documents. Unless it worked on a pro

bono basis, the Palo Alto law firm that Ayala used also must be paid.

Ayala has not filed any documents showing the contributions and expenses of the Save Pleasanton's Hills effort. Jerry Pentin, chair of a group that campaigned against Ayala's signature-gathering drive, said his group filed the necessary paperwork with the City Clerk's office as required by law, and called for Ayala to do the same.

The Lin family has owned the Oak Grove property since 1977. The site was zoned for residential development of up to 98 homes in 1991, and designated again for residential development when voters approved the city's Urban Growth Boundary ordinance in 1996. The city's 1996 General Plan, which is still in effect, and its voter-approved 29,000-unit housing cap also allow for up to 98 homes on the property.

Atty. Marty Inderbitzen, who has represented the Lins on their Oak Grove request, said, in a statement:

"The construction of this project will fulfill the General Plan goals and objectives by clustering large-lot, custom homes, preserving large open space acreage and acquiring a public park system and trail rights-

of-way through developer dedications. (If this project is denied), the property owner will continue to propose projects for this property until one is finally approved and built, with or without a park."

The 51 lots would occupy 62 acres and another 4 acres would be developed with roads and services to support the lots, so 66 acres—or 12 percent—of the property would be dedicated to residential development and 496 acres—or 88 percent—would be given to the city at no cost.

The Oak Grove park would be Pleasanton's largest park at twice the size of Augustin Bernal and three times the size of the new Bernal Community Park. As planned, it would include natural open space, an 11-stall staging area with bathrooms and miles of trails that could eventually link the Callippe Preserve Golf Course to Shadow Cliffs Regional Park.

The Development Agreement approved by the council also requires the Lins to build the trails, staging area and public bathrooms by the time the fifth home lot is sold. The agreement stipulates, too, that the Lins will contribute \$1 million to mitigate traffic and other impacts on the city. ■



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Friends, family pay tribute to slain couple at Mormon service

Heart-felt eulogies honor Ernest Scherer Jr., his wife Charlene Abendroth

by Jeb Bing

Several hundred relatives, friends and neighbors gathered last Saturday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Pleasanton to pay their respects and remember Ernest Scherer Jr., 60, and his wife Charlene Abendroth, 57.

The couple was found badly beaten to death in their home near the Castlewood County Club on March 14.

The service, conducted even as Alameda County sheriff's investigators were searching areas along the Arroyo De La Laguna less than a mile away, included eulogies by Mr. Scherer's sister Carolyn Scherer Oesterle, former Congressman Bill Baker, economics professor Jay Tontz and Ms. Abendroth's friend Linda Lea Hurley.

Mr. Scherer, active in the Republican Party, served as campaign manager for Baker. He campaigned vigorously despite formidable odds to generate enough support for Baker to be nominated and then to go on to win the election.

Baker talked about Mr. Scherer's conservative bent, even to the point of insisting that Baker furnish his office with throw-aways from the government used furniture storage center, which Mr. Scherer obtained and delivered.

A former member of the San Ramon school board, Mr. Scherer, an investor and real estate agent, was active in local politics to the end and was scheduled to join others March 15 to help plan the Republican Party's 2008 campaign in the 11th Congressional District. He never made the meeting.

Baker said his former campaign manager had endless energy with winning strategies. For these reasons and more, Mr. Scherer was named Contra Costa County Republican of the Year.

Tontz, who was dean of the School of Business and Economics at Cal State East Bay from 1973 to 2003, when he stepped down to return to teaching, worked with Ms. Abendroth for the 30 years she taught accounting at the college.

Tontz said she was an absolute favorite of her students and the members of Beta Alpha Psi, an honorary organization for accounting, finance and information, which she advised. Two years ago, she won Cal State's "Advisor of the Year" award.

She was also an active member of the Mormon Church, where the funeral service was held. Hurley remembered her as a "terribly bright and quite outspoken" woman who inspired other Mormon women such as herself to become more

involved in church affairs.

In their tributes, the speakers also talked about the couple's love of hiking, traveling and birding. Their feats ranged from climbing Half Dome to leading bird expeditions from Turkey to Ecuador to traveling extensively across all seven continents.

Oesterle said the family was close knit. Mr. Scherer taught his daughter Catherine the winning strategies of board games and encouraged his son to play soccer. Even though he didn't know a thing about soccer, Mr. Scherer bought books about the game, studied the plays and eventually became a soccer coach for many of the years his son played the sport.

She also talked about the all the Ernies in the Scherer family. Having Ernie Sr. and Ernie Jr. was difficult enough, so the family nicknamed Ernie III "Skip" to lessen the confusion. Then, she added, Skip named his first-born son Ernie IV. The four Ernies always posed for a photo of themselves at the frequent family gatherings Mr. Scherer was fond of arranging. One of their last photos together was part of a collage friends displayed in the church foyer.

Private interment followed the service at Roselawn Cemetery in Livermore. ■

Sheriff

(continued from page 5)

found several items that we will look at carefully but nothing that we can absolutely connect with the case."

Investigators spent about six hours walking through the brush and search along the creek bed. Besides divers, search dogs and metal surveillance equipment were used in the search.

Nelson said investigators are

continuing to interview people who knew the couple and haven't found anything "conclusive" to report from Saturday's search.

On March 14, at about 12:30 p.m., the sheriff's office received a call from a Castlewood Country Club employee who saw what appeared to be a body in the couple's home. Sheriff's deputies responded and entered the two-story, 4,000-square-foot home, where they found the two bodies. Both victims were wearing their pajamas and had been badly beaten.

As investigators searched the country club area, a funeral was being held a mile away at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Pleasanton, where Abendroth was a member.

The family is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the killer or killers. Sheriff's investigators are asking anyone with information to contact them at 510-272-6878.

—Jeb Bing

ValleyCare

(continued from page 6)

patient's physician ordered 50 micrograms IV of fentanyl (also called Sublimaze) every hour. Sufenta is reportedly five times more potent than fentanyl.

The state health document shows the woman stopped breathing and both she and the baby's heart rate significantly dropped a few minutes after receiving the pain medication. The woman was

given an antidote and responded shortly after.

The baby, however, showed little improvement and was delivered by C-section. Described as "floppy" upon birth, the baby was admitted to the intensive care nursery for birth asphyxia, electrolyte imbalance and narcosis. There, the newborn was monitored for brain damage, seizures and renal insufficiency.

Staff reported the medication error occurred over a nurse's inability to differentiate trade and generic medication names and

the "incorrect assumption" that look-alike and sound-alike drugs (Sufenta and Sublimaze) are the same. The two nurses involved were said to be counseled and warnings were added to the hospital's system.

Noonan said she couldn't elaborate on the situation, as they are now in the appeal process with the state. As to when the appeal will be resolved, she said there were many unknowns since the process is new for the Department of Health. ■

Rally

(continued from page 5)

no coaching stipends and other program cuts. The school board recently decided to allow borrowing of reserves and would consider putting a parcel tax on the

November ballot.

Look encouraged the community to show support by attending, making calls and writing letters to legislators, even if residents don't have students in the district.

"I think public education is important to everyone," she said. "It impacts the future of the state

and the economy."

To learn more about the rally, call 876-2380 or visit www.pleasantonpta.org. ■

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Transitions

Obituaries

Clarence "Smitty" Schmidt

Clarence "Smitty" Schmidt died Feb. 13 at the age of 91.

Mr. Schmidt was known by many different names—Dad, Papa, Uncle Clarence and Bud to name a few, but more importantly he was known by adjectives—funny, positive, friendly, loving, generous and just a genuinely nice man who enjoyed the moment.



He was born Aug. 2, 1916 in Cortland, Neb. on a farm and was a true farm boy in every sense of the word. Later in life, he continued that love of all things country western, listening to country music, dancing with his wife and attending rodeos in Amador County. He spent time in the Navy as a young man and eventually retired from the Teamsters Union. Married to O'Linda for more than 50 years, the couple spent most of those years in San Leandro.

Clarence and O'Linda had one child, Sharon, and spent most of her childhood years in local roller-skating rinks as Sharon competed throughout the Bay Area, state and nation. They would later spend time watching their granddaughter, Stephanie, rollerskate and compete

at the old Pleasanton roller rink—formally at the county fairgrounds.

Mr. Schmidt enjoyed the simple things in life—barbeques with Courtenay and Rob next door; camping with Sharon and Don and their friends; a good game of black-jack in Minden or Reno; watching Sofie and Ava play—laughing with them, gardening (he had a meticulous yard at all times and grew many vegetables); hearing tales of his grandson, Scott, as a police officer, and Stephanie as she moved to Colorado, away from a lifetime in Pleasanton. He spent many years woodworking, making children's furniture and other pieces including planters and games. Mostly he was happy in the presence of family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife, O'Linda Schmidt; brother, Roland Schmidt; sisters, Thelma Wolfe of Plymouth, Calif., Myrtle of Pleasant Hill and Gladys Walker of Omaha, Neb.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Don Howard of Plymouth, Calif.; granddaughter and her partner, Stephanie (Ricker) and Jeanine Schmalz of Littleton, Colo.; grandson and his wife, Scott and Kacie Ricker; and great-granddaughter, Sofia and Ava Ricker of Pleasanton. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews in California, Arizona and Nebraska. Other survivors include close friends and neighbors, especially Tony on Lillian Avenue.

A celebration of his life was held at The Chapel of the Chimes Mortuary in Hayward, where his remains were laid to rest with his loving wife Feb. 19.

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Opinion

Editorial

City, schools face state deficit burdens

With the Pleasanton PTA Council, teachers' union and local Democratic Party legislators planning a rally next Friday to protest Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposed slashes in state school funding, word comes that this pressure may already be succeeding. Legislative analyst Elizabeth Hill is looking at ways to transfer some of the burden of paying down the \$16-billion state budget deficit away from the schools and more toward counties and cities, including ours. We haven't heard yet of municipal and county employee unions and their supporters planning a counter rally, but this all goes to show just how difficult the governor's and legislature's decisions will be in preparing the final budget plan in May, called the May revise. Either way, it also shows what taxpayers can expect, since here in Pleasanton with a unified school district we are one in the same.

Clearly, the Pleasanton school district is facing one of its most challenging fiscal problems in years. With the proposed state reductions in education spending, the Pleasanton district faces a \$4.5-million shortfall. Reserves can close some of the funding gap for one year, at least, but already the district has notified reading specialists of possible layoffs and has cut back on spending wherever it can. This shortfall is based on the governor's announced plan to impose 10 percent across-the-board budget cuts, including funds for education.

Hill, however, has announced that her office's response to the budget shortfall crisis could also directly affect cities. The LAO's proposal would reduce the amount of COPS (Citizens Option for Public Safety), booking fees and Proposition 172 revenues. That translates into a loss of approximately \$680,000 for the city of Pleasanton. The availability of COPS, booking fees and Proposition 172 funds has made resources possible in the public safety realm related to frontline safety equipment and a commitment to community safety programs.

The COPS program provides annual subvention of state funds for local law enforcement with about \$78.3 million provided to cities. The removal of the booking fees program, which pays to the counties the cost of booking those arrested and handling their processing into county jails, would likely result in the county, already short of funds, passing these costs on to each city, including Pleasanton. Proposition 172, also known as the Local Public Safety Protection and Improvement Act, was approved by 58 percent of California voters and is intended to support local public safety at the city level. This proposition establishes a required maintenance of efforts for local governments to fund public safety at a specific level in order to receive these funds. The success of this proposition can be traced back to support from city officials and public safety employees in cities across California.

Of course, this is just a start. Hill's office and others in Sacramento who are affected by the 10 percent budget reductions could find other opportunities to cover their financial cuts on the backs of cities and counties, too. Fortunately, as Mayor Jennifer Hosterman pointed out in her State of the City report last week, the city's finances look good. Last year, a \$1.5-million surplus contributed to that and discretionary reserves total \$26 million. This gives Pleasanton the finances needed to weather the state deficit woes for a while, at least for two to three years, and time in the interim to reposition the city so that it is in alignment from a revenue and expenditure perspective, something the state has been unable to do.

By the way, we don't quarrel with the PTA and union rally goals to spare education some of the deficit pay-down burden. They've asked Assemblymembers Alberto Torrico (20th) and Mary Hayashi (18th) and State Sen. Ellen Corbett (10th)—all Democrats—to join them at the rally from 4 to 5 p.m. next Friday at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. We hope they'll also invite Pleasanton's third Assemblyman, Guy Houston, a Republican who represents our 15th State Assembly District. Since it takes at least six Republicans in the Assembly to get a budget proposal through the legislature, including a Republican in the rally line-up just might win one of those votes to their side.

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Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



Magnitude of topic mandates front-page coverage

Editor's note: The continuation of the grammar pet peeves will be published next week as I have decided to address coverage of the recent double homicide in Pleasanton.

I was surprised we received only a few negative responses to the story of the double homicide that led the Pleasanton Weekly's news coverage in the March 21 edition.

Carl Marsh writes in a letter to the editor, "I received my Pleasanton Weekly today and was appalled at the front page headline 'Castlewood in cold blood.' I really enjoy reading through your paper for the happenings around Pleasanton but today I was not sure if I was about to read the Pleasanton Weekly or a murder/mystery novel. I understand that it is a story worth reporting (even though you are a week late with it) but please leave the sensational headlines to the tabloids and just report the story as you normally would."

I concede that the headline was a little over the top, referencing the Truman Capote book. However, I felt it was appropriate because the crime was equally as shocking.

I further concede the fact the crime occurred was indeed old news. However, as a weekly newspaper, we are able to provide more than what we were able to provide online with breaking news coverage, which was posted early Saturday morning and updated daily. We allotted the space in the paper to provide readers with a more in-depth story, photos and a locator map.

Carl Marsh continues, "I look at your paper as something to make me 'feel good' about what's happening in our fine city and not a sleazy tabloid that you see at the checkout stand in the supermarket who is trying to make a buck."

Sharon Marsh similarly writes in a letter to the editor, "I thought I was reading the National Enquirer at first. After all, it is Easter. You could have had a very nice Easter cover story instead."

The holiday did come into play when deciding on what would be featured on the cover. However, the significance and importance of the homicide outweighed the fact it was a holiday.

Let's face it—a double homicide

in Pleasanton is not the norm, thank goodness. If you visit any local coffeehouse, restaurant or meeting, this is the topic of conversation. Beyond the curiosity and natural speculation, there is an innate fear because two of our own were murdered.

Early in my career I worked at a newspaper in a town plagued by drugs, gangs and crime. To give you an idea, there was a period of a few days we couldn't access the newspaper's parking lot because a murder had occurred there. Around this same time, the son of one of the paper's copy editors was murdered for the \$40 he was carrying.

The editors and publisher had been asked not to cover murders on the front page by the mayor, city officials, and many business people because of the disparaging light it cast on the community. Readers complained through letters, emails and phone calls it was depressing reading about such things day after day. We agreed; it was depressing to write and edit these stories day after day.

However, what was disturbing was when one of the editors, during a meeting to determine the stories that would make up the next edition's front page, said we should run the most recent murder inside the paper. Murder in our community, he said, was no longer newsworthy. It was too common.

It's quite sobering when a community becomes so desensitized to the cold-blooded killing of its residents that it's no longer worthy of the front page of the local newspaper.

Some news coverage is not warm and fuzzy; some is disturbing and makes everyone—readers and journalists—uncomfortable. That doesn't make it right to ignore or downplay it. As the local newspaper, it is our responsibility to cover news, good and bad.

I believe that something as shocking as murder should be front-page news and it should be shocking if it isn't.

Gina Channell-Allen, a 20-year journalism veteran, is the president of the East Bay division of Embarcadero Publishing Company, president of the Pleasanton Weekly and publisher of the Danville Weekly. Send questions to gallen@pleasantonweekly.com.

Letters

Cover story headline sensational

Dear Editor,

I never ever write letters of complaint to anyone but today is the exception.

I received my Pleasanton Weekly today and was appalled at the front page headline "Castlewood in cold blood," Cover Story, March 21.

I really enjoy reading through your paper for the happenings around Pleasanton but today, I was not sure if I was about to read the Pleasanton Weekly or a murder/mystery novel. I understand that it is a story worth reporting (even though you are a week late with it) but please leave the sensational headlines to the tabloids and just report the story as you normally would.

I look at your paper as something to make me "feel good" about what's happening in our fine city and not a sleazy tabloid that you see at the

checkout stand in the supermarket who is trying to make a buck.

*Carl Marsh
Pleasanton*

An Easter cover would have been better

Dear Editor,

I was quite shocked when I got my Pleasanton Weekly this afternoon. Very sad when you have to rely on a cover story that reads "Castlewood in cold blood." I thought I was reading the National Enquirer at first.

After all, it is Easter. You could have had a very nice Easter cover story instead. This poor couple had not even been buried yet and there has certainly been enough coverage on television and the local newspapers. A smaller article inside would have just been fine.

Anyway, I thought it was very tacky, tasteless and unnecessary.

*Sharon Marsh
Pleasanton*

Story led to many donations

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for running our story in the Pleasanton Weekly on the front cover in February ("Building hope halfway around the world," Cover Story, Feb. 1, page 12). It was fantastic publicity for us.

We had much success with the concert last month and we know that many concertgoers and donors heard about the event through the Weekly. We really appreciate your effective selection of the photos included, which we think moved a lot of supporters into donating to the cause, and we have even received several donations from people who couldn't attend, sent to our post office box with a small clipping of the article in your paper.

*Chi Nguyen
Palo Alto*

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Your Turn

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

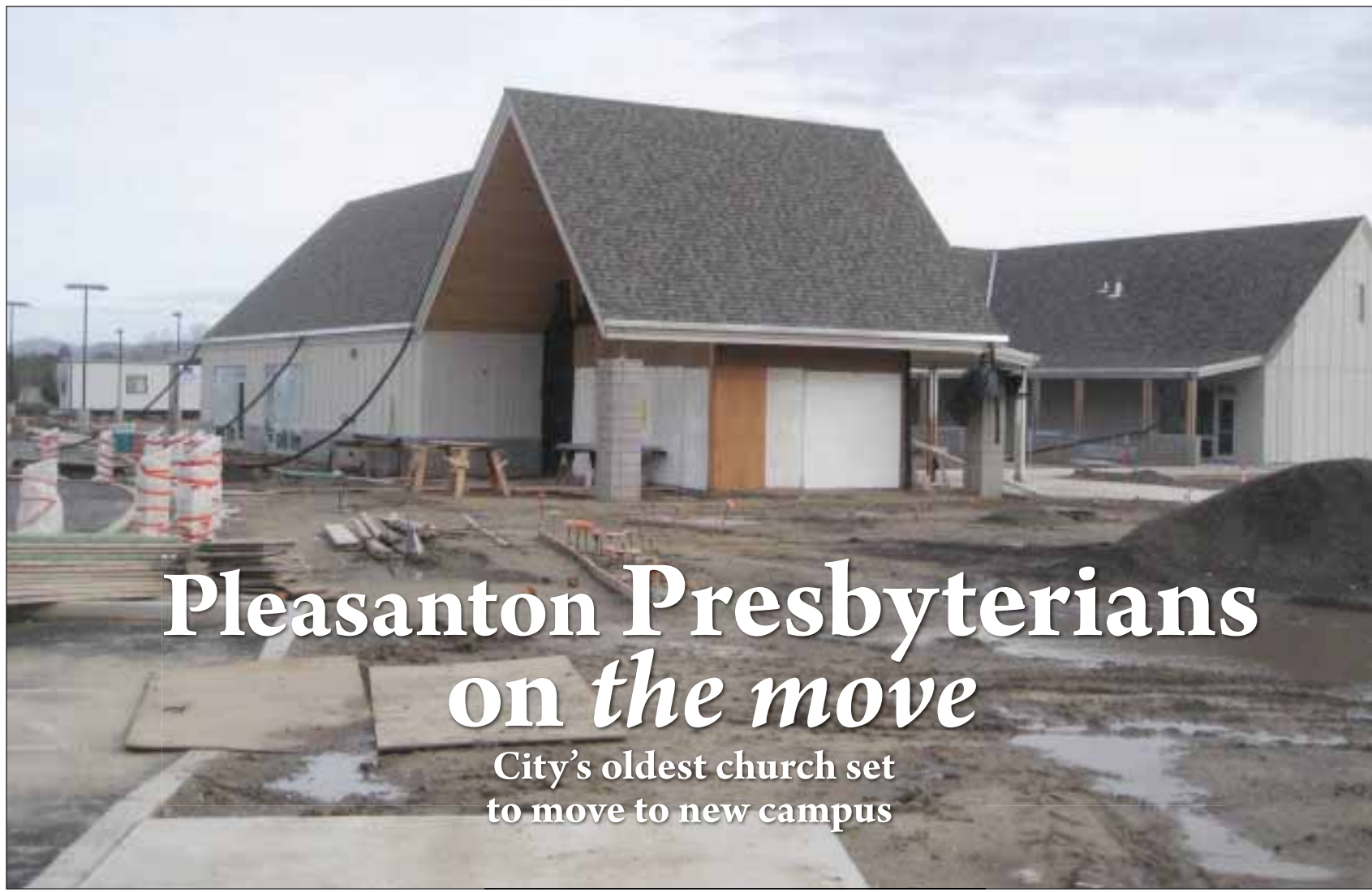
Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Company to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at (925) 600-0840.

Code of ethics

The Pleasanton Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at www.PleasantonWeekly.com



Work is nearing completion on first two permanent buildings of Pleasanton Presbyterian Church—soon to be renamed Centerpointe Presbyterian Church—at corner of Valley Avenue and Busch Road in the Ironwood community. Building on left is adult education facility and fellowship center, structure on right will house Centerpointe Christian Pres-School and Sunday school classrooms.

Volunteers pack Sunday service. The congregation has been meeting temporarily at CarrAmerica.

story and photos by Jeb Bing

Pleasanton Presbyterians are on the move—again.

For the last four months, the congregation at Pleasanton's oldest church has been sitting on folding chairs in a business park conference room and facing a makeshift altar.

But longtime pastor Mike Barris is still there, cheering them on with his PowerPoint notes and hymns shown on the large screen behind him, just as he's done for the last 10 years at 4300 Mirador Drive, which Pleasanton Presbyterian Church built in 1979. Before that, the church had used the church building at 118 Neal St., which the early Pleasanton Presbyterians built in 1876, making it the first church in town.

The church sold its Mirador complex last year to the St. Mary & St. John Egyptian Orthodox faith. The transaction added more needed capital to the Presbyterians' ambitious multi-million-dollar funding program to allow the church to accelerate its new 6-acre development project at Valley Avenue and Busch Road. With its unique Sprung tent-shaped structure highly visible from Valley Avenue that will serve as a temporary main sanctuary—work is being completed on two permanent buildings that will serve as a children's center, youth activity center and adult education facility.

Barris hopes the congregation can move in by mid-April.

At that time, the historic Pleasanton Presbyterian Church name will also change. The congregation has adopted a new name: Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, with its day care facility changing its name to Centerpointe Christian Pre-school.

"Our new name reflects the wonderful idea that what we have is a living faith that is founded in God's love that becomes the center of our lives," Barris, who has been the church pastor for the last 10 years, explained. "We want to go out and share God's love with the world from this place that we are located in."

"The cool thing we have learned from our experience

at CarrAmerica is that our church is not about buildings," he added. "It's about the people of God being together in worship, expressing God's love to others and about sharing that love with others to hopefully make a difference both locally and in the world beyond."

Still, the scores of volunteers who truck the sound equipment and religious items needed for Sunday services back and forth to CarrAmerica each Sunday are anxious to see everyone and everything back together again, this time at the church's new campus.

Barris said the Sprung stressed membrane facility will hold up to 320 congregants at each of his church's two Sunday services. A third service may have to be scheduled because of the rapid growth of the congregation.

Church growth, especially a surge in pre-school, elementary and high school age youths attending Pleasanton Presbyterian, is why Barris embarked on a major expansion project in 2000. At the time, his plan was to expand the Mirador site, but neighbors and city planners were opposed. Barris and his committee started looking for another location. Their timing was right.

About the same time, Ponderosa Homes, which had tried unsuccessfully for years to build houses on the Valley Avenue, Busch Road, Mohr Avenue site, once

called the Pumpkin Patch, was nearing a new agreement with city leaders for a 193-home development that would also include a 172-unit senior apartment complex. Kyle Morgan, Ponderosa's chief executive, offered Barris the 6-acre corner site at a discount. With a successful fundraiser campaign under way and a low interest loan from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., the Pleasanton church acquired the land and then obtained approvals from the city for its architect's plans for the entire complex. Although only part of that master plan is being developed now, the church has installed all utilities and communications conduit underground to handle all future building plans.

Soon after the church moves to the new complex, plans are to start work on a fellowship hall that will give the church more meeting space. Construction of the main sanctuary, which will ultimately hold 900 parishioners, is still at least five years away, with fundraising efforts to soon get under way for that project. Already, Pleasanton Presbyterian has as much as \$11 million invested in land acquisition, site development and the new buildings.

A walk through the complex last week showed workers completing an elaborate landscaping plan with shrubs and trees that will shield the buildings and outdoor church activities from nearby Ironwood homes and apartments. Pathways into Ironwood, however, will give easy access for residents to walk to the church complex.

"This is truly a church within a park," Barris said. "We are located next to the Iron Horse Trail as well as the Ironwood community and we welcome everyone—hikers, cyclists and seniors—to stop by and rest in our courtyard at anytime and whether they want to come to our church or not," Barris said. "This will be a park-like setting with benches, chairs and, some days, even refreshments where we hope our neighbors can come to sit, relax, enjoy a good book or join with others in discussion groups."

Barris said a key feature of the new church complex will be programs and facilities to serve the entire community, including conference rooms and a multi-media facility.

"I'm hoping that we can host conferences that will be of interest to the broader Christian community in the Tri-Valley," Barris said. "We'll also expand our preschool programs with larger, permanent facilities, have indoor space large enough for teen dances and gatherings, and a small chapel for more private worship."

Clearly, the new church is a youth. The new architecture reflects a section of the church's benches, where the preschool has an office, all within the complex.

Outside, a playground area of playground equipment and garden area for the Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, Barris said, for its temporary programs, which will be used for church programs.

Church programs for children up to grade student Fusion for high school students also embark on a mission and school visit to Mexico and the surrounding New City.

Often leading the church and their three children from college to high school; Caitlyn, Christopher, and Barris family.

What's sure is the courtyard of concrete and the Sprung structure will gather for the Embedded in the baptismal pool for baptisms.

One end of the doors that can be used for refreshments.

"If you're doing Sunday morning community prayer," Barris said. ■



...e necessities, including musical instruments and coffee pots, into trailer outside CarrAmerica Conference Center where the con-
temporarily since last December.

...e focus in the new church complex is on
new buildings already constructed feature
...ral design of peaks and porches, a design
...a homey feel, not an institutional feel. Each
...e buildings includes outdoor porches with
...ere classes can meet or parents wait. The
...s six classrooms built around the preschool
...h energy-efficient lighting and windows.

...secure fenced area includes an assortment
...d equipment, including a water feature and
...for youngsters to learn how to grow plants.
...Pre-School is enrolling students now, Barris
...two-day, three-day and five-day year-round
...ich will start in May.

...grams for youth include a nursery, a program
...p to fourth grade, Club 56 for fifth- and sixth-
...s, Ignition for middle school students and
...gh school-age students. The older students
...on mission projects, with recent summer
...cation-time trips to Honduras, Costa Rica,
...e Hurricane Katrina devastated areas in and
...Orleans.

...ing these trips are Barris, his wife Debra,
...e children: Andrew, 22, who just graduated
...and is now working on a teaching creden-
...20, a student at Pepperdine University; and
...18, a senior at Foothill High School. The
...lives near Muirwood Community Park.

...e to become the centerpiece of Centerpointe is
...now being completed. This is a large expanse
...nd landscaping that all buildings, including
...structure, face onto where the congregation
...r outdoor social events and religious services.
...the concrete are a large metal cross and a
...ol for sprinkling, pouring or full immersion

...a new building is rounded with sliding glass
...be opened, featuring indoor tables and coun-
...shments on Sunday mornings after church

...Driving by and see us gathered out here on a
...ing, turn around and come into our Ironwood
...arking lot and have a cup of coffee with us,"



This tall tent-shaped Sprung structure, with its hard-surface composition, is highly visible from Valley Avenue and will serve as a temporary main sanctuary.



Rounded ends of new buildings include large windows in Sunday school, preschool and general meeting rooms.



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Living

Don Lewis' Young Expressions show is back with a message of hope in times of struggle



John Palowitch, Kelly Sabiel, Ben Donlon, Max Loh, Sam Lee and Ariel Texton join Don Lewis in the annual Young Expressions show at the Amador Theater on Saturday.

Don and Julie Lewis and a new crop of talented hometown youth are back with another production of Young Expressions. This time, however, recent teen tragedies inspired the husband and wife team to create a show that can help people find hope in times of struggle.

Don Lewis, a Pleasanton resident best known for his pioneer work on the synthesizer, will take the Amador Theater stage tomorrow night along with six Pleasanton students in an evening showcasing a fusion of arts.

"It's not like a talent show; it's a production that has a message," Julie Lewis said. "It's not exactly theater, but it has a strong theme and each performance melds together to tell the story and carry out the theme."

With a new crew of students in each annual performance, the group's personalities help determine the theme.

"This year's theme is Amazing Voyage," she added. "It talks about the journey of life. Part of that is coming face to face with certain realities that aren't always pleasant. We're using words and artistic ideas to pull us through the difficult times. The show is going to deal with some reality, but at the same time offer uplifting ideas of hope."

The couple moved to Pleasanton in 1981 when it was a "country place," Julie Lewis said. Calling it one of the best places in the world to live, they both also recognize that residents have their share of unfortunate incidences and battles. Being a part of the community inspired them to produce a show that addresses the human struggle. With this in mind, the show may be more appropriate for older elementary and

middle school students and above.

Don Lewis said he is glad to offer these talented young people a place to perform without the pressure.

"We're able to offer these people a forum and an audience without thinking about being in another competition," he said. "Everything's been turned into a competition. Here it's for the pure love of music."

Starting on piano at four years old, Ben Donlon started studying with local drummer Kelly Fasman in fifth grade. Now a sophomore at Amador Valley High School, he participates in the marching band as drum major as well as in Jazz A band and Wind Ensemble I.

With seven years of experience on violin, Foothill High School junior Sam Lee is already a preparatory student in the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has also won many competitions, including the Livermore-Amador Symphony Competition for Young Musicians, the Korea Times Competition, Music Teachers Association Competition and the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council Young Artists Competition.

Amador grad and current U.C. Berkeley student Max Loh returns to Pleasanton to contribute his piano and vocal skills. In 1999, 2001 and 2005 he took first place in the East Bay Music Festival and also won the PANEL Honors award by the Music Teachers' Association of California. His first song, "No Exit," took home the Award of Merit (second place) in the PTA Reflections program.

John Palowitch, a senior at Amador, plays alto saxophone,

flute, clarinet and piano and also likes to compose. He is a member of the jazz band and wind ensemble and has been selected to play in regional, statewide and national honor jazz bands.

Dancer Kelly Sabiel has extensively studied many forms of dance and has many gold and platinum awards to show for it. The Foothill senior played lead dancer in the Amador/Foothill musical "Cinderella" and earned Honors Special Mention in Outstanding Dance Group from the American Musical Theater of San Jose.

Audiences may remember Amador senior Ariel Texton as Millie in the recent production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie," the Tri-Valley Teen Idol '07 or from church choirs. The daughter of deaf parents, she has grown to master vocal language and is studying to become a professional vocalist.

Three other students will also participate in the multifaceted production. JR Weaver, a senior at Amador, and Nidhi Mastey, a sophomore at Foothill, recently won a Rotary speech contest and excerpts from the speeches will be included in the show. Kendra Knudsen won the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council award last year for her paintings and will have a free art show and artists reception at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., following the show.

The show begins at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets to "Amazing Voyage" are \$10, \$14 and \$18 for adults and \$6, \$10 and \$14 for children and students. Buy them online at www.civcartstickets.org up to three hours before the performance, by phone at 931-3444 or at the box office. ■

Now Showing

**Under the Same Moon
(La Misma Luna)**

★★★★

Patricia Riggen's feature debut proves that the terms "crowd-pleaser" and "social-issue movie" can apply to the same film. The Mexican producer-director straddles the border with a heartwarming and humorous treatment of a hot-button subject: illegal immigrants. "Under the Same Moon" puts human faces on immigration woes—human faces that you can't help but love.

Adrian Alonso is absolutely adorable. He plays 9-year-old Carlitos with the perfect balance of childhood charm, big-hearted spirit and wisdom beyond his years. But Alonso ("The Legend of Zorro") never lets you forget that he's a little boy. Every Sunday at 10 a.m. sharp, Carlitos excitedly waits for the pay phone to ring. It's the lifeline that connects him, living in Mexico, with his mother Rosario (Kate del Castillo of "Bordertown") who works in East L.A. and sends the family \$300 each month. He hasn't seen her for four years.

Tug on the heartstrings. Fortunately, Ligiah Villalobos ("One World") wrote a script that never gets weepy. Carlitos lives in a vibrant Mexican village with a loving grandmother (Angelina Pelaez of "Casa de los Babys" and the telenovela "Mujer, Casos de la Vida Real") and the saucy "La Coyota" (Carmen Salinas of the telenovela "Los Perplejos") who refuses to put the young boy into harm's way, despite his pleas to let a novice (America Ferrera of "Ugly Betty") smuggle him across the border. The death of his grandmother changes everything.

With a handful of savings and a return address



ripped off a letter from his mother, Carlitos sets off to find her. Tense moments alternate with funny incidents. The humor really kicks in when the boy's seemingly impossible journey to the L.A. barrios becomes a buddy movie. A surly migrant loner, Enrique (Eugenio Derbez of "Padre Nuestro"), reluctantly travels with the optimistic Carlitos. Odd couples don't come any better than this, particularly when the pair gets stranded in Tucson.

The narrative seamlessly weaves Carlitos' northward journey with Rosario's struggles and sacrifices in the City of Angels. Her fun-loving friend (Maya Zapata of "Bordertown") jokes that they "should just get a couple of gringos to marry us." Despite the laughter, Rosario never wavers from being the epitome of a hard worker who lives only to be reunited with her son.

While the characters give the movie heart, tossed-off lines of dialogue and song lyrics add funny political commentary. Whether skewering U.S. history or the current governor of California, undocumented workers powerfully present their perspective. The popular "corridor" "Superman Es Illegal (Superman Is An Illegal)" argues that Americans are more accepting of light-skinned immigrant—whether they are an alien from Krypton or Arnold Schwarzenegger from Austria. The Grammy-winning Los Tigres del Norte appear in one scene, telling a courageous story through song.

Even when Carlitos seems most lost, you'll know exactly where this movie is headed. And nothing is more satisfying than the moment when the precocious little boy and his devoted mother are under the same moon, in the same place.

—Susan Tavernetti

Ready to Rent

Gone Baby Gone

Miramax Home Video DVD
1 hour, 54 minutes
Director: Ben Affleck

Director Ben Affleck's "Gone Baby Gone" was one of last year's best. Taut, morally vague, unafraid of showing the dimensions of suffering and the breakdown of logic, it holds to the best principles of film noir, where justice is never tainted by altruism. What helps is that Affleck also understands the south Boston neighborhood (he was raised in Cambridge) where the action occurs, so that there is an insider's view of the arena. Every dark street, even darker bar and dingy home has a lived-in familiarity. This is important because the surroundings are the main character in the story, played out in the scaffolding of blue-collar idioms, whose mentality dictates the justice served.

The author of the book, Dennis Lehane, understands the gray workings of the justice system so well that it never comes across like the overly-concocted lawyer and police television shows that try to authenticate their dealings. Lehane, who worked within the system in child protective services, understands the moral abyss of the criminal justice system, and the frustration and anguish that it causes its players, and pieces those together into a fascinating pastiche. Clint Eastwood tried to capture this tug-of-war in his version of Lehane's "Mystic River" but the director came up flat because he relied on an inflated Hollywood sense of drama, which filtered out the neighborhood. Affleck, however, seems to encourage his actors to channel the streets and they feel right at home.

It is a kidnapping of a 5-year-old Amanda McCready that has all concerned parties knocking on the door of private eyes Patrick Kenzie (a very

good Casey Affleck) and Angie Gennaro (Michelle Mongahan). The girl was from their neighborhood and Patrick feels a pull to help; while Michelle is reluctant, afraid of "finding her in a garbage can." The mother is a model of neglect—she was out and high at the time of the kidnapping—while the girl's aunt and uncle, the real caregivers, were also gone. Police Captain Jack Doyle (Morgan Freeman) laughs at the youngish Patrick when he demands help from the force, and facetiously put him in touch with the gruff detectives Remy Bressant (Ed Harris) and Nick Poole (John Ashton). The pair scoff at Patrick and Angie's nativity but, when a tip comes in that a drug dealer named Cheese (!) may have taken Amanda, they put the two to the test.

What makes "Gone Baby Gone" so good is its willingness to look at the most grim aspects of crime investigation in a straightforward manner that the material demands. There's no grandstanding by Patrick, who is a fool at times, and there is no easy way that he can express his code of ethics because, much to his anguish, they are just starting to develop. What Patrick finds at the bottom of the investigation is the madness of ambiguity, and director and co-screenwriter Aaron Stockard cunningly articulates this. Patrick is the stand-in for a young Philip Marlowe, all mouth, some action and a developing sense of poignancy that is needed to keep his head in such a harsh world, and the younger Casey Affleck pulls this off with a perfect pitch.

—Joe Ramirez



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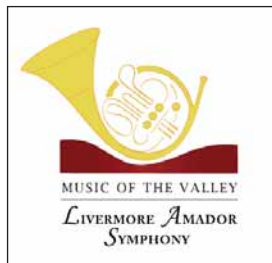
ROMANCE, RHYME
AND REMEMBRANCE

Livermore-Amador Symphony

Saturday, March 29 at 8:00 p.m.

Arthur Barnes, Music Director. The concert features Dawn Harms conducting Beethoven's Fourth Symphony and Lawrence Granger performing Elgar's Cello Concerto in E minor. The evening also includes the Overture from Thomas's sentimental opera Mignon and Ravel's Mother Goose Suite depicting popular children's fairy tales. A pre-concert talk begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets \$21, \$26, \$31, students under 18, free



THE MUSIC MAN

Pleasanton Playhouse

April 4-6, 11-13, 18-20 at 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.

An affectionate paean to Smalltown, U.S.A., "The Music Man" follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize — this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef.

Tickets \$21, \$29, \$31

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Share the hair

11-year-old donates to Locks of Love to help those with cancer, other hair loss-related diseases

by Katie Lyness

Most girls who have long hair cut it shorter during winter break or some time in the spring. But not every girl who gets a haircut gives her hair to a charity called Locks of Love.

Locks of Love is a nonprofit organization that supplies children 18 years old and under with wigs made from human hair. Many of the children who receive the wigs have lost their hair because they suffer from cancer, and several others have medical conditions such as alopecia areata, which causes baldness for no known reason.

Locks of Love tries to return self confidence to children with hair loss diseases by giving them the donated wigs.

Eleven-year-old Rachel Miller of Pleasanton patiently grew her hair over the last year so that she could donate it to Locks of Love. Rachel decided to do it because someone she went to preschool with died of cancer in the first grade.

Rachel's mom knew someone whose daughter had once donated hair to Locks of Love, so Rachel decided she would donate her hair, too. She doesn't know if she will do it again, but she is encouraging other people to do it at least once.

Before a person can donate hair to Locks of Love, it has to fit in a pony tail and be at least 10 inches long. Rachel cut off about 11 and a half inches. Now her hair is around six inches long. It looks great.

Rachel had her hair cut at a place on Hopyard Road called The Image. Since Rachel had never



done this before and was the first person in her immediate family to do it, she had butterflies in her stomach when she heard the first snip of the scissors. It took around 20 minutes for Rachel's hair to be cut off all the way.

Rachel was proud of herself that she accomplished a good deed, but she didn't want to brag about it.

After her hair was cut, the people at The Image tied it up in a rubber band and mailed it off to Locks of Love, which is located in Lake Worth, Fla. They also had her write down her address so that she can get a thank you card in the mail that tells her who got the wig made from her hair.

According to Rachel, her hair is much easier to take care of now that it is short. She liked her long hair because she could do more hairstyles with it, but it got knotty and tangly all the time.

Rachel really accomplished an amazing task. It takes a long time

and a lot of patience to grow hair really long, and then giving it up is hard, too. This is true especially during the summer when people don't want hair on their neck but can't make a ponytail to lift it away if it has recently been cut short.

Rachel should be receiving her thank you letter in the mail soon and is really looking forward to finding out whose head her hair is now on. Her whole family is proud of her because she has set a great example for so many other kids and has made a big difference in the life of a child suffering from hair loss.

Katie Lyness is a youth correspondent for the Pleasanton Weekly. She's a fifth grader at Vintage Hills Elementary School.



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Word for Word shakes it up

Word for Word, short story performers out of San Francisco, will perform "When Tom Smith Caused the 1906 Earthquake" at 1 p.m. April 6 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. As a part of the city's seventh Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival, the group tells the Native American folktale about Tom Smith, a medicine man, and his unrestrained desire to be the most powerful medicine man ever.

This performance is just part of next weekend's activities. The festival is co-sponsored by the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council and the City of Pleasanton Civic Arts. To learn more, visit www.PleasantonArts.org.

Sports

Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

Amador soccer players named MVPs of EBAL

Amador Valley High School seniors Laura Burton and Matt Carlucci have received the highest award of most valuable player for the East Bay Athletic League in soccer.

Burton, a goalkeeper for the Lady Dons, has put on two fundraisers for the varsity soccer team to go to a Dallas tournament. The senior will be attending the University of Kentucky next year and currently holds a 3.8 grade-point average. She also plays for the Mustang Fury and was a member of the Olympic Development Team.



Laura Burton



Matt Carlucci

Carlucci, a mid-fielder who coincidentally wears No. 17 as does Burton, holds a 3.83 GPA and is a captain of the boy's varsity soccer team.

The soccer team was selected by North Coast Section as a Scholastic Championship Team for the 2008 soccer season. The Dons finished the season with an unweighted GPA of 3.31.

PMS cheer squad gets 1st in Junior Nationals

Last week, the Pleasanton Middle School cheerleading team performed their routine at a celebration rally that won them top honors in the Novice Show Cheer Junior High Division at USA's Junior Nationals.

PMS competed at Disney's California Adventure Park March 1 and 2 against 13 other teams from across the state. It is the first time that a middle school from Pleasanton placed first at the Junior Nationals. Hart Middle School, which also competed, came in fifth place.

There are 21 girls on the squad: eighth grade: Jerelyn Gentry, Malia Gondkoff, Hali Morgenroth, Julia



Rosenberg, Caitlin Herb, Kaitlin Crawford, Jasmine Liew, Allison Plushkell, Taylor Antrim, Veronica Rodondi, Jessica Castronovo, Rachel Pann and Emily Alberts;

seventh grade: Natalie Recupero, Claire Govea, Mikala Morgenroth, Katy Gibbons, Cassidy Bell, Taylor Herne, Stephanie Doi and Alakoka Kailahi. —Jerelyn Gentry

Pleasanton Lacrosse's Vortex rallies to beat Scorpions

In a game that was tied 2-2 early in the first half, Vortex used a five-goal second half rally to seal a win over the Scorpions on March 16.

"I give a ton of credit to our goalie and the entire defensive unit," said head coach Jeffrey Mills. "In the second half, our defense clamped down and controlled the game. Our goal was to play well following Saturday's loss (5-7 to Lamorinda) and we wanted to make a statement about who's going to dominate important moments of the game like ground balls, clears and face-offs, and we did that."

The Vortex is now 2-2 on the season.

Four different players figured into the scoring column. Joseph Chacon tallied a hat trick, with Erik Gallagher, Colton Steiner and Andrew Totaro scoring one goal each. Vortex came out firing in the second half, and once again it was led by Brian Kinnee's continuing his face-off domination.

Goalie Conner McFarlane faced a barrage of shots and turned away 18. Big hits from Kevan Knaggs, Ian Mills, Noah Geib, Sam Gorman and Will Drake set the tone for the Vortex physical style of play.

Wesley Bower, Nick Burnap, Brian Culy and David Zatorski, along with Joseph Chacon, Brian Kinnee and

Andrew Totaro shined on the middle line on both sides of the field.

The team's next test is a pair of road games. Vortex will face off against Livermore on April 5 and Napa Force on May 6.

Seahawk swimmer Breed breaks coveted 500 free record

Pleasanton Seahawk swimmer Catherine Breed broke the 500 free record at a recent meet, one that had been upheld for the past 11 years.

Breed, 14, broke the record in the Pacific Swimming Short Course Junior Olympic in the San Ramon Valley Livermore Aquatics, held March 14-16, topping the previous record made by top international swimmer Natalie Coughlin.

Thirty-six Seahawks swimmers with Junior Olympic qualified time competed in the three-day event. The following swimmers had greatly improved their personal time: Brianna Neumayr, 17, cut 35 seconds off her 1650 free and 17 seconds off her 1000 free, Christopher Dourov, 13, lowered his 200 back by five seconds, Jason Chen, 12, improved his 50 breast by two seconds, Scott Robert, 10, improved his 50 back by almost two seconds, and Maxime Rooney, 9, cut his 100 back by more than three seconds. Three swimmers have achieved personal best time in numerous events including:

Anthony Shen, 11, Rachel Knowles, 11, and Jonathan Ong, 10.

—Yi Zhang

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council and PUSD Board of Trustees

Monday, March 31, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
School District Office, 4665 Bernal Avenue

- Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting

City Council

Tuesday, April 1, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Continued Public Hearing: PUD 32, Daniel and Belinda Sarich -- Consider an application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan approval to subdivide an approximately 20 acre site into two single family residential lots: (1) an approximately one acre parcel which would include the existing residence and a new detached two car garage; and (2) an approximately 19 acre parcel which would include: (a) an approximately 9,990 square foot, two story home with a 3,150 square foot habitable basement with second unit; (b) a 1,785 square foot five car attached garage; (c) a 660 square foot cabana; (d) a 165 square foot pool bathroom; and (e) a 165 square foot greenhouse. The property is located at 5 Tuscany Place (formerly 1630 Vineyard Avenue), in the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan Area, and is zoned PUD-LDR/HR/OS (Planned Unit Development - Low Density Residential/Hillside Residential/Open Space) District.
- Public Hearing: PUD 71, Michael Aminian/Vineyard Gardens, LLC - Consider an application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning and development plan approval to rezone an approximately .876 acre parcel from RM 4,000 (Multiple Family Residential) to PUD HDR (Planned Unit Development High Density Residential) and to construct ten townhouse units at the property located at 3835 Vineyard Avenue
- Review of Tri-Valley Transportation Fee and discussion of fee increase
- Information concerning the City of Dublin's request to relocate structures located on the former Kolb Ranch property at 11393 Dublin Canyon Road to Dublin Historic Park

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, April 2, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review of FY 2008/09 City Grant Applications in the Human Services Category

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Community of Character Collaborative is seeking nominations for the first annual Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award to recognize citizens who consistently display sensitivity to relevant social issues and exhibit the traits of the Collaborative advocates: Responsibility, Compassion, Self Discipline, Honesty, Respect and Integrity. Nomination forms are available at the Pleasanton Unified School District at 4665 Bernal Avenue; the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce at 777 Peters Avenue; the City of Pleasanton City Clerk's office at 123 Main Street or at www.communityofcharacter.org. Forms may be turned into the Chamber office or faxed to 846-9697; turned into the School District office or faxed to 426-7146; or turned into the City Clerks' office or faxed to (925) 931-5492. Deadline for submitting nominees is May 1, 2008. The award recipients will be announced May 29, 2008 at the Community of Character Collaborative Celebration at the Hilton Hotel in Pleasanton.

The Civic Arts, Human Services and Youth commissions will be reviewing Fiscal Year 2008/09 City Grant Applications from various nonprofit, community-based organizations. The Commissions will consider applications within pre-designated categories (Cultural Arts, Human Services, and Youth) at the dates and times listed below. Each Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for its review and consideration as part of the Fiscal Year 2008/09 Operating Budget.

Human Services Commission:

April 2, 2008, 6:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

Civic Arts Commission:

April 7, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

Youth Commission:

April 9, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, please visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Police chief names employees of the year

Pleasanton Police Chief Michael Fraser named Kurt Schlehuber and Jay Linton as employees of the year. Based on department staff nominations, the candidates were required to have provided meritorious and recognizable contributions to the department and/or the city during 2007.

Officer Schlehuber came to the department in February 2003 and is currently assigned to the patrol bureau on night watch. He is said to have been instrumental in the implementation of the department's new computer records management system. He is also in charge of training new hires, as well as being a member of the SWAT team and the board of directors for the Pleasanton Police



Kurt Schlehuber



Jay Linton

Officers Association.

Linton, a maintenance assistant, has multi-faceted responsibilities relating to fleet and facility management. He is said to have saved the city money by using his electronic knowledge to program police mobile and portable radios. Fraser referred to him as the "ultimate team player."

Police Report

The Pleasanton Police Department made the following information available. Under the law, those charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

March 17

- Theft:
 - 3:27 p.m. in the 1200 block of Quarry Lane; grand theft
 - 9:43 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
- Burglary:
 - 6:15 a.m. in the 3100 block of Chardonnay Drive; vehicular
 - 9:38 a.m. in the 3000 block of Crestablanca Drive; vehicular
 - 6:26 p.m. in the 4300 block of Fairlands Drive
- DUI:
 - 9:47 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal and Vineyard avenues

March 18

- Theft:
 - 5:11 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forgery
 - 10:52 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; stolen vehicle
- Vandalism:
 - 7:17 p.m. in the 3100 block of Ascot Court; worth less than \$400
 - 8:04 p.m. in the 4500 block of First Street; worth less than \$400

- Public drunkenness:
 - 12:02 a.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue

March 19

- Theft:
 - 8:16 a.m. in the 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive
 - 10:04 a.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; petty theft
 - 10:16 a.m. in the 2300 block of Sandpiper Way
 - 11:11 a.m. in the 4500 block of Oracle Lane
 - 12:10 p.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; petty theft
 - 12:13 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
 - 12:37 p.m. in the 3900 block of Eilene Court; identity theft
 - 3:19 p.m. in the 2100 block of Foxwallow Road; grand theft
 - 5:55 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; grand theft
 - 6:32 p.m. in the 2400 block of Crestline Road; identity theft
- Burglary:
 - 1:25 p.m. in the 4100 block of Dorman Road
 - 2:42 p.m. in the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive; vehicular
 - 4:35 p.m. in the 4500 block of First Street
 - 6:08 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive

- 8:13 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

• Public drunkenness:

- 2:02 a.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Birch Creek Drive
- 6:19 p.m. at the intersection of Rosewood Drive and Old Santa Rita Road

March 20

- Theft:
 - 6:12 p.m. in the 7300 block of Tulipwood Circle; identity theft
 - 6:13 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
 - 7:14 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
 - 11:29 p.m. in the 1800 block of Spumante Place
- Vandalism:
 - 7:38 a.m. in the 5700 block of Valley Avenue; worth less than \$400
 - 8:40 p.m. in the 4500 block of Oracle Lane; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
 - 1:27 p.m. in the 6000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Public intoxication:
 - 9:02 p.m. at the intersection of Mendoza Court and Francisco Street

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Dining Out

American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Vic's delivers a starry mix of American food, fast service and a cheery atmosphere. Owner Vic Malatesta teamed his love of sports with his passion for good food to create a solid dining experience. Vic's is open daily 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Evening banquets and daytime catering are available.

Bridges

44 Church St., Danville, 820-7200. Executive Chef Kevin Gin interprets California-American cuisine with European and Asian influences with expansive lunch and dinner menus. Add dessert, wine and cocktails and you have Bridges' casual fine dining experience. Visit www.bridgesdanville.com for event and private party details.

Zorn's Restaurant

3015 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-0994. Located in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center, Zorn's serves breakfast all day. Open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with breakfast and lunch specials. Dine in or take out. Catering also available.

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was voted best take out food by Pleasanton Weekly readers in 2006. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

Brewpub/ Alehouse

Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub, some ales (Attaboy IPA) are brewed with locally grown hops. We also have a rotating selection of guest brews and seasonal ales. To-go orders welcome and we're available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday, visit www.mainstreetbrewery.com for activities and specials.

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at www.hopyard.com.

California Cuisine

Stacey's at Waterford

4500 Tassajara Road, Ste. C., Dublin, 551-8325. We serve seasonal California cuisine using the freshest ingredients, with delicious dishes including seafood, pasta, meat, wood fired pizza and even vegetarian choices. Available for special events on Sundays. Visit www.staceysatwaterford.com.

Stacey's Cafe

310 Main St., Pleasanton, 461-3113. Located on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, Stacey's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, serv-

ing fresh California cuisine. Come as you are and enjoy our dining room, banquet room, outdoor patios and full bar. Visit www.staceyscafe.com.

Catering

Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, 462-9299. Fontina Ristorante's award-winning menu can now be delivered to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a vegetarian menu. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert or 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987, it has friendly service, delicious food and great prices, including lunch specials and carry-out. A banquet room is available.

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.pandapleasanton.com.

Continental

Barone's

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant features innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees, outdoor dining, and a full bar. Barone's is open for dinner seven nights and lunch Monday through Friday, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Ask about our banquet facilities and special events.

Fusion

Oasis Grille

780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438. Visit downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination. Oasis features kabobs, rice and vegetarian dishes, to name a few. Check out our updated wine and exotic cocktail menus. We also cater! Visit www.OasisGrille.com.

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299.

This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials—including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal—served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. We have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

La Vite Ristorante

3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 485-4500. La Vite Ristorante was rated "A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic and voted the best Italian restaurant by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. We're located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

Japanese

Sato Japanese Cuisine

3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner Operator has been serving traditional Japanese cuisine for over 25 years in Pleasanton. Enjoy the variety of our sushi bar and Japanese tempura and teriyaki sushi. We are open for lunch and dinner. We also do catering. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday.

Mexican

Blue Agave Club

625 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-1224. Come downtown for fine dining and casual lunches in our outdoor patio. Our menu includes a variety of selections from classic tortilla soup and mole poblano to grilled salmon (a house specialty) and filet mignon with a spicy Chipotle Chile sauce. We also specialize in premium "sipping" tequilas and carry over 200 different varieties. Visit www.blueagaveclub.com.

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Danville, 200 Alicante Place, March 29, 8am-Noon
DANVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE:
Saturday, March 29th from 8am-12noon

Multi-family garage sale tour will include live music, coffee, and muffins at the first home located at 200 Alicante Place in Danville, and there will be a tour of garage sale homes from that location with appliances, furniture, kids toys, clothes, books, sports stuff and so much more! Come get your map, coffee and visit this fun event!

Danville, 747 Contada Circle, Sat. March 29 8 AM-1PM

Pleasanton, Deer Creek Ct., April 6, 2008 9am

Pleasanton, 3605 Chelsea Ct., Saturday, March 29 7-2
Multiple Family Garage Sale - Household items, toys, Pottery Barn baby bedding.
Pleasanton, 4694 Sutter Gate Ave, March 29 7-12pm

Pleasanton, 5254 Ridgevale Way, March 29, 8 am to 1 pm

215 Collectibles & Antiques

1940's Oak Phone Booth - \$1250.00
Precious Moments 1979-2000

230 Freebies

FREE Jacuzzi Hot Tub - FREE

240 Furnishings/ Household items

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245 Miscellaneous

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Calendar

Book Clubs

Great Books of Pleasanton The Great Books of Pleasanton book club meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie at 846-1658.

Non-Fiction About Our Fantastic Brains This book club meets the at 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. "How Doctors Think" by Dr. J Groopman will be discussed in April and May, and "Einstein Never Used Flash Cards" by Drs. Hirsh-Pasek, Golinkoff and Eye. This is not a lecture series; book must be read before discussion. Call 846-8826. The cost is \$2.

Civic Meetings

City Council The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Housing Commission The Pleasanton Housing Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Human Services Commission The Human Services Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Parks & Recreation Commission The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Planning Commission The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

School Board The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

Youth Commission The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month

at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Classes

Screen Acting Class LMA Productions is offering a 10-week screen acting class in our TV studio's state-of-the-art facility. Each student will graduate with their professional and customized Acting Demo Reel on DVD and posted on our website. We have classes for children (5-12), teens (13-17) and adults (18+). The cost is \$50 per class. Call 417-1420 ext. 27 or visit www.lmadigital.com.

Clubs

Communication Arts Network The East Bay's Communications Arts Network (CommArt) meets from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Forli Ristorante in Alamo. Tickets are \$20 cash, includes lunch. Call Terry, 462-8083, or visit www.commartnet.org.

Daughters of the British Empire Come for a friendly "cuppa" and a chat with your sister Brits in the local chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month in Pleasanton. Call 875-0828 or 494-1273. Visit www.dbenca.org or www.dbesociety.org.

NARFE The Livermore Chapter 0397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meets at 12:30 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at Emil Villa's Restaurant at the corner of Pacific and S. Livermore avenues in Livermore. Call 484-0813 or 846-7167.

Retired Public Employees Association The Retired Public Employees Association meets at 10:45 a.m. April 3 at Emil Villa's Hickory Pit, 3064 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Carol Houck, administrator coordinator for the Friendship Center in Livermore, will speak. RSVP by April 1. Call Bob, 846-6563 or June, 461-0315.

TwinValley Mothers of Twins

Meeting Join us for our monthly Twin Valley Mother of Twins meeting, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin. Our goal is to provide support, information and friendship to Mothers of Multiples. Roundtable question and answer time is at 6:30 p.m.; dads are encouraged to attend the roundtable. Call DeAnna at 948-0004 or visit www.tvmotc.com.

Concerts


33rd Annual Spring Concert The Pleasanton Community Concert Band returns to the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, for their 33rd Annual Spring Concert at 2 p.m. April 6. This year's theme is a Salute to Spring and Leroy Anderson. The Band will play "Trumpeter's Holiday," "Clarinet Candy," "The Syncopated Clock" and several other Leroy Anderson tunes. "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" and other favorites will be featured on the program. The concert is free, though donations are appreciated. Doors open at 1:40 p.m. Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasantonband.org.

Events

Annual CFA Allbreed Cat Show Some 250 cats and kittens of 41 breeds will be on exhibit and competing for Best in Show April 5 and 6 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Rescue organizations will have loving cats for adoption. Arts and crafts, gifts and gadgets on sale for cats and cat lovers. Proceeds to animal disaster relief. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children under 10, \$16 for families. Visit www.keencat.com/cat-show/flyer2-08.html or call 827-2722.

Free Bay-Friendly Garden Tour The fifth annual free, self-guided Bay-Friendly Garden Tour is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 27 and features 30 public and private gardens throughout Alameda County. Registration is

Weekend Preview



Nature photo essays

Join Sue Evans, a Pleasanton photographer, and Mary Barnett for a slideshow presentation of fascinating images of animal behavior, gorgeous landscapes and colorful flowers from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday at Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Road, Fremont. This event is free and sponsored by East Bay Regional Parks. Registration is required to assure a seat and a \$5 parking fee may apply. Call 1-888-EBPARKS to register and learn more. Evans may be contacted at 989-4113.

required by April 15. Visit www.bay-friendly.org or call 510-444-SOIL.

Goodguys 26th All American Get-Together Car Show The Goodguys 26th All American Get-Together Car Show comes to the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 29 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 30. The show features 2,500 hot rods, custom cars, muscle cars and trucks of all years, makes and models. There will also be vendor exhibits, an automotive swap meet, cars for sale corral, live music, kids area and more. Tickets are \$15 or \$6 for children ages 7 to 12. Call 838-9876 or visit www.good-guys.com.

Poetry, Prose & Arts Festival Offers Free Activities The Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival is back April 5 and 6 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Saturday's events include a visual arts exhibit from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., as well as a reception and book signing and meet the authors at Literary Row events from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday's activities include a free performance of "When Tom Smith Caused the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake" by Word for Word of San Francisco. Call 931-5350 or visit www.pleasantonarts.org.

Spring Basket Event The Home Builders Association of Northern California Women's Council (HBANC) spring basket event will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. April 10 at The Bridges Golf Club, 9000 South Gate Ridge

Road, San Ramon. Donated baskets of household supplies, personal care items and other gifts are donated to Shepherd's Gate, a battered and homeless women's shelter. The event also features two prominent speakers. Tickets are \$50 for members or \$75. Call 820-7626.

Exhibits

Gipson Art Exhibition at Wente Gallery Wente Gallery is featuring paintings by artist Larry Gipson in their tasting room on Tesla Road from April 1-30. Gipson paints in his own style, which he calls "selective realism." He works with watercolors and acrylics to paint local scenes such as vineyards and equestrian landscapes. His reception will be from 1 to 3 p.m. April 6.

La Primavera—A Celebration of Spring The fine art and painted wine barrel planter exhibit will be on display from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays through Sundays through April 6 at Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. An artists' reception and wine barrel planter silent auction will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. March 29. Call 292-2222.

Mix It Up Art Exhibit Fourteen local artists have produced an exhibit, Mix It Up, for the Livermore Main Library Artist's Gallery, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.



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The works include watercolors, acrylics, oils, textiles, collage, ink and other mixed media. Showing from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until March 31.

Oh Pleasanton! Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., will have Pleasanton writers, multi-media artists and musicians, together for a thrilling Pleasanton—past, present and future themed show. The exhibit runs through March 29. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com.

Spring Art Show 2008 An art show presented by the Livermore Art Association will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 5 and 6 at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. The reception is from 7 to 9 p.m. April 5, with presentation of awards at 7:30. Live music will be provided by the Gary Chulla Trio. Art work is for sale as well as to see. Call 449-9927 or visit www.livermoreartassociation.org.

Spring Art Show at Tri-Valley SPCA Artists Carol Hart and Helene Ha welcome spring with a show of recent artwork at the Tri-Valley SPCA Art Gallery. Visit www.eastbayspca.org.

Film

2008 California Independent Film Festival Sneak Preview Hear all about this year's event and learn how to have the best film festival experience from 7 to 9 p.m. April 3 at the Livermore Library, 1188 South Livermore Ave. Festival Founder Derek Zemrak and Festival Director Wendy Madden will show several sneak peeks from the festival, including some short films and an animated film. Call 447-5633 or 373-5500, or visit www.CalndieFilmFest.org.

Fundraisers

Annual Plant Sale Stock your garden with a wide variety of perennials, shrubs, trees, herbs, vegetables and more at reasonable prices. The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club members will hold the annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to noon April 5 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. All plants are grown by club members and range from \$1 to \$10. Expert gardeners will be available to assist with plant advice and selection. Call Bev, 485-7812.

Autism Fundraiser at Blue Agave Club From 7 to 9:30 p.m. April 12, the Blue Agave Club celebrates its 11th anniversary in Pleasanton with a fundraiser to benefit autism research. The restaurant, at 625 Main St., will donate fifty percent of ticket sales and all proceeds from raffle sales to P.A.R. (Providing Autism Research) for Kids' Sake, which raises funds for the M.I.N.D. Institute at UC Davis. Tickets are \$40 and includes food and entertainment. Buy tickets over the phone at 417-1224 or at the door if space permits.

Run Like the Wind Half Marathon

& 5K Run/Walk The 2nd annual Run Like the Wind in San Ramon half marathon and 5K run/walk will be held March 30 at the San Ramon Dougherty Station Community Center, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon. It will benefit local middle and high school athletic programs that provide race-day volunteers. Registration is \$45 for half marathon and \$30 for 5K and can be done at www.onyourmarkevents.com/Applications/RLTW.pdf. Race day check in is at 6 a.m., with the half marathon starting at 7:30 a.m. and the 5K at 7:45 a.m. Call 973-3268 or email mjones@sanramon.ca.gov.

Health

Be the Boss of Your Bladder Many people of all ages experience bladder control problems and as they get older, accept it as a normal part of aging. Frieda Alessi of Extensions Physical Therapy will share the myths and the truths about incontinence and normal bladder function at 10 a.m. April 8 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The cost is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Life After Prostate Cancer Community Seminar Learn about issues related to life after prostate cancer, including incontinence and impotence, at 7:30 p.m. April 8 at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, south conference room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Our urologist will discuss surgical and non-surgical treatments for these conditions. He will discuss family risk, and answer questions about the disease, treatment and after care issues. Call 275-8230 or visit www.sanramon-medctr.com.

Spring Immunization Clinics for Children Immunization clinics are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. April 5 at Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Ave. Bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. Some immunizations require fees. Call 462-1755.

Kids & Teens

Meet The Fastest Draw in the East and West Cartoonist/Storyteller Joe Wos brings his unique blend of storytelling and cartooning to the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 4 p.m. April 4. Once Upon a Toon combines original stories and live cartoon illustration of heartwarming, hilarious folk and fairy tales with a twist. Best for ages 5 and older.

Mustangs Track Club The primary purpose of the Mustangs Track Club is to develop the skills and disciplines, which are essential to learning and

improving in the area of track and field competition. The club meets every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7073 Commerce Circle. Call 737-0700 or visit www.dublin-mustangstrackclub.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

Search Engine Optimization At 6:30 p.m. April 2 at San Ramon Dublin Water Services District Board Room, 7051 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, learn to make a Web site more attractive for the best search engine placement. Admission is \$25 for members or \$35 for guests in advance; add \$10 at the door. Visit www.ebig.org.

Tri Valley Conservancy Hosts Education Series for Olive Growers Tri-Valley Conservancy will host an Olive Growers Quality Alliance Educational Series from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 2 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 South Livermore Ave. The purpose of this series is to assure the highest quality of olive oil produced by the Tri-Valley Olive Growers. RSVP to 449-8706 by March 28. A \$10 fee covers the cost of olive oil and meeting materials.

Live Music

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Listen and dance to the live, traditional jazz every second and fourth Tuesday at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St.

Miscellaneous

Bronze Award Project Pleasanton Girl Scout Troop 32072 is collecting used athletic shoes to recycle through the Nike Athletic Shoe Recycle Program. Please bring your used athletic shoes (no cleats, no metal) to Pleasanton Farmer's Market on Saturday April 5 and 12 or to Fleet Feet at 310-C Main St. April 1-14. Call 931-0975.

Youth Excellence in Arts (YEA!) Awards The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council seeks applications for the YEA! Awards. Youth ages 14 to 20 in Pleasanton that are visual artists, writers, musicians or in theater arts may apply. Prizes are \$500 for first place

and \$300 for second place. Deadline for entries is March 31. Contact Dave Wright, 484-0614 or dawright@sbc-global.net. Visit www.pleasantonarts.org.

On Stage

"Iron Curtain," a Musical Comedy at LPC Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore, presents "Iron Curtain," a new musical comedy about a 1950s New York song writing team that gets kidnapped to Moscow to help the Soviets create a propagandistic musical. Shows are at 8 p.m. April 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19; and at 2 p.m. April 13 and 20. Call 424-1166 or email kross@laspositas-college.edu. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students.

Recreation

Beginning Fly Casting Learn knots, roll cast, pick-up and lay down cast, false casting, and how to select equipment and set up your fly rod. The class is taught by a national champion tournament caster and is April 6 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd. The cost is \$60 or \$66 for non-residents. Call 1-888-EBPARKS or visit www.ebparks.org.

Seniors

The Music Man At 6:30 p.m. April 4, begin the evening with dessert at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., then we're off to see one of America's favorite musicals, "The Music Man," performed at the lavish Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$41 for residents or \$47 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Welcome to Medicare Seminar The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will discuss Medicare A, B, C and D; how to buy supplemental insurance; and when and how to buy a drug plan. HICAP is a non-profit organization under the Dept. of Aging. Attend one of three classes at 7 p.m. the first Tuesdays in April, May and June at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center, south conference room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call 275-8230 or visit www.sanramon-medctr.com.

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Spiritual

A New Earth, A New You April message theme by Dr. Richard Southern, special speaker at Tri-Valley Unity Church, meeting at 10 a.m. Sundays at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. The April 6 message is titled, "I'm Waking Up: Finding Your Spiritual Path." All are welcome. Call 829-2733.

Christian 12 Step Discover how much comfort there is in the journey of recovery walking with the Good Shepherd every STEP of the way! This group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Call 426-0501.

The Power of Story March's message theme, by speaker Dr. Richard

Southern, is the Power of Story. He will speak on "Telling Your Story," the story of purpose, March 30. Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at 10 a.m. Sundays at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Call 829-2733. All are welcome.

Three Steps to Rewriting Your Story A two-session class that includes discovering your ultimate purpose, seeing what areas of your life have not been in alignment with your purpose, and then rewriting your story. Dr. Richard Southern of the Tri-Valley Unity Church will lead the meeting at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Classes are 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. March 30 and April 13. Call 829-2733.

Sports

Callippe Niners Callippe Niners is a fun group of nine-hole women golfers. We are currently welcoming new members into our group. Our play days are Tuesday mornings. Call Joan, 462-1054.

Keep 'Em Playing Soccer Camp The Development cycle begins in April with a two month Keep 'Em Playing Camp. The camp exposes players to a number of BUSC coaches through creative small-sided games and training sessions. The final session of the camp allow players to practice their skills in World Cup-style competition. The camp is offered for one day a week for 1.5 hours of training. At this point players may continue in the program by registering for the training component. The cost is \$150 for nine camp days. Register at www.busc.org.

Saturday Morning Beginner Road Ride This weekly no-drop ride is for those new to cycling, who haven't been on their bike for a while or just want to ride at a slower pace. Rides depart at 9 a.m. from Cyclepath, 337-B Main St., and will generally be

10 to 15 mph, 20 miles and no more than 2 hours. E-mail rides@cyclepath.com if you plan to attend.

Tri-Valley Cheer Sign-ups Girls between the ages of 10-15 years old as of July 31 are invited to sign up for Tri-Valley Cheer. Registration fee is \$75. Upcoming sign-ups for the 2008 season are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. April 3, 10, 16 and 24, and May 1, 8 and 15 at Frederiksen Elementary School's multipurpose room, 7243 Tamarack Drive, Dublin. Season begins in June and ends in March. Call 216-6742.

Support Groups

ClutterLess (CL) Self Help Group Is clutter stressing you out? We are a self help support group for those with difficulty disposing of stuff. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. If you are ready to change your life, just come to the meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Monday at St. Mary and St. John Coptic Orthodox Church, Rm. 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 297-9246 or 846-5060 Box 2. Visit www.clutterless.org or email clutterlesspleasanton@hotmail.com. The group is free, however \$2 to \$5 donation appreciated.

NAMI General Meeting NAMI Tri-Valley presents Jennifer Thaeeta, an Attorney based in Livermore, who will discuss some of the legal questions that parents of mentally ill children of all ages often have. Issues such as conservatorship, special needs trusts and how parents can plan for their children's future. The meeting is at 7 p.m. April 7 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Call 980-5331 or visit namitrivalley.org.

Overeaters Anonymous Meeting Is food controlling your life? Newcomers are welcome at the Overeaters

Anonymous Meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way (Parish Hall), Livermore. Call 361-7224.

Pleasanton Military Families Pleasanton Military Families, a support group for families of service members, meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. The group includes families who have loved ones serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and in the Global War on Terrorism. Meetings are held at a different group member's home each month. Call Chris Miller for information on the placement of a yellow streamer for the military person on Main Street and for information on the group, 730-1604.

Prostate Cancer Support Group The Man to Man American Cancer Society program is designed to help men cope with prostate cancer by providing community based education and support to patients and their family members. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at San Ramon Regional Medical Center's south conference room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Men at any stage of prostate cancer and their family members are welcome. Michael Stephens, MST, facilitates. Call 933-0107.

Stress and Pain Management Strategies and Support Learn how to use visualization, relaxation techniques and new ways of thinking (cognitive restructuring) to help reduce stress levels and down-regulate pain. Share experiences and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. Free classes are held from 11 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday of each month at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Facilitated by Betty Runnels, M.A., Counseling Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy. Call 734-3315 or email bettyrunnels@earthlink.net.

Tri-Valley ADHD Parent Support

Group Network with other parents as we share experiences and information on topics related to parenting ADHD children. The group meets from 7 to 8:45 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Thomas J. Hart Middle School. Email JoAnn, jmatone@comcast.net.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group The group meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., to provide information and support for Parkinson's patients and caregivers. Call 831-9940.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson's disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 831-9940 or email jackiebard@pacbell.net.

TV30

Conversations Join TV30 host Robin Fahr for "Managing Your Money" and "PowerCranks." Guests Steve Wilcox of Summit Financial Group discusses money management and Frank Day, M.D. talks about his new invention. On Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m.

In a Word Join hosts Jim Ott and Kathy Cordova for interviews with authors and TV30 Book Club on Channel 30. March show: "The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot" by Naomi Wolf. Jim interviews author Frank Delaney. Show airs 6:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

WHY YOUR HOME WON'T SELL

According to long-time real estate expert and attorney Robert Bruss, "the top reason a home doesn't sell" is very simple: "the asking price is too high."

Okay—but what exactly does "too high" mean? And why can't a buyer who likes your property go ahead and offer less than you're asking for it?

"Too high" means that the asking price simply can't be justified by the recent selling prices of comparable homes located nearby. Today's buyers are far more sophisticated than they were five or ten years ago. They know what homes like yours are selling for and, generally, they are prepared to offer a fair purchase price if they like your property.

However, if you are asking more than makes sense in the current market, most buyers won't think you're a serious seller and, further, will doubt that they can negotiate a fair purchase price with you. So they generally won't even want to look at your home. Obviously, if they don't even look at it, they're not going to make an offer on it.

Your real estate professional can provide all the data you need to check recent sales prices and the specs on the homes that sold. With that, and with the ability to see your home as objectively as possible, you can determine an asking price that will actually hasten its sale, rather than impeding it. For more information call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Two of a kind

The Weekly wants photos of mother-daughter look-alikes.



Mothers and daughters can be so much alike in mannerisms, personality, thoughts and, of course, appearance.

With Mother's Day coming right up, the Pleasanton Weekly will hold a Mother-Daughter Look-Alike contest. If you think you and your daughter could be twins, please send a digital photo to gallen@pleasantonweekly.com by Monday, April 21. Photos can be black and white or color, need to be in JPG format, at least 300 dpi and no larger than 1 MB.

The staff at the Weekly will choose the finalists, and readers will be able to vote on which mother and daughter in Pleasanton look most alike. Prizes will be awarded for the first- and second-place winners. Photos of the winners will be published in the May 10 edition of the Pleasanton Weekly.

PLEASANTON WEEKLY