

Seeing red

Metering glitches irk commuters > **page 5**

Vol. IX, Number 34 • September 19, 2008

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Logo a go-go

Fair to feature
winning design
in ads

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

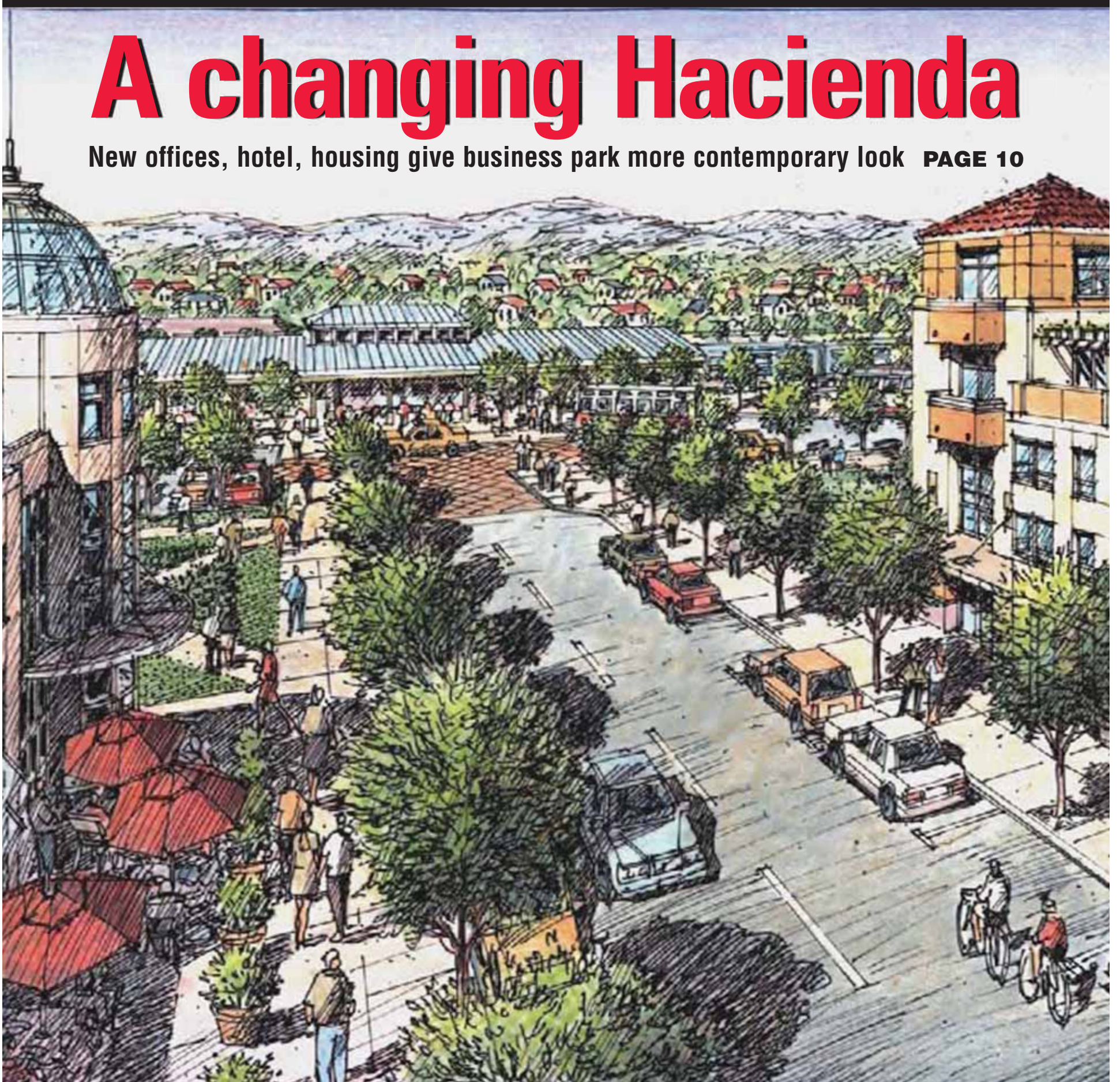
Movie magic


Downtown goes
'Hollywood' retro
this weekend

> **section 2**

A changing Hacienda

New offices, hotel, housing give business park more contemporary look **PAGE 10**





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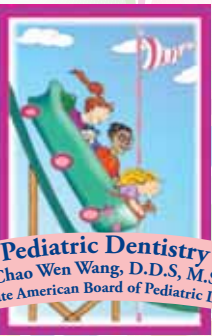
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Reflecting on a year in Baghdad

Regan Miller is back in town after a year in Iraq, and what a year it was. The 24-year-old Foothill graduate (class of 2002) joined the State Department after graduating from San Diego State and seized on an opportunity to serve in a public relations capacity at the department's Baghdad office in the American Embassy compound, which so happened to be Saddam Hussein's palace. Sequestered in the International Zone, once called the Green Zone, Miller prepared fact sheets and releases for the media and also conducted briefings for high-ranking State Department people, including Condoleezza Rice. Except for a rash of mortars that were fired into the compound last spring, she found little risks in working in Baghdad, although there was not a lot to do. Her staff's hours were Sunday through Thursday, with no scheduled work on Friday, a holy day in Baghdad. That meant local Iraqis hired to help the public affairs group stayed home, but staffers generally still came in, some to work, use a computer or call home. For fun, there was always the Green Bean, a government run Starbucks look-alike that occupied a large room where people gathered to talk and eat. There was plenty of food and plenty of time to enjoy it, with lobster tails on Sunday nights among her favorites.

Miller was among the youngest civilians in the embassy compound, and one of very few women. That's changed with the office now filled with women as assignments there become safer, and the extra pay for serving in a risk zone helps, too. Office hours are fairly typical and so is the dress code, although that's changing, too, with more women wearing dresses and heels and men wearing coats and ties. With the dressy casual days coming to a close, Miller still wore flats, saying she wasn't about to have

a heel stuck in the gravel as she rushed to a bunker during a mortar attack.

Housing improved in the year Miller was in Baghdad. Almost everyone has moved from their 9-by-14 foot quarters in what she called a large shipping container to the New Embassy Compound. The trailer camps surrounding the palace that she called home had become mini ghost towns by the time she left last month. The apartments for State Department staffers and others are more like college dorms, with common kitchens areas, new appliances and are fully stocked with real dishes and silverware, not the plastics Miller used for most of her tour.

Miller said she would never compare her "hardships" in Iraq with those of the Marines who still live in tents in desert camps, enduring sandstorms and temperatures ranging into the 130s. Still she missed Pleasanton, where she grew up, and also longed for the anonymity of home and the ability to get into a car, drive to Starbucks and sit alone reading a book with no interruptions. In close-working State Department jobs, especially in places such as Baghdad where there's no such thing as a leisurely walk to the local ice cream store, someone is almost always around. Still there were soccer games, a well-equipped gym and a massive swimming pool. Embassy staff worked hard to give Americans in the International Zone what they needed, often hosting receptions and parties to buoy spirits.

Miller, who has resigned her position with the State Department, was honored Tuesday night for her service in Iraq by the Pleasanton City Council. Tomorrow, she leaves for Washington, D.C. and a new job with Booz Allen Hamilton, a leading consulting firm that works with government clients. She'll fit right in with probably a much better work schedule and living opportunities. ■

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About the Cover

An artist's sketch shows types of town homes and ground floor retail stores sown at Hacienda Business Park planning session, representative of smaller homes being built in transit oriented developments with pedestrian-friendly environments. Artwork by the Dahlin Group. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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Streetwise

Q: What's the worst job you've ever had?

Asked Downtown

Tri-Valley Animal Emergency Center
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The Tri-Valley community and their dogs are invited to our new Dublin animal hospital Open House.

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Linda Ung

Operational Supervisor

I worked at a card store. The management was unorganized. I wasn't good at delegating work and I was young and uncomfortable about telling my peers what to do.

Ernie Navalta

Engineer

The worst job I ever had was during summer break. I worked for a company that made industrial piping out of asbestos. My job was to clean up the grounds, pick up garbage, broken glass and pallets. It was hot and boring most of the time so my friend and I would climb into the pipes and sleep half of the day in the cool, asbestos-filled pipes. It was terrible.



David Duncan

HVAC Installer

I'd have to say moving furniture. It was back-breaking work and you are on the road all the time. There was no such thing as an eight-hour day, packing and unloading led to 16-hour days sometimes. It was a job leading to nowhere fast.



Rosanne Slingsby

Chemist

I used to work at a movie theater. My job was making popcorn and the fake fat that was drizzled on top. It was really disgusting. I worked the snack bar. We were encouraged to sell huge sodas, which in 1973 were a dollar each. We had to sell about five a night to meet our quota.



Marcia Powers

Long Distance Hiker

My summer after freshman year in college, I was a cherry picker in Idaho. It was horrible, my fingers hurt and I got paid five cents a pound. It lasted for a couple of weeks. There was not much cherry eating going on. We all got sick of them real fast!



Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

**Thinking about making the move to solar energy?
Start with the Solar Cities program.**

Solar Cities is a joint project of the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton focused on educating consumers with information about residential solar energy. Livermore and Pleasanton residents are invited to join us at a free workshop to learn more about solar technology for residential use. In addition to City and PG&E staff, solar installers will be on hand to meet with you.

Free Solar Cities Workshop
Wednesday, September 24, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Building
310 Main Street, Pleasanton

For more information about the free Solar Cities workshop, please call (925) 931-5006 or (925) 960-4413, or visit www.solarcitiesnow.com.

SOLAR CITIES
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Newsfront

News Digest

Dance replaces games

Without enough participants, organizers decided to cancel the long-planned 580/680 Senior Games, the Olympic-style competition was intended to help connect local seniors. Instead, the Pleasanton Senior Center, located at 5353 Sunol Blvd., will host a ballroom dance event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday. Music will be provided by Geri Foley. Tickets are \$5. Call 931-5372.

County offers youth leadership program

High school juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply for Youth Leadership 2008, a five-session program on Saturday mornings focusing on leadership and local government put on by Alameda County. Session dates are Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 10 and Jan. 31. Applications are due Oct. 1 and can be obtained by calling 510-272-6984 or visiting www.acgov.org.

Library hosts book sale

The biannual Friends of the Pleasanton Library book sale is back Sept. 26 to 28 at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Books of all genres will be on sale, as well as collectibles, videos, CDs, cards, bookmarks and more. Most paperbacks will be 50 cents and most hardbacks are \$1. From 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Friends members get first dibs. The public is welcome from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Friends memberships are \$10.

Blood donors needed

Once again the American Red Cross faces a blood shortage and is seeking Bay Area donors. Currently, the supply is a little more than half of what patients and hospitals need. Donors must be 17 (or 16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. To learn more, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit www.beadonor.com.

Correction

The API score listed for Amador Valley High School in "PUSD schools still on top," (Sept. 12, news, page 6) was incorrect. The score is 867. Also, Harvest Park Middle School did meet target growth in the API, but not in the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) categories of "subgroups" and "school wide and subgroups." AYP is a federal standard that is part of No Child Left Behind. There is no punitive action for not meeting the AYP standards.

New metering lights leave some drivers red

Lights activated Tuesday on westbound I-580 from Grant Line Road to Foothill/San Ramon Road

by Janet Pelletier

On-ramp metering lights were turned on for the first time during Tuesday morning's commute along westbound Interstate 580 and the signals caused many commuters to see red in more ways than one.

Caltrans installed the lights recently and turned them on a week ago, leaving them on green so drivers would be aware that they would be operating soon. But their first day in operation didn't go so smoothly. Steven Williams, a spokesman with Caltrans, said Tuesday was problematic for both drivers and the

transportation department, but said crews are working out the kinks. At the Airway Boulevard on-ramp, Williams said mechanical problems caused the lights to stay on red. To make matters worse, he said three times the normal traffic volume was reported at that particular ramp.

"The major part of the backup there was because people used Airway who don't normally use it," he said. "We know exactly how many cars use it every day, every hour and we had a 300 percent increase this morning because they were bypassing their normal

(continued on page 9)



About face

Five-year-old Annika Jernstedt sits perfectly still as Amador Valley High School senior Maria Santos paints a colorful flower on her cheek at Sunday's Firehouse Fling carnival at Lions Wayside Community Park.

25 years of sisterhood

Tulancingo delegates to arrive next week for celebration

by Emily West

Forty delegates from Tulancingo, Mexico will be welcomed to Pleasanton next week for the 25th year of the Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association. This follows the trip 38 Pleasanton residents took in April to kick off the anniversary party.

Dick Stafford, chair of the anniversary festivities, said the planning for the five-day long event started about a year ago. Typically, 20 Mexican delegates come, but this year the number has doubled. Anniversary activities include a welcome dinner at the Pleasanton Marriott Hotel, a city hall visit, Camp Arroyo tour, bocce ball tournament, USS Hornet tour, pirate party, family day picnic, gala banquet at the senior center, mass at St. Augustine Catholic Church, a trip to Boomers and a farewell dinner.

"The big event is the banquet at the senior center," Stafford said. "That's the major celebratory event for the 25th anniversary."

Both Rotary clubs and the Lions Club are also helping with the festivities by sponsoring breakfasts.

Stafford said the idea of the sister city is to promote cultural exchange and as a result of six years in the organization, he has made

several lifelong friends.

Pleasanton residents are welcome to attend many of the events, which run Sept. 24 to 28. Stafford said the PTSCA encourages families from the community to come out for an afternoon of food, game and fun for all ages.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman plans to attend several of the anniversary activities and looks forward to seeing friends made from the April visit. About 10 years ago, her daughter participated in the PTSCA student exchange program, where Pleasanton students stay with a Tulancingo family for a few weeks and then welcome a Tulancingo teen to their homes in Pleasanton. Hosterman said she finally met her daughter's host family, saying "it was fun to compare notes and daughters."

Hosterman agrees that the sister city partnership is key to experiencing a cultural exchange.

"The completely different social and economic makeup gives the opportunity to learn so much more about another community and for them, in turn, to learn so much about us," she said. "It enriches us to have that relationship and to be able to share."

For more information on the PTSCA anniversary celebration, call Dick Stafford at 462-6245 or Jorge Victoria at 462-6723. ■

Germain's bail set at \$1,080,000

More alleged victims come forward as Castlewood tennis coach faces 15 molestation charges

by Emily West

Prosecutors have brought forward seven additional charges against Henry John Germain, which brings the total to 15 charges.

After talking with investigators, Jane Doe 3, 6 and 7 have said Germain, the tennis director at Castlewood Country Club up until his arrest, behaved lewdly with them as children, with one charge stating continual sexual abuse. These incidents reportedly went on between 1998 and 2004, according to court documents.

After investigation, Jane Does 4 and 5 did not bring forward charges.

Germain was last in court Sept. 12 where Judge Hugh Walker set his bail at \$1,080,000. Attorney Elizabeth Grossman of Berkeley, who is representing Germain, did not return calls to say if he plans on posting bail.

At the trial, Grossman said they would not enter into a plea, but she plans to file a formal demurrer at the next hearing Sept. 30. The demurrer would challenge the legitimacy of the charges. Grossman said some of the alleged victims came forward with their information after the time allowed in the state of California, known as the statute of limitations.

Grossman requested the judge set Germain's bail at \$540,000, which she said was "enormously substantial." She argued that the main charges represented multiple incidents of molestation and the more specific charges against Germain would be included under the umbrella of those charges.

Judge Walker said he had never "bought into" that argument in his 24 years as a judge.

Grossman further argued that the judge's bail amount is high for someone with no prior criminal history and in such good standing in the community. When asking the court audience who was in attendance to support Germain, about four people stood up. She said that hundreds if not thousands of people support him and several people have called her who would have been in attendance if it wasn't for their jobs. She went on to say that he is a father of three who has custody of his children three days a week.

District Attorney Ronda Tyson disagreed with Grossman's assertions, adding that it would be appropriate to allow no bail, but it would be sufficient to go according to the bail schedule. Her recommendations, she argued, would protect children in the community from someone she considers to be a serial child molester.

(continued on page 9)

Trinity resurrecting church plans

Lutheran church forming 'blue ribbon' group

by Janet Pelletier

A year and a half after Trinity Lutheran Church's building plans went sour, the church has applied for a two-year extension on permits with the city and formed a blue ribbon committee, tasked with finding an alternative solution.

In a newsletter to congregants, Pastor David Beard said that over the summer, the church's building team has "been busy meeting with the planning department of the city of Pleasanton. To that end, a letter was drafted and sent to the planning department seeking approval to update our building and construction permits, secure our modular buildings for Sonshine (Preschool) and a waiver of the city-mandated add-on parking lot..."

In April 2007, after months of attempts at compromise between the church and the church's neighbors, building plans stalled. Trinity was proposing to construct an 8,110-square-foot ministry building to replace what the church has had in the form of a temporary structure on its property, housing the expanding Sonshine Preschool. Also part of the plans were a 3,108-square-foot youth center to be built on the south side of the property, fronting

1225 Hopyard Rd. Additional parking was planned to add 122 spaces. Neighbors who live nearby objected to the plans, saying traffic is already bad and the proposed traffic pattern would create further chaos. They said while they didn't oppose the church's efforts, they felt it needed to do more to compromise and be a good neighbor. Church officials disagreed, saying they had made many concessions already to work with the neighborhood. Seeing that neither party was getting anywhere, more than two dozen neighbors filed an appeal of the Planning Commission's January 2007 Trinity approval.

After the appeal, the city spent a few weeks retooling the site plans to better accommodate neighbors' concerns while trying to work with the church. City planners unveiled a new site map which was panned by the church. Since then, things have remained status quo.

In the church newsletter, Beard said some basic alternatives from its proposal could include: building the city's aforementioned plan without the mandated parking lot, create a new plan that would relocate the ministry center housing Sonshine closer to the current modular buildings while preserving the current parking lot layout and changing the project phasing to build the multipurpose building first. ■

Of Note

Comisky completes EOD training

Andrew M. Comisky, who graduated from Foothill High School in 2006, graduated from the Navy EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) unit in Florida Aug. 20 after 52 weeks of training. He received a promotion to Petty Officer 3rd Class-E4 just prior to his graduation. He is currently attending Jump School, and will attend Tactical School just before joining his mobile unit in Virginia.



In addition, he has received decorations for marksmanship and scuba since entering the Navy in January 2007.

LPFD names new hire, promotes two

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department recently announced Genevieve Pastor-Cohen as emergency preparedness manager and the promotions of Scott Deaver to fire marshal and Tom Grappone to assistant fire marshal.

Pastor-Cohen is an emergency management professional with 16

years of experience managing all phases of comprehensive emergency management and business continuity in the public sector. Formerly with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, she will be responsible for disaster preparedness projects and activities in Livermore and Pleasanton.

Deaver began his career with the Pleasanton Fire Department and was previously fire inspector. Throughout his career, Scott has played an active role in promoting public safety. He developed and instructed the first Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) for the community of Pleasanton and is an active member on various fire prevention boards and associations.

Grappone has been ensuring safety and health in various public sectors since 1978. He worked for the United States Postal Service for 22 years managing safety and regulatory compliance issues. In 2003 he became a fire inspector for the Newark Fire Department and in 2005 he joined the LPFD as a fire inspector.

Santa Rita jail a green facility

The fifth largest jail in the country has gone green in a big way. The 113-acre Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, which holds up to

4,000 prisoners at any one time, has made several new technological advances, according to the county.

The county Board of Supervisors has been pushing Alameda County to concert to clean energy. In conjunction with SunPower Corporation, a 1.18-megawatt rooftop solar power system was completed for the housing units of the jail, which can supply up to half of the required power to run the section. It has been recognized as the largest rooftop array in the Western Hemisphere.

Santa Rita also has a fuel cell power plant, which was completed in May 2006. The one-megawatt, molten carbonate fuel cell power plant generates 50 percent of the jail's needs annually, saving the county about \$266,000 per year. The \$6.1-million project was the third major project aimed at improving efficiency and employing sustainable energy sources at the jail. According to the county, both measures was expected to reduce power purchases by as much as 80 percent during peak-demand summer months, translating to the savings of 3,200 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually and the equivalent of planting 900 trees.

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Livermore airport to hold open house

Warbirds, antique aircraft will line field for free public show

The Livermore Airport will hold its 13th annual open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday with pilots showing off their aircraft, including military Warbirds, aerobatic type planes and antique, classic and experimental airplanes.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be broadcast on site by local FM station KKIQ, which will also give away prizes. Music and entertainment will be provided throughout the afternoon with beverages and food available for purchase.

The local Chapter 663 of the Experimental Aircraft Association will be signing up youngsters from 8 to 17 years old for "Young Eagle" airplane rides that will take place at a later date. The rides will provide them with an opportunity to experience flight and learn about aviation.

According to John Davelaar, an airport spokesman, the Livermore Airport dates back to 1929 when it opened on a small field near what is now Rincon Avenue. In 1942, the airfield was taken over by the federal government under condemnation proceedings for use as a Naval Auxiliary Airfield.

During those years of World War II, the facility provided auxiliary air service to support the Livermore Naval Air Station, which is now the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. After the war, the city of Livermore operated the airfield under a lease with the Navy. The Airport was then known as

the Livermore Sky Ranch, the predecessor of the Livermore Municipal Airport. In July 1953, the Livermore City Council passed a resolution to accept title to Livermore Sky Ranch.

Due to its close proximity to downtown Livermore, the field became increasingly desirable for other uses. In 1958, the city moved the field to its present location and sold the old site to a San Ramon company for residential development.

The new airport began operations in December of 1965 on a 257-acre site with a 4,000-foot asphalt runway and a parallel taxiway. A precision instrument approach landing system (ILS) was added to Runway 7L-25R in 1979 and in 1985, to ease congestion on the main runway, a 2,699-foot parallel runway was constructed. An extension of the main runway to 5,255 feet followed in 1989.

Since 1985, Livermore Municipal Airport has made more than \$25 million in facility improvements, including the cost of property acquisition to enhance protection of approaches to the runways. Today, the airport encompasses 590 acres, 392 hangars of various sizes and shapes, 249 tie-downs, nine shelters and is home to 580 based aircraft.

The Livermore airport is the 11th busiest airport in California with more than 253,000 operations a year.

—Jeb Bing

Teens sought for essay contest

Axis Health encourages youths to write about alcohol, drug abuse experiences

Axis Community Health is looking for teens to participate in an essay writing contest that could land them a first-place prize of \$500.

The Tri-Valley nonprofit health organization is participating in the Young Voices for Recovery Teen Essay Writing Contest. This year's topic is what impact long-term recovery for alcohol and drug abuse has had on teens' lives, either through their own personal experience or someone close to them.

Entries will be evaluated on "outstanding personal acts and how they have positively impacted others." September is National Recovery Month. Contest judges include: Gaylene Burkett, housing assistant for the city of Dublin; Gina Channell-Allen, president of the Pleasanton Weekly; Jim Ott, president of the Pleasanton Unified School District Board of Trustees; Jean Prasher, human services

program manager for the city of Livermore; and Kathleen Yurchak, community services manager for the city of Pleasanton. The first-place winner will be awarded \$500, second place \$150 and third place \$50 to be used as scholarships to further education.

Contestants must be between 13 and 19 years old. Essays should be 250-500 words long and photos may be included, but are not required. Entries may be submitted via email by Oct. 1 to Amie Sousa at asousa@axishealth.org or mailed to Young Voices for Recovery, Amie Sousa, Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566, postmarked by Sept. 30. Each entry must include name of the author, year of birth, grade level, name of school, name of a parent or guardian, address, telephone number and email. If requested, names will not be published.

—Janet Pelletier

Fair holds contest to choose 2009 logo

Theme is 'Summer Starts Here'

The Alameda County Fair is holding a logo contest for the 2009 version of the annual community event in Pleasanton.

"Summer Starts Here" is the theme for the 2009 Alameda County Fair, and the deadline to submit a logo to officials is Oct. 5.

The winner of the contest will receive \$500 and 10 tickets to the 2009 fair. The first-place logo will be used to promote the fair on posters, programs, T-shirts, billboards and in advertising.

To enter the competition, submissions must be sent

in a jpeg file via email to april@alamedacountyfair.com or on a CD via mail to the 2009 Fair Logo Contest at 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton, CA, 94566.

Submissions should include the entrant's mailing address, telephone number and email address.

More information about the logo contest, along with rules and regulations, are available at www.alamedacountyfair.com or by calling 426-7600.

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—Bay City News

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Morro the Weekly

Tammy Wilhite, Jennifer Morrissey, Linda Villanueva, Cherly Sliwinski, Teresa Held, Kristin McAfee, Donna Sparkman and Yolanda Glaeser took the Weekly to Morro Bay, Calif. Yolanda reports that "the ladies left their husbands and children at home, but didn't forget to bring the Weekly on their third annual moms retreat to celebrate kids being back in school."

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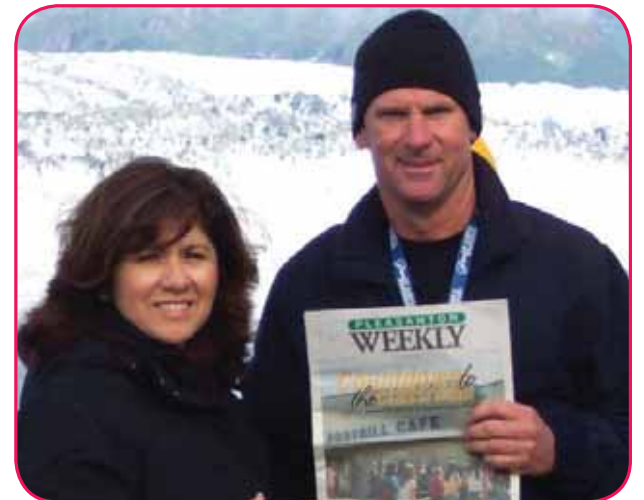
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Ice-see the Weekly

Tom and Denise Croker took the Weekly with them on their Alaskan cruise at Hubbard Glacier. How cool of them!



Phantom of the Weekly

The 2007 Phantom 10U-B players and coaches: Casey Eddy, Johanna Grauer, Victoria Molina, Jenni Beadle, Hannah Moreno, Roni Stone and Corinne Validx, Coach Mark Moreno, Katie Eppard, Malory Masajlo, Molly Phillips, Ashley Lotoszynski, Coach Tom Roush and Hannah Menk brought the Weekly in front of the gazebo in the Plaza of Old Mesilla, New Mexico.

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Artful Weekly

Pleasantonians Milt and Kathleen Elin, Charlotte Severin, Carole and Denny Williams, Bonnie Bartlett, Anne and Wayne Emery and Jenny Severin took the Weekly with them to a watercolor class taught by Charlotte at Mendocino Art Church in Mendocino, Calif.



Metering

(continued from page 5)

on-ramp because they saw bottlenecks. You combine that with a mechanical problem and that is what causes the backup.”

Some Pleasanton residents reported the effects of the metering lights on local streets, with backups in traffic along the city’s major thoroughfares—Stanley Boulevard, Vineyard Avenue, Bernal Avenue, Valley Avenue, Stoneridge Drive and Hopyard Road—from drivers who avoided the freeway due to congestion there from the new system that went on line.

The metering lights are located at the ramps from Grant Line Road in Tracy west to the Foothill/San Ramon interchange in Pleasanton and Dublin. They will operate from 5 to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday.

The signals operate on an eight-second cycle during peak commute

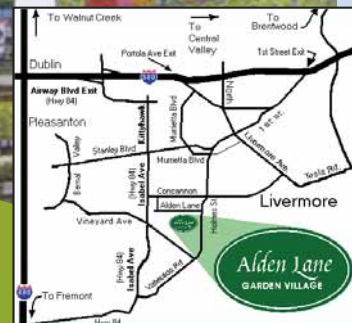
hours and taper off to six seconds after 9 a.m., when traffic is much lighter, Williams said. The system regulates the number of vehicles on the freeway at any given time so that cars don’t experience a backup once they merge on.

Caltrans crews were deployed Wednesday morning to assess the traffic loads and the signals’ operations so that there isn’t a repeat of Tuesday morning’s headaches.

“There’s no way of knowing (what problems will occur) until you’ve actually activated the lights,” Williams said. “You can’t test traffic signals when you have live traffic.”

The 11 metering signals cost \$100,000 each, which Williams said is a relatively small cost considering the price tag of other freeway improvements. The eastbound portion of 580 received metering lights in January, which operate for the afternoon commute, 2:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday from Foothill/San Ramon Road to Greenville Road. ■

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Germain

(continued from page 9)

Grossman argued that there is a “huge difference” between the allegations of Jane Doe 1 and the other alleged victims.

Tyson said that in her years as an attorney she has seen more heinous accounts of child molestation, but not someone who had apparently committed so many acts on so many victims. She said it is possible that Germain acted as a predator and set up good relations with others to help his case.

Defending Germain, Grossman told the judge that part of setting bail is based on the flight risk of the accused, which she believed is not a factor.

Walker said if Germain is out on bail and facing life in prison after committing a very serious crime, “places like Aruba look pretty nice.”

Grossman said she doesn’t believe her client will face life in prison.

According to Germain’s attorney, a stepfather has offered the equity on his San Francisco home, set at \$1.2 million, as a property bond.

In addition to setting the bail, Walker said that if Germain were bailed out, he must turn over his passport, stay in California, continue to not come in contact with anyone under the age of 18 unless with an adult present, and not come into contact with Jane Does 1, 2, 3, 6 or 7.

Grossman said she will ask the judge to reconsider the bail at the next hearing as more facts come in.

Germain will next appear in court at 9 a.m. Sept. 30 at the Pleasanton courthouse on Stoneridge Drive. For updates, visit www.pleasantonweekly.com. ■





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Changing Ha

New offices, hotel, housing give business park more contemporary look



Streetscape done for another city shows how a proposed new section of Hacienda Business Park might look that would include nearly 700 townhomes and apartments on both sides of the Shaklee Corporate Center, a transit-oriented development near the BART station.

by Jeb Bing

New development plans are changing the face and focus of Hacienda Business Park and the city's northwest side.

The City Council voted 4-1 Tuesday to approve a multi-million-dollar, 350-unit apartment project next to the new West Dublin-Pleasanton BART station. A transit-oriented development (TOD) similar to 370 townhouses and apartment units planned near the East Dublin-Pleasanton station at Hacienda, the project will include a mix of one, two and three-bedroom units within walking distance of rapid transit.

Hacienda

At the same time, the council has taken under advisement proposals for two other residential developments in Hacienda that would add another 370 townhouses and apartments, also planned for vacant lots within walking distance of the BART station just north of Hacienda. Also under review is a multi-million-dollar expansion of the CarrAmerica Corporate Center that would add three new office buildings, retail stores and a five story hotel.

The Windstar project that was approved Tuesday will include two four-story apartment buildings that, because of higher ceilings in many units, will rise to 68 feet. They will include 70 affordable apartments for low- to very-low-income tenants. The apartments will offer 213 one-bedroom, 130 two-bedroom and seven three-bedroom apartments, with several top floor apartments featuring rooftop lofts. Rents for those designated as affordables would start at \$861 for a one-bedroom unit.

Eric Heffner, senior vice president of Windstar, told the council he has been working on the project for six years. He now has a 93-year lease for the 7 acres that are owned by BART, which will use revenue from Windstar and even larger development across the freeway in Dublin to pay for the new BART station and operations here.

The Pleasanton council's action in rezoning the property from commercial to also allow residential agrees, too, to Windstar's plan to include 14,000 square feet of mostly ground-floor retail stores as mixed use with the apartments. Heffner said one of the stores could be a slimmed-down major brand supermarket, being considered by a company that is downsizing its markets to meet increased demand in mixed use, transit-oriented developments such as Windstar's.

Sketches shown to the council included tree-lined pathways that would give BART commuters access through the apartment complex to Stoneridge Shopping Center just across Stoneridge Mall Road.

But not everyone signed on to the Windstar project.

Concerned about the major changes planned in Hacienda, Councilman Matt Sullivan urged the council to hold off its approval until the entire community has a chance to look at the major developments planned in Hacienda and decide how Pleasanton should move forward. With the city nearing its 29,000-unit, voter-mandated housing cap, the 700 new housing units at Windstar and Hacienda would leave only 1,000 units or less for future projects.

"We have a lot of other projects that are going to come through and possibly get approved. That will significantly reduce the opportunity we have to build better projects," Sullivan said.

Sullivan and Councilwoman Cindy McGovern also questioned the plan to cluster 80 affordable units planned in Hacienda on one site. They said Pleasanton's housing policies have always tried to disperse housing for lower-income residents, usually in homes and apartments indistinguishable from market rate housing.

Still, the affordable cluster won the endorsement of others on the council and most on the Planning Commission in a recent workshop. The 80 affordable apartments would be built by W. P. Carey on part of its site, formerly owned by the Shaklee Corporation, with 130 townhomes on the other part of the site.

On the other side of Shaklee, BRE Properties plans to build 240 market-rate apartments and condominiums.

Neither development would have retail stores, which planners said are nearby in other Hacienda



Job Bing

James Paxson, general manager of the Hacienda Owners Association, is a driving force to add more transit oriented housing to business park.

locations.

A major component of the Hacienda plans is for three additional office buildings on the CarrAmerica site, totaling 480,270 square feet, and a new five story, 130-room hotel with 10,000 square feet of ground floor retail.

Matt Edwards, director of development for CarrAmerica, said the CarrAmerica center is underutilized and that its owners have been waiting for an appropriate time to build it out.

Even though the office building market remains sluggish, demand for space in prestigious locations such as CarrAmerica is strong. Within the last few months, Robert Half International, a major Pleasanton employer, announced that it will relocate its offices and employees to Bishop Ranch in San Ramon after failing to find adequate office space in Pleasanton to expand and consolidate its operations. If CarrAmerica's proposed new office buildings had been available, Robert Half officials said they would have preferred staying here.

Attorney David Gold, of the law firm of Morrison & Foerster, who is involved in the CarrAmerica expansion project, said he supports the city's "mixed-use, sustainable vision" for Hacienda as written in the new 2008 Pleasanton General Plan, now being approved. He said Hacienda currently has 1,530 multiple and single-family homes in the business park with 900,000 square feet of retail space. He cited the opening of the BART station in the mid-1990s as the impetus for moving Hacienda into a more contemporary transit-oriented development.

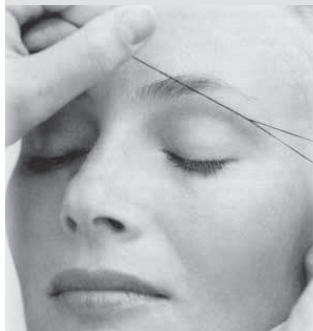
After reviewing the Hacienda development plans, the council asked City Manager Nelson Fialho to establish a task force to consider the CarrAmerica and housing plans, and to make a recommendation back to the council later this year.

Fialho said it's likely the CarrAmerica expansion plan will be considered separately and first so that development on the site can begin in 2009. The apartments and townhomes also could be built in 2009, but probably later in the year.

When the Hacienda Business Park was originally developed in the early 1980s, it primarily consisted of office uses. Since then, more than 730 acres of the park have been turned into mixed-use residential. ■

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Opinion

Editorial

'Get-out-of-town' budget won't solve fiscal crisis

If Gov. Schwarzenegger hasn't yet vetoed the legislature's hastily packaged state budget by the time you get this newspaper, he should. The tax plan is a sham cobbled together by legislative leaders in hopes of getting out of Sacramento and onto the campaign trail quickly. Schwarzenegger proposed a temporary 1-cent sales tax increase to help bridge the state's \$15.2 billion deficit. Instead, the lawmakers scrapped the plan and replaced it with roughly \$4 billion by accelerating, but not increasing, corporate and individual tax obligations. Schwarzenegger called the proposal a permanent tax increase, which he opposes, and said the sales tax could have been structured with a firm, legislature-approved expiration date. As we go to press, the stand-off continues with legislative leaders vowing to get their measure to the governor's desk by late Wednesday, and promising to override his promised veto by week's end. If that happens, Schwarzenegger will lose any chance for line-item vetoes of the budget but at the same time he can walk away from the fiscal mess the legislators have worsened.

Of course it's not just Sacramento that's bracing for tomorrow. With the patchwork quilt budget plan legislators have proposed, the Pleasanton school district—already \$3 million short in state funding commitments—and the city of Pleasanton municipal leaders will now have to meet earlier and often to prepare for an even worse fiscal 2009-2010. Nowhere in the plan the legislature has contrived does a dime more go to reduce the \$15.2-billion deficit. Of course, if the Democrats make gains in the Assembly and Senate, they might have the full two-thirds votes needed to approve next year's budget without the meddling Republicans. That could mean higher taxes, that the Democrats wanted to impose, but even there the options are far from paying down the budget deficit and at the same time curbing spending increases.

The budget stalemate, now at an 81-day record, has forced the state to delay billions of dollars in payments to schools, medical clinics, daycare centers and state vendors. Yet, while we watched thousands of Lehman Brothers employees cleaning out their desk last weekend in their offices of the bankrupt company, no state employees or legislators have missed their payroll and expense checks.

Even so, the bipartisan compromises hammered out by lawmakers over the \$104.3-billion budget will hurt far more. The plan relies on \$7 billion in spending cuts to schools, social programs and other state services to close the \$15.2-billion shortfall. Taxpayers, most notably in homes where there are two wage earners filing jointly, will have to pay their taxes earlier, perhaps quarterly.

If Schwarzenegger follows through in his veto threat, it will mark the first time that's happened in California. But at least he's sending a message to this legislature—and the one that will be elected Nov. 4—that he will also refuse to sign the hundreds of bills now on his desk that would fund some of their favorite projects. His would be a tough decision to force the legislators to stay at their desks until their budget work is completed. If they vote to override his veto, we can count on an ongoing collision course when work begins on the next fiscal year budget—in about three months.

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.

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Letters

Great article on BUSC

Dear Editor,

Congratulations to you and Elyssa Thome on the outstanding article—including the history and recent changes (“Ballistic turns 40,” Cover Story, Sept. 5, pages 12-14).

That organization signifies what Pleasanton is really about—many volunteers working very good to benefit the entire community.

*Brad and Sandra Hirst
Pleasanton*

Guest opinion right on target

Dear Editor,

Peter MacDonald’s guest opinion in last week’s Weekly was right on target (“NIMBY initiative is bad news,” Guest Opinion, Opinion, page 11).

Measure PP, the NIMBY measure on the November ballot, is a bad idea. The citizens writing the initiative may have been well-intentioned but Measure PP reflects more self interest than community interest. Several key supporters already live on the top of ridges and I suspect they wish to preserve their own view shed and privacy rather than embrace community ownership and access to open space that would be protected in perpetuity from development.

Everyone wants to protect the hillsides and ridges. The majority of the City Council placed QQ on the ballot to assure citizens wishing to protect the hillsides and ridges had a measure to support that welcomed a transparent, citizen-driven process, to arrive at a plan based on solid study and sound law that would not result in endless lawsuits.

I am a parks, trails and open space advocate and have been involved with the trails committee, the Ag and Open Space Committee, watershed management forums and citizens groups within the East Bay Regional Park District. The environmental community is supporting Measure QQ. Measure QQ offers the best and only strategy that will result in publicly-owned and accessible open space on the southeast hills.

I applaud Peter MacDonald for calling and describing the measures right. I urge you to support Measure QQ.

*Dick Quigley
Pleasanton*

Weekly shouldn’t ‘advertise’ gay marriage

Dear Editor,

I am opposed to advertising (which to me is approving) same sex “Couples confirm their love” in the Sept. 5 publication (Weddings, Transitions, page 16).

It appears the Pleasanton Weekly has “caved” to the “politically correctness” of the day.

*Carol DeMars
Pleasanton*

City union workers: watch out

Dear Editor,

I was saddened to read your editorial about the city of Pleasanton’s new contract with the Police Officers Association (“New contract reins in pension costs,” Editorial, Sept. 5, page 10). I’m sure the police union did what they felt they had to do to survive in these hard times.

As fellow union member, IAFF Local 55, we all know that a two-tiered system is the first step in the process of union breaking, and as stated in your editorial the city manager will be going after the firefighters next. Now that a two-tiered system has been established the next step, maybe years from now, will to bring new hires in at a lower pay grade, or less benefits. Over the years with the two different pay grades, this will create hostility in the union. The union is no longer united. My advice to all city union workers is to watch out.

*Chuck Hermanson
Pleasanton*

Sharks shouldn’t have to provide extras

Dear Editor,

I am extremely pleased to learn the Sharks ice facility is finally moving forward. The ice facility will be a benefit to all ice enthusiasts, local businesses, Pleasanton tax revenues (by way of increased sales taxes) and the Bay Area’s best run professional sports franchise—the San Jose Sharks.

As the Pleasanton Weekly reported on Sept. 5, in the final negotiations, the City Council has made it essential that the Sharks financially contribute to two unrelated projects: the sports complex at the Bernal property and the Firehouse Arts Center. Apparently, building the ice facility is not enough for the City Council. I am totally disgusted to learn of this development.

Thus far, it is unknown how much extra the City Council requires from the Sharks in order to move forward. From my standpoint, it does not matter how much the City Council seeks. Our local politicians are shaking down the Sharks simply because they can. The Sharks are taking all the risk in this project by building and operating the ice complex and in return all the Sharks desire is a 30-year lease for \$1. I suppose it is not enough that the Sharks are spending millions of dollars to build and operate the facility, and the amount of additional tax revenue the city will receive by way of sales directed related to the facility. No wonder most of the new business in the Tri-Valley opt for Dublin rather than Pleasanton.

*David Brilliant
Pleasanton*

Guest Opinion

3 city leaders have let us down

by Anne Fox, Greg O’Connor
and Mary L. Roberts

The mayor and two city councilmembers have not followed our 1996 General Plan, the long range development guide for our city. They approved a mega-mansion ridgeline housing development on our Southeast ridges and are currently discussing excluding certain housing units toward our voter-imposed housing cap.

Here are the facts: The 1996 General Plan states: “Develop a ridgeline preservation ordinance and scenic hillside design guidelines to improve safety and reduce the potential negative visual impacts of development in hilly areas.” This ordinance should have been adopted before the Oak Grove project was approved. Presently, multiple developers are submitting housing plans that cut off tops of ridges, do massive grading, and cut down countless trees. Measure PP is not about a single development, but is about all the ridges in Pleasanton. Measure PP is the ordinance that will protect the ridges. Vote “yes” on PP.

The 1996 General Plan states: “Maintain a maximum housing buildout of 29,000 housing units

within the planning area. Monitor and zone future residential developments so as not to exceed the maximum housing buildout.” As we are approaching our voter-approved 29,000-unit housing cap, the mayor and two city councilmembers are now discussing not counting certain housing units toward our housing cap. Hundreds of housing units are involved in their discussions. Since the mayor and the two councilmembers represent a majority of the council, their three votes can determine what is counted toward the cap and what is not. The council majority should not have the “flexibility” to override what the residents of Pleasanton approved overwhelmingly (75 percent) in 1996, the housing cap of 29,000 housing units.

The voter-mandated housing cap of 29,000 units was used to plan our infrastructure. Exceeding the housing cap will affect the whole community with overcrowded schools, more traffic congestion and stress on water supplies. The city roadway system, schools, water and sewer systems were not designed to accommodate more than 29,000 housing units in our city. Even our school district superintendent recently stated that “all bets are off” in providing school

facilities if we exceed the 29,000-unit housing cap.

Here is the answer: A citizens committee of current and previously elected officials, planning professionals, trails and open space advocates, and concerned residents wrote and qualified Measure PP for this November ballot. Actually, more than 5,000 Pleasanton residents signed the petition to put Measure PP on the ballot. The citizens want to eliminate loopholes in the voter-approved housing cap by defining a housing unit identical to the State of California and the federal government definition. The citizens want to provide an ordinance to protect our ridgelines as directed in our General Plan.

Vote “yes” on Measure PP. Vote “no” on Measure QQ, the poison pill measure that would kill Measure PP even if passed by a majority of voters. Measure PP immediately preserves the ridgelines and protects the housing cap. For more information on Measure PP, visit www.SavePleasantonHills.com.

*Anne Fox and Greg O’Connor
are members of the Pleasanton
Planning Commission. Mary L.
Roberts was a planning commis-
sioner from 1998-2006.*

An opportunity from The Pleasanton Police Department

The Parent Project

A class designed to help you change your child’s Destructive Adolescent Behavior

This is an interactive class intended to give parents tools to more effectively deal with destructive behaviors in their teen. The class will help parents answer difficult questions, learn solutions, and receive emotional and practical support.

Dates: Tuesday evenings, September 30, 2008-December 16, 2008
(no class on November 11 or November 25)

Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: Pleasanton Police Department

Cost: \$95.00

To sign up contact Pleasanton Unified Adult Education
at (925) 426-4280 or www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted

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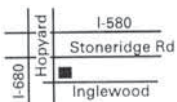
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Births

Luke Joseph Hilton

Luke Joseph Hilton was born at 12:33 p.m. Aug. 8 at ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton. He weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Parents are Stephen and Michelle Hilton (of Pleasanton). Baby Luke joins older brothers Caleb and Isaac.

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Obituaries

Roy Harold Weaver

Roy Harold Weaver died Aug. 22 at the Livermore Veteran's Administration facility. He was 89.

Mr. Weaver was a native Californian, born in Taft, Calif. on Nov. 12, 1918, and went to high school and junior college in Bakersfield. He proudly served four years in the U.S. Navy during World War II on board the destroyer escort the U.S.S. Loy during operations in Okinawa. In 1955 he moved his family to the Santa Barbara area. Roy retired after 30 years of success in institutional food sales at S.E. Rykoff. He moved to Pleasanton in 2003, enjoying time at RidgeView Commons and then Parkview Assisted Living. He was baptized at Crosswinds Church in Dublin in 1996 at age 77. His words to all were "it's never too late."

He was a loving husband and a dedicated father who loved life and lived it to the full. He remained active throughout his adult life enjoying morning walks, bike rides, golf, and tennis—playing into his 80s.

He is survived by his two remaining children, Becky Hogle (Chuck Hogle) and Greg Weaver (Kris Weaver); grandchildren Jeff Onstot (Jill Onstot), Michelle Onstot; and Jen Weaver, Ali Brown (Thomas Brown), and J.R. Weaver; and great-grandchildren, Jacob and Nicholas Onstot. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 64 years, Alice Marie. They lost their oldest son, Clark Weaver, when he was in his mid-20s.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday in Santa Barbara, and a celebration of his life in Pleasanton on Sunday.

Helene Marie Castro

Helene Marie Castro died Sept. 13 at the age of 60.

Mrs. Castro was the beloved wife of John Castro for 38 years; loving mother of Daniel (Kimberly), Karyn, Lisa (Spencer) Scribner; proud grandmother of Myles and Ellie Scribner; sister of LaVerne (John) Robertson, Sandy (Den) Carolan, Diane (Trevor) Sibley, Debi Keate; aunt to many nieces and nephews; and daughter of the late Daniel and Helen Newman.

She was a resident of Pleasanton for 21 years and a teacher for more than 25 years. She was born April 2, 1948 and raised in Chicago. After high school, she worked as a secretary in the Chicago police department for three years to pay for her college tuition. She earned undergraduate degrees in elementary and special education from the University of Illinois at Chicago and taught special education in Chicago area schools.

She earned her master's in education from Cal State East Bay (Hayward) while raising her children. She taught in Hayward for eight years at Ochoa Middle School and in Livermore for eight years at Junction and Christensen middle schools and Granada High School.

Mrs. Castro was an excellent cook who always enjoyed hosting family and friends, and her kitchen was a favorite gathering spot for holidays, special occasions and everyday meals. Friends and family enjoyed her warmth, conversation, contagious laughter and unconditional love.

A public viewing will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday followed by a vigil/prayer service at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St. A Catholic funeral mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Augustine Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Shepherd's Gate for displaced and abused women and children in Livermore.

Saturday, September 20th 10-7 PM Sunday, September 21st 10-6 PM

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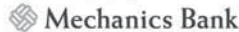
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Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

9-year-old bicyclist hit by minivan

A 9-year-old boy is said to be in stable condition at home after being hit by a minivan on West Las Positas Boulevard Sept. 11, according to police.

Police said the boy was riding his bike to Fairlands Elementary School along the north sidewalk of West Las Positas Boulevard at about 7:50 a.m. A woman in her 50s reportedly looked right then left before turning right out of the ValleyCare Medical Center parking lot. Witnesses confirmed that the driver stopped and looked both ways, police said.

Lt. Tom Fenner said the boy was hit by the front tire of the minivan and sustained severe lower leg injuries. Medical response crews decided the severity of his injuries was enough to send him to Children's Hospital in Oakland instead of at the hospital at the scene.

"He was in overnight and had some surgery," Fenner said.

He also added that some trees could have hindered the view down West Las Positas Boulevard towards Owens Drive and that in between looking right, then left and turning right, the child on the bicycle could have covered a lot of ground.

This is the third incident involving a pedestrian and a vehicle. A 59-year-old Fremont woman was killed at Old Santa Rita Road and Rosewood Avenue July 28 and a 51-year-old woman was taken to the hospital in critical condition May 22 after she was hit by an SUV at the intersection of First and Neal streets downtown.

Fenner said the problem in this and the recent collisions is that there was no eye contact made between the pedestrian and the driver and actions were based on assumptions. He encouraged drivers to look right more than once and for both drivers and pedestrians to make eye contact with each other before proceeding.

At this time, there have been no charges filed against the driver.

Police Report

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

Sept. 7

- Theft:
 - 9:33 a.m. in the 11950 block of Dublin Canyon Road; stolen vehicle
 - 1:28 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- Burglary:
 - 9:33 a.m. in the 11950 block of Dublin Canyon Road
 - 7:56 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue
- Vandalism:
 - 10:12 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Rheem drives
 - 12:34 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue
 - 7:56 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue
- Drug violations:
 - 3:32 p.m. at the intersection of Palomino Drive and Norton Way; paraphernalia possession, under the influence of a controlled substance
- Robbery:
 - 6:20 p.m. in the 4600 block of Bernal Avenue; assault with a deadly weapon

Sept. 8

- Theft:
 - 8:27 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
 - 10:37 a.m. in the 3800 block of Promenade Way; grand theft
 - 12:21 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forgery
 - 3:59 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; identity theft, forgery, theft, possession of stolen property
- Burglary:
 - 6:15 p.m. in the 4900 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- Vandalism:
 - 6:18 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Dorman Road; worth less than \$400
 - 7:04 p.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive; worth less than \$400

Sept. 9

- Theft:
 - 12:33 p.m. at the intersection of Gibraltar and Chabot drives; stolen vehicle
 - 3:51 p.m. in the 4100 block of Churchill Drive; grand theft
 - 11:53 p.m. in the 4100 block of Mohr Avenue; petty theft
- Burglary:
 - 6:20 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 9:42 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; worth less than \$400
 - 10:10 a.m. on Laramie Gate Drive; worth less than \$400
 - 10:16 a.m. at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Happy Valley Road; worth less than \$400
- Public Drunkenness:
 - 12:55 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street
- Battery:
 - 4:13 p.m. in the 400 block of Main Street

Sept. 10

- Theft:
 - 4:18 a.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
 - 6:47 a.m. in the 1300 block of Orloff Drive; stolen vehicles
 - 6:53 a.m. in the 1500 block of Trimmingham Drive; petty theft
 - 8:47 a.m. in the 1500 block of Trimmingham Drive; petty theft
 - 9:40 a.m. in the 500 block of Dolores Place; forgery
 - 11:10 a.m. in the 4900 block of Hopyard Road; identity theft
 - 1:24 p.m. in the 500 block of Cento Court; grand theft
 - 1:57 p.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court; stolen vehicle
 - 3:03 p.m. in the 1400 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft
 - 5:03 p.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 5:30 p.m. in the 4800 block of Pipit Court; grand theft
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:26 a.m. in the 5100 block of

- Hopyard Road
 - 6:07 p.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 6:38 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Stanley Boulevard; worth less than \$400
 - 7:35 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Stanley Boulevard; worth less than \$400
 - 8:24 a.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; worth less than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:26 a.m. at the intersection of Black Avenue and Santa Rita Road; DUI
 - 10:22 p.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Montpelier Court; driving with marijuana, DUI

Sept. 11

- Theft:
 - 9:40 a.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane; identity theft
 - 3:05 p.m. in the 2500 block of Stanley Boulevard; petty theft
 - 3:32 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; stolen vehicle
 - 11:20 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; identity theft
- Vandalism:
 - 6:55 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400
 - 7:56 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Stanley Boulevard; worth less than \$400
- Robbery:
 - 7:40 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Sept. 12

- Grand theft:
 - 2:08 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 10:12 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- Burglary:
 - 5:12 p.m. in the 1100 block of West Lagoon Road
- Vandalism:
 - 2:30 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Del Valle Parkway; worth less than \$400



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, September 24, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PAP-123, Greg and Lisa Johnston, Appellants (PDR 715, S. J., Applicant)**
Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of an application for design review for rear yard improvements at the existing residence located at 927 Montevino Drive.
- **PCUP 230, Keshore Vummarao, Ranch India**
Application for a conditional use permit to operate a specialty grocery store at 1991 Santa Rita Road, Suite B in Mission Plaza.
- **PCUP-229, John Pfund, Tri Valley Martial Arts Academy**
Application for a conditional use permit to allow the operation of the following at 1262 Quarry Lane, Suite A, in the Valley Business Park: (1) a martial arts/childcare facility, Monday through Friday, from 11:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.; (2) full time childcare program camps during school breaks and holidays; and (3) evening martial arts classes, Monday through Friday, from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **PAP-125, Anne Fox, Appellant (PDR 725, Jessica Hoshen, AIA, Reel Grobman & Associates, for Comerica Bank)**
Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of a design review to remove an existing first floor window on the Division Street side of Comerica Bank located at 600 Main Street and install an automated teller machine (ATM), night deposit box, and wall mounted light.
- **PAP-126, Phil Blank, Appellant (PDRW-6, Kelly Pepper/Town Consulting, for T Mobile, Applicant)**
Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of a design review to construct an approximately nine foot tall cupola for a T Mobile wireless facility on top of the existing McDonald's building located at 3001 Bernal Avenue.

Trails Ad Hoc Committee

• The September 22nd Trails Ad Hoc Committee meeting has been cancelled. The next regular committee meeting will be held on October 27th.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cities of Livermore and Pleasanton Launch Solar Cities Program With Joint Workshop for Residents

The cities of Pleasanton and Livermore will jointly host the first in a series of free workshops designed to provide the citizens of both cities with an overview of solar technology for residential use. The workshop is scheduled on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, located at 310 Main Street in Pleasanton.

The presentation will include an overview about residential solar energy—how it works, average costs, how to determine if your home is best situated for its use, and how the State and Federal incentives work. A question and answer session will follow the presentation and a number of solar installers will also be available to speak to the public and answer questions in an informal setting. Building inspectors from both Livermore and Pleasanton will also be on hand to engage with homeowners about the inspection process for solar installations.

For more information about the free Solar Cities workshop, please call (925) 931-5006 or (925) 960-4413, or visit www.solarcitiesnow.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Pleasanton is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Accounting Manager – Full-Time, Permanent
- Associate Transportation Planner – Full-Time, Permanent
- Intern – Water Conservation Coordinator – Part-Time, Temporary
- Police Officer, Lateral or Academy Graduate – Full-Time, Permanent
- Senior Center Assistant – Part-Time, Temporary

For more information, visit our employment page at
www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/employment/opportunities/

**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

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

WATCH OUT FOR TODAY'S "BEST" LOAN RATES

Many of the rate quotations you'll find on the Internet are actually the very best rates available to the best-qualified borrowers. This can lead to a rather demeaning experience as you sit in front of a loan officer, asking for a purchase money mortgage loan, and find yourself being told that you cannot qualify for a loan whose interest rate is noticeably lower than the one you just saw on the Internet.

What is this? Bait and switch?

No, it's the sorry result of Internet sources that publish the best possible rate without telling you who might actually be able to qualify for those rates. The fact is, rates are offered on something of a sliding scale, depending on how high your credit scores are and how good your credit reports look. Most of us don't quite fit into the highest echelon of borrowers, those with the magic combination of a big credit history (a lot of prior borrowing) and perfect repayment of debts.

This is yet another reason to work on your credit scores long before you actually need to use them to qualify for a loan. And that means you should find a real estate professional and a mortgage professional you trust and feel compatible with—people who are willing to work with you and help you bring your credit score as close to "best" and your loan payment as genuinely affordable as possible. Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

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.

Pleasanton Public Library Book Club Pleasanton Public Library's Book Club is reading "The Great Gatsby" as part of the Big Read. Discussion takes place at 7 p.m. Sept. 22 at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400 ext. 37.

Pleasanton Public Library Book Club Pleasanton Public Library Book Club will discuss "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak at 7 p.m. Sept. 25 at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. All are welcome and you don't have to have read the book.

Second Annual Dublin Reads Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, launches its second annual community book discussion, Dublin Reads, from Sept. 20 through Nov. 1. This year, Dublin will be reading "Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm," by David Mas Masumoto. Call 803-7266.

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 during the school year 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.

Class Reunions

Foothill High Class of 1988 Fellow Falcons of 1988, believe it or not it's been 20 years. Join classmates and faculty at 6 p.m. Sept. 20 for an evening of entertainment, videos from the past, and great company at Faz, 5121 Hopyard Road. Tickets are \$75. A family barbecue will be held Sept. 21 at Val Vista Park. Call Michelle Munos/Threde at 997-7522 or visit www.foothillhigh1988.com.

Classes

Basic Yoga Class Beth Fox instructs this basic yoga class that meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. No previous yoga experience necessary. Limited class supplies available. Fees are \$12 for drop-in or \$10 for pre-paid series. Inquire about seniors or students rates. Call 200-4060.

Clubs

Amador Valley Toastmaster Club Wake up your career and improve your communication skills by joining the Amador Valley Toastmaster Club. They meet at 7 a.m. Thursdays at Mimi's Cafe in Dublin.

Boutique Textile Art Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Class is free. Bring fabric scraps, a yard of unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins.

Livermore Lioness Club The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at their regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly. The Lioness Club is a service club, sponsored by the Livermore Lions Club, that helps many worthy causes in our community. Lioness main focus areas are women, children and family issues, in addition to helping the blind. Call 443-4543 for more information.

Membership Brunch and Social The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch of the American Association of University Women invites current and prospective members to a membership brunch and social at 10 a.m. Sept. 27 at 5801 Valley Ave. Helen Nkuralya will speak about the educational work of the Asante Africa Foundation. Call 484-0614.

Weekend Preview



Viva la Villa

Villa del Sole is a privately owned property that stands on the same land where Phoebe Apperson Hearst had her Hacienda De Verona Estate. Drs. Iraj Zandi and Mitra Ara have worked to restore the interior and exterior of their home for almost 20 years. Now they welcome animal lovers and supporters to their garden for the Valley Humane Society gala fundraiser event, An Evening at Villa del Sole, from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$250 and raffle tickets are \$50 or three for \$100. For details, visit www.valley-humaneociety.org or call 426-8656.

Tri-Valley Rotary Club Meeting

The Tri-Valley Rotary Club is one of the newest and most diverse Rotary Clubs. Club members meet Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Girasole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Road. The cost is \$20. Email info@trivalley-rotary.org.

Tri-Valley Wood Carvers Tri-Valley Wood Carvers meet each Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, wood shop room, from 12 to 4 p.m. The regular business meeting is held the second Saturday of the month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call Ken Morgan, 462-6586.

Widows & Widowers Happy Hour The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California will meet for happy hour at 5 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road. Guests are welcome. Reserve a spot by Sept. 18. Call 846-3330.

Concerts

Rickie Lee Jones Rickie Lee Jones' music transcends all of its historical touchstones, taking the elements to

create something new. He performs at 8 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30-\$55, or \$12 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Events

25th Anniversary Tulancingo Sister City Visit To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Tulancingo Sister City, there are several events the community can attend from Sept. 24 to 28: a welcome dinner at the Pleasanton Marriot, family picnic at the county fairgrounds, gala banquet at the Pleasanton Senior Center, and a farewell dinner at the Pleasanton Marriot. For tickets and details, email Dick at grs414@hotmail.com or Jorge at jvictoria45@comcast.net.

Aikido Presentation Jim Alvarez Sensei, fifth degree black belt, will present information on the origin and philosophy of Aikido at 7 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Call 373-5500 ext. 5574.

Autism Conference A conference about Autism for parents and profes-

www.kathyshealthclub.com

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Kathy Barney - Owner

From our equipment and programs to our trainers and instructors, everything we do is focused on the needs of women. Kathy's Health Club is more than a place where women exercise together, it's a place where women make friends, have fun and get some of that well deserved "my time". We also provide unique networking opportunities for our entrepreneurial women. Numerous times during the year, we have them showcase their products and services to all of the members. I also believe that the women at our club are supporting me as a local business woman instead of supporting large corporate gyms, run by investment firms. It means a lot to me and I will always do what I can to support the ladies at the club. Women have a choice, and any time we help and support one another, it's a good thing.

signals will be from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. The Exceptional Needs Network presents "Awareness 2008" with experts speaking on topics like early intervention and treatment. The cost is \$100 for parents and \$125 for professionals. Visit www.ennetwork.org or call 443-3396.

Fighting Blindness Support Event From 9:30 a.m. to noon Sept. 27 at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave. in Walnut Creek, the Foundation Fighting Blindness East Bay Chapter will be hosting "A Day of Caring and Sharing" for those affected by retinal degenerative diseases. The support-based meeting will feature group breakout sessions for affected adults, teens, parents of affected children and significant others of affected persons. Reserve a spot by calling 866-782-7330 or emailing eastbay@fightblindness.org by Sept. 25.

Hollywood in Pleasanton More than 36 movies were made in Pleasanton and ticket holders will go on a movie walk to the many different venues in downtown Pleasanton and to meet the local residents who are recreating film scenes and events. It takes place from 12:30 to 4:30 Sept. 21 at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Tickets are \$8-\$10. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Home Ownership Fair The Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center, in partnership with the Bay East Association of Realtors, will host a home ownership fair Sept. 20 at the Realtor association's offices, 7901 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton. The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Participants will learn about services such as one-on-one housing consultation, home-buyer education classes, city programs and credit and debt counseling. Two free orientations will be held that day, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. To register or for information, visit www.tvhoc.org or call 373-3930.

Jobs Daughters Electronic Recycle Event Electronic Waste Collection Event takes place Sept. 27 at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. Items that are free to recycle: TVs, monitors, laptops, flat screens, cell phones and ink jet cartridges. All other items are a \$5 fee. Call 640-8085 or visit www.bethel14.com.

Lark In The Park Lark in the Park, led by a museum docent and sponsored by Museum On Main, takes people to parks to explore local history one Saturday each month. The Sept. 27 outing is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Main Street Green. Donations are appreciated and participants can just show up. Call 462-2766.

Once Upon A Time Once Upon a Time is a historical reading and activity program for preschoolers to third graders at 5 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. The evening weaves three stories through two activities/games and ends with a treat. Parent participation encouraged. Sign participation forms at museum. The cost is \$5 per child. Call 462-2766.

The Big Read Speak Easy Tour Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents a walking tour of San Francisco's historic speakeasies at 9 a.m. Sept. 20. James Smith of the San Francisco Historical Society will guide. Free bus and tour. No host lunch. Reservations required and limited. Call 931-3411.

Welcome Picnic for Y-Guides, Y-Princesses The Y-Guides and Y-Princesses, for ages 5 to 11, will kick off a new season of father-daughter and father-son activities from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 28 at Bray Commons Park, 3300 Finnian Way, Dublin. The whole family can enjoy BBQ, games, fellowship, program information and more. RSVP by Sept. 22 to 475-6108 or mcapser@ymcaeastbay.org.

Exhibits

Signs of the Past—Today Take a look at some of California and Nevada's most captivating signs. Photographer

Ann King has combed the west in a wistful search of Americana in his exhibit, running Sept. 26 to Oct. 25 at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St. An artist reception is from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 3. Call 485-1183.

Film

The Real Dirt on Farmer John The Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, will show "The Real Dirt on Farmer John" at 7 p.m. Sept. 25. Call 803-7266.

Fundraisers

A Starry Night Gala Pleasanton North Rotary presents A Starry Night Gala at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 27. The evening includes food, entertainment, a hosted bar and auctions hosted by CBS 5's Brian Hackney, to support the School of Imagination in Dublin and the Wheelchair Foundation. Tickets are \$200, with \$125 being tax deductible, and raffle tickets for \$100. Call 556-2380 or visit pnr-rotary.org.

An Evening at Villa del Sole Featuring fine wines, sumptuous buffets and smooth jazz, An Evening at Villa del Sole is a fundraising event Sept. 20 for Valley Humane Society. It takes place at a historic home in the Pleasanton Hills. Tickets are \$250. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Benefit Fashion Show Luncheon The Fremont Sunrise Rotary Club hosts a fashion show benefiting LIFE ElderCare's Meals on Wheels Program and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. It takes place at 11 a.m. Sept. 20 at the Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle. Tickets are \$50. Call 510-366-6615.

Furry Faces Pet Calendar Contest Make your pet a star by submitting pet photos to the Valley Humane Society's Furry Faces Calendar Contest. Entries are a \$15 donation each, which benefits VHS, and will be accepted through Oct. 1. Call 426-8656 ext. 11, or visit www.valleyhumane.org or 3670 Nevada St.

Jeans & Jewels Throw on jeans and jewels to join Tri Valley Conservancy for fun, food, dancing and live auction from 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 2 at Casa Real, 410 Vineyard Ave. Bid on wine country estate picnic, dinner with winemakers, bottle your own wine, plane rides and more. Tickets are

\$75. Call 449-8706 or visit www.trivalleyconservancy.org.

Rock-A-Hula Party Assistance League of Amador Valley is hosting their fall fundraiser Rock-A-Hula, a Hawaiian party to be held at the Livermore Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., from 6 to 10 p.m. Sept. 27. The event includes a barbecue dinner catered by Cabana Dave's, dancing music hosted by Mark Davis from KKIQ Radio, casino games and prizes. Tickets are \$35. There is also a raffle with a Hawaiian vacation as the grand prize. For more information please call 461-6401. Visit www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org.

That's Amore Tri-Valley Animal Rescue's biggest fundraiser of the year will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Road. There will be live and silent auctions and Girasole Restaurant catering. Tickets are \$60. To purchase, visit www.tvr.org and click on Pay Pal. Call 803-7044.

Health

Gentle Yoga for 55+ Are you an active person 55+ years young? This free, gentle yoga class helps stress, flexibility, balance and overall health and is excellent for special/chronic conditions. Call Pleasanton school district at 426-4280 for times and locations.

Yoga for Multiple Sclerosis Every Tuesday through Dec. 30 from 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., Downtown Yoga, 220 B Division St., hosts a series of gentle stretching movements that can help to reduce stress within the body. Call 462-5285.

Kids & Teens

Competition for Young Musicians The Livermore-Amador Symphony

Association's 36th annual Competition for Young Musicians is open to instrumentalists and vocalists who reside or attend school in Pleasanton, Livermore, Sunol, Dublin or San Ramon. Students are eligible through grade 12, or age 17 if not enrolled in high school. Each winner will be awarded \$250. Applications are due Oct. 5 and must include a \$5 fee. Call 447-1957 or visit www.livamsymph.org.

Library Book Clubs Begin Students are invited to join either our fourth and fifth or sixth to eighth grade book clubs, which meet Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. starting in September at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Come for good books, snacks and lively conversation. Registration begins Aug. 18, and is limited to 18 per club. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

Lectures/ Workshops

Free Gardening Workshops Bay-Friendly Gardening presents four free gardening workshops Saturdays in the month of September. Topics include the basics, healthy soil, year-round edible gardens and managing pests naturally. Registration for these classes is required. Call 510-444-SOIL (7645) or visit www.bayfriendly.org.

Publishing Panel for Writers The next meeting of the California Writers Club- Tru-Valley Branch., at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 20 at the Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., features a panel of publishing professionals talking about what publishers look for in today's market, including advice on writing query letters and book proposals. Cost is \$21 for members or \$35 for non-members and includes lunch. Call 462-7495 for a reservation.

Solar Energy Workshop Residents of Pleasanton and Livermore are invited to learn more about the Solar Cities Program, with presentations from PG&E and city staff. It will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 310 Main St.

Live Music

DeLovely Evening DeLovely Evening, from 8 to 10 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, will feature music from the Roaring '20s and Art Deco '30s by internationally-acclaimed scat singing and period vocalists, The Jesters. Proceeds will benefit Senior Support, which has served residents of Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and Sunol for more than 20 years. Tickets are \$50. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartsstickets.org.

Miscellaneous

Free Health Fair HCCC Human Services Of Hindu Community and Cultural Center will be conducting a free health fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 27 at Shiva Vishnu Temple, 1232 Arrowhead Ave., Livermore. Open to everyone for free medical advice and free evaluation.

On Stage

American Ballet Theater II ABTII is a small classical company of 13 young dancers of outstanding potential, handpicked from around the world. They perform at 2 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30 to \$45, or \$12 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

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Calendar

San Francisco Comedy Competition The San Francisco Comedy Competition has produced many of America's best known comedians, with former winners including Robin Williams, Ellen DeGeneres and more. The comedy show (appropriate for adults) comes to the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, at 8 p.m. Sept. 28. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcart-stickets.org.

Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats offer family fun and thrills at 8 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$10-\$20 for children or \$20-\$30 for adults. Call 931-3444 or visit www.pleasanton-civcart.org.

at the Friday Night Dessert and Ballroom Dance at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at the senior center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Advanced reservations highly recommended. Tickets are \$7 for residents or \$8 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Pleasanton PC Users Group The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. Call 931-5365 or visit pleasenor.googlepages.com for more info.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) SIR is an organization for retired men. The Pleasanton SIR holds a luncheon meeting at 11 a.m. the first Thursday of the month with golf, bridge, bocce, fishing and other activities and trips. Call 606-7189.

Political Notes

PUSD School Board Candidates Forum The Pleasanton PTA Council, Livermore-Amador League of Women Voters and Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin American Association of University Women are co-sponsoring a School Board Candidates Forum at 7 p.m. Sept. 30 at the district board room, 4665 Bernal Ave. Six candidates are running for three open seats. The audience will be able to ask the candidates questions.

Spiritual

Bible Study Fellowship The 33-week study of The Life of Moses begins Sept. 8. Women's classes meet at 9:25 a.m. Wednesdays at Cedar Grove Church, Livermore; and 6:55 p.m. Mondays at Valley Community Church, Pleasanton. Men's class meets at 6:55 p.m. Tuesdays at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville. Call 877-273-3228.

Community Bible Study Join CBS for a nondenominational, in-depth study of the book of Revelation for women, along with a children's program (infant to elementary age), for 30 weeks. The class will begin at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 11 at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court. The women's and children's classes run concurrently. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Call 209-0242 or visit www.communitybiblestudy.org.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., has Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 10:30 a.m., with nursery for both services. Children's church, ages 3-12, meets at 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study meets at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. A prayer at 6 p.m. is held the first and third Monday of the month. Call 846-8650 for more programs.

Four-Week Class on Personal Transformation Based on the book "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho, Rev. Steve Maynard will be focusing on

Seniors

Afternoon Tea Dance Join friends for a special afternoon Tea Dance at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 20. Event includes ballroom dance exhibitions, door prizes and light refreshments. Music provided by Geri Foley. Advanced registration is preferred or pay at the door. Tickets are \$5. Call 931-5372.

Brain Matters Our brains are vital organs that deserve the same attention to care and maintenance as our hearts. Engaging in active learning will help maintain brain health. This new weekly program, meeting at 10 a.m. every Friday starting Sept. 5, combines lectures and interactive workshops dedicated to improving brain health and function. The cost is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Friday Night Dessert & Ballroom Dance Come "Trip the Lights Fantastic" and dance the night away



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Sports

5th Annual All Women's Triathlon Shadow Cliffs Regional Park will host the fifth annual All Women's Triathlon, nicknamed the See Jane Tri, Sept. 27. The event is for women of all fitness levels and it helps raise money for the Breast Cancer Fund. For more information on the event, visit www.seejanerun.com.

Back to School Scholarship Run Run or walk at the 13th annual Back to School Scholarship run Sept. 20 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd. The event raises money for college scholarships that are offered to children of parents working in the California food industry. It features three courses: 10K run, 5K run and walk, and a Children's mile. For details, including entry fees, visit www.onyourmarkevents.com or call 209-795-7832.

Basketball Coach's Clinic Las Positas College in Livermore will be hosting a basketball coach's clinic at 9 a.m. Sept. 20. Featured speakers will be Brian Katz of Sacramento State, Will Biggs of California State East Bay, Ed Madec of Fresno City College and Tom Costello of Dublin High School. The cost is \$30. Call 424-1281 or e-mail tcostello@laspositascollege.edu.

Lacrosse Spring Registration Open Pleasanton Lacrosse Club Boys and Girls 2009 spring registration is open at www.pleasantonlacrosse.com for boys U9 to U15 (grades 2 to 8) and girls U11 to U15 (grades 3 to 8). Availability is limited. Late fees will be assessed after Nov. 1 for boys and Nov. 20 for girls.

Pleasanton Lacrosse New Player Festival For girls new to the sport of lacrosse, Pleasanton Lacrosse Club is hosting a new player festival for girls in first through eighth grades at Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road. Registration for the event and the season is now open at www.pleasantonlacrosse.com. The cost is \$39 and includes stick and ball. Call 989-0940.

Tri-For-Real The 21st season of the On Your Mark Event's Triathlon Series concludes Sept. 21 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park with the Tri-For-Real.

Entry fee is \$55 or \$65 on race day, if there is room. Participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt, after-race snacks, and entry into a huge after-race raffle. To register or call 209-795-7832 or visit www.onyourmarkevents.com.

5725 West Las Positas Boulevard. Call 847-3000.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, second floor conference room, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Contact Lorene Stack, 447-6158 or Ann Laye, 443-4098.

Support Group for Caregivers of Seniors Support group for those taking care of seniors meets at 2 p.m. Wednesdays from Oct. 1 to Nov. 11 at Villa San Ramon. Group limited to 10. Prior registration required. Call Carol, 244-1185.

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones is held from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. This group is facilitated by The Wellness Community. For information, call 933-0107 or email jb lazin@twcba.org.

Fibromyalgia Support Group This group meets at 6:30 the first Thursday monthly at the ValleyCare Library,

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