

An Irish good time

Dublin's annual festival is this weekend > **page 5**

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Let the people vote

School parcel tax measure is a go

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Nashville bound

Foothill alum has high musical hopes

> **section 2**

'Master craftsman'

Charles Bruce leaves legacy on many of downtown's most prominent houses, buildings **HOME & GARDEN, INSIDE**



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Budding young scientists star at Science Fair

If you like science projects at the elementary level, the Alameda County Fairgrounds is the place to be next Tuesday night. More than 11,000 are expected to turn out for the 10th annual Science Fun Fair, an event featuring kindergarten through fifth-grade students and their science projects from all of the elementary schools in Pleasanton and Dublin. Even if you're not thrilled by the periodic erupting of a small volcano model one fourth-grade student had last year, you'd no doubt be awed as I was by the professionalism of his presentation and ability to quickly answer questions from those of us watching. A kindergartener—mind you, she had just turned 6!—showed us how a white rose turned to the color of the solution she placed it in. I was as proud as she was in the way she described what was happening, and I didn't even know her name. In the next row, a fifth-grader talked about what causes things to degrade and showed a series of pictures he had taken through a microscope that demonstrated the gradual decomposing process. What a "find" he'll be in the not-too-distant future when a top college interviews him for an engineering scholarship.

These fairs were started by Dave and Karen Rodriguez after they moved to Pleasanton from Santa Clara and brought the science fair concept from the schools there. They started at Lydiksen Elementary, where over the years their four children have attended and in the second year had 4,000 attending the school's science fair. Karen Rodriguez, a well-known Girl Scout leader in Pleasanton, talked the fairgrounds into becoming a sponsor of a district-wide science fair as a community service project, and it's grown every year since. On Monday, more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, technology professionals and other volunteers will interview science fair participants at their schools in Dublin and Pleasanton, giving these students an opportunity to explain their projects, helping them with the presentations they will make to the public on Tuesday and building

their confidence. Then on Tuesday, more than 4,000 projects will be transported over to the fairgrounds by parent volunteers, who will also help set up their student's booth and ready the research project for show that night. The two-hour fair begins at 7 p.m. for parents, friends, teachers and elementary school students. For security purposes, the fair is not open to the general public although passes can be obtained in person and with identification at any of the elementary schools.

Just as interesting as the kindergarten through fifth-grade projects are related activities by corporate and nonprofit sponsors of the event, which now Numbers 41. It's a rare chance to see Carl Zeiss Meditec scientists demonstrating some of their latest medical technologies and Clorox will surely have the fair jumping with its energetic bangs and explosions. The Lawrence Hall of Science, Oakland Zoo, ValleyCare Health System and Thoratec Corporation are returning this year with new and innovative displays. First-time exhibitors this year include the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, which will be demonstrating infrared imaging, and the Bay Area Orienting Club, which will teach kids about the science of maps and compass with a mini-orienting course.

Karen Rodriguez also will have some of her Girl Scouts with her at four different booths with displays on malnutrition and nutrition, geology activities and on how all of us can help the environment. Hopefully, they'll also have some cookies to pass out. Also returning to this year's Science Fun Fair will be the Rodriguez' four children who tested their scientific abilities at some of the earlier fairs when they were students at Lydiksen. They are Deborah, now a senior at Chico State; Michael, who is at the U.S. military academy at West Point; his twin sister Michelle who will be a junior at Chico, and Rebecca, now in the eighth grade at Hart Middle School, who will attend Foothill High starting in August. ■

About the Cover

This western stick-style home, set above a hillside at 4672 Second St., was built and inhabited by Charles Bruce. Bruce is considered Pleasanton's most prolific builder, having built 30-40 homes in the downtown core, Amador Valley and Livermore high schools, the Kolln Hardware Building and many bridges.

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Streetwise

Q: Have you ever been lucky?

Asked around town



Linda Flagler

My very good friend of 12 years is a travel agent and she is taking me on an all-expense paid trip to Cancun, Mexico for a week at the end of March. I feel very lucky to have such a great friend.

Siah Fried with son Max

When I was 7 years old I watched the Easter Bunny hide eggs for an Easter egg hunt at my grandmother's house. I reached into the bushes and found a golden egg that contained \$100 inside.



Bud Engel

I was lucky when I met my wife in the dorms at Long Beach State in 1965. She's a neat person and complements the parts of me that aren't so neat. I've been married to her for 42 years and we have three children and seven grandchildren. She's a good organizer, a good cook and treats me well.

Debbie Sweeney with daughter Kaitlyn and son John

My husband and I were blessed with the birth of our boy/girl twins seven years ago. They were born at 37 weeks; Caitlyn was 5 lbs. 8 oz. and John was 6 lbs. 2 oz. Both of them have been happy and healthy ever since.



Leslie Morris

I'm lucky every day because I have an incredible husband, three beautiful, healthy daughters and work that I love. I own a business that provides freelance marketing services primarily to technology companies and I've been in business for 11 years.

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
Compiled by Hillary Bessiere



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Newsfront

News Digest

Last call for comments on bike plan

Residents wishing to have input on the Pleasanton draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan should attend the final public workshop at 6:30 p.m. March 18 in the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Consultants will provide an overview of the plan, discuss proposed pedestrian improvements, discuss prioritized lists of bicycle and pedestrian projects and take public comments. See the plan at <http://pleasantonbikepedplan.webexone.com>.

Youth to celebrate Persian New Year

The Iranian American Youth of Pleasanton will host a Persian New Year celebration from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Admission is free and there will be art, music, dance, food, sweets and soft drinks. Visit www.iayp.us for details.

City meets on disabilities plan

A public meeting to discuss the city's American Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plan is scheduled for 2 p.m. March 19. Staff will provide an update on the city's progress on the plan and will discuss the coming activities planned for this year and the future. The meeting will take place in the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Public input is encouraged. For more information, call Daniel Smith at 931-5509.

Used children's goods on sale Saturday

The Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club is putting on a used children's clothing and equipment sale from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Saturday at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Items for sale include maternity wear, clothing from newborn to teens, swings, strollers, books and more. Admission is \$1 per person and parking is free.

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Bank in Kolln Hardware building to open in June

Comerica says it has a strong capital position and has money to lend

Years after an extensive renovation to one of downtown's most recognizable and historic buildings, Comerica Bank is weeks away from opening financial operations inside the Kolln Hardware building.

Located at 600 Main St., the bank will open inside the distinctive former hardware store with a striking cupola in June, the company announced.

Comerica, which is a subsidiary of Comerica Incorporated, based in Dallas, Texas, opened a location in Fremont in December, will open a Hayward bank in April and

the Pleasanton one in June. Last year, Comerica also opened banking centers in Alameda, Oakland and San Leandro.

The bank has received criticism in the past when it went through the city approval process. Opponents said they'd rather see a retail business locate in the building to encourage more foot traffic in a downtown that has recently seen businesses shuttering due to a struggling economy.

Just two weeks ago, merchants gathered at the Pleasanton Downtown Association's Downtown

Vitality Committee meeting to express the desire for a first-floor retail-only ordinance that would prevent businesses such as banks from leasing space.

But Comerica officials said the new bank will be a positive for the community.

"We continue to have confidence in the long-range outlook for business growth in the East Bay," Eric Welch, senior vice president and regional retail manager for the bank, said in a press release.

"Comerica continues to invest in the regional economy because we

are a healthy bank with a strong capital position, able to help build future for communities, families and employee of all sizes," Mike Fulton, president and CEO of Comerica's western market that's based in San Jose. "Our customers' deposits are insured and we have money to lend."

Another business has announced its opening in the Kolln Hardware building. Yolatea, which will sell frozen yogurt, gelato and pearl tea, will open March 14, in Suite F of the building.

—Janet Pelletier



Jay Flachsbart

Many who attended Save Pleasanton Schools' rally March 8 carried homemade signs urging a yes vote on the tax, waving them at passing motorists on Del Valle Parkway before moving into Valley Community Church. Speakers included School Board President Chris Grant, students from Amador Valley and Foothill high schools, leaders of the Parent Teacher Association and Joan Laursen, who along with Tanya Ludden is co-chair of the Save Pleasanton Schools organization.

Parcel tax measure is a go

If passed, \$233 annual rate would bring in about \$4.5M for schools

by Emily West

Registered voters, mark your calendars for another special election June 2.

The Pleasanton Unified School District board decided March 5 to move forward with a parcel tax measure. Voters will be asked to approve a \$233 a year tax that would help cover programs and positions being cut because of an \$8.7 million budget shortfall. If passed by two-thirds, the tax would take effect July 1.

Superintendent John Casey said they estimate the special election to cost \$200,000 to \$230,000, based on a figure of \$5 to \$7

per registered voter. This money would be taken out of the reserves from the current school year.

The tax would expire after four years and its use would be monitored by both the school board and a new seven-member oversight committee that would consist of Pleasanton residents who are paying the tax and who are not employees of the school district. Seniors as well as those on disability could ask to be exempt from the tax by filing an exemption request and renewing it each year.

Registered voters, whether or not they own property, are able to vote on the measure. Businesses

and rental property owners would be responsible to pay the tax, although rental owners could negotiate it into the rent.

The approved ballot language states: "To preserve educational quality and protect Pleasanton schools from severe state budget cuts, keep class sizes small, maintain essential reading and math support programs, libraries, music, counselors, technology instruction, music, and safe, clean schools with no proceeds used for administrators' compensation, shall the Pleasanton Unified School District be authorized to

(continued on page 8)

Get your Irish on Saturday, Sunday

City of Dublin preps for big St. Patrick's Day festivities at civic center

The city of Dublin will pay homage to its namesake Saturday and Sunday with a huge St. Patrick's Day celebration.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, the city will come alive with Irish entertainment, artists' booths and carnival rides. The main stage at the Dublin Civic Center will feature authentic music stylings by Molly's Revenge, Cullan's Hounds, Bog Savages and Pat Ryan and the Celtic Junkit with a separate stage dedicated to just Irish dance.

The two-day festival will kick off Saturday morning with the Firefighter Pancake Breakfast, serving up green pancakes from 7 to 10 a.m. at Fire Station No. 16 on the corner of Amador Valley Boulevard and Donohue Drive. Cost is \$3 for children and \$5 for adults and tickets will be available at the door.

The celebration will then continue with the annual Dublin Lions Club Parade. Following the same route as last year, the official start is at Amador Plaza Road (near Safeway), proceeding east on Dublin Boulevard, north on Village Parkway, west on Amador Valley Boulevard and ending at Donohue Drive (near the back entrance to Target). The parade continues to grow in scope and size, so attendees are encouraged to arrive early to catch local marching bands, bagpipe players, floats, equestrian groups and crowns. Bleacher seating will be available on Amador Valley

(continued on page 8)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING UNDERGROUND UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 18 IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda ordains as follows:

SECTION I

The Board of Supervisors finds and determines that the public safety and general welfare requires the establishment of a new underground utility distribution facilities district in order to accomplish the objects and purpose of Chapter 13.16 of the Alameda County Ordinance Code, and that the new district shall be known as Underground Utility District No. 18.

SECTION II

Underground Utility District No. 18 shall consist of all the following described real property:

Stanley Boulevard between the easterly boundary line of the City of Pleasanton as established under Annexation No. 60, Ordinance No. 577, a map of which was filed November 13, 1969 in Book 60 of Maps at page 46, Records of Alameda County, and under Annexation No. 73, Resolution No. 185759, a map of which was filed June 18, 1980 in Book 90 of Maps at page 57, Records of Alameda County, and a line drawn parallel with and distant westerly 270 feet from the westerly boundary line of the City of Livermore as established under Stanley Boulevard Annexation No. 1, Ordinance No. 526, a map of which was filed September 15, 1964 in Book 43 of Maps at page 56A, Records of Alameda County, and under Stanley Boulevard Annexation No. 5, Resolution No. 4-87, a map of which was filed February 3, 1987 in Book 151 of Maps at page 59, Records of Alameda County;

together with the area of the parcels adjoining, and along Stanley Boulevard as said parcels are designated by the following Alameda County Assessor’s Parcel Numbers:

946-1250-26-5	946-1350-9-15	904-6-1-7
946-1350-20	946-1350-9-16	904-1-6-8
946-1350-9-13	946-1350-10-3	904-6-1-10
946-1350-9-14	943-1350-10-4	904-6-1-11
946-1350-19	904-9-4	

and also together with the northerly 36 feet of the two parcels adjoining Stanley Boulevard designated by the following Alameda County Assessor’s Parcel Numbers:

904-7-6-5
904-7-3-2

and also including all that portion of Assessor’s Parcel 904-10-6 lying westerly of the westerly line of the Highway Grant from Union Pacific Railroad Company to the City of Livermore, dated August 30, 1999, and recorded March 18, 2003, as Series No. 2003-151862, Records of Alameda County;

and also including that certain portion of Assessor Parcel 904-10-5 being a 20 foot wide strip of land, 25 feet in length, lying 10 feet on each side of a line drawn northerly from, at right angle to, and distant westerly along the southerly line of Assessor’s Parcel 904-10-5, 883 feet from the aforesaid westerly line of the Highway Grant from Union Pacific Railroad Company to the City of Livermore (Series No. 2003-151862).

All said street and parcels existed on this date and are depicted on the map of Underground Utility District No. 18, which is made a part hereof by this reference. Said map is filed under L-324-1 in the Alameda County Maps and File Room.

SECTION III

The undergrounding of utility distribution facilities within such District must be completed by June 2010, provided that this date of completion may be postponed for a reasonable time for good and sufficient cause.

SECTION IV

The electric and communication companies which underground their facilities pursuant to this ordinance shall use the underground conversion allocation computed pursuant to decisions of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California (“PUC”) for the purpose of providing to each premises in Underground Utility District No. 18 requiring it, a maximum of 100 feet of individual electric and communication service trenching and conductor, as well as backfill paving and conduit, if required.

SECTION V

All costs associated with the undergrounding and conversion of utility service for properties included within said District, from aerial to underground, will be paid by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company out of PUC Rule 20A funds and/or by other entities up to a maximum of \$1,500 per property.

SECTION VI

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days from and after the date of its adoption; and before the expiration of 15 days after its passage, it shall be published once with the names of the members voting for or against the same in the Inter-City Express, a newspaper published in the said County of Alameda.

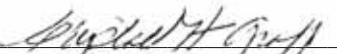
ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda, State of California, on the 3rd day March, 2009, by the following called vote:

AYES: Supervisors Carson, Haggerty, Miley, Steele and President Lai-Bitker - 5
NOES: None
EXCUSED: None



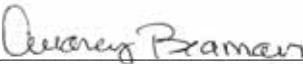
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Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda, State of California

Approved as to Form
RICHARD E. WINNIE, County Counsel

By: 

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Library hosting fitness festival Saturday

Free event hosted in conjunction with ‘Fit for Life’ grant

The Pleasanton Public Library will host a multi-faceted fitness festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday on the library front lawn at 400 Old Bernal Ave.

The program is funded by a grant from Fit for Life, an initiative of Libraries for the Future and the MetLife Foundation to promote brain health awareness. The library was one of just 17 library systems in the nation to be named as a Fit for Life grant recipient.

The free festival will introduce participants to a number of new activities including rock climbing and opportunities to sample new sports such as pickleball (similar to badminton and tennis, using a wooden paddle) and fencing. Visitors will also enjoy demonstrations of weight lifting, jujitsu, tai chi and tae kwon-do, and can shake

off winter tensions with a free massage.

Special guest speakers include FitTV’s diet doctor, Dr. Melina Jampolis, who lectures throughout the nation on nutrition for weight loss and optimal health, and Dr. Rahul Parikh, a pediatrician who has a special focus in adolescent medicine. Dr. Jampolis has appeared on “Regis and Kelly” and been interviewed by many national magazines and newspaper publications. Dr. Parikh is based in Walnut Creek and is a regular contributor to Salon.com.

Participants can also get information about various health-related organizations that will be represented at the event.

For more information, call the library at 931-3400.

—Janet Pelletier

ADVERTISEMENT

How To Pay For College Despite The Recession and Stock Market Downturn

Local experts teach free workshops to help parents save thousands in process

Pleasanton—East Bay parents that are planning on sending a child to college in the next few years, but aren’t quite sure how to pay for it can now rest a little easier. Gerna Benz of Bay Area College Planners has been educating families in the community for over 15 years.

“It’s really sad, but most parents that we talk to have done real well financially, but never found the time to save for college, and now they’re facing a bill of \$18,000-\$45,000 a year, and they don’t know who to turn to,” he says. “Further, most of the time, all they hear is to not even bother applying for any aid because they make too much money. However, most of the time, that is simply not true even if they make a six-figure income.”

Gerna would know, because his group has worked with over 1400 families in the last 10 years ranging from single moms to corporate CEO’s, and they say they can help anyone get through the process and save a bundle...no matter how good of a student they have or how much money they make.

“I got started in this because I was a very good student, but no one told us anything about how to access money for college, or even how to pick a career...so I didn’t go right away. But, I vowed that I would learn the process and devote my time to helping families not fall into the same trap that we did. Simply put, we show parents the truth that they aren’t hearing anywhere else about how the college process really works and save thousands of dollars in the process.”

Tri-Valley parents will have a couple opportunities to hear Gerna speak.

He is teaching his class ‘How to Give Your Kid a 4-Year College Education Without Going Broke!’ on Saturday March 21st at the Pleasanton Library located at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Pleasanton, CA 94588 from 10:45 AM—12:15 PM, and Wednesday March 25th at Round Table Pizza located at 3203 Crow Canyon Place, San Ramon, CA 94583 from 7:15 PM —8:45 PM.

“We’ll discuss everything from the greatest myths about the college process, to how to send your student to a fancy private school for less than the cost of a junior college...it’ll be like learning how to get a brand new Lexus for the price of a used pick up truck,” he grins.

Topics will also include why private scholarships and 529 plans are a waste of time, how to double or even triple the amount of free money you receive from each school, and how to avoid the one mistake that will kill your chances of getting any money at all that almost every other parent will make this coming January, and much, much more.

“They will learn a ton, and I do my best to make the class fun,” he says. “It’s like I’m giving them a super bright flashlight to navigate a pitch black cave, while all the other parents continue to stumble around blindly! Don’t forget: the class is totally free, but seats are limited. Also, we are not sure when we will be teaching these classes in the Tri-Valley again since our April and May calendar is already filling up, so come on out and see us.” You can reserve a seat online at PayForCollegeNow.com/PSL or by calling our 24 hour reservation line at (800) 676-0496 ext. 506.

Library sees surge in usage

Director says residents seek ways to save in tough times

by Janet Pelletier

If the library has seemed a little more inhabited than it used to, your suspicions are correct.

Pleasanton's only library, located at 400 Old Bernal Ave., has seen an uptick in visits, checkouts, questions at the reference desk and applications for new library cards. And library administrators believe it's due to the worsening economic situation.

It's a trend that's been experienced across the country and has been seen historically—when there's a recession, library usage surges. And there could be a number of specific reasons that residents are utilizing the library to lessen the blow to their pocketbooks.

"From our impression, people are

looking for an inexpensive method of looking for a job, improving their finances, entertainment with their family, books to read, a lot of things," said library director Julie Farnsworth. "They may be commuting farther, so they may be looking for a book on CD. Or, they're staying home more instead of traveling, so they're looking for things to do at places that are nearby."

"We have waiting lists sometimes for the newer DVDs," Farnsworth added. "We get them as soon as the video stores do."

Comparing December 2008 from December 2007, the increases are apparent. Library visits were up 13.6 percent, checkouts 17.4 percent, new library cards 6.2 percent and reference questions 47.1 per-

cent.

The library has 18 public computers, nearly 170,000 books, 16,400 DVDs and videos, 8,100 e-books and 12,700 music and audio book CDs. There are also 39 paid online databases and 354 magazine subscriptions available to patrons.

When it comes to families, the library has a multitude of programs. More than 5,000 children participate in the library's toddler lap time and preschool story time programs. Children's materials account for more than half of all the circulation materials and the library played host to 54 school field trips last year.

College preparatory seminars, science programs and author lectures are also offered. ■



Supervisor Haggerty weds Rhonda Gibbons

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty married Rhonda Gibbons in a ceremony on Valentine's Day at Jack London Square in Oakland, his office reported in a press release. Supervisor Keith Carson, Haggerty's colleague on the county board, performed the ceremony.

According to Dawn Argula, Haggerty's deputy chief of staff, the couple met in last year in Livermore at sports events in which their sons participated. Haggerty, originally from Fremont, has three children and Gibbons, from Livermore, has two children. The couple and their children will reside in Dublin.

Haggerty has served on the five-member Board of Supervisors for 12 years and was re-elected to a fourth four-year term in 2008.

ValleyCare expands neonatal unit

Hospital also collaborates with UCSF Children's Hospital

In a move it says will help keep more babies under care in Pleasanton, ValleyCare Medical Center has collaborated with UCSF Children's Hospital and expanded its neonatal care unit.

The unit, which cares for preemies and other infants needing a higher level of care, has increased in size from four to 10 beds.

"Immediate access to neonatologists and on-site pediatric hospitalists, 24/7, allows us to care for a greater number of babies who might otherwise be transferred to hospitals outside the Tri-Valley," said Cindy Noonan, who is the chief operating officer for ValleyCare.

Noonan said ValleyCare's affiliation with UCSF Children's Hospital has benefits such as the presence of a prenatal diagnostic clinic and pediatric specialty clinics.

As part of the NICU expansion, each new bed has been equipped with lighting that can be dimmed and adjusted, and the placement of the neonatal care unit was chosen with noise levels in mind. The NICU also has been designed to include wireless technology. Called "Wireless on Wheels (WOWs)," the system allows nurses and physicians to remain near the baby while charting and writing orders.

The expansion cost \$1.8 million and ValleyCare, which is a nonprofit, is still raising funds to pay for the cost. Those who have contributed so far include the Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Ball Committee, the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association, The Wayne & Gladys Valley Foundation and the William G. Irwin Charity Foundation.

For more information, contact the ValleyCare Charitable Foundation at 373-4560.

—Janet Pelletier

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Bank near mall robbed Friday

Around 1:12 p.m. Friday a man reportedly robbed a Washington Mutual Bank on Stoneridge Mall Road threatened to use a gun, although no weapon was seen.

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Take Us Along

In Cinque: Jim, Jan, Kelly and Kyle Bilinski brought the Weekly along to Vernazza, Italy, hiking the hill towns of Cinque Terre.

St. Patrick's

(continued from page 5)

Boulevard near the intersection of Village Parkway. The parade begins promptly at 9:30 a.m.

For the two-day extravaganza, the Dublin Civic Center will be transformed into Ireland. Guests can join in all the Irish celebrations, eat Irish foods and shop for authentic Irish wares and crafts. The Library Program Room will offer an opportunity to share memories, and learn all about Ireland's warmest traditions, including sampling tea at O'Reilly's Irish Tea Room, learning why people kiss the Blarney Stone and how to make an Irish blessing plaque or listening to an Irish storyteller.

There will also be a sheepherding demonstration and a Village Blacksmith stage show.

The 11th annual Shamrock 5K Fun Run & Walk will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday. The 3.1-mile certified course will start and end at the Dublin Civic Center.

Due to health and safety concerns, no pets are allowed at the celebrations. For more information on any of the weekend activities visit www.dublinstpats.com or call the Dublin Parks & Community Services Department at 556-4500.

—Janet Pelletier

Parcel tax

(continued from page 5)

levy an annual \$233 parcel tax for four years, with guaranteed audits, senior and disabled exemptions, an independent citizens' oversight committee and all funds benefiting our Pleasanton students?"

From the ballot language, the district compiled a cost break down of the programs listed, totaling \$4,584,000. Estimating 20,000 parcels and subtracting the county assessor's office fee of 1.7 percent (\$77,928), they arrived at \$233 per parcel.

Board members, who voted unanimously to place the parcel tax proposal on the June ballot, said the funds are needed to lessen the impact of state budget cuts, which would reduce Pleasanton's funding by \$8.7 million in fiscal 2009-10, which starts July 1.

The school district has held several meetings to gauge the public's opinion on the issue. It has also received hundreds of emails. About 250 attended the March 5 meeting in the multipurpose room of Amador Valley High School, where, as before, the majority of speakers said they are in favor of the tax to help maintain the current quality of education.

A group called Save Pleasanton Schools kicked off their pro-parcel tax campaign Sunday, with about 500 people packing Valley Community Church on Del Valle Parkway.

Currently, no one has put together a committee opposing the parcel tax.

For a copy of what the parcel tax would fund, visit www.PleasantonWeekly.com. ■

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President

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

Publisher

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

Managing Editor

Janet Pelletier, Ext. 111

Features Editor

Emily West, Ext. 121

Editorial Assistant

Amory Gutierrez, Ext. 221

Contributors

Hillary Bessiere

Julie Nostrand

Jerri Pantages Long

Joe Ramirez

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Art Director

Rick Nobles, Ext. 117

Designers

Trina Cannon, Ext. 114

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BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 141

Front Office Coordinator

Kathleen Martin, Ext. 0

How to reach the Weekly

5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Phone: (925) 600-0840
Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:
editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:
sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:
ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:
circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Opinion

Editorial

Save Pleasanton Schools

The newly-formed Save Pleasanton Schools citizens' coalition kicked off its campaign last Sunday to gain voter support for a \$233 a year parcel tax, a measure that the Pleasanton school board has placed on the ballot in a special election to be held Tuesday, June 2. The tax, if approved by a two-thirds majority plus one of those voting, will provide an estimated \$4,584,000 to a district that otherwise must cut \$8.7 million from its budget through the 2009-10 school year. Already, notices have gone out to more than 150 district employees who, unless funds can be found to reduce the projected budget shortfalls, will likely receive termination notices on May 15. These notices went to 98 teachers, 40 classified employees (i.e., administrative assistants, clerks, custodians and other hourly employees), and 19 managers. In addition to reducing staff, the district has identified other reductions it will make to meet its budget shortfall, including \$2 million in class-size reductions and \$1 million of operational functions.

Except for the parcel tax, there's little financial relief on the horizon. Word is that an estimated \$2.1 million could be heading this way in federal stimulus funds earmarked for special education programs. That could reduce the impact on the district's general fund that now pays the cost of these programs, freeing up an equivalent amount, or some of it, to help stem the budget shortfall. On May 19, Gov. Schwarzenegger and the Legislature are floating a number of measures that, if approved, would provide more tax revenue and allow the state to borrow from specific funding resources to reduce part of the state's current deficit. Some of those new funds could go to replace some of the state's reductions in education funding, but school analysts don't believe there will be enough statewide to make much of an impact on Pleasanton. The parcel tax, on the other hand, would provide specific, predictable and stable revenue. These funds would allow the continuation of class-size reduction at the current levels of no more than 20 students in kindergarten through third grade and no more than 20 in freshmen English and mathematics classes at Foothill and Amador Valley high schools. Also, the parcel tax would maintain the current level of counselors at the elementary and middle schools and, most important, at the comprehensive high schools, where only recently the district was able to boost the numbers to a counseling to student ratio of 1 to 395, close to the national average. Before that, the two high schools were at a 1 to 685 counselor-to-student ratio. Without the parcel tax, the number of counselors would be cut to a new ratio of 600-1.

We support the parcel tax proposal. In fact, we wish it was higher, like the dollar-a-day as one school board member suggested—or \$395 a year—or even \$400, which would have spared the district any cuts in personnel or programs. In a series of meetings in the community, at school sites and public hearings by the school board, commentators repeatedly said that most dear to their hearts are small class sizes, reading and math support programs, regular library hours, counseling services, technology instruction, elementary school strings and band programs and full-scale custodial services to make sure Pleasanton schools are safe and clean. Adding up the costs of maintaining these programs gave the school board the \$4.5 million total they needed from a parcel tax, or \$233 a year. With the board also establishing a parcel tax oversight committee to report regularly and publicly on how the tax receipts are being spent, we believe the safeguards are in place to make sure those programs and the personnel needed to support them will be in place to meet the public's demand for continued quality education in Pleasanton. ■

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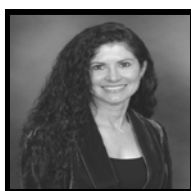
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Letters

McNerney another Pelosi puppet

Dear Editor,

I attended Congressman McNerney's so-called meeting with residents from the 11th District on Feb. 21 at Big Apple Bagels in Pleasanton.

Most of us who attended were very disappointed in this meeting. It seems that Mr. McNerney chooses not to answer questions from us as a group but pulled individuals aside and talk to them in private. We were all there to hopefully get answers to our many questions, but quite frankly it was a waste of our time. Many of us did ask him if he read this monstrous pork bill and his answer was no but that he did know what was in the bill.

I did not realize that he is a psychic and was able to meditate and remember everything in this bill. Jerry McNerney is just another puppet of Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid and we are going to do everything in our power to see that he doesn't get re-elected in 2010.

Bill Melton

Dismayed that McNerney didn't read stimulus bill

Dear Editor,

I commend Rep. McNerney for standing tall in the face of withering criticism at his most recent Pleasanton "Congress at Your Corner" event. Being an Independent, I care less about whether the representative is a Democrat or Republican and more about whether he is thinking and acting in a critical way on behalf of his constituents.

Therefore, I was dismayed when he admitted to the crowd that he had not read in entirety the \$787-billion stimulus bill he recently voted for. How is this responsible governance? This is how spending gets more out of control than it already is. I expect more from my elected representatives.

Bart Hughes

Conservancy presents resource conservation plan

Dear Editor,

On Feb. 5, Tri Valley Conservancy presented their draft of the North Livermore Resource Conservation Plan to the public. TVC undertook creation of this plan to protect agricultural lands, open spaces, and biological resources. The plan also attempts to set preservation priorities for

these lands because TVC recognizes the opportunities for land protection will decrease as the pressure for development increases.

The plan uses a series of goals related to TVC's mission of protecting lands, habitat and public recreation. The lands were mapped and scored using site visits and aerial photography to provide data on soils, plants, and animals. Lands with high conservation values are a priority for future conservation.

The following priorities in the plan will be used to determine possible future preservation: protecting biological resources, establishing wildlife corridors, protecting lands around the alkali sink, establishing trail corridors and preserving prime farmland. TVC can not condemn land; rather, its role is to work with willing partners including landowners, public entities, and others to protect our most important lands. Its ability to preserve is dependent on outright purchase, obtaining easements, or mitigation projects.

The draft plan is available for review at www.trivalleyconservancy.org. Click on "contact us."

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Transitions

Obituaries

Johnnie Kenneth Hamm

Johnnie Kenneth Hamm died Feb. 27 at the age of 64 with his loved ones at his side.

Mr. Hamm was born Nov. 14, 1944, a native of Dallas, Texas.

He served his country proudly in the U.S. Coast Guard in the mid-1960s. He later went on to be a journeyman maintenance mechanic in production for 40 years at Caterpillar Tractor in San Leandro and at Johnson Controls in Livermore.

He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. His greatest joy was spending time with William, his cherished grandson.

Mr. Hamm is survived by his loving family: beloved wife of 41 years, Emma Hamm, son, Johnnie C. Hamm and his wife, Karen; daughters, Karen Hamm and Gina Turner and grandson, William Turner (all of Pleasanton); brothers, Michael and David Hamm; and sister, Barbara Coker (all of Texas).

A memorial service was held March 6 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the MRSA Survivors Network, P.O. Box 241, Hinsdale, IL 60522.

John McClellan Snodgrass

John McClellan Snodgrass died Feb. 28 at his Sonora residence. He was 71.

Mr. Snodgrass was born April 30, 1937 in Olean, N.Y. to parents, Paul and Esther Snodgrass.

The family migrated to Tucson, Ariz., where he graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering.

He married Deborah Ann Mahr on Oct. 22, 1960. They relocated to Milwaukee, Wis., where he began a career with Allis Chalmers. In 1965, he moved his family to the Dublin/Pleasanton area, where he began a 25-year career at Bechtel Corporation.

Mr. Snodgrass suffered a cardiac arrest in August 1989 and retired from Bechtel to pursue his interest in investment real estate. He and his wife relocated to Sonora, Calif. in 1998 where he pursued his interest in golf, travel, and belonged to several social groups.

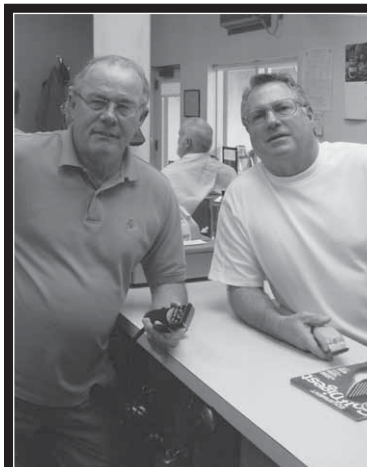
Mr. Snodgrass had a great love for his family and wife of 48 years. He enjoyed movies, foot-

ball, horse racing, country music, golf and all of these things were better when his family and friends were by his side.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah of Sonora; daughter and son-in-law, Tracey and Keith Gillette of Pleasanton; daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and Andrew Odekirk of Elk Grove, Calif.; son and daughter-in-law, Douglas and Tami Snodgrass of

Folsom, Calif.; and six grandchildren, Ericka Odekirk, Jack and Jessica Gillette, Jacob, Markus and Katelynn Snodgrass.

A memorial will be held at 1 p.m. March 28 at the Church of the 49ers in Columbia. Donations may be made to Hospice of the Sierra, PO Box 4805, Sonora, CA 95370 or Church of the 49ers, 11155 Jackson St., Columbia, CA 95310.



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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, March 17, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consider adoption of a Resolution of Intent for the formation of an Underground Utility District along Stanley Boulevard from First Street to Santa Rita Road, CIP No. 055022
- Adopt a resolution affirming support of and partnership with the 2010 Census and receive a report regarding 2010 Census activities

Housing Commission

Thursday, March 19, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Presentation from Nonprofit Agencies and Recommendation to Allocate Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for Fiscal Year 2009 (2009-10)

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, March 19, 2009 @ 7:30 a.m.
Operation Center, 3333 Busch Road

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

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

WORKSHOP

Wednesday, March 18, 2009 @ 6:30 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Building, Main Hall, 301 Main Street

- Draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan

The City of Pleasanton is seeking public input on the Draft Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan

The workshop will:

- Provide an overview of the Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan
- Discuss proposed pedestrian improvements
- Discuss prioritized list of bicycle & pedestrian projects
- Take public comments on the master plan

Americans with Disability Act Public Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.
Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

The City of Pleasanton will be holding a public meeting to invite comments on its American Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan. Staff will provide an update on progress and will discuss the next year's upcoming activities including the following topics:

- ADA Ramps
- Sidewalks
- Building Access
- Comments on City's Transition Plan Updates

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD) invites the public to the following informational events:

"Together We Prepare: Emergency Preparedness" Presenters Training

March 14, 2009 – 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

LPFD - Station #6, 4550 East Ave., Chianti Room, Livermore

Cost: Free – To Enroll Call (925) 454-2361 or email

TogetherWePrepare@lpfire.org

LPFD seeks community volunteers interested in emergency preparedness to help present basic emergency preparedness training to 25% of our community. The 1-day presenters training session will provide "how-to" tips to effectively present the class. If you are a member of a business association, club, non-profit, or faith-based organization and enjoy giving presentations, you would be an ideal candidate.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

April 1, 2009 through May 6, 2009 - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

LPFD - Training Tower, 3301 Busch Rd., Pleasanton

Enrollment Fee: \$50.00 Enroll at Livermore Adult Education, Call (925)606-4722 or www.livermoreadulted.org;

Learn how to help your neighborhood when disasters strike. Enroll in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Training includes: Disaster Basics, Disaster Medical, Hazards Materials Awareness, Fire Suppression, Utilities Shutoff, Light Search & Rescue, CERT organization, Disaster Psychology and a drill. Registration is required. For more information about the CERT Program, please email CERT@lpfire.org

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

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Tires slashed in northeast Pleasanton

Police believe the slashing of several car tires in the northeastern part of Pleasanton happened in a half-hour time frame in the early hours of March 6.

Twenty-seven reports were filed with the Pleasanton Police Department. The victims live in a neighborhood near the end of Stoneridge Drive. Reports show victims from the following streets: Iberis Court, Snowdrop Circle, Dennis Drive, Red Pine Court, Tangelo Court, Arronia Court, Daylily Court, Martin Avenue, Nicole Avenue, Carrisa Court, Nicole Avenue, Cameron Avenue, Equestrian Drive and Diablo Court.

Lt. Darrin Davis said the tires were likely punctured with a knife and that officers are still developing the reports. He also said there were no witnesses, which gives police little information to developing suspects.

CHP stops suspect car at Valley and Bernal

California Highway Patrol allegedly stopped a car suspected to be involved in a San Jose incident at Valley and Bernal avenues around 1 p.m. Saturday.

Officer Steve Creel of the CHP said weapons were involved in the San Jose incident and the suspect car had about four or five people in it and some arrests were made. Investigators are still figuring out if those arrested were involved with the potential shooting incident, he added. While Pleasanton police did help, there was no crime committed in Pleasanton.

Police Report

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

March 2

- Grand theft:
 - 1:01 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road
 - 5:56 p.m. in the 7700 block of Chestnut Way
 - 9:10 p.m. in the 7800 block of Applewood Way
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 9:15 a.m. in the 800 block of Hopkins Way
- Vandalism:
 - 3:09 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 3:27 p.m. at the intersection of Muirwood Drive and Northwood Court
 - 9:51 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- Public drunkenness:

-8:20 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Threats:

-5:41 p.m. in the 5100 block of Independence Street

March 3

- Grand theft:
 - 6:36 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 5:50 a.m. in the 8000 block of Canyon Creek Circle
 - 7:20 a.m. in the 6900 block of Lassen Street
 - 6:20 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 8:59 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
 - 10:22 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
- Burglary:
 - 11:05 a.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
 - 3:25 p.m. in the 6900 block of Corte Barcelona

• Vandalism:

- 8:23 p.m. at the intersection of Kamp and Stoneridge drives
- 8:55 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- 11:11 a.m. in the 5500 block of Pleasanton Hill Road
- 2:53 p.m. at the intersection of Springdale Avenue and Chestnut Way
- 10:53 p.m. in the 3800 block of Belmont Way

• Drug/alcohol violations:

- 7:34 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and First Street; marijuana possession
- 10:53 p.m. in the 3800 block of Belmont Way; public drunkenness

• Battery:

- 4:28 p.m. in the 4000 block of Santa Rita Road

March 4

- Theft:
 - 6:39 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; forgery
 - 8:41 a.m. in the 2000 block of Raven Road; grand theft
 - 9:19 a.m. in the 4000 block of Payne Road; grand theft
 - 1:50 p.m. in the 4200 block of Pleasanton Avenue; identity theft
- Burglary:
 - 6:05 a.m. in the 4600 block of Mohr Avenue; vehicular
 - 3:39 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road
- Marijuana possession:
 - 7:52 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Koll Center Parkway

March 5

- Theft:
 - 10:04 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; forgery
 - 10:31 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
 - 3:23 p.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road; identity theft
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 5:53 p.m. in the 1700 block of Satan Rita Road; marijuana possession
 - 10:30 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Mohr Avenue

March 6

- Paraphernalia possession:
 - 5:10 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Hacienda drives

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Calendar

Classes

Passion for Creation A 4-week class given by Rev. Steve Maynard about "Passion for Creation: Ancient Wisdom for Today's World" will be held at 10 a.m., Tuesdays or at 7 p.m., Wednesdays, at the TVU Gathering Place, 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., #120, Dublin. Reservations are required, call 998-0038.

Clubs

Daughters of the American Revolution This group meets on the second Saturday of every month in Pleasanton. Members are descended from patriots of the Revolutionary War. Prospective members are welcome. For information, call Susan at 699-4147.

Dive Trippers Dive Club Meeting Come join us for the November meeting of the Dive Trippers Dive Club, the Tri-Valley's newest dive club. They meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at Dive N Trips Dive Center, 1032 Serpentine Lane, Ste. 108. Call 462-7234 or visit www.diventrips.com.

Socrates Cafe This club has an open discussion group following a Socratic format meeting from 7-9 p.m., on the first and third Tuesday of every month, at Peets Coffee, 5765 Valley Ave. Bring any subject, but do not bring agendas or causes. Visit www.digiassist.com/main/SocratesCafePleasanton.

Tri-Valley Democratic Club Nancy O'Mally, Chief Assistant District Attorney for Alameda County, will speak about her efforts to fight human trafficking, domestic violence, and to provide community services to victims of crime from 7-9 p.m., Monday, March 16, IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. The public is invited. Call 831-8355.

Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network This club presents "What's Your Chemical Body Burden" featuring Mary Brune, founder of MOMS (Making Our Milk Safe), at 7 p.m., Monday, March 16, at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St. This event is free for members and first time visitors. E-mail Tri-ValleyHMN@hotmail.com.

Concerts

Jazzed About Pets for VHS An exciting evening of music featuring award-winning artist Craig Chaquico and guest comedian Mark Pitta will perform at Jazzed About Pets at 8 p.m., Friday, March 13, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$40-\$45. Call 373-6800.

Las Positas College Early Music Experience the golden age of viols in a concert of late English Renaissance music for voice and viols at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at the college library, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Tickets are \$15; \$5 for students. There will be a pre-concert talk and post-concert reception. Visit www.lpcearlymusic.org.

Events

American Girl Fashion Show American Girl Fashion Show is a fun-filled event for girls and their families, friends and favorite dolls from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, March 21-22, at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle. Cost is \$45 for adults; \$40 for children. Enjoy tea party refreshments and enter to win door prizes. Visit www.eastbay-fashionshow.com.

Baha'i Faith Meeting A meeting will be held to discuss the current persecution facing members of the Baha'i Faith in Iran at 5 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at 6721 Corte del Vista. A presentation will be made along with a devotional, followed by a dinner.

LAA/PAL March Meeting and Demonstration Livermore Art Association and Pleasanton Art League will host its joint monthly meeting from 7:30-9 p.m., Monday, March 16, at Almond Avenue School, 1401 Almond Ave., Livermore. Art critique will be led by Thomas Cory and artists are encouraged to bring a couple of paintings for a dialogue about their art. Call 449-9927.

Razzle Dazzle Jewelry Event The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop is holding their annual jewelry event featuring beautiful and interest-

Pet of the Week



Smile back at Kelpie

Kelpie is a 6-year-old, spayed female Australian Kelpie who would love to be your jogging or hiking partner. After a good run she'll come home and be a wonderful "relax on the couch" partner too! Kelpie is a very pretty 62 pound, chocolate brown and white dog with a friendly disposition. Kelpie likes other dogs, but she is not fond of cats. Kelpie sits nicely for treats and she is very intelligent and well-mannered. She needs a home with a lot of action. Visit her at the East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wed. through Thurs. and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fri. through Sun. Call 479-9670. To see more adoptable pets, visit www.eastbayspca.org.

Catherine Hansen Rush

ing bracelets, rings, necklaces and earrings from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, March 13 and from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday, March 14, at American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, 1987 A Santa Rita Rd. Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society's programs. Call 462-7374.

Fundraisers

Lacrosse March Madness The fourth annual Lacrosse March Madness for Foothill boys and girls lacrosse will be held on Saturday, March 21, at the Veteran's Hall, 301

Main St. Enjoy a great Italian dinner catered by Girasole, dancing, Martini bar and lots of fun. Cost is \$35. Limited seating and attire is casual. Call 846-3593.

Lectures/Workshops

Civil War Lecture Museum On Main will host Gerald S. Henig who will speak on "A Nation Transformed: How the Civil War Changed America Forever" at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 19, at Lynnewood United Methodist

Church, 4444 Black Ave. Cost is a \$3-\$10 donation. Call 462-2766.

Finding the Poem Waiting to Be Written At the next meeting of the California Writers Club, Tri-Valley Branch, award-winning poet Kathleen Lynch will present "Plucked from Air and Error: Finding the Poem That Waits to Be Written" at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 21, at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., Pleasanton. Cost is \$21 for members; \$27 for non-members, including lunch. Reservations are required; call 462-7495.

Job Search Success Seminar Learn about the eight essential levers for a winning job search success mindset

Upcoming Events For Seniors at Rosewood Gardens

	Sunday, March 15, 7am-3pm Rummage Sale (proceeds benefit The Friends of Pleasanton Seniors) Tuesday, March 17, 1:30-3:00pm St. Patrick's Day Party w/live Celtic Entertainment Thursday, March 19, 6-7pm Financial Sense for Seniors Tuesday, March 24, 12-2pm Historical Talk with the Livermore Heritage Guild Saturday, March 28, 10am-1pm Driver Evaluation Seminar
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Sponsored by The Dublin Sister City Association
Friday March 13, 6:30pm

 **Parade**
Sponsored by Dublin Lions Club
Saturday March 14, 9:30am

 **Pancake Breakfast**
Sponsored by Alameda County Firefighters—Local 55
Saturday March 14, 7-10am

 **Shamrock 5K Fun Run & Walk**
Sunday March 15, 8:30am



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Calendar

from 3-4 p.m., Monday, March 16, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This workshop is free. E-mail chani@jobsuccess.org.

Live Music

Ballroom Dancing Pleasanton Senior Center will host ballroom dancing from 7-9:30 p.m., Friday, March 20, at the center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Dance to the sounds of Treblemakers. Advance tickets are \$7 for residents; \$8 for non-residents; \$8 for residents and \$9 for non-residents at the door; including dessert. Call 931-5365.

Scholarships

DHSAA Scholarship Drive Dublin High alums are invited to join the DHS Alumni Association for its St. Patty's Day Scholarship Drive from 4-10 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at the Dublin Sports Pub, 7294 San Ramon Rd. Visit www.dublinhighalums.org or www.myspace.com/dhsalums. Facebook:dhsalums

Seniors

Senior Center VIP Club This club is offering three trips during the spring including a trip to the Jackson Casino from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday, March 18 (cost is \$27 for members; \$29 for non-members); Monterey Movie Tour including lunch at Pebble Beach from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday, April 22 (cost is \$123; reservations are due by March 20); and a trip to the Ironstone Vineyards

and Murphy's from 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Wednesday, May 13 (cost is \$79 for members; \$81 for non-members). Reservations are required for all; call 931-5365 or visit the Travel Desk at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Volunteering

Emergency Preparedness Trainers Needed Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department needs volunteer presenters interested in emergency preparedness to help deliver presentations to 25% of our community. The 1-day presenter training provides "how to" tips and is from 9:30-4:30 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Dept., Fire Station #6, 4550 East Ave., Chianti Room, Livermore. Registration is required; call 454-2361.

Political Notes

Tri-Valley Republican Women Luncheon Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated will host its annual membership luncheon from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, March 14, at Castlewood Country Club. Guest speakers include Lynne Leach and Lori Brandes. Cost is \$26. Reservations are required by March 6; call 846-0914.

Recreation

2nd Annual Pleasanton Ridge Run Pleasanton Ridge is an outdoor paradise in our backyard. Race ascends to

the top of the ridge and will give you great views of the Tri-Valley, Mt. Diablo and Mission Peak starting at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, March 21, meeting at Pleasanton Ridge, Foothill Rd. staging area. Walkers and families allowed on 3.7m trail only. Cost for the 3.7 mile is \$27/per person; 7.3 mile is \$30/per person, including a commemorative T-shirt. Call 998-0734.

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**Wednesday, March 18, 2009
6:00 P.M.**

Faz Restaurant
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**Speakers: David Persin, VP, CFM
Ted Simos, VP, CFM**

**Guest Speaker: Peter Monty,
DWS Scudder**

Please RSVP to Amber Strock at (925) 227-6601 or email amber_strock@ml.com to reserve your place.

Ravinder Sood, Ted Simos, David Persin, Scott Edlington, Amber Strock

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Sports

Blue Devils heading to nationals

Team will play April 1-5 in Pennsylvania

The Tri-Valley Blue Devils Midget 18AA team is on a high after taking home the USA Hockey Tier II Pacific District Championship in Valencia, Calif. last weekend.

The team, which is made up of 17- and 18-year-olds from across the Tri-Valley, is now preparing for the national tournament April 1-5 in Pittsburgh, Pa. They will be facing the champions of the Central and Atlantic districts and Minnesota.

The Blue Devils began their exciting playoff run by winning the state championship two weeks ago. They then moved on to the Pacific District Championship last weekend. During the four-day event, the Blue Devils defeated the Alaska Jr. Avalanche, Seattle Jr. Thunderbirds, California Heat and Alaska Wolves before winning the crown with a convincing 4-0 victory over the Northwest Admirals, according to Rich Wilcox. They completed the tournament with three shutouts while outscoring their opponents 19-5.

Skating at the Iceland skating rink in Dublin, the team includes six Pleasanton residents: Brad Bates, Jim Heppner and Neil Schumaker,

Foothill High School, Shane Houston, San Jose State University, Kevin Wilcox, Las Positas College, and Chris Wolfinger, Amador Valley High School.

Paul Bates, whose son is player Brad Bates, said he is elated that the team will soon be going to Pennsylvania.

"It's an incredible run," Bates said.

The team's accomplishments are all the more amazing because California is a non-traditional hockey market as opposed to cold weather states in the Midwest and East Coast, Bates said.

"Many of these families have really been faithful to the game," he said. "We've lost so many kids to other sports. Now, they're starting to see the fruits of their labor."

Bates said his son, and fellow players Wilcox, Heppner and Wolfinger got into ice hockey after playing roller hockey at Pleasanton Middle School. It's been a challenge for hockey players to find ice time because there is a shortage of rinks in Northern California. But Bates said he is excited for Sharks Ice, a

four-rink complex to be built in the Staples Ranch property, to come to fruition. The project, which also includes an auto mall and senior residential care facility, was recently approved by the City Council.

"We really needed the Sharks Ice facility 10 years ago," Bates said.

For more information on the team, visit www.tvmha18aa.org.

—Janet Pelletier

More sports online

Check out all the local sports news and photos on the Pleasanton Weekly website, www.pleasanton-weekly.com.

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"What You Need to Know about Alzheimer's Disease and other
Dementia - Related Illnesses" sponsored by Forest
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March 25, 2009 at 6pm
"Depression, Compassion, Delirium and Dementia" presented by Theresa
Cleaver, Community Educator for Valley Care Health Systems, The
Legends Program

April 1, 2009 at 6pm
"How to Work Through Loss, Grief and Bereavement,"
sponsored by Vitas Innovative Hospice Care

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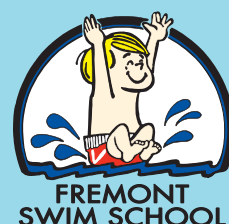
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