

Heating up

Opponents joining parcel tax debate > **page 5**

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www.PleasantonWeekly.com

Alleged arson

Police say recent house fire was no accident

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Spring vacation

The Weekly's a popular travel accessory

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Every 15 minutes

Staged DUI crash drives home real drunk driving dangers in time for spring break **PAGE 14**



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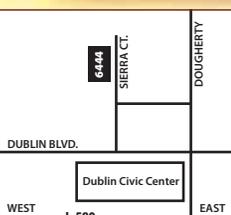
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Help for families of fallen police, firefighters

Just hours after the murders last month of the four Oakland police officers, members of the 100 Club of Alameda County delivered checks of \$20,000 to each of the three widows of the slain officers and to the parents of another who was not married. The checks, the first installment of what is likely to be many years of financial help from the local charitable group, are designed to provide a cushion as the surviving families move forward. The 100 Club was founded in 1974 by the late Pleasanton homebuilder Marty Kauffman who was impressed by the work of a similarly-named organization in Detroit that provided immediate financial help to police victims' spouses and families. Returning home, he heard about two Oakland police officers who were killed in the line of duty and wrote a check for \$1,000 to take to the spouses. Others heard about it and within weeks, others in Pleasanton rallied around Kauffman to start the 100 Club here.

Since then, the 100 Club of Alameda County has provided financial assistance to 39 families of both sworn firefighters and police officers who died while serving their departments and has supported 50 students attending college. Frank Capilla and Ken Mercer are past presidents of the organization and are among 21 board members from throughout the county who are board members. They're among the club leadership that takes the checks to survivors, "one of the toughest jobs I ever have to do," according to Capilla. Besides the initial donation, the club also provides up to \$11,000 a year for a college education for each of a fallen officer's children, and special contributions are made to the families at Christmastime.

Funds come from golf tournaments, individual donors, members and dinner meetings held twice a year. Last January, former Livermore resident Dorothy Cleymann, who died in 2008, left

\$235,000 to the 100 Club to provide financial and educational support for families of fallen peace officers and firefighters. The bequest was made to honor Mrs. Cleymann's daughter, Lezlee Davis, who was a communications specialist with the San Leandro Police Department for 21 years, dying unexpectedly in 2001. Bobby Byers, current president of the club, said a plaque is being made for the San Leandro department in appreciation of the Lezlee Davis and Dorothy Cleymann gift.

For the most part, the 100 Club maintains a low public profile, making its contributions without press releases or fanfare. It employs a part-time administrator and those to whom it has donated scholarships, and it holds two general membership meetings each year: a barbecue at the fairgrounds hosted by Capilla and Tony Macchiano on the third Wednesday in August, and another dinner on the third Wednesday in February where spouses and children who have benefited from the club's donations are invited to join in. The club's board of directors is led by retired Alameda County Superior Court Judge Robert Byers; retired Pleasanton civil engineer Richard Karn, past president of the Downtown Pleasanton Rotary Club, is next in line for the top post, followed by Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff; Macchiano, co-owner of the Pleasanton Garbage Service, and former county supervisor Mary King. Mercer heads up the ValleyCare Health System Foundation and Capilla is the founder and owner of Can-Am Plumbing.

Starting small, the club now has more than 1,000 members and its long-standing membership assessment has also climbed, now at \$150. To learn more about the work of the 100 Club of Alameda County and to hear first-hand on a YouTube video from some who have been helped by the club, sign on to www.100clubalamedacounty.org. ■

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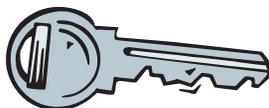
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About the Cover

Emergency crews responded to a staged crash scene near Amador Valley High School last week. The demonstration was a part of the Every 15 Minutes program, which shares the dangers of drinking and driving. Photo by Emily West.

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Streetwise

Q: Do you use Facebook?

Asked Around Town



Bryan Carlile

I started a Facebook account last year because it was a way to get information about my 20-year high school reunion. I like it because it allows me to keep in touch with all of my friends and I can keep up with what's happening in everybody's lives. I'm usually on the site about twice a week.

Tom Severence

I joined Facebook about six months ago and I've been able to reconnect with a lot of my old friends from childhood who I haven't seen or talked to in years. I'm not one of those people who update their status all the time, but I like to log on to the site about four times a week to keep updated on what my friends and family are doing.



Scott Needham

I don't have a Facebook account yet, but I plan to join soon since I hear it's better than MySpace because of all the features it offers. I just haven't had the time to join yet.



Davie Martinez

I use Facebook because I'm able to keep in touch with friends and family, share pictures, blogs and other information that I'm interested in. I have my own blog on Facebook that's called "Living with MS."



Mario Montes

I don't have a Facebook account because I feel it's too impersonal. I'd rather talk to people in person versus sitting in my room and talking through a computer. We've lost that human interaction because of the Internet and I think it's kind of creepy to talk to people (especially strangers) over a screen.



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

Newsfront

News Digest

TEA time

A local anti-tax display of the national TEA (Taxed Enough Already) party movement is planned from noon to 6 p.m. April 15 at Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave. With the recent sales tax increase and the parcel tax initiative Measure G on the June 2 ballot, organizers are expecting as many as 1,000 people to attend. Protesters will listen to speakers, send "tea bags" to elected representatives and target Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), along with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer. To learn more, visit www.pleasantontea-party.com.

Appreciate the Tri-Valley

Steve Thomas, writer of the Tri-Valley Trails website, will present "Tri-Valley Appreciation," the next installment of the Museum On Main's Ed Kinney Lecture Series. From 7 to 8:30 April 16 at the Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., he will discuss the region's climate perfection, geographic diversity, history and recreational abundance. Admission is \$5 for museum members and teachers, \$10 for non-members and \$3 for students with a valid ID. For details, call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

Helping children in need

The Assistance League of the Amador Valley presents its 14th annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party at noon April 25 at the Aahmes Shrine Event Center in Livermore. Tickets are \$45 and seating is limited. Money raised goes to help provide school clothes and shoes to children in need in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin. For more information, call Carmen at 371-4566 or visit www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org.

Caring for cats

In honor of Cat Care Month, Fresh Step litter has teamed up with the East Bay SPCA to raise awareness of cats in shelters and the benefits of keeping cats indoors. There will be an adoption drive from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at Lucky, 2000 Portola Ave. in Livermore.

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

Measure G debate heats up

Opposition maintains low profile, accuses school district of campaigning

by Emily West

Until voters decide the fate of Measure G, a \$233 per year parcel tax that would bring in just over \$4.5 million to fund specific education programs, the hot topic is not likely to cool off before the June 2 special election.

The Save Pleasanton Schools campaign is in full force, walking precincts last weekend and holding a town hall meeting this past Wednesday in support of Measure

G. The group's website boasts collecting \$37,200 toward an \$80,000 goal as well as having hundreds of names on its endorsements list, which includes several public officials and all five school board members.

The opposition, however, hasn't started a formal campaign, which has made it unclear to gauge how much support they have. Instead, they have used email and online posts on the Pleasanton Weekly's Town Square forum to offer what they call an "informational campaign."

Eight members of the public, including former school board and City Council member Steve Brozosky and former City Councilwoman Kay Ayala, have signed ballot arguments against Measure G with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters. The web home of the group can be found at www.pleasantonparceltaxinfo.com, which is said to be up and running sometime next week.

Measure G has proved to be a sensitive issue that some claim is divid-

ing the community. Those contacting the Weekly to voice their opposition don't want their names used, for fear they would be viewed as opposing teachers, kids and the schools. One such person who feared retribution if he/she were named said it would be better to put campaign contributions toward the schools.

"We think it is irresponsible that the campaign for the parcel tax is planning on raising \$80,000 for their

(continued on page 8)



A couple walk by 839 E. Angela St., where a fire broke out Dec. 8. Police said this week the blaze is being ruled as arson.

Police: East Angela Street house fire was arson

Sergeant says investigation expected to wrap up in about a month

by Janet Pelletier

A December house fire on East Angela Street that left one woman severely injured is being ruled as arson, police said this week.

Sgt. Jim Knox of the Pleasanton Police Department, who initially called the fire at 839 E. Angela "suspicious," said the investigation has not been wrapped up yet.

"It has been classified an arson, however I can't make any other type of comment at this point on any additional details," Knox said. "We're still waiting for some additional pieces of evidence to come in and some other follow-up investigation, so hopefully we will have the investigation wrapped up in the next month or so."

The fire began at 11 a.m. Dec. 8. Deonna Zuffa, 40, who was

the only person home, was witnessed by neighbors running out of the home, engulfed by flames. Neighbors said they heard a loud explosion that shook the ground, followed by the blaze that has left the single-story home located across the street from St. Augustine Catholic Church a total loss. The Zuffa family's two dogs were not injured in the fire as they were being taken to a pet groomer, fire officials have said.

Knox declined to say who police believe caused the arson. Police have acknowledged that the Zuffa family, which includes Deonna Zuffa's husband and their two children, owned muscle cars and go-karts and had gasoline containers stored in the garage, but declined to say whether the gas may have contributed to the explosion or fire. Police have also

declined to say where the fire was started, which also damaged two neighboring homes and displaced a second family.

The investigation was prolonged for months due to the fact that police hadn't spoken with Deonna Zuffa, who was recovering from second- and third-degree burns at St. Francis Memorial Hospital's Bothin Burn Center in San Francisco. Knox said police have interviewed a number of people, now including Deonna Zuffa, but he declined to give an update on her condition.

Zuffa and her husband Keith filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy last June, according to public records. Records also show the home was sold for \$75,000 in

(continued on page 8)

Pentin will replace Fox on Planning Commission

2 councilmembers argue that commission is being 'politicized'

by Jeb Bing

Anne Fox, a member of the city Planning Commission for the last 5-1/2 years, was booted off the commission Tuesday night in a 3-2 vote of the City Council that instead agreed with Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's request to replace her with local businessman Jerry Pentin.

As a result of the action, Pentin will step down immediately as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, where he also has served as chairman, and take his seat at the Planning Commission's next meeting after being formally sworn into office later this month. Pentin ran unsuccessfully for City Council in last November's municipal election, losing to incumbent council members Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan.

By city rules, the mayor recommends appointments to city commissions and committees with the full council then voting on those recommendations. Pentin's appointment was among 28 Hosterman made Tuesday, but the only one that brought objections.

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern praised Fox's long-time work on the Planning Commission, where Fox served first as an alternate starting Aug. 19, 2003, and winning a full appointment on Oct. 19, 2004.

Fox's first four-year term expired last Sept. 30, but, as customary, she remained a member of the commission until Hosterman completed her interviews of prospective candidates for all of the commission and committees and decided who she would recommend for reappointment or on

(continued on page 6)

Axis sponsoring raffle for health care

Foundation says federal money alone doesn't cover county, state cutbacks

State and county cutbacks has put a dent in funding at Axis Community Health. Even with \$1.3 million in federal stimulus relief and \$19,245 from the Pleasanton Weekly's Holiday Fund, the health and wellness center needs help.

Axis, a nonprofit that provides health care, substance abuse counseling and health education to the community, was promised federal money that would be doled out

over two years and specifically used to hire new healthcare professionals and staff to serve an additional 4,000 patients.

"The federal funds, though wonderful to receive, will not cover the actual delivery of services, such as the equipping of additional examination rooms, keeping the lights on during extended hours and weekends, laboratory testing and pharmaceutical needs," said

Axis Foundation President Sherry Peterson.

To fill what Peterson calls a "significant void" in funding, the foundation is sponsoring a raffle, with winners being announced at the upcoming First Wednesday Street Parties beginning May 6. Prizes include a two-night getaway on Monterey Bay, landscape design, wine tasting, golf and more.

Tickets are \$20 for one or \$100 for

six. They may be purchased from any Axis board of directors or foundation board member; at Axis Behavioral Health, 6666 Owens Drive; at the Pleasanton Weekly office, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100; at the law offices of Sherry Peterson, 11875 Dublin Blvd., Ste. A-104 in Dublin; and by emailing raffle@axishealth.org.

For information, visit www.axishealth.org.

—Emily West

Commission

(continued from page 5)

new appointments. With an eight-year term limit on commission service, Fox could have been asked to serve another four years.

"I am not opposed to the person (Pentin) you are appointing, but I am disappointed with who you are not reappointing," McGovern said. "I feel Anne Fox has done good work on the Planning Commission and especially has done a memorable job of going back into the history of applications under consideration. In that respect, she has a gift that many of us don't have."

McGovern said in deciding not to reappoint Fox, Hosterman should have at least elevated long-time alternate Planning Commission member Greg O'Connor to the permanent seat on the commission.

"I think the Planning Commission appointments are becoming political, and this was a concern voters expressed to me in the last election," McGovern said.

Sullivan said six to eight of the people he had personally asked to apply for commission appointments were not considered. He accused Hosterman of using her position to appoint only individuals who share her views on public issues.

"I am concerned that we are losing diversity on our commissions," Sullivan said. "In the past, even mayors who were strongly aligned with different philosophies did a good job of appointing people who would engage the community at large with a diversity of opinions. That's not what's happening this time."

Sullivan said he asked Hosterman repeatedly to schedule interviews during the evening hours so that he wouldn't have to take time off work and when applicants for the commissions might be able to meet to discuss their qualifications. Even so, he said the interviews were conducted during the daytime, even for the city's new Energy and Environment Commission which he had championed for the last 10 years.

"We need to change the process and open this up a little bit and make it less unilateral and do a better job of representing the community at large on our commissions," he added.

Besides Hosterman, council members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne voted to approve the commission and committee appointments, with McGovern and Sullivan voting no.

The Planning Commission advises the Council on land use matters including zoning issues, use permits, variances and site and architectural plans. The Commission reviews and makes recommendations regarding development plans submitted by the City's Planning Department, and is also responsible for annual General Plan and specific plan reviews.

In addition to O'Connor, who will complete his term as an alternate, Pentin will join current chairwoman Jennifer Pearce and regular members Arne Olson, Kathy Narum and Philip Blank on the Planning Commission. Blank was re-appointed Tuesday to a second four-year term, due to expire in 2013. ■

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Pleasanton launches new curbside garbage recycling program

Rates to rise, but only by \$1.09 if residents keep non-recyclable waste to minimum

by Jeb Bing

The City Council Tuesday gave its unanimous approval to a more extensive curbside refuse recycling program that will parallel what many cities in the country are already doing: requiring residents to sort out their recyclable materials from all other garbage instead of having the Pleasanton Garbage Service do it for them.

The new service also will cost more, jumping by \$1.07 a month for those who cut back on sending non-recyclable waste to the garbage collector, to as much as 14 percent more for those who don't.

The new rates approved by the council will be increased from \$28.04 to \$29.13 a month for those opting for a smaller 35-gallon general refuse cart to \$34.57 a month for a larger 96-gallon cart, which is the same size as the all-purpose carts residents now have. These will be used for all refuse that is not recyclable, such as broken glass, used pizza cartons and plastics that don't meet recyclable standards.

Residents also will be given a 96-gallon cart for recyclables only. These will be used for cardboard, aluminum foil and plastic bags, aluminum, steel and tin cans, glass jars and bottles of all colors, and plastic bottles with the numbers 1 to 7 printed on the bottom.

Residents will keep the 64-gallon carts they now use for grass clippings and other yard debris. Coffee grounds and other food scraps that are not usually flushed through sink disposers can also be placed in these smaller carts. However, a small, under-the-sink plastic bucket that Pleasanton residents were given free several years ago for these food scraps, will no longer be provided.

Labels will be placed on each of the containers to specify what can go in them, and what can't. In addition, the Pleasanton Garbage Service will make periodic checks in each neighborhood to determine if the new

recycling rules are being followed.

Currently, Pleasanton residents dump all of their refuse, except grass clippings, into a single 96-gallon can which is picked up weekly and taken to the Pleasanton Garbage Service's material recovery facility at its Busch Road transfer station. There, crews sort through the refuse on a fast-moving conveyor belt, separating possible recyclables from wet garbage, old clocks and radios and hundreds of other materials. Then a separate sorting-out takes place to send recyclable plastics, glass, paper and other discards to special bins that are sent to recycling companies.

The process, which was heralded as a breakthrough in garbage recycling when the facility opened, has since lagged in meeting the Alameda County diversion target of 75 percent in 2010, with approximately only 54 percent of refuse collected in Pleasanton now being diverted from landfills.

Garbage placed in the all-purpose refuse cans—whether the 96-gallon or the 35-gallon size—will be taken directly to the landfill without sorting.

Steve Bocian, assistant city manager, worked with Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilman Matt Sullivan over the last year to study current garbage collection procedures and those adopted by other cities.

"We're the only city in Alameda County without (curbside) recycling," Sullivan said.

"I have young people asking me all the time why we don't do a better job of recycling," Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio said. "I like curbside recycling, and I don't think the adjustment will be as difficult as some may think. Sure, people will see a rate hike, but consider the cost effectiveness in terms of what we do with our environment by not dumping in our landfill."

Bocian said that in their studies,

the council group along with representatives of Pleasanton Garbage and a consultant from the Alameda County StopWaste.org agency found that many residents didn't know Pleasanton has a material recovery facility where the garbage placed in the current 96-gallon cart is manually sorted through and recyclables are recovered.

Only one resident showed up at Tuesday night's public hearing. He expressed surprise that a thousand hadn't come to the meeting to object, as he did, to a garbage service rate increase at a time when current weak economic conditions should have called for a rate reduction.

At Councilwoman Cindy McGovern's urging, Bocian agreed to look at commercial rates being charged to some residential communities to see if discounts could be made available.

A new commercial program also is under consideration, including a request now that asks companies to voluntarily sort out recyclables. Once details of the program are determined, Bocian said it should be implemented as a new requirement by March of next year.

McGovern also pointed out that residents who are at least 62 years old can qualify for a 15 percent discount on their garbage bills, but she doesn't think most seniors know about that. Bocian said the city and the Pleasanton Garbage Service would send out advisories informing residents of the discount.

Councilman Jerry Thorne said that while he didn't like the idea of raising garbage rates in the current economy, he would vote to approve the hikes and the new curbside recycling program, especially with the reduced rate for the new 35-gallon, all-refuse cart which will raise rates by only \$1.09 a month.

"You can bet I'll be among the first to request the smaller-sized cart," Thorne said. ■

Free e-waste collection scheduled at fairgrounds April 17-19

by Jeb Bing

Pleasanton will observe Earth Day with a free e-waste collection service April 17-19 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

The collection is scheduled from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Vehicles with material to deposit should enter through the Fairgrounds Gate 12 off Valley Avenue.

Last year, more than 2,200 vehicles dropped off e-waste equipment items.

All types of electronic equipment can be dropped off and there is no limit to the amount of qualifying items, although residents are encour-

aged to take an inventory of their e-waste items intended for disposal. Among the items that will be accepted are computer components, televisions, digital cameras, power cables, toner cartridges, video game systems, MP3 players, keyboards, DVDs, and other electronic items, as well as household batteries.

For more information, call toll free 866-335-3373.

On Saturday, April 18 only, unused or expired pharmaceutical drugs will be collected at the same location, co-hosted by the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD). All prescription and over-the-counter drugs will be accepted. DSRSD also will accept items containing mercury for recy-

cling, including thermometers, fluorescent light bulbs, thermostats and mercuric oxide batteries.

Participants can receive a free digital thermometer when they deposit one or more mercury thermometers. All mercury items must be intact and sealed in a protective container and a plastic bag. For more information, call 828-0515.

Both waste collection events are open to Pleasanton residents and DSRSD customers.

In other Earth Day activities, Pleasanton city staff will join those from the Zone 7 Water Agency Saturday, April 18 at Farmers Market at Angela and Main streets to share information about water conservation in the Tri-Valley region. ■

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Stanley utility undergrounding moving forward

by Janet Pelletier

Plans to underground utility lines along a 3-mile stretch of Stanley Boulevard bordering the train tracks are moving full steam ahead.

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved the project at its March 3 meeting after no objections from the public were made.

The work, estimated to cost roughly \$5.5 million, will be conducted by PG&E, Comcast and AT&T between Bernal Avenue in Pleasanton city limits and Isabel Avenue in Livermore city limits. The public utility companies are now designing the project specifications, according to James Chu, an associate engineer for the Alameda County Public Works Agency. Chu said there isn't a specific timetable

for when the work will begin.

The project's cost will be paid for through the California Public Utilities Commission's Rule 20A funds. The funds are used for projects in community areas where there is a high volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and where the street, road or right-of-way passes through a civic or public recreation area. The stretch of Stanley Boulevard includes Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area. The money is regularly collected in a pot on an annual basis to pay for these types of projects.

County officials have said they want to underground utilities for both safety and aesthetic reasons.

Concurrently, the county is working on a beautification project for the same segment of Stanley

Boulevard, with plans to construct a multi-use pathway along the south side of Stanley and widen, widen shoulders to include a bicycle lane on both sides of the heavily-trafficked roadway and landscape the median and both sides of the thoroughfare. The aesthetic improvements are slated to cost \$10 million and will be paid for by the county.

The streetscape improvements are being made to better pedestrian and bicycle access and make the roadway more visually appealing, the county has said. Highway lighting and traffic signal systems will also be changed, as well as pavement surface and drainage systems.

Timelines call for the streetscape improvements to begin early next year, with completion next summer. ■

Measure G

(continued from page 5)

campaign when there is no organized opposition," the person said.

Dorene Paradiso, who signed a ballot argument against Measure G, agrees.

"I think, especially in these economic times, it is a lot of money wasted on the campaign," she said. "Donate money towards the schools."

Doug Miller, another who signed the ballot argument, said it's the "wrong tax at the wrong time," adding that the school board and district were irresponsible and hardly looked for ways to cut the budget.

"[Board member] Valerie Arkin proposed some [cost-saving] ideas, and I don't think the school board

gave much thought to those proposals," he said.

Paradiso said her anti-tax stance doesn't take away her support of Pleasanton schools.

"I'm very sensitive to our children and our teachers," she said. "One of my daughters is a teacher and I have two grandchildren in Pleasanton schools."

Miller, who moved to Pleasanton for the schools and whose kids have graduated from Foothill High School, said, "I'm against the parcel tax, but I am certainly for good, solid schools."

He also added that the core group of "intensely involved" people in their group is about a dozen, plus another 20 who contribute on a regular basis. That number, he said, is expected to increase as people become more aware.

Paradiso believes the district is scaring people to garner a yes vote.

"The fear they're putting into people, I don't believe that it's necessary," she said. "They are scaring the children into scaring the parents. It's really wrong."

Recently, an anonymous document titled "The Real Facts Regarding the Pleasanton School District (PUSD) and the Parcel Tax" circulated. It alleges that PUSD has threatened to cut teachers and programs "to create a crisis and force a perceived need for a parcel tax."

In response, on March 24 Superintendent John Casey sent out a memo on PUSD letterhead through

the district's e-connect responding to the document. He addressed eight statements made in the anonymous document, which the district claimed to be "inaccurate in its presentation of facts." The superintendent's memo was also made available at a recent Leadership Pleasanton Alumni luncheon, where Casey answered questions regarding Measure G.

The memo caused a stir among Measure G opponents, accusing Casey and the district of campaigning. They claimed it was a violation of the California Education Code 7054, which restricts a school district from using services, supplies or equipment urging the support or defeat of any ballot measure or candidate.

Paul Thompson, attorney for the school district, spoke at a special budget workshop April 7, clarifying the issue. He claimed that the district has the right to issue factual information regarding Measure G, saying the memo didn't include campaign language.

Casey said the district has an obligation to inform the public of factual and neutral information about the parcel tax the district has called. While he acknowledges the potential of gray areas in doing this, he said a group of district employees as well as their attorney reviews information prior to it being sent.

"We're going to try to stay out of that gray area," he said. "Some people may think [we are in it] and we can make adjustments accordingly." ■

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Fire

(continued from page 5)

a foreclosure sale on Sept. 30 to Marilyn and Richard Greenberg in the name of the Greenberg Trust.

The house fire has remained the talk of the immediate neighborhood, located east of downtown. Since the fire, and after police, fire and insurance officials collected contents from the home, it has been boarded up and secured by a chain

link fence, which many neighbors have complained is a blight.

An official with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department said in a type of incident where a house fire is classified as arson, repairs or renovations cannot be made until a criminal investigation is closed.

"Once we turn it over to the property owners, it's their responsibility to work with their insurance carrier to restore or repair the home," said LPFD Assistant Fire Marshal Tom Grappone. ■

Pleasanton robotics company asks McNerney for federal funding

by Janet Pelletier

Robotics engineering company Adept Technology Inc. played host to Congressman Jerry McNerney this week, in the hopes that he would help them attain federal stimulus funds for research and development.

Adept, which recently moved its office from Livermore to Inglewood Drive in Pleasanton, took McNerney, who was home for district week like other U.S. representatives, on a tour showing him the many machines they develop and the array of tasks they perform—from packaging chocolates to performing medical procedures to installing solar panels.

The Silicon Valley startup posted sales of \$50 million last year, according to CEO John Dulchinos, but global competition in their field has led to an unfair advantage. The economic downturn has also affected

business, and sales are likely to be lower this year, he said.

Dulchinos said the federal government needs to help companies like Adept become competitive against Eastern Europe, which has a stronghold on robotics technology. Competition lies in the outsourcing of low-cost labor and foreign countries whose governments subsidize their operations. Incentives are needed for U.S. manufacturers to invest and produce domestically.

Adept has 135 employees, but Dulchinos said he estimates that \$10 million in investment from the government can bring roughly 100 jobs to the Pleasanton area and generate \$10 million to \$15 million per year in revenue.

“Robotics is on the cusp of something big, like PCs were in the 1970s,” Dulchinos said, referencing comments he said Microsoft founder Bill Gates has made. “I

think Silicon Valley is going to be recreated into a clean technology region. Europe’s got a head start, but I think there’s opportunity. We’re still in the infancy of it.”

Though Europe and Japan have excelled in the technology, Dulchinos said American robotics companies can leap frog them to develop technology that would make machines safer, which is one flaw of employing machines versus humans. But the benefits of machines far outweigh using manual labor—such as ensuring a safe food supply, protecting workers from hazards, lowering the cost of alternative energy and creating high-paying skilled jobs, Dulchinos said.

McNerney, who has a background in wind engineering and renewable energy, said he understands Adept’s plight and said he would work with them on applying for funding under President Barack Obama’s \$787-billion stimulus package. ■



Janet Pelletier

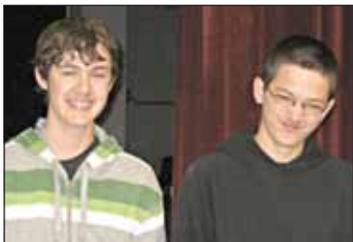
Jeff Baird, director of engineering for robotics designer Adept Technology, Inc. in Pleasanton, shows Congressman Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, a robot that packages chocolates.

Of Note

C-SPAN surprises PMS students with award

Pleasanton Middle School eighth graders Matt Hardwick and Taylor denBroeder were surprised recently with an honorable mention award for their C-SPAN StudentCam 2009 video submission.

The students’ video, as well as those from other winners, are available on the studentcam.viddler.com C-SPAN StudentCam site. The competition has students



create a short video documentary that explore an issue of national significance that they believe is in need of urgent attention from the president. C-SPAN received 921 submissions and selected 75 of them to win.

Representatives from C-SPAN arrived on campus in the large Civics Bus. The bus, equipped with TV production units, is part of a 15-year program to bring media and public affairs issues to schools.

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Opinion

Editorial

Federal help needed to trim health care strains

Mounting health care issues are not just a national problem, although it's increasingly likely it will take federal government involvement to tackle them. Here in Pleasanton, both ValleyCare Health System and Axis Community Health are faced with surging demands for medical care from patients unable to pay, either because they are under-insured, have no health insurance or have co-pay requirements that have spiraled beyond their ability to pay. At ValleyCare, the economic downturn appears to be driving more patients to the hospital's emergency room with illnesses such as strep throat and digestive problems that a doctor might normally diagnose and treat, tying up treatment rooms that should be held open for major emergencies. The hospital just opened nine additional patient exam bays as part of its \$1.7-million emergency room expansion program. They're already filled most hours and Ken Mercer, vice president of the ValleyCare Foundation, is now searching for more dollars to double the size of the emergency room once again. He sees no let-up in the growing numbers of Pleasanton and Tri-Valley residents—the area ValleyCare serves—who are losing adequate health care coverage from employers who no longer can pay for the coverage. Hundreds who have lost jobs at WaMu, Circuit City, Mervyn's and Expo live here and are among the new financially-challenged who are lacking health care for the first time.

Many of these are also first-time patients at Axis. Although it has no emergency room facilities, it is the area's primary health and mental care provider for those with no insurance. Last year, that number rose to an all-time high of 14,000, and it's up 7 percent so far this year. Axis CEO Sue Compton says 30 percent of those live in Pleasanton with an increasing number also suffering depression and anxieties and need professional counseling. Axis just opened a new 5,600-square-foot Behavioral Health center on Owens Drive where its nine counseling stations are already filled each day. Compton also reports that Pleasanton now has the highest rate of hospitalizations for depression of any city in Alameda County. Axis also has a 30-day waiting list before patients can be seen. That's actually better than similar facilities in Hayward and Oakland that are so over-booked, they no longer offer waiting lists. Compton's only good news in terms of patient load at Axis is that prenatal care visits have dropped slightly as more women apparently choose to delay motherhood until the economy improves.

Financially, both Axis and ValleyCare are seeing brighter days for a change. Axis just received federal stimulus funds totaling \$650,000 for each of the next two years with the caveat that they must be used for hiring more doctors, extending service hours and facilities. But there's no additional money for laboratories or medical tests. The federal grant proved to be a double-edged sword. Citing the stimulus funds, the Pleasanton Human Relations Commission recently gave Axis only \$9,000 of the \$20,000 that had been requested in its annual grant awards program, with one member saying that Axis had other revenue sources to draw on. Axis is hoping to gain more revenue for medical care and behavioral health services through its current fundraiser in Pleasanton, with raffle tickets available at several central locations for \$20 each or six for \$100.

At ValleyCare, the state's budget crisis stalled Medi-Cal reimbursements for months, forcing the health care system to draw on reserves to cover patient costs. With state payments now back on track, the hospital is slowly being reimbursed for those missed payments. Still, ValleyCare works continuously to raise funds needed to add to its services and facilities, including an annual golf tournament that provides about \$85,000, its popular Christmas Tree Lane function, the Livermore wine auction and proceeds donated by the Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Committee. This year, the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund contributed \$19,245.

Even with these best efforts at the local level, the rapidly rising number of Pleasanton residents who are uninsured and or under-insured increasingly is placing serious and growing strains on the institutions expected to provide health care. In a region and state seriously short of funds, a national solution may be needed. ■

**PLEASANTON
WEEKLY**

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Letters

Post office should have lowered flag

Dear Editor,

While flags around town are at half staff, I guess our local post office didn't feel the need to be as respectful to the fallen Oakland police officers. They should be ashamed.

Patti Miller

Fighting the brave fight

Dear Editor,

I listened to the Oakland police officer's memorial on the radio while I went about my work the other day. I had tears in my eyes all morning as I listened to the dignitaries and eulogies spoken so eloquently. I had six family members present in the Oracle Arena. My wife was there with her two sisters and sister-in law. Sitting near them were her brother and niece, both wearing blue. One, a soon to retire Oakland officer, the other, a new to the force San Jose officer.

I realized that either one of these family members could have been in this same situation at anytime during any of their work shifts. They share a bond that I will never know because of the danger they face everyday.

The four slain officers knew the risks that they faced every time they put on their uniforms, badges and guns. They knew that their fellow officers would always have their backs. They knew that they would share stories of their last shift with family and friends. A routine traffic stop and four good men die. These officers knew it could happen someday, but not on that day. Bless the families of these servants. Bless the family of blue who serve and protect. Bless my brother-in-law and niece. To them I can only say this: serve well, stay strong and come home to your family after every shift. We love you.

Dave Maduell

Thank you for coverage of Sgt. Dunakin

Dear Editor,

A photo of my wife Ellen and I in Kauai, Hawaii is on page 8 of The Weekly's March 27 issue for the "Take Us Along" section.

I wanted to thank you for putting us in the same edition as Sgt. Mark Dunakin, one of the four Oakland police officers who was murdered on March 21 in the line of duty. I retired from the Oakland Police Department at the rank of sergeant two years ago after 30 years of service. Mark was a good friend and I worked alongside him on many occasions. Mark was an easygoing regular guy and he would truly have been humbled by the nice article and attention your paper gave him. The communities have provided an incredible amount of support during this tragic incident and period of mourning.

I witnessed many fire departments, police officers, and caring citizens standing on the overpasses and lining the streets to salute the funeral procession as it traveled through Pleasanton. I believe I can speak for the entire Oakland Police family

when I say that we cannot thank the community and fellow law enforcement agencies enough for all their support and prayers. Mark is a true hero and it is an honor to grace the same newspaper pages with him.

Joseph Aguirre

AIG execs should be fired for mismanagement

Dear Editor,

The AIG executive bonus situation is an insult to American intelligence and public.

Regardless of contractual obligation, bonuses should be awarded (the operative word here is "awarded") for performance above and beyond, for success, not failure. Since the government has ownership, may we suggest that the bonus recipients be offered the choice of volunteering declining possession of the bonuses or possession of their employment?

Actually they should be fired anyway for mismanagement.

Howard and Emilie Seebach

Enough is enough: let Stoneridge, Staples proceed

Dear Editor,

During our many pleasurable years in Pleasanton, there have been, from time to time, some loose cannons on the decks of our sturdy civic ship who seemed to want to make up their own rules.

Times and circumstances change, but some of our current and former elected or appointed officials refuse to remove their emotional, egotistical or neighborhood biased blinders. Now, for one of the few times in my memory since 1992, I can applaud a majority City Council. Thank you Mayor Hosterman, councilmembers Thorne and Kallio for your decision on the Stoneridge extension, Staples and earlier, Oak Grove.

You did what you were elected to do. All who live here should share in the gain and pain experienced by our city growth and evolution. In the east Stoneridge area, it is good to note in Weekly online forum comments, that many residents who located there and do support the extension noticed a four-lane road, wide medians and a tall sound wall, a good indication of future plans. During the Feb. 23 council meeting, I was angered but not surprised when Sullivan and McGovern proceeded to nitpick the EIR with the obvious intent to prevent the extension, which could sink Staples improvements within our city limits and future city revenues.

Later, planning commissioners Fox and O'Connor step forward with possible negative litigation. Then in the Weekly issue of the March 27, former councilwoman Kay Ayala, has the effrontery to state against the extension, "why would the council want to put the community through another referendum debate."

Enough is enough.

Gerry Brunken

Why can't Amador play music, announce games?

Dear Editor,

I would like to know why all teams have been told that they are not to

play music or announce the games at Amador Valley High School sporting events? We are talking about sporting events that occur between the hours of 2 until 9 p.m. AVHS has worked diligently to lower the volume and has turned off the speakers on the visitor's side of the field.

Every other school that we compete against has music and announcers for their games. All music has been cleared by the vice principal at AVHS. Our students and parents have complied with the many restrictions that have been put forth in recent years.

I did some research with the Pleasanton Police Department and I was told that all schools are exempt from noise abatement laws in Pleasanton. So what exactly is the problem? We have a few neighbors who purchased houses near a high school who want to shut down our student's high school experience? What next, no baseball, soccer, football, lacrosse at Sports Park? No cheering, whistle blowing, clapping, music, cheerleaders at Amador?

Janis Giovacchini

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

• **PCUP-238, William Webster and Sandi Bohner (Little Valley Winery)**

Application for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a wine tasting room, retail store, and outdoor seating area at 739 Main Street, Suite J.

• **PUD 75/PGPA 14, PSPA 3, Don Babbitt/Heartwood Communities**

Application to (1) amend the General Plan; (2) amend the Happy Valley Specific Plan; (3) rezone approximately 6.13 acres; and for (4) a Planned Unit Development plan for six lots located at 1157 Happy Valley Road.

• **PTR 8004, Pamela Hardy, Ponderosa Homes II, Inc.**

Application for Vesting Tentative Map approval to subdivide an approximately 23.1 acre site located at 1 Reimers Drive in the Ironwood Planned Unit Development into 110 single-family home lots plus four common area parcels.

Housing Commission

Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approval of Annual Operating Budget for Kottinger Place for Fiscal Year 2009/10
- Approval of Annual Agency Plan Update for the Pleasanton Housing Authority
- Acceptance of Annual Housing Authority Independent Audit for the Year Ending June 30, 2008
- Report on Status of Kottinger Place Redevelopment Project
- Discussion Regarding Housing Commission Orientation Workshop

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training

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

LFPD - 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

Man stabbed at his house by uninvited guest

A 22-year-old Pleasanton man is recovering, listed in stable condition, after sustaining three stab wounds Saturday at his house party.

[READ MORE/COMMENT](#)

TownSquare Forum



Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Two-alarm blaze hits Pleasanton drug company

Firefighters donned special protective clothing April 3 to put out a fire at SuperGen, Inc., a drug development company at 1059 Serpentine Lane in the Stanley Business Park off Valley Avenue.

Faced with large HAZMAT (Hazardous Materials) warning signs on the large office and laboratory build-

ing, firefighters from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department moved cautiously into the building to attack the blaze. Company employees worked with LFPD officers and their HAZMAT team during the operation to ensure that any exposure was kept to a minimum.

Once discovered, the fire was escalated to a second alarm at 6:15 p.m. because of a large number of chemicals in the building. At one time, eight fire trucks were called to the site although only three were eventually needed to extinguish the blaze.

Firefighters said that although the blaze was extinguished quickly, the facility sustained some water damage because the overhead sprinkler system was activated.

Police Report

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

March 31

- Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:52 a.m. in the 3600 block of Pontina Court
 - 8:58 a.m. in the 300 block of Happy Valley Road
 - 12:09 p.m. in the 200 block of Tomas Way
 - 5:22 p.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

April 1

- Theft:
 - 11:44 a.m. in the 4100 block of Alba Court; identity theft

- 1:28 p.m. in the 600 block of Rose Avenue; identity theft
- 2:12 p.m. in the 600 block of Rose Avenue; grand theft
- 2:36 p.m. in the 800 block of Montevino Drive; identity theft
- 6:12 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 8:28 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 7:06 a.m. in the 500 block of St. Mary Street
 - 10:05 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Santa Rita Road
- Burglary:
 - 5:20 a.m. in the 4100 block of Mohr Avenue; vehicular
 - 10:58 p.m. in the 4000 block of

- West Las Positas Boulevard
- Lost property:
 - 11:49 a.m. in the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive
- April 2**
- Theft:
 - 5:49 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; grand theft
 - 6:03 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft, forgery
- Vandalism:
 - 1:13 p.m. at the intersection of Black Avenue and Hopyard Road
- Burglary:
 - 6:03 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 8:43 a.m. in the 1 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; public drunkenness
 - 1:50 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; controlled substance possession
 - 8:06 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; controlled substance possession, under the influence of a controlled substance
- Vehicle break-in:
 - 9:24 .m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

April 3

- Theft:
 - 8:32 a.m. in the 1100 block of Hearst Drive; forgery
 - 9:33 a.m. in the 400 block of Vineyard Avenue; identity theft
 - 4:39 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft
- Vandalism:
 - 11:30 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
 - 1:15 p.m. in the 3700 block of Hopyard Road
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:04 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Gibraltar Drive; DUI
 - 2:05 a.m. in the 100 block of Old Bernal Avenue; public drunkenness
 - 5:08 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; selling a controlled substance
 - 11:34 p.m. in the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue; public drunkenness
- Battery:
 - 4:18 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

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Transitions

Obituaries

Tura Lee Hammond Goldblum

Tura Lee Hammond Goldblum died March 10 after a short illness at the age of 89. Her loving children and grandchildren were at her side.

Mrs. Goldblum was born May 12, 1919 in Sylva, Miss. to William and Oattie Hammond, the second of 12 children. Her younger siblings cherish her memory as their "second mother" who helped care for them with advice and love. Being adventurous, she joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during World War II, and eventually became an officer. She met the love of her life, Kirby D. Goldblum (COL, USA, Ret.) at



Fort Dix, N.J. They married in 1946 and remained so until Mr. Goldblum's death in 1980.

Although she had many talents as an Army Lieutenant, she chose to retire and wholeheartedly support her husband and her family as they travelled through the United States, Europe and the Middle East. She devoted herself to her family by being its strength: packing, unpacking, moving, communicating in the language of whatever country they lived in and bringing peace and harmony to a hectic military life. She also devoted herself to her strong faith which kept her children safe and eventually brought her beloved husband into the Christian church. She had, as her family believed, the Hotline to Heaven and inspired many with her strength of character, sweet smile and sparkling eyes. In 2003, she moved to California to live with her daughter, grandchildren and youngest son, living in Danville and Pleasanton.

Mrs. Goldblum is survived by her devoted children, Kyle (Andi), Shelley, Doug (Candida), Keith (Lynn) and Gary; her loving grandchildren, Chris, Sarah, Rachael, Jenna, Marina, Matthew,

Megan, Chelsea, Evan, Alex and Lauren; and great-grandchild, Isabella. She has eight surviving siblings: Dee, Marjorie, Juanita, VonCile, Deloras, John, Jackie and Yvonne; many nieces and nephews and her caretakers, Bobbie and Charlene. She was predeceased by her husband, Kirby, her parents, her brother and two sisters.

Services were held March 10 at the historic Lighthouse Baptist Church in Pleasanton. Her favorite hymns were sung, raising our spirits and hearts. A poignant remembrance was offered by her son, Keith, Psalms 23 was read by grandchildren Sarah, Marina, Matthew and Megan with the "Amen" contributed by great-granddaughter Isabella.

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John Cardente, Regional Manager,
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Staged
DUI crash
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home real
drunk
driving
dangers
in time
for spring
break

by Emily West

It began with an alcohol-fueled teen house party and ended with a fatal car crash. While this particular incident was fake, the Every 15 Minutes anti-DUI demonstration is as real as it gets.

As spring break begins today and continues into next week, students at Amador Valley High School may think twice about involving alcohol in their break festivities.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 7,653 drivers ages 15 to 20 were involved in fatal traffic crashes across the nation in 2006. Eighteen percent (or 1,377 of the drivers) had a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher, despite it being illegal for teens to drink. The NHTSA also said 64 percent of those drivers died as a result of the crash.

When the nationwide educational program began in the 1990s, it was estimated that every 15 minutes, someone in the United States died from an alcohol-related collision. While Officer Jim Boland of the Pleasanton Police Department said the statistic is around the 30-minute mark today, he says the figure is still unacceptable.

The demonstration is shown to high school juniors and seniors annually and alternates between the two high schools each year. It has current students depict all that goes into a DUI crash, including everything from partying to a funeral for lost students. Pleasanton police and fire departments, as well as emergency crews and the county coroner, also take a role in the program, performing their duties as if it were real.

On April 1, juniors and seniors crowded around an eerily realistic crash scene on Del Valle Parkway. Meanwhile, a film crew captured the events, with the edited version shown at an assembly the following day.

The story played out on a screen in the AVHS large gym, as junior and senior students and several parents watched on. Teens packed a house party, pretending to drink hard liquor from the bottle and downing beer from red plastic cups. Just as everyone was at the height of inebriation, they were kicked out of the house. In the shuffle to get home, senior Scott Arellano, who was one of the actors in the mock incident, hitched a ride with a drunken friend who professed to be okay to drive. A girl who had only drunk soda drove two other friends home in a separate car, laughing about the night's events.

Arellano was visibly uncomfortable being the passenger, making several attempts to take control of the

wheel. The drunk driver continued steering erratically, saying "don't touch my wheel, man."

Then the screen went black as sounds of tires screeching and cars crunching reverberated from the gym speakers. The video then cut to last Wednesday's scene of a simulated car crash.

The drunk driver had hit the other car on the passenger side. Arellano, in a bright green shirt, was sprawled across the hood of a red sedan, having gone through the windshield. In the other car, a young man was unresponsive hanging out of the front passenger window and a young woman was trapped in the rear passenger side seat.

Firemen were able to remove Arellano by sliding him onto a body board, but had to remove the roof of the car to extract the other two.

As police questioned the drunk driver, he found an empty beer bottle in the car. After failing the field sobriety tests, the young man was handcuffed and brought to the Pleasanton police station.

"At first when we were putting on the makeup we were laughing," Arellano said after the mock crash.

But when the tarps hiding the scene until the demonstration began were removed, there was what he referred to as "dead silence."

"I felt helpless," he said. "Only the firefighters could help us. It was intense and emotional."

Emergency crews extracted him and two others from the cars. Arellano was sent off in a helicopter headed for Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley—the nearest hospital with a trauma center. The other young man was pronounced dead on the scene by the Alameda County coroner and placed into a body bag. The young woman traveled to ValleyCare Medical Center in an ambulance.

Video crews followed the students to the hospital. At ValleyCare, doctors touched the young woman's toes, legs and arms, asking if she felt the prodding. An x-ray illuminated her condition: a broken spine.

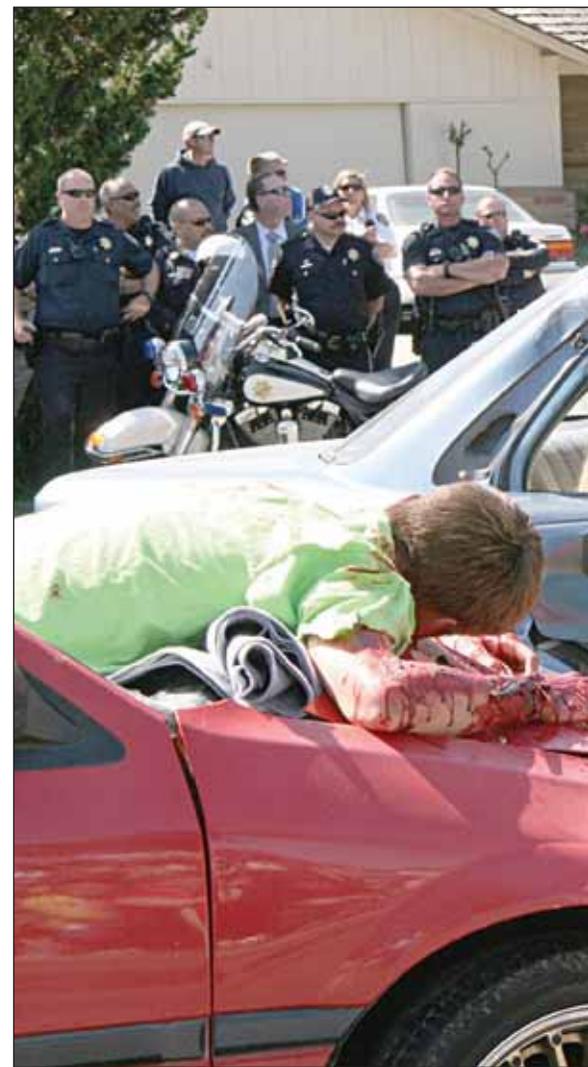
At Eden, the medical staff was shown giving care to Arellano. Doctors recited medical jargon until finally saying "there's no pulse." Having been identified by his parents, he was put in a body bag and stored in a morgue freezer.

"That was creepy," he said. "The metal bed was freezing. When the door closed, the light turned off. It was really bizarre."

But while he said he's never personally driven under the influence, Arellano said he has learned to be more proactive about influencing other people not to drink and drive.

As for his parents, while they knew what they were getting into, he said they found it to be more realistic than they had anticipated. Parents were also a part of the demonstration as they showed real emotion when hearing their teen's fate from a doctor, coroner or police officer.

Incident Commander Barry Rose of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department said it is important for the



Firefighters from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department as

fire department to join with the police to be proactive in preventing these kinds of events.

"I've been in the business for over 28 years and I can't remember the number of calls I've been to like these," Rose said. "We continue to have [calls for incidences like these] far more often than we would like."

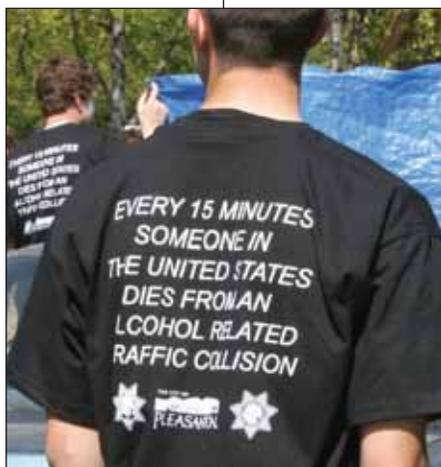
Officer Boland has been in charge of the Every 15 Minutes program for the last four years. While most schools have the demonstration on a football field, in Pleasanton, they have made it a point to have it on the street and make it as real as possible.

He understands that it may not impact each and every student, but still finds the program to be invaluable.

"You can see which ones it impacts," he said. "If I can save one life, this whole thing is worth it."

In his presentation to the students, Boland said he knows that drinking goes on in Pleasanton. For those who will still continue to drink, he encouraged them to be brave and ask parents for a ride. They may not be happy about their teen drinking, he said, but parents don't want to pick up their son or daughter at the police department, or worse yet, the hospital.

Crashes like the one emulated at Amador can be all



Shirts worn by the "living dead," those who marked as casualties but still roamed around campus, reveal the statistic that the Every 15 Minutes program hopes to abolish.



The sober driver involved in the staged collision is consoled by a firefighter as crews continue to extract the others from the cars.



A passenger was pronounced dead on the scene by the county coroner, who was placed in a body bag.



After failing two field sobriety tests, the driver driving under the influence of alcohol.



... assess the injuries of those involved in the crash. While the incident is staged, emergency crews act as if it were a real call.

... too real; Pleasanton residents may remember from recent history. Nineteen-year-old 2006 Foothill grad Laurel Williams was killed Oct. 20, 2007 in a drunken driving crash on Foothill Road. The driver, Williams' friend Katie McKewon, also 19 at the time, registered a .23 blood alcohol level, more than three times the legal limit for drivers who are 21. The collision also involved another vehicle, whose driver was seriously injured. The girls were said to have been dropped off where Laurel's car was parked at a restaurant in Dublin and were heading a short way to Pleasanton. McKewon is currently serving a four-year sentence at a state prison in Chowchilla, Calif. after being convicted of gross vehicular manslaughter and DUI causing great bodily injury. Paul Stonebarger, 23, was sentenced March 28 to 90 days in county jail for supplying alcohol for the party the two girls attended.

Both Williams and McKewon were said to have seen the Every 15 Minutes demonstration while in high school.

Kathy Pace Williams learned of her daughter's fate after a police chaplain and officers knocked on her door soon after the crash. She, and Laurel's dad Ken Williams, shared her story to a packed gym a day after the mock crash was filmed.

"I'm here for Laurel," she said, adding that she was too distraught to speak at the assembly last year at Foothill. "We will [speak at these assemblies] each and every time."

Speaking through tears, Pace Williams urged the students to have the courage that Laurel didn't have that day—to not get into the car with a drunk driver.

Since her death, Laurel's parents have been going through the process of grieving, but were also faced with reliving that day through several court hearings for McKewon and Stonebarger.

"Laurel was not that different from you," Ken Williams said at the assembly. "Parents, you're not different than I." "I'm not here to tell you what to do," he said to teens in the audience. "But know that the choices you make could put you on a path to the end of your life."

Also speaking at the assembly was Kassandra Kearns, who at 14 years old was the lone survivor of what the California Highway Patrol called an "unsurvivable crash" in 2004 on Interstate 680 in Pleasant Hill.

"Everyone says I should be happy to be alive," Kearns said. "I'm grateful, but I can't be happy."

Instead, she said she is the one to live to tell the stories of her lost friends. ■



... ver of the red car was arrested for



The "living dead" paid their condolences to their "slain" classmate at the follow-up assembly the day after the staged crash.



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MEDITERRANEAN

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

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2008

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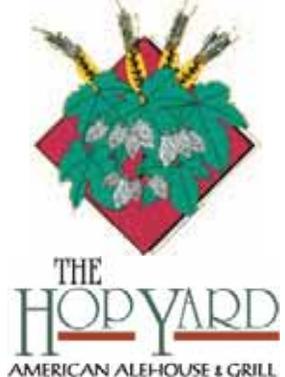
Easter Brunch at FAZ

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READERS CHOICE
2008



BEST OF PLEASANTON
2007



BEST OF PLEASANTON
2006

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ON THE TOWN



also. Owner Matteo Pasotto is from Verona and he wanted to name his restaurant after the famous Amarone wines from the Valpolicella region. Amarone is a very peculiar wine, not easy to produce. The final result is a very ripe, big-bodied wine with very little acid. Come and experience unique dining at Amarone Ristorante. Buon Appetito! www.amaronepleasanton.com

La Vite Ristorante

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

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3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner

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Closed Monday

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an extensive menu, including our renowned pizza, Italian dishes, salads and sandwiches. We also have wine, beer, patio dining and games for kids. Come for groups, take out and call-ahead lunch orders. We're open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

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Living



She said yes: Terry Messick said I do to local news and to Barry Cass' proposal. The two celebrated their engagement on Catalina Island and were married Oct. 4 at Trinity Lutheran Church.



Pleasanton, meet Polynesia: Steve and Paula Evans packed the Pleasanton Weekly along with snorkel gear as they explored the warm, cerulean waters—complete with giant clams and tropical fish—around the Polynesian Cook Islands of Aitutaki and Rarotonga.



Reunion read: Bill and Janine Clark brought along the Weekly at Glass Beach in Kauai during a family reunion.

TAKE US ALONG Spring is here, and traveling is in the air



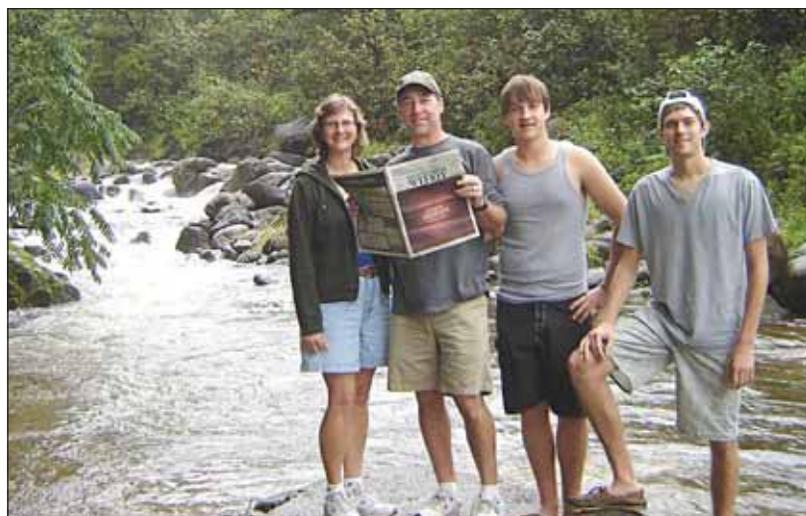
No boys allowed: (Above) Longtime Pleasanton resident Claire Heppner (center) had an "all girls trip" to the Cayman Islands, complete with a visit to the Turtle Farm, snorkeling, beach walking and reading the Pleasanton Weekly. Joining her were step-mother Enid Gardner, sisters Virginia Pileggi and Grace Gardner, and niece Rachel Pileggi.

Cruisin' with the Weekly: (Right) Madison Titus, a fourth-grader at Sunol Glen School, read the Weekly while sailing aboard the Carnival Spirit with parents Gary and Dana, brother Andrew and baby sister Sage. The ship made stops in Manzanillo, Mexico, as well as Acapulco and Ixtapa.



Lair of the Weekly: (Above) Steve, Matt, Jan and Adam Pinney gladly help Oski the bear catch up on local news at UC Berkeley's Lair of the Bear Alumni Camp Oski, located at Pinecrest Lake.

Hawaiian New Year: (Left) Mary Kay, Jeff, Daniel and Andrew Sayles made a pit stop at the base of Mt. Wai'ale'ale in Kauai, also known as the wettest spot on Earth.



Lights, camera, plenty of CIFF action

Livermore plays host to independent film festival April 16-19

Roll out the red carpet, because Livermore is again hosting the California Independent Film Festival. In its 11th year, the festival will bring indie features, documentaries, shorts and animations—as well as VIP parties and other events—from Thursday, April 16 through Sunday, April 19.

The following is a brief schedule of events. To learn more about the festival and ticket prices, call 371-0100 or visit www.CalIndieFilmFest.org.

April 16

The Opening Night Reception features the cast and crew of the film "How To Be" starring "Twilight" star Robert Pattinson at the Firehouse Bistro & Books followed by a full screening of the film at the Bankhead Theater.

April 17

In addition to film screenings at the

Vine Cinema, there will be a filmmaker party for the 2009 Golden Slate Award for Oscar-nominated Director Mark Rydell "On Golden Pond."

April 18

Film screenings continue at the Vine and Livermore cinemas. There will be a filmmakers' breakfast with star of "Our Gang" short, Livermore resident Dorothy DeBorba as well as a screening of "Rain Man" with Oscar recipient Barry Morrow and the real rain man Kim Peek. A gala awards dinner will honor Diane Ladd at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville.

April 19

After film screenings at the Vine Cinema, the closing night movie will be "War Eagle, Arkansas."

—Emily West



Say 'aloha' to the new harvest festival

Due to popular demand, the Harvest Festival Art and Craft Show has brought a spring Hawaiian-themed festival in Pleasanton. Held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., the festival will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 17-18 and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 19. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for ages 13-17 and kids 12 and under are free. Ticket discounts are available. This year, the show is helping Valley Humane Society raise funds through money collected from bag sales, parcel checks and \$500 from the festival. To learn more about the vendors and other details, call 415-447-3205 or visit www.harvestfestival.com.

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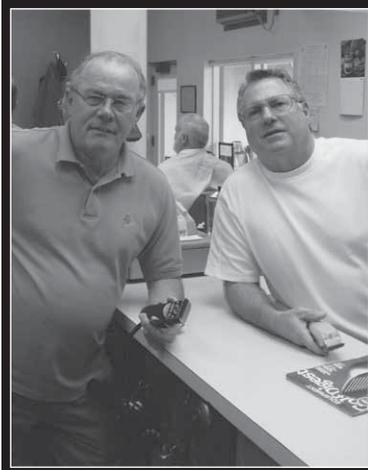
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Transportation Forum in East County

Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore Unincorporated County

The public is invited to hear about and discuss transportation project details, schedules, and contracting opportunities at an East County Transportation Forum. The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority, in conjunction with its Citizens Advisory Committee and partnering agencies, will host the forum which features presentations on major transportation projects and programs that will be implemented within the next five years.

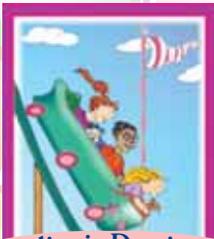
This Transportation Forum will feature the following presentations:

- **Active Transportation**
 - National Initiative plus Local Efforts Supporting Kids, Commuters and Communities
- **Walking and Biking Systems and Projects**
 - East Bay Regional Park District – Trails
 - City of Pleasanton Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan
 - Bicycle Safety Education Classes
- **Transit Moves Masses**
 - WHEELS Route 10 – Rapid Bus
 - Pleasanton Downtown Route for Seniors
 - BART to Livermore Study
- **Highway Systems Integration Improves Efficiency**
 - I-680 HOT Lanes
 - I-580 Corridor Improvements
 - Route 84 Interchange and Expressway

April 16, 2009 • 6:30 p.m.
at Dublin City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza, Dublin, CA 94568
Open House at 6:30PM. Formal Presentations at 7:00PM. For more information, contact Tess Lengyel or Keonnis Taylor at 510-893-3347.

These projects and programs are funded through Measure B, Alameda County's half-cent transportation sales tax.

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Calendar

Careers

Free Career Skills Workshop

Volunteers at St. Clare's Episcopal Church will help participants write resumes, fill out forms, search job postings on-line and get the resources they need from 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 18, at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd. Those able are asked to donate canned food to pass on to those who need it. Call 462-4802.

Civic Meetings

East County Transportation Forum

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority and sponsoring agencies will host a forum from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 16, at Dublin City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza. The forum will focus on major transportation projects being implemented in the local area in the next 5 years. Call (510) 893-3347.

Clubs

Career Networking Event for Executives

Executives are invited to a Breakfast Career Networking meeting for mid- and senior-management from 7:30-9:30 a.m., on the third Tuesday of every month, at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Cost is \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members if pre-registered; \$35 at the door. Call 218-1868.

Hacienda Toastmasters Open House

Come to this club's Open House and learn how to become a better speaker and leader from 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., Thursday, April 23, at Hacienda Terrace, 4305 Hacienda Dr., First Floor. Refreshments and snacks will be served. The group is open to everyone and usually meets every Thursday, from noon-1 p.m. Call 426-7767.

Hearing Loss Association of America

This chapter will host guest speaker Barbara Bell a clinical social worker who works with hard of hearing and deaf people at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 16, at Valley Community Church,

4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Meetings are open to the public and free; refreshments are served. Call 455-6591.

Concerts

'Special Blend' Celebrate Earth Day at a free concert on the lawn with the vocal jazz group "Special Blend" at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Rd., Livermore. Bring a blanket and a picnic lunch. Call 743-9427.

Events

Brain Fitness Join Dr. John Ratey as he discusses exciting new insights into how physical and mental activity contribute to better brain function from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, April 15, at Las Positas College, Building 2500, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Cost is \$5, plus \$2 for parking. Call 424-1217.

Dublin Pride Week Volunteer to help Dublin's community by donating canned goods, participate in a Solar Cities or Water-Wise workshop, enter in the Dublin Pride Week Poster Contest and more. Visit www.dublin-prideweek.com for details.

Reception for SN Gear Gary A. Winter will unveil his new line of motivational artwork and life style products, SN Gear, from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at Alexander's Fine Art, 608 Main St. Call 518-4674.

Rollie Fingers to Sign Wine Bottles Major League Baseball Hall of Famer and former Oakland A's pitching great, Rollie Fingers, will be introducing and signing a new collection of California wines featuring Baseball Hall of Fame players from noon-2 p.m., Saturday, April 11, at Raley's, 5420 Sunol Blvd.

Film

'The Century of Self' Part one and two of the BBC series by Adam Curtis "The Century of Self" will be played at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. A meet and greet will begin at 6:30 p.m. This event is free, but donations of \$3 will be accepted. Refreshments will be provided. Call 462-3459.

Premier of 'Ten Minutes to Burn' "Ten Minutes to Burn," the latest film by Nick, Ann, and Lisa Gentile and filmed at Me & My Friend's Cafe will be screened at the 2009 California Independent Film Festival at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at Vine Cinema, 1722 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$8. Call 518-4436 or visit www.caindiefilmfest.org.

Fundraisers

Mad Hatter's Tea Party Come to the Mad Hatter's Tea Party hosted by Assistance League of Amador Valley from noon-4 p.m., Saturday, April 25, at Aames Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. Cost is \$45. Proceeds fund local programs. Call 371-4566 or visit www.amador-valley.assistanceleague.org.

Primavera Dinner Dance Italian Catholic Federation will host a Primavera Dinner Dance at 6 p.m., Saturday, May 2, at St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. Cost is \$30 per person, including wine with a full course dinner. Proceeds benefit Tri-Valley Scholarship Program and other ICF charities. Reservations are due by April 27; call Don at 846-8435 or Anna or Mike at 484-1523.

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Learn at Lunch Program Lynne Schonder, RD, will be the guest speaker at the next Learn at Lunch program from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 22, at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. She will talk about "Food for Thought: Nutrition Tips for Your Mind & Body." This event is free. Call 734-3315.

Holiday

Easter Egg Hunt Living Vine Fellowship will host a special Easter service and Egg Hunt from 10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Sunday, April 12, at the church, 4100 First St. Refreshments will be provided. Call

Easter Egg Hunt Tesla Vintners will host an Easter Egg Hunt at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 11, at 5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Kids will enjoy arts and crafts and a coloring contest with prizes; parents will sample wines and listen to live music. Cost is \$5 per child. Call 606-9463.

Kids & Teens

Build a Bouquet for Mom Kids ages 6-11 are invited to make paper flowers for a bouquet for mom with two sessions at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at Golden Apple Learning Store, 4807 Hopyard Rd. This event is free, but early registration is recommended as space is limited. Call 460-5163.

Healthy Kids Day Tri-Valley YMCA will celebrate Healthy Kids Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at Val Vista Park, 4451 Payne Rd. The day includes games, crafts and entertainment for children and there will be materials for parents and healthy experts for questions. This event is free.

Theatrical Sneak Peek at the Library A children's theater preview at the Pleasanton Public Library as Pleasanton's Civic Arts Stage Company presents excerpts from "Ramona Quimby" at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 11, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This event is free. Best suited for children 5 years and older. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

Lectures/ Workshops

'Defiance' In commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Cong. Beth Emek will present Stan Felson, at 7 p.m., Sunday, April 19, at 3400 Nevada Court. Stan, one of the few remaining Jewish partisans, will share his experiences and miraculous survival. This event is free.

Live Music

Ballroom Dancing Dance to the sounds of Don Veca Big Band from 7-9:30 p.m., Friday, April 17, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Ages 18 and older are welcome. Advance tickets are \$7R/\$8N; \$8R/\$9N at the door. Call 931-5365.

Miscellaneous

Cat Care Month Adoption Drive Fresh Step litter, Lucky stores and the East Bay SPCA will host a Cat Care Month Adoption Drive from noon-3 p.m., Saturday, April 11, at Lucky's, 2000 Portola Ave., Livermore. A variety of cats will be present and available for adoption.

Free E-Waste and Unused/Expired Pharmaceutical Collection Event City of Pleasanton will host a free E-Waste collection from noon-5 p.m., Friday, April 17; 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, April 18-19, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, through Gate 12 off of Valley Ave. There will also be a free unused or expired pharmaceutical drug drop-off on Saturday, April 18, at the same location. Call 931-5500 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

On Stage

'Ramona Quimby' Amador Theater presents "Ramona Quimby" at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, April 17-18 and 24-25; and at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 19 and 26, Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. Tickets are \$14, \$18 and \$20 for adults; \$8, \$12 and \$16 for children and seniors, aged 62 and over. Call 931-3444.

'Working' Las Positas College presents a musical production, "Working," which is based on the book by Studs Terkel March 27-April 19, at 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. For information, call 424-1100.

Political Notes

Rabbi on Mideast Peace Perspectives Tri-Valley Democratic Club will host guest speaker Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb who will discuss the situation in the Middle East and prospects for peace at 7 p.m., Monday, April 20, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. A Q&A and a discussion will follow her presentation. This event is free and is open to the public. Call 831-8355 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

Scholarships

Foothill AABC Scholarships Foothill AABC Club is offering six scholarships of \$500 each to Foothill High seniors. The application form is on the Web site www.foothillfalcons.org in AABC Section in scholarships. The forms are also at the Foothill HS office with Mrs. Bing. The last date to submit is April 13.

Tri-Valley Republican Women Scholarship Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated will award college scholarships of \$500 each to two high school seniors who submit winning entries in a non-partisan essay contest by April 22. Winners will be announced May 1. Visit www.trivalley-republicanwomen.org.

Seniors

Save Money, Water and Help the Environment Water is becoming a scarcer resource in California. Learn about how water is used, how we can use less to save our environment, our pocket books and learn about cash rebates available to help with water savings from 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 14, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.50 for residents; \$2 for non-

residents. Call 931-5365.

Senior Health Fair Health professionals will be on hand to answer health and medical questions from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 18, at Ridge View Common, 5200 Case Ave. This event is free to the public. Call 484-5131.

Spiritual

'Living the Easter Message' Tri-Valley Unity Church will host Easter services with the theme of "Living the Easter Message: Everything is Holy Now" at 10 a.m., Sunday, April 12, at its new meeting place, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Call 998-0038 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Centerpointe Easter Services Centerpointe Presbyterian Church will host Easter services including

sunrise services at 6 a.m. at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park; a blended traditional worship service at 9 a.m. and a band-led contemporary service at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, April 12, at 3410 Cornerstone Dr. There will be two free Easter egg hunts after the last service. Call 846-4436.

Sports

Adult Bocce League Adult beginner and advanced bocce leagues are forming and team rosters are due by April 13. Games are played from 6-9:30 p.m., Wednesdays for beginners and Thursdays for advanced, played at Centennial Community Park. Cost is \$96 per team; \$5 non-residential fee. Fees and rosters are due at time of registration. Call Delcea Wills at 931-3447.



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Sports

Parent photographers

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



Foothill boys volleyball beats Cal at Northgate tourney

The Foothill Boys Varsity Volleyball team returned victorious from the 2009 Northgate Tournament last Saturday after a seven-win, zero-loss day in Concord and Walnut Creek. The Falcons demolished teams from Concord, Mt. Diablo and Las Lomas in pool play, then defeated Logan and Chico all in two games each. In the semifinals, Foothill played against the undefeated team of Cal, who had beaten the Falcons in five games in the EBAL match earlier this

season. The third and deciding game was a classic heavyweight fight finally won by the Falcons 22-20, with each team surviving several match points. It was the first time Foothill has beaten Cal since 2007. In the final, Foothill played the host team Northgate, also undefeated this season, with wildly cheering fans on both sides of the court. Playing with confidence and consistency, the Falcons won 25-20, 20-25, 15-12. It was a total team effort, led by Coach Dusty Collins.



Cavaliers pound Danville Oaks 57-10 in rugby

In their fourth undefeated game of the season, the Pleasanton Cavaliers creamed the Danville Oaks Rugby Football Club, 57-10, on March 28 at San Ramon Middle School. Oscar Harris propelled the team with the first try of the game, leading 5-0. Sprinting headlong down the field, Justin Marino scored, 24-5, hot on the heels of a Ryan Maples' quick-footed try minutes earlier.

Danville pushed back with an equally unchallenged leap, which sped the team up 24-10. Marino kicked it up a notch with two tries while Ryan Mende continued reeling in the points, furthering the Cavaliers' lead, 41-10. Barreling through the Danville players, Estavan de Jesus Ibarra fed the ball to Kingston Cameron, who scored, 48-10. Joshua Parr landed the final score, 57-10, with a last try and conversion. After a grueling back-and-forth between the two teams, the Danville Oaks barely managed to squeeze by with 10 points to their name.

Although this is the Cavaliers' first season as a team, they are forging ahead with four wins under their belt. For more information, visit www.pleasantonrugbyclub.com.

—Anne-Marie Harrison

Dons hold their own at meet

The Amador Valley Dons showed they could hold their own recently and finished seventh out of 39 teams with the girls finishing fifth out of 31 teams and the boys finishing 13th out of 29 teams.

Catherine Breed won the Individual High Point Award and winning and qualified for All-American in the two events she swam (200 IM & 100 Fly). In the 100 fly, her time in the broke the meet record, and also broke Amador's school record (previously held by Cathy Coler, '00).

Five more girl swimmers qualified for North Coast individually. Danielle Stickler placed third in the 100 backstroke, Houston finished third in the breaststroke and seventh in the IM; and Wong placed 11th in the IM and qualified in the 100 fly. Schmidt qualified in both the 200 and 500 free while Casey Coughlin also qualified in the 500 free. The dive team also held their own against stiff competition. In an 11 dive meet, Tyler Pullen came in fourth place (out of 16) with a score of 459.05, Alexa Hernandez came in 18th (out of 42 girls) with 343.25, Emma Rigl came in 21st with 307.75, Marina Mihov (24th) with 286.45.

Jake Bahls brought home a first in the grueling 500 free and a second in the 200 to lead the Amador Valley varsity boys to a third place finish in the Second Annual Tom Wilson Invitational held at the Amador pool. Amador Valley varsity girls swimming team was missing a few swimmers, but still managed to finish third.

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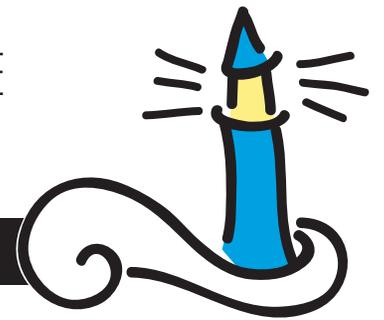
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2140 Tanager Ct., Pleasanton
Beautiful Holiday model in Birdland, on a court. 4bd/2ba. Maple/granite kitchen, updated granite baths, custom marble fireplace, large backyard.
Offered at \$789,000

9146 Longview Dr., Pleasanton
Motivated seller—bring all offers! 4bd/3.5ba colonial home nestled along the Pleasanton Ridge w/views, privacy, a wine closet, and in-law suite w/ separate entry & driveway.
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Offered at \$1,199,000



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8653 FENWICK
\$688,000
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PLEASANTON
558 SANTEL COURT
GORGEOUS SINGLE STORY
\$1,799,000
4 BR 2 BA office + bonus rm, upgrd kit/opens to family room, pl/spa in backyard, court loc, hrdwd flrs
925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
5847 SAN JUAN
NEW LISTING
\$850,000
4 BR 2.5 BA aprx 2414 sf, gourmet kit w/60" prof stove, master bath w/walk in closet. Hrdwd flrs thruout
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59 ST. TIMOTHY
GORGEOUS REMODELED HOME
\$920,000
4 BR 3 BA on quiet court in Greenbrook, 2389 sf/10400 sf lot w/pl/spa, gourmet kitchen, 1 bd/1 ba down
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DUBLIN

6052 KINGSMILL TER
STUNNING VIEWS
\$1,598,000
5 BR 5.5 BA Prof designed bckyrd, priv setting, 4 car gar/custom upgrades, gated development with comm pl
925.847.2200
2917 SOUTHWIND LN
BEAUTIFUL HOME
\$780,000
5 BR 4.5 BA frplcs/priv lot, upgrd w/granite slab cnttrtps, Tiered cherry cabs, stair railing, SS appli
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7270 PROW WAY
GORGEOUS VIEWS!
\$724,900
3 BR 2 BA Arx 2270 sf, Corner Lot Over 1/4 Acre, Hrdwd Flrs, Bth Bths Upgrd/Rem, Frplcs in Fam Rm/Mstr
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6769 ONYX PLACE
DUBLIN HILLS ESTATES!
\$649,000
4 BR 2.5 BA Aprx. 2253 sf, wonderful cul-de-sac location, spacious kit/eating area, private bkyrd w/ patio
925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

3300 DYER RD.
PRICE REDUCTION!
\$948,000
3 BR 2 BA 29.25 acre parcel w/2000+sq. ft. home, dutch barn w/2 flrs, steel framed shop w/2 rll-up drs
925.847.2200

628 HAGEMANN DR
GREAT HOME!
\$399,000
4 BR 2 BA One story, newer kitchen appli, fam rm w/frplc, some dual pane windows, side yrd access
925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

21 CASTLEDOWN ROAD
MUST SEE INSIDE!
\$1,249,900
4 BR 2.5 BA views of Mt. Diablo! Kit opens to fam room/balcony. Formal dining & large master suite
925.847.2200

6729 RANCHO CT.
GREAT HOME!
\$529,000
4 BR 2 BA Hrdwd Flrs, Remodeled Kit, Sep Formal Living rm, Frplc, Rem Hall Bth, Cul-De-Sac Location
925.847.2200

3263 VINEYARD AVE #140
PREMIUM LOT!
\$167,000
2 BR 2 BA bckyrd w/rdwd dck, seller help w/rent spce w/6800 at close! Refrig incl, tile in kit/ba/entry
925.847.2200

3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 178
SENIOR PARK
\$55,000
2 BR 2 BA Senior Park w/Pl, Spa, Club House, Lrg Living rm, Sep Fam rm, Laundry rm w/ Cabs; Kit w/ Island,
925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

135 CORALFLOWER LN
BEAUTIFUL HOME
\$519,900
3 BR 2.5 BA backs to pathway greenbelts, nice size bckyrd w/decorative patio, lots of natural light
925.847.2200



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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Just Listed by Uwe Maerz



OPEN SUN 1-4

1667 Via Di Salerno, Ruby Hill

- 6 Bedrooms, 6 & One Half Baths
- Approx. 8,400 Sq.Ft. of Living Space
- Approx. 23,878 Sq.Ft. Lot
- Built in 2008

Offered at \$3,499,000



3477 Torlano Court, Ruby Hill

- 5 Bedrooms, 4 & One Half Baths
- Approx. 5,719 Sq.Ft. of Living Space
- Approx. 23,100 Sq.Ft. Lot
- Built in 1999

Offered at \$2,399,000



OPEN SUN 1-4

3439 Gravina Place, Ruby Hill

- 5 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
- Approx. 3,851 Sq.Ft. of Living Space
- Approx. 7,000 Sq.Ft. Lot
- Built in 1996

Offered at \$1,399,000



Uwe Maerz

Cell: 925.360.8758
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Featured Properties



Livermore – Lovely three bedroom, two bathroom home with approximately 1372 square feet. Located in a quiet area in Sunset Meadows, it has been updated and well maintained. You'll appreciate the Corian counters, Mission Style kitchen cabinets, newer appliances, dual pane windows and the nice floor plan. The large lot offers a pool, spa and possible side yard access.

2658 Wellingham Drive

\$485,000



Pleasanton – New price on this desirable four bedroom, two bathroom, Pleasanton Valley Home with approximately 1854 square feet, fresh paint and Hardwood and tile floors. Lovely living room, dining area, eat-in kitchen, and family room with fireplace. Nice yards with large screened in room. Great location that allows you to walk to shopping, schools, and the park too.

1531 Greenwood Road

\$599,000-\$649,000



Dublin – Wow! Gorgeous five bedroom, three and a half bathroom home with a retreat in the master bedroom. Located on a cul-de-sac, this approx. 3370 sq. ft. home offers wonderful views from the upper level. Granite, crown molding, a media center with a built in desk and a see through fireplace from the dining room to the formal living room are some of the great features. So neutral, clean and ready for you to move in.

5016 Branford Court

\$899,000



Pleasanton – A fabulous four bedroom, two and a half bathroom, single story, Milano plan in the Premia neighborhood of Ruby Hill. Almost 2300 square feet and an approximately 8163 square foot lot. Lovely hardwood floor entry, kitchen and family room. The wonderful corner lot is a gardener's paradise, with flowers, rose bushes and fruit trees. A beautifully maintained home and yard.

506 Trebbiano Place

\$1,039,888



Livermore – Living in the vineyards has never been better! Gorgeous five bedroom, four and a half bathroom home with a guest suite above the garage. Incredible gourmet kitchen with stainless steel Viking appliances, Granite slab counters, tile floors and accents through-out. Tall, soaring ceilings, crown molding and surround sound. Beautiful Pebble Tec pool and spa, RV/Boat parking, and so much more!

3205 Derby Court

\$1,299,900



Pleasanton – Gorgeous four bedroom, three and a half bathroom, Ruby Hill home with approximately 3447 sq. ft. of living space. Large (approximately ¼ acre), beautifully landscaped, court location. Hardwood flooring throughout the downstairs, granite counters, white cabinets, Plantation shutters and new paint and carpet. Great floor plan with downstairs master bedroom and three bedrooms and a loft upstairs.

2263 Doccia Court

\$1,350,000



Pleasanton – One of Ruby Hill's Finest Homes Located on one of Ruby Hill's Finest Golf Course Lots! A Truly Custom "Santa Barbara" Style Two-Story with Five Bedrooms, Five and a Half Bathrooms, Over 7100 Sq Ft, the Master Bedroom Downstairs and Almost an Acre Lot. From the Grand Foyer to the Fabulous Rear Yard with Pool, Spa, Barbeque and Large Lawn Area, this Home is Like a Five Star Resort!

1857 Spumante Place

\$3,375,000



Pleasanton – A "New" custom-built Mediterranean Villa in one of Ruby Hill's most desirable locations. With "Timeless" architectural design, a fantastic floor plan, a huge lot (over 35,000 sq ft), breathtaking views and an unbeatable location, this property is simply spectacular. Five bedrooms, five full baths, three half baths, approximately 8,600 sq ft and an oversized five car garage!

1916 Ticino Court

\$3,750,000



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