

Pleasanton Weekly

Sentenced: Former tennis pro Henry Germain gets 15 years in state prison for sexual abuse **PAGE 5**

Rockin' in the park: Annual summer concert series is back with new, favorite acts **PAGE 19**

INSIDE

VOL. X, NUMBER 20 • MAY 29, 2009

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Play ball ... soon

\$8-million baseball complex nearing completion on Bernal property **PAGE 14**



Vote YES on Measure G on June 2nd

Measure G needed NOW more than ever!

State Budget Consequences for Pleasanton Education

Feb 2009 Budget Act	<\$9.7 million>
Governor's May Budget Revise	<\$6.8 million>
One-Time Federal Stimulus	\$8.1 million
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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

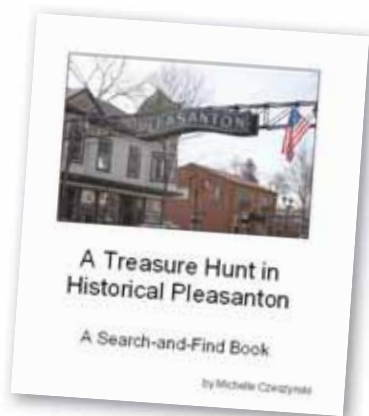
Here's a treasure hunt you won't want to miss

Treasure hunts are a popular game most of us played as teenagers or even as pre-teens as part of Saturday afternoon parties. We'd take lists of things to find and comb the neighborhood in search of empty Kleenex boxes or ticket stubs or pink paper cups. Now Pleasanton's newest author, Michelle Czeszynski, has carried the concept farther with two books that she will introduce at Towne Center Books tomorrow on treasure hunts for young and old.

The first book, "A Treasure Hunt in Historical Pleasanton," takes us on a journey to 12 historical sites around Pleasanton. We hunt for clues at each place we visit while finding out about Pleasanton's past, and then we put all of the clues together at the end of the book to discover where the treasure box is hidden. This is a 20-page soft-cover book with color photographs and historical information about each location that takes us through the early history of Pleasanton.

The second book, "A Treasure Hunt in Pleasanton's Playgrounds," is just as challenging although more focused on elementary school age children. It has these young readers running around 12 playgrounds, hunting for clues at each park and trying to find the locations of the "I spy" pictures in the book. Put all of the clues together at the end of the book and they'll discover where the treasure box is hidden. This is also a 20-page soft-cover book with a color photograph of each playground, a list of the amenities and several "I spy" pictures to find at each playground.

Czeszynski has lived in Pleasanton for five years with her husband Alan, a product manager, and their son Aaron, 13, who is finishing up seventh grade at Harvest Park Middle School. A very creative person known for her artistic talent, she taught art in Pleasanton's after-school Parks and Community Services programs. One class dealt with treasure art where her students drew treasure maps and then decorated them with a small treasure chest filled with different treasures that they created on their own. Of all the programs she taught, the treasure art class was the most interesting for her and her students. It got



her to thinking about how she could expand on the concept and her two new books, which she wrote, illustrated, edited and published are the result.

The clues she gives aren't easy. One photo shows the inside of a tube-like device, for example, and you have to find it in one of the parks listed in her book. Not to give away the answer, but I searched for a long time before realizing it was a picture her son Aaron had taken of the inside of a talking and listening device found at several playgrounds where you can talk to your friend on the other end. Three treasures are to be found at the Alviso Adobe where readers of the historical Pleasanton book are challenged to find a special inconspicuous Native American carving in the mortar. This treasure is followed by an explanation of Native American life here centuries ago. In the same book, readers must go to Kottinger's Barn, the Pleasanton Hotel, the Johnston Building, Museum on Main, the old train depot and the now-restored Kolln Hardware Building to find the treasures Czeszynski has in mind. A bit of history is also required: Can anyone find the Wells Fargo Stagecoach stop that was in downtown Pleasanton? Or where the Pleasanton First National Bank used to do business? Here are clues, but don't tell readers of Czeszynski's book: One is now a pizza parlor and the other is a downtown spa.

Judy Wheeler, owner of Towne Center Books, was so enthused by Czeszynski's first two books (she's starting on a third) that she set up tomorrow's book introduction and signing, which starts at 11 a.m. at the bookstore at 603 Main St. and includes a discussion about each book and how Czeszynski developed the treasure hunt. By the way, each book will be on sale both at Towne Center Books and the Museum On Main for \$6.95. ■

About the Cover

Parks and Community Services Director Susan Andrade-Wax checks out the batting box at the city's new \$8-million lighted baseball complex on the Bernal property while City Landscaper Mike Fulford kneels in as catcher. Two diamonds and an unlighted practice field are among the children's playground, picnic areas on a 13-acre site. Cover photo by Jeb Bing. Design by Rick Nobles.

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A foundation for Laurel

The launch of the Laurel Alice Williams (LAW) Foundation and the winner of the LAW scholarship will be held at 6:30 p.m. June 5, at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Drive in Danville. Tickets are \$75, including dinner. Auction items can be viewed at www.laurelalicefoundation.com.

Many dogs, cats need homes

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts an adoption fair from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. The fair will provide low cost spay/neuter certificates and dog adopters will receive three free private classes with a dog trainer, leash, collar and a bed. Cat adopters will receive a free goodie bag, toys and a blanket. Free hot dogs and drinks will be served from 1 to 2 p.m. Visit www.tvr.org for details.

Travel on film with Sullivan

The last movie in the "Great Performances: A Classic Film Series" will be showing at 7 p.m. June 4 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Presented by the library and Las Positas College, film historian Dr. Candy Klaschus will attend the screening.

Get ready to sip, stroll

Tickets are now on sale for the popular Sunday Stroll, put on by the Pleasanton Kiwanis Club, at 1:30 p.m. June 28. The cost is \$35 to sample food and wine at seven restaurants downtown. Call Dawn at 846-5858 or Vic at 484-0789 for tickets.

Correction

In "API scores edge higher" (News, May 22, page 6), this year's base API scores were compared to this year's base API scores and resulted in incorrect information. In August, the growth API scores will be released and should be used for an accurate "apples to apples" comparison.

State budget worsens as residents head to polls

By EMILY WEST

Trouble at the state level is again trickling down to the Pleasanton Unified School District. More reductions to education funding is expected as voters will decide the fate of Measure G Tuesday.

The latest state deficit figure is about \$21 billion, but the Legislative Analysts Office is saying that number is more like \$24 billion. Having already cut \$9.7 million in programs, the board now faces an additional \$6.8 million shortfall—or \$9 million if the LAO calculations are correct—from the latest state deficit projections.

Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services, said that the budget picture has gotten worse every week and this week was no exception. She said the district is fairly certain it will be receiving \$2.5 million from the federal

School board says \$8M in federal stimulus barely helps ongoing \$18M problem

government for special education—half to be used to offset encroachment for this year and the other half doled out in the fall with spending restrictions.

The district was set to receive \$5.6 million through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, but Cazares said the dollar amounts are now less certain. The first reason was that an error by the state in the application for federal funding was off by about \$2 billion. Second, the May revision of the budget showed greater cuts to higher edu-

cation than to kindergarten through high school education, meaning they would receive more.

Board president Chris Grant said it's important for people to know that the \$18.7 million shortfall for PUSD is ongoing.

"The federal stimulus is not solving our problems in the long term," he said. "It's barely helping us in this current year."

The funding levels currently proposed by the May revise are \$5,946 per student for fiscal year 2009 and \$5,844 for 2010. These rates compare to \$5,808 in 2006 and 6,368 in 2008.

Superintendent John Casey said the federal money is one-time funding, but the cuts the state has made would be ongoing and would impact the next several school years. The cabinet

See **BUDGET** on Page 8



JEB BING

A worker from Betchner Construction ripped out some inside walls of the charred home at 839 E. Angela St., but police have not completed their investigation yet.

Burned out house on Angela being cleaned up for possible teardown

Investigation still continuing into cause of blaze that injured homeowner

Although the investigation by Pleasanton police continues into last December's house fire on East Angela Street, the burned out house may finally be nearing a teardown.

Neighbors and others, including those using the St. Augustine Catholic Church main driveway directly across from the charred structure at 839 E. Angela St., have complained in recent weeks to city officials and the Pleasanton Weekly that the house has become a neighborhood eyesore.

Last week, crews from Betchner Construction ripped out some of

the inside walls and pulled dumpster-loads of debris from the home that was once owned and was still being lived in at the time of the fire by Keith and Deonna Zuffa, 40, and their two children. The work indicates that all physical evidence has been analyzed and removed. Police have classified the fire as arson.

Joanne Hall, spokeswoman for the city of Pleasanton, said the work crews have not yet obtained a city permit for demolition of the house, which is required by municipal law.

The fire at the Zuffa home began

at 11 a.m. Dec. 8. Deonna Zuffa, 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 a total loss. The Zuffa family's two dogs were not injured in the fire as they had been taken to a pet groomer, fire officials said.

Sgt. Jim Knox of the Pleasanton Police Department has declined to say who police believe caused the

See **FIRE** on Page 7

Henry Germain sentenced to 15 years

Four victims share statements of abuse by former tennis pro

Henry John Germain closed his eyes in a Hayward courtroom as four women recounted the repercussions they faced after being abused by him as children. Moments later, with applause coming from the victims' family and friends, he was taken into custody to serve a 15-year sentence in state prison for child molestation.

The 62-year-old former tennis pro at Castlewood

Country Club entered a no contest plea April 28 to three charges of sexually abusing children under the age of 14. Prior to that, Germain plead not guilty Jan. 9 to 16 charges of sex crimes against six female victims.

District Attorney Susan Torrance told the judge that this case was one of the most egregious she has seen, citing the length of time the alleged abuse had gone on and the number of victims. In addition to six victims with charges coming forward from the Pleasanton area, 10 women claimed they were molested when Germain was a tennis pro in the Palm Desert area in the early 80s.

"Cases like this can't be done without the brave victims coming forward," she said. "The victims are very brave and that's why we ended up with a good resolution."

Four women gave tear-filled victim statements to the court Wednesday, stating that their child-

See **GERMAIN** on Page 8



Henry Germain

Ernest Scherer III pleads not guilty

Public defender requests video showing Camaro in Castlewood

BY JANET PELLETIER

Accused murderer Ernest Scherer III plead not guilty to an Alameda County Superior Court judge this week for the deaths of his parents in their Castlewood Country Club home.

Judge Morris Jacobson set a court date for June 8 for a motion to compel discovery. Attorney Richard Foxall, a public defender representing 30-year-old Scherer III, said he is requesting all electronic evidence in the case from the district attorney's office, and specifically a security video that shows a red Chevrolet Camaro in the country club neighborhood.

Department of Motor Vehicle records show a 2001 red Chevrolet Camaro registered to Scherer III. According to an arrest affidavit filed by the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, a deputy reviewed video footage from the lower clubhouse at Castlewood Country Club and observed what appeared to be a red Camaro with a black top driving towards the home of Ernest Scherer Jr., 60, and Charlene Abendroth, 58, who lived on Castlewood Drive.

The time on that video clip was about 8:30 p.m. March 7, 2008 with the car approaching the home, and driving away at about 12:40 a.m. the next morning. Investiga-

tors have said they believe the pair were killed sometime after leaving a country club dinner March 7. Their bodies, which investigators say were badly beaten and stabbed repeatedly, were discovered March 14 after their daughter asked a country club worker to check on them.

The sheriff's department, in the same affidavit, details other evidence it says it has against Scherer III, whom they say was motivated to kill his parents for financial gain.

Upon turning 30, the professional poker player stood to collect upwards of \$2 million in inheritance should his parents be deceased. Scherer III and his wife were on shaky financial ground, according to the affidavit, close to falling into foreclosure on their Brea, Calif. home and \$40,000 in debt from credit cards. Investigators say Scherer Jr. lent his son \$616,000 as financial assistance for a home. Just days before investigators believe the couple were killed, Scherer Jr. was seeking to get back the funds he loaned. Scherer Jr.'s father, Ernest Scherer Sr. told investigators that a few weeks prior to the couples' deaths that his son told him he believed Scherer III had a

gambling problem, was not acting like himself and that it wouldn't be wise to leave him inheritance money.

Sgt. Scott Dudek continued in the affidavit that two days after the pair were killed, Scherer III bought new tires for his car and had it detailed in Brea, Calif. Detectives investigating in Las Vegas, where Scherer III often spent a lot of time playing poker, spoke to a couple of his friends who said Scherer III had asked them to purchase a gun for him on March 4 and March 6. The affidavit says a forensic search of Scherer III's cell phone revealed Internet searches for gun stores.

While the nearly year-long investigation was going on leading up to his arrest in February, Scherer III appeared to be paranoid that he would be charged with his parents' deaths, the affidavit states. Robyn Scherer said her husband told her he was a "sitting duck" and told her he was researching countries "where he could go and be safe and wouldn't have to come back."

A preliminary hearing for Scherer III has been set by Judge Jacobson for July 13 at the Renee C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland. ■



Ernest Scherer III

Debbie Harvey named teacher of the year

Consumer and family studies teacher has taught in PUSD since 1990

Amador Valley High School teacher Debbie Harvey has been named teacher of the year and will be up for the Alameda County teacher of the year in October.

Called "Mama Harvey" by her students, the consumer and family studies teacher has been in the Pleasanton Unified School District since 1990, first teaching for six years at Pleasanton Middle School.

Her classes are said to offer the opportunity for practical application for math, reading and writing

skills, as well as the development of time-management, organization, cooperation and interpersonal skills. Her catering class has also served at student, district and city events.

In addition to classroom duties, she has been department chair, participated in the school's accreditation process and is the representative to the Tri-Valley Educational Collaborative, as well as being active in 4-H and Future Farmers of America.

—Emily West



PUSD Amador principal Bill Coupe stands with teacher Debbie Harvey.

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OF NOTE

A lesson in leadership

Matthew Villena, a student at Lydiksen Elementary School, was accepted into the People to People World Leadership Forum.

Matthew recently joined a select group of students in Washington, D.C. to study leadership and explore some of the United States' most prominent monuments and institutions. Forum delegates will also participate in small-group discussion and exercises to experience first-hand how successful leaders develop strategies, make decisions, build consensus and foster change.

The program is designed to fulfill the vision of President Dwight D. Eisenhower to foster world citizenship. For more information, visit www.wflleaders.org.

Harvest Park wins big

Harvest Park Middle School has been awarded second place for mixed chorus April 24 at the national Music in the Parks Festival at Anaheim. For chorus director Ana Hartwick, it's her first year as a middle school chorus director at the school.

Also earning awards at the Friday competition near Disneyland was Harvest Park's jazz band and orchestra, both of which received third place honors.



JANET PELLETIER

Five buildings belonging to the Kolb family of Pleasanton were relocated to Dublin, their final resting place, in Dublin Village.

Village takes shape with move of historic Kolb family ranch

Center, which will include museum, classroom and theater, will open in 2010

BY JANET PELLETIER

Crews are hard at work piecing together history like a jigsaw puzzle in Dublin for what will become a replication of a working ranch.

Last month, a professional moving company that specializes in transporting houses transferred five historic buildings owned by the Kolb family from Dublin Canyon Road in Pleasanton to a new site on Dublin Boulevard off of Foothill Road, known as Dublin Village.

The job was no easy task and required a lot of strategic planning. The city of Dublin worked with the city of Pleasanton in permitting and street closures to make the move seamless, according to Herma Lichtenstein, who is Dublin's parks and facilities development manager. So, the big move commenced at 10 p.m. the first Friday night and went relatively well the following Friday night as all the structures were transferred about 2 miles north.

The buildings include a main house, a Sunday school barn, a cottage, hay barn and pumphouse, in addition to accessory structures.

"The main house will eventually

become a museum," Lichtenstein said. "Then we moved the Sunday school barn, which will eventually become a small classroom and a theater."

The relocation is a homecoming of sorts. Historically, Dublin Canyon Road used to be a part of Dublin, but became Pleasanton after Interstate 580 was constructed. The Kolb family, which has donated the buildings, originally had the Sunday school barn in Dublin just across the street from where it currently is.

The buildings have been placed on a 4-acre parcel near the Dublin Heritage Center. The project, including relocation and renovations, is expected to cost \$2.4 million and is being funded through different sources.

"It's funded through General Fund monies, donations, the Kolbs are donating some funds to help with the moves and there were developer fees that helped cover the work, Lichtenstein said. "This has been from start to finish a five-year process. The Kolbs donated the buildings to us and it was concurrent with the city

looking at trying to reestablish some sense of historic district because we do have our Heritage Center."

The park site is part of what used to be the original downtown of Dublin. Lichtenstein said crews are currently piecing together the buildings after strategically cutting them for the move, and placing them on foundations. She said all of them are in excellent or good condition.

"It's going to be a good representation of how a working ranch would have looked," Lichtenstein said. "One of the things we are trying to do is maintain the historic integrity once we move the buildings over and keep our ability to get them on the (historical) register at some point, and so part of that has to do with how the buildings are laid out and how they relate to one another. When we moved them, the layout mimics what was at the original site."

After the buildings are properly placed, workers will begin the landscaping. The project is expected to be finished early next year, with a grand opening by late spring, Lichtenstein said. ■

FIRE

Continued from Page 5

arson. Police have acknowledged that the Zuffa family owned muscle cars and go-karts and had gasoline containers stored in the garage, but declined to say whether the gasoline may have contributed to the explosion or fire.

Police have also declined to say where the fire started, a fast-burning blaze that also damaged two neighboring homes and displaced a second family. The investigation was prolonged because police had not been able to speak with Deonna Zuffa, who was reportedly recovering from second- and third-degree burns at St. Francis Memorial Hospital, but has since been moved

to another care facility. Police, her family and hospital spokespeople have declined to give an update on her condition.

The Zuffas filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy in June 2008, according to public records. Records also show the home, at one time valued at nearly \$1 million, was sold for \$75,000 in a foreclosure sale on Sept. 30 to Marilyn and Richard Greenberg in the name of the Greenberg Trust.

Since the December fire, the Zuffa home has been surrounded by a tall fence. Other homes also burned by the fire have since been repaired and neighbors called the Zuffa property "a continuing eyesore" that needed to be removed.

—Jeb Bing, Janet Pelletier

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BUDGET

Continued from Page 5

was expected to meet Wednesday afternoon to begin developing another list of possible reductions.

Measure G, a parcel tax initiative on the June 2 ballot, seeks to collect \$233 per land parcel within the school district boundaries once a year for four years to bring about \$18 million to the district. The tax would need two-thirds voter approval to pass in order to provide the programs outlined in the ballot language: small class sizes, reading and math support, libraries, counselors, technology instruction,

music, and safe and clean schools.

Casey has said that property owners in unincorporated areas, portions of Ruby Hill and Sunol would not be assessed, even though some children are eligible to attend Pleasanton high schools. Seniors and those on disability are also exempt from paying the tax.

In light of the special election and a June 4 deadline to give employees layoff notices, the school board will have a budget workshop at 6 p.m. June 3. Other workshops have been scheduled for 5 p.m. June 5 and June 9. The board is expected to adopt the budget Monday, June 22. ■

GERMAIN

Continued from Page 5

hood innocence had been wrongfully taken away by Germain. One woman, identified as "Robin," said that Germain has taken no ownership of his actions.

Another woman, identified as "Tammy," claimed Germain had abused her for three and a half years around, beginning when she was 11 years old.

"He violently stole my youth and innocence," she said tearfully.

The young woman said she didn't come forward earlier because he said no one would believe a young girl over an adult.

Germain, who did not speak at the sentencing, was originally arrested at the country club Sept.

2 after three victims wrote letters with molestation allegations to officials at the club. Shortly after, three more victims came forward and brought charges against him.

His bail was set at \$1.08 million and he bailed out on a property bond, only to be arrested shortly after when a 16th charge was added. His bail increased to \$1.4 million and he again bailed out on the same property bond.

Judge Kevin Murphy said Germain must serve 85 percent of his 15-year sentence. Once he's completed his prison time, the Dublin resident would be on parole for 10 years and must register as a sex offender, pay restitution to the six victims and stay away from the victims.

—Emily West



JEB BING

The largest crowd ever listens to speakers at the city's annual Memorial Day ceremony Monday at Pioneer and St. Augustine Catholic cemeteries.

Memorial Day service filled to capacity

By JEB BING

Motorists were turned away Monday morning after parking spaces filled up at Pioneer and St. Augustine Catholic cemeteries where the largest crowds ever joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion for Pleasanton's annual Memorial Day ceremonies.

More than 400 attended the services, enjoying the pageantry of color guards and marching military with the patriotic music of Bob Williams and his Pleasanton Community Concert Band adding to the solemn yet stirring ceremony to honor those serving in the military, those who

have served and those who died in the service of their country.

Speakers included Jim Lyon, commander of VFW Post 6298, who was the master of ceremonies, Pleasanton Vice-Mayor Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Army Brigadier General Nick Toolitos. Susan Stout-Pierce of the Jose Maria Amador chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution read a special poem written for the occasion, with "Memorial Reflections" read by Dee Matusiewicz of the VFW auxiliary and the "Gettysburg Address" by Rebecca Rodriguez of Girl Scout Cadette Troop 30986.

The Air Force ROTC honor guard

from UC Berkeley fired a 21-gun salute to honor veterans, and the Collings Foundation, which exhibited World War II planes at Livermore Airport, provided a WWII Warbird flyover as part of the ceremony.

Later, after a public luncheon hosted by the Pleasanton Lions Club at the Veterans Memorial Building, Girls Scouts Mandy and Alyssa Hanou were honored with the organization's highest award, the Gold Award, for completing their project on the history of downtown Pleasanton. Their work is being recognized by the placement of a bronze plaque in the Veterans building. ■

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GUEST OPINIONS

The pros and cons of school parcel tax Measure G

Why you should vote "no"

BY KATHLEEN RUEGSEGGER

Proponents of Measure G cite Class Size Reduction (CSR) as the most significant argument for implementation of a parcel tax. What they downplay, however, is that Pleasanton schools will receive \$8.1 million in federal stimulus money to directly offset state cuts to education, prevent layoffs and save CSR. The federal funding is more than the proposed parcel tax asks, and covers the majority of even the highest district estimates of shortfalls through 2009-10.

In the exercise of its fiduciary duties, the district unwisely negotiated large increases to salary schedules, knowing they were sustainable only with future state cost of living increases and/or enrollment growth. The parcel tax asks for \$18 million over four years, \$15 million (district figure) of which will be needed to counterbalance the impact of these raises.

It is reasonable to expect future salary increases will occur, and CSR will then face the same danger upon expiration of the proposed parcel tax. Without systemic changes, programs will be sacrificed to pay for raises and the district could find itself in the same dilemma, with a need to renew the parcel tax at greater expense and for a longer period.

The current system is broken, but the federal infusion of funds allows us time to address the district's budget in depth before we perpetuate the cycle of spend and tax. Homeowners are already working hard to live within their means in this economy. The district should be expected to do the same. Please vote "no" on Measure G.

Kathleen Ruegsegger is a 20-year resident; a former school board member and employee of PUSD. For more information, visit www.pleasantonparceltaxinfo.com.

Code of ethics

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

Why you should vote "yes"

BY CINDY MCGOVERN

Vote "yes" on Measure G to provide the local control we need to protect vital education programs, including counseling services, library services, reading and math intervention programs, music and technology programs and small class sizes that have led to our students and schools academic success.

Pleasanton schools have made remarkable strides in the area of student academic and social achievement over the last 10 years.

This is evident when reviewing the state's 10-year API (Academic Performance Index) testing program which measures a school's composite academic achievement. In 1999, statewide testing began with all schools having a performance target of 800 points based on a 1,000-point scale. That year, all of our schools but two met the performance target. Ten years later, 11 of our schools scored greater than 900 points with four of our schools scoring in the high 800s.

Today, our accomplishments and future progress are at risk. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said of the 2008 API scores, "I worry that these real gains in student achievement are in serious jeopardy because funding for our public school system is in serious danger. What kind of education will we be able to offer next year and the year after that with the kind of drastic and unprecedented cuts now under consideration?"

As a grandparent, 10-year school board trustee and now as a five-year city councilmember, I share his concerns. Help protect the vital programs that ensure our students' academic and social achievements. Vote "yes" on Measure G.

Cindy McGovern has been a Pleasanton City Councilwoman since 2004. She was a trustee on the Pleasanton Unified School District board from 1993-2003. For more information, visit www.savepleasantonschools.org.

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

We love our downtown, but ...

The City Council's annual work plan to be considered Tuesday seems a bit top-heavy with concerns over the viability of businesses in downtown Pleasanton and how the municipal government might help them weather the current economic recession. That's fine and downtown enterprises certainly can use all the help they can get, although we would prefer it come from property owners who charge too much rent and residents who need to make a better effort to shop locally than by taxpayers who would be paying for city-sponsored programs. At the city's Economic Vitality Committee Meeting last week, its members looked into business assistance programs suggested by Pamela Ott, the city's economic development director.

■ **Marketing workshops:** To be sponsored by the city in partnership with the Pleasanton Downtown Association, Chamber of Commerce and Hacienda Business Park tailored to Pleasanton merchants on "Marketing in a down economy."

■ **Marketing assistance grants:** Business owners who attend the workshops would be eligible for public reimbursements for choosing from a list of pre-qualified consultants the one deemed best for helping that business to successfully compete in the current economic climate.

■ **Market data study:** The municipal government would engage a consultant to gather data about Pleasanton's current economic environment, including leakage (Pleasanton residents who shop elsewhere) and econometric studies. This data would then serve as the foundation upon which a marketing/branding effort and comprehensive shop local campaign for downtown Pleasanton would be based.

■ **'Shop Local' incentive:** Consumers would be encouraged to shop in downtown Pleasanton for everyday purchases. When a shopper accumulates \$30 in sales receipts from one or more downtown business, the consumer could exchange those receipts at City Hall and receive a \$30 "Downtown Pleasanton" gift card.

■ **Temporary promotional signage regulations:** The city would allow modifications on a temporary basis to regulations governing signage, including increasing the time frame for temporary promotional signs, allowing free-standing signs in front of stores, and allowing the use of balloons, lights and other promotional materials as part of store displays.

■ **Downtown assistance loans:** The city would provide low-interest, short-term loans to small businesses in the downtown area to maintain the appearance of their buildings.

■ **Sewer connection fees financing:** Provide public financing for a Pleasanton business's sewer, water and other start-up connections.

■ **Relocation assistance:** Help pay the costs of moving, transferring utilities, temporary signage for retail, restaurant and entertainment businesses locating to downtown Pleasanton within a limited range of \$1,500 to \$10,000.

Granted these are only suggestions and no action has been taken, although some will likely be discussed Tuesday. With businesses struggling all over town, including at Stoneridge Shopping Center where sales tax receipts are down considerably, the council needs to make sure its actions are in partnership with the private sector and fair to all. It should be remembered that Stoneridge, when it was developed, received significant payment deferrals and relief on fees and other start-up costs. For the past year, Ott has worked closely—and successfully—with the new owners of Rosewood Pavilion to find tenants. The city's commitment to help downtown businesses is important because no one wants to see our downtown fail. It's also important that the city's generosity in providing economic assistance be offered equitably and fairly. ■

LETTERS

Editor's note: All letters regarding Measure G, including ones not published, will be posted online Friday.

Parcel tax would fund 'We the People'

Dear Editor,

As a parent of a student who is a member of the 2009 Amador "We The People" team, I am writing to comment on this program.

WTP requires the students to have a depth of understanding of the constitution so that they can confront modern issues such as stem cell research and the war on terror. And, it asks the students to consider how we can export our form of democracy to developing nations. This program produces students who are capable of studying in units and functioning as a team which are skills that will be invaluable to them as university students and working professionals.

I believe that will also be true for the Foothill WTP team that finished as the California state runner-up. This year's coach, Keldon Clegg, has succeeded Brian Ladd and, like Mr. Ladd, has inspired this talented team. He has also been passionately supported by other teachers including Mairi Wohlgemuth, Sebastian Bull and Stacey Sklar. In September 2009, the Amador WTP program may cease to exist due to the impact of the education budget cuts. In fact, Mr. Clegg has been notified that his position will no longer exist at the school. It is because of programs like "We The People" that I am voting in favor of the parcel tax, despite the fact that my youngest child will graduate in June. I am in favor of supporting teachers like Mr. Clegg who can help develop leaders like the WTP students.

Steve Kennedy

Vote for G, don't let Sacramento rob us

Dear Editor,

I have never supported a tax before in my life. But I am voting for Measure G for different reasons. Sacramento is a farce. The elected officials have ruined what should be the most economically prosperous state in the country and have squandered its enormous resources. It's even more important to change Sacramento.

Meanwhile however, we are faced with a local decision about our schools. Let's not blame the school board, the city or the teachers. There is evidence everywhere that all of these entities have done a fine job on our behalf. Clearly it is the state that has caused this problem.

Just this last week, our middle schools swept a music competition in Anaheim and both our high schools competed in the finals of a civics competition in Washington, D.C. Our elementary schools have won numerous excellence awards this year.

This is not a fluke. This is a community that takes care of all ages, a community of high expectations. It shows in everything around us. We cannot let the idiots in Sacramento rob us of this. Fight back by voting "yes" on Measure G and fire the jerks in Sacramento.

Bill Aston

Pass G to support athletics and the arts

Dear Editor,

I recently had the pleasure of chaperoning a field trip to Disneyland with the Harvest Park Middle School bands, orchestra and chorus. Our school did well at the Music in the Park competition in Anaheim and we all had a terrific time.

More importantly, however, our bus driver told us that he

would take our group, (or any group from Amador) on any field trip any time with or without chaperones, because those kids behave so nicely. The hotel also mentioned that our kids were very well behaved. I think now is a good time to point out that participation in athletics and the arts helps build the kind of character we all try so hard to instill in our children.

Let's make sure we keep these programs alive. Join me in supporting the parcel tax.

Sue Falls

Cuts will radically affect our community

Dear Editor,

In my 37 years in Pleasanton I have seen Prop 13 and numerous state boom and bust cycles impact our schools. While Pleasanton has survived, the devastating cuts facing our schools will radically affect our community. With the additional \$6 million in cuts announced by the governor the district will have no choice but to close one or two schools.

Think about it: larger class sizes means empty classroom. Empty classroom mean inefficient schools. With the budget cut to the bone the only other viable option is to consolidate the schools and change the boundaries. The opposition to Measure G talks about the wrong tax at the wrong time. If not now then when? When children don't get attend their neighborhood school? When neighborhoods are disrupted with boundary changes? When our schools are falling apart? How bad does it have to get?

The school board has asked the community to support our schools for the next four years to protect one of the pillars of our community. Ask yourself the question: Why did I move here? Why did I stay?

Support your community, support our next generation of leaders, and vote "yes" on Measure G.

Jeff Bowser

'No' on G, hold district accountable

Dear Editor,

Many questions are being raised about Measure G--the four year, \$18-million tax for Pleasanton schools. Parents are outraged with threats of classes at 30:1, employees are receiving pink slips, and we must believe it will improve if we just vote for this source of "stable funding."

Was this caused by three years of large raises that required continued COLA increases and/or enrollment growth to remain sustainable? How much time would be afforded us now had the original goal for a 7 percent reserve not been abandoned or if money "designated for economic uncertainty" had been set aside? Why is this vote occurring before the district finalizes its budget on June 30? If the district needed this information sooner, why was June 2 chosen at a cost double of that for May 19? What about the \$2.1 million coming in federal funds or new state funding flexibilities?

Notwithstanding the foregoing concerns, more important questions should be asked: what do we value and what, if anything, are we willing to pay? Are APs important at the elementary level (\$X); only at the largest elementary schools (\$X); counselors at 400:1 (\$X); merit pay? Would you vote yes if the tax were \$50/year? \$100? \$300? This is the conversation that is missing.

There are solutions that save staff and programs for at least a year. We need that time. Please vote "no" on Measure G and hold the district accountable with the same level of expectation they have for the community's children.

Kathleen Ruegsegger

Tax will help students compete globally

Dear Editor,

Please join me in voting "yes" on Measure G on June 2 in Pleasanton. Please vote.

1. Our students/children have made remarkable progress in the classroom for the past 20 years. Our school district is one of the very highest rated in California and the nation. Every student, parent, teacher, administrator and resident should be very proud of the students' accomplishments.

2. Our students are being prepared for world class competition including the USA, Europe, China, Japan, Korea and India. All of today's students need to be capable of being the most productive citizens possible.

3. The state of California has proven itself incompetent and completely unable to provide full funding of local education. If we want world class education, we must step up and pay for it.

4. Everyone knows that a strong educational program improves property values. A total of \$233 per year for four years is miniscule

for our property value protection.

In my opinion, there are many valid reasons to be critical of the business and real estate practices of our school board/s for the past 15 years. None of those criticisms however pertain to class room accomplishments and there are many outstanding achievements. This election and the surrounding issues provide us, Pleasanton residents, at least two (2) golden opportunities:

1. The school board/administration should revive the Budget Oversight Committee. Stock it with capable citizens and meet publicly on a quarterly basis and provide quarterly budget recommendations to the Board;

2. Concerned positive minded residents should speak out, stand up and become candidates to serve on the school board.

Brad Hirst

Parcel taxes shouldn't be school funding source

Dear Editor,

I support public education and for that very reason, I believe parcel taxes should not be used as a source of funding for public schools.

According to the California Supreme Court, public education should be equitable for all students, regardless of the wealth of the district in which they live.

Parcel taxes are usually successful only in wealthy districts, where they appeal to voters who have the most to spend on their children. This creates a semi-private system of education where the "haves" (in districts with many high-income families) may live only a few miles from the "have-nots."

Pleasanton schools are already rich; they receive a much larger share of our property taxes than most. Taxpayers may donate more, if they choose. Measure G takes away that choice.

Please vote "no" on Measure G.

Terri Carl

Say 'no' on G for better schools

Dear Editor,

We are already paying for a bond measure for the schools in addition to the property taxes that we pay. Our neighboring schools receive much lesser funding per student and perform at the same level as the Pleasanton schools. This goes to show that more money does not produce better education. San Ramon schools receive much lesser funding and their schools not only perform at the same level as Pleasanton schools but the house values are higher there.

Next, Pleasanton teachers receive the highest salaries in the country. The schools have been paying salary increases of 14.3 percent. Oh my god. We are a small community and we do not need our teachers to compete with bankers for the highest wages in the country. A majority of the money from the taxation will be going towards wages, not schools improvements. The school board

See **LETTERS** on Page 11

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 10

could have a wage cut of only 5 percent all around to have all the extra money they want.

After the Neal School fiasco, would you give the same people more money? No, way. Just say "no" on G for better Pleasanton schools.

Rajinder Ghatoaura

Terrific schools make this community thrive

Dear Editor,

My child attends Donlon Elementary and I have to say that I am in complete support of Measure G. Our terrific schools help make this community what it is, and I don't want the budget crisis in Sacramento to ruin what we here in Pleasanton have worked so hard to achieve.

Our schools are well-run and our children have opportunities that other communities around California can only dream of. Pleasanton has a chance to protect our quality education system by voting "yes" on Measure G. Let's not let this chance slip by.

Kimberly West

Measure G flawed and deceptive

Dear Editor,

Measure G is not for our kids. Pleasanton's Measure G is expected to generate \$18 million

in tax dollars during its four-year term. In that same four-year period more than \$15 million of raises will be given to PUSD district employees.

This is nothing more than money shuffling. Many of us have suffered income losses or reductions. It is not reasonable to ask us to support a tax to give pay raises in this economy. Measure G is flawed and deceptive. Without specific ballot language that would absolutely prohibit all raises during the term of the tax student programs will be sacrificed to pay raises. The \$8.1 million in federal stimulus money, that the Pleasanton school district will receive, covers the state cuts allowing the district time to get their spending in order without losing programs or jobs.

Visit www.pleasantonparceltax-info.com.

Diana Johns

Keep our schools great, pass G

Dear Editor,

My children are long past the age to be affected by the cuts to class size reduction in elementary school, but I am supporting Measure G because I believe that the benefits of small class sizes really affect the quality of education that our students receive.

Pleasanton has been able to keep class size reduction longer than many other communities and our students have been able

to benefit from early intervention programs to help them achieve. Vote "yes" on Measure G to keep our schools great.

Jan Kuchinsky

G will save critical educational programs

Dear Editor,

Why are our Pleasanton school facilities so fantastic? The existing school district tax on your property statement is for Measure B, a general obligation bond passed overwhelmingly by Pleasanton voters in 1997, which since it is based upon a percentage of assessed value, varies from homeowner to homeowner. Monies from general obligation bonds are used for capital improvements (bricks and mortar), not for operations, and the school district is obligated to repay the value of the bond plus interest.

Measure B funds cannot legally be used to fund the programs that have been cut due to the current state budget deficit. Funds from Measure B have been used to pay for Pleasanton's outstanding school facility improvements. In addition, the school district has been fiscally responsible and taken advantage of reduced interest rates by reissuing the bonds, saving taxpayers \$9 million.

Measure G will save critical educational programs for our Pleasanton students that are jeopardized by the state's budget crisis. Just like the community did back in

1997, Pleasanton can put its belief in the value of education into action by voting "yes" on Measure G.

Tanya Ludden

Enough is enough, no more taxes

Dear Editor,

The parcel tax proposed through Measure G is the wrong tax at the wrong time.

A recent letter noted that those over 65 could apply for an exemption from the tax. What the letter did not say is that the exemption must be reapplied for every year. Proponents of Measure G are assuming that many senior citizens will not know this, or will simply

forget to apply for the exemption annually.

California residents are being bombarded with new taxes, on the federal and state level. The recent election showed clearly that our citizens are saying enough is enough. The message to the state is cut spending, live within your means, and no more tax increases.

Passing Measure G will not significantly improve the school district's ability to provide a good education for our children. Better budget management and wiser decision making will do that. The proposed parcel tax revenue will simply disappear into the wasteland of the bureaucracy.

Patrick Carroll

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN

Burglary suspects arrested near Foothill High School

Police arrested two burglary suspects and confiscated two guns near Foothill High School Friday morning, according to police. School district officials said the activity was not related to the school or any students.

Oakland residents Brihana Hanible, 19, and Terrell Reams, 21, were arrested for residential burglary, possession of stolen property and possession of a handgun.

Police patrolling the Muirwood neighborhood reportedly saw a suspicious vehicle and stopped the car for a code violation. Upon pulling the car over, police learned Hanible and Reams were on probation and had a search clause. A search revealed a rifle that was allegedly taken from a Pleasanton home about an hour prior, as well as a small-caliber gun on Hanible, police said. According to police, a second residential

burglary in Pleasanton was reported during the stop and police determined the two were in possession of the missing items.

Myla Grasso, spokeswoman for Pleasanton Unified School District, said the junior parking lot was temporarily closed during the arrest.

—Emily West

DUI arrests down during holiday weekend

The California Highway Patrol arrested 196 drivers in the Bay Area between Friday and early Monday for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol, according to a CHP sergeant. Last year, the CHP netted 209 DUI arrests during the same reporting period, between 6 p.m. Friday and 6 a.m. Monday, CHP Sgt. Trent Cross said.

Statewide, the CHP has arrested 1,296 drivers for suspected DUIs, down from last year's statewide total of 1,301 over the same time slot, according to Cross. The CHP has reported five fatal crashes in the Bay Area during the maximum enforcement period, up from last year's two fatalities, Cross said.

—Bay City News

POLICE REPORT

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

May 16

Stolen vehicle

- 11:17 a.m. in the 2300 block of Foothill Road

Vandalism

- 8:17 p.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:44 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 5:44 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; DUI, under the influence of a controlled substance

Assault with a deadly weapon

- 12:44 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

May 17

Grand theft

- 11:54 a.m. in the 6000 block of Corte Montanas

Vandalism

- 10:07 a.m. in the 1300 block of Briones Court
- 10:33 a.m. in the 5600 block of San Luis Court
- 9:53 p.m. in the 6800 block of

Heath Court; loitering

Public drunkenness

- 1:59 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

May 18

Burglary

- 5:35 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 6:40 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive

Vandalism

- 8:14 a.m. in the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive
- 12:44 p.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive
- 12:45 p.m. in the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Prescription drug forgery

- 2:21 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen property possession

May 19

Theft

- 7:57 a.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road; identity theft
- 8:50 a.m. in the 600 block of Abbie Street; grand theft

Burglary

- 8:11 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; shoplifting

Drug/alcohol violations

- 5:03 p.m. in the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance
- 11:06 a.m. at the intersection of Fairlands Drive and West Las Positas Boulevard; paraphernalia possession, DUI

May 20

Theft

- 12:17 p.m. in the 4100 block of Hopyard Road; grand theft
- 12:54 p.m. in the 8200 block of Golden Eagle Way; petty theft
- 4:34 p.m. in the 9400 block of Blessing Drive; identity theft
- 6:05 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:10 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; marijuana possession, non-narcotic controlled substance possession

Recovered vehicle

- 8:29 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

May 21

Grand theft

- 10:12 p.m. in the 6000 block of Audrey Court

Vandalism

- 10:46 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:29 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Quarry Lane; DUI
- 7:48 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; marijuana possession

Battery

- 11:59 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road

May 22

Theft

- 10:38 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; possession of stolen property
- 10:58 a.m. at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Spring Street; petty theft
- 4:18 p.m. in the 5000 block of Case Avenue; grand theft
- 7:05 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; petty theft

Burglary

- 6:54 a.m. in the 5600 block of Sonoma Drive
- 9:59 a.m. in the 2600 block of Calle Morelia
- 10:54 a.m. in the 4200 block of Payne Road
- 4:19 p.m. in the 600 block of Palomino Drive

Vandalism

- 8:41 a.m. in the 3000 block of Tonopah Circle
- 12:31 a.m. in the 4100 block of Garibaldi Place

Drug/alcohol violations

- 6:03 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 6:18 p.m. in the 6300 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
- 7:17 p.m. in the 7800 block of Driftwood Way; under the influence of a controlled substance
- 9:19 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; possession of controlled substance for sale
- 9:44 p.m. in the 7900 block of Kentwood Way; DUI
- 11:32 p.m. in the 4200 block of Silver Street; DUI

THE CITY OF

PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review and approve City Council Annual Work Plan for 2009-10
- Approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to participate in a cost-sharing agreement with StopWaste.Org for the proposed green packages project
- Review and comment on the Notice of Preparation for a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Transmission Agency of Northern California Transmission Project
- Consideration of a Business Assistance Program to support the retention and attraction of local business

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, June 1, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
Firehouse Arts Center – 4444 Railroad Avenue

- Construction Progress Report and Tour of Firehouse Arts Center
- Site Visit and Approval for Temporary Installation of Public Art Project by the Artist, Seward Johnson

Human Services Commission

- The June 3, 2009 regularly scheduled meeting of the Human Services Commission has been rescheduled to June 17, 2009.

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

2009-2010 info Pleasanton



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Transitions

WEDDINGS ● ENGAGEMENTS ● OBITUARIES ● BIRTHS

OBITUARIES

Mary Magnolia Wesley Graveline

Mary Magnolia Wesley Graveline died May 2, having celebrated her 104th birthday with her family and many beloved caregivers at Silver Oak Manor in Livermore on April 19.

She was born in rural Illinois in 1905 and witnessed many modern wonders come into being in her life. She survived the terrible 1918 flu epidemic having survived it herself at age 13. She was widowed three times and saw the passing of her birth family and many friends over the years.

She was a very talented woman, an excellent seamstress, needlewoman, craftswoman and a naturalist. She won many prizes and awards, too many to mention. She was always willing to teach children and adults, giving much of her time teaching classes and seminars.

She was a bookkeeper in her

younger years and later become a nurse at the Illinois State Hospital. After retirement, she pursued her lifelong love of learning and studied biology. She and her professor established a "prairie acre" at the Illinois Junior College in Kankakee containing native prairie plants. Even before this, she was an established Illinois wildflower expert, often asked to identify plants by universities and other authorities. In her 70s, she became a self-taught bobbin lace maker, translating directions from Swedish using a dictionary, translating her DeLong family Pennsylvania fraktur using a German dictionary and teaching herself to speak and read Spanish. She came to California in 1995 to live with her daughter and beloved son-in-law, Patrick Benoit, who is now deceased.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary Ann Benoit of Livermore; grandchildren, Ann Benoit Brady, Tim Benoit and Kevin Benoit, Diane Faille Serpico, Mike Wilson, Jenny Wilson Donnelly, Danny Wilson and Joel Wilson, and Debbie Dolson Orwaski; and many great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Eloise Faille Wilson and son, Edward Dolson.

She will be buried in the Tohill Family Cemetery in Robinson, Ill.



Gertrude N. Clarke

Gertrude N. Clarke died peacefully May 20, surrounded by her family and loved ones. She was 86.

Mrs. Clarke was born Feb. 12, 1923. She always had a positive attitude, a love of family and was a woman of style and grace.

She is survived by her three children, Gail and husband John Perdue, Marilyn Clarke, Brian and wife Barbara Clarke; grandchildren, Gregory and Denise Zamora, Matthew Zamora, Natalie and Irwin Acosta, Nicholas Perdue and Emy White, Michael Clarke, Amanda Howard and Julia Clarke; and her great-grandchildren, Griffin, Cannon and Barron Zamora. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Arlene Trimlett; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Joseph N. Clarke.

Donations may be made to Hospice of the East Bay 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill, CA. 94523 in remembrance of her life.

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BIRTHS

Ryan Pierce and Katherine Grace Schmalz

Ryan Pierce and Katherine "Katie" Grace Schmalz were born March 12 in Littleton, Colo. to parents, Jeanine and Stephanie Schmalz, formerly of Pleasanton. Ryan was born at 6:50 p.m. and weighed 3 pounds, 11 ounces and was 17 inches long. Katie was born two minutes later, weighing 3 pounds, 6 ounces at 16 1/2 inches long. The twins are cousins of Sofia and Ava Ricker of Pleasanton.



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May 29th
City of Pleasanton Youth Commission Presents
JamFest Youth Concert

June 5
The Cooltones
(Big Band Jazz, Swing)
Sponsored by Petal Pusher & Resurrection

June 12
The Corvairs
(50's/60's Rock & Roll)
Sponsored by Big O Tires

June 19
Hurricane
(Blues, Classic Rock, Contemporary Rock)
Sponsored by La Lu European Mobile Spa & Jeweler's Gallery

June 26
The Crisis
(Classic & Americana Rock/Rock/Honky Tonk/Blues)
Sponsored by the Alameda County Fair

July 3
Burton & Company
(Blues)
Sponsored by East Bay BMW of Pleasanton & East Bay Mini of Pleasanton

July 4th
Community Program
Celebrating America's Birthday
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Free to the Public
Pleasanton Community Concert Band

July 10
Rock Explosion
(Rock)
Sponsored by Thriving Ink & Stork's Nest

July 17
Komodo Jazz
(Smooth Jazz/Smooth R&B)
Sponsored by East Bay BMW of Pleasanton & East Bay Mini of Pleasanton

July 24
La Ventana
(Latin Rock/Salsa/Latin Soul)
Sponsored by East Bay BMW of Pleasanton & East Bay Mini of Pleasanton

July 31
The Houserockers
(Rock & Soul, Americana/Dance)
Sponsored by YourStageToys.com & Murphy's Paw

August 7
Cocktail Monkeys
(Classic Rock, Contemporary, Pop, Motown, Disco, Dance)
Sponsored by Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation

August 14
Finding Stella
(Rock & Pop)
Sponsored by Thriving Ink & Zzipps

August 21
Magic Moments
("Oldies" - 50's Legends Review)
Sponsored by UNCLE Credit Union & Accusplit Activity Wellness

August 28
D-Lucca
(Modern Melodic Jazz)
Sponsored by Savvy Seconds & Rising Loafer

September 4
Public Eye
(Rock 'n Roll Hits, 60's - Today)
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PLAY BALL ... SOON

\$8-million baseball complex nearing completion on Bernal property

By JEB BING

The San Francisco Giants have their spectacular view of the Bay. Now we have ours of the sweeping, uninterrupted views of the Pleasanton Ridge from the new \$8-million lighted baseball fields nearing completion in Bernal Community Park.

A walk-through of the 13 acres of ball fields, bleachers, playgrounds, parking lots and landscaped surroundings last week showed how the first phase of Pleasanton's newest sports park looks.

"This may not be the largest complex of baseball fields among cities, but it has to be among the best," said Mike Fulford, city landscaper, who with Parks and Community Services Director Susan Andrade-Wax and her predecessor Jim Wolfe, has been in charge of planning, designing and engineering the new Bernal fields.

Although the fields look ready for play, it will take another few months for the turf to mature, Andrade-Wax said. She is planning a public dedication of the park in the early evening of Saturday, Sept. 12, when the lights will be turned on for the two main baseball fields.

The public also will have a chance to see the baseball complex up close in July when the city dedicates the Marilyn Kane Memorial Trail that skirts the fields as it winds its way through much of the 318-acre Bernal park.

Until then, the fields are still off limits to the public as ValleyCrest, the general contractor, completes its final 90 days of testing and checking the baseball diamonds and the many amenities it installed. These include parking for about 100 cars, an analemmatic sundial, which gives the date as well as time, fully automated rest rooms for men, women and families and a weather station that keeps track of wind, rainfall and evening humidity.

"It 'talks' to the irrigation controllers that are in place to take care of the baseball fields," Fulford explained. "If it's too windy, the sprinklers don't go on because all that water would blow away. Obviously, it senses rain so it keeps the sprinklers off, too. Depending on the humidity, it will automatically dial the irrigation back 10 or 20 percent if it's a humid day or boost it up from the base program if it's a very dry day. So it's a real water saver."

Unlike Pleasanton's main Sports Park off Hopyard Road that caters to a variety of sports each year, the new complex on the Bernal property will have single-use fields for baseball, with plans for at least one more lighted baseball diamond and also lighted fields for soccer, football, lacrosse and rugby. At least one of those fields will include bleachers for tournament play.

"Our maintenance crews really like them because the fields will rest between heavy uses," Fulford said. "The crews can go in and aerate and fertilize. That's something we have real trouble doing at the Sports Park."

Unlike most park projects which have received partial or total funding from developers as homes were built nearby, the new sports fields, roadways, parking lots and water and sewer lines have been the city's responsibility, which account for the \$8 million in costs. As the baseball diamonds were the first of three phases in the overall sports park development, ValleyCrest installed all of the utilities needed to support the entire build-out of the project. That made the first phase more expensive than future phases are likely to be.

A new road leading to the baseball complex off south Valley Avenue is Pleasanton Avenue, which eventually will be extended to join Pleasanton Avenue at Bernal when the rest of the new sports park is completed.

The baseball fields are the first development on the Bernal property, a site that was given to the city free of charge by Greenbriar Homes in 2000. It was part of the 510-acre Bernal property that Greenbriar and associates purchased nine years ago for \$126 million from the property's longtime owner, the city of San Francisco.

As part of the same agreement that Pleasanton approved, the developers were allowed to build 581 homes and apartments on the Bernal site on both sides of Interstate 680. The city also approved a 37-acre, eight-building, four-story office park along I-680 which the owner, South Bay Construction, is now planning to develop with only seven office structures, but would add a new Safeway "Lifestyle" supermarket at the corner of Valley and Bernal.

The new baseball fields are the pride and joy of Andrade-Wax, who has been responsible for seeing them completed after succeeding Wolfe as parks and community services director earlier this year. She expects they'll be much in demand, not only because they'll be the first regulation lighted baseball fields in Pleasanton, but also because they look like hardball fields.

"These are designed for baseball, not softball," Andrade-Wax said. "They have dirt infields, not grass."

The dirt fields also are a mixture of compressed volcanic cinders, sand and clay with a firm base underneath that allows for quick water runoff during a rainstorm.

"They're very porous with a firm base that in a heavy rain sheds water like an umbrella so that teams can play right

after a heavy rainstorm," said Stan Gibson, park maintenance supervisor.

Fulford said both lighted fields have "mobile" baselines that can be arranged from 50 feet to 80 feet on one field and 40 to 60 feet on the other. Little League play requires 80-foot baselines; in the senior leagues that play at the adult fields, the baselines are 90 feet. New baseball fields planned for the next phase of the sports park will have 90-foot baselines.

The fields also can be converted for softball play during tournaments.

Another advantage of the Bernal fields is that the lights are at least 800 feet away from the nearest homes. When they were turned on for the first time several weeks ago, there were no complaints. In addition, the open space between the sports park and the homes that is now being farmed for hay will eventually be 50 acres of meadows and woodland, with oaks, sycamores and native California plants. Trails will thread there way through the parkland with foliage eventually screening the sports park from its residential neighbors.

Each of the two lighted baseball fields include bleachers to accommodate 250-300 spectators with extra wide walking room between each row of seats, large backstops to protect spectators and spacious dugouts for home and visiting teams with bat racks and space for up to 20 players.

Although the new fields will be open to anyone during the off-seasons, it's expected there will be heavy demand by the club sports for game times. The spring schedule for Little League and girls' softball teams fills early in late winter months, although a cutback in PONY league baseball provided some scheduling relief this year.

Gibson, who's in charge of all park maintenance in Pleasanton, said his crews work the sports fields during the week, but leave the responsibility for cleanup to the leagues and teams on the weekends.

Although there's a large scoreboard outside the outfield fence lines in the two lighted fields, there's no speaker system, Gibson added.

As the city landscaper, Fulford also takes pride in "the non-irrigated, very friendly California native hydroseed mix" that has been spread around the edge of the baseball complex and close to the parking areas.

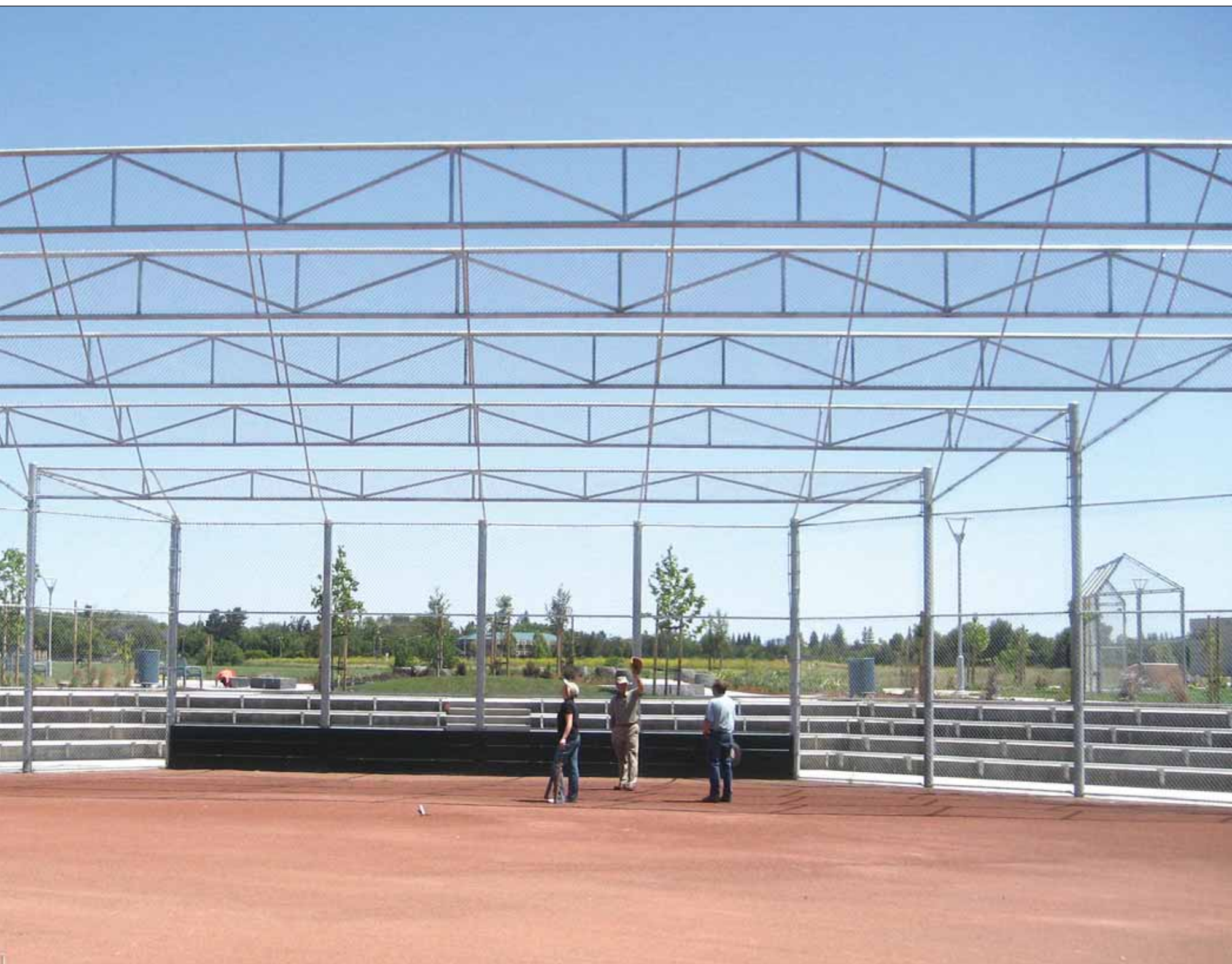
"We put this in as a demonstration garden so that people can see what a real California landscape looks like," Fulford said. "We should all try to be much better about water conservation and these plantings show how we can do it." ■



Bleachers to accommodate up to 300 spectators are behind specially-



Spacious dugouts for home and visiting teams have bat racks and space for players.



PHOTOS BY JEB BING

Screened backstop that protects fans while lending unique architectural design to each of two new lighted baseball fields.



for up to 20 Playground with conventional equipment is near center of baseball complex, but flanked by an analemmatic sundial, which gives the date as well as time and a weather station that tracks wind, rainfall and humidity.



Large scoreboard just outside fence line at west end of main baseball field also offers players and spectators a spectacular, uninterrupted view of Pleasanton's ridgeland.

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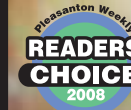
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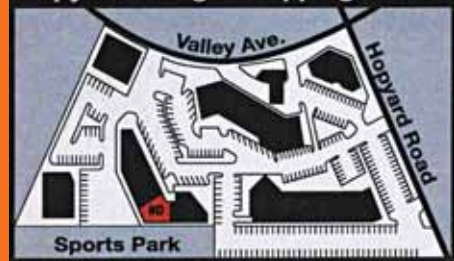


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Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Auditions

YOUTH ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS
Youth Orchestra of Southern Alameda County (YOSAC) will be holding auditions for the 2009-2010 season (Sept.-May) Saturday-Sunday, May 29-30. For more information, visit www.yosac.org or call (510) 483-1163.

Events

CYCLEPATH CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY Celebrate Cyclepath's third year in Pleasanton at its Open House from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at the store, 337B Main St. Call 485-3218.

PLEASANTON CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL BANQUET This annual awards banquet will be held to honor Diane Wardin as the Arts Supporter of the Year and eight young artists at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 3, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Tickets are \$35, including dinner. For reservations, call Rebecca Bruner at 426-3218 or e-mail r.bruner@comcast.net by May 29.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRACK AND FIELD, VOLLEYBALL AND SWIMMING REGIONALS 600 Special Olympics athletes will compete May 30 (Volleyball and Track and Field) at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Visit www.sonc.org.

Exhibits

PLEASANTON ART LEAGUE 40TH ART SHOW Pleasanton Art League with host its 40th annual Art Show from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday-Saturday, May 29-30, at the Alviso Adobe, 3465 Old Foothill Rd. A reception and awards

ceremony will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 30. This event is free. Call 462-8263 or visit www.pal-art.com.

Fundraisers

11TH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BAY Former Oakland Raiders Head Coach and current NBC Sunday Night Football NFL broadcaster John Madden and former San Francisco 49ers Head Coach Steve Mariucci will be co-hosting the 11th annual "Battle of the Bay" Celebrity Bocce Tournament Wednesday, June 3, at Campo di Bocce, 175 E. Vineyard Ave., Livermore. Visit www.campodibocce.com/livermore.

VALLEYCARE 25TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT The 25th annual ValleyCare Golf Tournament will start at 9:30 a.m., Friday, June 5, at The Course at Wente Vineyards, 5040 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$550. Proceeds benefit the Emergency Room Expansion at ValleyCare Hospital. Call 373-4567.

WALK FOR HUNGER Lynnewood United Methodist Church will host its second annual Walk for Hunger commencing at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 31, at the church, 4444 Black Ave. Cost is \$10 for registration, plus sponsors for their walk. Proceeds benefit Open Heart Kitchen and the Alameda County Food Bank. For information, call 846-0221.

WIGGLE WAGGLE DOG WASH Bring your pooch for a run through the wash and rinse cycle at a Wiggle Waggle Dog Wash this summer from noon-4 p.m., Saturdays, June 6, Aug. 8 and Sept. 5, all at the Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St. All dog washes are free with donations greatly appreciated.

Dogs should be on leashes. Call 426-8656.

Kids & Teens

FREE KAPLAN'S ACT/SAT TEST
A free Kaplan's ACT/SAT Combo sample test is available for teens to take from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Registration is required; visit www.kaptest.com/practicetest.

SEAL TEAM CLUB Children ages 8-12 years old that are interested in scuba diving are invited to the Seal Team Club that meets from 7-8:30 p.m., on the first Thursday of every month, at Dive N Trips, 1032 Serpentine Lane. The next meeting is on June 4. Call 462-7234.

Lectures/ Workshops

FREE VOICE LESSONS Pride of the Pacific, a women's cappella chorus, will offer free voice lessons from 6:15-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, beginning May 27 for four weeks, at Aahmes Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. Call 426-0266 or visit www.pridepacific-chorus.org.

Seniors

FOURTH OF JULY RENO/SPARKS TRIP Pleasanton Senior Center VIP Club will host a trip to Reno Friday-Sunday, July 3-5, staying at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Meet at the Senior Center at 7:15 a.m. Cost is \$237 for a double room; \$355 for a single room; add \$3 for non-members. Reservations are due before June 3. Call 933-5370.

SENIORS AGAINST INVESTMENT FRAUD Come learn about the red flags of investment fraud, how to avoid becoming a victim, and how to protect your loved ones from 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 2, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.50 for residents; \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.



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JEB BING

It's time to bring out the blanket and picnic to the sounds of new and favorite bands for this year's concert in the park series.

READY TO ROCK

Concerts in the Park kicks off with The Cooltones June 5

By Emily West

For some, summer begins when the weather gets warm or the moment the bell rings on the last day of school. For hundreds of live music lovers, it's the first opening song of Concerts in the Park.

The Cooltones will serenade the warm season this year with big band jazz and swing at 7 p.m. June 5. Favorite bands and several new ones—including The Corvairs, Hurricane, Rock Explosion and Cocktail Monkeys—will take the stage at Lions Wayside Park at First and Neal streets Friday nights through Sept. 4.

Two more shows are also joining the lineup, with the first at 7 p.m. tonight for the JamFest Youth Concert and the annual Fourth of July celebration, this year on a Saturday, featuring music from the Pleasanton Community Concert Band from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Alisha Perdue is the concert coordinator for the Pleasanton Downtown Association who sponsors the series along with the Pleasanton Weekly, Zippes, the city of Pleasanton, and several area merchants.

"These concerts are sponsored by our membership, downtown merchants and association members," she said. "Coming to the concerts is one way of supporting them."

Bringing attention—and local dollars—to the area is part of a push to bolster Pleasanton businesses and the community it creates. Last year's concerts were drawing crowds as big as 1,500, and it's easy to see why: it's free and people of all ages can enjoy it.

These events are so popular, in fact, that people like to stake their spot on the grass with a blanket hours before show time. Perdue said this practice is fine as long as it's not done before Friday and

people don't use tarps and rocks, which can damage the grass.

"The concerts have been a Pleasanton staple for a very long time," Perdue added. "People have dinner downtown or grab it to go. Parents bring their kids and older folks come as well."

Anyone looking for what's going on downtown, as well as coupons and specials from various merchants, can find out more information at the PDA table during the concert.

There are also prizes to be won in the raffle, which starts June 2 and excludes the July 4 performance. Entry forms can be found in the Pleasanton Weekly each week and winners must be present to claim their prize at the end of the concert around 8:30 p.m.

For more information on the concerts, visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Concerts in the Park

Fridays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lions Wayside Park, First and Neal streets

MAY 29

JamFest Youth Concert: Presented by the city's Youth Commission

JUNE 5

The Cooltones: Big band Jazz, swing

JUNE 12

The Corvairs: '50s/'60s rock 'n' roll

JUNE 19

Hurricane: Blues, classic rock, contemporary rock

JUNE 26

The Crisis: Classic and Americana rock, honky tonk, blues

JULY 3

Burton & Company: Blues

JULY 4

Noon to 1:30 p.m., Saturday

Pleasanton Community Concert Band

JULY 10

Rock Explosion: Rock

JULY 17

Komodo Jazz: Smooth jazz, smooth R&B

JULY 24

La Ventana: Latin rock, salsa, Latin soul

JULY 31

The Houserockers: Rock and soul, Americana, dance

AUGUST 7

Cocktail Monkeys: Classic rock, contemporary, pop, Motown, disco, dance

AUGUST 14

Finding Stella: Rock and pop

AUGUST 21

Magic Moments: Oldies, '50s legends review

AUGUST 28

D-Lucca: Modern melodic jazz

SEPTEMBER 4

Public Eye: Rock 'n' roll hits, '60s to today

READY TO RENT

REVIEWS OF NEW DVD RELEASES

BY JOE RAMIREZ

Wendy and Lucy

Oscilloscope DVD
1 hour, 20 minutes
Director: Kelly Reichardt

Director Kelly Reichardt's "Wendy and Lucy" is a painful chronicle of the precariousness of situation, especially when it comes to the abstractions of Kerouacian or even more so Steinbeckian freedom. It's a small movie in a sense that it takes place within a day or two in the life of a 20-something woman who has hit the road searching for another life and better economics in Alaska; a life that we are not clued into but I can only assume has something to do with romantic notions of escape from a formerly dreary existence. She has her dog Lucy in tow, whose companionship is key to Wendy's security along with an old Honda and about \$500. These variables, however, are shown to be wobbly if only due to the intrinsic nature of the system and especially for someone who is trying to escape. It's an anti-1960s movie, where Wendy makes the fatal mistake of tuning and dropping out at the same time.

To digress, there is a heartbreaking documentary made about 25 years ago called "Streetwise" that chronicles the life of four teenagers on the streets of the Seattle. What makes this akin to "Wendy and Lucy," besides the damp, shadowed streets of the Pacific Northwest, are the stories of eggshell foundations of its characters lives. There is one particular story involving a boy who calls himself Rat because he knows how to survive by dumpster diving and, in one of the most affecting speeches, he tells the audience how to have a hot meal by getting fresh pizza thrown away by a parlor. It's even more telling now with all the layoffs within the last year and increasing, alarming stories about once-employed people temporarily living on the streets due to their circum-

stances.

Wendy, however, is someone that lives in the twilight between wanting a better life and not having enough means to get it. She rolls into an Oregon town and parks in a Walgreens lot, only to be told by a kindly security guard (Wally Dalton) that she cannot sleep there, but can move her car to the street. She encounters her first setback the next morning when her car won't start. She makes it to a grocery store and in a desperate move, tries to shoplift, without success. While with the police, Lucy disappears, and it becomes Wendy's mission to find the dog while trying to negotiate her budget to fix the car and have enough means to make it to Alaska.

"Wendy and Lucy" may not sound like much of a movie, but its truths are hidden in the subtext. Wendy does not make the best decisions (I found myself talking to the screen, giving advice at certain points), but therein lies its strengths. Michelle Williams plays Wendy straight, not as a victim, airhead or even comically tough, but as an introspective and frustrated woman who you suspect has seen some tough times. The movie wisely downplays the aloofness of the system, which is a plus, as not to easily villainize the characters she encounters. It is a story you find in a Woody Guthrie song, a modern ballad, but who director Reichardt portrays as documentary as to make Wendy's story dissonantly real. You feel Wendy's loneliness in a place whose forested landscape both thrives and fosters such sentiment.



Battle of the 'bots

The Foothill High School Vex Robotics team went all the way to Texas to put their robot to the test.

The team—comprised of captain and junior Timothy Lee and sophomores Abishek Akella, Varun Sharma, Wenson Hsieh and Abheek Chanana—placed well in their regional competitions, garnering first place at Siatech, second place at Bellarmine and third place in San Ramon.

"Winning at Siatech qualified us for the Vex Robotics World Championship in Dallas," Lee said. "We prepared for months trying to perfect our robot for the competition."

Their robot competed against 260 other robots, which were split into two divisions, science and technology. Its objective was to place cubes into various goals, flip a large bonus cube and climb a ramp.

Another portion of competition was sharing ideas on using robotics and science for the Future Award.



FOOTHILL ROBOTICS

Foothill presented an idea about robotic surgery.

The team is currently preparing for next year's Vex Cleansweep competition. Follow them at foothillrobotics.com.

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Sports

SPORTS DIGEST

Breed posts two all-American times

Catherine Breed posted two Automatic All-American times; leading the Amador Valley Varsity girls Swimming and Diving team to a narrow fourth place finish in the

EBAL Championship meet. Breed's first place finishes in the 200 and 100 free helped give the Dons a 274-248 edge over California High.

Not to be overlooked in the excitement over the swimming portion of championships is the 34-point advantage Amador posted over Cal during the diving event. Varsity divers Alexa Hernandez, Marina Mihov, Emma Rigl, and Nicole George finished third, seventh, eighth, and

12th to give the Dons a large edge coming into the swim meet.

The girls JV team did well too and finished in fourth place in the EBAL Championship meet. Elle Surber led the Amador Valley JV Girls Swimming and Diving team. Surber broke Amador's JV records in both the 100 IM and the Backstroke, placing third in both events. Erica Efigenio also broke a JV record while finishing fourth in the breaststroke.



Lacrosse team finishes undefeated

Pleasanton Lacrosse Club U11A team, the Avalanche, finished its regular season undefeated; outscoring its opponents 161-29. The team is heading to the first round of playoffs in the number one spot and will play in Redwood City on May 16. The second round of playoffs will take place in Danville on May 30 to determine the top three teams in California. Team members are (back row, l-r) Trey Cranney, Brandon Beland, Sean Maloney, Nick Brum, Griffin O'Brien, (middle) Sammy Gee, Aaron LaCourse, Mark Gaynor, Seth Marceno, Nathan Tucker, (front) Sean Tomonari, Alex Pappis, Jacob Guzman, Ryan Racer, Bryce Veit, Javon Holland, Cameron Owens and (not pictured) Brody West. The teams coaches are Mark Cranney, Alan Beland, Charlie Pappis, Rick Tucker and Eric Veit.

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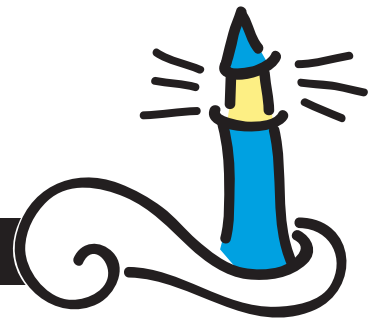


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Pleasanton, 4 BR/3.5 BA
Views for miles in this spacious, 2-story exec/family home.

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TAKE US ALONG



Run for the border: Kyra, Richard, Reinhard, Elsa and Barbara Schwanager visited family in Austria and went on this eight-hour hike in the southern part of Karinthia, a trail that goes up to the highest peak in the Karawanken Mountains, Hochstuhl. They're standing at the Slovenian border crossing.

PET OF THE WEEK

**Meet
Sasha,**



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

a 13-month-old, spayed female Pit Bull mix who loves to play ball. Sasha is friendly and very smart. She knows basic obedience commands including sit, down, come, and stay. Her previous owner was unable to take her along when they moved to a new rental home and giving her up was a difficult decision. Sasha enjoys going for walks and she LOVES treats. Sasha thoroughly enjoys the time she spends with TVAR volunteers who take her to the animal shelter's grassy play area for lots of fun in the sun. Visit Sasha (pet #85295) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040. See www.tvvar.org for additional pets available for adoption from Tri-Valley Animal Rescue.

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3602 Fieldview Ct., Pleasanton



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2333 Romano Cir., Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Danville

4 BEDROOMS

431 Corte Dorado \$1,249,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-6410
241 Aptos Place \$979,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-6410

5 BEDROOMS

246 Greenbrook Drive \$999,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 855-6410

Dublin

3 BEDROOMS

7173 Kingston Place \$599,950
Sun 1:30-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 570-0717

4 BEDROOMS

11395 Marwick Drive \$649,950
Sun 1:30-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 455-7020

Livermore

4 BEDROOMS

452 Swan Drive \$459,900
Sun 1-4 ReMax Accord 462-3522

624 Zermatt Street \$689,950
Sun 1-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 583-1111

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS

667 Concord Place \$310,000
Sat 1-4 Keller Williams Realty 847-7355

3 BEDROOMS

6045 Acadia Court \$549,950
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 788-7788

4852 Drywood Street \$679,000
Sun 1-4 Allied Brokers 846-3755

4 BEDROOMS

3249 Arbor Drive \$1,018,950
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff 251-2556
1608 Cindy Way \$1,179,000
Sun 1-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

3602 Fieldview Court \$1,499,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 397-4244

1964 Via Di Salerno \$2,225,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 202-6298

2562 Glen Isle \$659,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3826

3912 Redwood Court \$679,950
Sat 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 778-7788

5769 San Carlos Way \$734,900
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

3150 Paseo Robles \$775,000
Sun 1-4 Sheehan Real Estate 415-302-2500

850 Concord Street \$799,000
Sun 1-4 J Rockcliff Realtors 734-7177

823 Country Club Circle \$850,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty 858-1984

5 BEDROOMS

2782 Calle Alegre \$1,149,900
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 785-7777

6557 Hanover Court \$1,199,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

1141 Lund Ranch Road \$1,259,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

6736 Riddell Street \$1,349,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

2824 Foothill Oaks Terrace \$1,789,000
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21 CASTLEDOWN ROAD
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558 SANTEL COURT
GORGEOUS SINGLE STORY **\$1,799,000**
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CASTRO VALLEY

5015 OLD DUBLIN ROAD \$2,557,000

Great 38+ acres, appraised opinion above this price, potential huge, zoning is R1BE and there is a variance, Buyer needs to verify any and all Alameda County possibility of building info on this property. There is a nice 2828 sq.ft. home.

KRISTY PEIXOTO 925.251.2536

www.sheilacunha.com



CASTRO VALLEY

21600 EDEN CANYON RD \$2,199,950

Beautiful 4 bedroom 4 bath creek side estate secluded on a landscaped 6 1/2 acres hillside. The home boasts a beautiful 16 ft cobble stone fireplace in the living room with hardwood flooring, vaulted wood ceilings and views.

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Beautiful Custom Home



PLEASANTON

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CASTRO VALLEY

9232 CROW CANYON ROAD \$1,595,000

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LIVERMORE

3267 DERBY CT \$1,199,000

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DUBLIN

5326 EAGLEBROOK TERRACE \$799,000

Gorgeous golf course view, seller paid \$1,290,000. Hardwood flrs, granite tile counters, lrg center island, designer paint, built-in BBQ & extensive hard scape.

BONNIE KING 925.736.8411

www.madelinewalker.com



PLEASANTON

2571 WILLOWREN WAY \$725,000

Original owner has maintained this home meticulously. Newer roof, carpet, furnace/AC, dual-pane windows. Updated master bath. Beautiful landscaping with trex deck, and exterior custom paint job. Popular Holiday model.

MADELINE WALKER 800.319.8991

Blackhawk

4105 Blackhawk Plaza Cir.
Danville, CA 94506
925.648.5300

Blackhawk West

3880 Blackhawk Rd.
Danville, CA 94506
925.736.6000

Danville

15 Railroad Ave.
Danville, CA 94526
925.855.4000

Lafayette

3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 100
Lafayette, CA 94549
925.253.7001

Livermore

1983 Second Street
Livermore, CA 94550
925.667.2100

Orinda

89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100
Orinda, CA 94563
925.253.7000

Pleasanton

5075 Hopyard Rd., #110
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925.251.2500

Walnut Creek

100 N. Main St.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925.280.8500

www.rockcliff.com

Prudential California Realty / Pleasanton Hopyard



CASTRO VALLEY – 4 beds/2.5 baths home in desirable Castro Valley location with approx 2139 sq feet. Open floor plan with some upgrades throughout. Private rear yard with roses, garden area and RV parking.

5122 JAMES AVENUE

\$625,000



LIVERMORE – Live in Your Own Private Resort! Toland Sports Pool w/fountains,lights,& 12 person spa.15 Solar Panels. 5 Hole Putting/Chipping Green. Outdoor BBQ w/2 Arbors. Movie Room w/145" screen & 8 electric seats. Triple crown molding, cased windows,travertine flooring w/ inlays. TOP quality! WOW!

683 SHADOW MIST COURT

\$1,475,000



LIVERMORE – Exquisite single story with views of the gorgeous yards (patio cover w/automatic sunscreen, spa, fountain & spectacular plants). Upgrades include extensive tile flooring,amazing tile detail in baths & kitchen, surround sound, & so much more. This home is beyond special!!

5832 ELDER CIRCLE

\$799,900



PLEASANTON – You will want to move in to this lovely updated and upgraded home in a "New York Minute!" It has a beautiful setting near the woods with a view of Pleasanton Ridge and close to open space where nature can be viewed. Enjoy the ambience from the wood deck or from your bedroom windows.

7837 MARIGOLD COURT

\$790,000



CASTRO VALLEY – Spacious Bank Owned Home. Main Living Area and Bedrooms On First Level With Master Suite Downstairs. Home Tucked Away On Court Location. Lots Of Room To Move Around Here!

21500 GARY DRIVE

\$406,900



SAN RAMON – Pristine, updated single story on court. Neutral in decor with newer windows, roof, maple cabinets, and laminated flooring. Fresh paint with open floor plan with spacious family room and adjoining kitchen. Private backyard with patios and planting areas. Walk to schools.

82 RYEGATE PLACE

\$645,000



LIVERMORE – REO Starter Home For First Time Buyer Or Investment. Dual Paned Windows, Large Sideyard Parking! Big Lot! Some TLC Needed To Get Home In Tip-Top Shape.

527 ADELLE STREET

\$245,000



PLEASANTON – Desirable 1st Floor home. Highly updated. Granite slab countertops, custom kitchen cabinets with stylish cabinet lighting. Large master bedroom with walk in closet. Stainless steel appliances, including upgraded gas stove with overhead hood unit This home will amaze you with all of it's upgrades.

3433 NORTON WAY

\$240,000



6111 Johnson Ct., Suite 110

925.463.9500

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PLEASANTON



CUSTOM KOTTINGER RANCH Panoramic views of both Mt. Diablo and Tri-Valley area. Dramatic pillars line the formal entry to this stunning & elegant executive home. **\$2,099,900**

925.785.8239 Steve Fast
925.200.1909 Karla Brown

PLEASANTON



RIVASCO AT RUBY HILL Gorgeous highly upgraded home features 4BR plus separate office/library. Approx. 3906 sq.ft. with circular drive.4-car garage w\storage. **\$1,475,000**

925.989.6500 Delores Gragg

PLEASANTON



EXPANDED LAGUNA MODEL 6BR/3½BA with approx. 4,592 sq. ft. w\2 bedrooms and full bath downstairs. Dramatic entry w\sweeping staircase and expanded family rm.**\$1,475,000**

925.352.7307 Tracey Buescher

ALMADEN VALLEY



HORSE PROPERTY WITH BARN 4BD/3BA, beautifully updated historic home with formal living & dining rooms and 1200 sq. ft. porch to enjoy the peace & tranquility. **\$1,400,000**

925.998.7747 Jill Denton

PLEASANTON



KOTTINGER RANCH Lakeside model 4BD/3½BA, plus bonus room, 3,291 sq. ft., 3-car garage. Light and bright with fabulous views from landscaped backyard. **\$1,099,900**

925.785.8239 Steve Fast
925.200.1909 Karla Brown

PLEASANTON



BELVEDERE NEIGHBORHOOD 3BD/2½BA, 1,614 sq.ft. home on 4,280 sq. ft. lot with hardwood floors, newer carpet and paint, private yard with brick patio. **\$675,000**

925.998.9692 Danielle Peel

CASTRO VALLEY



OVER 21 GORGEOUS ACRES OF LAND with a quaint 2 bedroom cottage and a large brick fireplace. Surrounding areas are heavily wooded and very private. **\$649,000**

925.200.1909 Karla Brown

OAKLAND



GREAT VIEWS OF THE BAY & SF. Upper Oakmore location with lots of potential. 2BR/1BA home with enclosed sun room, 2-car garage on 7200 sq.ft. lot. **\$599,000**

925.872.1275 Tom Fox

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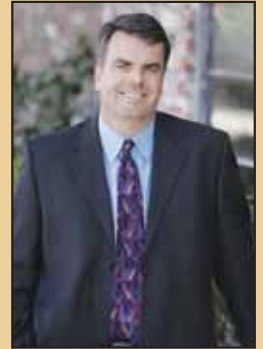
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The latest from The 680 Blog

Appraisal Roulette

Beginning May 1st, a new policy was put into place by Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac designed to make appraisals more impartial and immune from bias. Before this, lenders (including banks, Mortgage Companies, and Mortgage Brokers) had their own appraisal contacts that they would use for appraisals on loans. Lenders learned over time who the best appraisers were, and used them regularly. They screened appraisers for responsiveness, accuracy, and flexibility in transactions. Appraisers have lots of data available to them, and part of the appraisal process is using judgement to >> **Go to www.680Homes.com to read the rest of this article.**



OPEN SUN 1-4

Stunning West Pleasanton custom home with 4 BR + bonus room & office, 4 BTH, .94 acre lot with pool & spa, and parking for 7+ cars.
2824 Foothill Oaks Terr \$1,789,000



OPEN SUN 1-4

Charming 4 BR, 2 BTH single story in quiet location w/ 2 fireplaces, new carpeting, sunny upgraded kitchen, remodeled master bath & more.
5769 San Carlos Way \$734,900



NEW PRICE!

Bridle Creek Area. 5 BR + Office, 5 1/2 BTH, gourmet granite/cherry/stainless kitchen, .47 acre lot, luxurious master suite, & more!
\$1,595,000



OPEN SUN 1-4

Fabulous Country Fair home with granite & cherry kitchen, hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, and private almost 1/4 acre lot w/ pool & spa.
2782 Calle Alegre \$1,149,900



CUSTOM HOME!

New custom home with 5 BR + bonus room & office, 5 BTH, almost 1/2 acre lot with views!
\$1,749,000



OPEN SUN 1-5

Walk to downtown! 1 story 4 BR, 3 BTH on flat 10k lot. Granite & stainless kitchen, hardwood floors, and more!
1608 Cindy Way \$1,179,000



PENDING SALE!

Elegant 4 BR + office & bonus room, 4 1/2 BTH home with 3 fireplaces, granite & stainless kitchen, and resort-like private yard w/ pool and waterfall!
\$1,749,500



PENDING SALE!

Fabulous Walnut Glen Estates home with 4 BR + bonus room, 3 1/2 BTH, 1/3 acre lot with pool & spa, custom kitchen, and more!
\$1,299,000



PENDING SALE!

Fabulous 4 BR, 3 BTH home in quiet location with designer kitchen, new carpeting, new roof, 3 fireplaces, 3 car garage, and more!
\$859,000

Go to 680Homes.com for more information on these homes and other properties.



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BLAISE LOFLAND



925.846.6500
www.blaiselofland.com
blaise@blaiselofland.com

apr.com

CARLTON PLACE



1312 CARLTON PLACE, LIVERMORE

Beautiful upgraded Livermore home located on premium +/- one acre lot. Views of Mt. Diablo. Beautifully landscaped grounds, private rear yard with built in pool and spa. Four bedrooms, bonus area, private office, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,680 square feet. Upgraded kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding and plantation shutters. Bamboo wood floors and 20" custom tile flooring. Three car garage. Concrete tile roof. Minutes from Livermore Valley wineries. **OFFERED AT \$899,500**

PRIVATE CUSTOM ESTATE



3752 TRENERY DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Gorgeous Mediterranean custom home on premium +/- one acre estate lot. Private secluded location. This home has approximately 8,402 square feet (6,141 on main level), seven bedrooms plus private office, and seven and a half bathrooms. Expansive gourmet kitchen. Antique marble, and Brazilian cherry hardwood floors. Extremely private rear grounds—great for entertaining with in-ground swimming pool. Expansive lawn area and beautiful mature landscaping. Circular driveway and oversized four plus car garage. Conveniently located in town near services, activities, and walking distance to desirable Mohr Elementary! **OFFERED AT \$2,795,000**

CASTLEWOOD HEIGHTS



OPEN SUN 1-4

6736 RIDDELL STREET, PLEASANTON

WOW! Don't miss this beautiful home on premium view lot (.39 acre). Panoramic views of Pleasanton Ridge. Quality built in 2002. Beautifully landscaped private rear yard, backs to open space. Five bedrooms + bonus/game room, and loft/TV area, and separate downstairs exercise room, four bathrooms. Approximately 4,100 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding, hickory wood flooring and upgraded carpet. Close to Downtown, Castletown Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park. **OFFERED AT \$1,349,000**

BRIDLE CREEK



SALE PENDING

827 SUNNY BROOK WAY, PLEASANTON

Single level in Bridle Creek on .26 acre premium view lot. Built by Greenbriar Homes in 2001. Beautiful views of Pleasanton Ridge. Private rear yard with built in pool and spa. Beautifully landscaped. Five bedrooms, four bathrooms. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Crown molding and plantation shutters. Close to Downtown, Castletown Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park. **OFFERED AT \$1,329,000**

VENTANA HILLS



OPEN SUN 1-4

1141 LUND RANCH ROAD, PLEASANTON

Don't miss this beautiful Gibson model in desirable Ventana Hills. Premium (.34 acre) lot backs to open space. Five bedrooms, fifth bedroom can be bonus, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,179 square feet. Upgraded kitchen with granite. Custom travertine tile flooring, new carpet throughout. Beautiful professionally landscaped grounds with Heritage Oak tree. In-ground pool and spa. Walk to neighborhood park and downtown! **OFFERED AT \$1,259,000**

PLEASANTON HEIGHTS



SALE PENDING

857 (UPPER) ABBIE STREET, PLEASANTON

Private upgraded custom single story home on the crest of a hill with floor to ceiling windows to take in panoramic views of Pleasanton Ridge, oak studded hills and gorgeous sunsets. You are secluded yet in the heart of Pleasanton. Walk to Main Street and enjoy downtown Pleasanton. Large private grounds (16,308 sq. ft.) with exceptional views, guest unit/cabana, large patio areas with spa, and sitting/viewing deck for relaxing or entertaining! Save money in your solar powered home. 4 bd, downstairs bonus room (5th bd option). Approx. 3,437 sq. ft. including separate guest unit/cabana. Option to expand lower level within existing house footprint! Don't miss it! **OFFERED AT \$1,189,000**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



Thinking of selling your home?
Let Alain Pinel Realtors list your property.
We have qualified buyers. Contact us today.



BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,795,000
Georgous Mediterranean custom home. Private secluded location. 7bd/7(1)ba, Gourmet kitchen. Antique marble/hdwd flrs. Private rear grounds, pool/spa. Beautiful landscaping.

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,299,000
Gorgeous 5bd/3full/2half bathroomsxs, bonus room. 5200+/-sf custom home in Golden Eagle Estates with stunning views over 1 acre w/pool. Every upgrade imagineable.

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,095,000
5bd 4.5ba 5,200sf.+/- Guest House. Private home with Views of City Lights, backs to Open Space. Custom molding throughtout, a perfect 10! 4.5 car garage, pool/spa, bonus room/office downstairs.

DOUG BUENZ OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,789,000
Stunning West Pleasanton custom home with 4 BR + bonus room & office, 4 BTHS, .94 Acre lot with pool & spa, and parking for 7+ cars. 2824 Foothill Oaks Terrace

SYLVIA DESIN BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,648,888
Immaculate 5bd/5.5ba home. 4689+/-sf on a 18,808+/-sf lot. Solar pool/spa. Detached guest cottage. Gourmet kitchen. Backs to open space.

DOUG BUENZ BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,595,000
Bridle Creek area. 5bd + office, 5.5/ba. Gourmet kitchen, w/granite/stainless/cherry. Luxurious master suite, .47+/- acre lot & more.

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,349,000
WOW! Spectacular Castlewood Heights home on premium lot w/Panoramic Views! 5bd+bonus game room & loft/4ba. Separate downstairs exercise room. Gourmet kitchen/granite/stainless. Beautifully landscaped.

BLAISE LOFLAND OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,259,000
Gorgeous Gibson Model in Ventana Hills! Premium lot backs to open space. 5bd/3ba/3179+/-sf. Upgraded kitchen/granite/travertine/new carpet throughtout. Pool/spa. 1141 Lund Ranch Road

M.NOKES/D.BUENZ OPEN SUN 1-5



PLEASANTON \$1,179,000
Bygone Pleasanton era is captured in this charming NEW Victorian Farmhouse style home. 4bd/3ba 2700+/-sf single level home features covered porches, pool size lot & \$55k in custom upgrades. 1608 Cindy Way

MARK KOTCH BY APPOINTMENT



DANVILLE \$1,005,500
Beautiful 5bd/4.5ba, 3813+/-sf home Features granite counters/cherry cabinets in kitchen. Computer run home with solar panels. Corner lot 8472+/-sf.

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$899,500
4bd+bonus/private office/3ba. 3680+/-sf. Upgraded kitchen with granite/stainless/crown molding/plantation shutters. Bamboo and custom tile floors.

LINDA FUTRAL BY APPOINTMENT



LIVERMORE \$849,950
Enjoy single story living in this beautiful open floor plan. Has custom pool with sheer descends and 8 person spa. Great backyard for entertaining!

DOUG BUENZ OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$734,900
Charming 4 BR, 2 BTH single story in quiet location with 2 fireplaces, new carpeting, sunny upgraded kitchen, luxurious remodeled master bath, newer roof, & more. 5769 San Carlos Way

JEFF REPINE OPEN SUN 1-4:30



LIVERMORE \$689,950
Gorgeous 4bd/2.5ba. Former model home has custom built-ins/designer title flooring/tree lined private backyard with custom brick patio on a 10,652+/-sf lot. 624 Zermatt Street

ANDY PORYES BY APPOINTMENT



SUNOL \$574,987
Imagine listening to the water whisking down Sinbad Creek while sitting in your spa on private deck. Upgraded 3bd/2ba offers beautiful granite kitchen & .47+/- acre corner lot.

JO ANN LUISI BY APPOINTMENT



FREMONT \$345,000
Adorable 3bd/1ba Canyon Heights Home. Newly remodeled kitchen. Newer roof, windows, and heater.

