

Pleasanton Weekly

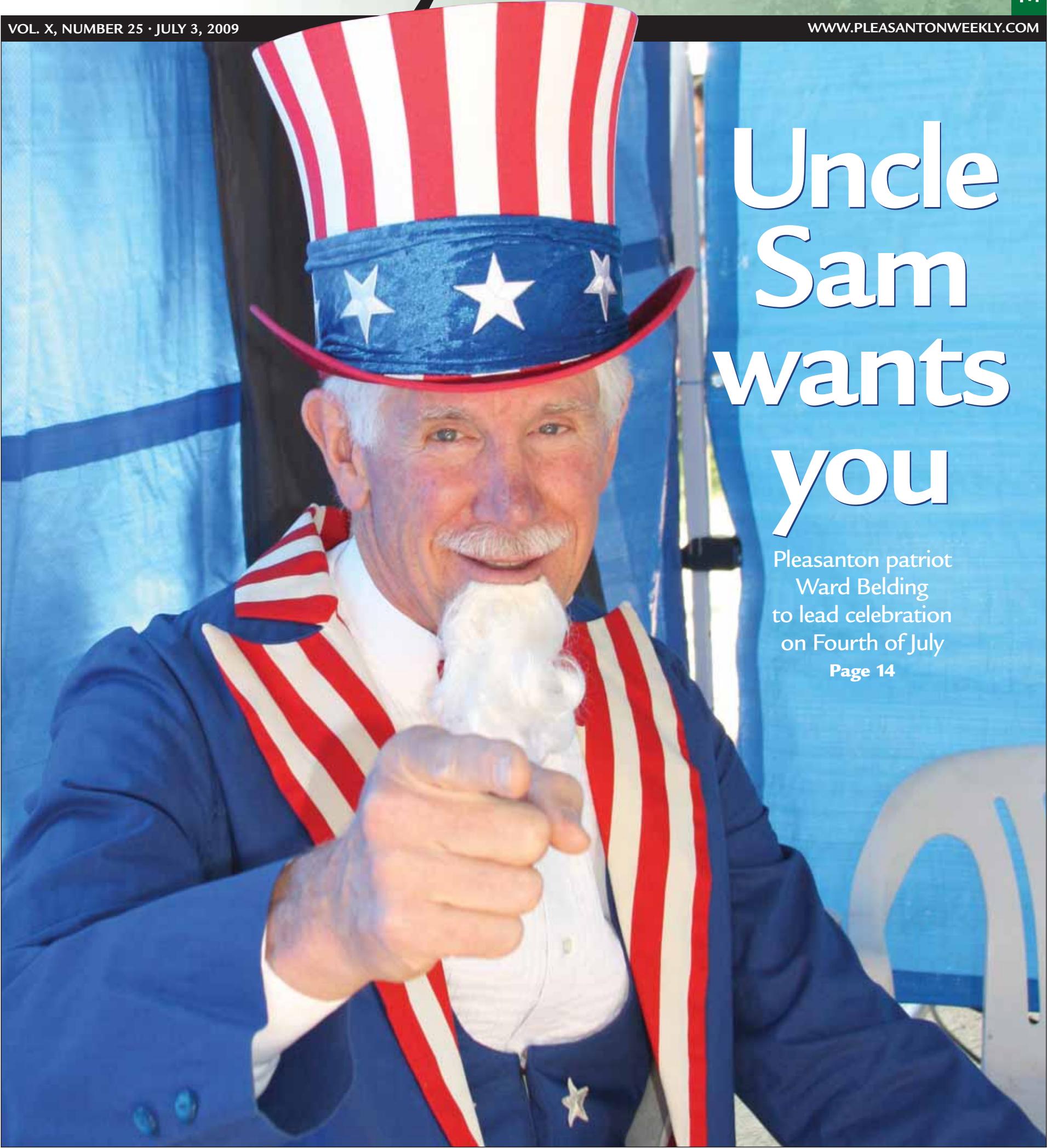
A suit for the city: State Attorney General Jerry Brown
sues Pleasanton for its housing cap **PAGE 5**

In the groove: Pleasanton native Joyo Velarde debuts
as a soul-inspired solo singer **PAGE 20**

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Pleasanton patriot
Ward Belding
to lead celebration
on Fourth of July
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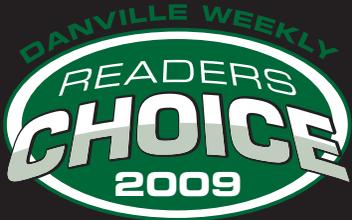
Woman hijacks highway patrol car

A woman hijacked a California Highway Patrol car in Sunol at 3:40 this afternoon, leading sheriff's deputies on a high speed chase on northbound Interstate 680...

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Fighting ALS one day at a time

Several hundred are expected to play golf next Thursday and even more to attend a dinner that night at Castlewood Country Club to honor a top golfer and a well-known friend of Pleasanton, Ralph Romero. Billed as the first annual Ralph Romero ALS Charity, all proceeds will go to the ALS Association to fund research into the crippling, neurodegenerative disease that cut short the life of famed baseball player Lou Gehrig 70 years ago. ALS is now slowly taking Romero's life and he wanted to launch the charity while he still can.

Romero, who with his wife Sherry moved to Pleasanton in 1974, has held a civic leadership position. Yet he's known by thousands who have worked with him in the auto parts business, in various charity efforts he's supported and those who helped to develop Pleasanton in the 1970s and 1980s. A close friend of the late George Spiliotopolous, who owned the Cheese Factory on Main Street, Romero helped organize and then manage GASIT, the George A. Spiliotopolous Invitational Tournament that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for senior citizens, youths, scholarships and funding emergencies over the past four decades. When Spiliotopolous was killed in a pedestrian accident on Main Street, Romero moved in to seamlessly carry on his friend's good work. He was not alone with other well known Pleasanton leaders joining in, including Ken Mercer, Brad Hirst, Dee Wilson, Frank Capilla and many others.

The Romeros first lived on Touriga Drive when they moved to Pleasanton and later built the home they still live in on Foothill Oaks Drive. There they have raised their three sons: Paul, Mark and Ryan. A soccer coach, Ralph Romero also has a domestic side, cutting out figures from materials Sherry uses during the holidays for her custom boutiques. As part of the GASIT group of veteran Pleasanton men ("the old men of Pleasanton," Romero says), he also joined Spiliotopolous in encouraging the county to build the public library that now stands at Bernal and Old Bernal avenues and to see the project through to its completion after Spiliotopolous died.

When some in town, including several leading politicians, tried to keep ValleyCare from building its new medical center here, Romero led the effort to make sure it was built. He also helped in the public campaign to defeat an effort to block the rezoning of open space on the north side of Pleasanton to that Hacienda Business Park could be constructed.

Romero, like the other "old men of Pleasanton," held court almost daily at Dean's Café, with some coming at 6:30 a.m., others later and still another shift about noon and taking seats in the large circular booth near Dean's front door. Although he shunned formal politics, Romero had plenty to say about Pleasanton's destiny in the days when many of the neighborhoods were planned. Those were the days when if Romero heard someone he knew was sick or in financial trouble, he'd encourage others to join him in helping out, sometimes with 50 or more showing up at a friend's house to give their support. When Spiliotopolous was alive, Romero said anyone in the group always carried a pocketful of bills because there would frequently be a plea for \$100 to help handle a problem.

An active, sports-loving kind of guy, Romero first felt shoulder weakness and pain while he and Sherry were vacationing in Hawaii. After a series of tests, a neurologist he had been seeing gave him the shocking news that he had Lou Gehrig's disease on Dec. 12, 2007, just a few hours after his retirement party at Monument Parts, where he was an executive. Although he golfed for a while after that, the degeneration has progressed to where Romero has lost the use of both arms and can no longer walk. What he finds sad, too, is that so few people, including his friends, know anything about ALS, which strikes most often those between the ages of 40 and 70. As many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time. But because it progresses so rapidly, research that requires long-term testing and test results are difficult. Funding also lags behind many of the more noted diseases, which is why Romero wants to leave his charity as a lasting legacy in the fight to find a cure.

Although Thursday's golf tournament is sold out, some tickets are still available for the dinner by calling the Castlewood Country Club. For those who want to contribute, make checks out to the Ralph Romero ALS Charity and send them to 2810 Foothill Oaks Dr., Pleasanton, CA 94588. ■

About the Cover

Pleasanton has its very own Uncle Sam in the person of Ward Belding, a 32-year member of our community who has participated for many years in the all-volunteer Fourth of July celebration at Lions' Wayside Park. This year will mark the 11th anniversary of the home-grown, midday family picnic and concert in the park.

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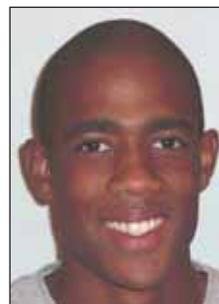
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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How do you celebrate the Fourth of July?



Hakeem Dyson

I live in the Fairlands area of Pleasanton and I've been going to my neighbors' house around the corner for about five years now. We barbecue and play ping pong and it's traditionally one of our neighbors' birthdays so we celebrate that as well.

Jacqueline Strom

I go to the annual Fourth of July pool party at The Del Prado Cabana Club. We play various games, and there's a bike parade as well as a pot luck barbecue. This will be my 12th year attending the party.



Sabina Carter

Every year for the last three years we've gone over to our friends' house near Walnut Grove for a potluck block party. All of the kids decorate their bikes, scooters and animals and we have a parade.

Elizabeth Naylor

We usually try to spend our Fourth of July with friends and family. In years past we have hosted barbecues, but this year we'll be on a plane to Chicago to see family. It really symbolizes the true start of summer for us.



Bud Mayes

We drink beer and listen to John Philip Sousa all day long because it's great patriotic music. My family and I attend our cabana club's annual pool party every year and have done so since 1994.

—Compiled by Hillary Bessiere

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

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. © 2009 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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Newsfront

DIGEST

Pet safety for Fourth of July

The East Bay SPCA is urging pet owners to exercise caution this Independence Day holiday when it comes to keeping their pets safe. In a statement, the SPCA said each year many dogs and cats become lost after running away from being frightened by loud fireworks. They advise owners to keep animals inside, try to stay at home with the pet and ensure they have proper identification. For more tips, call 510-563-4611 or visit www.eastbayspca.org.

Civil War show honors volunteers

Stewart Howe, Civil War reenactor and former president of the National Civil War Association, will deliver a presentation on "The California Volunteers of the Civil War" at 7:30 p.m. July 8 at the milk barn of the Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Foothill Road. More than 16,000 California residents volunteered for the Union armies during the Civil War. To reserve space at the presentation, call 462-2766.

Journey through wild America

Take a journey through the wilderness of North America with Wild Things, Inc. to meet some of the same animals encountered by the early pioneers at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. July 8 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This event is free and tickets will be available a half an hour before each show. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

Axis provides child immunizations

Axis Community Health will host immunization summer clinics from 9 to 11 a.m. July 11, Aug. 1 and Sept. 12, at 4361 Railroad Ave. These clinics are open to all low income or uninsured Tri-Valley families, including Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. There may be a fee. Call 462-1755.

Corrections

In a news story June 26 about two new city traffic lights being activated, "City turns on lights to 2 new traffic signals," page 6, Joshua Pack's title was incorrect. He is a senior transportation engineer for the city of Pleasanton.

In the June 26 Editorial, "Is a constitutional convention needed?" page 9, an organization name contained a typographical error in the last paragraph. It should read "Bay Area Council."

Brown joins suit to invalidate city housing cap law

By JEB BING

Following through on earlier complaints to Pleasanton officials, State Attorney General Jerry Brown joined a San Francisco affordable housing coalition yesterday in a 2006 lawsuit that seeks to overturn the city's 29,000-unit housing cap.

Then last Tuesday, Brown took legal action again, this time filing a lawsuit in Alameda County Superior Court against the Midas auto shop in Dublin and 21 other Midas service centers for allegedly using a "massive bait and switch scam" to lure customers.

Brown, who as the New York Times recently

Also sues Dublin's Midas auto shop for 'baiting' customers

wrote, "has yet to declare his candidacy formally but has not been shy about his desire to run" for governor again in next year's gubernatorial race, has been increasingly active in litigation and legal orders from his office, filing 13 actions in June, including the Midas and Pleasanton suits.

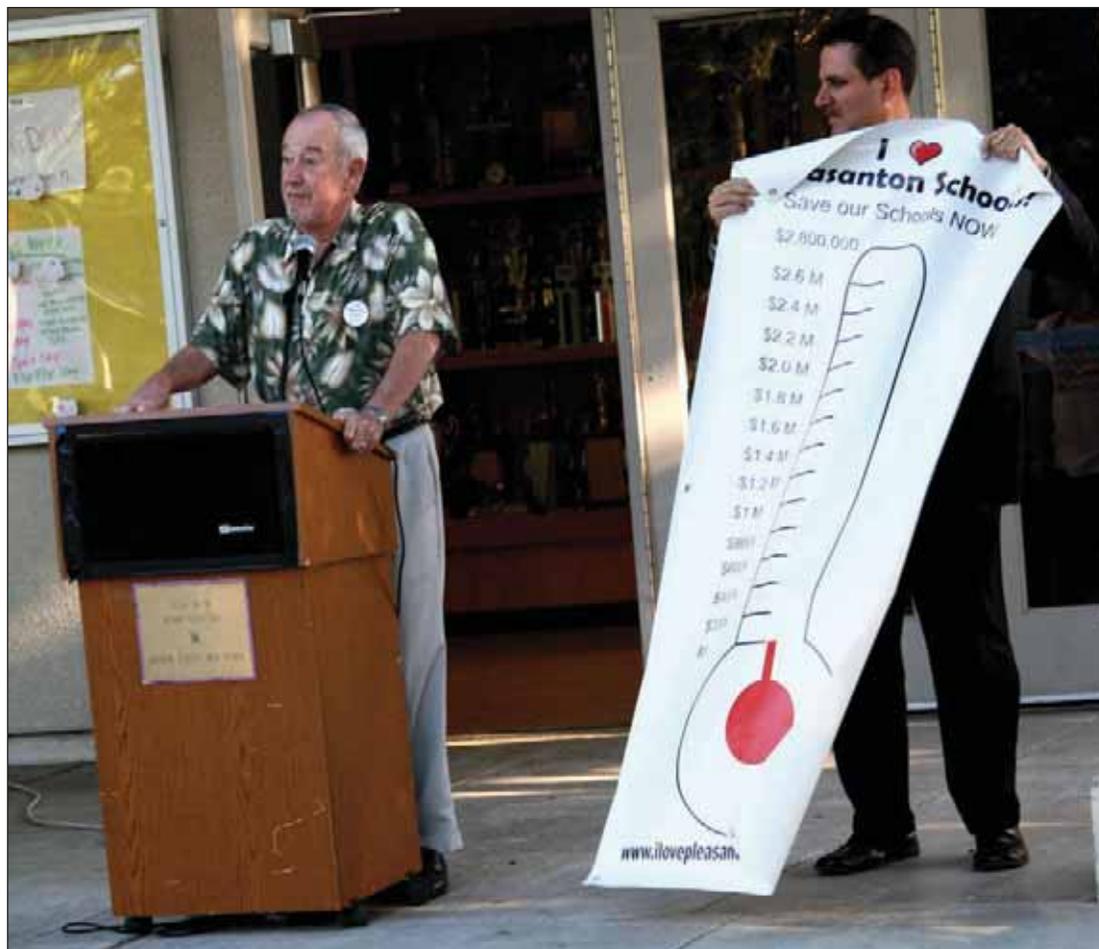
In marsh remarks about Pleasanton, Brown said that "Pleasanton's draconian and illegal limit on new housing forces people to commute long distances, adding to the bumper to bum-

per traffic along (Interstates) 580 and 680 and increasing dangerous air pollution."

"It's time for Pleasanton to balance its housing and its jobs and take full advantage of its underutilized land and proximity to BART."

The City Council, in a closed-door meeting last week, instructed City Attorney Michael Roush to defend the housing cap measure, which voters approved in 1996. Although some city officials, including Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, have said the law might not hold up in a court challenge, the only way the housing cap could be changed or cancelled would be in a court decision or by

See **HOUSING CAP** on Page 7



PHOTOS BY EMILY WEST

Incoming PPIE president Ron Hyde shows the \$2.8 million goal with a banner of a thermometer, held by school board president Chris Grant. While the banner doesn't reflect the \$170,000 reached, organizers plan to display the diagram around the community and online.

Rally brings in more than \$13,500 for schools

Parents organize individual efforts
to support small classes, music

By EMILY WEST

Dozens of families and school employees gathered at the "I Love Pleasanton Schools" rally last Thursday night at Amador Valley High School. The fundraising event raised \$13,598 for schools, according to Pleasanton Partners in Education director Debi Covello, bringing the total collected to just over \$170,000.

The crowd heard comments from several local leaders, including Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Superintendent John Casey, Chamber of Commerce

President Scott Raty, incoming Pleasanton Partnerships in Education President Ron Hyde and Pleasanton Schools Education Enrichment Foundation Chairwoman Denise Watkins. A representative from Sen. Ellen Corbett's office also spoke in support of the cause.

Organizers say all money raised will be donated to Pleasanton schools to support several programs that would have been supported by Measure G. The goal is to raise \$2.8

See **RALLY** on Page 9



A few supporters held signs encouraging others to donate at Thursday night's rally.

Humane Society axes executive position

Director David Stegman let
go to help balance budget

By JANET PELLETIER

In order to balance its annual budget, the Valley Humane Society board of directors said it has made the tough decision to cut its executive director position.

David Stegman, who has been the director of the nonprofit since 2003, served out his last days on the job this week. A message left for him was unreturned before press time.

Board members stressed that the decision to eliminate Stegman, made Tuesday, wasn't easy and had been considered for some time.

"It's heart-wrenching because I consider David a very personal friend and it's a sad day for us in that sense,"

board member Phillip Vermont said.

"The decision was purely financial," he added. "We need to balance our budget and we've seen our donations drop 20-25 percent from private sources, so our forecast for the rest of the year is we'd lose money."

While the nonprofit organization is financially sound, the board had been reviewing finances for several months. Board president Cindy Vallar said the operating budget stands at roughly \$500,000. The loss of the executive director position will reportedly save Valley Humane \$75,000. Board member Jeanie Reitzell said Stegman received a generous severance package.

"It's a decision we've been discussing for probably six months," Vermont said. "We made major cuts last year and it just wasn't enough."

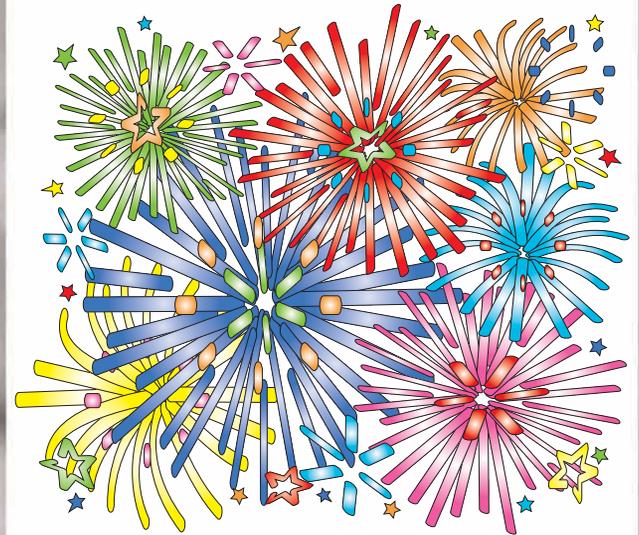
While the position is going away for now, it's possible it could be

See **HUMANE** on Page 9



David Stegman

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Bank opens inside Kolln Hardware

Comerica Bank opened its first Pleasanton branch Tuesday inside the historic Kolln Hardware building and to celebrate, bank executives met with local business owners in the downtown area Wednesday. From L-R, Meadowlark Dairy owner Bruce Takens speaks with Comerica executives, including Pleasanton branch manager Josh Garrison and Mike Fulton, who is the CEO and president of Comerica's Western market. In addition to Pleasanton, Comerica also has branches in other historic sites such as downtown Oakland and in Texas, where the company is based.



JANET PELLETIER

HOUSING CAP

Continued from Page 5

another public vote.

Most believe that given the public's view of traffic and other quality of life concerns within the city that voters would be reluctant to remove the housing cap that was designed to protect Pleasanton from more growth.

Pleasanton currently has about 27,500 homes and apartments, including those already approved for construction, leaving only 1,500 yet to be added before the city reaches build-out.

Brown's motion, filed in Alameda County Superior Court, joins the suit filed in 2006 by Urban Habitat and Pleasanton resident Sandra De Gregorio that challenged the city's Measure GG, the voter-approved housing cap and growth management program that voters approved in 1996.

In a letter to Hosterman and City Manager Nelson Fialho last year, Brown questioned the legality of the housing cap measure and suggested that it be deleted or changed in the city's revised General Plan, which was being considered at the time.

Nevertheless, the city's General Plan update, which is scheduled to go to the City Council July 21 for final approval, calls for the creation of 45,000 additional jobs by 2025 while retaining the housing limit.

Brown argues in his motion to intervene in the Urban Habitat suit that the state's regional housing needs assessment requires Pleasanton to provide 3,277 additional houses, apartments or condominiums by 2014, but the cap only allows for 2,000 more to be built, according to the attorney general's office. The attorney general said the lack of an adequate number of houses in the city is a significant cause of traffic congestion, pollution, and urban sprawl in the area.

The lawsuit contends that the cap violates state law, saying that the Legislature has declared that the availability of housing is a matter of "vital statewide importance," yet many workers are unable to find affordable housing within Pleasanton.

A 2005 study by the Association of Bay Area Governments found that 79 percent of the 58,000 employees working in Pleasanton at the time lived outside the city, and that their commutes can take two hours per day or more.

The housing shortage and long commutes come despite what the attorney general's office said was ample land for development, including property adjacent to the Pleasanton BART station, which is part of the Hacienda Business Park. Several proposals for adding more housing in the business park are pending before the council and Planning Commission, although they have been delayed pending the approval of the new General Plan.

"There is plenty of room under the housing cap for houses to be built," City Attorney Roush said. "The housing cap is a valid exercise of the land use."

Cliff Rechtschaffen, a special assistant to the attorney general's office, said the state's Department of Housing and Community Development brought the case of Pleasanton to the attorney general's office after finding the city out of compliance with their housing element requirements. He said the goal of the lawsuit, which was initially filed by the nonprofit group in October 2006, is to have the housing cap modified or repealed.

"The voters adopted it, but they can't adopt something that isn't lawful," he said.

In his suit, Brown contends that Pleasanton is violating state law by enforcing a housing cap that prevents the City from accommodating its fair share of the regional housing need, as required by state housing element law (Gov. Code §65583).

Pleasanton's housing cap violates the state constitution, which prohibits cities from adopting ordinances that conflict with state law.

Pleasanton's general plan is internally inconsistent, in violation of California Government Code Section 65300.5. The city's existing land use element contains the housing cap limit of 29,000 housing units, while its housing element recognizes that the cap must be addressed because it prevents the City from meeting its fair share of regional housing needs.

Brown's suit adds that if Pleasanton continues to enforce its housing cap, the consequences for the region include:

■ Increased traffic congestion and longer commute times. Interstate 580 has some of the longest commute times in the region, with evening eastbound commuters delayed 7,410 hours and morning westbound commuters delayed

5,120 hours in 2007.

■ Urban sprawl. Communities outside of Pleasanton will continue to lose farmland and open space to accommodate Pleasanton's workers. These communities will have to build more schools, fire and police stations to keep up with anticipated growth.

■ Increased greenhouse gas emissions. More people will be commuting for longer periods and over greater distances. Pleasanton's CO2 output was 1.388 million tons in 2008. When the city is projected to reach 105,000 jobs in 2025, it is estimated its CO2 output will increase to 1.940 million tons. The increase is the equivalent of adding 120,000 cars to the road every year.

■ Increased dependence on foreign oil.

Brown said that transportation is the largest contributor to California's greenhouse gas emissions, pointing out that the California Air Resources Board estimated that transportation is currently responsible for 38 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Transportation accounts for 50 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the Bay Area.

In his suit against Midas, Brown is seeking \$222 million in civil penalties, costs and reimbursements to customers, was filed following 30 undercover sting operations over four years at 22 locations across Northern California, including Dublin, Campbell, Concord, Fremont, Hayward, San Jose, San Leandro and Walnut Creek.

"This is a classic bait and switch scam that lured customers and charged them hundreds more for services that they didn't need," said Scott Gerber, a spokesman with the attorney general's office.

The investigation was conducted by the California Bureau of Automotive Repair. It allegedly revealed a scheme in which Maurice Irving Glad's 22 Midas franchise shops, one of the world's largest providers of automotive services, advertised \$79 to \$99 brake specials to attract customers and then added on an additional \$110 to \$130 fee for unnecessary brake rotor resurfacing services, and hundreds of dollars more for repairs that were unnecessary or never performed, according to the attorney general's office.

Glad's attorney William Gagen issued a statement Tuesday saying his client would aggressively defend against the complaint. ■

Wine event strolls into town July 16

Wine lovers and connoisseurs will have an opportunity to show off their knowledge when the Pleasanton Downtown Association hosts its ninth annual Summer Wine Stroll from 6 to 9 p.m. July 16.

Attendees will be able to try a variety of wines as 25 members of the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association showcase their products at various downtown Pleasanton locations. Guests will also receive a commemorative wine glass and event map.

Tickets will be sold in advance for \$25, and any remaining tickets will be sold for \$30 beginning at 5:45 p.m. on the day of the event in front of the Museum On Main, located at 603 Main St. Since last year's event sold out early, the PDA encourages people

to buy tickets in advance.

"The tickets go fast because there are only 1,000 tickets and it's a very popular event," said Alisha Perdue, events coordinator for the PDA.

Each business will be paired with a different winery, with wine and hors d'oeuvres available inside.

"Our main goal is to bring people downtown and to get them into the businesses so that they can experience the great downtown we have and see what our downtown businesses have to offer," Perdue said. "Many of the same people come out year after year because they have discovered it's an exciting and fun event."

For information on the wine stroll, call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

—Ryan Young

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Auto mall, senior living community sail through Planning Commission

By JANET PELLETIER

A number of seniors walked away from the City Council Chambers last week with smiles on their faces as the Planning Commission gave its approval to a new senior living community on the Staples Ranch property.

Three Staples Ranch items went before the commission at their June 24 meeting: Continuing Life Communities' proposal for a 749-unit senior residential community, Hendrick Automotive Group's plans for an auto mall on 37 acres and a development agreement that will allow for the Staples Ranch property to be transferred from Alameda County ownership to the city of Pleasanton. All sailed through with unanimous support by the commission.

Roughly 50 seniors who were in attendance expressed their support for the residential community proposed by San Diego-based CLC, saying time is of the essence for the project to move forward.

Described by CLC chief execu-

tive Rick Aschenbrenner as "casual elegance," the gated community to be named Stoneridge Creek for those 62 and older will be built in phases and could take eight to 10 years to complete.

"I would like to live the rest of my life here," said senior Howard Matthews, adding that time is ticking for an aging population that desires to live there.

There was only one real bone of contention during the night's discussion—the housing cap. Commissioner Arne Olson suggested adding a condition to the approval for Stoneridge Creek that the units not count against the city's 29,000-unit threshold, which is nearing closer. But commissioner Phil Blank said he wouldn't support that because he didn't believe it was in the commission's purview to get into politics and Olson decided to drop his motion.

The city is currently under fire for its housing cap, with a lawsuit pending to invalidate it. Just hours before

"I would like to live the rest of my life here."

Howard Matthews, who hopes to move into the proposed Stoneridge Creek community for seniors.

the Planning Commission meeting, California Attorney General Jerry Brown announced he was joining a San Francisco affordable housing coalition in the legal fight, which was filed in 2006.

Not part of the commission's discussion were the other highly-anticipated portions of the development, to be built on a 124-acre parcel in northeast Pleasanton, bordering El Charro Road and the Livermore border. They include a Sharks Ice facility and a community park, which will be brought separately. Assistant City Manager Steve Bocian said the city

has received a development proposal from the Sharks organization for the ice rink facility and the two parties are currently working on a ground lease. It's expected to go before the City Council in August, he said. A proposal for an 11-acre retail development that would include a restaurant, shops and market by Fremont Land was dropped recently and the city is looking for another developer.

Late last year, after several years of public hearings, the council agreed to develop the land in concert with an agreement with the county and at the same time to allow the extension of Stoneridge Drive through Staples to connect to El Charro and Livermore.

The city is also in the midst of a

supplemental environmental impact report, ordered by the City Council, which will analyze negative effects to the environment and offer ways to mitigate them and includes the extension of Stoneridge Drive to connect to Livermore. Bocian told the commission the supplemental report will be ready for the public's review later this summer. It will be completed before pieces of the Staples Ranch development move on to the City Council for approval. Two environmental groups and a citizens' coalition called "Safe Streets Pleasanton" have asked the Alameda County Superior Court to halt the Staples Ranch project until a study shows the consequences of developing Staples and extending the roadway. ■

School board restores some administrative jobs

Trustees disagree over keeping certain positions as the 2008-09 fiscal year closes

By EMILY WEST

As the fiscal year for Pleasanton Unified School District closed Tuesday, the board got down to the nitty gritty as it weighed funding positions or possibly putting that money towards other programs.

Often, the five-member school board votes in agreement. However, at Monday night's special meeting, many of the decisions were split in 4-1 and 3-2 votes.

For the school district, the recent months have included several downs—in the way of mid-year, state-mandated cuts and the failure of a parcel-tax—and some ups with the prospect of federal stimulus funding. The board passed the budget June 22, a difficult task as decisions had to be made without receiving a final budget from the state.

Some personnel items were deferred to a special meeting Monday night, making it one of the last steps in closing out the fiscal year. With concessions from administrators, the board unanimously voted to bring back 1.5 middle school vice principals. The board also brought back a coordinator of information services and the coordinator of career and technical services, with the knowledge that these positions bring in outside funding.

Board members heavily discussed the proposed action to change the last day of work from June 30 to various dates in the fall for three administrators who are nearing retirement. The cabinet recommended the extensions to aid in the transition work, at a collective cost of \$107,705.

Trustees Valerie Arkin and Jamie Hintzke were vocal in their opposition to the modifications, saying they wanted to put taxpayers' money towards the community's priorities. Hintzke suggested a compromise with a shorter extension, and Arkin said she couldn't support the changes that would help "max their retirement."

Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services for the district, said that of the savings, only about \$74,000 would go back in the general fund because funds from cutting the coordinator of child nutrition position would stay in the same department. Without adding to the general fund, the savings therefore would not equate to bringing back another counselor or vice principal as some board members had hoped.

In the end, the board decided not to extend the coordinator of child nutrition position in a 2-3 vote, with only members Jim Ott and Pat Kernan voting in favor. The other two positions, which could have brought money into the general fund, were granted extensions in a 3-2 vote with Arkin and Hintzke dissenting.

Arkin was the lone opposing vote in creating a management assistant/technology coordinator role. Superintendent John Casey said it was unrealistic to do without a public information officer and a technology assistant, so this new role would comprise two part-time jobs done by one person.

Had the new position not been approved by the board, Cazares said there would not have been a savings going to the general fund. The role is funded by administrator givebacks as well as money already budgeted under another position, she added.

In her reasoning for voting against the creation of the position, Arkin said she couldn't support it as the public information officer role was ranked low according to the Budget Advisory Committee, a board made up of parents, businesses, elected officials and district employees.

Two audience members made public comments saying they preferred to fund programs instead of administrative positions, especially the goals that are outlined in the current "I Love Pleasanton Schools" fundraising effort. ■

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JANET PELLETIER

The Balloon Samba, seen here being prepped by a worker Tuesday in the children's section at the fair, was purchased by Butler Amusements last September from Neverland Ranch.

Ride featured at fair once located at Michael Jackson's ranch

By JANET PELLETIER

The Alameda County Fair got under way Wednesday as children and adults flocked to the fairgrounds to watch the horse races and take a spin on carnival rides. But one ride in particular is getting all the attention. The Balloon Samba, located in the children's area, used to call Neverland Ranch home.

It's owned by Bay Area-based Butler Amusements, which has roughly 60 rides at the fair. Earl "Butch" Butler said he purchased five amusement rides from Michael Jackson last September.

Butler first met the pop icon, whose death June 25 shocked millions of fans around the world, years prior and has been to Jackson's sprawling Santa Barbara County estate half a dozen times. Neverland, built around the Peter Pan theme, is something Butler said you have to see to believe—a magical wonderland of sorts.

"He had a train and train station just like the one in Disneyland," Butler said. "It's the most gorgeous thing I've seen. It's even better than Disneyland."

Aside from the Balloon Samba, which mimics a hot air balloon ride, Butler also owns a ride from Neverland Ranch that's currently displayed at the Coney Island fair in New York and three rides that are being restored.

"I have a scooter bumper car of his that has his picture all over it and on the cars, they have the moon insignia with the little boy sitting on the moon, built especially for him," he said. "He had it enclosed and inside were mirrors, black lights and music. When you're in there, it's like you're in another world."

Butler said he's getting ready to put that ride up for sale on eBay.

Jackson was the consummate performer in every aspect of his life and always aimed to please, Butler said of his encounters with the singer. He remembers one time he was visiting when Jackson arranged for one of his worker's sons to meet an idol.

"He had a gate guard whose son told him Kobe Bryant was his favorite player," Butler said. "Well, Michael gets on the phone, calls up Kobe and the next day, he was there and he played basketball with the kid and gave him a shirt and everything."

"He would go out of his way to make people happy," he added.

Aside from taking children on his amusement rides, Jackson also encouraged them to watch movies in a custom-built 49-seat movie theater. Butler said there were two enclosed areas with hospital beds and oxygen tanks suited for children with illnesses.

"He had a candy counter there and he would let the kids have all the candy they wanted," Butler said.

Since Jackson's death, it's unclear what will become of Neverland Ranch, which was at one point in jeopardy of being sold and possibly torn down, but Butler said he hopes it will be preserved for the public to see.

"This really needs to stay like it is," he said. "It's an amusement park and it could be a shrine. I saw it as a place people would want to come and see because it's kind of a mystery spot. It's gorgeous what he had done and the money he spent."

"I just wish he could have

lived up to his potential because I couldn't think of anyone who was more talented," Butler added.

Butler, who lives in San Jose, started Butler Amusements 38 years ago with his father and he said it is now the largest show in the West with more than 135 rides. His peak time of the year is coming up later this summer when he'll have rides featured at three state fairs—California, Washington and Idaho.

The Balloon Samba is operating in the children's section of the carnival rides and Butler said a sign has been put up to let visitors know it was an original to Neverland Ranch.

"I won't be surprised if people bring a lot of memorial stuff like little teddy bears or flowers," he said. "And I'll feel better that they do."

For information about the fair, visit www.alamedacountyfair.com. ■

HUMANE

Continued from Page 5

reinstated down the road once the economy picks up again.

"(Stegman) was leading us toward building a new building and capital campaigns and all the things that in this economy aren't working," Vermont said, adding that Valley Humane is in a similar position as other nonprofits with declining donations such as Shepherd's Gate and Hope Hospice.

A campaign to raise funds to build a permanent facility is now on hold, but Vallar said donations are still holding somewhat strong and that money will keep programs going, especially as demand for them grows in the current financial situation. Those include: AniMeals, which provides free food and pet supplies to low-income families, pet adoption, pet surrender, Keeler's Kids (emphasizing the commitment of pet ownership), Critter Camp (teaching the responsibility and rewards of pet ownership), pet therapy at hospitals and care fa-

cilities, the Just Like New Fund to help cover one-time pet emergency costs, Paws To Read with the Pleasanton Public Library to promote literacy and a love of animals, a Hope Hospice partnership offering guidance for patients' pet issues and volunteers to care for pets in-home, and Daisey's Gift of Life (pet resuscitation kits for local fire districts).

Under Stegman's leadership, the humane society relocated to a modular facility off Stanley Boulevard on Nevada Street, completed a strategic realignment and created a new mission, branding and communication plans around supporting people and pets. Vallar said the nonprofit has Stegman to thank for his service over the past six years in putting Valley Humane on a clear path to community service and secure financial footing.

General Manager Wendy McNelley will oversee the leadership of operations, programs and events. Additional duties will be absorbed by staff (three part-time and two full-time workers) and roughly 200 volunteers who help. ■

RALLY

Continued from Page 5

million by Aug. 15 in order to keep these programs—such as a 20 to 1 class-size reduction ratio, reading specialists, counselors and elementary music—intact for the following school year.

Susan Flashberger, a parent and local Realtor, said she and a team of "tenacious moms" are putting out student-decorated shoeboxes in local businesses to encourage people to donate to the ILPS campaign.

"Some parents are waiting until the very end to donate," she said. "It's important for the teachers considering getting jobs in other districts to know we're getting close [with the fundraising ef-

forts] so take the other jobs."

Any businesses interested in displaying a shoebox can call 463-0436.

Local professional photographers Shawnee Pedraza and Lori Huneke are also participating in efforts to support ILPS. They are offering family photoshoot sessions from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at a Pleasanton park. It would include an 8-inch by 10-inch portrait for \$125, of which \$120 would be donated, Pedraza said.

To sign up, contact Pedraza at 699-2107 or shawnee78@gmail.com. If there is demand, they may add another day of shooting the following weekend.

To learn more about the fundraising effort, visit www.ilovepleasantonschools.com. ■

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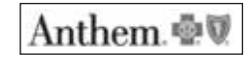
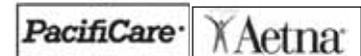
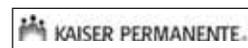
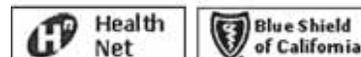
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Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Is anybody listening?

With many of us getting smaller paychecks or, if out of work, none at all, it's baffling that public agencies continue raising fees, rates and other costs. Now, with the state poised to issue billions in IOUs in lieu of cash, it's clear that the economic headaches hurting us all are growing. At press time, State Controller John Chiang is preparing to issue notes totaling \$3.36 billion with about \$500 million targeted for the private sector. Immediately affected will be vendors who supply state agencies, including food to the prisons, tires and services to state police, even plumbers who normally rush to the scene to repair broken pipes and toilets. Of course IOUs in the form of registered notes might be preferable to no payments at all. That's happened at ValleyCare Health System and Axis Community Health where late payments occur as state agencies say they need more time to "audit" the bills. IOUs also are expected to replace cash payments to MediCal patients and others on state programs, leaving ValleyCare and Axis the challenge of digging into already sparse reserves to pay the costs of patient care until the state corrects course on its growing budget deficit.

The state issued IOUs in the early 1990s for several months until a cash shortfall was resolved. This time, with the deficit estimated at \$24.3 billion, IOUs could be the norm for months. Complicating the crisis this time is a credit crunch that may leave vendors without a means of borrowing money to tide them over. Tight credit promises to make it tougher than usual for businesses to borrow money. The crisis, a Ceres business owner told the Sacramento Bee, "could be a business-ending prospect not only for myself but for other small businesses that sell to the state of California."

Even with this dilemma, the costs for consumers and commuters keep going up. San Francisco supervisors voted this week to increase fees for usage of several recreation facilities and to charge non-city residents more for entrance to Golden Gate Park's Japanese Tea Garden. Swimming pool use fees are going up by \$1 along with parking rates at Kezar stadium. Bay Area commuters will have to carry a little more pocket change as fare hikes went into effect July 1. Muni fares in San Francisco are up by 50 cents, BART fares increased by 6.1 percent with a whopping \$2.50 surcharge for trips to and from San Francisco International Airport—from \$1.50 to \$4. AC Transit has raised bus fares to \$2 from \$1.75, following WHEELS which earlier raised it fares in the Tri-Valley. Caltrain, Samtrans and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority have all raised fares. Can ACE train be far behind?

If it's any comfort, we have company in our state deficit and fee increase agonies. Indiana, Arizona, Mississippi and Pennsylvania also went into the final day of their fiscal years facing the shut-downs of public agencies, paying bills through IOUs, releasing prisoners long before their sentences expire and reducing basic services, including police and fire. But, as the Washington Post pointed out Wednesday, California is a special case simply because we're so big. Closing our state's budget gap entirely through cutbacks in programs as Gov. Schwarzenegger and the Republicans in the Legislature propose, will deepen not only our state's recession but could hurt much of the rest of the country as well. The governor's proposed cuts could cause 60,000 state employees to lose their jobs, adding to the foreclosure risks. The domino effect will no doubt move through the state and to Pleasanton. Is anybody in charge? Is anybody listening? ■

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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

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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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LETTERS

Put money where your vote was

Dear Editor,

I'd like to make some additional comments to Mr. Al Cohen's letter ("3 ways to donate money to schools," Letters, June 19, page 11).

He states that 10,995 people voted for Measure G. What is preventing these concerned citizens from making their annual payments for the next four years? My math says that will provide Pleasanton schools with a little over \$10 million. I say put your money where your vote was and write those checks.

Karl Aitken

Should state lecture us on development?

Dear Editor,

Why is no one taking AG Brown to task on his ridiculous lawsuit against the city of Pleasanton?

A wise man once said to me that common sense is not so common. Attorney General Brown's lawsuit against the city is a shining example. Mr. Brown is apparently oblivious to our state's housing glut, foreclosure crisis, high and rising unemployment, and budget crisis. His lawsuit states that we

Pleasantonians are not contributing appropriately to the attainment of the state housing goal. Is the state really in any position to lecture us on how to responsibly manage housing development? Isn't our current financial crisis a direct result of irresponsible housing development?

But it gets even better. Apparently, we are responsible for global warming. How could that possibly be the case you ask? Well, the city leaders have hatched a grand plan to create jobs, simultaneously limit housing growth, force some of these newly employed to drive in from neighboring towns, and destroy the world. The threat is real because these "Machiavellian marauders" have nearly doubled the number of jobs in the past 10 years. Who knew Pleasanton was flush with such evildoers?

Mr. Brown chose to deploy his limited legal resources to this cause while the state faces its worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. This forces the state and the city of Pleasanton to spend their limited funds on this frivolous lawsuit. To add insult to injury, Mr. Brown goes on to call residents "draconian and illegal." Can you imagine how some of us feel about our state's Attorney General?

Gary Martell

GUEST OPINION

This summer, it's especially important to protect your skin

There are few places in the world more seductive than the Bay Area in the spring and summer, and a life of total health may include enjoying many hours outside. But it also includes some simple and inexpensive precautions to prevent injury from dangers that outdoor activities present.

When going out in direct sunlight, don't rely on sunscreen alone to protect you from harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. Sunscreen plays a role in skin protection, but as an adjunct to other precautions.

If possible, schedule outdoor activities before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m. The time between these hours is when the sun does the most damage. Use your shadow as a gauge. If it's shorter than your height, it's time to exercise caution and protect yourself from extended exposure.

Seek the shade. When you're outside, find the trees, or other

shady spots—anywhere that doesn't directly expose your skin to the sun.

Rely on clothing. A hat is essential if you're going to be in direct sunlight. Find a hat with ventilation and a full brim to protect your head, face, and neck. There are many shirts on the market vented for coolness and designed for sun protection. T-shirts don't always offer the best protection, especially when they're brand new and when they are wet.

Use sunscreen and make sure to use enough. Use at least two tablespoons for the body. Less than that will provide some protection, but not as much as you expect. Half as much sunscreen provides much less than half the protection you need. Reapply sunscreen once after an hour or so and after swimming, sweating, or toweling off. To be safest, reapply after each two additional hours in the sun. Researchers do not agree on the required frequency of applying sunscreen, but they all agree that sunscreen should be reapplied.

Don't be lulled into feeling completely protected by ultra-high sun protection factors (SPF) which sunscreen makers use to market their products. It is more important to apply enough sunscreen and to reapply, than to use

the highest SPF. Choose SPF 30 or higher and use plenty.

SPF reflects how well a sunscreen blocks the burning UV-B rays but only when plenty of sunscreen is applied in controlled laboratory conditions. To filter harmful ultraviolet-A rays, most inexpensive sunscreens rely on avobenzone. Look for that ingredient. It filters UV-A rays, which promote tanning, but also promote skin aging and cancer.

There is, of course, no substitute for common sense, so wear protective gear when cycling, skating or climbing. Don't go hiking off-trail or swimming alone. Take a GPS device and a reliable map if you're heading out into unknown wilderness areas. When you are not in the wilderness, but are traveling afar, know your medical history and medications in case you need treatment. Kaiser Permanente now offers members a portable electronic medical record.

Have a delightful and safe season in the sun.

Dr. William Lide has been practicing dermatology at the Kaiser Permanente Pleasanton facility since it opened in 1983. He and his family live in Pleasanton. Dr. Lide spends many hours outdoors windsurfing, mountain biking and skiing.



By WILLIAM LIDE, MD

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

The City Council meeting for July 7th has been cancelled. The next regular scheduled meeting will be July 21st.

Planning Commission

Wednesday, July 8, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

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

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, July 6, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

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

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, July 9, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

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

**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

POLICE REPORT

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

June 20

Burglary

- 7:55 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

DUI

- 2:02 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue
- 2:40 a.m. at the intersection of Navajo Court and Santa Rita Road

June 21

Petty theft

- 7:09 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road
- 6:09 p.m. in the 3500 block of Touriga Drive

Marijuana possession

- 4:53 p.m. in the 300 block of Ray Street

Battery

- 9:03 p.m. in the 400 block of Tawny Drive

June 22

Theft

- 7:33 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; stolen vehicle
- 3:19 p.m. in the 5900 block of Black Avenue; grand theft

Vandalism

- 12:27 p.m. in the 3700 block of Pimlico Drive

Marijuana possession

- 11:59 p.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

June 23

Grand theft

- 5:15 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Vehicular burglary

- 1:24 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- 6:08 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

Battery

- 9:49 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

June 24

Theft

- 2:56 p.m. in the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; forgery
- 3:56 p.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive; stolen vehicle
- 4:06 p.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; stolen vehicle

Assault

- 8:30 a.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Alcohol consumption by minors on private property

- 10:25 p.m. in the 3400 block of West Ruby Hill Drive

June 25

Theft

- 11:48 a.m. in the 1200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
- 6:54 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue

Vandalism

- 8:54 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Trails Drive and Hopyard road
- 10:34 a.m. in the 600 block of Junipero Street

DUI

- 9:55 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Streetw

June 26

Theft

- 10:17 a.m. in the 600 block of Main Street; grand theft
- 6:22 p.m. in the 6700 block of Paseo Santa Cruz

Vehicular burglary

- 4:05 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 12:26 p.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 11:20 p.m. at the intersection of Main and West Angela streets; DUI
- 11:56 p.m. in the 1 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; public drunkenness

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Pleasanton's Free Movies in the Park

Join us for free *Movies in the Park* in downtown Pleasanton! The City of Pleasanton presents four family favorites in July and August at Delucchi Park. All films start at twilight (about 8:30 p.m.). Just set out your blankets and lawn chairs and get ready to enjoy a good flick with your friends and family on a 26-foot screen.

The park opens to the public at 4:00 p.m. and seating will be cordoned off in sections with blanket seating in the front, low lawn chairs in the center, and camp chairs and other higher positioned seating in the rear, to accommodate for the best viewing. Viewers are welcome to bring their own food or take-out and are asked to clean up after themselves. Extra trash receptacles will be strategically located around the park for this purpose.

Kung Fu Panda (PG)

Thursday, July 9

Wizard of Oz (G)

Thursday, July 23

School of Rock (PG-13)

Thursday, August 6

Raiders of the Lost Ark (PG)

Thursday, August 20

For more information,
call the Parks and Community Services Department at (925) 931-5340.

Idea popped by Thriving Ink, which will provide free popcorn to viewers at each show!

OBITUARIES

Nellie M. Witt

Nellie M. Witt died June 27 at the age of 91.

Mrs. Witt, a 25-year Pleasanton resident, was born Aug. 21, 1917 in Eufaula, Okla. She was one of 11 siblings. During her youth, she lived with her family on farms and ranches and worked hard in the orchards and cotton fields.

In 1936, she came to California with her mother and some of her brothers and sisters settling in Riverdale. In 1940, she moved to San Francisco where she met and married P.B. Witt. He was in the Army at that time and stationed at the Presidio of San Francisco. Due to his military career, for the first 20 years of their marriage, they lived and traveled extensively in Japan, Germany and the United States. After his retirement from the Army, San Francisco became their home until they moved to Pleasanton in 1984 to be closer to their daughter and her family.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Witt worked hard at whatever she did. While her husband was in the service, she was employed at the post exchanges on the various bases where he was stationed. After their return to San Francisco, she became a meat wrapper working for Albertson's and Safeway until her retirement in September 1982. Shortly after her husband was stricken with Parkinson's disease and she lovingly cared for him until his death in 1996.

Mrs. Witt loved family gatherings, working in her garden, was an avid bowler and a loyal S.F. Giants fan. In the late 1990s, she served as a member of the Bay Area Army Retiree Council.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and Cornell Holmes of Pleasanton; grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Cornell, Jr. and Karin Holmes; four great-grandchildren, Simone, Cornell ("Alex"), Max and Luke of Allen, Texas; sister, Jessie Gollagher of Fresno; and many

nieces, nephews and friends.

Her family would like to thank the dedicated staffs at Quail Garden in Livermore, Carol's Guest Home in Pleasanton and Vitas Hospice for their loving care. A memorial service will be held at 1:30 p.m. July 8 at Chapel of the Chimes, 32992 Mission Blvd. in Hayward.

Carolyn Helgeson

Carolyn Margaret Helgeson, a church organist and choir director for 38 years, died June 18 with her husband and lifelong sweetheart, Lew, at her side. She was 85.

A gifted musician and artist, Mrs. Helgeson served as organist and choir director at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church (now Centerpointe) from 1957 until she retired in 1985.

Mrs. Helgeson was born and raised in Duluth, Minn. After high school, Lew Helgeson enlisted in the U.S. Army and while he was serving in Europe, they agreed—by mail—to be married. While he was overseas, Mrs. Helgeson

began her music ministry, serving as the organist and choir director at Central Avenue Methodist Church. When Lew was discharged, they were married and moved to Seattle where Mrs. Helgeson received a bachelor of arts from the University of Washington. She served as organist and choir director at Key-stone Congregation Church.

In 1956, General Electric sent them to the Bay Area to check out job opportunities. She started the Presbyterian Church on Neal Street in January 1957. During her time there, she established a music program based on excellence as she directed two children's choirs, the adult choir and started the bell choir. When the church constructed its facility on Mirador Drive, she guided the purchase of a custom-designed Schoenstein organ. She also taught private piano lessons for more than 20 years and worked on her art. She and Lew traveled widely, including a round-the-world trip with two of their children.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Lew; sons, Peter Helgeson of Pleasanton and Steve and his wife Sandy Helgeson of Eureka; daughter Julie and husband Mark Wilkins of Soulsbyville, Calif.; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The family prefers contributions in her memory to the Centerpointe choir program, 3410 Cornerstone Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

A memorial service was scheduled July 1 at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church.

Robert R. Hanks

Robert R. Hanks died peacefully and surrounded by loved ones June 22 at the age of 46.

A longtime Pleasanton resident, Mr. Hanks was born on Aug. 8, 1962 in Torrance, Calif.

He touched many lives and

brought joy to everyone. After serving his country in the Air Force, he became a public safety officer until he was forced, due to injury, to retire and at that time opened The Cruise and Travel Company in downtown Pleasanton, which he ran for 16 years, and his wife and staff continue to service.

His favorite place in the world was Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Tania Hanks; children, Matthew and Lexi Hanks; mother, Judy Tamble, step-father, Dave Tamble and father, Bob Hanks; brothers, Steve (Nancy) and Kurt Hanks; nieces and nephews, Justin, Jimmy, Chris and Samantha Hanks and their extended families. He was also the beloved grandson of Helen Lackey, son-in-law and brother-in-law of David and Adrian Lansdowne and their families.

Services were scheduled July 2 at Cornerstone Church in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Melanoma Foundation.



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UNCLE SAM

Ward Belding celebra

BY JERRI PANTAGES LONG

Pleasanton has its very own Uncle Sam in the person of Ward Belding, a 32-year member of our community who has participated for many years in the all-volunteer Fourth of July celebration at Lions' Wayside Park. This year will mark the 11th anniversary of the home-grown, midday family picnic and concert in the park.

Belding will be easy to spot: he stands 6 feet 7 inches before he dons the stars-and-stripes top hat that adds another eight inches to his stature.

A vocalist who has performed in concerts since he was 10 years old, Belding will again lead the audience in the national anthem and other patriotic songs. (Don't worry: Lyrics are printed in the program.) Called "Celebrating Freedom and its Evolution since the Revolution," the free event takes place from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the corner of Neal and First streets.

This is the only midday program in the popular Concerts in the Park series sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association. As with the other concerts, fans start reserving their spots early in the day by placing blankets or lawn chairs at desired locations. By noon when the festivities begin, more than 600 are expected to fill the park.

Some come for the music, featuring Belding and the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, directed by Bob Williams. Others come for the tribute to the men and women in military service, past and present. Still others plan their day around the "Dog and a Drink for a Dollar," the bargain lunch sold by the local Lions Club. The Lions also distribute free hand-held American flags. Part of the audience will be there specifically to applaud this year's recipients of the Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award. The combination of these attractions makes a good reason to stay in town for the holiday weekend.

This year's event sponsor will be Heritage Bank of Commerce on Main Street. Free soap bubbles will be distributed to children, and they also can line up for free patriotic face "tattoos." The music sponsor will be ACCUSPLIT, a Livermore-based pedometer and stopwatch company. Co-sponsoring the picnic with Lions Club will be Raley's supermarket.

Uncle Sam has been part of the Pleasanton celebration since it started, although the real icon dates back many years. The white-haired gentleman in tails and top hat has been part of American culture since at least 1817. Some say the nickname came from the "U.S." stamp on army provisions from Sam Wilson of Troy, N.Y., whom soldiers dubbed "Uncle Sam." The image most of us are familiar with was created by artist J.M. Flagg in 1916 for a magazine cover that later became an army recruiting poster, with a stern-faced Uncle Sam pointing at the viewer above the now-famous slogan, "Uncle Sam wants YOU!"

Ward Belding was a high school student in Pasadena when he was tapped to portray Uncle Sam for a church talent show. His mother, an accomplished seamstress, stitched up the costume that Belding still can wear half a century later. Only the top hat has been replaced.

In order to fit into the iconic costume, Belding has an exemplary regime for fitness, currently focusing on swimming and hiking.

"The main thing is to find something you enjoy and keep doing it," he advises.



LISA LORENTZ

Above: Ward Belding, right, rarely is around people much taller than he is. One exception occurred when Dan Wiles, "Uncle Sam Stilt Man," left, from the Alameda County Fair came to Wayside Park a few years ago.

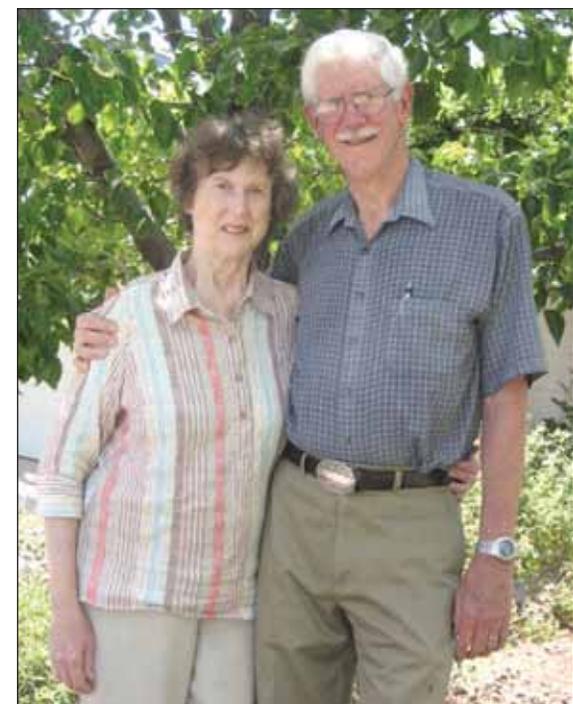
Right: Uncle Sam has made a variety of dramatic entrances for the Fourth of July, including riding aboard this vintage fire truck owned by the Livermore Heritage Guild.



LISA LORENTZ

UNCLE SAM PRACTICES GOOD CITIZENSHIP WITH YOU

Uncle Sam practices patriotism on Fourth of July and beyond



JEB BING

Belding, aside from his role as Uncle Sam, practices good citizenship along with his wife, Pat.

Fourth of July celebration

What: Family picnic and patriotic concert

When: Saturday, July 4, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Lions Wayside Park, First and Neal streets, downtown Pleasanton

Special features: "A Dog & a Drink for a Dollar"—hot dog lunch sold by Pleasanton Lions; free hand-held American flags to the first 600 to arrive; free soap-bubbles and face "tattoos" for children; honoring military families; original poem by outgoing Poet Laureate; Pleasanton Community Concert Band and Uncle Sam.

How: Bring your own picnic blanket or lawn chair—some shade shelters provided. Audience encouraged to wear red, white, and blue.

Belding is participating in the "2009 Trails Challenge" that is co-sponsored by the East Bay Regional Park District and Kaiser Permanente health care. The concept, Belding explains, is to walk the equivalent of a marathon (26 miles) over the course of a year, including trails in at least five of the regional parks. Belding finds that an easy "challenge" to meet, particularly since last autumn when he and his brother hiked 175 miles through Spain in only three weeks.

Keeping in good shape physically is only one of the personal ideals that Belding lives up to. Another is being a good citizen of the world. After graduating from Pomona College ("The Oxford of the Orange Belt") and interning with the prestigious Coro Foundation, Belding

volunteered for the Peace Corps, serving a two-year stint in Chile as an agrarian reformer.

"The Peace Corps was perhaps more meaningful for the volunteers than for those they worked with," Belding said. "That experience opened my eyes to a different culture and also to how the United States of America is perceived in other parts of the world."

Even when not wearing his Uncle Sam uniform, Belding practices good citizenship. Concern for the global environment led Belding and his wife to make two very big changes: first, they went from being a two-car household to only one car, an energy-efficient Prius. If one person needs the car, the other uses a bicycle for local errands.

"We decided that this is the most significant thing that we can do right now," said Belding, "reducing our gasoline consumption."

Second, the Beldings became literally the first on their block to eliminate a thirsty front lawn, replacing it with drought-tolerant native plants. "That's a learning experience," Belding said with a laugh. "We have cut our water bill in half."

While interning in the Coro Foundation with a group of a dozen southern Californians, Belding got to know Pat, the woman he would marry. Among the things they have in common is a desire to help others through community service. Pat has become well known for her efforts to include affordable housing in the community and is an expert in native American lore.

Ward Belding's volunteerism was sparked by another Coro Foundation friend, plus his own career with BART, from which he retired 10 years ago as department head of planning, research and development.

"I knew about the disabled community because of some of the planning team members for BART," Belding said. "I was particularly impressed by a member who was blind. He made us aware of many needs we otherwise would not have thought of."

When Belding's friend told him about the Lighthouse for the Blind in San Francisco, Belding signed up as a volunteer reader. At first he shared a one-hour slot with another reader, broadcasting live from the center.

"I started out by reading aloud the Wall Street Journal and the Oakland Tribune," he said. "Now, I have a half-hour time slot of my own, called 'Nature.'"

Belding has a computer program that allows him to record the program from his home. He searches out interesting articles from such sources as New York Times, Los Angeles Times and Science Daily, seeking 3,500 words to fill each 30-minute slot.

Music is Belding's other great passion. He began performing with the Boys' Choir of St. James Episcopal Church in Pasadena at age 10, then later with his college chorus and glee club. Since then, he has performed with the Oakland Symphony Chorus and Chamber Chorus, plus Encore of Lafayette. Currently he can be heard in Bay Area concerts with Soli Deo Gloria ("That means 'only to the glory of God,' and Bach signed all his works with that phrase," he translated.) Every other month, Belding meets with a group that performs Bach cantatas "just for fun."

Although there won't be any cantatas at the Pleasanton Fourth of July celebration tomorrow, there will be plenty of foot-stomping patriotic music to liven the holiday with the afternoon and evening still left for backyard barbecues on America's 213th Independence Day. ■



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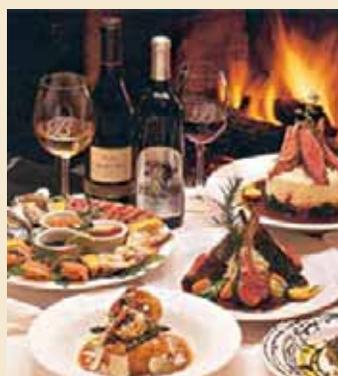
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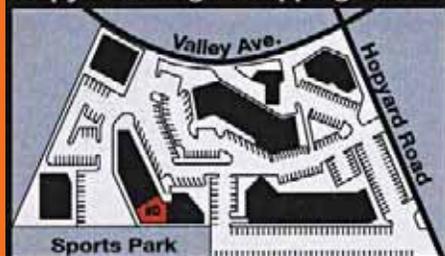


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Calendar

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY • POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Class Reunions

AMADOR CLASS OF 1964 The Amador High School class of 1964 is planning its 45th year reunion from 3-8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 8, in Pleasanton. The event will be an informal social gathering. Cost is \$20. Reservations are due by July 15; call Molly Walker at (510) 428-9291.

AMADOR VALLEY CLASS OF 1979 The Class of 1979 from Amador Valley is hosting its 30-year reunion from 6-11 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, at Palm Pavilion at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Cost is \$50 per person or \$100 per couple. For information, e-mail Bonnie Shamblin at sbshamblin@comcast.net or visit www.amador79.org.

Classes

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

CALIFORNIA'S FIRST PEOPLE—THE

WORLD BEFORE If you resided in Pleasanton 500 years ago, what would life be like? This PowerPoint program will feature California Indian foods and music from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, July 11, at Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Old Foothill Rd. Cost is \$20 for residents; \$23 for non-residents. Call 931-5340.

Clubs

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS This club will host guest speaker Christine Barnes who will talk about "Color, Color, Color" from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. This event is free. Visit <http://amadorvalleyquilters.org>.

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

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

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

Concerts

BURTON AND COMPANY TO PERFORM Concerts in the Park will feature Burton and Company, a jazzy rhythm and blues band, from 7-8:30 p.m., Friday, July 3, at Wayside Park, at the corner of First and Neal streets. The next band will be Rock Explosion on Friday, July 10. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

'HOUSTON JONES' Houston Jones, a high octane Americana band, will perform at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 12, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This concert is free. To hear samples of their music, visit www.houstonjones.com.

Events

AN ADOPTION EVENT Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will host an adoption faire from noon-3 p.m.,

Saturday, July 11, at the East County Animal Shelter, Dublin. Dog adopters will receive three free private sessions with a professional trainer, bed, leash, collar and a bag of food; cat adopters will receive a free blanket and toys. Free hot dogs and drinks will be provided from 1-2 p.m. Visit www.tvar.org.

ART UNDER THE OAKS Livermore Art Association and Alden Lane Nursery present the 23rd annual Art Under the Oaks from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. Local artists will exhibit fine art and there will be wine tasting, live music, fruit tasting and door prizes. This event is free. Call 606-1088.

CIVIL WAR CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEERS Stewart Howe, Civil War re-enactor and former president of the National Civil War Association, will give a presentation on "The California Volunteers of the Civil War" at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, at the Milk Barn of Alviso Adobe Community Park, 3465 Foothill Rd. This event is free. Call 462-2766.

DISCOVER HERITAGE HOMES "Discover Heritage Homes" will be held from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, July 11, on the front lawn of the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St. Docents will provide information on heritage homes and buildings. Cost is a donation of \$2. Call

462-2766.

PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE Pleasantonians 4 Peace sponsors a candlelight vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., the second Wednesday of the month. They will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Following the vigil is a peaceful march to City Hall. Contact Cathe Norman, 462-7495; Matt Sullivan, mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net.

SUMMER WINE STROLL Pleasanton Downtown Association will host its ninth annual Downtown Summer Wine Stroll from 6-9 p.m., Thursday, July 16, in downtown Pleasanton. Cost is \$25, including a commemorative wine glass and event map and will be sold at Town Center Books, 555 Main St.; Clover Creek, 670 Main St.; Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St.; and the Pleasanton Downtown Association Office at 830 Main St., Suite A. Call Alisha Perdue at 484-2199.

TRI-VALLEY VEGETARIAN POTLUCK Tri-Valley residents are welcome to share and enjoy delicious plant-based foods from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at the San Ramon Library Meeting Room, 100 Montgomery St. Guest speakers will be Randy and Nancy Wilson of



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“Long Live You!” Cost is \$3 if you bring a dish; \$11 without a dish. Call Lisa at 989-1811 or e-mail Lisa@ThriveHolistic.com.

Fundraisers

CHICKS WITH STICKS Hit the links at Poppy Ridge Golf Course to support Shepherd’s Gate Tuesday, July 14, at the golf course located at 4280 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$99 per player, including a cart, range balls, green fees, box lunch and buffet dinner. To sign-up, visit www.poppyridgegolf.com.

PINK VINES N WINES Red Feather Winery and AOW are hosting a Breast Cancer Benefit from noon-6 p.m., Friday, July 19, at Red Feather Winery, 5700 Greenville Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$25 for adults; \$10 for children under 10 years old. There will be music, drawings and door prizes to win. Call 449-1871.

THE GREAT ‘CATSBY’ CASINO NIGHT Valley Humane Society presents “The Great Catsby Casino Night” at 6 p.m., Saturday, July 18, at a private home in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$75 per person, including dinner, drink tickets, valet parking and gambling chips. For information, call 426-8656.

Health

LIFE LINE SCREENING Faith Chapel Assembly of God will host a preventive health event for local residents offered by Life Line Screening from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, July 17, at the church, 6656 Alisal St. Must pre-register for the screening; call (888) 653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com.

Kids & Teens

CATHY CLOWNDINI’S MAGICAL PUPPET SHOW Your Stage Toys presents Cathy Clowndini’s magical puppet show from 11 a.m.-noon, Saturday, July 11, at Your Stage Toys, 63 W. Angela St. This event is free. Call 398-8203 or visit www.yourstagetoys.com.

DRAMA CAMPS Got drama? New camps start every two weeks for both our performing arts and our Seussical musical academies. Actors ages 8-18 enjoy action-packed days that culminate in memorable performances. For more information, call Linda at 413-8161 or visit www.trivalleypa.org.

HAPPILY EVER LAUGHTER WITH FAE DIDDLE DIDDLE Your Stage Toys will host Miss Fae Diddle Diddle who will drop in to dazzle the crowd with her sparkling face painting, balloon twisting and magic from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, July 4, at the store, 63 W. Angela St. This event is free. Call 398-8203.

SHAKESPEARE CAMP Shakespeare Camp for children ages 7-13 will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., July 20-31, and for ages 12-18 will be held July 6-17, at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. This camp will be appropriate for new and experienced young actors. Registration forms are available at www.sfshakes.org.

SUMMER LEARNING ADVENTURES Hacienda School is offering Summer Learning Adventure Camps including Expository Writing from July 20-24; Creative Writing July 27-31; Presentation Techniques Aug. 3-7; and Intensive Chinese July 13-17; all at Hacienda School, 3800 Stoneridge Dr. Cost is \$500 for one week; \$950 for two weeks; \$400 for additional weeks. This camp is for children in grades 2-8. Call Lauren at (650) 424-1155 or visit www.headsup.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

‘FLEET CITY’ LECTURE Tommie Simpson, director of the Camp Parks History Center in Dublin, will talk about “Fleet City” at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 16, at Lynnwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. The lecture is part of the Ed Kinney Lecture Series presented by the Museum On Main Street in Pleasanton. Cost is \$3-\$10. Call 462-2766.

MONEY SENSE FOR WOMEN WORKSHOP This workshop is designed to empower and give participants confidence to make good financial decisions from 10:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, July 11, at 5976 W. Las Positas Blvd. Topics covered include setting goals, protection, tax, retirement and estate planning. Cost is a suggested donation of \$15-\$25. Call 225-1135 or visit www.centsand-sensibility.com.

SECOND WEDNESDAYS Centerpointe’s Life Education series will host a variety of free exciting, enlightening, and entertaining workshops and lectures from 7-8:30 p.m., on the second Wednesday of each month, at Centerpointe Community Room, 3410 Cornerstone Court. These events are free. Call 461-9324.

Live Music

CHRIS BRADLEY’S JAZZ BAND Listen and dance to live music from 7:30-9:30 p.m., on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, at Sunol Jazz Cafe, 11986 Main St. Enjoy Traditional Jazz of the 20’s, 30’s and 40’s. Admission is \$5. Call (510) 881-5750 or visit www.sunol.net/jazzcafe.

On Stage

‘A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM’ Hilarity, love, magic and music merge in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” one of Shakespeare’s best-loved comedies, at 7:30 p.m., July 9-Aug. 9, at Concannon Vineyard, 4590 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Tickets are \$5-\$100. Call 443-BARD or visit www.shakespearesassociates.org.

‘THE SEAGULL’ Don’t miss Chekhov’s masterpiece “The Seagull” at 7:30 p.m., July 16-Aug. 1, at Concannon Vineyard, 4590 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Tickets are \$20-\$35. Call 443-BARD or visit www.shakespearesassociates.org.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK San

Francisco Shakespeare Festival presents “A Comedy of Errors” at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, July 18-19, July 25-26 and Aug. 1-2, at Amador Valley Community Park. Bring a blanket and a picnic dinner. Call 931-5361.

Seniors

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES Do you want to learn more about a Medicare benefit for “Comfort Care” when you or someone you know is seriously ill? Come and find out about the Hospice benefit from 10-11:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 14, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.50 for residents; \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

BRAIN MATTERS Learn about proper care and feeding of your brain from 10-11:30 a.m., Friday, July 10, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.50 for residents; \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS CLINIC Need help resolving specific issues relating to consumer affairs? If so, schedule an appointment with a Consumer Affairs Representative to file a complaint and have your questions answered from 10 a.m.-noon, on the second Tuesday of every month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5365.

DAY TRIPPERS TRIP TO SANTA ROSA Enjoy a trip to the Charles Schultz Museum and Luther Burbank Gardens from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, leaving from the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$58 for residents; \$62 for non-residents, including docent led tour and box lunch at Schultz Museum. Reservations are required; call 931-5365.

Spiritual

SUMMER PRAYER AND MEDITATION CIRCLE Tri-Valley Unity Church will host 60 minutes of prayer, meditation, song and sharing from 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays, at 7567 Amador Valley Blvd., Room 120, Dublin. Call 829-2733.

TRI-VALLEY UNITY CHURCH This church will host Bob Hardy who will talk about “Our Own Innate

Wisdom” at 10 a.m., Sunday, July 5, at 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. Everyone is welcome and there are ongoing classes and groups available. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Sports

COACHES NEEDED FOR FASTPITCH SOFTBALL Lady Hustle Fastpitch is looking for coaches for all age levels for the fall season. For more information, visit www.ladyhustle-fastpitch.com or contact Teresa Borcard at ronbo4@pacbell.net or 785-0846.

FOOTBALL CAMP Train with current and previous NFL football players at Football Summer Camp held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, July 7-11, at Valley Christian High School, Dublin. Cost is \$350. Call 560-6200.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION Tour the Pleasanton Blood Donor Center and learn

about ways to greet, inform and thank our community’s blood donors or help post flyers at key locations from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, July 9, at American Red Cross Pleasanton Blood Donor Center, 5556-B Springdale Ave. Advanced sign-up is required; call (510) 594-5165.

EAGLE PROJECT/BLOOD DRIVE Tyler Lomas will host a blood drive for his Eagle Project from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, July 7, at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. Receive a free “VIP voucher” for the August 20 Vans Warped Tour. Call 640-6381 or visit www.givelife.org.

TRI VALLEY YOUTH COURT Adult and teen volunteers needed this summer for the Tri Valley Youth Court (TVYC). Teens can serve as Advocates (youth attorneys), or as Court Clerks and Jurors which would work from 5:30-8 p.m., on the first Tuesday of each month, at the Gale/Schenone courthouse. For more information, visit www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com or call Tonya at 337-7175.

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JUMPING FOR JOYO

Foothill alumna steps into the spotlight as a soulful recording artist

BY EMILY WEST

You may remember Joy Malig from Foothill High School's class of 1992. Back then, she led the life typical of a Pleasanton teen, participating in the French and literary clubs, drama and the tennis team. These days, however, she's known as Joyo Velarde, a singer who is bringing her own vibe to the soul and hip-hop genres.

She describes her music as being inspired by traditional soul, but with her own twist.

"To me, it's my own interpretation of traditional soul," she said.

But don't be too quick to define her in a single style.

"Some songs are more singer-songwriter and others are more conventional R&B and hip-hop," she said.

Much of her inspiration is derived from older artists, particularly Patrice Rushen.

"My music definitely has a throwback sound," the now-married El Cerrito resident said, but adding that she also has tracks akin to R&B singer Mary J. Blige.

From the outset, Velarde's goals didn't exactly involve music or even a stage. Instead, she graduated from UC Davis with a political science degree and a minor in French.

"I thought I wanted to be a journalist or a lawyer," she said.

Yet, from a young age, the Pleasanton native was always involved in music somehow. She recalls commuting to the city from her Fairlands Elementary School neighborhood home three days a week as a member of the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

Velarde's solo career grew out of helping her husband, artist

Lyrics Born, who had started the label Quannam Projects with student loan money in college. She describes the transition as an organic progression.

"He knew that I sang, but I never intended to do it solo," she said. "I did back-up vocals."

She slowly made her way into the spotlight as he would ask her first to sing in the background, then on another track and then live on tour. For the last 15 years, they have become full-time touring musicians.

Fans began to ask about her solo projects and having much experience, she is starting to make her way onto center stage.

Her self-titled EP came out in May and she plans to roll out her full album "Love and Understanding" in November.

Until then, Velarde's singing with her husband at shows, which also feature "mini sets" of her own work. They will be performing at the free Stern Grove Festival July 26 in San Francisco. For details on the festival, visit www.sterngrove.org. ■

Hear the sounds of Joyo

■ www.joyovelarde.com

■ www.myspace.com/joyovelarde.com

Joyo Velarde is a Pleasanton native with a debut soul-inspired album coming out later this year.

City to offer free movies in the park

'Kung Fu Panda,' 'Wizard of Oz' among showings Thursday nights at Delucchi Park

There's no need to shell out the big bucks for families wanting to watch a movie on the big screen. On select Thursdays this summer, the city will offer free showings of popular movies at Delucchi Park.

The films will be shown at twilight—approximately 8:30 p.m.—on a screen measuring 26 feet. The park will be open to the public at 4 p.m. with seating cordoned off in sections. To accommodate for the best viewing, blanket seating will be in the front, low lawn chairs in the center, and taller chairs in the back.

Viewers are allowed to bring their own food, but are encouraged to clean up after themselves. Down-

town clothing store Thriving Ink is said to be providing popcorn.

The showing will be PG-rated "Kung Fu Panda" July 9, an animated film starring Jack Black which was nominated for an Academy Award. It will be followed by the classic "Wizard of Oz" July 23, which is rated G; "School of Rock" Aug. 6, rated PG-13; and "Raiders of the Lost Ark," the first in the Indiana Jones trilogy, Aug. 26, rated PG-13.

The park is located on First Street, between West Angela and Neal streets. For more information, call the Parks and Community Services Department at 931-5340.

—Ryan Young

Celebrating independence

Fourth of July events are happening across the East Bay

Families looking for a fun way to spend the Independence Day holiday have several options around the East Bay. In addition to the annual concert at Lions Wayside Park in Pleasanton, here is a sampling of Saturday's festivities.

In nearby Dublin, the city has allowed the use of "safe and sane" fireworks from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday at the following parks: Alamo Creek Park, Dublin Sports Grounds, Emerald Glen Park. Several nonprofit groups sell these types of fireworks around the city each year as fundraisers.

Livermore's annual fireworks display will be at 9:35 p.m. at Robertson Park. The cost is \$3 per walk-in and \$15 per car load. There will also be live music from The Sun Kings, a Beatles tribute band, and Zoo Station, a U2 tribute band, as well as family games, food, a hat parade and more. Gates open at 3 p.m. and music

begins at 6 p.m.

Consider a run before partaking in barbecue and macaroni salad by participating in Run San Ramon. The event, which has a 10k and 5k run, and a 3k run and walk, begins at 8:15 a.m. Saturday at the San Ramon Community Center at Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd. The race is open to all ages. To register, call 973-3240 or search for the event on www.active.com.

Later on in San Ramon is the popular "Star Spangled Spectacular" picnic and fireworks event from 5 to 10 p.m.. Also at the community center, families are invited to bring a picnic dinner, music from 101.7 KKIQ and a fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per car. For details, call 973-3200 or visit www.sanramon.ca.gov.

From 1 to 3 p.m. at the veteran's hospital in Livermore, Debra Knox and the Knoxabilly Band will pro-

vide musical entertainment with local veterans. Local author Sandra Kay will also provide readings and there will also be an open mic segment to showcase local talent.

A celebration is planned aboard the USS Hornet aircraft carrier from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. The family event features live music on the flight deck, interactive games for all ages and a bounce house for kids. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Tours will also be available throughout the day. All-day admission is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children ages 5 to 17, and admission is free for museum members. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 510-521-8448 ext. 282 or visit www.hornetevents.com. The ship is permanently berthed at 707 W. Hornet Avenue, Pier 3 in Alameda. Proceeds from the event benefit the USS Hornet museum.

—Emily West

NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

BY PETER CANAVESE

Food, Inc.

★★★★

Rated PG for some thematic material and disturbing images
One hour, 34 minutes

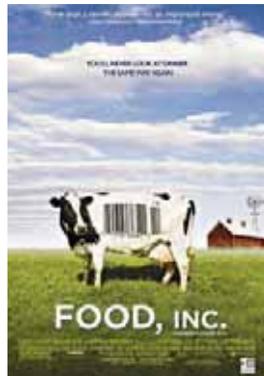
As someone who's always warning filmgoers away from cinematic junk food, I have to bow down to those movies that go against the grain (specifically the corn—more on that anon) by decrying America's poor eating habits. Following Richard Linklater's 2006 fiction adaptation of Eric Schlosser's non-fiction bestseller "Fast Food Nation," the author has lent his authority to Robert Kenner's documentary film "Food, Inc."

Kenner's film about the problems plaguing worldwide food supply and animal and human health may not burst with scoops—it mostly retraces the steps of Schlosser's book—but the film demonstrates that little has changed for the better. More usefully, it provides counter-balance to its own doom-saying with numerous suggestions of how to deal with the corporatization of food. The film begins not with Schlosser but Michael Pollan (author of "The Omnivore's Dilemma"), who explains that "the way we eat has changed more in the last 50 years than in the previous 10,000. But the image that's used to sell the food—it is still the imagery of agrarian America ... the reality is a factory. It's not a farm."

On the subject of demand, Pollan explains how we've become "hard-wired" for salt, fat and sugar, leading to a growing epidemic of early-onset diabetes. But the film focuses mostly on supply, of corn-fed meat and corn-based products, which account for a staggering number of items on supermarket shelves and fast-food menus. It's all made possible by the assembly-line model, designed for its economic efficiency and justified by its customer guarantee of uniformity.

"Food Inc." paints a fairly dire picture of the stranglehold multinational conglomerates have on our food supply. Workers get exploited and farmers cornered by these companies, whose government ties and deep pockets allow them to do whatever they like. Regulatory agencies are toothless, and E. coli is an ongoing threat. Worse, access to quality food is a class issue.

But before you move to France, "Food, Inc." offers some alternatives. Gary Hirshberg, CEO of Stonyfield Farms, proposes beating the system by joining the system or, as he puts it, being Goliath instead of David. And for the ordinary consumer, Kenner follows the advocacy-doc formula by hopefully ending the film with manifesto and website.



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SPORTS DIGEST

Club Sport Tidal Waves beat FAST Dolphins

The 2008 Tri-Valley Swim League champions Club Sport Tidal Waves started off in great form to defend their title by defeating the Foothill Area Swim Team (FAST) Dolphins 710 to 240 at Club Sport June 20.

The top female swimmers for the Tidal Waves were Mackenzie Lee (15pt), Nichole Maria Cui (15pt), Alyse Bateman (15pt), Isabella Hernandez (13pt), Bailey Craig (13pt), Jessica Clouse (11pt), Saige Aronson (11pt), Lexi Venema (10pt), Alison Hernbroth (10pt) and Julia Densmore (9pt).

The top male swimmers for the Tidal Waves were Brett Derham (15pt), Cole Reznick (15pt), Austin Wei (15pt), Eric Hildebrand (13pt), TJ Meagher (12pt), Rocky Anderson (11pt), Justin Lee (11pt), Jack Derham (11pt), Jeff Horne (8pt) and Jack Miller (8pt).

Barracudas stung by Stingrays in 601-397 loss

The Del Prado Stingrays opened their season against the Briarhill-Barracudas from the Tri-Valley Swim League with a 601-397 win on June 20. Top performances for the Stingray girls were recorded by Stephanie Doi (14), Nicole White (10), Niki Doi (17), Sara Jeffrey (8), and Stella Kruschke (6). The boys were led by Eric Crispell (14), John Lester (6), Taylor Smith (10), Eric Gates (16), and Jacob Banke (10). The Barracudas top swimmers were Savannah Weiser (12), Brittney Achziger (12), Kristin Horrillo (13), Callan Jackman (9), and Easton Plummer (10), for the girls and Brent Reed (17), Joey Grywczynski (8), Brett Melloch (14), David Groves (6), and Jacob Allman (6) for the boys.

Joey Grywczynski, pictured, swam in the 7-8 boys division and was a top swimmer in his league.



Finishing the season 20-4, the PELL Junior 80's Panthers won the District 57 title, a first for the league. Team members are (standing, L-R) Head coach Brian Severns, Assistant coach Richard Mankins, Kyle Brunnett, Zach Summerfield, John Ropp, Robert Faris, Brandon Garry, Adam Ochs, Assistant coach Randy Ochs, (sitting) Nick Mendonca, Brad Severn, Neal Mankins, Josh Kardos, Joey Martin and Connor Ochs.

Panthers beat Yankees to claim District 57 Championship

The Pleasanton Foothill Little League Junior 80's Panthers triumphed over the Pleasanton American Little League Yankees 10-5, winning the 2009 District 57 Tournament of Champions June 24.

The team finished the season out with a record of 20-4 and featured outstanding pitching by Kyle Brunnett and Brandon Garry, and a whole team effort with everyone hitting. This is the first time

Pleasanton Foothill Little League has brought home a District 57 Championship.

Team members are (standing, L-R) Head coach Brian Severns, Assistant coach Richard Mankins, Kyle Brunnett, Zach Summerfield, John Ropp, Robert Faris, Brandon Garry, Adam Ochs, Assistant coach Randy Ochs, (sitting) Nick Mendonca, Brad Severn, Neal Mankins, Josh Kardos, Joey Martin and Connor Ochs.



Seahawks Place in top 10 at international meet

The Pleasanton Seahawks swam with the top swimmers in the nation including world record holders and Olympians, at the Grand Prix Series XLII Santa Clara International Invitational June 11-14.

Sharing the water with the likes of Katie Hoff and Michael Phelps, the PLS Women placed eighth overall behind six national teams or university teams, and one club team. They were the highest placing Pacific Swimming Club team for the women. The men finished 37th overall, but third for Pacific Club Teams. Allison Brown placed ninth 1500 free. Catherine Breed took fifth 800 free, 11th 400 free, 19th 200 free. Jen Narum achieved second 1500 free, 20th 400 free. Relays for the women are as follows: 800 free relay—fourth (Breed, Brown, Narum, Karen Wang), 400 medley relay—ninth (Wang, Tory Houston, Breed, Brown), 400 free relay—10th (Breed, Narum, Wang, Brown). Relays for Men included 800 free relay—13th (Josh Meints, Andrew Seitz, Bryan Hughes, Nick Silverthorn) and the 400 medley relay—13th (Silverthorn, Meints, Chris Guido, Seitz).

Team members are (back row, L-R) Andrew Seitz, Catherine Breed, Joshua Meints, Bryan Hughes, Nick Silverthorn, (front) Katrina Anderson, Tory Houston, Chris Guido, Allison Brown, Jen Narum, (not pictured) Karen Wang and Lisa Narum.



CHRIS SCOTT, CALSPORTS PHOTO

PNLL Junior 90's Cubs win 14-10

Father's Day weekend proved to be a very special one for the Pleasanton National Junior 90's House Cubs. After posting an 18-7 record and finishing fourth in their 12-team division, the Cubs earned the honor of competing in the Little League District 57 Tournament of Champions.

First up for the 13- and 14-year-old Cubs were the Livermore A's, the top regular season team with an eye popping record of 24 wins, one loss, and one tie (an even more incredible 54-1-1 over the past two seasons. This was a classic underdog matchup, and the young men from Pleasanton did not disappoint by winning 14-10.

The team was back at it on Father's Day to play the Livermore Red Sox who a great season including 20 wins, three losses, and one tie. The Cubs clung to a 5-4 lead and took the 2009 D-57 Junior 90's Championship title.

Team members are Dominic Ashley, Joe Falls (Coach), Sam Peters, Clay Carter, Jim Falls (Coach), Nikhil Bhatia, Joel Jurich, Matt Falls, David Morris (Coach), Barric Morris, Kevin McManus, Jason McGough, Umang Methi and Michael Hahn.



JIM REYNOLDS

Dolphins top Rip Tide with score of 1064.5

The Ruby Hill Rip Tide hosted Pleasanton Valley Club for their second meet of the season with the final score of Dolphins 1064.5; Rip Tide 665.5.

The following swimmers were recognized for their dropped times and outstanding performance this week for the Pleasanton Valley Dolphins: Paige Reynolds, Holly Palia, Claire Beer, Colin Wallace, Parker Mapes, Andrew Ralston, Camden McLaggen, Hannah Thoe, Julia Gonsman, Lindy Ludwig, Emma Haus, Marissa Lawrence, Nathan Williams, Gavin Wallace, Ty Castro, Paddy Fournier, Sophia Holbrook, Amy Silva, Danielle Sirota, Delaney Bammer, Maddie Simmons, Clelia Opipari, Justin Miller, Matthew Dotson, Thomas Bosse, Luke Bell, Sarah Pease, Ashley Person, Kendall Avriett, Kennedy Truex, Erin Walsh, Ben Oliver, Joseph Dallara, Adam Beymer, Joshua McMurdie, Karoline Vanderzee, Julia Cilk, Emmy Rodriguez, Emily Helmer, Bryce McLaggen, Steven Cox, Kevin Wiener, Josh Pease, Matt Micheletti, Allie Rodriguez, David Scott, Devan Aziz, Mary Gruen, Rachel Usedom and Brody Bockover.

Brody Bockover from the Dolphins team is pictured at left from the 15-18 boys team swimming the 50-yard butterfly.

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TAKE US ALONG



Teaching the ways of the Weekly: Lisa Miller, a longtime Pleasanton resident, and friend Vibiso Kambora from Zimbabwe pore through the Weekly while at a fish market in Mok-po, South Korea. Lisa is living in Mok-po for a year, teaching English as a second language at a "Hogwan," or a private English academy.

Weekly gets political: Nicole Melton gets some serious work done reading the Weekly while sitting at Congresswoman Roybal-Allard's office in Washington, D.C., where she was an intern for four months.



Istanbul Weekly: Alex Winslow looks more interested in reading the Weekly than seeing the Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed Mosque), which is seen in the background here in Istanbul. We don't mind! Winslow reports that the mosque is one of the biggest in the world.

PET OF THE WEEK

Marvelous Max

Meet Max, a 7-year-old male yellow Labrador who is looking forward to Independence Day. Max hopes he'll be spending his holiday having fun with a new loving family. Max is a sweet boy who enjoys the time he spends with TVAR volunteers at the shelter who take him for daily walks. Max has some arthritis in his shoulders though so it's best if he doesn't push himself too hard. He likes nice, short walks and plenty of leisure time. Visit Max (pet # 85974) 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.



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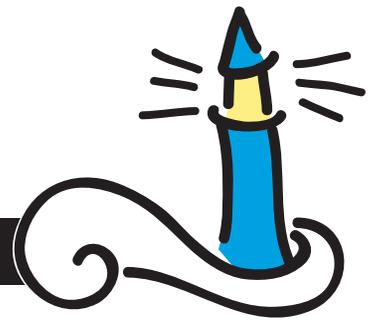
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May home sales show another gain

Affordability, first-time buyer tax credit boost market

By JEB BING

Sales of existing homes showed another gain in May, benefiting from favorable affordability conditions and a first-time buyer tax credit, according to the National Association of Realtors.

May's increase was the first back-to-back monthly gain since September 2005.

Existing-home sales, including single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops, rose 2.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.77 million units in May from a downwardly revised level of 4.66 million units in April, but remained 3.6 percent below the 4.95 million-unit pace in May 2008.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, expected an improvement.

"Historically low mortgage interest rates clearly drew buyers into the market, and housing remains very affordable even with a recent uptick in rates," he said.

"First-time buyers also are being drawn off the sidelines by the \$8,000 tax credit, which is helping to absorb inventory," he added. "However, the increase in sales is less than expected because poor appraisals are stalling transactions. Pending home sales indicated much stronger activity, but some contracts are falling through from faulty valuations that keep buyers from getting a loan."

According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage edged up to 4.86 percent in May from a record low 4.81 percent in April; the rate was 6.04 percent in May 2008. Last week, Freddie Mac reported the 30-year fixed at 5.38 percent; data collection began in 1971.

Total housing inventory at the end of May fell 3.5 percent to 3.80 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 9.6-month supply at the current sales pace, down from a 10.1-month supply in April.

Yun said the appraisal problem is serious.

"Lenders are using appraisers who may not be familiar with a neighborhood, or who compare traditional homes with distressed and discounted sales," he said. "In the past month, stories of appraisal problems have been snowballing from across the

country with many contracts falling through at the last moment."

"There is danger of a delayed housing market recovery and a further rise in foreclosures if the appraisal problems are not quickly corrected," Yun said.

An NAR practitioner survey in May showed first-time buyers accounted for 29 percent of transactions, and that the number of buyers looking at homes is nearly 10 percentage points higher than a year ago.

"This is the time of year when we see large increases in the number of repeat buyers, who are benefitting from sales to entry-level buyers," Yun said. "Investors appear less active, but are more prevalent in areas with large price corrections."

NAR President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Dallas-Fort Worth, said appraisals and the tax credit are key issues.

"To maximize the potential for a housing recovery and subsequent economic recovery, we need realistic appraisals that are based on proper comparisons and done by a local specialist," he said. "In addition, the first-time buyer tax credit should be expanded to all buyers of primary homes regardless of income."

"Extending the credit into 2010 would allow more time for the market to catch up with underlying demand," he said. "In part, that's because many families with children, who normally time their purchase based on school year considerations, do not have enough time to move before the start of school in late August."

"Freeing a pent-up demand in housing will absorb inventory at a faster pace, strengthen communities and stabilize home prices earlier," McMillan said.

The national median existing-home price for all housing types was \$173,000 in May, down 16.8 percent from a year earlier. Distressed properties, which declined to 33 percent of all sales in May from 45 percent in April, continue to downwardly distort the median price because they generally sell at a discount relative to traditional homes.

"The decline in the distressed sales share likely results from an increase of repeat

See GAIN on Page 26

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1063 Hopkins Way, Pleasanton

This 3,000 sq.ft. home has new kitchen with cherry wood cabinets & black beauty granite counters. There are new upgraded carpets throughout the 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bathroom home with an architecturally designed interior and plantation shutters. Master has fireplace with gorgeous tumbled travertine tile. Private rear yard with gunite pool and grape arbor. **Price reduced to \$1,150,000**



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SOLD



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- 3 BEDROOMS**
3183 Half Dome Drive \$599,000
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- 5625 San Jose Drive \$697,000**
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3800
- 4 BEDROOMS**
1109 Navalle Court \$986,000
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 899-4085

5 BEDROOMS
9116 Olson Court \$2,095,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel 621-4064

San Ramon

2 BEDROOMS
145 Copper Ridge Road \$200,000
Sat/Sun 11-5 Coldwell Banker 847-2200

GAIN

Continued from Page 25

buyers in May," Yun said. "First-time buyers are concentrated in the lower price ranges, which include most of the distressed sales."

Single-family home sales rose 1.9 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.25 million in May from a pace of 4.17 million in April, but are 3.0 percent below the 4.38 million-unit level in May 2008. The median existing single-family home price was \$172,900 in May, down 16.1 percent from a year ago.

Existing condominium and co-op sales increased 6.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 520,000 units in May from 490,000 in April, but are 8.9 percent below the 571,000-unit level in May 2008. The median existing condo price was \$173,800 in May, down 21.9 percent from a year earlier.

Regionally, existing-home sales in the

West slipped 0.9 percent to an annual rate of 1.14 million in May, but are 11.8 percent higher than May 2008. The median price in the West was \$197,700, down 30.6 percent from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the Northeast rose 3.9 percent to an annual level of 800,000 in May, but are 10.1 percent below a year ago. The median price in the Northeast was \$243,600, which is 12.5 percent below May 2008.

Existing-home sales in the Midwest jumped 9.0 percent in May to a pace of 1.09 million but are 4.4 percent below May 2008. The median price in the Midwest was \$145,800, which is 10.4 percent lower than a year ago.

In the South, existing-home sales were unchanged at an annual pace of 1.74 million in May but are 8.9 percent below a year ago. The median price in the South was \$157,400, down 9.9 percent from May 2008. ■

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11779 JUAREZ LANE WEST DUBLIN RANCH \$559,000
3 BR 2 BA apx 1883 sf, corner lot, huge family rm addition, updated baths, newly painted kitchen cabs 925.847.2200



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33861 CAPULET CIR OVER \$150K IN UPGRADES! \$599,888
4 BR 2 BA Detached Office W/Permits of Add'l 100SF, Lrg Mstr W/Wlk In Clst, Hrdwd Mple Flrs, 6" Bsebord 925.847.2200

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3300 DYER RD. PRICE REDUCTION! \$948,000
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4 BR 2.5 BA beautiful hrdwd flrs, many upgrades, very clean, inground pl, across from park, excellent loc 925.847.2200

2643 BRIARWOOD DR. MUST SEE! \$455,000
5 BR 2 BA dual pane windows, built-in pl, open flr plan, approx. 2300 sq. ft., 11434 sq. ft. lot, 2 car gar 925.847.2200

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2 BR 1 BA American cherry "Mohawk" flooring, shutters, ceiling fan AC, across from community pool 925.847.2200

PITTSBURG

2203 OLD CREEK CIR MUST SEE! GREAT HOME! \$174,900
2 BR 2 BA 1161 SF, Gorgeous Remodel w/Upgraded Features Throughout! Corner Lot in Private Neighborhood 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

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

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2927 LETHBRIDGE COURT FABULOUS IN PLEASANTON! \$759,000
4 BR 2.5 BA Apx. 2165 sf, w/huge private bcklyrd, lot apx 7150 sf, lrg deck! Great school district, gr8 loc 925.847.2200

3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 178 SENIOR PARK \$47,000
2 BR 2 BA Senior Park w/Pl, Spa, Club House, Lrg Living rm, Sep Fam rm, Laundry rm w/ Cabs; Kit w/ Island, 925.847.2200

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4BR family home, in Windmill Springs with vaulted ceilings upon entry to the living & dining rooms. Combo kitchen/family room. Good size backyard with patio and plenty of room for a jungle gym or dog run. Not an REO or a Short Sale. Don't miss out. **\$625,000**

NEW LISTING



4246 CASTERSON COURT, PLEASANTON

Custom home on top of ridge in Kottinger Ranch with fabulous views from almost every window. Dramatic pillar lined foyer. A kitchen designed for an epicurean with appliances from: Subzero, Dacor, Gaggenau & Viking. Outdoor kitchen next to a pool & waterfall. Environmentally controlled greenhouse. Call for a private tour. **\$2,099,900**

AVAILABLE



32075 PALOMARES ROAD, CASTRO VALLEY

Own 21+ acres here in the valley. Live in Castro Valley, but feels like you're in Tahoe! 2 BR cottage with hardwood floors and brick fireplace. Expansion house plans available. Small office/guest cottage too. Just minutes from Sunol wineries. Easy access to 580 or 680. Quiet, peaceful and fabulous! **\$649,000**

PENDING



6923 CORTE BARCELONA, PLEASANTON

A gardener lives here. Spacious 3 bedrooms home built by Ponderosa & across from large, family friendly, Del Prado Park. Newer carpet, granite counters, maple flooring and more. Excellent top rated Pleasanton Schools. Someone is getting a great house! **\$719,000**

PENDING



1026 HEARST DRIVE, PLEASANTON

Great price for a 5BR 2 story. 3300 sq.ft. home in Kottinger Ranch on flat 1/2 acre lot. Huge kitchen adjoins the family room. 3 fireplaces. Views of Mt. Diablo. Backs to open space. Enjoy the country club feel of a home in the hills. Community pool, tennis, hiking, and lots of open space with wild life. **\$1,100,000**

SOLD



3391 MONAGHAN STREET, DUBLIN

Beautiful Mediterranean condo with 2 master bedrooms, fireplace, upgraded kitchen, newer carpet, wood blinds, 2 car garage and almost 1900 sq. ft. Part of an upscale planned community with pool, club house and nearby park. Close to shopping, freeway, BART and more. **\$395,000**

Featured Properties



Walnut Creek – Beautiful setting, front yard & view. The lawn area, flowers, & trees are like a garden retreat. 3 BR, 2 BA & approx 1428 sq ft of living space. Santa Clara design with patio/bonus room. Newer carpeting, Corian kitchen counters, updated baths & indoor laundry. Ready for your retirement days!

2029 Ptarmigan Drive

\$389,000



Tracy – Located in the charming Redbridge community, this 5 BR, 3.5 BA home has a nice floor plan with 1 BR & BA downstairs, approx 3200 sq ft & a great court location. The kitchen has Stainless Steel appliances & Granite counter tops. The pride of home ownership shows!

1302 Cottage Grove Court

\$425,000



Livermore – Gorgeous, 3 BR, plus a loft, 2.5 BA home with approx 2233 sq ft of living space, & gourmet kitchen with Granite counter tops, Cherry wood cabinets & pendant lighting over the island. Great floor plan with an open kitchen, nook & family room with a cozy fireplace. Move in condition.

1775 Rose Gate Common

\$530,000



Livermore – Incredible 4 BR 3.5 BA home with large bedrooms, approx 3149 sq ft & a very open floor plan. The bonus room could be 2nd Master plus open loft area is large enough for an office. Great rear yard with lots of space & privacy. Large kitchen with Island & maple cabinets.

5675 Arlene Way

\$674,900



San Ramon – Beautiful 5 BR, 3 BA home located on a deep 1/3 acre cul-de-sac lot that's perfect for backyard fun & entertaining. Updated throughout, including a remodeled kitchen, remodeled bathrooms, newer carpet, dual pane windows, & newer A/C. Move in condition!

124 Marsh Place

\$769,000



Pleasanton – Stunning & immaculate! This 4 BR, 3.5 BA home has approx 2923 sq ft, wood floors, custom window treatments, & a beautiful kitchen with Granite counters, a double oven, gas range, & stainless steel appliances. You won't want to miss the bonus room upstairs!

1122 Baur Court

\$1,050,000



Pleasanton – Great 4 BR, 3 BA home with a 3 car garage, approx 3252 sq ft & a private 8300+ sq ft lot! Backs to open space & has fabulous views, a great floor plan, & a reasonable price. Seller financing (80% 1st loan) opens up this "Once-in-a-Lifetime" for many buyers.

2397 Romano Circle

\$1,275,000



Livermore – Living in the vineyards has never been better! Gorgeous 5 BR, 4.5 BA home with a guest suite above the garage. Gourmet kitchen with stainless steel Viking appliances & Granite slab counters. Beautiful Pebble Tec pool & spa, RV/Boat parking, & much more!

3205 Derby Court

\$1,299,900



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THIS SUMMER, SAN RAMON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER WANTS TO HELP PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN AND TEACH THEM SAFETY. SUMMER IS THE PEAK ACCIDENT AND INJURY SEASON FOR CHILDREN. THE MOST FREQUENT INJURIES ARE DROWNINGS, FALLS, AND BICYCLE, CAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS.



Summer Safety FOR YOUR KIDS.

WATER SAFETY

- Never leave children unattended around a pool or water – not even for one minute. Accidents occur fast.
- Flotation devices are not drown-proof.
- Children should always wear a life vest while boating and near open water.
- Always close your pool gate. Double-check the gate after people have been in the pool area.
- Review your pool rules and safety with family, friends and babysitters.
- Learn CPR. You could save a life.

SUN SAFETY

- Always use sunscreen and wear protective clothing.
- Make sure youngsters drink enough water.
- Watch for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke: dizziness, nausea, rapid heart beat.

PREVENT BURNS

- Watch toddlers closely near barbecues, campfires or outdoor fireplaces. Burns are common injuries.
- Install screens or some type of barrier where appropriate.
- Metal playground equipment can get hot enough to cause burns on hot days.

PREVENT FALLS

- Move beds and chairs away from windows. Children may jump and play, and could fall through open windows.
- Make sure low windows are closed to prevent young children from falling out.
- Install gates at the top of stairs or decks to prevent falls.

ROAD SAFETY

- Always wear helmets and protective gear while biking, skating or skateboarding.
- Discuss bicycle and road safety with your children.
- Review pedestrian safety with children as well as adolescents.
- Never leave a child alone in a car. Temperatures quickly reach over 100 degrees.
- Drive cautiously. Children move quickly and may be difficult to see, especially when backing up. You may not see toddlers and older children playing behind a car.
- Always put your children in car seats or seat belts.

Safety tips are brought to you by the Pediatrics Department at San Ramon Regional Medical Center:

Tracy Trujillo, M.D. *Pediatric Department Chair*

Nick Giardini, M.D. *Director, Inpatient Pediatric Services*

Vicki Starr, R.N., CPNP

Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist & Nurse Manager

The Pediatric Program at San Ramon Regional Medical Center has a pediatrician in the hospital 24 hours of every day from Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland.



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