

Pleasanton Weekly

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Fifth annual Pooch Parade draws over 200 entrants, big crowds

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

After 2 decades of helping local military families, Chris Miller is stepping down

There was loud applause last Friday night at a homecoming celebration for Pleasanton Marine Andy Bowen and also for Chris Miller, Pleasanton's long-time unofficial ambassador to local military and their families who has been largely responsible for setting up these welcome home events. As happy as we were to see Bowen come back safely to his family after seven months on assignments in the Middle East and African coastal waters aboard the USS New Orleans, there was surprise and sadness in Miller's announcement that he was stepping down as chairman of the Pleasanton Military Families support group. Miller, a retired lieutenant colonel who served in Vietnam and is now a Realtor in Pleasanton, first organized the group in 1991 when the first Gulf War occurred with



Chris Miller

Marine mom Alice Johnston. A Vietnam veteran in the early days of that war, Miller flew commercial helicopters out of San Francisco for 11 years. He regularly saw returning Vietnam War veterans as they came through SFO and also back to the Bay Area and saw them treated "awfully and with disrespect" by their fellow American citizens. At that time, he made a mental note that if American armed forces personnel were ever sent off to combat again, he would do all in his power to see that they were respected and comforted (including their families) while they were serving in harm's way and then to make sure that they were honored and appreciated when they came home again. Together with Johnston, Miller formed and co-chaired the first Pleasanton Military Families Support Group. The organization held meetings Tuesday nights at Johnston's home and when the local troops came home, they welcomed them on the court where the Johnstons lived with cheering, flag-waving crowds Vietnam veterans never saw. Civic and city leaders joined in and Miller was given permission to post American flags and yellow streamers on Main Street light poles, with each streamer listing the name, rank and branch of service of someone in the military serving in the war zones. As a result of the

organized and popular tributes, the entire Tri-Valley turned out for a welcome home parade in Hacienda Business Park when the Gulf War ended.

After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and with the Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) wars under way, Miller started up the Pleasanton Military Families again in 2003 and it's been going ever since. It was tough at first as a large number from Pleasanton volunteered to serve, including many right out of high school, and the PMF took on increased responsibilities for maintaining contact with those in remote battlefields and their concerned families here at home. Miller led the meetings again every Tuesday night, helped as the months and years went on by returning veterans and their families who pitched in to share their feelings, comfort those with sons, daughters, husbands and wives still serving, packing kits filled with supplies needed by those in the field, sending letters and building new and what have become lifelong friendships. At Miller's request, the Pleasanton Weekly began sending copies of the paper each week to the PMF's list of those serving in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan, which we continue to do free of charge.

Last December, Miller's wife Marty was diagnosed with kidney cancer and had surgery to remove the affected kidney on April 27 at the City of Hope Hospital in Duarte, Calif. She is now fully recovered and joined her husband last Friday to welcome home Andy Bowen and also to thank the military support group for its many messages of comfort during her challenging times. Those times also gave Chris Miller a chance to reevaluate his role, with his decision to step down as chairman of the organization to spend more time with Marty and their children. There's just one more commitment he's accepted: to update and add new streamers on Main Street before the coming winter winds and rain. The first batch of new ones went up in front of Gay '90s this week, with Chris Miller on the scene to help in the work. For more information, email Miller at millercj3@gmail.com or check out Pat Frizzell's Pleasanton Military Families website at www.my.calendars.net/pmf. ■

About the Cover

Twins Holly and Abby Pryn, 11, made their Human and Pooch costumes from scratch in a McDonald's theme, complete with a Big Mac, fries and soda. Here they pose with Buddy, a shepherd mix. The pair were one of over 200 entrants in this year's Pooch Parade Aug. 5, held by the Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers. Photo by Janet Pelletier.

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Streetwise

ASKED AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

Should the county fairgrounds be expanded to include a convention center as some have proposed?

Dave Rice

Yes, to increase tourism and tax revenue and be available for more meetings. There is a major shortage of meeting space in the area.



Ayn Weiskamp

If the fair board thinks this is a good idea and it makes money for the fair and the community, why not?



Brian Storti

It's an excellent area for that because it's bigger than any place we have.



Bill McCammon

I think the fairgrounds is one of the jewels of the valley and for Pleasanton. I think developing some kind of a conference center here would be great for the economy of Pleasanton and it would be a good amenity for the Valley.



Jack Nally

I don't think there's a convention center anywhere near here and I think it would add to our tax base and the market opportunities for Pleasanton businesses.

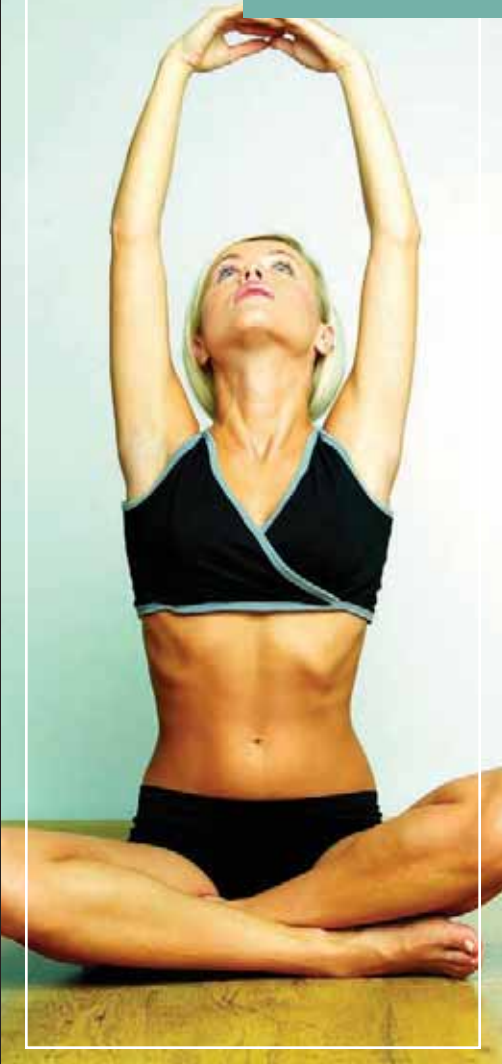


—Compiled by Jeb Bing

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

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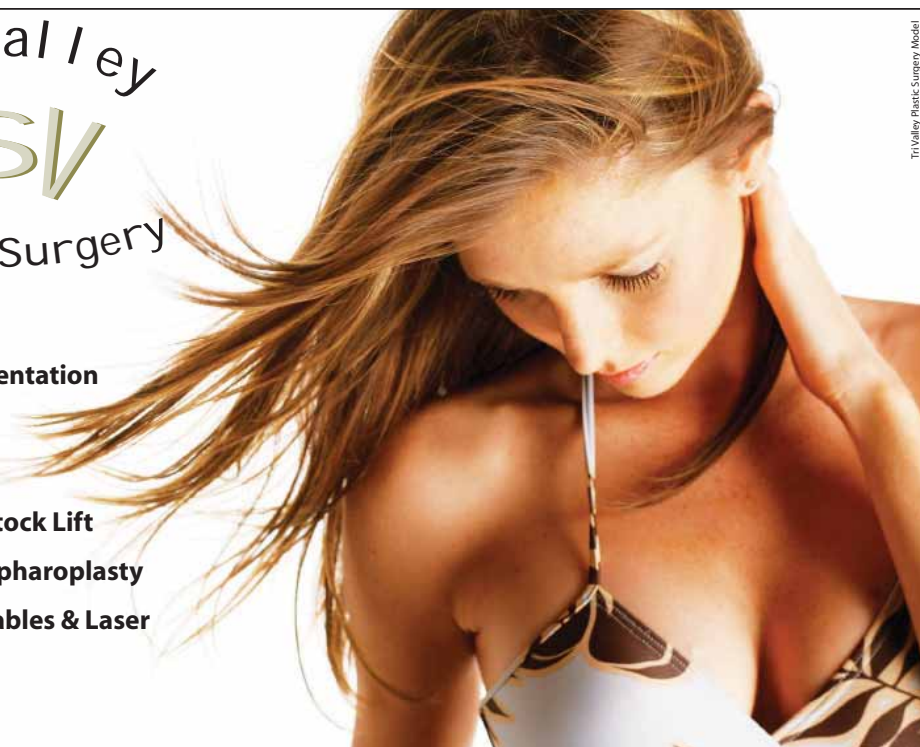


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DIGEST

CHP opens doors to the public

To celebrate the California Highway Patrol's 80th anniversary, and its 19th year in Dublin, the office will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. The event will include displays of vehicles and equipment; helicopter, mounted patrol and K-9 demo; truck driving and training simulators; child car seat ID card information; free items and light refreshments. The office is located at 4999 Gleason Drive. Call 828-0466 for additional information.

Teaching parents a lesson

Parent education is back with a new set of classes offered through the Pleasanton Unified School District and Amador Valley Adult and Community Education. Topics range from cyber safety to parenting a strong-willed child to baby sign language. Classes meet at various times and locations and most require fees. To learn more about courses and how to register, call 426-4280 or online at www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted.

Senior Center to expand hours

Effective Sept. 10, the Senior Center will be open Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Evening activities will include a fee-based Beginning Bridge program, a drop-in lecture series focused on health issues, special interest classes, Bunko and Nintendo Wii sports. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

Music academy hosts open house

New World Music Academy, 1258-H Quarry Lane, is hosting a free open house from noon to 3 p.m. Aug. 15. This event features a raffle for a month of free lessons, music mural painting, performances and more. Call 462-5400 or visit www.NewWorldMusicAcademy.com.

Summer movie series ends Thursday

The final installment of the city's free movies in the park series takes place around 8:30 p.m. Aug. 20 at Delucchi Park on First Street. The 26-foot screen will show "Raiders of the Lost Ark," Steven Spielberg's first Indiana Jones movie, rated PG. For details, call 931-5340.

Corrections

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

Oak Grove developers' bid for rehearing denied

By JEB BING

The state Court of Appeal this week denied a bid by attorneys for developers Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic to have the justices rehear arguments made with regard a legal battle over the Lins' plan to build at 51-luxury home community in Pleasanton's southeast hills, a development called Oak Grove.

The court ruled against the Lins July 16 and granted the appeal of former Councilwoman Kay Ayala and a citizens group she organized to reverse an earlier Superior Court ruling that favored the Lins. The Lins had argued the Ayala's

Only recourse may be request to state Supreme Court for review

group failed to follow proper procedures in circulating petitions in late 2007 seeking to block the proposed Oak Grove development, which the City Council approved two years ago. More than 3,700 registered Pleasanton voters signed the petitions, enough to qualify the measure for a referendum to overturn the City Council's 4-1 vote approving the project.

Although the Court of Appeal slightly modi-

fied its opinion, in accord with arguments made by the Lins' attorney, Andrew Sabey of the San Francisco law firm of Cox, Castle & Nicholson, it denied his petition Tuesday for a rehearing.

"This modification does not affect a change in the judgment," the appellate court ruled. "The petition for rehearing is denied."

Two options remain for the Lins in their effort to build the Oak Grove homes. They can ask the California Supreme Court to review the Court of Appeal's decision or seek the support of Pleasanton voters in a citywide referendum on the

See **OAK GROVE** on Page 7



NANCY O'NEIL-CAINES

Jennifer Moog greets her fiancé Marine Lance Corporal Andy Bowen at Pleasanton welcome home party last Friday night. Bowen just returned after seven months deployment on USS New Orleans as part of Marines' Amphibious Readiness Group and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Crowds welcome Marine Andy Bowen home

Public officials, veterans, friends join parents in tribute

Marine Lance Cpl. Andy Bowen came back home to Pleasanton last Friday night from a seven-month deployment aboard the USS New Orleans to a rousing welcome by about 100 friends, family and military veterans and organizations in front of his parents' Melanie Circle home.

"It's just terrific to be in a town like Pleasanton and see how much popular support there is for our young men and women in uniform, and tonight is a great example," Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) told the crowd.

"After the Korean War, our veterans were ignored. And after Viet-

nam, our veterans were shunned," McNerney added. "We did our country a national disservice and dishonor and we will never let that happen again. We will always show respect and thanks to our veterans who have served our country and we are doing that tonight."

McNerney presented Bowen with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition and a letter of appreciation for his service. The event was hosted by Bowen's parents, Jane and George Bowen, and handled by Doug Miller, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 in Pleasanton.

See **HOME COMING** on Page 7

Train operators union rejects contract offer, 2 locals vote to accept

BART management to return to bargaining table today in effort to avert strike

Negotiators from BART are meeting in Oakland with the only union out of three that rejected a proposed contract.

There's now a possibility of a strike, a BART spokesman said this week.

Negotiations were scheduled to start between BART and the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555, which represents about 900 train operators, station agents and power workers, BART spokesman Linton Johnson said.

The decision to resume negotiations with the ATU came only hours after the American Federation of Local, State and Municipal Employees Union Local 3993, which represents more than 200 middle managers, voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to approve the contract. BART's largest union, the Service Employees International Union Local 1021, approved the contract Monday, according to AFSCME President Jean E. Hamilton.

That leaves ATU as the only one of the transit agency's unions to reject the agreement. The union had 406 members vote "no" compared to 224 voting "yes" on the contract, which was tentatively agreed upon between BART and three unions on July 31 after a lengthy bargaining process that began on April 1.

BART's board of directors were also scheduled to hold a special meeting after their regular meeting yesterday to consider adopting terms and conditions of employment on ATU, which rejected the agreement in their vote Monday, Johnson said.

The board is "going to look at a number of options, but that is primarily one of the options that they are going to address," Johnson said.

ATU Local 1555 President Jesse

Hunt said that if the board adopts terms and conditions, "that would certainly precipitate a work action, but we're doing everything we can to avoid that."

When the strike would start "depends on the circumstances and what exactly it is they impose, and the length of time they give notice before the imposition takes effect," Hunt said.

Johnson said "it would be very unfortunate for them to go on strike and put our riders, who in many cases make often a lot less, out on the street. So we would hope that those union workers stay at work."

SEIU Local 1021, which represents about 1,500 mechanics, custodians, safety inspectors, clerical employees and track workers, voted to approve the contract with BART, with 731 "yes" votes and 253 "no" votes.

The third union, AFSCME Local 3993, also voted to approve the contract with 86 percent voting in favor of it, according to Hamilton.

Johnson had said before the AFSCME Local 3993 vote Tuesday afternoon that he was confident that AFSCME would approve the contract.

"Most of them are the number crunchers, so I think they understand quite frankly what's going on with our budget situation," he said.

The vote leaves ATU as the sole BART union not under contract. Hunt said the main concern for the union's members is the length of the contract, which would last four years and includes wage freezes.

"We understand the tough economic situation we all face and that other jurisdictions and businesses around the state have negotiated contracts with wage

See **BART** on Page 7

Zone 7 Water Agency operating new demineralization plant

Plant takes salts and minerals out of groundwater

Zone 7 Water Agency has begun operating its new demineralization plant on Santa Rita Road, just south of Stoneridge Drive.

Through reverse osmosis, the plant reduces the hardness of groundwater pumped from wells that's supplied to Pleasanton residents. It will be especially positive for those who live on the western end of town, which is where that water is primarily delivered.

The facility can remove minerals from up to 7.7 million gallons per day of groundwater, according to Zone 7 spokeswoman Boni Brewer.

"In the long term, all Valley residents will benefit from the plant's operation because salt removal from the groundwater basin will facilitate regional recycled water projects for irrigation use, thereby enhancing the Valley's overall water-supply reliability," Brewer said. "This is especially important in light of continuing concerns about the long-term reliability of supplies conveyed through the ecologically fragile Delta."

Hard water is safe for drinking, cooking and other household uses. However, a high content of calcium, magnesium and other minerals in groundwater over an extended period of time can shorten the life of plumbing fixtures and appliances, leave white spots on cars

and dishes after washing and require more soap and detergent for laundry and other cleaning, Brewer said.

The actual mix of groundwater and surface water that reaches a particular customer's tap varies for a number of reasons. Under normal conditions, Zone 7 delivers surface water to southeast Pleasanton. But depending on the time of year, it provides both surface water and groundwater. More groundwater is pumped during dry or drought periods, summer peak demand or when water-treatment facilities are closed for maintenance. In addition, the City of Pleasanton operates its own groundwater wells to add to Zone 7 water supplies, which are not treated by the demineralization plant.

Some residents will see more of a change than others, Brewer said. In general, softened water will be served to about 20,000 homes for approximately nine months per year as a result of this project, she added.

The Mocho Demineralization Plant cost \$35.6 million to plan, design and construct and is funded by water rates, connection fees on new development and a \$740,000 Proposition 50 state grant. It will cost an estimated \$1.5 million to operate it for the nine months planned each year.

—Janet Pelletier

"All Valley residents will benefit...because salt removal from the groundwater basin will facilitate regional recycled water projects for irrigation use."

Boni Brewer,
Zone 7 spokeswoman

Former Pleasanton man pleads not guilty to fraud and tax evasion charges

Used fake Oscars to bilk investors in movie sound design projects, authorities say

A former Pleasanton resident pleaded not guilty in federal court in Oakland last week to charges of fraud and tax evasion in an alleged scheme to bilk investors in movie sound design projects.

Brice Carrington, 46, was charged with five counts of wire fraud and four counts of tax evasion in a criminal information document filed by federal prosecutors on Tuesday.

The charging document alleges Carrington falsely promised investors double or triple returns and falsely led them to believe he was a three-time Oscar-winning sound effects designer. Carrington allegedly used fake Oscar statuettes and photographs of himself with the statuettes to help lure investors into placing their money with him, according to the information.

U.S. Internal Revenue Service spokeswoman Arlette Lee said Carrington entered the not-guilty plea before U.S. Magistrate Wayne Brazil and was allowed by Brazil to remain free on an unse-

cured bond.

Carrington is due to return to court Sept. 4 for a status conference before U.S. District Judge Lowell Jensen in Oakland. In the five wire fraud counts, Carrington is accused of fraudulently causing four investors to wire a total of \$231,000 to a Bank of America account he controlled in San Ramon in 2004.

In the other four counts, he is accused of evading federal income taxes for the years 2002 through 2005. Prosecutors are also seeking forfeiture of Lamborghini, Hummer and Mercedes vehicles Carrington allegedly bought with investors' funds without their knowledge.

The wire fraud counts each carry a maximum 20-year sentence and the tax evasion counts carry a five-year sentence upon conviction, but the actual penalty, if Carrington is convicted, would be determined after consideration of federal sentencing guidelines.

—Julia Cheever, Bay City News

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HOMECOMING

Continued from Page 5

In addition to McNerney and Miller, other speakers included representatives of the Pleasanton City Council, American Legion, Pleasanton Military Families, Operation SAM and Blue Star Moms.

Bowen served on the USS New Orleans as part of the Marines' Amphibious Readiness Group and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). The ship left Southern California in January in support of global maritime security as the country's force in readiness within the Pacific and Central Commands.

During the deployment, those aboard spent several months conducting maritime security operations with coalition partners to provide security in international waters.

Along with his parents, Bowen was at the Oakland Airport by the Warriors' Watch Riders whose motorcycle units escorted the family on their drive back to Pleasanton.

"About 30 minutes ago I was getting off my airplane with my hat pulled low and my sunglasses on

"If you know anybody else in the military coming back from deployment, I urge you to give them a pat on the back, too."

Lance Cpl. Andy Bowen

trying to make a really inconspicuous trip back to my house," Bowen told the welcoming home crowd. "About two steps down the stairs I couldn't help but notice a large collection of gentlemen with leather vests and flags and all of them waving at the bottom of the stairs. I was thinking, wow, someone really important must be coming in. Then I saw my dad in the mix and put two-and-two together and I got my first welcome home."

"I am really overwhelmed by this," he added. "If you know anybody else in the military coming back from

deployment, I urge you to give them a pat on the back, too, from the lowest guys as privates all the way up to the colonels and generals. Everybody really puts everything they have into the service and I wish everyone I served with on that ship could get a homecoming like this."

His father George Bowen also thanked the nearly 100 who turned out for the welcome home celebration.

"Being at home and seeing our son away just lets us know how much sacrifice goes into what our young men and women in uniform do for us," he said. "It means a lot to have your support for our son and family."

City Councilman Jerry Thorne commended Bowen "for your service to our nation."

"Those who dedicate their time, effort and skills to help others are among the most valued members of any community," Thorne said. "Your valor and dedication have impacted and improved countless lives. I wish you success and happiness in all the endeavors you may have."

—Jeb Bing

BART

Continued from Page 5

freezes," Hunt said. "But they've been for shorter periods of time and that's what our members are looking for too."

However, Johnson said that BART had initially agreed on a two-year contract with ATU, but it was union negotiators who had asked to make it a four-year deal, and are now calling on a shorter contract again.

"I don't think the board is going to support going back and forth, back and forth," Johnson said.

Hunt acknowledged that was the case, but said "bargaining is by no means a one-track process. If Linton was ever in the negotiating room he might understand that."

Hunt also said there was inequity in the concessions being asked of the ATU.

He said the union's members "feel that this deal puts an unfair burden on themselves and their families in already tough economic times and have instructed us to work out a fair solution with the district."

Johnson said that BART officials believe they have made "a pretty reasonable offer" to the union.

"This contract doesn't have layoffs, it doesn't cut wages," he said. "Lots of other places are seeing huge cutbacks in wages and fur-

lough days ... this is a pretty mild contract compared to others."

The negotiations Wednesday will take place at the site of the previous contract talks, the historic Breuner Building in downtown Oakland, which has two addresses: 2201 Broadway and 2201 Valley St.

The previous talks were often marked by acrimony between BART's management and union negotiators.

The feelings between the two sides were so strong that they entered the negotiation site by separate entrances, with union negotiators entering on the Valley Street side of the building and management negotiators entering on the 22nd Street side, near Broadway.

Hunt said that the union is just "looking to find the mix of issues that will make an agreement that will ratify."

Hamilton said that if a strike takes place, the AFSCME workers have been told to not cross the picket lines.

"Union brotherhood above all else," she said.

However, if AFSCME ratifies the agreement, then they will not be able to walk in the picket lines, she said.

For daily updates on the BART negotiations, sign on to www.pleasantonweekly.com.

—Dan McMnamin, Bay City News;
Jeb Bing

OAK GROVE

Continued from Page 5

project, which Ayala and her group have been demanding.

If Sabey, on behalf of the Lins, files a petition for review, that action must be taken by midnight Aug. 25 to be deemed timely. The Supreme Court then has 60 days from the date the petition for a review is filed to decide if it will review the Court of Appeal ruling.

If the Supreme Court rejects the review petition, as some legal analysts expect, the Alameda County

Registrar would then complete the certification of the Ayala petitions, which the Lins' action has delayed, and send them to Pleasanton City Clerk Karen Diaz.

The City Council would then have approximately one month to consider the petitions and decide if it wants to reverse its 2007 ruling and deny the Lins' Oak Grove project, or send the issue to voters in a referendum.

If the project goes to voters, it's likely the measure would be a separate issue on the state primary ballot next spring. ■

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OF NOTE

San Ramon Regional cardiac programs recognized

Tenet Healthcare Corporation has announced 29 of its hospitals received designations for cardiac care, cardiac surgery and heart rhythm, and among them was San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

Hospitals must meet or exceed UnitedHealthcare's rigorous quality criteria based on nationally recognized medical standards including programmatic structure, patient care processes and clinical outcomes that are submitted by the hospital to UnitedHealthcare, according to Tenet. San Ramon Regional was recognized for cardiac care and cardiac surgery.

Other Tenet hospitals in California receiving the designations were:

- Desert Regional Medical Center, Palm Springs, Calif.
- Doctors Medical Center, Modesto, Calif.
- Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center, Fountain Valley, Calif.
- Lakewood Regional Medical Center, Lakewood, Calif.
- Los Alamitos Medical Center, Los Alamitos, Calif.
- Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center, San Luis Obispo, Calif.
- Twin Cities Community Hospital, Tempton, Calif.

Taylor Family Foundation unveils chalk garden

The Taylor Family Foundation recently unveiled a new chalk garden at Camp Arroyo in Livermore. The Chalk Corner features a concrete design for campers to draw, color



Giants pitcher Randy Johnson, a Livermore native, catches the ceremonial first pitch Tuesday, thrown by Livermore Junior Giant Evelyn Pizer at the dedication of a newly renovated field in May Nissen Park that will bear his name.

and write on the ground and walls.

In addition, TTFF also recently installed a new play apparatus called Sway Fun. Campers can rock and roll in a bench seat, standing up or sitting down, holding onto a center table. It is wheelchair accessible and ready for children with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities to enjoy as part of their camp experience.

The new additions were made possible by contributions from Starbucks California

Giving Program, Dave Bing of White Oak Landscape, Environmental Foresight, Inc., Landscape Architects, Tree Wise, Berlogar Geotechnical Consultants, Cresco Equipment Rentals and the East Bay Regional Park District.

The Taylor Family Foundation, founded by Elaine and Barry Taylor in 1990, is a non-profit organization. In 1998, TTFF partnered with the East Bay Regional Park District to build Camp Arroyo, a year-round residential

camp in Livermore. TTFF funds the summer program at Camp Arroyo and is co-operated by the YMCA of the East Bay.

Giants' Randy Johnson dedicates Livermore ball field

San Francisco Giants pitcher and Cy Young winner Randy Johnson helped dedicate a newly renovated baseball field in Livermore's May Nissen Park Aug. 11.

Johnson, who grew up in Livermore, also celebrated the establishment of the Livermore Junior Giants league. The project was completed in partnership with Chevron and the Good Tidings Foundation, part of the Peter A. Magowan Fields for Kids Program.

Through the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and City of Livermore, the field that will soon be known as Randy Johnson Junior Giants Field was fully revamped with the help of major donors such as Robert A. Bothman, Inc., West Coast Turf, Calco Fence, Hunter Industries and Central Concrete. The site features new dugouts, fencing, a new infield irrigation system, fresh sod, infield cinder, concrete work behind the dugouts and backstop and a seat wall for viewing.

The flagship program of the Giants Community Fund, Junior Giants uses baseball as a forum to teach life skills to youth throughout northern and central California, Nevada, and Oregon. Projects such as field renovations, coaches' clinics and glove drives contribute to a sense of ownership and pride throughout leagues in over 155 communities. Other dedications through the community fund have included the Willie Mays Boys and Girls Club at Hunters Point in San Francisco, Aaron Rowand Junior Giants Field in Daly City, Barry Zito Junior Giants Fields in Stockton and the Excelsior Playground Field in San Francisco.

It All Adds Up to Summer Fun!



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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!

Pleasanton Weekly

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Is it time to give school funding campaigns a rest?

We applaud the summertime efforts of Pleasanton school supporters for their enthusiasm and some success in raising money for the school district following last June's defeat of a proposed four-year, \$233-a-year parcel tax proposal. Merchants and restaurants especially deserve congratulations for stepping up to the plate to help with a Save Our Schools carnival that attracted hundreds to an otherwise usually less crowded Saturday night downtown. Many of them also donated 5 percent of their sales during the four hours stores were opened. The night brought in \$15,000 to the fundraising efforts of the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) and the Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment (PSEE) foundations. That brought the total of the I Love Pleasanton Schools fundraising campaign to \$380,000 as of Wednesday, a sizeable amount considering the campaign started June 15, but still a major disappointment given the group's goal of \$2.8 million. The campaign officially ends today and it's unlikely that much more funding will trickle in by tonight's deadline.

We supported the proposed parcel tax as a reasonable way to prevent cuts in programs and staff as the Pleasanton district wrestled with a \$9.8-million budget deficit in the current fiscal year. With its defeat, several hundred teachers, management personnel and other staff have been terminated and the system's much heralded class-size reduction program of one teacher for no more than 20 students in kindergarten through third grades and freshmen English and math classes in the high schools will now move to 25:1 when schools open Aug. 25. These cutbacks, along with several unpaid furlough days for administrators, enabled the

district to meet its state-mandated balanced budget requirement for fiscal 2009-10, which began July 1. These decisions were made before the gift of \$380,000 raised through the ILPS campaign this summer, that included funds from online auctions, pizza and T-shirt sales, a Gear Up for School event at Stoneridge Shopping Center and, of course, last Saturday's downtown carnival. Those funds will be presented to the Pleasanton school board at its meeting Tuesday.

A major concern going forward is the mounting state budget deficit, now exceeding \$26 billion that continues to threaten more reductions in education funding. That could mean another wave of funding cuts in the current fiscal year and in fiscal 2010-11, which could lead to further reductions in state aid throughout the California, including Pleasanton. Class sizes could go up, more programs could be shut down and parents could be asked to contribute even more for the cost of supplies and programs the district has always provided. Just the fees for signing up for freshman football this season will cost \$450, with comparable fees for tennis, basketball, band and drama. Hopefully, some of the \$380,000 raised in the last two months can go to students who want to participate in these extra-curricular activities but whose parents can't afford them.

Although there's been talk of another try at putting a parcel tax on the ballot, it's unlikely the votes are there for the two-thirds majority needed to pass. The public also is likely "funded out" from the summer-long financial appeals. It's unlikely the district would generate enough favorable votes on another parcel tax measure with the terms of two school board members—Pat Kernan and Jim Ott—expiring next November and Superintendent John Casey likely to retire soon. These uncertainties in 2010 suggest that it may be time to give school funding campaigns a rest and to reduce costs to meet what's likely to be less money to operate the Pleasanton school district. ■

Code of ethics

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

LETTERS

A quicker solution to global warming

Dear Editor,

I really have a problem with "Cap & Trade." I have a letter from Senator Feinstein which states in part that by 2050 carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions would be reduced 65 percent below 2005 levels. But her letter fails to say specifically how this reduction would be achieved. And quite frankly, I'm extremely skeptical about anything that's promised more than 40 years in the future. For example, who will check to see if that reduction is achieved, and what will be done if it isn't achieved?

Here's a quicker solution to solve global warming with defined actions and a huge boost in employment and the economy.

The defined actions are to remove restrictions on adding more nuclear power plants and; secondly, to give utilities (like PG&E and Southern California Edison) the green light to file applications with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NRC, to build additional plants.

The employment boost involves all the crafts (e.g. earth-moving equipment operators, surveyors, carpenters, iron-workers, welders and the list goes on and on) plus the multiple vendors to supply the vessels and pumps, pipes, valves, electrical and electronic parts.

Now here's why this is a quicker solution to global warming. A nuclear power plant can be built in 5 or 6 years. So by 2013 to 2015 the United States could have 20, 30, 40 or more new plants operating and reducing both CO2 emissions and oil imports.

An end in our PG&E bills notes that Diablo Canyon No. 1 and No. 2 provide about 22 percent of northern California electrical power. Adding three more plants would boost that to more than 50 percent. This approach is far faster than "Cap & Trade" and the thousands of jobs are really needed right now.

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N.E.A.T Award

Neighborhood Environment Attractiveness Team



The "NEAT" Neighborhood Environment Attractiveness Team award is designed to highlight a particular downtown building or property that has been improved or that is considered unique in design, architecture or style.



This quarter's NEAT AWARD goes to Roy Moret, owner of the Los Pilares Building at 739 Main Street.

Roy has just completed a 2 year seismic retrofit to the building and improvements to the facade, including a modified balcony on the second floor.

Two new tenants on the ground floor are also contributing to the ambiance. **Little Valley Winery** has added a seating area, flowers and a fountain and **Gamma Salon** is in the process of finishing his addition.

OBITUARIES

Mark Lester

Memorial services were held July 25 at St. Augustine Catholic Church for Mark Lester, who was education director at the Museum on Main. Mr. Lester died July 28 at his home. He was 48.

He was described by friends and family as a very creative, talented man who excelled in teaching history, particularly to children.

Mr. Lester was born in Livermore and raised in Pleasanton, attending Walnut Grove, Harvest Park and Amador Valley High schools before going to St. Mary's College in Moraga, where he graduated in 1984. Teaching was his vocation, and he had students ranging in age from elementary through high school in private schools in the Bay Area and at the YMCA childcare center

in Fremont. He came back to his hometown as education director for Museum On Main and the Amador/Livermore Valley Historical Society. Recently, he had been promoted to museum manager.

Mr. Lester created many valuable programs, including the popular Lark in the Park series, which taught children (and their parents) local history based at individual parks in Pleasanton. His programs for school children visiting the museum also were highly acclaimed.

Many young people also enjoyed the crafts projects he offered on the museum lawn during special events downtown. This summer, he split his duties between the museum and the city's newest park, Alviso Adobe on Foothill Road, where he could share with visitors his love of local history.

He brought smiles to many he encountered. He loved Pleasanton. His hobbies included hiking, and collecting hats (which he used in

his museum presentations), flags and coins.

Mr. Lester is survived by his mother, Beverly Anglin of Pleasanton; his sons Nicholas and Christian of Modesto and Pleasanton; his daughter, Jacquie of Modesto; his brother and sister-in-law, Michael and Rosalinda Lester of Fremont and their children, Megan, Shawn, and Jessica and several cousins. He was pre-deceased by his father, Lloyd Lester; stepfather, Bob Anglin; sister, Mary; and brother, Matthew.

More than 100 attended Saturday's memorial service at St. Augustine, where he was a member since childhood. Private interment followed the service. The family suggests memorial donations to Mark Lester Memorial Scholarship, c/o Museum On Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

MaryAnn H. Butler



MaryAnn H. Butler, beloved musician and wife of former Mayor Bob Butler, died Aug. 10 after a three-year battle with cancer. She was 71.

Mrs. Butler was born July 10, 1938 and grew up in Toledo, Ohio. That's where she met her husband Bob, whom she married June 20, 1959. They left the Midwest for Pleasanton in 1960. After a two-year tour of active duty with the US Army, they returned to Pleasanton to stay in 1963. Bob Butler was mayor of Pleasanton from 1982-1983.

A professional musician, she joined the Livermore-Amador Symphony in its first season, and played violin for 30 years. She also joined the newly formed Pleasanton Community Concert Band in 1975, and played french horn until she was too ill to continue. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in education from Cal State Hayward, and her teaching credential from San Jose State. She was an enthusiastic music teacher for more than 40 years. She loved children

and had private students in piano, strings, and brass in her home, and taught music and drama at Sunol Glen School for 14 years until her retirement. She also loved to travel, and her retirement was filled with cruises and self-led exploration of many corners of the world.

She is survived by her husband, Bob; children, Michael with Angela and granddaughters Meghan and Nicki of Dublin, Daniel with Brenda and grandson Christopher of Chandler, Ariz.; daughter, MaryBeth Bochner with Jim and grandson Daniel of Livermore, John with Lisa of Grover Beach, Calif.; and brother, Bill Hayes with his wife Carol of Perrysburg, Ohio; and two nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to Hope Hospice, American Cancer Society or a charity of your choice.

A vigil will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., and a mass of Christian burial will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at St. Augustine Church, 3999 Bernal Ave. Interment will follow at St. Augustine Cemetery with reception following at St. Augustine parish hall.

Mary Lou Bielke

Mary Lou Bielke died peacefully Aug. 1 with her family at her bedside after a six-month struggle with lung disease. She was 82.

Mrs. Bielke was born Oct. 23, 1926, in New Ulm, Minn., the daughter of Patrick and Clara Knoer. In her youth in Minnesota, she grew up on a farm near Winthrop, graduated from Chaska High School, and attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. She was married to Lester Frederick Bielke from Feb. 7, 1948, until his death on Sept. 10, 1989.

Mrs. Bielke was a fun-loving wife and mother. She and her husband moved to Dublin in 1964, and were active members of Res-

urrection Lutheran Church since its inception. She retired in 1991 from a 25-year career in banking, most of the time at Wells Fargo Bank. For over 15 years, she was active as a volunteer at the Dublin Senior Center, and has served as a member of the Dublin Senior Foundation's Board of Directors. She loved entertaining friends in her home, she enjoyed camping and fishing with her family, and she also loved to travel.

She is survived by her son, Scott Bielke, daughter-in-law, Shannon Bielke and grandchildren, Allison, Matthew, Jeffrey and Hannah; son, Mark Bielke, daughter-in-law, Kathy Collins; daughter, Jane Bielke-Loll, son-in-law, John Loll and grandchildren, Oliver, Henry and Margaret. She is also survived by her brother, Daryl Knoer; sister, Patricia Allen, and many special nieces and nephews, family members and close friends.

A service was scheduled to be held Aug. 6 at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Dublin. She will be interred with her husband, Lester, at the San Francisco Presidio National Cemetery. Donations in her memory may be sent to Resurrection Lutheran Church for their fund to purchase a new organ, to the Dublin Senior Foundation, or to a memorial of the donor's choice.

Deana 'KC' Sebree

Deana "KC" Sebree died Aug. 4 at the age of 49.

Ms. Sebree was born Dec. 18, 1959 and was a Pleasanton resident.

A memorial service was scheduled to be held Aug. 13, 2009 at Valley Community Church.

Rose Eleanor Shenave

Rose Eleanor Shenave died peacefully July 30 with all her loved ones at her side.

She was born Jan. 25, 1919 in Manteca, and moved to Pleasanton in 1924 with her parents Joseph and Mary Souza and 10 siblings.

She was a lifelong resident of Pleasanton. She touched the hearts of everyone she knew and was truly an inspiration to all who loved her.

She is survived by her sons, Norman Mendonca of Tracy, Frank Shenave of Pleasanton; daughters, Donna Martin of Woodland and Sandra Sevier of Salida; 15 precious grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Lawrence Mendonca and Frank Shenave; son, Wilfred Mendonca; daughter, Patricia Shenave; and grandson, Ricky Gunn.

Services were scheduled Aug. 5 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary and Aug. 6 at St. Augustine Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Leukemia Foundation. Blood donations are also appreciated.



DID YOU KNOW?

Last year, Tri-Valley teens made more than 3,000 visits to our CARF-certified Teen Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program, which is located in our newly opened Axis Behavioral Health facility at 6666 Owens Drive in Pleasanton.

For more information about our services or to arrange a tour, please call 925.201.6201 or email Program Director Amie Sousa at asousa@axishealth.org

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE REPORT

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

Aug. 1

Vandalism

- 1:56 p.m. in the 3700 block of Fairland Drive
- 3:18 p.m. in the 1800 block of Brooktree Way

Public drunkenness

- 1:43 a.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive
- 2:39 a.m. in the 1 block of Deer Oaks Drive
- 6:54 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- 11:57 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 5:11 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Kottinger Drive; DUI, paraphernalia possession, under the influence of controlled substance
- 5:49 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; marijuana possession
- 10:57 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal and Valley Avenues; marijuana possession

Aug. 2

Public drunkenness

- 12:01 a.m. in the 6000 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 1:13 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Inglewood Drive
- 1:18 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

DUI

- 12:01 a.m. in the 6000 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 12:15 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
- 5:28 p.m. at the intersection of Wyoming and Nevada streets

Marijuana possession

- 6:13 p.m. at the intersection of

Stoneridge Drive and Willow Road

Aug. 3

Theft

- 7:40 a.m. in the 7600 block of Highland Oaks Drive; petty theft
- 8:47 a.m. in the 7700 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
- 11:02 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; grand theft
- 4:02 p.m. in the 7800 block of Chestnut Way

Vehicular burglary

- 5:29 a.m. in the 7600 block of Highland Oaks Drive
- 7:12 a.m. in the 7600 block of Chestnut Way

Vandalism

- 2:01 p.m. in the 3300 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- 3:27 p.m. at the intersection of Owens and Hacienda drives

DUI

- 1:16 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Santa Rita Road

Robbery

- 3:38 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Aug. 4

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:49 p.m. at the intersection of Calle Ricardo and Black Avenue; marijuana possession
- 2:03 p.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue; public drunkenness
- 5:45 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Sunol Boulevard; paraphernalia possession
- 6:12 p.m. in the 4300 block of Second Street; marijuana possession
- 7:04 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and First Street; DUI

Aug. 5

Theft

- 10:39 a.m. in the 2500 block of Corte Rivera; petty theft
- 4:30 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; grand theft

Public drunkenness

- 1:32 a.m. in the 6000 block of Corte Calera
- 10:20 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Stanley Boulevard
- 10:58 p.m. at the intersection of West Neal and Main streets

Drinking in public

- 11:05 p.m. in the 4700 block of Harrison Street

Aug. 6

Theft

- 8:47 a.m. in the 100 block of Misson Drive; stolen vehicle
- 5:06 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 5:09 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:16 a.m. at the intersection of Vervais Avenue and Main Street; DUI
- 12:19 a.m. at the intersection of St. Mary Street and Peters Ave.; public drunkenness

Aug. 7

Theft

- 12:24 a.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 5:55 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
- 8:01 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vehicular burglary

- 8:16 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 6:52 p.m. at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Division Street; non-narcotic controlled substance possession
- 11:38 p.m. at the intersection of Sycamore Road and Sunol Boulevard; DUI

Solicitation

- 9:10 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court
- 10:10 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

THE CITY OF

PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Visit the City of Pleasanton website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agendas for the following meetings.

City Council

Tuesday, August 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Environment

Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Housing Commission Workshop

Thursday, August 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

General Information

The City of Pleasanton invites you to apply for vacancies on the following commissions and committees:

Civic Arts Commission—1 alternate
Housing Commission—No current vacancies
Human Services Commission—1 member, 1 alternate
Library Commission—1 alternate
Parks & Recreation Commission—No current vacancies
Planning Commission—No current vacancies
Youth Commission—1 youth alternate
Committee on Energy & the Environment—1 adult member
Economic Vitality Committee—1 representative from each of the following categories:

Commercial Services Firm
Environmental Industry
Infrastructure
Medical Services
Medical Technology
Residential Real Estate Broker
Retail Center

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee—1 high-school or middle school member; 1 young adult member (18-22); 1 middle school parent member

Alameda County Paratransit Advisory Committee—1 Pleasanton representative
Alameda County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee—1 Pleasanton representative
Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority Citizens Advisory Committee—3 Pleasanton representatives

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or on the City's web site at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 21, 2009. Postmarks are not accepted.

If you are interested in serving on a commission or committee that has no current vacancies listed, you may register your interest in future vacancies by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027 or by completing an interest card on our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

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

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EMILY WEST

During last year's first day of school, students at Pleasanton Middle School used laptops for learning. This year may be different for many students as budget cuts have affected programs and services.

Back to school

Students of all ages get ready for the classroom

By EMILY WEST

Summer vacation is quickly winding down and it's time to start preparing for the upcoming academic year. With tight budgets for both families and schools, things may be a little different when it comes to learning the ABCs and 123s.

Class is in session Aug. 25 for nearly 15,000 Pleasanton Unified School District students. Some students may come to find that a favorite teacher is no longer at school, the classrooms may feel more crowded and a popular program may be reduced or completely cut. These changes are the result of tough decisions made by the district and its school board, who had to balance a budget despite receiving significantly less funding from the state in the 2009-10 school year.

"We look forward to the students returning," said Superintendent John Casey. "People in education have big hearts and they will give kids the best experience possible."

While there may be more students in classrooms and fewer opportunities to see counselors, Casey said that a Pleasanton education is a cut above the rest despite the budget setbacks.

Even though teachers, staff and students are coming back from the summer break, it was hardly a vacation for those trying to bring back some programs through the I Love Pleasanton Schools fundraiser. Start-

ing with a kick-off rally in June, the campaign attempted to raise \$2.8 million by today through local foundations Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) and Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment (PSEE). Although the group had a boost in support after a well-attended downtown carnival on Saturday, the group reached \$380,000 as of Wednesday.

Debi Covello, executive director of PPIE, said the carnival was a big success, bringing in \$15,000, which was more than they had anticipated.

"The dunk tank was the most popular," she said.

Covello also recalls during a final cleaning sweep through Main Street that downtown was still buzzing at 10:30 p.m.

As of Wednesday, Covello said that donations were coming in by the hour, as people were realizing the deadline was quickly approaching. The first meeting of the PUSD school board is Tuesday night, where they will likely discuss the fundraising and how the money would be distributed to the programs.

While students will likely notice a different level of programs and services this year, Covello said that even though the fundraising goal wasn't reached, every dollar will help.

"Everyone's disappointed with the overall number," she said. "But I think it was an all-out effort. Certainly there will be an

improvement to the programs.

"There's a realization that the need is so great, it's a state budget issue that can't really be solved by personal donations," she added.

Stoneridge Shopping Center also got in on the ILPS fundraising by combining it with a fun late summer ritual: back to school shopping. In addition to a fashion show highlighting clothing from mall stores, the festivities included makeovers, crafts, airbrush tattoos, caricature artists, a private school and educational fair, and a cheesecake walk. A total of \$800 raised from the event was donated to PPIE.

The mall also helped a Pleasanton student in her quest for higher education, as recent Amador Valley High School graduate and senior officer Olivia Baeza was awarded a \$1,400 scholarship from Stoneridge Shopping Center's Simon Youth Foundation.

For those recent graduates who are staying closer to home, the fall semester at Las Positas College in Livermore starts Monday, while Cal State East Bay students get a longer break with classes starting Sept. 23.

Las Positas College is expecting to see an increase in attendance this semester, which may be because young people aren't the only ones to further their education. Recent data shows that 40 percent of California community college students are 22 to 39 and 13 percent are 40 or older. ■

Back to school fun facts

\$7.6 billion: The amount of money spent at family clothing stores in August 2008. Only in December were sales significantly higher. Similarly, sales at bookstores in August 2008 totaled \$2.4 billion, an amount approached in 2008 only by sales in January.

76 million: The number of children and adults enrolled in school throughout the country in October 2007—from nursery school to college. They comprised 27 percent of the entire population 3 and older.

56 million: The projected number of students to be enrolled in the nation's elementary through high schools (grades K-12) this fall.

11: Projected percentage of elementary through high school students enrolled in private schools this fall.

12: Percentage of children 6 to 11 who participated in lessons, sports and clubs as of 2006. Lessons include those taken after school or on the weekend in subjects such as music, dance, language, computers or religion.

67: Percentage of children 6 to 17 whose parents reported that their kids often like school.

10.9 million: Number of school-age children (5 to 17) who speak a language other than English at home; 7.9 million of these children speak Spanish at home.

31 million: Average number of children participating each month in the national school lunch program in 2008.

19 million: The projected number of students enrolled in the nation's colleges and universities this fall. This is up from 13.5 million 20 years ago.

15: Percentage of all college students 35 and older in October 2007. They made up 36 percent of those attending school part time.

\$63,640: Average annual salary of public school teachers in California as of the 2006-07 school year—the highest of any state. Teachers in South Dakota received the lowest pay—\$35,378. The national average was \$50,758. High school principals earned \$97,486 annually in 2007-08.

14.2 million: Number of computers available for classroom use in the nation's schools as of the 2005-2006 school year. That works out to one computer for every four students.

\$14,915: Average tuition, room and board (for in-state students) at the nation's four-year public colleges and universities for an entire academic year (2007-08). That was more than double the cost in 1990.

\$40,640: Average tuition, room and board at the nation's four-year private colleges and universities for one academic year (2007-08). That also was more than double the 1990 figure.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



READY TO RENT

REVIEWS OF NEW DVD RELEASES

BY JOE RAMIREZ

The Class

Sony DVD
2 hours, 8 minutes
Director: Laurent Cantent

The classroom is a battlefield; a place, if you're a romantic, that is sometimes violent and sometimes tender, argues Director Laurent Cantent. His "The Class" ("Entre les murs") is a subtle deconstruction of such an atmosphere that shapes the children of "modern" countries. It's an uncomfortable movie in that the teenage students and their teacher are always locked in an eternal power play: a battle for the mind as you will, where the intrinsic acceptance of information is the ultimate goal and the instructor has to be at their most spry in order to keep both the respect of their students and to keep at bay the agonizing feeling of not making a difference and becoming discouraged.

The movie is based upon star Francois Begaudeau's own book of the same title which details his own experiences while teaching in a lower middle class school in Paris. That particular school also had a heavy Somali immigrant population, whose presence helped change the dynamic of the classroom. Begaudeau's own subtle criticisms, however, seem to point towards the dualism of having to endure a constant barrage on your character while trying to encourage and foster the source of tension. He wants (although he never professes it) his students not to absorb, but to think as to become interested so they can understand why they must learn. It requires maturity, which I feel the Begaudeau character seems to overlook at a crucial part of the movie.

The plot is simple: we are introduced to teacher Francois Marin (Begaudeau) as he prepares with the rest of the staff for the new year. We watch them debate about who will work yard duty, who will get the problem student in their class and we get a sense of a real workplace and of soldiers ready to go over the wall. Francois we learn teaches French, and his class is filled with restrained stereotypes of jocks, nerds and popular kids. What happens in the class, however, is something else entirely as the stereotypes begin to dissolve and the children first debate why they must study French, where it will get them and weather the information is to be trusted. This leads, at times, to some awkward moments where the students and Francois especially must recognize their respective roles in order to make the process work.

"The Class" won the 2008 Palme D' Or at Cannes and I can see why. After a decade of sporadic civil unrest, and a staunch reputation of not going along with world opinion, "The Class" is a movie that touts France's own commitment to the processes of a democratic society. The class that Begaudeau heads is not a perfect place, but it is a haven for free speech, which fosters thinking. It's an amazing piece of propaganda that is also a great movie because it shows a process that somewhat works, warts and all, because it is human enough to recognize the value of a mind, however unformed.



NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

BY JEANNE AUFMUTH

Julie & Julia

★★★
Rated: PG-13 for language and mature themes
2 hours, 4 minutes

My gift of choice is a copy of Julie Powell's book "Julie & Julia: 365 Days, 524 Recipes, 1 Tiny Apartment" along with Julia Child's 1961 tome "Mastering the Art of French Cooking." It's an offering that never fails to please my foodie-minded friends. Nora Ephron tackles that gift in storytelling form, combining captivating source materials for a lightweight but enjoyable romp.

"Julie" rests heavily on the sprightly charm of its two lead actresses and there's plenty to go around. Its structure unfurls in overlapping roles. There's Julia herself (Meryl Streep) as she embarks on a lifelong love of cuisine while in Paris with State Department husband Paul (Stanley Tucci). And Julie Powell (Amy Adams), an unfulfilled government worker in Queens, New York, who sets herself a lofty goal: cook every recipe in Julia's enigmatic bible and blog about it.

A mad task indeed as Julie endeavors to cook 524 recipes in 365 days. Not just any recipes but small directives of perfection from the woman who taught America how to cook and eat.

As Julia circa 1950s and 21st-century Julie tread their parallel paths, there are dramas and joys to propel the narrative with droll and snappy pacing. Both begin love affairs with butter, discover the fine art of under-crowding mushrooms, and murder and dismember unwitting crustaceans. Both balance work and marriage: Julia to an adoring audience of one and Julie to a contemporary mate who dislikes the narcissistic bent of full-time blogging.

Streep is heavenly as Child, crooning and swooning with the legend's trademark pitch and effervescently thrusting her way through Paris' Cordon Bleu and hordes of surly French with interpretative sentiment. Adams is equally enchanting: quirky, bemused and utterly engaging as the consummate puzzled pixie.

In the end, Ephron doesn't quite seal the deal—surrendering nuance for fluff and rendering the climax flat as a failed soufflé—but the whole is a tasty confection that goes down with ease. Bon appetit!



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From L-R: Going with a 1960s peace and love theme were Francesca Flanders, 9, Sophie Traube, 9, and Matthew Flanders, 11, with dogs Polly, Tabitha and Maggie May. Maggie May won first place for Best Team (Human and Pooch) with Dorrinna Flanders while Polly and Tabitha received third place for Best Team (Pooch and Pooch).



From L-R: Emma Furr, 11, and Annika Jernstedt, 6, got sporty with Ginger, an Australian cattle dog, using their Phantom softball uniforms; and Brianna Reynolds, 11, and Paige Reynolds, 5, went biker chic with their Yorkshire Terrier Jaime.



Holly Michael and Kerry MacDonald took no prisoners—well actually they took two—their dogs Indie, a poodle, and Odie, a beagle mix. They won first place for Best Team (Pooch and Pooch).



Volunteers from Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers, including leader Ellen Aguirre (second from left), at the First Wednesday Street Party.

CANINES THE CATV

Fifth annual Pooch Parade draws over 200

BY JANET PELLETIER

More than 200 canines and their owners entered to win one of eight categories ranging from cutest puppy to best trick to most creative costume.

One of the more favored downtown events of the year, the Pooch Parade elicited pet owners to put on their thinking caps and let their imaginations run wild. That creativity showed Aug. 5 when hundreds flocked downtown.

The event is put on as a fundraiser for the Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers, a local club of volunteers who raise labrador and golden retrievers from as young as eight weeks old for up to 18 months before they are paired with someone who is visually impaired.

This year, there were 202 entrants, compared to 174 last year and the good turnout is attributable to word of mouth, according to Ellen Aguirre, who heads up the organi-

zation and coordinates the Pooch Parade.

"With the Human and Pooch category, those numbers were way up," she said. "A lot more people were getting into it. It makes it a lot more fun because I know that's what the people who are watching enjoy seeing."

This year, \$2,700 was raised through registration fees to help puppy raisers pay for crates, pens, food, outings and socialization events, Aguirre said. Guide Dogs for the Blind, which is the organization the Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raiser club supports, supplies leashes, puppy identification jackets, collars and other supplies such as flea and tick medication. Guide Dogs for the Blind also provides a \$250 veterinary care reimbursement.

Currently, there are 15 puppies in training. Aguirre said volunteers are both newcomers and some who have participated before. They meet once a month for training and have quarterly outings.

"The club has been in existence for five



PHOTOS BY JANET PELLETIER

(left), walk their pups down Main Street in the Pooch Parade, which coincides with the August

ON WALK

entrants, big crowds

years," Aguirre said. "To do this, you need patience, commitment because it's a year and a half, and someone who is really willing to make a difference and to give back. The No. 1 question we get as puppy raisers is 'how can you give the dog away?' and it really is about setting your own feelings aside and making a difference in someone else's life who is less fortunate than you. That's really the healthy mindset."

Because the key to puppy raising is socialization to the outside world, it's not uncommon to see raisers with their dogs at the library, the bank, the movies, work or at school, Aguirre said. Sixty to 65 percent of dogs who go through the program become guide dogs. Puppies that don't, known as a "career change" dog, can stay with the puppy raiser as a pet or Guide Dogs for the Blind can place it with one in a long list of applicants willing to adopt them into their home.

For information about the Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers, visit www.trivalleyguidedogs.org. ■



Asha the rotweiler, a past Pooch Parade participant and always a crowd favorite, garnered two awards this year—third place for both Best Trick Pooch and Most Creative Costume.

Pooch Parade winners

Most Creative Costume

1. Toots, Sara Thrailkille
2. Woody, Marta Skoog
3. Asha, Barbara Erwin

Cute Enough As Is (under 20 pounds)

1. Sven, Conner L'Hommedien
2. Happy, Jake White
3. Dave, Margie Magdalena

Best Team (human and pooch)

1. Maggie May, Dorinna Flanders
2. Bungalow, David Wall
3. Buck, Cortney Memgun

Farthest Pooch

1. Wicket, Hadley & Mike Copeland from Elgin, Ill.

Best Team (pooch and pooch)

1. Odie and Indie, Kerry MacDonald and Holly Michael
2. Lacey and Dexter, Heather Higgins, Jill Krovitz and Hank Dedrick
3. Tabitha and Polly, Sarah Traube

Cute Enough As Is (over 30 pounds)

1. Conner, Mercedes Phillips (blind dog)
2. Bella, Susan and Morena
3. Pilot, Larry Valenzin

Puppy Fun (pooches 2 years and younger)

1. Roxi, Cassidy Barry
2. Cabo, Jennifer Eggert
3. Lilo, Doug and Marlayna Rogers

Senior Pooches

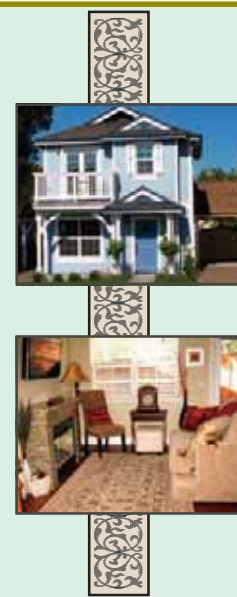
1. Baily, Pete May
2. Miss Toddie, Nicole Kluger
3. Emmy, Karol Mancini

Oldest Pooch

1. Benji, Hannah and Sophia Wrenn (18 years old)

Best Trick Pooch

1. Leia, Marshall and Clare Alexander
2. Bogie, Diana Kimbrough
3. Asha, Barbara Erwin



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Foothill senior Dion places third in mountain bike classic

Matt Dion, a USACycling Cat.1 Jr. Expert mountain biker from Pleasanton, placed third overall in the grueling two-day Downieville Classic All Mountain Championship.

This year, more than 800 riders participated in the annual epic event that included riders from all over the world. The two-day race included a 30-mile cross country race with over 4,400 feet of High Sierra climbing and a blistering 5,600-foot descent into Downieville, followed by a second day 17-mile downhill race.

The best combined time on one carefully chosen bike for both events wins the race. Matt will be a senior at Foothill High School and participated in the popular Norcal H.S. mountain biking league, finishing last year's varsity season in 10th place overall. He is also a nationally-ranked rider.

SPORTS DIGEST

Dotson breaks 15-18 Boy's 50-yard backstroke record

The Pleasanton Valley Swim Club was host to the San Ramon Aqua Bears for the final dual meet of the regular season July 18.

Final score: PVC-1014.50; San Ramon-760.50. One of the many highlights of the meet was when Chris Dotson broke the 15-18 Boy's 50-yard backstroke record with a time of 27.57. This record was previously held by Coach Jonathan Marshall years ago.

The following swimmers are recognized for dropped times, personal bests and outstanding effort: 6 and unders: Colette Wogsland, Paige Reynolds, Claire Beer, Holly Palia, Maya Morgenstern, Madelynn Riddle, Colin Wallace, Andrew Ralston, Liam Fournier, Jackson Morgenstern, Chris Hopkins, Luke Castro, Gabriel Falcione, Parker Mapes; 7-8s: Emily Claridge, Caroline Gjerde, Marissa Lawrence, Emily Haskell, Kieran Wallace, Hannah Thoe, Julia Gonsman, Jamie Scott, Kate Battaglia, Abby Smith, Alyssa Serrano, Megan Beymer, Katherine Delevaux, Hannah Hart, Megan Bouchard, Elizabeth Beer, Madison Hildebrand, Gavin Wallace, Nathan Williams, Tommy Scavone, Matthew Haskell, Andrew Baro, Jacob Lawrence, Nic Ralston, John Sweeney, Ty Castro; 9-10's Samantha Howell,

Camaryn Butler, Nicole Melo, Danielle Sirotta, Kate Haskell, Hailey Hart, Anna Bosse, Sophie Welk, Melissa Brillhart, Nithya Swaminathan, Aubrey Krieger, Clelia Opiari, Emma Goldner, Wendy McCullough, Justin Miller, Alan Thomas, Thomas Bosse, Nicholas McMurdie, Brian Wiener, Matthew Rumsey, Jonathan Battaglia; 11-12's Kennedy Truex, MacKenzie Shields, Kendall Avriett, Gabrielle Welk, Erin Walsh, Brianna Reynolds, Mackenzie Bammer, Katelyn Shaw, Lucy Brillhart, Thomas Gjerde, Joseph Dallara, Sal Opiari, Matthew Serrano, Alex Baro, Adam Beymer, Daniel Rodriguez; 13-14's Makayla Reitsma, Lissi Knell, Max Gastineau, Jason Oliver, Bryce McLaggan, David Goldner; 15-18's: Rachel Cilk, Lindsey Collins, David Scott and Devan Aziz.

U-12 give valiant effort, but fall to Alliance 3-0

The Rage U-12 White girls gave it their all, but dropped a game against the Sonoma County Alliance, 3-0 Aug. 1 at Val Vista Community Park in their first game together as a new team.

Top offensive players: Meredith Gil, Heather Jackson; Top Defensive Players: Kennedy Truex, Lisa Defeo.

U-12 White drop weekend games

The U-12 White Division 2 girls were defeated by the TFC Fireballs Aug. 1 at Val Vista Community Park by

a score of 3-1.

Just before the end of the first half, the score was 2-0. Madison Avery had a beautiful shot on goal it hit the top cross bar and bounced off and outside forward Olivia Christensen kicked it in for the team's one goal.

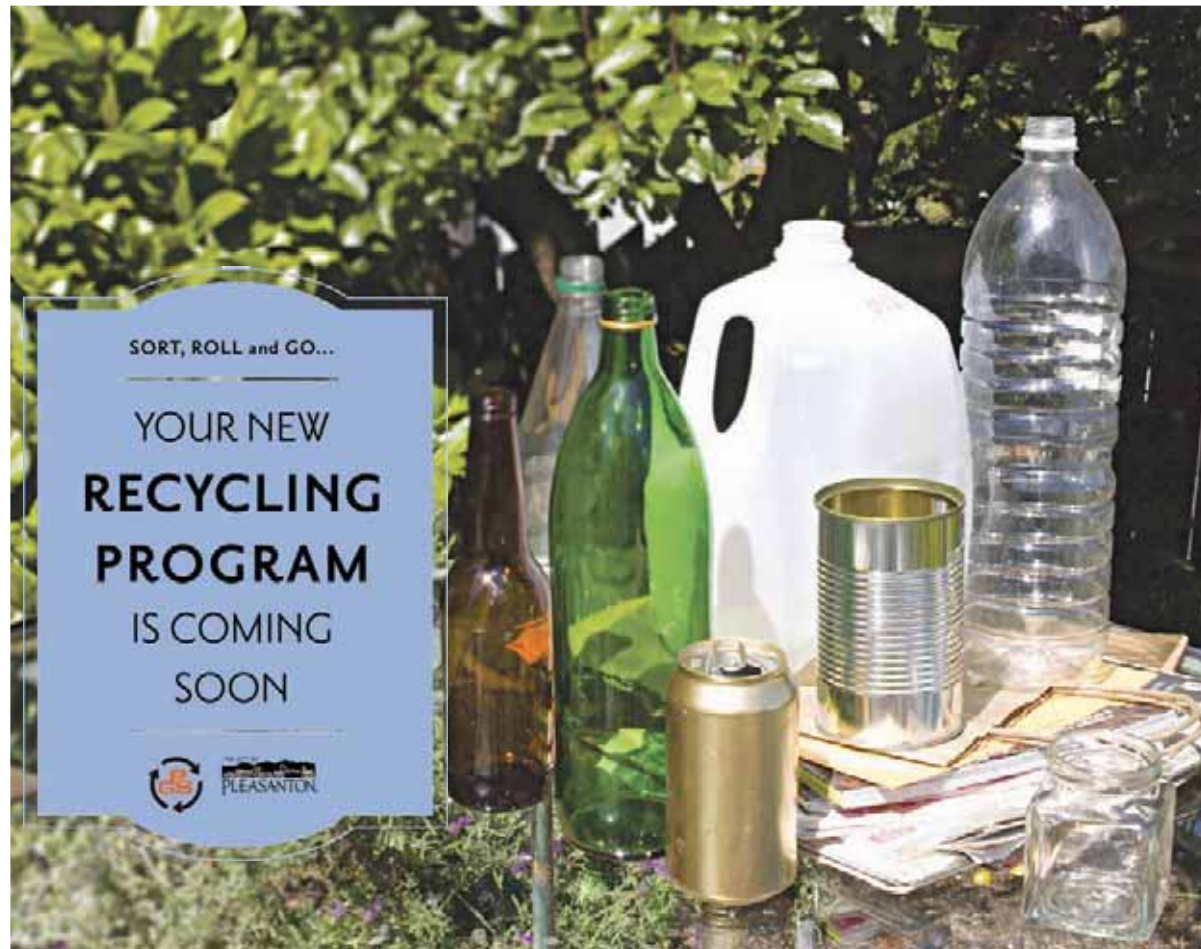
Top offensive players: Madison Avery, Olivia Christensen, Nicole Tsuno; Top Defensive Players: Bryanna Schreiber, Megan Martin.

On Aug. 2, the girls went to work against Tualatin Hills United of Oregon, but couldn't get enough offensive support, dropping the game 5-1. Top Offensive Players: Hanna Mallie, Maggie Kilday; Top defensive players: Christina Echavia, Sadie Moore.

Stingrays dominate at Tri-Valley Swim League championships

More than 1,000 swimmers competed in the Tri-Valley Swim League Championship at the Robert Livermore Pool from teams including the Briar Hill Barracudas, Club Sport Pleasanton Tidal Waves, Del Prado Stingrays, Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center Piranhas, Dublin Green Gators, FAST Dolphins, Pleasanton Meadows Sharks, and the Ruby Hill Killer Whales.

It was a long and exciting day, as the Del Prado Stingrays, emerged victoriously. Several league and team records were broken, along with personal bests from most swimmers.



The City of Pleasanton and Pleasanton Garbage Service present a **free informational workshop** on Pleasanton's new recycling program on:

Saturday, August 29
Veteran's Memorial Building
Downtown Pleasanton
301 Main Street
11:00 a.m. to Noon

Participants will receive valuable information about the new program, scheduled to get underway during the first trash pick-up in October.

The workshop will cover an overview of the program, a Question and Answer session, and a display of the trash, green and new recycling carts, along with the materials that should be placed in each bin. For more information about the August 29 workshop, please call (925) 931-5001.

Calendar

POST CALENDAR ITEMS AT WWW.PLEASANTONWEEKLY.COM

Author Visits

BOOK SIGNING AND WORKSHOP At 1 p.m. Aug. 22 at Barnes & Noble, 4972 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, B. Lynn Goodwin will talk about journaling, present a free workshop, and sign copies of "You Want me to do What? Journaling for Caregivers." Email Lgood67334@comcast.net.

Book Clubs

BRAIN BOOK CLUB Annual Anything (Brain) Goes is at 7 p.m., Aug. 19 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. We'll discuss a website, <http://bfc.positscience.com/> news and anything you've been reading about brain research or education. Tea's on the house. Call 249-0000.

GREAT BOOKS OF PLEASANTON The Great Books of Pleasanton book club meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie at 846-1658.

Careers

FREE SEMINARS FOR JOB SEEKERS Jobsuccess.org offers free online seminars, including job search seminars at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, developing a mindset for peak performance at 1 p.m. Wednesdays, new skills building at 1 p.m. Thursdays. Call 216-2018.

Civic Meetings

CITY COUNCIL The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

HOUSING COMMISSION The Pleasanton Housing Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION The Human Services Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

SCHOOL BOARD The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly during the school year in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

YOUTH COMMISSION The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Class Reunions

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 the Castlewood Country Club. Cost is \$65 per person or \$130 per couple. Email Bonnie Shamblin at sbshamblin@comcast.net or visit www.amador79.org.

FOOTHILL HIGH 20 YEAR REUNION Foothill High School Class of 1989 will be holding their 20 year reunion from 6 to 11 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Sheraton Four Points, 5121 Hopyard Road. Visit www.fhscلاس89.myevent.com.

FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL 30 YEAR CLASS REUNION The Class of 1979 from Foothill High School will host its 30 year class reunion on Saturday, Nov. 7. For information, visit www.foothill79.com.

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.

BEGINNING YOGA CLASS Beginning Yoga class every Monday night from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. at Downtown Yoga, 220-B Division St. Ages 16-76 welcome. Drop-in classes are \$14 or \$10 for teens and seniors \$10. Call 819-9983 or visit www.pleasantonyoga.com.

CAR SHOW PHOTOGRAPHY LESSON Join the Fremont Art Association's photo group from 10 a.m. to noon, Aug. 15 for a day out on Main Street in Niles. This event will coincide with the Niles Main Street Association's Hot August Niles Car Show. The group will meet at the FAA Gallery, 37659 Niles Blvd. Bring camera, tripod and polarizing filter.

Clubs

BUSINESS BUILDER NETWORKING A breakfast meeting is held at 7 a.m., on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. This group of business persons are dedicated to enhancing careers through exchange of social/professional contacts. Each occupation is represented once. The First two meetings free. Call 829-5620.

CAREER NETWORKING EVENT FOR EXECUTIVES Executives are invited to a Breakfast Career Networking meeting for mid- and senior-management from 7:30-9:30 a.m., on the third Tuesday of every month, at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Cost is \$25 for mem-

bers; \$30 for non-members if pre-registered; \$35 at the door. Call 218-1868.

PLEASANTON MOTHERS CLUB The Pleasanton Mothers Club provides a social, supportive and educational outlet for moms and their families in the local community. They meet at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday monthly. Call 927-2444 or visit www.pleasantonmothersclub.org.

Concerts

FINDING STELLA TO PERFORM The Concert in the Park series wouldn't be complete without Finding Stella performing rock and pop from 7-8:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 14, at Wayside Park, at the corner of First and Neal streets. The next concert will feature Magic Moments on Friday, Aug. 21. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Events

144TH SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GATHERING AND GAMES Tickets to the Scottish Highland Gathering and Games have been slashed to 1995 prices at \$12 for adult one-day tickets; \$8 for seniors, youth and handicapped; and \$20 for two-day adult tickets. The fair opens at 8 a.m., Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 5-6, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Visit www.caledonian.org.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY MEETING Learn how to earn an immediate and residual income and position yourself for the explosive growth in the Telecommunications and VoIP industry from 7-9 p.m., every Thursday, at Hotel Sierra, 2323 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. For information, call Roy Carney at 548-3511.

CELEBRATE PLEASANTON First Wednesday Street Party for September will celebrate Pleasanton when the summer and street parties come to an end from 6-9 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 2, on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING On Aug. 22, Tri Valley Unity Church sponsors electronic waste recycling at 6900 Amador Plaza Rd, Dublin in the Burlington Coat Factory lot. Free to recycle TVs, flat screens, monitors, laptops, cell phones, ink jet cartridges. A \$5 donation for everything else. Call 510-886-7374.

GOODGUYS 23RD WEST COAST NATIONALS ROD & CUSTOM SHOW The west's largest auto show featuring over 3,500 hot rods, customs and classics through 1957 vintage is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 21 to 23 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. It also includes vendor exhibits, live entertainment, arts & crafts, kids activities, a swap meet and family fun. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$6 for kids. Call 838-9876 or visit www.good-guys.com.

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Northern California wish you to join us for Happy Hour from 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 21 at the Sheraton Hotel in Pleasanton. RSVP by Aug. 19 to Lorraine, 846-5695. 5-7 p.m.

LARK IN THE PARK "Lark in the Park," visits Delucchi Park, 4501 First St., from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 22. No reservations necessary. Learn about park history and take a short walk in the park. Donations are welcomed. Call the Museum On Main, 462-2766.

LUNCHEON WITH CONGRESSMAN MCNERNEY Come listen to Pleasanton's Congressman McNERNEY who will discuss the latest issues in Washington D.C. that will impact you and your business at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. Tickets are \$30 for members or \$35 for non-members. Call 846-5858 or visit www.pleasanton.org.

SUPER SIZZLING SUNDAYS The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, 1987 A Santa Rita Road, is having special savings every Sunday through August, featuring \$2 racks of clothing and \$1 tables of knick-knacks and other surprises. The shop is open from 12 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

THOMAS COYNE WINERY SUMMER OPEN HOUSE From noon to 5 p.m. Aug. 22-23, Thomas Coyne Winery will host an open house at its tasting room, 51 E. Vallecitos Road. Four newly released wines will be

paired with fruit and cheese. Call 373-6541 or visit <http://thomascoynewinery.com>.

Exhibits

'IMAGINATION EXPRESSED 2009' The Pleasanton Art League show, "Imagination Expressed 2009," runs from July 31 through Sept. 13 at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

'MARKET DAY' Poetry On Canvas is exhibiting "Market Day" in August at the Berry Patch, on the corner of Main and Angela streets, with award-winning artists exhibits daily. Styles include realism, surrealism, abstract, expressionism, impressionism and more. Open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 461-5084.

GOOD EARTH Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore, hosts Good Earth, featuring artwork from Alan Mazzetti and Brad Perks. The exhibit runs through Oct. 11 with an artists reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sept. 27. Call 886-561-0838.

MEET THE FROGMAN! Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St., hosts an artist reception with Tim Cotterill, the Frogman, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 22. "Hey Lady," a new sculpture created exclusively for Studio 7, will be unveiled. Event includes wine, appetizers and live music. RSVP to info@studio7finearts.com.

Fundraisers

FURRY FACES 2010 CALENDAR CONTEST Submit photos of your pet through Aug. 31 for a chance to have them featured in Valley Humane Society's 2010 calendar. Email photos to vhs_operations_manager@hotmail.com or mail them to VHS (Attn: Nat), 3670 Nevada St., Pleasanton, CA, 94566. Each submission is \$15. No cell phone photos or photos with people will be accepted. Online public voting will be held Sept. 14 to 28. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

RAIDERS' GAME FUNDRAISER The Oakland Raiders have invited fans to participate in the opening day festivities at 7:15 p.m., Monday, Sept. 14, while the Raiders play the San Diego Chargers. Tickets are \$50-\$80, including a ticket, hat and food voucher. A portion of the tickets proceeds benefit Amador Valley High's Athletics. Visit www.amadorsports.com and click on the Raiders' link.

Health

AMERICAN RED CROSS PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive at the Safeway Employee Gym, 5858 Stoneridge Mall Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Aug. 19. Call 800-GIVE-LIFE (800-448-3543) or go to HelpSaveALife.org (Sponsor Code: SAFEWAY84) to schedule an appointment.

AMERICAN RED CROSS PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., Aug. 20 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 800-GIVE-LIFE (800-448-3543) or go to HelpSaveALife.org (Sponsor Code: PLEASANTON925) to schedule an appointment.

Lectures/ Workshops

JENNIFER ROBIN FASHION WORKSHOP Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents a free fashion workshop with Jennifer Robin at 2 p.m. Aug. 23. Style consultant and exhibiting artist Jennifer Robin takes a fresh approach to fashion through colors and design. Call 931-3405.

LECTURE ON DANVILLE'S "TAO HOUSE" Greg Bacigalupi of the National Park Service will give a lecture on Eugene O'Neill's "Tao House" located in Danville at 7 p.m. Aug. 20 at Lynnewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Presented by the Museum On Main. Tickets are \$3-\$10. Call 462-2766.

Seniors

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE A CRISIS HITS HOME Ever worry about what to do when a simple everyday management at home becomes a problem? Get answers, resources and referral information at 12:15 p.m. Aug. 17 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Subjects include: hiring for the home, caregiver burnout, Alzheimer's, assisted living facilities, and more. Call 556-4511.

Spiritual

CROCODILE DOCK VACATION BIBLE

SCHOOL Faith Chapel, 6656 Alisal St., presents Crocodile Dock from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Aug. 17 to 21, the annual VBS for kids in first to sixth grade. Register by calling the church office. Space is limited. The cost is \$10. Call 846-8650 or visit www.fcpleasanton.org.

YOUTH EXPLOSION 2009 The Well Church, 6533 Sierra Lane, Dublin, presents Youth Explosion 2009 from 7 to 10 p.m. Aug. 21. Young people from all over the East Bay will congregate and enjoy preaching as well as youth-led worship, dancing, drama, Praise DDR, fellowship, food, fun and more. Call 452-1421 or visit www.thewellchurch.net.

Sports

14U A & B SOFTBALL TRYOUTS Phantom 14U A and B will have tryouts at 7 p.m. Aug. 17. Call Kim Eppard at 510-919-5459 or 485-9191 or email kim@thepitchingcenter.com.

LADY HUSTLE TRYOUTS Try-outs for 18 Gold, 18s, 16s and 14s Lady Hustle 2009-10 fall and summer teams are Aug. 15-16 and, if needed, Aug. 22 at various times and locations depending on position. Private tryouts also available. Register in advance at www.ladyhustlefastpitch.com. Call 785-0846 or email ronbo4@pacbell.net.

RENEGADES VOLLEYBALL CLUB TRY-OUTS The Renegades Volleyball Club is holding tryouts for boys aged 14-18 Aug. 15 to 16 at LARPD in Livermore. The season runs September through early February, with practices twice a week in Livermore and Pleasanton. New players are encouraged to attend open gyms at Trinity Church in Livermore on Tuesday evenings throughout the summer. Visit www.renegadesvolleyball.com or email kris@renegadesvolleyball.com.

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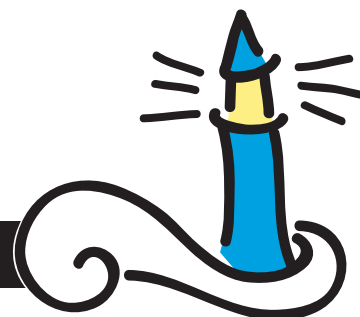
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Receive \$1000 Grocery Coupons, Your Choice. Noah's Arc, No Kill Animal Shelters. Advanced Veterinary Treatments. Free Towing, IRS Tax Deduction. Non-Runners.
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Call 1-800-252-0615. (Cal-SCAN)

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 1194 Blanc Court, August 15, 9-4
Moving sale. We are downsizing. Furniture, kitchen items, bookshelves, seasonal decorations... come see.

Pleasanton, 4658 Cope Ct., Aug. 15, 8-2

Children's toys, books, and clothing in excellent condition. Britax car seat, train table, Leapster toys - all like new.

Konica 7033 copier in good condition.

Pleasanton, 584 Bonita Avenue, Aug 15, 7:30-11:30am

Pleasanton, Highbluff Terrace, Aug 15, 9-1

215 Collectibles & Antiques

ANTIQUA CHAIRS - \$35/each

Antique Oak China Cabinet - \$550.

Antique Oak Wash Stand - \$195.00

Antique Victorian End Table - \$125.

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220 Computers/Electronics

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HUMIDIFIER - \$15.00

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MODULAR OFFICE PANELS - \$125.00

SONY Dream Machine - \$7.00

245 Miscellaneous

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Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$975
Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$747.00-\$1
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805 Homes for Rent

ALL AREAS - HOUSES FOR RENT
Browse thousands of rental listings with photos and maps. Advertise your rental home for FREE! Visit: <http://www.RealRentals.com> (AAN CAN)

Pleasanton, 4 BR/2.5 BA
Pleasanton 4/2.5 Quiet court location. New kitchen, tile flooring, windows, etc. No pets. (925)462-3055



Pleasanton, Downtown, 3 BR/2.5 BA
Well maintained 3 bedrooms (2 masters) and 2.5 bathroom upgraded end-unit. Upgrades include: dual paned windows, ceiling fans in all rooms, upgraded kitchen and appliances, slate patio, crown molding, fireplace, freshly painted and central air. Other amenities include: spa bath tub, community pool and spa, large 2-car garage, walking distance to several schools and a 2 minute walk to beautiful downtown Pleasanton.

809 Shared Housing/Rooms

TAKE US ALONG



Weekly wonders: Vacationing with the Weekly in Turkey, cruising former Soviet Bloc countries in the Black Sea is Linda von Trapp and her niece, Caroline Holmquist. Here they are in the ancient city of Ephesus, Turkey, where they also saw once of the seven ancient wonders of the world—The Temple of Artemis.

Weekly 'mom-ineers': Four Pleasanton "mom-ineers" hiked Mt. Whitney with the Weekly in one day, the highest point of the 48 continental states (elevation 14,497 feet). Once at the top, the ladies celebrated with cake and candles as it was two of the gals' birthdays. Pictured L-R: Kaarin Doyle, Teresa Held, Yolanda Glaeser and Joelle Marchetti.



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Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: <http://www.Rentmates.com>. (AAN CAN)

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Danville, 4 BR/3 BA - \$979,000
Danville, 5+ BR/3 BA - \$999,900
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New Mexico Buyer's Market
Ranch Dispersal. 140 acres - \$89,900. River Access. Northern New Mexico. Cool 6,000' elevation with stunning views. Great tree cover including Ponderosa, rolling grassland and rock outcroppings. Abundant wildlife, great hunting. EZ terms. Call NML&R, Inc. 1-866-360-5263. (Cal-SCAN)

Southern Colorado
Land Foreclosure. Warranty Deed, Survey. Rocky Mtn. views, utilities. Enjoy 300 days of sunshine. Low down payment. CALL TODAY! 1-866-696-5263 x5338. (Cal-SCAN)

Baja Beachfront Lots
Pacific Ocean waterfront and ocean view lots with a mile long sandy, swimmable beach, near La Paz, Baja, Mexico. Attractive pricing for early investors on the first 5 lots. Panoramic vista lots are \$25K to \$50K, and the waterfront lots are \$100K. First American Title Insurance and Escrow is available for all properties. This area is ideal for those who love natural beauty and tranquility, but not for those looking for flashy tourist town night life. Glen Howard at 650 464-1257.

PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Awesome Aurora

Meet Aurora, a sweet-natured all black female German Shepherd mix. For about two weeks in July this dog was reported several times to be running loose on Foothill Road in Pleasanton. Eventually she was found hiding in some bushes along Foothill Road and captured by Animal Services. Aurora immediately proved to be friendly and it's possible she had been abandoned in the area where she was found. Aurora would do best with a family who can spend a lot of time with her. She thrives on companionship and she doesn't seem to mind other dogs. Visit Aurora 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.

Marketplace

Pleasanton Weekly

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Real Estate

OPEN HOME GUIDE AND REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

3237 NOVARA WY., PLEASANTON, **\$1,950,000**



This beautiful American traditional home offers fabulous curb appeal! The 5 bedroom, 4 1/2 bathroom, 5,446 square foot home features a luxurious backyard with pool, hot tub, fire pit and views. Sold by the Fabulous Properties Team of Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty; listing agent Debby Johnson-Abarta. (925) 989-6844

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Dublin

3 BEDROOMS
8057 Crossridge Road \$689,000
 Sat 1-4 Cambridge Real Estate 426-7469

Pleasanton

3 BEDROOMS
7276 Valley View Court \$549,950
 Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3833

4 BEDROOMS
2505 Arlotta Place \$1,049,000
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111
9543 Ernwood Street \$639,900
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

2927 Lethbridge Court \$739,000
 Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 336-1108
823 Country Club Circle \$799,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 858-1984
1112 Donahue Drive \$960,000
 Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 847-8880

5 BEDROOMS
929 Gray Fox Circle \$1,399,900
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 858-1984
873 Chateau Heights Court \$1,450,000
 Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 737-1000
5 Red Feather \$1,688,888
 Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111
3314 Arbor Drive \$989,000
 Sun 1-4 Valley Brokers 437-5830



The #1 Resale Team in Pleasanton and Ruby Hill
www.FabulousProperties.net • www.RubyHill.net

1713 Via Di Salerno, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



Stunning single story home. Approx. 4,500 sq. ft. 4 BR, 3 BA, backs to golf course with views, pool and spa. Offered at **\$1,898,000**
OPEN SUN 1-4

1988 Via Di Salerno, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



Nestled next to a permanent open space w/ views of Mt. Diablo & Tri-Valley. 4,616 sq.ft. home boasts 4 BR/ 3 1/2 BA, office & huge bonus room on a 1/2 acre lot. Spacious master suite includes a balcony with views. Offered at **\$1,650,000**

1976 Armondo Ct., Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



6 BD, 6.5 BA, 9,800+ sq. ft. Exquisite home, better than new, entertainers delight, huge lot on cul de sac & amazing views from every room. Offered at **\$3,950,000**

1867 Sannita Ct., Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



NEW LISTING! Majestic Italian Villa estate, approx. 7,340 sq.ft. 5 BR, 5 BA, office, media and play room, tranquil Koi pond in beautiful backyard, backs to open space. Offered at **\$3,200,000**



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Fran & Dave Cunningham
 925-202-6898
 DRE License #01226296 & 00930892

Donna Garrison
 925-980-0273
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Visit our websites to view all of our other listings.

Debby Johnson-Abarta
 925-989-6844
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Susan Schall
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LIVERMORE
980 CROMWELL STREET
BEAUTIFUL & UPDATED \$460,000
 3 BR 2 BA Dual pane windows, cherry wd kitchen cabs, granite counters/island, remodeled guest bath 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
Open SUN 1-4 2927 LETHBRIDGE COURT
FABULOUS IN PLEASANTON! \$739,000
 4 BR 2.5 BA Apx. 2165 sf, w/huge private bckyrd, lot apx 7150 sf, lrg deck! Great school district, gr8 loc 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
Open SUN 12-3 2930 LIBERTY
REMODELED HOME! \$509,000
 2 BR 2 BA tile flrs/cntrs in kit w/cozy eat-in area, master w/walk-in closet, liv rm w/brick fireplace 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON
FRI/SAT/SUN 11 - 5 145 COPPER RIDGE RD.
CONDOS/TOWNHOUSES PRICES START IN HIGH \$200s
 1 & 2 bd condos/2 bd townhouses, vaulted ceilings avail, w/garages, gated, renovated/upgraded 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

11373 RAMPART DRIVE
DESIRABLE WEST SIDE \$699,900
 4 BR 3 BA Apx. 2262 sf on almost 14000 sf lot! Beautiful & remodeled/upgraded, lrg/priv bckyrd 925.847.2200

FREMONT/ARDENWOOD

34648 WINSLOW TER
GREAT HOME! \$ 625,000
 4 BR 3 BA One of Most Desirable Models, Bed/Bath Down. Kit w/newer granite cntrs. Newer Int/Ext Paint 925.847.2200

HAYWARD

2246 EAST AVE
BEAUTIFUL REMODELED HOME \$699,950
 4 BR 2.5 BA kit w/tile floors, oak cabs, pantry/plan-

tation shuttrs, Roof 12 yrs old, 2 frpls w/mantles 925.847.2200

27917 PUEBLO CALLE, UNIT 7
GREAT HOME! \$77,000
 2 BR 2 BA Apx. 1440 sf, Double oven, stove, fridge, microwave, washer, dryer stay! Space rent \$491 a mo 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

1221 ECHO SUMMIT ST
MUST SEE! \$524,950
 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

PLEASANTON

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

21 CASTLEDOWN ROAD
MUST SEE INSIDE! \$1,090,000
 4 BR 2.5 BA Castlewood! Beautiful open & spacious home! View of MT. Diablo! Gorgeous kit! Must See Inside 925.847.2200

2442 CRESTLINE RD
BIRDLAND RANCHER W/POOL \$695,000
 3 BR 2 BA lovely tree lined street, home is being sold completely furnished. www.2442crestline.com

925.847.2200
1561 TRIMINGHAM DR
BEAUTIFUL DANBURY PARK \$539,900
 3 BR 2.5 BA New rf, Updtd kit/hrdwd flrs, Vaulted ceilings, Dual pane wndws, bckyrd w/dck/mural/fountain 925.847.2200
3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 178
SENIOR PARK \$42,000
 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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Santa Barbara Architecture



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Fabulous 20+ acre parcel with 8090 +/- sqft custom home. 14.8 acres of income producing Chardonnay grapes. Gorgeous views, peaceful. Part of Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates. Guest apartment, pool, spa, wine room. This property has it all.
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Golden Eagle Estates



PLEASANTON
8044 GOLDEN EAGLE WAY \$3,187,000
Beautiful custom home in gated Golden Eagle Estates. Designer features throughout w/ extensive use of cherry wood, stone & more. Wine cellar, exercise room, workshop, main flr master, Heritage Oak trees, large rooms- Truly elegant. Level park-like backyard with pool, spa, lrg grass area, too much to list!
PEGGY CORTEZ 925.648-5454

Gorgeous Gated Hilltop Estate



PLEASANTON
2801 GRAY FOX COURT \$2,795,000
Panoramic views on 1.91 acres of privacy. Custom Mediterranean single level home with quality and character. Resort-like backyard with pool, spa, swim up bar, barbecue, palm trees. Room for vineyard, tennis court, olive grove, so much more! See www.2801GrayFox.com
PHYLLIS & CAROLYN WEINER 925.251.2585
WWW.PHYLLISANDCAROLYN.COM

Spanish Mediterranean Architecture



PLEASANTON
4328 W. RUBY HILL DRIVE \$1,999,000
5 bed, 4.5 bath, 4 car garage, 5,254 sq ft, 32,549 sq ft lot fully landscaped w/ new salt water pool/ spa. Built in 2002. Coming soon new Ruby Hill Spanish Mediterranean beauty.
TODD MARTINEZ 925.251.2571
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Stunning Custom-like Home



PLEASANTON
3737 NICOLE AVE \$1,550,000
One of the most remarkable homes you will see in this area and price range, everything top of the line. Rare and exotic woods, granite, marble, etc. Gorgeous private 1/2 acre lot with gated pool, spa, basketball, gazebos, and your own vineyard w/well.
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CASTRO VALLEY
6000 MOUNT OLYMPUS DRIVE \$1,549,000
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Gorgeous Laguna Oaks Home



PLEASANTON
3267 BELVEDERE COURT \$1,495,000
Gorgeous, 3,853 sq. ft. executive home with many custom upgrades and huge, private back yard in Laguna Oaks, one of the most desirable family neighborhoods. Located at the end of a cul-de-sac, next to the greenbelt, and historic Oak Tree in the quiet center of the neighborhood.
PHYLLIS & CAROLYN WEINER 925.251.2585
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Classic Ranch Style



LIVERMORE
1441 CALVARY LN \$1,300,000
Located on 1 acre of land with 6 horse stalls, is uniquely located near the heart of Livermore. Just minutes away from Shopping, fine dining, schools, and the newly renovated Downtown with all the local activities, the location is the perfect place to call home.
STACI ARMARIO 925.251.2526
WWW.STACIARMARIO.COM

Absolutely Stunning Executive Home



DUBLIN
10818 INSPIRATION CIR \$1,049,000
Located in the Ridge @ Hansen Hill! Premium flat corner lot w/ custom fountain. Gourmet kitchen w/ slab granite, island & GE profile appliances. Luxurious master suite w/ fireplace & sitting area. Huge bonus room on 2nd floor!
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WALK TO DOWNTOWN



PLEASANTON
646 WINDMILL LANE \$989,950
Beautiful home in a great location! Tucked into a private court, this beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath home has one of the best backyards, including new Pebble Tec pool, spa and waterfall system. Tuscan touches throughout!
PHYLLIS & CAROLYN WEINER 925.251.2585
WWW.PHYLLISANDCAROLYN.COM OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4

Premium location above Vintage Hills Park



PLEASANTON
3249 ARBOR DRIVE \$984,850
Rarely available! Custom 4 bed, 2.5 bath home on a huge lot of almost 13,000 sq ft! Updated with granite counters, designer lighting, 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors. Professionally landscaped with several patios great for entertaining or relaxing.
TONNI CHANDLER 925.788.7788
WWW.TONNICHANDLER.COM

Golf Course View



DUBLIN
5326 EAGLEBROOK TERRACE \$799,000
Gorgeous golf course view, seller paid \$1,290,000. Hardwood flrs, granite tile counters, lrg center island, designer paint, built-in BBQ & extensive hardscape.
BONNIE KING 925.736.8411

Gorgeous Vintage Hills



PLEASANTON
850 CONCORD ST \$759,000
Entertain Pool-Side at this CUSTOM Home on almost 1/4 acre. Park-like yard with beautiful pool and spa. Granite kitchen, new windows throughout, meticulous landscaping. Walk to school and park. Priced just right!
EMILY HUNTER 925.785.3795
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Wonderful Home



DUBLIN
5208 N FORESTDALE CIR \$699,000
High ceilings/painted walls/huge walk-in closet in master bedroom. Upgraded tiles in master bath. Close to John Green elementary school, park and so much more! Window coverings/rods& 2 speakers in family room not included in the sale of the house.
SONU BHASIN 925.209.5453

Cottage living in downtown Pleasanton



PLEASANTON
4075 NEVIS STREET \$689,950
Approximately 2000 square feet, 3 full bedrooms with 2 master suites, 3 full baths, hardwood floors, updated throughout, close to downtown and schools.
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LIVERMORE
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**646 WINDMILL LANE
OLD TOWNE, PLEASANTON, CA**

**JUST LISTED!
PRICED AT \$989,950**

What a beautiful home in a great location! Tucked into a private court, this beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 bath home has one of the best backyards, including new pebble tec pool, spa and waterfall system. Tuscan touches thruout, beautifully staged and ready to go!

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Continuing Life Communities Pleasanton LLC, dba Stoneridge Creek Pleasanton, has received authorization to accept deposits from the California Department of Social Services.



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**616 Windmill Lane, Pleasanton
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5 bedrooms, 3 full bath extensively remodeled 3,100 square foot home on quiet 18,000 sq. ft. cul-de-sac lot. Large master suite with fireplace on main level, a 2,500 bottle thermostatically controlled wine room. 3-car garage, large back yard, complete with custom pool, separate spa and covered palapa. Home does not back up to Bernal Ave.

Offered at \$1,149,000

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Featured Properties



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 & pendent 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 \$499,000



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 \$650,000



Livermore – Unique 4 BR 2 BA home with approx 2256 sq ft and 8700 sq ft lot. 3 BR upstairs, 1 with a sun room, and 1 BR downstairs. 2 attached units, both currently rented, are great for rental income. Great rear yard with many fruit trees. This is something so different, you must see it.
1844 Elm Street \$700,000



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 \$1,030,000



Pleasanton – A glorious and fun 4 BR 4.5 BA, Ruby Hill home with approx 5300 sq ft and a half acre lot. First floor guest suite, office & bonus room with full bar. Second floor with 3 BR & a reading loft. Pool with spa, huge BBQ and private golf course location.
3019 E Ruby Hill Drive \$1,999,000



Pleasanton – One of Ruby Hill's finest homes located on one of its finest Golf Course lots! Custom "Santa Barbara" style home with 5 BR, 5.5 BA, approx. 7100 Sq Ft, and almost an acre lot. Downstairs Master, fabulous rear yard with pool, spa, BBQ and large lawn area.
1857 Spumante Place \$2,900,000



Pleasanton – Sitting on the 18th Fairway, this stunning 5 BR, 6 full BA, 2 half BA home is one of the best quality built homes in Ruby Hill with just tons of added features, approx. 9051 sq ft and a huge lot, approx .68 acres. Great views of Mt. Diablo. You couldn't build it today for this price!
1393 Via Di Salerno \$3,500,000



Pleasanton – Magnificent new custom home, located on the Golf Course at Ruby Hill! Classic "Italian Villa" with 6 BR, 6 full BA, 3 half BA, approx. 10,000 sq ft of living space, half acre lot, a 12 seat true Home Theater, a chef's gourmet Kitchen, and "beach-entry" Pool with Spa.
1181 Germano Way \$4,889,168

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The latest from The 680 Blog



Hotter Market Conditions Leave Marginal Buyers Out in the Cold

So here you are. A first time buyer, with a small but hard-earned down payment, a good job, and a strong desire to buy your first home now that prices are down and the market looks like it might be stabilizing. Oh sure, you were tempted to buy late last year and early this year when the outlook was not so promising, but it was a little harder to pull the trigger when the signals were mixed. But now you feel the time is right as activity is up and the economic news (except for unemployment) looks a whole lot better. So you do some house shopping, find a great starter home in Dublin, San Ramon, or Livermore for under \$600,000. You decide to go for it and eagerly submit an offer. And wait. And wait.

Unfortunately, you have company. In fact, there are 4 offers on the house. That's okay, you reassure yourself... I am PRE-APPROVED for an FHA loan with WELLS FAR-

GO! But much to your dismay, the listing agent informs you that the seller has accepted another offer that had a much higher down payment. A temporary set back you say, and move on to another equally attractive house. Except this one has 6 offers, and guess what, the seller has accepted another offer on this one too. In this case, the winning bid put almost 50% down. But this is not fair you say. I am PRE-APPROVED with WELLS FARGO! Why didn't they pick my offer? Talk about being left out in the cold.

The downside of the new strength in the lower price ranges of the Tri-Valley real estate market is that there is competition for many of these homes. And if the buyer is getting an FHA loan with a minimal down payment, or putting even 10% down, they are often finding that they are losing out on >>Go to www.680homes.com to read the rest of this article.

Doug Buenz

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NEW PRICE!
Bridle Creek Area. 5 BR + Office, 5 1/2 BTH, gourmet granite/cherry/stainless kitchen, .47 acre lot, luxurious master suite, & more!
\$1,469,000



OPEN SUN 1-5
Gorgeous New Home! 5 BR, 3 1/2 BTH, granite/stainless kitchen, front & back porch, luxurious master suite, extensive upgrades, flat 10k lot!
\$1,349,000
1632 Cindy Way



OPEN SUN 1-5
Walk to downtown! 1 story 4 BR, 3 BTH on flat 10k lot. Granite & stainless kitchen, hardwood floors, and more!
\$1,119,000
1608 Cindy Way



PENDING SALE!
Fabulous Country Fair home with granite & cherry kitchen, hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, and private almost 1/4 acre lot w/ pool & spa.
\$999,900

Recent Pending & Sold Homes

5769 San Carlos Way \$699,900
2824 Foothill Oaks Ter \$1,789,000
5682 Sunset Creek Ct \$1,600,000
2608 Daylily Ct \$605,000
9459 Blessing Dr..... \$1,549,500
5179 Muirwood Dr..... \$875,000
315 Golden Grass Dr \$1,645,000
3776 Newton Way \$1,175,000

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LAGUNA OAKS



OPEN SUN 1-4
2505 ARLOTTA PLACE, PLEASANTON
Best location in Laguna Oaks! Desirable Newport model on premium .40 acre lot. Quiet court location. Four bedrooms, bonus room, plus formal office. Private guest/ in law quarters (4th). Three and a half bathrooms. Approximately 3,830 square feet. Beautifully landscaped private rear yard. Expansive lawn area (pool site). Large gourmet kitchen, tile flooring and large eating area. Spacious master suite with views of Pleasanton Ridge, and large walk in closet. A short walk to the community pool, park, and tennis courts. **OFFERED AT \$1,429,000**

CARLTON PLACE



JUST REDUCED
1312 CARLTON PLACE, LIVERMORE
Beautiful upgraded Livermore home located on premium .41 acre lot. Views of Mt. Diablo. Beautifully landscaped grounds, private rear yard with built in pool and spa. Four bedrooms, bonus area, private office, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,680 square feet. Upgraded kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding and plantation shutters. Bamboo wood floors and 20" custom tile flooring. Three car garage. Concrete tile roof. Minutes from Livermore Valley wineries. **OFFERED AT \$844,000**

SAN LEANDRO



OPEN SUN 1-4
1307 WAYNE AVENUE, SAN LEANDRO
Five bedroom, three bath home. Approximately 1,795 square feet. Great for larger family! Separate living and family rooms. Central heat. New carpet. Newer dual pane windows. Private rear yard with fruit trees, newer perimeter fencing and new rear deck. Two car garage.
OFFERED AT \$449,000

CASTLEWOOD HEIGHTS



6736 RIDDELL STREET, PLEASANTON
WOW! Don't miss this beautiful home on premium view lot (.39 acre). Panoramic views of Pleasanton Ridge. Quality built in 2002. Beautifully landscaped private rear yard, backs to open space. Five bedrooms + bonus/game room, and lofi/TV area, and separate downstairs exercise room, four bathrooms. Approximately 4,100 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Crown molding, hickory wood flooring and upgraded carpet. Close to Downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park. **OFFERED AT \$1,299,000**

GREY EAGLE ESTATES



4 EAGLET COURT, PLEASANTON
Experience breathtaking panoramic views from this secluded hilltop home, located in the gated community of Grey Eagle Estates. This beautiful private estate (1.36 acre lot), features 5,460 square feet of living space with five bedrooms, AuPair/ Guest Room (4th) and four and a half baths. Large downstairs bonus room and private office (5th). The remodeled gourmet kitchen and master bath. Extensive basement storage area and separate wine cellar. Marble and hardwood flooring. Separate pool house with pool/spa/waterfall/kitchen/bathroom. Tile roof. Four car garage. Don't miss this one! **OFFERED AT \$1,995,000**

SHADOW CLIFF



3039 BADGER DRIVE, PLEASANTON
Adorable three bedroom, two and a half bath home in Shadow Cliff. Approximately 1,383 square feet. Great starter home or investment property! Excellent condition! Newer stainless steel kitchen appliances. Vaulted Ceilings, security alarm system and central heating/air conditioning. Tile Roof. Private rear yard with spa. Two car garage. Neighborhood park. **OFFERED AT \$559,000**

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UWE MAERCZ BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,988,888
8400+/-sf of Luxury on Golf Course. 6bd/6.5ba, library, media room, spa retreat, tech room, gourmet kitchen. Must See!

UWE MAERCZ BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,899,000
Style throughout! 79000+/-sf 7bd/5ba, 6.5 car garage, movie theatre, game room, wine cellar. This Estate has it all!

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$2,399,000
Gorgeous 5bd/3full/2half bathrooms, bonus room. 5200+/-sf custom home in Golden Eagle Estates with stunning views over 1 acre w/pool. Every upgrade imaginable.

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,699,000
6bd/6ba, 5096+/-sf home, .33 acres, 2 minutes from 680 and 5 minutes from downtown Pleasanton. Office and bedroom downstairs. Salt water pool with views of Ridge. 3 car garage. Upgrades!

STASIA POISEZ OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,688,888
Beautiful recently remodeled 5+bd/4+ba home on 1+/- acre, 4400+/-ft of living space/4 car garage. Contemporary home secluded by hills close to everything. 5 Red Feather

DOUG BUENZ BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,469,000
Bridle Creek area. 5bd + office, 5.5/ba. Gourmet kitchen, w/granite/stainless/cherry. Luxurious master suite, .47+/- acre lot & more.

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,299,000
WOW! Spectacular Castlewood Heights home on premium lot w/Panoramic Views! 5bd+bonus game room & loft/4ba. Separate downstairs exercise room. Gourmet kitchen/granite/stainless.

JUDY TURNER BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,075,000
Pristine "Ashley Model", expanded 5bd/3ba, 3,213+/-sf. Master suite with sun room and den/office space.

DAN GAMACHE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,059,000
Gorgeous Charter Oaks Home! 5bd/3ba, expansive 3 car garage. Formal spacious LR and DR, cathedral ceilings, Beautiful Backyard with pool/spa/built in island BBQ!

BLAISE LOFLAND OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,049,000
Newport Model on premium lot, 4bd + bonus room + office. Private guest/in-law quarters. 3.5ba, beautiful landscaping, gourmet kitchen, views, too much to list! 2505 Arlotta Pl.

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$999,000
Completely remodeled home in Rosepointe with sparkling pool and spa. 4bd/3ba with over 3000+/-sf. Must See!

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$969,000
Stunning single story on a corner lot in the gated golf course community of Ruby Hill. 4bd 2.5 ba 2296+/-sf with professionally landscaped backyard.

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPOINTMENT



LIVERMORE \$844,000
4bd+bonus/private office/3ba. 3680+/-sf. Upgraded kitchen with granite/stainless/crown molding/plantation shutters. Bamboo and custom tile floors.

JENNIFER MALAKOFF BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$699,750
Wonderful Welch! Sparkling salt-water pebble-tech pool 4bd/3ba on a 9407+/-sf lot. Numerous upgrades/lush green lawns.

DOUG BUENZ OPEN SUN 1-4



SAN RAMON \$639,900
Room to grow in this charming 4bd home. Hardwood floors, sunny upgraded kitchen, large master suite with upgraded bath. 9543 Ernwood St.

GINGER MCGRIL OPEN SUN 1-4:30



HAYWARD \$250,000
Great neighborhood 3bd/1ba home in unincorporated Hayward area. Home needs a little TLC. Not a Short or REO sale. 21064 Gribben Ave.

PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111

LIVERMORE | 2300 First Street 925.583.1111

