

Pleasanton Weekly

No fun in fungi: First day of school delayed when mold is found in classrooms at Hearst Elementary School **PAGE 5**

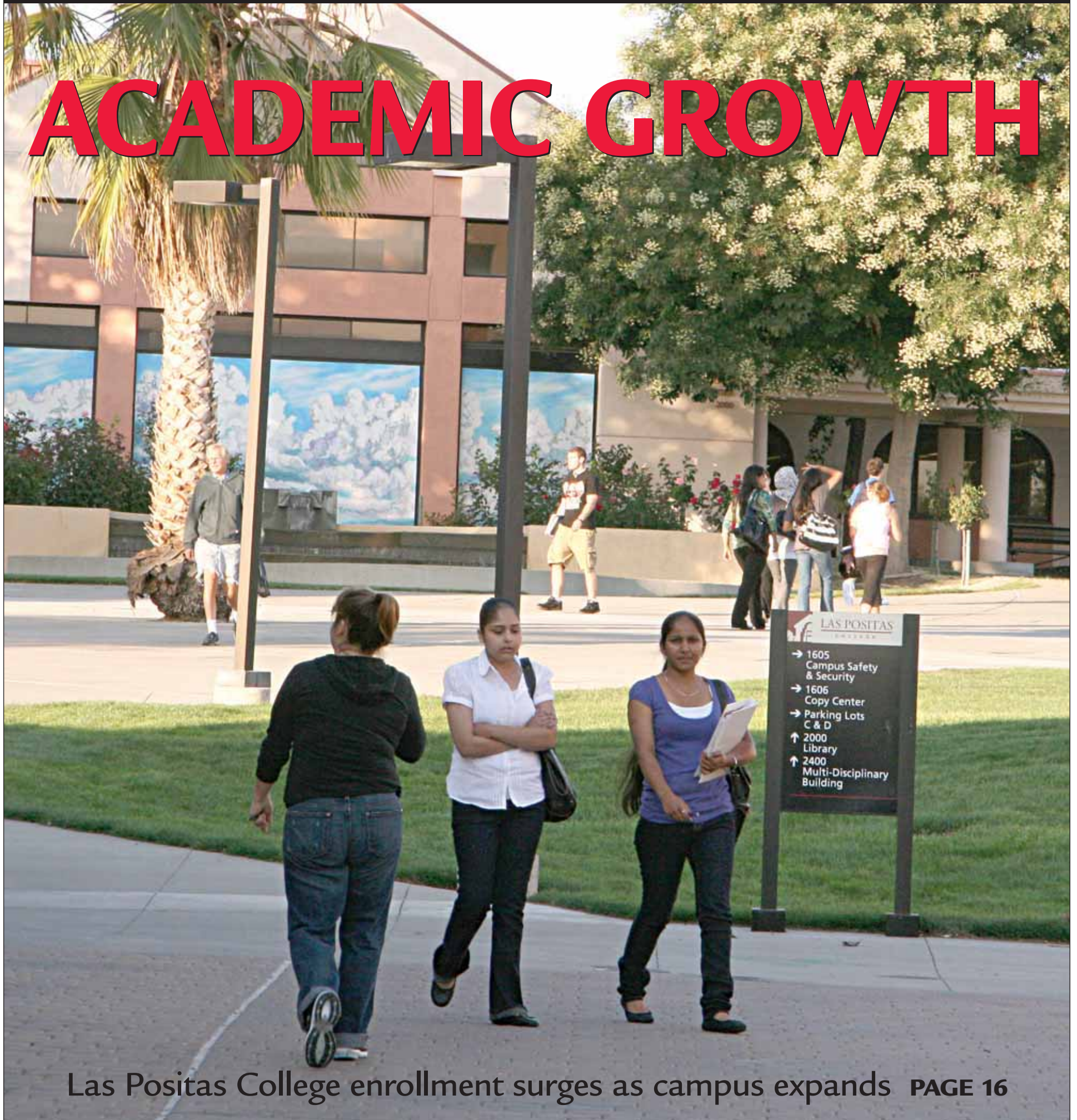
Health care reform: McNerney sounds off on national debate in exclusive guest opinion **PAGE 11**

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ACADEMIC GROWTH



Las Positas College enrollment surges as campus expands **PAGE 16**

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Local hot rod enthusiasts show their cars

Those who had their cars towed to a nearby repair shop in the earlier days of Pleasanton probably know Rich Guasco, the lifetime local hotrod enthusiast who sold his family-owned Santa Rita Garage & Towing Service in 1985. When his father opened the business in 1931, it was the only towing service around. Rich Guasco, who worked there while in school and started tearing down old cars and rebuilding them into hot rods, took the business over in 1963 when his dad died. His 1929 roadster with a V-8 engine was the hit of Amador Valley High School where he starred in varsity football and baseball and graduated in 1955. That car won the Grand National Roadster Show two years in a row and was named "America's most beautiful roadster." He still has the car in a garage at his Happy Valley Road home, along with a 1932 coupe, 1940 Ford with a 2007 Mach 1 Mustang engine and a 1959 Ford Victoria, all part of Guasco's collection that he exhibits at shows across the country. The star of his collection is a 1956 T-Bird that he built for his wife Doty, a working partner in his business who ran the wrecking yard and dispatched the two trucks for years as her husband toured the U.S., both racing hot rods and sowing his cars. Doty died nine years ago.

Last weekend Guasco was at the Goodguys West Coast Nationals at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, a man almost 73 years old who is as spry and active as he was at Amador. He seems to know everyone who was exhibiting at the show and left Sunday night when the show closed to drive to Norwalk, Ohio for another Goodguys show. He used to know almost everyone in Pleasanton, recalling that when he graduated from Amador, his senior class had 40 students. About 90 percent of them are still around, "obviously a healthy lot" he added. With the city's population just over 3,000, he and his parents knew almost everyone. His three children, Gina, Jill and Rusty, also graduated from Amador, but one wanted to join him in the wrecking and towing that often meant heavy lifting, greasy work and frequent night calls at 2 a.m. to go pick up a stalled car.

Guasco grew up at the house

his family built on Old Santa Rita Road at the front entrance to Santa Rita Wrecking. His dad, who immigrated to Pleasanton from Italy, couldn't read or write English at the time and Guasco's mother would carry different manufacturer's manuals to the worksite to read out loud instructions on how to fix engines and transmissions. But Guasco said he never learned Italian. His father, aware of negative views toward Italians in the years of World War II, insisted that the family was in America and would only speak English, which he learned.

Replacing engines and rebuilding them as a kid, Guasco said he quickly learned how to take parts from wrecked cars and build roadster and hot rods that looked like the real thing. Times were different then, he recalls, because there weren't any vendors offering restored Ford grills or Mercury V-8 engines. He found what he needed in the wrecking yard, working nights after school and eventually driving his newest creation off the lot and on down Main Street to show his friends. Among those was Chris Beratlis, who now owns a number of buildings on Main Street. At the time, Bertalis' parents had a restaurant on old Highway 50, the Lincoln Highway, now I-580, where Chris and Guasco's friends used to hang out. The two are still close friends 60 years later.

Also at the Goodguys show was Paul Bonderson, another car enthusiast who lives off Vallecitos Road in Sunol. Like Guasco, Bonderson, a founder of Brocade Communications in San Jose who retired four years ago as Vice President of Engineering, has hot rod and classic car rebuilding and restoration in his blood. He gives the job of doing that work to Roy Brizio, whose South San Francisco shop has a global reputation for building award-winning American hot rods. Bonderson exhibited three Brizio-built cars at the show, including a rare 1965 Bel Air Nomad, which was Chevrolet's most expensive car that year with only a few manufactured. He also showed a 1937 Ford roadster, one of a few that have been restored from a total line of 1,250 built by Ford. His pride is a 1940 Ford coupe painted in a bright tangelo (tangerine) color. It was built by Ford to last, which was good Bonderson points out, because car manufacturing soon stopped with the advent of World War II and Fords were the cars that ran without fail all during the war years. Bonderson's still does. ■

About the Cover

Students head to class during the first week of school at Las Positas College in Livermore. The local community college's enrollment continues to increase as they continue to expand their campus to meet to demand. Photo by Emily West.

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ASKED AT THE GOODGUYS CAR SHOW

What is your favorite car-related memory?



Judy Benenato
Pleasanton

When I was a kid, our big entertainment was to go for a drive, just drive around. That's when gas was really cheap I guess.

Jeff Giese
Alameda

My favorite car-related memory was riding in a VW Bug when I was 8 years old with five 16-year-old girls, including my sister when she had to take me with her one night. And yes, I was old enough to appreciate it.

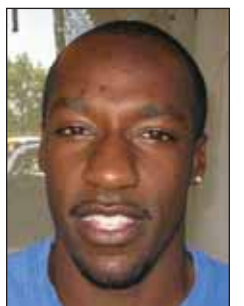


Michelle McKinney
San Luis Obispo

My dad and I painted the rims black on my new 2006 Mustang and spent the whole day doing it. It was a really good day.

Ryan Marcus
San Leandro

When I got my car painted. That's your debut. It's the first thing they see when you pull up.



Gina De la Torre
Elk Grove

Meeting my future husband cruising. It was in Santa Rosa on a Friday night at the local cruise spot.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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DIGEST

Bay Bridge closure

The Bay Bridge will be closed Labor Day weekend, meaning travelers will need to use alternate routes. The closure has taken place the last two years in order to complex seismic retrofit work. This year, it will be closed from 8 p.m. Sept. 3 through 5 p.m. Sept. 8. While BART typically ends service around midnight, they will run overnight service to 14 stations from Sept. 4 to Sept. 7. For more information visit www.bart.gov or 511.org.

Adopt a furry friend

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue will host an adoption faire from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. Adoption of a dog includes three private training classes, a bed, collar and leash. Cat adoptions include a blanket and toys. For details on animal adoption, visit www.tvvar.org.

Didgeridoo for health?

Musician Tyler Sussman will play the Australian instrument didgeridoo and discuss how vibrations can affect the human body to rejuvenate and heal from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 4 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Learn more by visiting www.didgeproject.com.

Recycle for the YMCA

The Tri-Valley YMCA is encouraging residents with unwanted electronics to recycle them and raise money for the YMCA to help children and families in the area. It will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the St. Elizabeth Seton parking lot, 4005 Stoneridge Drive. For details, call 475-6108 or visit <http://trivalley.ymcaeastbay.org>.

Contest for teens

Axis Community Health sponsors the second annual Young Voices in Recovery Essay Contest. Contestants between 13 and 19 can submit essays of 250 to 500 words answering: "What impact long-term recovery has had on your life, either through your own experiences or that of a person close to you?" Essays are due Oct. 2 and prizes range from \$50 to \$500. Email Amie Sousa at asousa@axishealth.org for information. Applications are available at Axis, 6666 Owens Drive or by phone, 201-6201.

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

Mold delays start of year at Hearst Elementary

Hearst Elementary School students had an extra day of summer vacation as a mold discovery in several classrooms cancelled the first day of school Tuesday.

Parents were alerted about the school closure by e-connect emails, an auto-dialer phone message and messages on the district and school website the night before school was to start.

Despite the late decision to cancel class, Grasso said most parents were able to make other arrangements for their children. Those who were not able to do that were able to drop their student off to be cared for by school staff in vacant classrooms and the library at Pleasanton Middle School.

The district will be submitting an application for a waiver from the state for the missed day of school, Grasso said, adding the district will learn later whether it will have to be made up.

Nine classrooms will be closed while crews work to eliminate growth

As classes were getting settled Wednesday morning, Mike Noel, president of Millennium Environmental Consulting Associates who oversaw the clean-up and testing, spoke to a group of about 200 parents who packed the multipurpose room.

In describing his findings, he said some classrooms showed slight mold levels that had good air quality, similar to outdoor levels. Despite the safe rating, school administrators wanted to be proactive and had them undergo a hospital-grade cleaning.

Classes with a higher level of mold that lead

to poor air quality were closed. This included the C building and B-19 classroom, about nine classrooms total. District spokeswoman Myla Grasso said it could be weeks until these classrooms are reopened. In the meantime, displaced classes are using the library, science, music and other spaces. Science and music specialists will deliver more mobile lessons as they visit classes toting educational materials around on a cart.

Noel said that "black mold" was found, but that there was very little and only apparent on exterior walls, not in air quality. Two other mold types found were more common and said to be less harmful.

Principal Michael Kuhfal said the problem appears to have been caused by a lack of caulking on outdoor speaker systems, which allowed moisture to seep into the walls. It was discovered

See **MOLD** on Page 8



EMILY WEST

Good showing for Goodguys

More than 70,000 hot rod and classic car enthusiasts attended the 23rd Goodguys West Coast Nationals at the Alameda County Fairgrounds last weekend, where 3,200 cars were on display. The show was estimated to have injected \$16 million into the local economy. Many of the cars at the show were also parked downtown and at neighborhood and regional centers as owners and their families dined at Pleasanton restaurants. Main Street was crowded both inside and outside the eateries, with a number of retailers staying open late to take advantage of the hundreds cruising and walking the streets. A highlight was famed hot rod builder Roy Brizio from South San Francisco who featured more than 100 of his own cars he built.

School board to launch search for new chief in October

Recruitment process initiated after Superintendent John Casey says he'll retire

By EMILY WEST

The Pleasanton School board, already beleaguered by multi-million-dollar cutbacks in state funding for the current school year, will take on another challenge in October when it starts the recruitment process to find a new superintendent for the unified school district.

Superintendent John Casey announced his retirement Aug. 20, saying that his last day with the school district will be June 30, the end of the 2009-10 school year.

He has been with the district since 2002, recruited by the school board at that time from

the Pajaro Valley Unified School District in Watsonville, where he was the superintendent.

"It's certainly been a wonderful seven years so far," he said. "I look forward to the last year being a good one. There are certainly challenges that we face, but the schools are strong and the organization is healthy."

In its search for Casey's replacement, it's likely the school board will turn to an outside search group. Once applications come in, the board will screen a pool of candidates to then interview. Typically, Casey said, the district

would want to have selected a candidate by the middle of May to start on June 1.

In June, Casey hinted at possibly retiring "in the next year or two," after his home went up on the market. When he came to the school district, he was granted a \$200,000 loan by the district, of which he said he still owes about \$180,000 which will be paid upon the sale of the house.

While his home hasn't sold yet, he and his wife still plan to eventually relocate to nearby Brentwood where they are originally from and where family resides. ■

Train operators OK BART contract

80% favorable vote averts strike

The threat of a BART strike appears to have been eliminated with members of the transit agency's second-largest labor union voting in approval of a tentative agreement with management.

Jesse Hunt, the president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555, which represents about 900 train operators, station agents and power workers, said just over 80 percent of members voted in favor of the contract. Members voted at meetings throughout Tuesday at a union hall at 8460 Enterprise Way in Oakland.

"This was not an easy vote today," Hunt said in a statement Tuesday night. "The budget deficit projected by BART executives wasn't caused by our members, nor by BART riders. But it was BART workers and BART riders who were asked to step up to the plate and help resolve this deficit, and we have done that."

Members of ATU Local 1555 voted by a two-to-one margin on Aug. 10 to reject a previous tentative agreement with management that had been reached on July 31.

The new tentative agreement was reached the night of Aug. 16 and put a temporary end to the threat of a strike by BART employees that was scheduled for the next day.

BART Board of Directors President Thomas Blalock said in a statement Tuesday night, "We're extremely pleased with the vote. ATU members showed today they are willing to join their colleagues in SEIU and AFSCME in helping to address the difficult financial challenges facing the district."

See **BART** on Page 6

OF NOTE

DesPrez's choir wins Pavarotti Trophy

Jon DesPrez, a 2008 Foothill High School graduate currently attending Cal Poly Pomona, represented the United States in the most prestigious choral event in Europe at the Llangollen 2009 International Musical Festival. DesPrez is a member of the Westminster Choir, which won the coveted Pavarotti Trophy. The last time an American choral group won this event was San Jose State in 1991.

Golfer meets former President George Bush

Young Pleasanton golfer Natalie Bodnar had the chance to meet former President George Bush, as well as former First Lady Barbara Bush and granddaughter Jenna Bush, at The First Tee selection process for girls at Wentworth By The Sea Country Club in Rye, N.H.



"President and Mrs. Bush were very nice, and you could tell they were excited to be here," Natalie said. "They made us laugh and wished us luck in the qualifying process. It was truly an amazing experience."

Thirty-nine girls from The First Tee Chapters across the country are recently competed for spots in the Walmart First Tee Open at Pebble Beach, an official Champions Tour event that takes place during Labor Day weekend

BART

Continued from Page 5

Members of BART's other two big labor unions, Service Employees International Union Local 1021, which represents about 1,500 mechanics, custodians, safety inspectors and clerical employees, and American Federation of Local, State and Municipal Employees Union Local 3993, which represents about 200 middle managers, voted two weeks ago to approve the initial tentative agreement.

The leaders of those two unions had said their members would have honored picket lines if ATU Local 1555 had gone on strike.

BART management says the agreements with the three unions help in achieving the agency's goal of cutting \$100 million in labor costs over four years. BART faces an estimated \$310 million, four-year deficit, according to BART management.

The tentative agreement, which covers four years, now must be ratified by the BART Board of Directors.

— *Jesse Dungan/Jeff Shuttleworth, Bay City News*

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

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Scherer to stand trial in parents' deaths

In ruling, judge said evidence, motive point to professional poker player's guilt

By JANET PELLETIER

Ernest Scherer III sat emotionless in an Oakland courtroom Friday as Judge Jeffrey Horner ordered the defendant to stand trial for the deaths of his parents in their Castlewood Country Club home.

Horner said testimony taken from a series of hearings over the past month — from evidence to a motive--indicate Scherer III's guilt. The 31-year-old Brea, Calif. resident will be arraigned Sept. 4 and remains locked up in Santa Rita Jail, where he's been held since February on a no-bail warrant.

In his ruling, Horner said Scherer III will have to answer to all charges against him, which include two counts of murder with special circumstances — multiple murder and murder for financial gain. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

Ernest Scherer Jr., 60, a former San Ramon school board member and active member of the Republican Party and his wife Charlene Abendroth, 57, a well-liked Cal State East Bay professor active in the Mormon church, were brutally stabbed and beaten to death March 7, 2008 in their Castlewood home, authorities testified. Scherer Jr., discovered with \$9,000 in cash in his pockets, was stabbed six times and received six blunt force injuries while Abendroth, whose body lay in a different room, received a

dozen stab wounds and 20 blunt force injuries, according to testimony from an Alameda County Sheriff's detective.

"These two individuals met a horrific death," Horner said. "The person who inflicted those wounds did so in significant anger."

In reviewing testimony, Horner said the crime scene was made to look like a burglary, but there was no sign of forced entry and no valuables such as jewelry and computers were taken. Referencing testimony given by Scherer III's grandfather Ernest Scherer Sr., the judge said it was clear the defendant "was upset with his parents who wouldn't help him financially,"

and that they favored his sister. Scherer III, a professional poker player with more than \$300,000 in career earnings but steeped in debt, was living a life of luxury he couldn't afford, "was a compulsive gambler and couldn't be trusted with money," Horner said.

Scherer III stood to collect \$1.5 million in inheritance upon turning 30 years old, according to testimony.

A security tape recorded by the Castlewood Country Club showed a 2001 red Camaro owned by Scherer III entering the community at 8:27 p.m. March 7 and exiting at 1 a.m. the next morning, a window of time that would be consistent with when investigators believe the couple were killed,



Charlene Abendroth, 57, and Ernest Scherer Jr., 60, were found dead March 14, 2008, in their Castlewood home, a week after authorities believe they were killed.

Horner said. Also suspicious, the judge said, was a 17-hour period of time that Scherer III's cell phone was turned off — a lapse where authorities believe the defendant drove from Las Vegas to Pleasanton, killed his parents, and then drove south to Brea. Calling the behavior unusual, the judge said "Mr. Scherer simply didn't do that; he was always on the phone."

A day after authorities believe the couple were murdered, Scherer III had his car detailed in Brea, insisting on watching his car as it passed through the wash, and replaced the tires, according to testimony. That, the judge said, led him to believe Scherer III may have been worried about tracking

blood into his car and leaving tire tracks on his parent's property.

A computer that was seized from a hotel Scherer III was staying at contained searches for fake passports and countries that don't extradite, according to testimony.

When the case goes to trial, it will be based on circumstantial evidence. Scherer III refused a DNA test days after the killings, and a murder weapon, believed to be either a knife or other similarly sharp object, has not been found. Horner agreed with defense attorney Richard Foxall that Scherer cannot be seen in still shots taken from the security tape, a claim the prosecution made during the preliminary hearing. ■

Valley Bible Church hosting softball tourney

Nearly 200 men from area churches will battle it out this Saturday — in the spirit of fun of course — in the first of what a local Pleasanton church leader hopes will become an annual softball tournament seeking to build unity.

Wayne Johnson, pastor of community ministries for Valley Bible Church near ClubSport, said he wanted to engage local congregations and form lasting partnerships and friendships.

"We just thought it would be nice to invited different churches from different communities," Johnson said. "The whole intent is to bring people together and hopefully we'll make some friendships. Maybe this will open up opportunities to do something down the road."

A total of 12 teams featuring players from age 18 up to those in their 60s will begin play at 8 a.m. Saturday at the softball complex in the Sports Park. Teams, which will play between three and five games depending on elimination, include CrossWinds Church in Dublin (two teams), Valley Bible Church (two teams), Cavalry Chapel in Fremont, Neighborhood Church in Castro Valley, Rolling Hills Baptist Church in Danville, East Bay Fellowship in Danville, The Will in Dublin, Cornerstone Church in Livermore, Cornerstone Church in Brentwood and Harvest Valley Church in Pleasanton.

After play is over at about 3 p.m., participants, their families and friends are invited to share pizza at Straw Hat.

— Janet Pelletier

All Star 13-year-olds head to semifinals

Team playing in Murray, Utah, at Babe Ruth World Series

By JANET PELLETIER

The Tri-Valley Babe Ruth 13-year-old All Stars are set to face off today in the semifinal round at the Babe Ruth World Series, being held in Murray, Utah.

The team bested Harris Township of Indiana Tuesday, bringing their record in pool play to 3-0 and catapulting them to a No. 1 seeding for the single-elimination portion and a pass to the semis. They were set to play a Leominster, Mass. team Wednesday.

Despite a complete game outing for Harris Township's pitcher, who held TVBR to its smallest run tally so far, TVBR bested their opponent Tuesday, winning 5-3.

In Murray, Utah for the championship series, TVBR's started a hitting frenzy early on, scoring four runs in the top of the first inning, according to Coach Ron Dronkers, who has been updating parents, friends and other fans on his blog, <http://ptown-ron.wordpress.com>. In the top of the



RON DRONKERS

The Tri-Valley Babe Ruth 13-year-old All Stars will play today in the semifinals.

fourth, with runners at first and third, David Gomez pinch-hit for Tri-Valley shortstop Brad Pluschkell and sliced an RBI-single for his first hit of the World Series to give the team a total of five runs. Harris came back with one run in the bottom of the inning, later adding another in the sixth and the third in the seventh. Pitcher Jake

Dronkers earned the save.

Tuesday's win against Harris Township was the closest game TVBR had played in the series. In the first game, the team dominated Mississippi's McComb team 11-1 and in the second game, overran Utah's Taylorsville team 13-4. For more sports news, turn to page 24. ■

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EMILY WEST

Hearst Elementary Principal Mike Kuhfal speaks to parents Wednesday morning, when school opened.

MOLD

Continued from Page 5

ered when a teacher was moving out of her fourth/fifth-grade classroom a few days prior to the start of school. The discovery led to an investigation of the entire school, Kuhfal added.

Crews and staff have worked late nights, including until 2 a.m. Wednesday morning, in order for students to start school without having to borrow space from nearby Pleasanton Middle School.

Noel said they are still developing a plan to monitor mold levels, saying that they will likely retest as the seasons change and affect the levels of mold in the air. Results should be on the school district's website, www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us, in the coming days.

The cost of the testing and remediation process is unknown as of press time. Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of Business Services, said she is in talks with the insurance company to ensure that "someone other than the district

will pay those bills." She also added that this isn't the first time the fairly new school has had problems, and that they need to replace the roof a couple years ago.

"Mold can happen anywhere or in any school," Superintendent John Casey said. "As soon as you have any kind of flash that wasn't done perfectly or a lead, as soon as you get water, if you have an envelope in those walls, you have a chance for mold no matter how old the building is."

— Emily West



JANET PELLETIER

This classroom in Building C was where a teacher discovered black mold behind a bookshelf last week, cancelling classes Tuesday.

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Tri-Valley tourism taking a hit, but keeps on ticking

CEO of San Francisco visitor's bureau says Bay Area bureaus need to work together

By JANET PELLETIER

Increasing tourism during an economic recession may not be a realistic goal, but waving the white flag isn't going to solve anything either. That was the message the head of the San Francisco Convention & Visitor's Bureau gave to a few hundred attendees at the Tri-Valley bureau's annual partnership meeting last week.

Amy Blaschka, president and CEO of the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitor's Bureau, told the audience, gathered at the newly renovated Shannon Community Center in Dublin, that "things are looking up" for the bureau.

Dublin will play host to the Earl Anthony's Professional Bowler's Association Tournament at the bowling alley in mid-January, an event that will be broadcast live on ESPN. Pleasanton can look forward to a San Jose Sharks affiliate-sponsored complex on the Staples Ranch property, Danville will again welcome the LPGA women's golf tournament and Livermore will be home to a premium outlet center, she added.

And maybe the most promising, Blaschka said, will be a new California Welcome Center in Livermore.

"This is really exciting," she said. "They have one in Pismo Beach. They've owned and operated one there for several years. With that track record, Livermore and the entire Tri-Valley stand to benefit with increased awareness and exposure."

There are also new developments to one of the Valley's biggest draws — wine country.

"Concannon Vineyard just opened its brand new tasting room and Wente is working on a new event space on its Tesla (Road) location," Blaschka said, adding that Livermore Valley's marketing tactics has Napa taking notes.

But while much of that news was rosy, Blaschka acknowledged the tough times the tourism and hospitality industry is in and as she put it, "we're a victim of our own success." Charged with higher expectations and goals, sales are still looking positive though, she said, and much of that is due to the CVB team cultivating relationships.

"We know that everyone benefits," she said. "It's not just one city. They all work together to make it happen."

And no one perhaps knows that better than the event's keynote speaker, Joe D'Alessandro, president and

CEO of the San Francisco bureau, who stressed to the audience made up of business owners and city leaders that there is strength in numbers.

"No destination, as compelling as it is, can do it alone," he said. "We're in an extremely competitive marketplace. We are working not only against Los Angeles and Southern California, but New Orleans, the East Coast and Canada and the Northwest, China, Europe, the whole world."

D'Alessandro said the San Francisco Bureau strives to work regionally with the Tri-Valley, Napa, Sonoma, Lake Tahoe, Monterey, Carmel and the Central Valley because most tourists don't travel to one county, but rather a region.

Saddled with one of the worst economic downturns in generations, D'Alessandro said a turnaround isn't happening in the very near future.

"We have declining occupancy, lowered rates, declining revenue for our hotels," he said. "We have hotel owners with investors who are panicking. Many people think that the sky is falling."

And, he said, that's just the part of the story. As homeowners have already watched their house values



JANET PELLETIER

Amy Blaschka, president and CEO of the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitor's Bureau, said that despite the economic downturn, new prospects to generate tourism dollars are on the horizon.

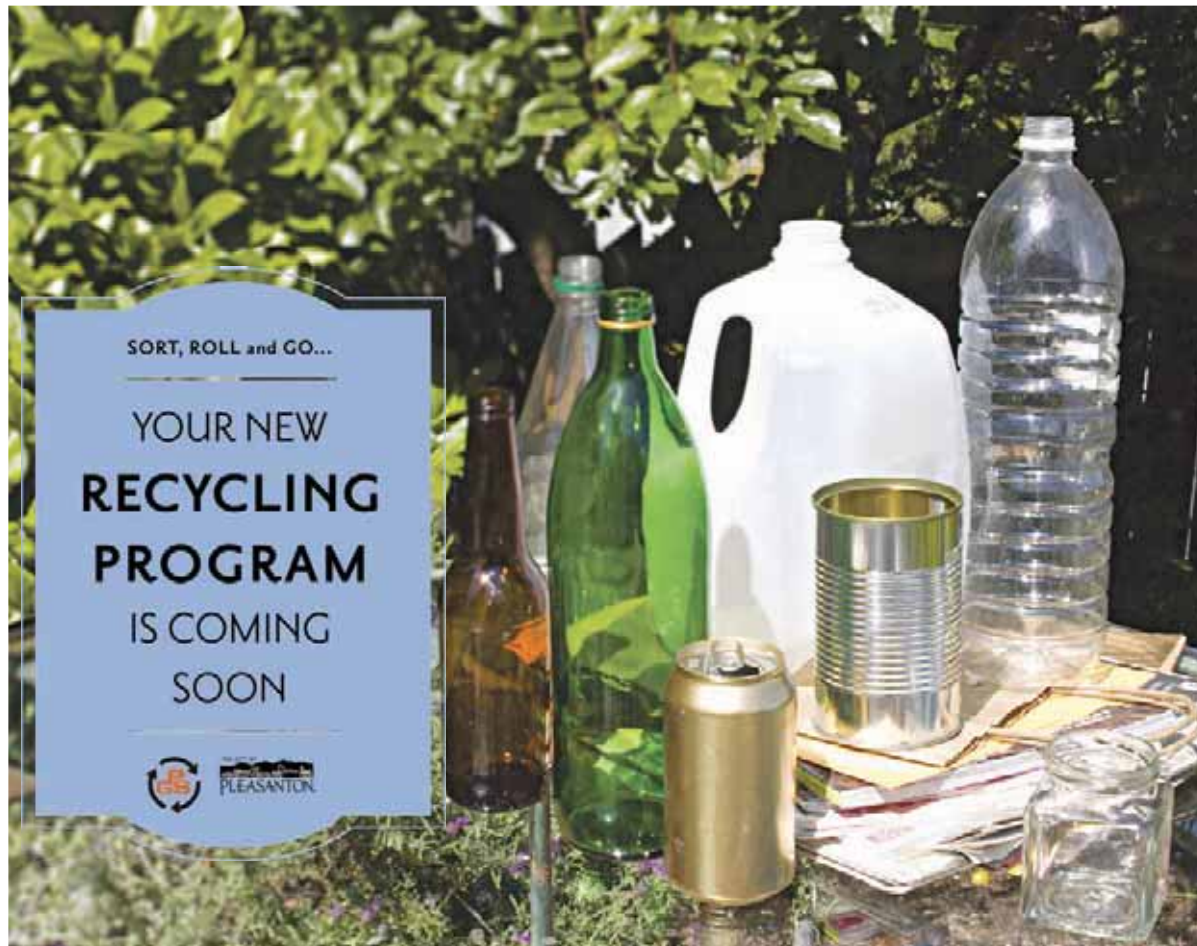
decline, so will owners of commercial real estate, which is the next wave hitting right now.

But despite a dour economic outlook, there are ways business owners and the bureau can take to stay competitive, he said.

"It's no longer business as usual," he said. "We are in a time change and we can make a choice. Embrace the change and go along with it and become stronger. Change to the adapting marketplace, consumer."

This year, the San Francisco bureau celebrates its 100th anniversary, forming just three years after the devastating 1906 earthquake. This year, D'Alessandro said the bureau has made staff changes, marketed differently via social networking sites and taken a new approach to partnerships and its members.

"We know that you have to market aggressively in a down time," he said. "The worst thing that you can do is back off and say you're afraid." ■



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.

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Move the holiday ice rink back to Old Bernal

Homeowners along First and Second streets and others in the area called Old Towne voiced concerns last week over plans by a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks to operate a holiday ice rink at Delucchi Park within eyesight and possibly earshot of their usually quiet neighborhoods. The proposed rink, which has the approval of the City Council, although in a different location, would be open in the afternoons and evenings most weekdays from mid-November to mid-January with longer hours on weekends and during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Those who objected to the Delucchi Park location are not curmudgeons trying to stop a wintertime recreational amenity long favored by downtown merchants and many others in the city. Far from it. They're longtime residents, some as long as 40 years, who have been active in community affairs but simply are disturbed that the city would allow a major ice rink that could attract 30,000 people to the site over the busy 60-day holiday season without telling them. Over the years, activities along the First Street corridor have increased with Farmers' Market, concerts and movies in the park, First Wednesday street parties that now extend on side streets toward First and soon a Firehouse Arts Center that will attract a regional crowd. An ice rink close to the heart of their community seems just too much, especially when no one knows how many will use it, how much noise it will generate from skaters and nighttime ice cooling machines, and how many more cars will end up parking on Old Towne streets.

Back on April 21, the council approved a plan by San Jose Arena Management (SJAM), the Sharks' subsidiary, to install and operate the outdoor rink during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season for the next five years, with the first year to be on a portion of the Civic Center and public library parking lots along Old Bernal Avenue. The council also gave its support to City Manager Nelson Fialho to relocate the outdoor rink closer to downtown if a more suitable site could be found. Downtown is important because besides providing a new wintertime amenity, both the city and downtown businesses hope the rink will attract more shoppers and diners to restaurants and shops. A similar rink in Walnut Creek appeals to more than 40,000 users and has become a major source of revenue for shops and restaurants in that city.

Fialho and SJAM would have preferred a more central location, such as the Round Table Pizza parking lot or the one next to the vacant former Domus store on Main Street, but the property owners of both locations refused. When city planners and engineers found Delucchi Park, with its public restrooms, ample parking and available power supplies that could accommodate this year's rink, Fialho moved it. Buoyed by downtown merchant and public enthusiasm for the outdoor ice rink, it seemed like a done deal. Now some on the council are agreeing with the objectors that public hearings are needed and possibly an environmental impact study before the rink opens for skaters, a process that could take weeks, if not months, and jeopardize skating for the coming holiday season.

To us, an easier solution is to move the rink back to the Civic Center and library parking areas where adequate power, lighting and parking are also available. SJAM can start building in early November. Merchants have already said that they'll offer horse-drawn carriages for skaters and families between their businesses and the Civic Center site. By operating in a less congested location, everyone will also have a chance to assess the benefits, which might well encourage the two Main Street parking lot owners to bid for 2010.

LETTERS

Homecoming a great show of support for our son

Dear Editor,

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all who attended the homecoming for our son, Lance Cpl. Andrew Bowen, USMC, Aug. 7. We are so excited to celebrate his safe return home from deployment.

Having such a show of support and recognition for Andy from our hometown means so much to us and has been an incredible experience. The support and care that our community provides for our men and women in uniform and their families is extraordinary.

As you know, our service men and women and their families sacrifice on many levels as they live out their courage, honor and commitment in serving this country; both on deployments and during their stateside training in preparation for their next assignment. They do this with dedication and humility; with a "just doing my job" attitude. But the rigors of military life and the very real personal danger to which they are exposed set them apart from the civilian world as they answer the call of duty to defend this great nation. So, this warm and rousing Pleasanton welcome home for Andy was truly a special experience of appreciation and acknowledgment from the community for his service to our country. The Pleasanton Military Family Support Group, Warrior's Watch Riders escort, the Lafayette Flag Brigade, VFW, American Legion, Operation S.A.M., Blue Star Mom's, Congressman Jerry McNerney and Councilman Jerry Thorne--and every person who came out to be there to welcome Andy home made this an event we will always remember.

We are humbled and grateful for the demonstration of love and support for our son and family that evening. We are proud to call Pleasanton home.

Jane and George Bowen

Health insurance companies have failed us

Dear Editor,

Most people understand our current health care system is broken, but are they fully aware of how disastrously the insurance companies have failed us? Americans realize we have 47 million uninsured and that the insurance industry routinely denies coverage to those most in need. Should these companies choose to insure you, they often delay or refuse payment in hopes that you'll give up or die. If they do come across, they sometimes sue the patient for not disclosing a "pre-existing condition". But are Americans aware that premiums

have gone up 271 percent since 1987, or that profits for the top 10 insurance companies have risen 428 percent from 2001 to 2007? Do people know that overwhelming medical expenses cause a bankruptcy filing every 30 seconds, with 1 million such filings a year? Or that our current system results in 18,000 needless deaths a year?

There is a better way--health care paid directly by the government. This so-called public option is used by the great majority of the world's industrialized nations for one simple reason--it works. Their administrative costs average 1 percent of expenditures, versus 12 percent to 15 percent for the insurance companies, with much better results. This is why the WHO ranks France and Germany as No. 1 and No. 2 respectively in health care, while we languish at 37. Our congressional representative, Jerry McNerney, knows this, and that is why he supports giving Americans a choice of private and public plans.

Norman J. Hansen

Pooch Parade a success thanks to many

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the Tri Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers, I would like to say thank you not only to the Pleasanton Weekly, but also to the Pleasanton Downtown Association, the City of Pleasanton and its residents, and Melanie Sadek from Murphy's Paw for embracing our main fundraiser, The 12th annual Pooch Parade.

In 1998 we had 78 entries and raised just over \$198. This year we were able to raise over \$2,700 with a record-breaking 202 entries. The funds raised will help offset the cost of raising a guide dog puppy, by helping to pay for dog food, equipment, club recognition and club outings. We look forward every year to putting this event on for the community, and hope to see everyone again next year.

Ellen Aguirre, leader of Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers

Clean Energy and Security Act a good first step

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Congressman McNerney for his support of the American Clean Energy and Security Act.

This bill takes the measures we need to decrease our dependence on foreign oil while creating much-needed jobs in this down economy. Some claim that we must hold out for stronger measures, that this bill is not stringent enough. However, this bill seeks to do more than any

See **LETTERS** on Page 11

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GUEST OPINION



By JERRY MCNERNEY

Reform should build on current system, let people choose

Our country is engaged in an important discussion on the future of our health care system. Over the summer, I've traveled our district on a health care listening tour to meet with families, patients, seniors, veterans, small business owners, doctors and nurses. I've also toured health care facilities including hospitals, clinics, and local practices and hosted telephone town halls with thousands of participants to listen to, and answer, questions about health care reform proposals.

During my listening tour, I've met with people from across the political spectrum who believe that our health care system needs improvement. In Tracy, I listened to a small business owner whose health care premiums have increased over the past two years at a time when revenues are dropping. In Pleasanton, I toured a community health clinic and spoke with doctors who are

managing a patient load that has grown significantly since the downturn in the economy. In Stockton and Manteca, I met with seniors who are struggling with the high cost of prescription medication.

In all of the communities that I've visited, I've heard from hard-working people who want the security and peace of mind of knowing that affordable, high quality health care services will be available when they need them. Health care costs are rising dramatically, and this growth is simply too much for many families and businesses. Health care reform that is fiscally responsible, reduces costs, improves quality of care, and provides security for our families is important to our country's long-term economic future.

Health care reform should build on the best of our current system to find uniquely American solutions, not create a brand new system from scratch. People who are pleased with their health care—whether it is through Medicare, an employer, purchased individually, or from another source—must be able to keep their coverage.

Reform should also reduce health care costs for families and small businesses by harnessing competition in the insurance mar-

ketplace, cutting wasteful spending, cracking down on fraud, eliminating common abuses in the insurance industry, and establishing a new emphasis on preventing illness before it strikes.

We have many tough decisions ahead about the direction of our country's health care system. We can all be united in working towards a truly American system that makes health care more affordable, provides the highest quality health care in the world, reduces costs, and contributes to our country's economic future.

The discussion regarding health care is ongoing, and I'll continue to listen to all of the thoughts and ideas that people are offering me. I'm fighting for reforms that let people choose their plan and their doctor, rein in costs for families and small businesses, protect benefits for seniors and veterans, and build on the best traditions of this country's entrepreneurial spirit. I look forward to continuing this national discussion on how to improve our American health care system.

Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, is the representative for the 11th Congressional District. A former wind energy consultant, he was first elected to office in 2006 and was re-elected last November to serve through 2010.

LETTERS

Continued from Page 10

other bill has done up to this point, and will allow us to have something to build off of in the future. It makes the first step so that we can begin the process of becoming a greener America. Others claim that this bill is too costly in this current economy. However, this bill will provide many jobs, which we should welcome with open arms.

While this bill is nowhere near perfect, it sets the foundation for the future and starts turning us in the right direction. I thank Congressman McNerney for recognizing the importance of this bill and I hope that our senators have the foresight to also recognize its necessity.

Sarah Moellering

McNerney's focus right where it should be

Dear Editor,

Although our economy has been in turmoil, health care costs have risen, and foreign relations have been strained, reform is on its way with the election of President Obama and our local Congressman Jerry McNerney.

McNerney has sought to decrease health care costs providing a more affordable options for the community. He understands that over 45 million people are unable to afford health care and believes

that everyone should enjoy and reap the benefits of health care due to the advanced professionals and medical innovation in our country.

He has shown his support in issues that will help benefit our health care system by supporting efforts not only to lower health care costs but also the price of over the counter prescription drugs.

In addition to that he supported the State Children's Health Insurance plan which provides health care to children who live in lower income homes.

Jerry McNerney's plan for health care reform provides a step in the right direction to making reforms.

Anika Nayyar

Support House, Senate toward health care reform

Dear Editor,

I support Congressman Jerry McNerney as he works for getting a health plan for all of us. I am fortunate that I am covered by a good health plan, but some in my family and some people I know are not so fortunate. Please support members of the House and Senate as they work towards needed reforms. It is time to change our broken insurance company driven plans.

Heinz Gewing



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Transitions

WEDDINGS • ENGAGEMENTS • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS

OBITUARIES

Thomas Michael Self Jr.

Thomas Michael Self Jr. died July 7 at the age of 43.

He touched many lives in many ways. Born Feb. 27, 1966 in Livermore, Mr. Self Jr. spent the majority of his life in Pleasanton.

He is survived by his loving mother, Cheryl Willis; father, Tomm Willis; brothers, Scott Self and Joey Willis; sister-in-law, Jenn Self; and his adoring niece and nephew, Sydney and Tristan Self. He is also survived by his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Kirk (Susan Augusta); and many cousins, relatives and friends.

A service was held July 12.



BIRTHS

Daniel Richard Spencer

Daniel Richard Spencer was born March 3 at San Ramon Regional Medical Center to parents Elizabeth and Michael Spencer of Pleasanton. He weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces.

BIRTHS

The following information on Pleasanton births was provided by ValleyCare Medical Center

June 23

■ Mindy and Tyler Brown, a girl

June 29

■ Caris and Daniel Noble, a boy

■ Rachel and Trevor Moniz, a boy

July 27

■ Victoria and Ted Sien, a girl

A FREE Community Seminar

LIFE AFTER PROSTATE CANCER: ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION TREATMENTS

Tuesday, September 8, 2009 7:30 – 9 p.m.

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SPEAKER

Charles Wen, M.D.
Urologist

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POLICE BULLETIN

Two arrested in foiled burglary

A burglary plan was foiled Monday morning when a man entering a home in a Pleasanton neighborhood on the city's west side was confronted by one of two teenagers who were home at the time, police said.

The man allegedly knocked on the front door and when no one answered, entered the backyard and came into

the house through an open window. The two teens were home and called 911. The man fled when he was confronted by one of the teens, who was also able to identify another man sitting in a car parked outside of the home.

When police arrived, they detained the man in the car and two K-9 units, one from the Pleasanton Police Department and the other from Dublin, searched in nearby backyards for the other suspect, who was found in a neighbor's storage shed.

The suspects, ages 18 and 19 from San Jose, were arrested for burglary and booked at Santa Rita Jail.

—Emily West

POLICE REPORT

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

Aug. 15

Theft

- 12:10 p.m. in the 7000 block of Valley Trails Drive; grand theft
- 4:12 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 4:42 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive
- 6:17 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vandalism

- 9:29 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Drug/alcohol violations

- 10:38 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Francisco Street; DUI
- 11:18 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street; public drunkenness
- 11:31 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; underage alcohol possession, use of false ID

Aug. 16

Vandalism

- 10:04 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 7:19 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road; underage DUI
- 11:04 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Aug. 17

Theft

- 9:45 a.m. in the 4100 block of Francisco Street; identity theft
- 12:08 p.m. in the 4000 block of Jackie Court; identity theft
- 2:39 p.m. at the intersection of Peters and Rose avenues; possession of stolen property, carrying loaded gun

Burglary

- Drywood Street
- 9:36 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; vehicular
- 11:17 p.m. in the 4400 block of Willow Road; vehicular

Vandalism

- 12:11 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 2:46 p.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road

Marijuana possession

- 12:06 a.m. at the intersection of Spring and Main streets

Aug. 18

Theft

- 7:55 a.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

- 12:12 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 2:03 p.m. in the 4000 block of Jackie Court; identity theft

Vandalism

- 1:23 a.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive
- 2:04 p.m. in the 900 block of Laguna Creek Lane

Drug violations

- 3:20 p.m. at the intersection of Vine Street and Mavis Drive; marijuana possession
- 5:06 p.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive; non-narcotic controlled substance possession
- 6:03 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street; marijuana possession

Battery

- 9:16 a.m. in the 6200 block of Robin Court
- 2:04 p.m. in the 900 block of Laguna Creek Lane; threats
- 11:13 p.m. in the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue

Indecent exposure

- 12:18 p.m. in the 4600 block of Cochise Court

Aug. 19

Theft

- 7:23 a.m. in the 7000 block of Valley Trails Drive; stolen vehicle
- 8:01 a.m. in the 4500 block of Lin Gate Street; identity theft
- 3:06 p.m. in the 5400 block of Northway Road
- 6:56 p.m. in the 5100 block of Monaco Drive; petty theft

Burglary

- 11:22 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

- 9:36 a.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive
- 4:14 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue

Kidnapping

- 4:46 a.m. at the intersection of Payne Road and Holland Drive

Aug. 20

Theft

- 4:21 a.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Drive; identity theft
- 10:48 a.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue; grand theft
- 10:43 a.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; stolen vehicle

Burglary

- 4:28 a.m. in the 5600 block of Gibraltar Drive

Vandalism

- 8:50 a.m. in the 700 block of Main Street
- 8:48 p.m. at the intersection of Owens Court and Owens Drive
- 8:47 p.m. in the 2800 block of

Hopyard Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:05 a.m. at the intersection of Harvest Circle and Del Valle Parkway; marijuana possession
- 1:33 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; DUI

Prowling

- 1:14 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Massage business permit violations

- 4:00 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue
- 7:12 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

Aug. 21

Grand theft

- 9:59 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

Vehicular burglary

- 1:14 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:56 p.m. at the intersection of Peters and Old Bernal avenues; marijuana possession
- 9:42 p.m. in the 3000 block of Bernal Avenue; DUI

Battery

- 3:07 p.m. in the 600 block of Main Street

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, September 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Human Services Commission
Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

**THE OFFICES AT CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH
IN RECOGNITION OF LABOR DAY.**

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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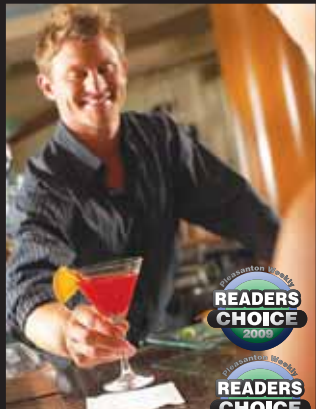
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Las Positas College's new \$11.5-million aquatic center features a recreational pool in the forefront, a competition pool and a 2,800-square-foot pool house.

PHOTOS BY EMILY WEST

ACADEMIC GROWTH

Las Positas College enrollment surges as campus continues to expand



Above: The physical education complex continues to grow. Facilities currently include a gym, lighted soccer field and aquatic center. The school has teams for men and women in cross country, basketball and soccer, and is working to build a swimming and diving team. A track and field team is also in the works as that complex is scheduled to be completed by next fall.

Right: Las Positas College Board members cut the ribbon to dedicate the new facility, which officially opened with the start of classes Aug. 17.



By Emily West

In 1975, Las Positas College started as the valley campus of Chabot College in Hayward. Located in the northwestern hills of Livermore, the four-building campus grew from an enrollment of 810 students with 38 staff members. It eventually became the 107th community college in the state in 1988 and received full accreditation and had its first graduation ceremony in 1991.

The campus is in the age of growth and there are no signs of stopping soon. LPC President Dr. DeRionne Pollard said there has already been an increase in enrollment after the first week of class.

"On the first day of school last year, we had 7,900 enrolled," she said. "This fall, our head count was 8,800. By the end of the first week, our enrollment is at almost 9,200."

"I would say three things are driving this," Pollard continued, "Reputation of the phenomenal instruction here at Las Positas College in general, new programs of study in careers leading to employment and reduction in admissions in both the UCs and CSUs."

LPC's expansion may come as a shock, even to those who have been on the campus in the last couple of years. Fresh off the completion of the two-pool aquatic center, the next big project is the 55,000-square foot College Center for the Arts. Campus construction is funded through Measure B, a \$498-million facilities bond. Build-out is expected to be completed in 2011 to serve 12,000 students.

With several projects in the works and some just getting started, as well as new academic and athletic programs, the growth couldn't have come at a better time. Even with budget cuts coming from the state, Pollard said that she and her staff are refusing to be fearful, but instead be creative in finding ways to meet the needs of the students and the community.

Who is hitting the books?

In times of economic hardship, both young and old are looking to advance their education and build career skills.

Graduating seniors from the Tri-Valley make up 53 percent of the first-time freshman population. It also attracts young students from outside of the area, including 9 percent from Contra Costa County, 3 percent from other Alameda County high schools, 20 percent from other California high schools (excluding the Bay Area), and even graduating high school seniors from other states (2.3 percent) and countries (3.5 percent).

One reason to choose a community college is for affordability. It is \$26 per unit at LPC, with a year's fees ranging from \$600 for residents to \$5,190 for non-residents (including school, materials and living expenses such as off-campus rent), compared to \$3,797 to \$10,170 for California State Universities and \$8,007 to \$20,000 for University of California schools.

Plus LPC has the seventh highest transfer rate of all 110 California community colleges. According to the Las Positas, most students transfer to UC Berkeley, Cal State East Bay, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, San Jose State, Cal State Monterey Bay, UC Riverside and St. Mary's College.

Younger students continue to be the largest age-group population in California community colleges, yet the older set has strong numbers. Throughout the state last year, nearly 400,000 people 30 to 39 were enrolled, plus more than 324,000 students were over the age of 50.

People in search of career skills can find help with the one-stop career center as well as the job and transfer center.

"We have the ability to counsel workers who are dislocated, shifting careers, and unemployed and looking for options in education and training," Pollard said.

In addition to the guidance of counselors and staff, she also said that they have partnerships with the county to help this portion of people.

"At our job and transfer center, we help students prepare to transfer by spending time developing a plan for the college they want to go to. We also prepare them for work with how to write a resume, interview and all those skills we all know are so important."

Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman has long supported Las Positas College's programs. As a product of the school system, she went on to complete her degree from the University of San Francisco. Saying she didn't feel as confident in going back to school, it was getting an "A" in ecology that spurred her on to complete her degree.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without our local college," she said at the school's recent Community Day. "Las Positas College opened doors for me."

Another growing group of people seeking education

is veterans. This program has been getting a lot of attention, being touted as the most comprehensive veterans program among the state community colleges. GI Jobs Magazine also deemed LPC as a "Military Friendly School for 2010."

Men and women returning from duty can expect specialized orientations, benefits, counseling, a mentor program, their own student organization and health support.

Pleasanton native Jim McGuirk said ever since he was a kid, he wanted to be a scientist and a GI Joe. He graduated from high school in 2001 and enlisted just days before Sept. 11. Having served two tours in Iraq, he's studying mechanical engineering at Las Positas.

In describing the tough transition to civilian life, McGuirk said the veterans program allowed him to find a "second home" at the school, as well as be a part of a network of people who have gone through the same experiences.

'A' for athletics

Newly added to the growing athletics complex is the \$11.5-million aquatic center, featuring a competition pool, recreational pool and a 2,800-square-foot pool house. They sit next to the new lighted turf soccer field and gym, with basketball courts, a jogging ring, classrooms, a weight room, offices and locker rooms. The area is also used by students and rented by community groups.

It is facilities like these that help in attracting athletes and growing the competitive program.

"The state-of-the-art facilities allow athletes to see what the next level is like, athletically and academically," said Athletic Director Dyan Miller. "On the first day of class, the classes have been pretty robust. People were excited to finally be able to use the facilities."

With the addition of a swim coach, the school hopes to soon add a swimming and diving team to join its cross country, soccer and basketball programs to compete in the Coast Conference in the California Community College Athletic Association.

By the start of school next year, Miller said that the track and field construction should be completed and they would be recruiting for an accompanying team. With the gridiron in the center, she said it's likely that the school would develop a football teams as well.

Coming up next

The next milestone in the Las Positas College journey to build-out is the completion of the College Center for the Arts. The \$37.3-million project at the west end of campus, near the old Collier Canyon entrance, is scheduled to be completed for the fall 2010 semester and will include a 500-seat main theater, a formal lobby, faculty offices, outdoor amphitheater with seating for 1,500, two parking lots and a plaza.

Science is also a big part of the future for Las Positas, as designing is under way for a new 20,000-square-foot science building. Adjacent to the current science building, it would house four "wet labs" for biology and two "dry labs" plus a classroom and ecology lab.

Most of these new buildings are utilizing eco-friendly building practices and will be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified through the United States Green Building Council.

"We are very much committed to exploring ways in which we can become grid neutral," Pollard said. "We're exploring options that allow us to put turbines on campus to put energy back on the grid."

The school also has a sustainability committee that is looking into more efficient uses of water as well as reducing the use of bottled water and plastic. They are currently replacing the red roofs as well. While somewhat of a campus trademark, the signature color is being replaced with white, to help reduce the amount of energy used to cool the buildings.

Creative ways to be energy efficient, like solar shade structures in the parking lot, help the school save money and these days every dollar counts. Pollard said the school is cutting back like everyone else by not filling vacant positions and looking for ways to support programs through partnerships. While they have made reductions for hourly staff, she said the school was committed to keep the schedule that was promised to the community.

That doesn't mean Pollard isn't concerned. "I'm concerned about what will happen in January," she said. "The budget scenarios aren't going to be sufficient."

Instead of adopting a mindset of fear, which she said makes people reactionary and hasty, Pollard instead is meeting with staff early to proactively discuss the budget. ■

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Calendar

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Auditions

OPEN AUDITIONS FOR IMPROV TROUPE San Ramon Improv U will be holding open auditions for our resident troupe. Auditions will be held at 10 a.m. Aug. 29 at the Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road. You must be at least 21 and have at least one year of experience and/or training. Visit www.sanramonimprovu.com for an application.

Book Clubs

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

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inars 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.

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.fhsclassof89.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.

DIABETES MANAGEMENT The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., will offer a free series on diabetes management this fall, beginning with an introductory meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 14. Regular weekly classes will then be held Mondays between Oct. 12 and Nov. 16. The program will be conducted by Marisa Castaldini, MS, RD, CDE from the Alameda County Public Health Diabetes Program. Call 510-383-5185.

FREE SATURDAY BOOT CAMP Tri Valley Adventure Boot Camp is offering a free boot camp from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Aug. 29 at Emerald Glen Park in Dublin. Email to register and receive an information packet prior to camp. Call 518-3434 or email info@trivalleybootcamp.com.

Clubs

BUSINESS BUILDER NETWORKING A breakfast meeting is held at 7 a.m., on the first and third Wednesday

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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.

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

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB Garden enthusiasts are invited to attend the monthly meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club (LAVGC) from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 10 at Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Road. This month's speaker is Patrice Hanlon, a garden manager at Heather Farms and garden columnist. The topic will be on spring annuals to plant in the fall. Call 461-1725 or visit www.orgsites.com/ca.lavgc.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF REALTORS This group meets from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m., on the second Tuesday of every month, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Networking is from 11:15-11:45 then the meeting is from 11:45-1:30. Key note speakers are at every meeting. Cost is \$25 for members with reservations; \$30 for guests, including lunch. Call 455-7000.

Concerts

D-LUCCA TO PERFORM Concert in the Park will host D-Lucca, a modern melodic jazz band, from 7-8:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28, at Wayside Park, at the corner of First and Neal streets. The next concert will feature Public Eye on Friday, Sept. 4. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

MY FAIR LADY The Lamplighters bring their signature flair to one of America's most beloved musicals, "My Fair Lady." Geoff Hoyle appears as the incorrigible Alfred P. Doolittle. Performances are Aug. 29-30 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$16.50-\$43. Call 373-6800 or visit livermoreperformingarts.org.

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.

AN ADOPTION FAIRE Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts an adoption faire from noon to 3 p.m. Aug. 30 at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. Adoption of a dog includes 3 private training classes, a bed, collar and

leash. Cat adoptions include a blanket and toys. Visit www.tvr.org.

FIRST WEDNESDAY STREET PARTY The last one of the year, the First Wednesday Street Party will celebrate Pleasanton from 6-9 p.m. Sept. 2 in downtown. Dance to the music of D-Lucca. Visit the beer and wine garden. Live music also at North and South ends of Main Street. Ride the "Gyro-Ride" on corner of Main and Angela streets. Call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

SAN RAMON ECO-FESTIVAL The San Ramon Eco-Festival is a free two-day event providing good green fun for everyone by teaching a simple, cost-effective green lifestyle. It's from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Aug. 29-30 at the San Ramon City Center, 6200 Bollinger Canyon Road. Visit www.eco-festivals.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.

Exhibits

'THE SMALL CANVAS' Poetry On Canvas presents "The Small Canvas" at the Berry Patch, on Main and Angela streets, for the month of September. It features original works by award-winning

local artists. Works will be on sale. Open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call 461-5084.

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.

SAVE OUR SCHOOLS Casa Madrid Tapas & More!, 436 Main St., is selling \$2 raffle tickets through Oct. 18 for the chance to win \$100 gift certificate to the restaurant. Money raised will be donated to Pleasanton schools. Call 484-3877 or visit www.casamadrid.com.

VALLEYCARE HEALTH SYSTEM AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER This fundraiser includes a \$5 jewelry sale from Masquerade. Money raised provides new medical equipment for the hospital. The sale is from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sept. 8 and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 9 at LifeStyleRx, 119 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. The "Around the Clock Sale" is from Sept. 10 to 5 p.m. Sept. 11 at the ValleyCare Medical Center lobby, 5555 W. Las Positas Blvd. Contact Sandra Warren at 846-3177 or swarren@pacbell.net.

Health

VALLEYCARE CHILDREN'S FAIR Join ValleyCare for a free kids day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 29 at 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Meet physicians and learn about what ValleyCare offers. Highlights include: health and fitness information, local police and emergency responders, plus fun activities like a bounce house, balloon artists, face painting and more. Call 373-4560.

Kids & Teens

BEES BUZZING AT THE LIBRARY Learn all about the life of honey bees and the art of beekeeping from 2 to 3 p.m. Sept. 5 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. At "Uncle Jer's Bee Show," see live bees at work and get a taste of their honey. For

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YOGA FOR KIDS Boys and girls ages 5 to 12 can learn to improve balance, coordination, concentration and focus doing yoga. Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, will teach the classes. Fall session is from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. Thursdays from Sept. 10 to Oct. 29 at the Cultural Arts Center in Pleasanton. Class size is limited. Cost is \$78 for six weeks. Call 931-5340 or visit <http://online.activecommunities.com/Pleasanton> (#47392).

Lectures/ Workshops

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SEMINAR "The Top Ten Myths of College Admissions" seminar will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 31 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Bernal Ave. Hear how colleges evaluate applicants and tips on the application process. Contact Diane Keller at 963-2932 or drkellercc@yahoo.com.

com.

WOMEN AT THEIR BEST USING INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE Lose weight, reduce chronic illness and improve health with body's DNA and the correct diet for you. This workshop is from noon to 1 p.m. Sept. 2 at Beeb's Sports Bar & Grill, Las Positas Golf Course, 915 Club House Drive, Livermore. Cost is \$10, which includes lunch. Presented by Pam McDonald, PCP, NP, author of "The APOE Gene Diet." Call 426-1738.

Live Music

AFTER HOURS AT DEER RIDGE VINEYARDS Deer Ridge Vineyards presents a casual evening of wine, light refreshments and musical entertainment from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. It features pianist/keyboardist/composer Greg Pane and singer/guitarist Michael James Adkison performing a selection of pop, country, TV and movie theme music. Call 743-9427 or visit www.deerridgevineyards.com.

RAFAEL MANRIQUEZ LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents Latin American musician Rafael Manriquez at 2 p.m. Sept. 6. Rafael will sing Latin American folk songs as well as original music. He plays the guitar and Latin American string instruments such as the charango, cuatro and tiple. Call 931-3411.

Miscellaneous

COMPETITION FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association hosts the 37th annual Competition for Young Musicians. It's open to instrumentalists and vocalists who live or attend school in Livermore, Sunol, Pleasanton, Dublin or San Ramon. Students are eligible through 17 or grade 12. Performances are Feb. 13. Each winner will be awarded \$250. Applications, plus a \$5 fee and tape or CD, are due Oct. 4. For details, call 447-1947 or visit www.livamsymph.org.

Political Notes

CD 10 ALL PARTY DEBATE The Alameda County Republican Party invites the public and the media to attend the CD-10 All Party Debate from 7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 28 at Las Positas College, room 800, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. To Submit a question for the candidates email cd10debate@gmail.com or ask the candidate yourself at the event.

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

ing@pacbell.net.

Seniors

CONSUMER AFFAIRS CLINIC Need help resolving specific issues relating to consumer affairs? If so, schedule an appointment with a Consumer Affairs Representative to file a complaint and have your questions answered from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5365.

DAY TRIPPERS — LAKE CHABOT Day Trippers will cruise around Lake Chabot with a East Bay naturalist to discuss the rich history of this 315-acre reservoir from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 19. Box lunch included. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$28 for residents and \$31 for non-residents. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

FLEX 'N' STRETCH Improve your range of motion and endurance. Sit or stand as you go through movements to increase your flexibility,

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LAUGHTER YOGA Contribute to your well-being with Laughter Yoga from 10-11 a.m., on the first Monday of every month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. It combines unconditional laughter with yogic breathing. Cost is \$1.50 for residents; \$2 for non-residents. Yoga mats not required. Call 931-5356.

PLEASANTON 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.pleasantonseiorcenter.org.

RISE THE DUCKS The Pleasanton VIP Travelers are heading to San Francisco to ride the ducks, an original, refurbished WWII amphibious landing craft, Sept. 11. Visit Pier 39 for time to shop and lunch on your own. Cost is \$58 for members or \$60 for non-members. Call 931-5370. Deadline to register is Aug. 28.

SATURDAY PROGRAMS Check out the new Saturday programs at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., including Talk & Walk, CPR/First Aid/AED, Rally for Fun, Line and Ballroom Dance Classes, Ping Pong, Ukelele and Hula. Call 556-4511 or visit www.dublinseniorcenter.com.

Spiritual

RELATIONSHIPS WORKSHOP: SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES OF LOVE RELATIONSHIPS Facilitated by Scott Kalechstein, counselor, minister and recording artist. This workshop, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Aug. 30 at Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon, will explore all the aspects of relationships and is useful for anyone currently wanting, enjoying or recuperating from a relationship. Scott shares tools, processes, stories, and even songs. Suggested offering is \$20. Call 829-2733 or visit www.scottsongs.com.

STUDY GENESIS WITH CBS Genesis will be the topic of study for the Community Bible Study Class in Pleasanton at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court. CBS is open to all women and offers a special children's program for ages 0-5. The class meets on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 10. Call Kim about registration, 209-0242. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children.

Sports

CYO BASKETBALL REGISTRATION Walk-in registration for boys and girls in grades 3 to 8 will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 30 and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 2 at St. Augustine Hall; and 9:30

a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 7:40 p.m. Aug. 30 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. Visit www.ccop-cyo.org.

PLEASANTON JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS LEAGUE Open to area youth, ages 8 to 16, the eight-week program utilizes a local team tennis model developed by USTA Northern California. It will be held at the Emerald Glen Tennis Park, 4201 Central Pkwy., Dublin from Sept. 6 to Oct. 31. Registration can be completed from noon to 2 p.m. Aug. 29 at the park, or contact Rhonda Gibbs at pleasantonjuniorsteamtennis@yahoo.com or 484-3134. A \$90 fee is required at registration and includes practices, matches, USTA membership, T-shirt, awards and end-of-season party. Registration deadline is Aug. 31.

Support Groups

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Caring for a loved one is challenging physically and emotionally. Join this support group to explore resources and generate problem solving ideas from 1-3 p.m., on the second Monday of every month, and from 7-9 p.m., on the second Wednesday of every month, at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Get the support you deserve at the Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley. Call 931-5389.

FAMILY MEMBERS OF FRAIL ELDER This group is to support family

members as they experience the many emotions involved in supporting, caring for and loving the frail elders in their family. It meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Eden Villa Assisted Living, 4115 Mohr Ave. Call 872-8721.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS Do you worry about the way you eat? You are not alone. Overeaters Anonymous may have the answer for you. This is not a diet club. OA is a fellowship of people recovering from compulsive overeating, starving and/or purging. OA offers mutual support and a helpful plan of action. They meet at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way, Livermore. Visit oaeastbay.org.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE The Red Cross is holding a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 1 at State Compensation Insurance Fund, 5890 Owens Drive. All presenting donors will receive a coupon for a free appetizer at Mimi's Cafe. Go to HelpSaveALife.org/NC (Sponsor Code: STATECOMP) to schedule an appointment.

AMERICAN RED CROSS PUBLIC BLOOD DRIVE The American Red Cross is holding a public blood drive from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 3 at CARR America Realty, 4432 Rosewood Drive. All presenting donors will receive a coupon for a

free appetizer at Mimi's Cafe. Go to HelpSaveALife.org/NC (Sponsor Code: CARR) to schedule an appointment.

AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION The American Red Cross is holding a volunteer orientation at its Pleasanton Blood

Donor Center, 5556-B Springdale Ave., on Sept. 9 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tour the center and learn about ways to greet, inform and thank our community's blood donors or help post flyers at key locations. Advanced sign-up required. Call 510-594-5165.

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Weekly Concerts in the Park Drawing

NAME: _____

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Bring this entry form to this week's concert for a chance to win great prizes

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Life after leukemia

Cancer free, the Banholzer family is ready to take on new challenges

BY EMILY WEST

Days before she started the second grade at Valley View Elementary School, Sarah Banholzer strung beads one by one to build a necklace. A normal craft project for young girls, this particular activity means much more to this 7-year-old.

Called "beads of courage," each shiny plastic bead represents her journey from a cancer diagnosis to recovery.

"The black ones are for 'pokes,'" her mom, Teri Banholzer said. "The white are for chemo and the big ones are for rough days."

The journey began in the summer of 2006 when Sarah complained of leg pain and when preschool began in the fall, she was unable to shake a cold. During this time, Teri Banholzer said her happy-go-lucky child had become grumpy and tired. Several doctor visits led to conclusions of growing pains or a virus. Finally in October 2006, the doctors suspected pneumonia and had blood drawn.

Two hours later, the doctors called with a message that still gives Teri Banholzer chills.

"It was pretty unbelievable," she said, adding that she searched online moments later to learn more about leukemia as they packed for what would likely be a long stay for Sarah at Children's Hospital in Oakland.

"I remember vividly that Dr. Hoppe said 'we'd be very surprised if it wasn't acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), which is curable,'" she said. "He said lots of other words in that 20 to 30 minutes, but that got me through two years of many times being worried."

Teri and her husband John Banholzer, who have lived in Pleasanton for about 12 years, were grateful for the support of friends and even strangers from the community who helped them through the difficult time.

"Dinners were brought to us constantly," Teri Banholzer said. "Groups were reaching out. People we didn't even know organized a fundraiser for leukemia which was a carnival for all her friends. We couldn't have done it without them."

As Sarah's necklaces could show, she went through chemotherapy and other treatments to get where she is today. Her mom said she's tough, as Sarah described her method of enduring the "pokes."

"I ask them to count to three," Sarah explained. "At two, I take a deep breath and hold it."

In December, they had a party to commemorate the end of chemo, where she crushed all her medicine. Since then, she's back to being her happy-go-lucky self. She spent the summer taking swim lessons, earning a blue belt in karate, learned to ride a bike and taking a trip to Michigan. She's excited about school, too, especially math and reading, and having play dates with friends.

Sarah's also gearing up to be the honored hero at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk Oct. 3 in Walnut Creek. It will be the third year they have walked for Team SarSar, the largest group of walkers in the past two years where more than 50 friends and family members wear red shirts designed by Sarah.

Up next for the family is cheering on Teri Banholzer as she will participate in a triathlon in Pacific Grove Sept. 12 with Team in Training. She's racing to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

"A large part of funds go to research," she explained. "A diagnosis like this 10 or 15 years ago wouldn't have the rosy outcome. This type of leukemia has more than an 80 percent cure rate for children. Twenty years ago it wasn't half that."

Teri Banholzer had participated in the Tri-for-Fun series at Shadow Cliffs a couple times before Sarah was born and is a longtime runner, but never thought she would take on a full triathlon.

"I had many sleepless nights, especially when Sarah was really sick," she said. "I made an agreement that as soon as she got better, I would participate. I may not break any world records but I hope to finish."

Sarah said she is proud of her mom and hopes to join her in a triathlon when she's 12.

To help Teri Banholzer meet her goal of raising \$3,800, visit http://pages.teamintraining.org/sf/pac-tri09/tbanholzer_LTN. ■

Support Sarah

■ Read the blog covering Sarah's journey: www.harrismith.org/sarah

■ Sponsor Team SarSar: <http://pages.lightthenight.org/sf/EastBay09/TeamSarSar>



Teri Banholzer will compete in a triathlon next month in support of her daughter, Sarah, 7, who is in remission. Sarah wears her beads of courage necklace showing her battle with leukemia.

EMILY WEST

POETIC PLEASANTON



BY DEBORAH GROSSMAN

Nothing says summer like ice cream

There's something about summer. Time for memories and friendships to bloom at sunny beaches, baseball camp and bike rides. And who can forget summer's menu? Watermelon, hot dogs, salad, and course, one's favorite creamy flavor to finish off the meal. After a cold dessert on a hot day, here's an ode to an American classic.

Ice Cream Conversations

*If ice cream could talk
we'd hear about
team picnics and potlucks
where brave cherries parachute
onto a sea of whipped cream.*

*We'd hear about
dull, dress-down diet days
when it's all nonfat vanilla,
hold the nuts.*

*On Friday nights
we'd lean into whispers
of double chocolate pecan
with extra sprinkles.*

*At kiddie parties
the buzz would be
neon worms.*

*We'd listen to vacation tales
of gelato and helado:
soft, sweet, deliciously different.*

*And we'd hear the same dream
told over and over again:
May summer never end.*

Deborah Grossman is Pleasanton's poet laureate.

NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

BY PETER CANAVESE

Inglourious Basterds

★ ★ ★

Rated R for strong graphic violence, language and brief sexuality
Two hours, 33 minutes

It's ironic that a filmmaker best-known for audio-visually quoting other films (and ripping off — sorry, paying homage to — their plot elements) should have such an instantly recognizable style. But indeed there's no mistaking "Inglourious Basterds" for anything other than a Quentin Tarantino film.

In spite of a few bursts of bloody action, "Inglourious Basterds" is a comedy for the film-savvy, beginning with that title, Tarantino's "skoolboy" spelling of the film that inspired him (Enzo G. Castellari's 1978 spaghetti "Dirty Dozen" pic "Inglorious Bastards").

The writer-director sets an immediate Leone vibe with Ennio Morricone twangs over the high lonesome countryside of Nazi-occupied France. In a farmhouse set-designed to replicate the effect of the cabin in John Ford's "The Searchers," Tarantino stages a patient scene that is "Inglourious Basterds" at its best. Crafty dialogue and great performances play into a cat-and-mouse game between SS Colonel Hans Landa (Christoph Waltz) and a Frenchman (Denis Menochet) suspected of hiding Jews on his farm.

Once we meet the Jewish-American band of brothers noted in the title — each beholden to Brad Pitt's Tennessee-bred Lt. Aldo Raine for 100 Nazi scalps — one might assume we're in for Tarantino's take on the "Dirty Dozen" subgenre, but Tarantino makes an "ass" of "u" and "me." The crux of the plot is the story of Shoshanna Dreyfus (Melanie Laurent), a Jewish survivor of a Nazi slaughter, as she plots revenge against the Nazis in general and, in particular, the man who killed her family.

Now hiding in plain sight as the proprietress of a Parisian cinema, Shoshanna falls into the opportunity to wipe out the Nazi leadership at the premiere of a propaganda film. Meanwhile, the British government (represented by Mike Myers made up to resemble James Mason) targets the same premiere, sending an officer to liaison with the Basterds and actress Bridget von Hammersmark (Diane Kruger), a German double agent.

The whole enchilada (Big Kahuna burger?) turns out to be a self-referential commentary on the power of the medium, figuratively as propaganda or violent entertainment, and literally as the highly flammable fuel to a fire. Undercover agents play amateur actor at every turn, the professional actor takes on the role of her life, and a German sniper turned war hero (Daniel Bruhl) plays himself in the propaganda film, "Nation's Pride." For good measure, the main qualification of the British officer (Michael Fassbender) is that he has a background in film criticism.

Brilliant as the sly, dogged Landa, Christoph Waltz won top acting honors at Cannes, but it's Laurent who gives the best performance, single-handedly giving the picture emotional resonance. Though the film's German and American brutes are courtly, the movie is not for the delicate sensibility; it all amounts to an entertaining but shallow comic-book take on WWII. Tarantino's baby steps toward discipline only get him so far: "Inglourious Basterds" may be a whole lot of movie, but it's also technically mature filmmaking to a thematically juvenile end. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Lean on me: The Haire family: Stephanie, Denis, Austin and Alexis took a three-week adventure to Italy and saw many sights with the Weekly. One of their favorites? The Leaning Tower of Pisa.

An Operatic Weekly:

Jim and Nancy Wright pose with the Weekly in front of the Opera House in Vienna, Austria.



Olympic Weekly: Alan Humphreys, 9, poses with the Weekly at the Great Wall of China in BaDaLing, China, which is about 75 kilometers from Beijing, just prior to the summer Olympics. If you look close enough you can see the "One World, One Dream" Olympic sign in the upper right of the photo.



Parent photographers

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



The Ballistic United Soccer Club U19 team took home a championship win in Benicia on Aug. 23.

BUSC U19 Select win Benicia Old Capital Championship

Caravan smashes home dramatic header

Ballistic United U19 Select, leading by Alex Caravan's three goals and keeper Niko Lecco's swift defense, allowed the team to come from behind and win the Benicia Old Capital Championship Aug. 23.

Game one against rival Mustang Roma FC ended in a 1-1 draw. Mustang scored the first goal when Ballistic failed to clear out a penalty kick rebound following a save by Lecco. Ballistic quickly got the equalizer when Caravan took Jared Chinn's pass, dribbled past the keeper and finished a left footed shot. Ballistic had the better

play creating numerous scoring chances but was unable to break the deadlock.

In game two against Anderson United Niko Lecco, playing as a striker netted the first goal on a smart play.

Following a foul just outside the penalty area, Lecco quickly set the ball down and sent a free kick to the upper corner punishing Anderson for being slow to organize. Caravan and Lecco both added goals for the 3-0 final score.

Keeper Josh Cho made several acrobatic saves to earn the clean sheet. Game three saw Ballistic matched against Rohnert Park Sporting.

Ballistic got off to a fast start creating numerous scoring chances that rattled the Sporting goal but did not find the back of the net. Late in the first half Sporting dragged down a Pleasanton player in the penalty box. Captain Tyler Copeman's calmly slotted home the penalty kick putting Ballistic up 1-0. In the second half Ballistic played an excellent possession game keeping the ball on the Sporting side of the field. Cho found winger Johnny Ramirez at the back post for a beautiful header. Goals were also scored by Bryan Hu and Jaymi Van Dam. The game ended 4-1 Ballistic as Sporting was able to put one into the net in the closing minutes.

The championship matched Ballistic against the Grass Valley Vipers. The half ended in a frustrating 0-0 score as Ballistic controlled much of the play and created numerous scoring opportunities but poor finishing. Finally, Brandon Lee's corner kick found Caravan, who smashed home a dramatic header for the first (and winning) goal of the game. Brodie Roberts followed with a shot from 20 yards high to the far post that found side netting. Troy Stetson finished the scoring for a 3-0 final and the championship.

—Janet Pelletier

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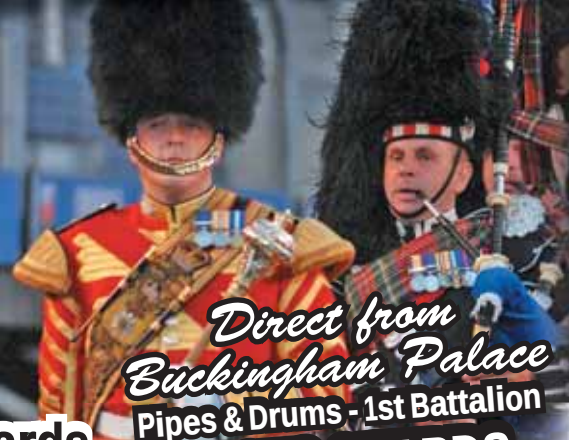
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SPORTS DIGEST

Rage U10 Orange fight hard, but drop two

The Rage U-10 Orange Division 1 fought hard but dropped two games Aug. 7 and 8 at Osage Park in Danville.

Taylor Noval won the ball from the Stampede Mustang Aug. 7 and took it all the way to score in the second half for the Rage, but in the end, the team lost by a score of 6-2. Top offensive players were Noval and Megan Franciskovich.

In their second game of the weekend against Central Valley, the team continued their focus on ball skills and control. The team executed 28 moves in each half. Top offensive players were Noal, Audrey Goodman and Tami Kwong. Top defensive players were Kathryn Lee, Nicole Riordan and Lillian Ryan.

Ballistic U-12 tie Santa Cruz Breakers

The Ballistic United Premier U-12 team marched back from a 3-1 deficit to tie the game against a very physical Santa Cruz Breakers team at Cabrillo College recently. The Ballistic boys did not drop a game over two days of play, and ended up taking third place overall, winning the consolation game after two overtime periods on penalty kicks.

Goals were scored by Jackson Still (2), Cameron Owens (2), Nathan Esparza (1) and Carsen Paynter (1). Assists were provided by Tylor Silva, Sam Molz, and Chudi Atuegbu. Penalty kicks in the consolation game were converted by Geoffrey Wiederecht, Cameron Owens and Ryan Racer. The BUSC defense was characteristically stingy with outstanding play by Geoffrey Wiederecht, Mitchell Wilson, Bryce Veit, Max Gershman and the super-human play of Sam Molz. Midfield duties were beautifully controlled by Cameron Ritchie and the tenacious play of Ryan Racer.

Keeper Omeed Ziari took firm control of the area during the entire weekend, and had two brilliant PK saves at the end of the consolation game to secure the win.

BUSC U16 Select open season with Sunstroke Classic

The BUSC U16 Select traveled to Elk Grove to open their season at the Sunstroke Classic. The Select were 2-0-1 in pool play and just missed the championship game by one point before falling in the consolation match.

Game one versus the Folsom Gunners was a 2-1 victory. Game two was a 0-0 tie against eventual flight winner Elk Grove Wild. The Wild almost broke through in the first half on a mad scramble off a corner kick. Defender Chandler Bullock held his post and blocked a shot from point blank range. In the second half, GK Lukas Moses made a save on a through ball and combined with Frank Morley to

stop a breakaway. Meanwhile, the Select had some great chances of their own. Tyler Mende crossed far post to a perfectly positioned Cam Baker, whose shot just went high. Jared Shofi worked free and hit one from outside the box on the right just high. Randy Copeman made their dangerous striker, who scored four goals the previous game, disappear, and the game ended in a tie. Knowing they needed to come out and win big to take the flight, the Select put on an amazing passing display all game versus the River City Raptors. Controlling the first half, the Select could not break through due to stellar GK by the Raptors. In the 30th minute, Abe Barreras did the dirty work in the corner, working the ball free back to Cohen. He laid a ball for Mende, whose strike found the net for the first half 1-0 lead. The second half was all Miguel Nino, as he scored four goals to ice the game. He was assisted on a Shofi cross, a Joe Lee pass, a Yashar Benham pass, and a beautifully struck free kick. But it wasn't enough, and the Select faced the Fair Oaks Fury in consolation.

Pleasanton junior golfers to play Pebble Beach

Three junior golfers from The First Tee of Tri-Valley have been selected to play in the Wal-Mart First Tee Open at Pebble Beach presented by Nature Valley, an official Champions Tour event that will be held Sept. 4-6 and televised nationally on the Golf Channel.

Natalie Bodnar, Rachelle Reali and Travis Rowney will make up a field of seventy junior golfers from 49 Chapters of The First Tee worldwide. The junior golfers qualified during The First Tee Participant Selection Process, which is held annually for junior golfers ages 14-18 that are enrolled in The First Tee program. The selection process evaluates participants' playing ability and comprehension of the life skills and core lessons learned through involvement with The First Tee.

Bodnar, 15, of Pleasanton, attends Amador Valley High School and has been playing golf for nine

years with a handicap of 3.6. She has been a member of The First Tee since 2006 and is a mentor teacher to the younger members of her chapter. Reali, 17, of Livermore, attends Granada High School and has been playing golf for eight years with a 5.4 handicap. She has been a member of the chapter since 2006 and is one of the original members of the chapter. She volunteers and mentors to the younger members of the chapter. Rowney, 15, of Pleasanton, is participating in his second Wal-Mart First Tee Open at Pebble Beach. He attends Foothill High School and has been playing golf for 11 years with a 1.9 handicap. He has been a member of the chapter since 2006 and he volunteers and mentors to the younger members of the chapter.

The boy's selection event took place July 14-18 in Rodgers, Ark. at Shadow Valley Country Club, where 84 boys competed for 48 invitations. The girl's selection event took place a week prior, July 7-11 in Rye, N.H., where 39 girls competed for 22 playing spots.

Pitbull unleashed

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Weekly camping trip: The Mattos family: Kevin, Heather, Camden, Chloe and Chayse enjoy reading their copy of the Weekly while on an annual camping trip to Pinecrest Lake.



That's a Big Mountain, no really: Daniel, Karen, Dan, Justin and Tom Reedy climbed to the top of Big Mountain with the Weekly in Whitefish, Montana. Elevation: 7,000 feet. The mountains in the background are part of Glacier National Park.

PET OF THE WEEK

Pretty Pamela

Meet Pamela, a 3-year-old spayed female long-hair Chihuahua mix with special needs. Pamela is friendly and, as you can see, adorable! Pamela has a general lack of coordination due to brain damage of unknown cause. Though she gets around well for the most part, Pamela sometimes stumbles and wobbles when she walks. But that doesn't stop this seven-pound bright-eyed girl. Pamela enjoys going for walks and gets along well with other dogs and cats if properly introduced. Pamela also has a grade two luxating patella in her left knee and a grade one luxating patella in her right knee. See www.vetinfo.com/dpatella.html for an explanation of this orthopedic condition. SPCA staff recommends Pamela for a dog-savvy household with adults or older children only. If your household can provide Pamela with the loving care she needs, contact the East Bay SPCA Tri-Valley Adoption Center, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Call 479-9670 or visit www.eastbayspca.org.



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HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

306 NEAL ST., PLEASANTON, **\$970,000**



Awesome single-story home on giant 1/2 acre lot is located in the heart of downtown! With approximately 2400 square feet of living space, this light and sunny 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home features hardwood floors throughout, and an oversized detached garage. Listed and sold by Mike Carey of Investment Real Estate. (925) 846-0506

Closing costs still big obstacle for home buyers

Survey shows concerns over job security also impedes purchasers

By JEB BING

Most Americans still consider having enough money for down payment and closing costs to be the biggest obstacles to buying a home.

That's according to the "2009 National Housing Pulse Survey," an annual survey released this week by the National Association of Realtors.

The survey, which measures how affordable housing issues affect consumers, also found job security concerns to be the highest in seven years of sampling. Two-thirds of Americans think job layoffs and unemployment are a big problem; eight in 10 cite these issues as a barrier to homeownership.

"Homeownership is an investment in your future; however, saving for a downpayment and closing costs is still too great of an obstacle for 82 percent of house hunters looking to take advantage of the current market," said NAR President Charles McMillan, a broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Dallas-Fort Worth.

"Monetizing the \$8,000 first-time buyer tax credit for downpayment or closing costs on FHA-insured mortgages is a positive first step," he said. "Our hope is that the tax credit will be extended and expanded to all home buyers and will help bring stability to the housing market and enable more Americans to achieve the dream of homeownership."

Despite the challenges with the economy and housing market, 83 percent of Americans still believe buying a home is a good financial decision. Three-fourths of those surveyed also believe now is a good time to buy a home, a number that has increased steadily the past two years. In fact, one-third of renters are thinking more about buying a home than they were a year ago.

While Americans are seeing more stability in the real estate market, uncertainty persists. The number of those who feel buying and selling activity has stabilized or stayed nearly the same has grown significantly, from 18 percent last year to 26 percent this year. However the majority (58 percent) report that activity in their market has slowed.

Regarding home sales, nearly eight in 10 say it's harder to sell a home in their area today than it was a year ago, despite the fact that nearly three-fourths of respondents say home prices are less expensive. Large home inventories could be to blame; 44 percent cite concerns about the high number of homes and condos for sale in their area.

While nearly three-fourths of Americans

are concerned about the local drop in home values, respondents expect to see more stability in the near future. Nearly seven in 10 expect local home prices to remain about the same in the next three months; only 18 percent expect prices to further decrease. The drop in prices has improved affordability, and consequently, concerns about the lack of affordable housing are the lowest they've been in seven years of polling, with 34 percent saying it's one of their biggest worries, down from 41 percent two years ago.

Foreclosures remain a real concern among survey respondents. Slightly more than half (51 percent) say foreclosures are a big to moderate problem in their area. However, the rate of foreclosures is generally seen as stabilizing with 41 percent saying the rate of foreclosures in their area is about the same as last year.

Ninety-two percent of respondents said neither they nor members of their immediate family have experienced a foreclosure in the past year, yet it is still a personal concern for many. One in five respondents said they are very or fairly worried that they will have difficulty making their mortgage payments over the next year. Thirty-two percent say it's a big or moderate worry that they, or a member of their family, may have their home repossessed or foreclosed because they are unable to pay rising monthly mortgage payments.

In 2008, more than half of respondents (54 percent) were open to the federal government taking a more active role in overseeing mortgage and lending practices. The number dropped this year to 47 percent. This could be because 42 percent of Americans believe the country is back on the right track, more than double the number last year (16 percent), according to the NAR.

Regarding financing, seven in 10 Americans cite a lack of confidence in their ability to be approved for a home loan as an obstacle to homeownership. The same number also say that banks are making it too hard to qualify for a loan (71 percent) and that fewer mortgage options offered by banks have made it harder for them to buy a home (71 percent). The perception of qualifying for a loan as a huge obstacle is especially high among minorities.

"Home buyers need protection from risky lending products but also need access to mortgages at a reasonable cost," said McMillan. "While there has been some easing of credit in the mortgage market, the availability of credit continues to be an issue for many qualified home buyers." ■

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CASTRO VALLEY

5015 OLD DUBLIN ROAD \$2,457,000
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1642 Orvieto Court, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



JUST LISTED! Stunning Nantucket Style home in Ruby Hill is like a summer breeze! Spectacular craftsmanship is featured in this 5 BR, 5.5 BA home with private study, bonus room which offers a spacious and luxurious floor plan. Designer touches throughout, fantastic views of 7th hole of the Ruby Hill golf course, pool and spa. Absolute heaven! **Offered at \$2,275,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

3504 Ovella Way, Ruby Hill, Pleasanton



This 4,339 sq. ft. townhome Villa offers 4 BR, 4 1/2 BA and bonus room on a huge lot with views. Features two master suites and is walking distance to downtown. **Offered at \$1,550,000 OPEN SUN 1-4**

4471 Linda Way, Pleasanton



This beautiful 2,180 sq.ft. home offers 4 BR, 3 BA and bonus room on a huge lot with views. Features two master suites and is walking distance to downtown. **Offered at \$837,250 OPEN SUN 1-4**

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Castro Valley

4 BEDROOMS

5015 Old Dublin Road \$2,457,000
Sun 2-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2536

Livermore

5 BEDROOMS

1312 Carlton Place \$844,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

Oakland

4 BEDROOMS

5745 Redwood Road \$3,175,000
Sun 2-5 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2536

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS

3231 Vineyard #77 \$58,000
Sat 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3844

3 BEDROOMS

383 Christina Court \$699,000
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4064

2442 Crestline Road \$650,000
Sun 1-4 Coldwell Banker 519-0508

4 BEDROOMS

9543 Ernwood Street \$639,900
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4045

4431 Sandalwood Drive \$649,950
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

5026 Blackbird Way \$675,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

10 Castlewood Drive \$1,359,000
Fri 10-1 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4062

823 Country Club Circle Dr. \$799,000
Sun 12-3 Keller Williams 397-4326

2505 Arlotta Place \$1,429,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

902 Summit Creek Court \$1,495,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

3504 Ovella Way \$1,550,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

3737 Nicole Avenue \$1,550,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 922-9822

64 Castlewood Drive \$2,195,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 847-8880

1748 Magnolia Circle \$629,000
Sun 1-4 Henderson Properties 918-0481

628 Del Sol Avenue \$810,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2526

4471 Linda Way \$837,250
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

1112 Donahue Drive \$960,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 847-8880

5 BEDROOMS

413 Los Rios Court \$1,075,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 583-1139

1531 Honeysuckle Court \$2,399,000
Sun 2-5 Alain Pinel Realtors 621-4062

6736 Riddell Street \$1,299,000
Sun 12:30-3:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 846-6500

3267 Belvedere Court \$1,495,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 872-1416

4328 W. Ruby Hill Drive \$1,999,000
Sat/Sun 12-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2571

1642 Orvieto Court \$2,275,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

San Ramon

2 BEDROOMS

996 Springview Court \$469,950
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4022

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Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4110

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frplc, kit w/granite/brkfst bar, master w/priv bth 925.847.2200

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apx 7150 sf, lrg deck! Great school district, gr8 loc 925.847.2200

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3 BR 2 BA lovely tree lined street, home is being sold completely furnished. www.2442crestline.com 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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Featured Properties



A “French Chateau” nestled among the Ruby Hill vineyards in the fast growing Livermore Wine Country. A custom-built Vineyard Estate with 4 BR (possible 5th BR or “Au-Pair”), 6 full BA, approx. 5,200 sq ft, and an 18.5 acre lot with 11.7 acres of income-producing vineyards. Sets a new standard for Wine Country living!

**777 East Vineyard Avenue,
Livermore
\$3,999,000**



One of a kind masterpiece in the vineyards of Ruby Hill. This custom 5 BR, 5.5 BA estate, with approx. 7700 sq ft, is surrounded by vineyards and offers total privacy, views and seclusion. Remarkable lounge level offers recreation space, formal living and kitchen with adjacent butler's pantry. Temperature controlled wine cellar.

**837 Kalthoff Common
Pleasanton
\$4,999,000**



Modern architecture and contemporary styling blend “state of the art” amenities with warmth and comfort. Simply stunning, 6 BR, 8 full BA, 1 half BA home with approx 9000 sq ft of living space and .60 acre lot. Enjoy the “resort like” outside entertaining area with pool and spa. Sold furnished!

**4132 West Ruby Hill Drive,
Pleasanton
\$5,900,000**



Custom home on the Golf Course! 6 BR, 6 full BA, 2 half BA, approx. 10,000 sq ft, ¾ acre lot, 7 car garage, 12+ seat Theater, Wet Bar, formal Dining Room, Living Room, classic Library/Office, Billiard Room, Exercise Room, Craft Room, Wine Cellar, gourmet Kitchen, a built-in pool, spa, waterfall, an outside Kitchen & a separate Guest House.

**3768 West Ruby Hill Drive,
Pleasanton
\$6,900,000**



Prudential
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Ruby Hill Division - 101 E. Vineyard Ave., Suite 103, Livermore, CA 94550

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BRIDLE CREEK

OPEN SUN 1-4



902 SUMMIT CREEK COURT, PLEASANTON

Wow! Highly upgraded Premier Model on premium elevated .34 acre lot. Expansive views of Pleasanton Ridge. Over \$400K in front and rear yard landscaping! Built by Greenbriar Homes. Beautifully landscaped private rear yard with built-in pool, separate built-in spa, travertine/Napa Stone patios and outdoor kitchen. Four bedrooms + bonus room and formal office, three bathrooms. Approx. 3,445 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Custom limestone flooring, crown moulding, plantation shutters, and custom built-ins. Close to downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park. **OFFERED AT \$1,495,000**

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**

DEL VALLE MANOR

SALE PENDING



4107 STANLEY BLVD, PLEASANTON

Upgraded townhome (end unit)! Premium location away from Stanley Blvd and next to greenbelt. Located in Downtown Pleasanton, it's just a walk to Main Street. Three bedrooms, two and a half baths, approximately 1400 square feet. Third bedroom is office. Crown molding, upgraded light fixtures, and marble faced fireplace. Central heating and air conditioning. Two car garage. Community pool. **OFFERED AT \$399,500**

CARLTON PLACE

OPEN SUN 1-4



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**

LAGUNA OAKS

OPEN SUN 1-4

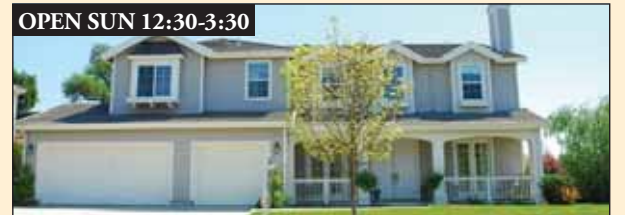


2505 ARLOTTA PLACE, PLEASANTON

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**

CASTLEWOOD HEIGHTS

OPEN SUN 12:30-3:30



6736 RIDDELL STREET, PLEASANTON

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

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



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We have qualified buyers. Contact us today.



ALAIN PINEL
REALTORS

SUSIE STEELE OPEN SUN 2-5



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. 1531 Honeysuckle Court

ANNI HAGFELDT BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,749,000
Stunning views from this custom home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. 5bd/4.5ba, on over 1/2 acre. Pool, bonus room – there is no other home like this one!

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!

DOUG BUENZ



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. 5745 Hanifen Way

SUSIE STEELE OPEN FRI 10-1



PLEASANTON \$1,359,000
Absolutely Charming in Castlewood. Completely rebuilt from floor to ceiling. This 1 story 4bd plus office on .50+/-acre with brand new pool is a dream come true! 10 Castlewood Drive

MAUREEN NOKES BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,119,000
Brand new Pleasanton downtown 4bd/3ba single level custom home on pool size 10k+/- lot. Covered porches, vaulted ceilings, 3car garage, \$55k in designer upgrades. Minutes stroll to Main St.

TIM MCGUIRE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,089,000
2006 Remodeled with granite kitchen, built-in stainless steel appliances, maple floors, new carpet/paint, new granite in bathrooms, new furnace/AC and sparkling pool.

JUDY TURNER OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,075,000
Approx 3213+/-sf, 5bd/3ba, new stained kitchen cabinets/master suite/sun room/great room/bd addition and expansion/much more. 413 Los Rios Court

SUSIE STEELE OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



LIVERMORE \$859,000
Just listed in one of South Livermore's most desired neighborhoods. Prima! Absolutely a charmer, extremely upgraded and well priced! Don't miss this fantastic opportunity! 1524 Aria Court

MAUREEN NOKES BY APPOINTMENT



DANVILLE \$828,000
Stunning 3 year old 2900+/-sf 4bd/3.5ba w/loft. \$99k in upgrades. Premium lot backs to open space, cherry-stainless-granite gourmet kitchen, new bamboo floors. 'Sunset Gardens' landscaping.

MOXLEY TEAM OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



PLEASANTON \$699,000
3bd/2ba, 1204+/-sf home on 21k+/-sf lot. Possible 2nd home or possible sub-divide. Close to freeways and downtown Pleasanton. 383 Christina Court

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$680,000
4bd/2ba, 1912+/-sf on a 9128+/-sf lot. Open floor plan with new Kitchen/granite, tile/pantry/double ovens/5burner gas stove. Built-in cabinets in dining, window seat in LR.

DAN GAMACHE OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$675,000
Excellent location for this 4 bd Country model in Pleasanton Valley. Walk to schools, parks, & shopping. Many upgrades; kitchen, bathrooms, pool. Don't miss this opportunity! 5026 Blackbird Way

J.MURTAGH OPEN SAT 12-4/SUN 2-5



PLEASANTON \$649,950
Beautifully updated 4bd/2ba on a 1400+/-sf lot. Excellent condition, Pergola over patio for entertaining, close to award winning schools and cabana. 4431 Sandalwood Drive

DOUG BUENZ OPEN SUN 1-4



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

GINA HUGGINS BY APPOINTMENT



LIVERMORE \$499,000
Beautiful 3bd/2ba, has sparkling pool with outdoor kitchen, huge indoor remodeled kitchen and baths. Close to schools.

PLEASANTON | 900 Main Street 925.251.1111

LIVERMORE | 2300 First Street 925.583.1111

