

Pleasanton Weekly

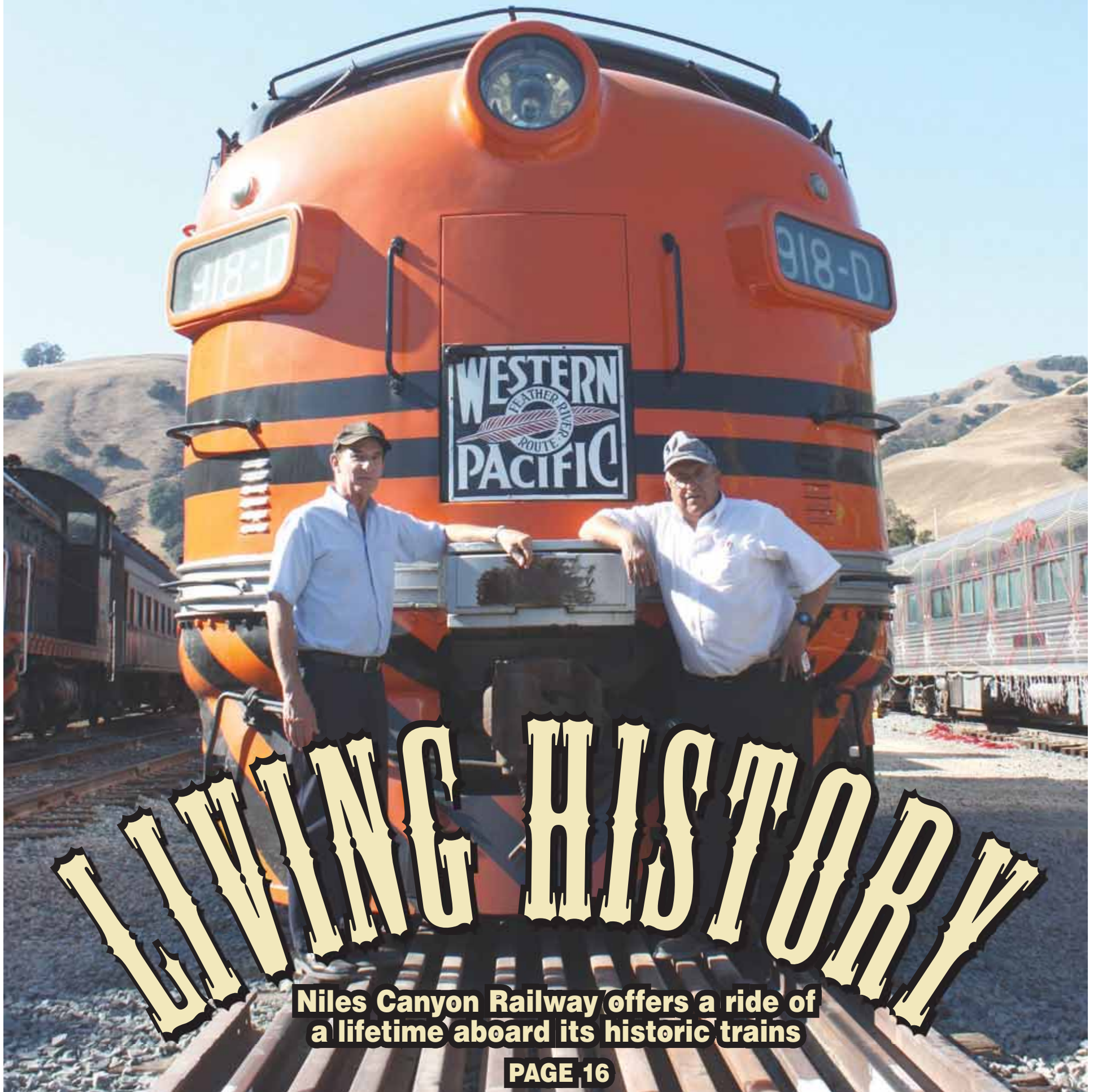
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Second chance: High school sweethearts find love again after nearly 50 years apart **PAGE 14**

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VOL. X, NUMBER 38 · OCTOBER 2, 2009

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LIVING HISTORY

Niles Canyon Railway offers a ride of a lifetime aboard its historic trains

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Here's a Realtor who can laugh through a tough market

In the current depressed real estate market, it's good to have Realtor friends who are nevertheless upbeat and humorous. I've known Hometown GMAC Realtor Pat Griffin for years, although not nearly as long as her 30 years of selling homes, townhouses and mobile homes in Pleasanton, an anniversary that she is celebrating this month. During that time, she has sold hundreds of homes here and in the Tri-Valley and even beyond. Many of you no doubt have been her clients. Still more may have seen her on stage at Tommy T's or the open mic sessions at Bunjo's Comedy Club in Dublin on Friday nights. She does stand-up comedy that keeps audiences laughing — good, clean comedy that can be hard to find these days. She's also the resident comedian at meetings of the Valley Marketing Association of Realtors on Friday mornings, where she's served as president twice and held other offices. One of her favorite lines at these Friday morning meetings, after her colleagues have talked about their listings of \$700,000 and \$1-million-plus homes is to offer an alternative two-bedroom, one bath, fully-carpeted unit for \$99,000, or even less ... in one of the two mobile home parks on Vineyard Avenue just east of Bernal Avenue.

And, she has takers. She sells more mobile homes (she calls them manufactured homes since most of them aren't mobile anymore) in Vineyard Villa and Hacienda mobile home parks than any other Realtor. In fact, few want to bother since selling these homes requires a lot of work and, even at 6 percent commission, which these days is often negotiable, selling a \$99,000 property is hardly rewarding compared to what a Realtor might earn from a six-or-seven-digit sale. Still, she finds the buyers and sellers of these manufactured homes a thoroughly enjoyable, friendly and usually older group who are less pretentious and demanding of her services. She generally holds no open houses in these mobile home parks and often has potential buyers and sellers calling her for advice on quality, maintenance and financing issues whether they're her clients or not. It's a smaller list of buyers than she has with the typical Pleasanton houses she also sells



Pat Griffin

since both mobile home parks are restricted to seniors. A buyer must be at least 55 years old, although a spouse can be younger, but no children are allowed. When she first started handling mobile home park sales, they were adult-only communities. She remembers selling a mobile home to a 24-year-old man who was tired of living in an apartment. When the parks were converted to seniors only, a few of the nonconforming owners were grandfathered in and allowed to stay, but all are now gone.

Griffin said the first mobile home she sold was a small, but well furnished unit in Hayward for \$16,000. Prices have climbed since then and some manufactured homes, delivered in sections by trucks, go for \$200,000 and more. Most, though, are in the \$89,000-\$129,000 range, with many occupied by couples well into their 80s, widows and parents who have relocated from back east to be near their children in Pleasanton but prefer to live independently. Griffin says she spends many evening talking with out-of-towners and walking them through Internet photos of the units that are available here. Many look for upgrades, which Griffin can describe, including "Universal design" features that include lower wall switches, support rails and larger bathrooms to accommodate wheelchairs and the handicapped.

Griffin and her husband Hal, who is on the staff at Ohlone College, moved here in 1978. She earned her teaching credential that year in French and history, but couldn't find a high school position in that time of an inflationary-economy. She started selling men's suits in a Hayward store, found she liked and was good in sales, and the rest is history. Pat and Hal Griffin raised their three children in Pleasanton, all graduates of Amador Valley High School. They are sons David in San Ramon; Scott in Wisconsin and daughter Ann Jordan in Denver. ■

About the Cover

Henry Luna, left, president and founder of the Pacific Locomotive Association, and Dexter Day, general manager of the Niles Canon Railway, pose with one of the most beautiful rail cars in their fleet at the Brightside maintenance yard. The railway offers train rides year-round, and tickets for one of its most popular events, the holiday Train of Lights, will go on sale Oct. 12. Photo by Janet Pelletier. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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Sue Gerder
Dental Hygienist

I could care less. They could end mail on Saturdays. It wouldn't affect me. It would make the postman happy. It's one less day to go to the mailbox!

Mike Flynn
Retired

It would be inconvenient but it wouldn't be devastating. It's just another day or week-end to wait for your mail. Everyone likes to go out to their mailbox and get mail, right? But it wouldn't make a huge difference.



Kendra Asbury
Student

My mom writes letters to my brother who is in Tennessee right now. She wouldn't be able to write as often because she is off on Saturdays, so I wouldn't be able to hear from my brother as often. I like hearing from my brother. I miss him. So I think it would not be very good.

Mahi Kahn
Aviation

I think it would be better not to have Saturday service. I'm a mail carrier right now, so it would be like having another holiday. That would be nice. Fridays would be really busy, but it would be easier for us on Saturdays.



Jessica Brooks
Teacher

I wouldn't have any problem with an end to Saturday service if it kept the price of stamps from going up. I don't need to get bills on Saturday. And the government could probably save even more money if they didn't keep the post office foyer extremely hot in the winter and extremely cold in the summer. It could save money and energy!

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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

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DIGEST

Try walking to school

Pleasanton elementary schools are joining the International Walk to School Week movement next week. The annual event is sponsored by the city of Pleasanton and promotes pedestrian safety and parent involvement. Morning celebrations will be held 30 minutes prior to the first bell during the designated day of participation at each school. The event is also part of the Rides to School program created by the city to address concerns of student safety, congestion and neighborhood impact. The program encourages students and parents to walk, bike or carpool to school. To find a school pool, visit www.pleasantonschoolpool.org.

Sports gear for sale

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 3 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road, stores from the Bay Area will have new and used sports equipment available for purchase. Items for sale include skis, snowboards, wakeboards, waterskis, kayaks and bikes, as well as gear for football, soccer, lacrosse, baseball, softball, golf, tennis, backpacking and climbing. The sale benefits AVHS winter percussion and winterguard programs. Call 398-6652.

Be fire smart with LPFD

The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau is recognizing Fire Prevention Month, themed "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned," with an open house from 1 to 8 p.m. Oct 7 at Fire Station No. 1, 3560 Nevada St. Kids can also learn to "stop, drop and roll" while parents can learn how to create family escape plans. There will also be disaster preparedness information and smoke detectors available. For details, visit www.lpfire.org or call 454-2361.

Spruce up the home

The Capital Showcase Home and Garden Show is coming to the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., from noon to 6 p.m. today, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. The show features products and services ranging from gardening to decoration. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$2 for seniors on Friday. Parking is \$8. Visit www.capitalshowcase.com.

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

City planners OK rezoning 19 more acres in Hacienda Business Park for housing

Those there now oppose adding more residents

By JEB BING

The Pleasanton Planning Commission has recommended that two large commercially-zoned properties in Hacienda Business Park be rezoned for condominiums and apartments to meet the state's insistence that more mid-priced and affordable housing be built here.

The action came after an estimated 70 residents of residential units already in Hacienda filled the City Council chambers, most of them expressing opposition to the zoning change.

Some of the 20 speakers who addressed the commission at its public hearing said the area already is overbuilt with homes and apartments and that it lacks basic services, such as retail stores, an elementary school and enough public parks.

But planning commissioners en-

dorsed the proposal by city planners as a good step toward meeting housing numbers in the mid-to-low-income range that state housing authorities want Pleasanton to build to accommodate its growing workforce.

"The sites that were rezoned are only part of the Planned Unit Development modification process," explained Janice Stern, a Pleasanton principal planner. "There are no development proposals for these sites which with the new zoning could accommodate up to 523 multi-family units."

The sites rezoned are an 11-acre parcel at the southeast corner of Owens Drive and Willow Road, owned by W.P. Carey, and another 8.2-acre site at the north corner of Hacienda and Gibraltar drives, owned by BRE.

The Planning Commission rejected the city staff's proposal to rezone 12.4 acres next to Roche Molecular Systems to await further consideration of land use changes for other segments of Hacienda Business Park.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said the first step was to rezone enough land to meet the needs of the city's housing element, which is under review by the state. The next step will be to set up a task force to more broadly review zoning and residential needs in the business park, which is expected to happen next month when the council will be asked to approve the rezoning recommendations by the Planning Commission.

Stern said the task force also will query those who attended last week's public hearing before deter-

mining what additional amenities need to be added in Hacienda.

Last year, Carey, BRE and Roche discussed their long-range plans for developing the three sites they wanted rezoned before a joint workshop meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission. At the time, the developers planned a mix of market rate and affordable housing units, with one area planned exclusively for below-market units.

Council members Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern questioned the plan to cluster affordable units, pointing out that Pleasanton's housing policies have always tried to disperse housing for lower-income residents, usually in homes and apartments indistinguishable from market rate housing. The council

See **HACIENDA** on Page 9



JANET PELLETIER

Brush fire burns 1.5 acres off Foothill Road

A brush fire that ignited earlier this week charred 1.5 acres on a hillside along Foothill Road, south of Interstate 580. The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department got a call about the fire, located off of Foothill and Laurel Creek Way near Stoneridge Shopping Center at 9:13 a.m. Monday, according to Battalion Chief Joseph Testa. The two-alarm blaze was believed to have been caused by a blown transformer, Testa said, adding that three factors — winds, brush and triple-digit heat over the weekend that further dried out the vegetation — helped it spread. No injuries or property damage were reported.

Lawsuit against ValleyCare Health System headed to trial

Patients' rights group claims health organization has monopoly on providing medical care

By JANET PELLETIER

A lawsuit filed by a patients' rights group against ValleyCare Health System appears to be headed to trial.

The Patient Physician Alliance, which bills itself as a grassroots organization based in

Berkeley, states in its claim that ValleyCare, which operates a hospital in Pleasanton and medical offices in Livermore, "has hired doctors through an illegally formed entity in violation of state law."

See **VALLEYCARE** on Page 9

Pleasanton to use stimulus funds for climate plan

Program eyed as way to make city more sustainable

Stimulus funds totaling \$107,216 have been allocated to Pleasanton for use in improving energy efficiency and creating jobs locally.

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) said these initial funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are being allocated by the Department of Energy to help communities improve their energy efficiency and create jobs locally. Once the city develops an energy efficiency and conservation strategy, it will then be eligible for an additional \$585,484 to implement the strategy.

"The funds that have already been awarded to the city of Pleasanton and the more substantial funding package that may follow will allow us to bolster renewable energy programs that are both under way and in the planning stages," said City Manager Nelson Fialho. "This is consistent with the goal of the mayor and the City Council toward making Pleasanton to become a more sustainable city."

Pending the full award, Pleasanton will use the funds to develop a Climate Action Plan to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gases, create an energy office to sustain long term energy efficiency, create a finance district to support resident and small business energy efficiency upgrades and solar installations and to develop an energy-efficient retrofit and rebate program for residents and businesses as well as an enhanced water conservation program.

McNerney, who lives in Pleasanton, added: "I'm thrilled that Pleasanton is going to receive money for clean energy projects. These are the kind of innovative steps we need to develop a strong local economy that is leading the way with clean energy technology."

—Jeb Bing

Zone 7 celebrates new water demineralization plant with open house

\$35.6-million facility will soften water by extracting salts, minerals

By JANET PELLETIER

Zone 7 Water Agency celebrated the recent opening of its Mocho Groundwater Demineralization Plant with an open house last week, which included tours and tastings.

The plant, located on Stoneridge Drive and Santa Rita Road, will manage salts and minerals in the Livermore-Amador Valley's groundwater basin, improve overall water-supply reliability and help soften some of the water delivered primarily to the western side of its service area.

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

A few dozen people showed up



ZONE 7 WATER AGENCY

Zone 7 General Manager Jill Duerig and board member Bill Stevens fill a pitcher of demineralized water for a toast to the opening of the Mocho Demineralization Plant on Stoneridge Drive and Santa Rita Road.

to the Sept. 23 open house, including retailer representatives from the City of Pleasanton, the City of Livermore and Dublin-San Ramon Services District, along with several

neighbors of the plant, according to Zone 7 spokeswoman Boni Brewer. After the tours, Zone 7 officials celebrated with a toast of demineralized water. ■

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A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Dr. Ghanem completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and received her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA. She completed her internship and residency at the University of California, Irvine and an Endocrinology fellowship at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ.

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Hosterman named co-chair of U.S. Mayors' Conference water council

Group assists local governments in resources

By JEB BING

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman has been appointed to serve as the co-chair of the Mayors Water Council for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, joining Mayor Brian Stratton of Schenectady, N.Y. who will also co-chair the council.

The primary purpose of the water council is to assist local governments in providing high quality water resources in a cost effective manner and to provide a forum to share information on water technology, management methods, operational experience, and financing of infrastructure development.

"I am honored to have been selected to co-lead this vitally important council and look forward to working with my peers

to resolve some of the major challenges regarding water in cities today," Hosterman said.

Locally, Hosterman, who is in her third term as mayor, is a member of the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO), the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). She also serves on the executive committee of the Alameda County Mayors Conference. ■



Mayor Jennifer Hosterman

Bay Bridge lanes to close one weekend night through December

Inspectors to check for cracks following Labor Day discovery

By JEB BING

The California Department of Transportation closed two lanes on the westbound upper deck of the Bay Bridge for inspections overnight recently, an inspection plan that will continue one night each weekend through the fall.

The lane closures on the eastern span of the bridge will allow engineers to inspect steel structural supports, known as eyebars, on the cantilever portion of the bridge linking Yerba Buena Island and the Oakland shore, Caltrans officials said.

The work will be focused on repairs made after crews found a cracked eybar while inspecting the bridge during construction on Labor Day weekend.

That eybar was repaired, and crews will be inspecting it and adjacent eyebars over the next several weeks as a precaution, according to Caltrans spokeswoman Lauren Wonder.

"The bridge is safe," Wonder said.

A recent Saturday night's closures of the two left lanes began at 11 p.m. and continued until 9:30 a.m. that Sunday. Electronic message signs directed drivers around the area where crews were working.

Future closures are planned on either Saturday or Sunday night each weekend through the fall.

Crews will be assessing the repairs each weekend to determine how much longer the inspections will be necessary, Wonder said. ■

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'Hero on the Hudson' pilot Sullenberger flies again

US Airways captain returns to airline, schedules book signings in Danville

BY GEOFF GILLETTE

Danville pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger was slated to fly for the first time Thursday since he deftly landed a plane into the Hudson River, saving all 155 passengers aboard, US Airways announced earlier this week.

Sullenberger was to reunite with his co-pilot who was flying with him on flight 1549 Jan. 15 when a flock of geese struck the engines, causing the emergency landing. Co-Pilot Jeffrey Skiles and Sullenberger will fly US Airways flight 1427 from LaGuardia Airport in New York to Charlotte, N.C., the airline said.

The airline announced Monday that Capt. Sullenberger would return to work in a new role as a management pilot. In addition to his flying duties, Sullenberger will join the US Airways flight operations safety management team.

"The months since Jan. 15 have been very full, and my family and I have had some unforgettable experiences," Sullenberger said. "However, I have missed working with my colleagues at US Airways and I am eager to get back in the cockpit with my fellow pilots in the months ahead."

Since that day, life has been different for Sullenberger, who has been called the "Hero on the Hudson," and his family. In a speech to more than 100 people at the Alamo Women's Club last week, Lorrie Sullenberger, a fitness expert and personal trainer, detailed just how different it's become.

She talked about the accident, her husband's actions and the aftermath. With a wry smile she described how on the afternoon of

Jan. 15 she was in a pitch meeting with television executives regarding a fitness show when her husband began trying to call her.

"We were on the phone when Sully first began to call," she recalled. "He first called on my cell, which I ignored."

But she said that when he continued to call on both of the landlines to the home and the cell phone she told the executives that she should probably take the call.

"I was trying to be so professional, and not just be a wife who takes her husband's call," she explained.

Moments later he had laid out what had happened, that he was OK, and that he would not be home that night. After getting off the phone, she turned on the TV and began watching the coverage of the safe landing of Flight 1549.

At a friend's urging she went and picked up her daughters, and they returned to the family's Danville home to await further word. She described the barrage of calls, e-mails and faxes from news organizations all over the world as "like having a firehose turned straight on you."

She then spoke of the media siege of the family's home and how she was forced to call in a public relations firm to handle the onslaught of reporters and photographers. While the media frenzy was problematic in many ways, it also made for some fun and interesting moments. Sullenberger told a story of how she was talking to the producers of the Jay Leno show when her daughter walked in talking on her cell phone.

"I touched her with my finger and told her that I was on the



Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger will return to the skies again with US Airways after his miraculous water landing in January.

phone with the Jay Leno people and she did this (pointing her finger at the cell phone), 'Matt Lauer.' I said, 'OK, you win.'"

This led to interviews on "60 Minutes," seats at the Superbowl, the Oscars and the Presidential Inaugural Ball.

Sully has achieved "Santa Claus status," she also informed the crowd. Mail addressed just to "Sully" finds its way to their home.

But her address touched on areas that had little to do with fame as well. She talked about the first time she saw Sully after the accident. She described a man who viewed himself differently from the hero being presented to the world.

"That was the weird part of all that," she said. "The world was celebrating, but he felt like first of all he wasn't supposed to end up in the Hudson. He struggled with, 'Oh my god, I'm responsible for that.'"

Overall, though, she said the family has adjusted and adapted to its change in status. From the well-wishers seeking autographs to the mountains of mail they still receive months later.

"There is power in a worldwide feel-good moment," she said. "And Sully, and to some degree our family, was the face of that feel-good moment."

Lorrie Sullenberger said her husband will be kicking off a tour to promote his new book, "Highest Duty: My Search for What Really Matters."

The tour is expected to begin Oct. 12 with an appearance on "The Today Show." Two Danville appearances have already been scheduled: 6 p.m. Oct. 19 at Rakestraw Books on Hartz Avenue; and 1:30 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Danville Costco on Fostoria Way. Sullenberger will be signing copies of his book at the two local appearances. ■



GEOFF GILLETTE

Lorrie Sullenberger speaks during an event at the Alamo Women's Club last week about life in the spotlight.

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Sisterly love

Crowds filled the Veterans Memorial Building for a Hawaiian Beach-themed party last Friday night to celebrate the annual get-together of the Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association. Earlier, delegates from Tulancingo, Mexico joined Mayor Jennifer Hosterman at a welcoming ceremony in the Civic Center. The Sister City representatives exchanged gifts to each other's cities and then toured Pleasanton together.

EMILY WEST

Students partner to help Kenyan women

Benefactor to speak in Foothill classes, fundraising gala

By EMILY WEST

Foothill High School has partnered with the WISER organization for about three years, helping young Kenyan women receive an education.

WISER (Women's Institute for Secondary Education and Research) is based out of Muhuru Bay, Kenya and seeks to end the gender disparity in education as well as improve economic and health outcomes for girls.

As a partner, Foothill High School students work on fundraising and awareness as their senior project through the health academy.

On Monday, 18-year-old Selesiah Ogada will speak to students at Foothill during sixth period. One of 12 children, of whom only three survived past age 5, Ogada was orphaned at a young age. She is the first young person from Muhuru Bay to travel to the United States and will share her experiences as a woman in the region.

Ogada is now representing WISER through its Young Social Entrepreneur program and

has traveled across the United States to help raise \$100,000 for the school.

She will also tell her story to attendees of a fundraising gala in Milpitas later that evening. Proceeds from the event will go towards the first private secondary boarding school for girls, set to open in January, as well as a community center.

Mike Arndt, a 2006 graduate of Foothill, will also come back to share his experiences with students. He has spent two summers in Kenya working for WISER, teaching about health and sexuality at a camp and leading a project researching malaria knowledge and behaviors.

The public is invited to the fundraising gala from 5 to 9 p.m. Oct. 5 at the India Community Center in Milpitas. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$15 for children and should be reserved by Oct. 2 at <http://wisergala.eventbrite.com>.

For more information about WISER or to make a contribution, visit www.wisergirls.org. ■

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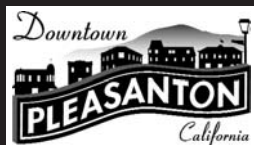
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OF NOTE

Deeds earns Eagle Scout rank

Justin Deeds, a 17-year-old senior at Amador Valley High School has attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America. Justin began in scouting in 1998 as a Cub Scout in Pack 944 and advanced in rank from Tiger Cub to Webelos Scout, where he also received the Arrow of Light award in 2003. That same year, Justin crossed over from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and joined Troop 941.

Justin was required to earn at least 21 merit badges and hold various leadership positions in Troop 941. Justin has earned 47 merit badges and has held the leadership positions of patrol leader, bugler, historian and den chief.

He also organized and led a service project that benefited the K-9 Unit of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, which included installing a K-9 agility training course, taking more than 507 hours of labor to build and complete. The course is now located at the Sheriff's Training facility in Dublin and has benefited K-9 units in other local law enforcement agencies for training as well.

An Eagle Court of Honor was held July 19 at Valley Community Church to recognize Justin's achievement. At his ceremony, he was presented with a certificate of recognition from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6298.

Girl crowned Columbus Day Queen

Sierra Tallone, 17, a senior at Amador Valley High School, was recently selected to be the 2009-10 Columbus Day Queen by the Ital-

ian American Federation (IAF). She will be riding in the Columbus Day Parade in San Francisco on Oct. 11 and then on Oct. 17, she will be officially crowned at her coronation at the Fratellanza Italian Club in Oakland.

Of the last six Columbus Day Queens, Sierra is the third one from Amador, another include Sky Tallone, her older sister, now 21, in 2005-06.

As Queen, Sierra will be called upon to preside over various events in the Italian American community during the year of her reign.

Nursing student visits Kenya

Alie Renton of Pleasanton recently traveled to Kenya, Africa where they spent the month of August interning at a medical clinic in the village of Eldoret.

She stayed in the village of Kilkarren at an orphanage and worked at a medical clinic run by the organization Empowering Lives International. Medical work included visiting homes of HIV patients and doing kindergarten check-ups. She also helped deliver two babies, assist in the HIV clinic and treated patients with malaria, typhoid, mumps and other common diseases and injuries.

Alie is a fourth-year nursing student at Azusa Pacific University and is a 2006 graduate of Foothill High School. She is the daughter of Denise and Craig Renton.



County officials cut short confab with Chinese delegation eyeing NUMMI

Supervisor 'upset,' but had to leave for county board meeting

By JEB BING

Alameda County supervisors cut short their meeting last week with Chinese officials who were here to explore options for keeping the NUMMI plant open because they had their own county board meeting to attend.

The high-ranking delegation of elected officials and business leaders from China made the trip to check out the New United Motor Manufacturing Inc. plant in Fremont at the urging of County Supervisor Keith Carson.

Hundreds of NUMMI's 4,800 employees live in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley.

After touring the Fremont plant, the nine-member delegation met with Carson, Supervisor Scott Haggerty, County Administrator Susan Muranishi and other county officials at the county building in Oakland, Carson said Wednesday.

However, Carson, Haggerty and Muranishi had to cut the meeting short because the Board of Supervisors had a lengthy hearing on appointing a successor to District Attorney Tom Orloff, who suddenly announced his retirement last month.

Carson, who chairs the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, said the meeting with the Chinese delegation, which was only in the area for 24 hours, had been arranged two weeks ago and it was "upsetting" that it had to be shortened.

NUMMI is a 25-year-old joint venture between General Motors and Toyota, but GM announced in June that it would withdraw from the partnership and Toyota announced on Aug. 27 that it won't order any vehicles from the auto plant after next March.

Toyota is still making Toyota Corolla cars and Toyota Tacoma trucks

at the Fremont facility but 4,600 employees there will lose their jobs after March if another automaker doesn't take over the facility.

Carson said he reached out to various foreign officials in February after hearing rumors that the NUMMI venture might be coming to an end.

He said there have been "a series of communications back and forth" between local leaders and officials in China, Korea and other countries.

Carson said the Chinese delegation is the first foreign group to visit the NUMMI plant but he anticipates that there will be visits in the future by officials from Korea and other countries, although nothing definite has been arranged so far.

Carson declined to reveal many specifics about the Chinese group except to say that it comes from an area with a large economic and technology development zone. ■



An artist's sketch of a possible redesign of Hacienda Business Park.

HACIENDA

Continued from Page 5

also expressed its concern that the developers' plans failed to include any retail stores, which planners said are nearby in other Hacienda locations.

None of the developers was at the Planning Commission hearing, which was limited to discussing only the zoning changes. No actual development plans are under consideration.

When the Hacienda Business Park was originally developed in the early 1980s, it primarily consisted of office uses. Since then, more than 730 acres of the park have been turned into mixed-use residential. ■

VALLEYCARE

Continued from Page 5

In its claim, filed in Alameda County Sept. 2, the alliance said ValleyCare must have 40 participating doctors in 10 different specialties in accordance with state law. The suit also alleges that the medical provider engages in unfair business practices.

"Specifically, the hospital is using its power to refer patients to favor its employed physicians over community doctors; it is using its real estate holdings to force doctors out of their offices and ultimately out of private practice altogether as a means of recruiting physicians into the hospital's controlled group," said Charles Bond, an attorney representing the Patient-Physician's Alliance.

Bond said because of this, patients will have less choice as to who cares for them.

"The hospital is using unfair strong-arm tactics to drive private physicians out of business so the hospital can take over the entire delivery of health care in the area," he said.

The alliance had sought a re-

straining order forcing ValleyCare to close its medical foundation clinic immediately, but an Alameda County judge denied its request Sept. 18, ordering the suit to go to trial.

For its part, ValleyCare denies an impropriety and said the accusations are just that — accusations.

"The lobbying organization sought to convince the court that the medical foundation was not operating in compliance with a statute that exempts the medical foundation from clinic licensure requirements as a clinic that contracts with a group of 40 or more physicians," ValleyCare spokeswoman Denise Bouillere said in a statement.

Bouillere said the medical foundation does comply—its 41 doctors are associated with ValleyCare Physicians Associates, which is an independent medical group owned and controlled by physicians who practice in the Tri-Valley.

ValleyCare, a nonprofit health provider, has been operating in the region since 1961.

The Patient Physician's Alliance filed an amended complaint Tuesday to challenge the judge's ruling. A trial date has not been set. ■

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

'Right to do Business' ordinance not needed here

While we support the extended hours for dining, drinking and outdoor entertainment that the City Council has approved for Redcoats and Barone's restaurants downtown, we disagree with efforts by the Pleasanton Downtown Association to impose a "Right to do Business" ordinance on the downtown district as a whole. The ordinance would lock into place the same late night hours and allowable entertainment that these two restaurants now enjoy and make the same provisions apply for all businesses from the Arroyo del Valle to Bernal Avenue between First and Peters streets. Some members of the PDA cite a similar ordinance in Livermore as a model Pleasanton should follow to keep our downtown competitive and growing. But Livermore's downtown is different. Unlike Pleasanton, where we have older, even turn-of-the-century housing within eyeshot and ear-shot of downtown, condos and apartments affected by Livermore's downtown activities were built as part of that city's redevelopment project, that included creating a friendlier, more active downtown. The one-size-fits-all measure the PDA is seeking won't work here where we've already seen how protests by residents on First and Second streets caused a restaurant in the old Train Station building that featured loud, outdoor, nighttime music to close its doors and a proposed outdoor ice rink in Delucchi Park to be moved to the Civic Center parking lot.

It's true that a number of permits issued over the years give some restaurants the right to stay open until 10 p.m. while another one next door must close at 9, or some restaurants with a permit to sell all alcoholic beverages while another is restricted to beer and wine. Today, with a more tolerant City Council, operating hours and services were significantly loosened for Redcoats through the city's Conditional Use Permit process, and now again for Barone's, based both on the Redcoats decision as well as Barone's agreement to build a sound wall between the restaurant's outdoor patio and its residential neighbors as well as to carefully control and monitor noise levels. It's likely that Sue Martinovich will seek a permit for similar hours and services at her newly refurbished Pleasanton Hotel and Farmer Restaurant, and again the PUD process will give her, downtown merchants including the PDA and nearby residents a chance to evaluate the plans thoroughly before permit is issued.

What's needed instead of a business-rights ordinance is a covenant to be accepted by everyone involved in downtown activities that each will recognize the interests and concerns of the other: with residents recognizing that a prosperous downtown benefits our city and that nighttime entertainment is an important part of the downtown's appeal, and with businesses understanding that nearby homeowners also have the right to enjoy their quality of life as they have for many years before the downtown became so vibrant. The conditional use permit formula worked for Redcoats and Barone's. It also offers the opportunity for those who claim the conditions are not being followed a chance to have a public hearing to bring the offender into compliance, a tactic that has been used successfully over the years to correct nuisances and irritating noises nobody wants downtown. ■

Code of ethics

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

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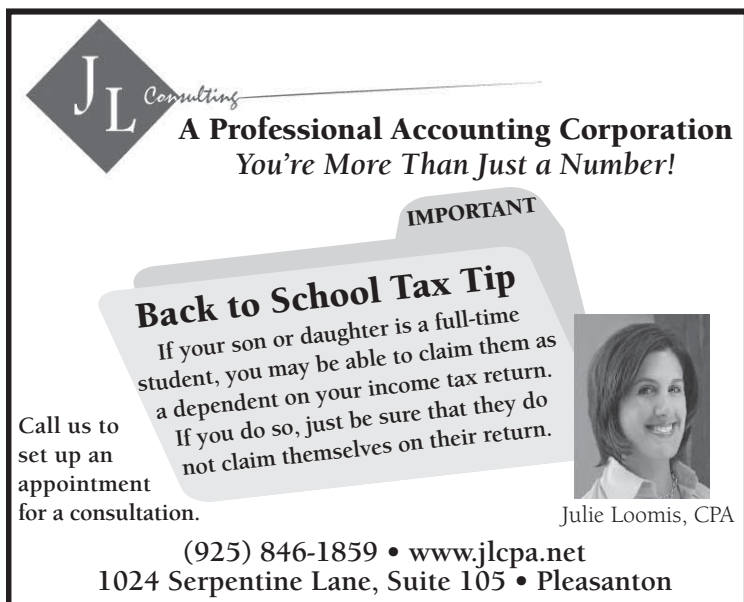
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LETTERS

Show your support for women's equality treaty

Dear Editor,

Aug. 26 was Women's Equality Day. It commemorates the date in 1920 when the women of the United States finally got the right to vote after many years of struggle and political action. In remembrance of this important occasion, I encourage voters to contact Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein to urge them to support The Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

It is the most comprehensive international treaty promoting the advancement of women worldwide. It establishes a legal framework to which all governments must adhere to ensure the equality of women in important areas of life including politics, law, employment, education, health care, commerce and domestic relations. To date, 186 countries have ratified CEDAW. The USA remains the only democracy in the world that has not ratified, putting our country in the dishonorable company of states such as Iran, Somalia and Sudan.

The CEDAW Treaty provides a universal standard for women's human rights. It provides a fundamental framework for ending international violence against women, ensuring girls access to education, and promoting economic opportunity and political participation for women. Please do this for the futures of our daughters here at home and our sisters around the world. The USA should strive to be a leader and set an example for the rest of the world in its commitment to expanding women's rights by ratifying CEDAW.

I am writing on behalf of the Alameda County Tri-Valley chapter of the National Organization for Women (ACT NOW)

Jean A. Felton

Library book sale experience disappointing

Dear Editor,

I took my three young daughters to the Friends of the Library book sale. I fondly remember being able to choose books at a similar sale when I was a child and wanted my girls to have the same special memory.

What a nightmare. Apparently book sellers are allowed to come to this sale. They arrive early and stake out the first spots in line. I can understand wanting to get a deal on books, that is why we are all there, but the behavior of some of these sellers was atrocious.

My little 6-year-old was shoved in the head with a box by the same person no less than four times. She couldn't even get to the books for the thirty minutes we were inside the sale room. Finally she just reached out and grabbed the nearest book to her without even looking it. My 8-year-old, stood hemmed in against the table on all sides by adults. At least, my older daughter saw what she wanted and put it in my bag. She then said, "Mom, this is enough; let's get out of here."

I was disappointed that an anticipated trip was spoiled by the poor behavior of a few patrons. Is it possible to limit Friday nights to residents of Pleasanton only? Or perhaps have special children's sale hours? We are a family that regularly uses and supports our library, however if the sale rules stay as they are, we will not be attending it again.

Kathy Felton

I am just one of many

Dear Editor,

Please note one correction to your wonderful front page article (Sept. 11, 2009) about our local service members who come back from deployments. I am not, as you wrote, "in charge of these homecoming events". I am just one of many who love to participate. Credit for organizing these events should go to the Pleasanton Military Families support group.

At any given time, there are at least 20 local service members deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are all volunteers. They are our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends. There are several hundred of people who now attend these homecomings because they appreciate the service and sacrifice of these brave men and women.

Doug Miller

Mistakes can be forgiven

Dear Editor,

I too recognized the error on your cover page ("9 years after 9/11," Sept. 11). But the letters you published in response to it were pretty harsh. Calling for your resignation and calling you unpatriotic? People make mistakes and the people involved here put out a great publication each week. It was a mistake people, forgive the guy.

Tim Soldati

Those who live in glass houses shouldn't cast stones

Dear Editor,

It is amazing to me in this time of compassion for the happenings of Sept. 11, that we have such intolerance for simple mistakes. Yes, the Weekly staff made a mistake regarding their recent cover. After reading the comments posted in my print version of the Weekly just now, I was embarrassed for the authors of those trashy letters. It is as if these letter writers never made a mistake themselves. Hey folks, we are human beings and make mistakes. Get over it.

Dave Walden

Apology for the error is accepted

Dear Editor,

I accept your apology for the honest mistake in the 9/11 article. Mr. Joseph and others that suggest resignations or worse need to find something better to do with their time than ridicule the staff that for the most part does a fine job of reporting the local news and events.

It is obvious from your years of prior reporting and the article itself

that you were not intending to be "unpatriotic" or "demean" the events of Sept. 11. I would hope that all of the people sending in scathing letters suggesting this was an "inexcusable" error and that you should be "mortified," will remember that the writing and proofing is done by people just like them and to my knowledge, no one is perfect.

To focus only on the error and not take into account the substance and spirit of the actual article is also a mistake.

Dave McCarroll

McNerney supports veterans' issues

Dear Editor,

In Mr. Grossman's letter of Sept. 4 ("Where is McNerney's concern for veterans?" Letters, page 14), he says that Congressman McNerney does not support veterans. I disagree.

It was Congressman McNerney who fought to keep the VA Hospital in Livermore open and to use the facility for the treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury patients. He was instrumental in the selection of the yet-to-be-built nursing home and medical facility in the Central Valley.

When an attorney files a claim for a veteran they charge a fee, usually a percentage of the settlement. There are State and County Veterans Service Officers that do the same thing for free. Also, veterans groups such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, AM VETS Disabled American Veterans etc. that also have service officers that do the same all at no cost to the veteran. And if a claim is denied help the veteran in the appeal process.

The VA has a backlog of close to a million cases; they are in the process of training more people to handle claims.

Jim Smith

McNerney cares about us ordinary people

Dear Editor,

While some members of Congress are holding public town meetings where a few crazy radicals can take over the proceedings, I'm glad our Congressman, Jerry McNerney, has chosen to collect opinions more thoughtfully by holding phone-ins and asking constituents to write him or express their opinions on his website.

He is actually listening to the ordinary people who are worried about losing health care when they lose their jobs, who are stuck with doctors chosen by their insurers who can't get care because their insurance won't pay for it. Congressman McNerney was a self-employed businessman before he was elected, so he knows first-hand how hard it is for small business and self-employed people to afford health care. I believe he will stand for the ordinary people who know we need to reform the system. I encourage everyone to let him know you don't want to continue to let the big insurance companies make decisions about your medical care. Call, write or go to his website and express your support for reform.

Judith Seid

Time is of the essence

Dear Editor,

We need it now, health care reform.

George Cornell

Let's move focus from warring to educating

Dear Editor,

"Admiral: To win war, send troops" to Afghanistan reads the Sept. 16 Contra Costa Times Morning Report headline. And as a concerned U.S. citizen, I sense my intelligence again being abused. Smart money knows this war is militarily not winnable. The Times penned an intelligent editorial recently recognizing we are losing more hearts and minds (and lives), on all sides, and that no amount of military maneuvering will a nation build there.

Budd MacKenzie, founder of Trust In Education in Lafayette, has made numerous Afghan trips since 2003. On this week's blog, he writes: "What was once described as 'the justifiable war' or the 'necessary war' is rapidly becoming


portrayed as the war 'not worth waging' It's not surprising that many Afghan families are reluctant to take sides. The penalties for supporting NATO forces or ignoring directives from the Taliban are severe."

I applaud his Trust in Education. Peace is a learning process and clearly it cannot be taught by more troops and more killings. I believe there are many more intelligent citizens who want to move our focus from warring to educating if only a sane forum for such effort arose.

One local effort seems to be Pleasantonians 4 Peace. In his recent letter to the editor, Matt Sullivan wrote about this "grassroots" effort to sow some sanity in the fields of fighting when our leaders are briefed by admirals and others interested in wasting yet more of our dwindling national treasure on war maneuvers. I plan to heed Mr. Sullivan's call to peace through widespread grassroots action and intend to be at the next Pleasantonians 4 Peace vigil at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday at the Museum on Main. I hope to see you there too.

Art Tenbrink

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OBITUARIES

Janeva "Jan" Gregory

Jan Gregory died Sept. 21 from lymphoma, surrounded by her husband and children. She was 79.

Mrs. Gregory was born Nov. 28, 1929 in the small town of Ashland, La., where her identical twin sister still lives today.

She married Dave Gregory from Albany, Calif. in 1953 and came to California in 1954. They just celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary. Pleasanton has been their home since 1966.

Mrs. Gregory worked for the Pleasanton Unified School District for 29 years. She was the secretary at Vintage Hill School for 25 years.

Family was very important to her. She was a wonderful, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was an avid sports spectator. She loved her gardening, going to plays and vacation cruises.

She is survived by her hus-

band, Dave; children, David and Bobby Gregory, Steve and Mindy Gregory, Scott Gregory, Janann Jarvis and Julie Hamilton; 12 grandchildren; and five great-granddaughters.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St.

Jim Dimmick

Jim Dimmick died in his sleep Sept. 10 in the company of his wife and daughters.

Mr. Dimmick was born in 1918, was a longtime Livermore resident and also lived in Pleasanton from 1999-2007. He was active in the amateur radio community.

He chose to donate his body to the UCSF Willied Body Program for the benefit of medical studies.

Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial service at 2 p.m. Oct. 18 at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 2000 Humboldt St. in Santa Rosa.

Donations can be sent in Mr. Dimmick's honor to either Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue (memo: Avian Rescue), P.O.

Box 448, Cotati, CA 94931, or Sonoma County Radio Amateurs (memo: mentor fund), P.O. Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

Ralph E. Anderson

Ralph E. Anderson died Sept. 27 at the age of 87.

A Pleasanton resident and formerly of Grants Pass, Ore., Mr. Anderson was born and raised in New York City. He began his military career in 1940 for the U.S. Army.

He served overseas twice during World War II in the Asiatic Pacific Theater, assigned to U.S. Army Intelligence. He was an original member of the U.S. Air Force and served on staff at the United States Air Force Academy. He retired as a colonel.

Concurrently, he began his career in the New York City Police Department as a patrolman and, over 21 years, rose to the rank of captain.

One of his most memorable assignments was in 1960 when, for 30 days, he was in charge of security for visiting Prime Minister Nehru of India.

Mr. Anderson obtained a bachelor's degree in police science from City University of New York and his master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin. He

taught criminal justice at Sam Houston State University and was the head of its police science department.

He authored numerous articles on law enforcement and a textbook on bank security. He served as director of field operations in the International Association of Chiefs of Police and vice president and corporate director of security at United Virginia Bank.

He was a lecturer at the Bank Administration Institute and at the U.S. Department of State's school for senior police officers of foreign countries.

While in Pleasanton, Mr. Anderson attended Valley Christian Church in Dublin and in Grants Pass, Ore., he attended Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Anderson is survived by his wife of 66 years, Elaine (nee Vauthier); daughters, Laura Anderson (John Hall), Claudia Smiley (Robert) and Robin Butler (Steven); grandson, Steven Butler, Jr.; sister, Dorothy Baumann; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. today at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., and at 2 p.m. today at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette, where burial will take place with full military honors.

ENGAGEMENTS



Suzanne Cohen and Carlos Navarro

Steve and Debbie Cohen of Laguna Nigel have announced the engagement of their daughter, Suzanne Michelle Cohen, to Carlos Alejandro Navarro, son of Victor and Esmeralda Escovedo-Flores of Livermore, who is advertising manager for the Pleasanton Weekly.

Carlos is a 2000 graduate of San Ramon Valley High School in Danville. He is currently employed as a project manager for Il'Calore of Newport Beach and resides in Dana Point.

The wedding is scheduled for June 12 at the Dana Hotel on Mission Bay in San Diego. The couple will honeymoon in Playa Mujeres, Mexico, and reside in Orange County.

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

Boy arrested for ecstasy possession, distribution

A 13-year-old boy was arrested Sept. 24 after allegedly possessing and furnishing the drug ecstasy to some students, according to police.

The student, who was not named because he is a minor, allegedly brought the drug on campus and gave it to two girls and a boy who are in the eighth grade.

Sgt. Michael Tryphonas of the Pleasanton Police Department said the three students had allegedly ingested the drug but it was not "significantly apparent"

they were under the influence of drugs. The three students were not arrested and were turned over to their parents, and any further disciplinary actions would be decided by the school.

The presence of the drug ecstasy, Tryphonas said, is not a common occurrence at a Pleasanton middle school.

The young man will be processed through the juvenile justice system, Tryphonas said, and could be suspended or possibly expelled.

"This particular case was more of an isolated incident," Tryphonas said. "We always encourage parents to be active and aware of what is going on and to keep an open line of communication with their children."

—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.

Sept. 19

Theft

- 9:42 a.m. in the 1300 block of Orloff Road; petty theft
- 10:47 a.m. at the intersection of Sorrell Downs Court and Foothill Knolls Drive; grand theft
- 2:40 p.m. in the 500 block of Rose Avenue; stolen vehicle
- 6:57 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 7:24 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- 9:39 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle

Vehicular burglary

- 10:45 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:08 a.m. at the intersection of St. Mary Street and Peters Avenue; public drunkenness
- 1:57 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

Disturbing the peace

- 1:39 a.m. in the 500 block of Main Street

Sept. 20

Theft

- 12:38 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 3:28 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- 6:04 p.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue

Burglary

- 2:01 a.m. in the 7200 block of St. Michael Circle

Vandalism

- 2:58 p.m. in the 4000 block of Jackie Court

Public drunkenness

- 12:09 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive
- 1:53 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue
- 8:02 a.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue

Battery

- 6:35 p.m. in the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue

Sept. 21

Theft

- 11:34 a.m. in the 1000 block of Harvest Circle; identity theft
- 4:48 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- 5:14 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft

Burglary

- 9:48 a.m. in the 4200 block of Hacienda Drive
- 11:34 a.m. in the 1000 block of Harvest Circle

Vandalism

- 8:29 a.m. in the 2000 block of Santa Rita Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:30 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita and Morganfield roads; DUI
- 1:12 a.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance
- 1:56 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Stoneridge Drive; DUI

Assault

- 4:48 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

Sept. 22

Theft

- 6:57 a.m. in the 7000 block of Valley Trails Drive; stolen vehicle
- 4:39 a.m. in the 3400 block of Norton Way; identity theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 9:19 a.m. in the 5500 block of Corte Sonora; marijuana possession
- 12:22 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Castlewood Drive; non-narcotic controlled substance possession
- 2:36 p.m. in the 4400 block of First Street; marijuana
- 10:28 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Inglewood Drive; DUI

Sept. 23

Identity theft

- 12:03 a.m. in the 300 block of Trenton Circle
- 3:19 p.m. in the 400 block of Adams Way

Public drunkenness

- 12:13 a.m. in the 5000 block of Johnson Drive

- 2:35 a.m. in the 4200 block of First Street

- 8:23 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

DUI

- 10:01 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita and Morganfield roads
- 10:27 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

Sept. 24

Theft

- 8:45 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 3:22 p.m. in the 5700 block of Belleza Drive; stolen property possession

Burglary

- 8:11 a.m. in the 7500 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; vehicular
- 3:53 p.m. in the 4800 block of Mohr Avenue
- 6:06 p.m. in the 1300 block of West Lagoon Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 11:27 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Black Avenue; DUI
- 6:20 p.m. at the intersection of Owens and Hacienda drives; DUI
- 11:38 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Adams Way; public drunkenness

Battery

- 2:55 p.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road

Sept. 25

Theft

- 12:21 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- 4:09 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 7:04 p.m. in the 400 block of Montori Court

Vandalism

- 12:45 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- 1:29 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:32 p.m. in the 7300 block of Foothill Road; DUI
- 9:47 p.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road; marijuana possession, public intoxication



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: Review of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance And Evaluation Report (CAPER) For Fiscal Year 2008 (08/09)

Joint Workshop City Council and Library Commission

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review and discuss the Civic Center Master Plan and Library Expansion

Human Services

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

- Approve Fiscal Year 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan Goals For Federal Grant Funds
- Review First Quarter of FY 2009/10 City Grant Program

Visit the City of Pleasanton website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agendas for the following meeting(s).

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, October 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Library Commission

Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Employment Opportunities

Recreation Assistant (seasonal, part-time, temporary)
\$11.15 - \$11.71 per hour to start
Open Until Filled

The Youth and Teen Services program seeks one (1) part-time Recreation Assistant to work in its After School Recreation Program for grades 1-5. The program is offered at Donlon, Fairlands and Hearst elementary schools. The Assistant could also be assigned to work in support of other Youth and Teen Services activities.

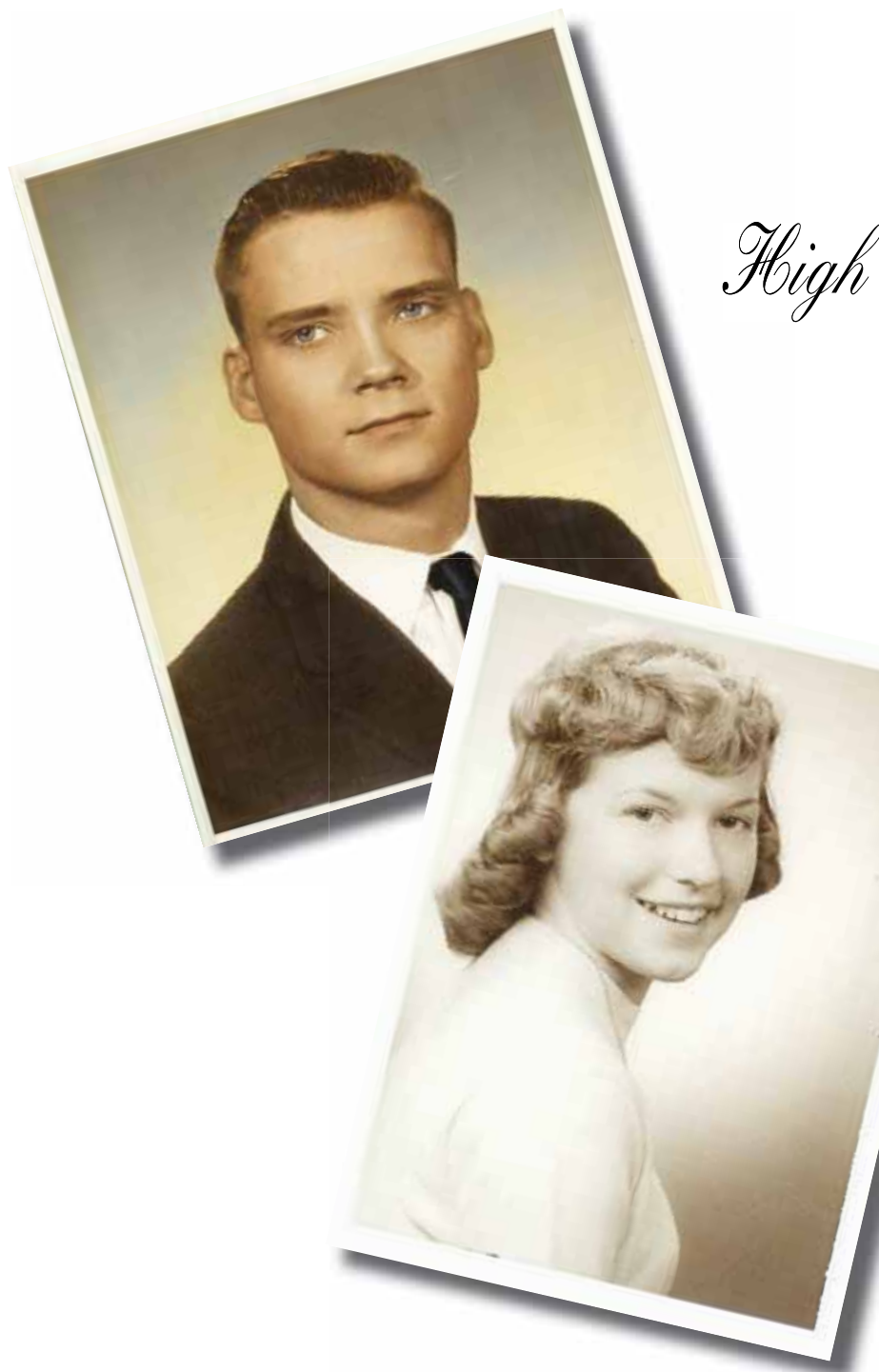
If you are interested in this position please submit a City application to the Youth and Teen Services Office at Gingerbread Preschool, 4333 Black Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566, Attention: Mark Duncanson, Senior Recreation Program Specialist. If you have questions or would like additional information about this position, you may contact Mark Duncanson at mduncanson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or (925) 931-3433.

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, please visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar

A second shot at love

High school sweethearts rekindle relationship after nearly 50 years



Vivian and Jim Boyce were once high school sweethearts who recently were reunited online and married shortly thereafter.

By EMILY WEST

When Pleasanton resident Vivian Miller went online to search for a song, she never thought she would end up rekindling a romance that began nearly five decades before.

Yet, as of Sept. 19, she is now Vivian Boyce, married to her high school sweetheart in a turn of events that many have compared to a movie storyline.

It started when she took to the Internet to find "Old Friends," a song by Bill Gaithers, when an ad popped up asking if she wanted to find an old friend. The first person she thought of was Jim Boyce.

Curiosity led the widow of two years on the hunt to find her long

lost high school sweetheart that she hadn't seen since they graduated in the early 1960s. There were a few obstacles along the way, including narrowing down a list of 129 name matches in the United States and Canada and being practically paralyzed with doubt on the plane to visit him in Boston.

"I never once contemplated trying to find Jim before," Vivian Boyce said. "I don't know why I searched for him. (The search website) gave me tantalizing drips of information and I became determined."

She said she was unsure if there would still be a spark of chemistry since they both were different people with many years apart. The initial email led to online conversations and a face-to-face meeting.

Through their discussions, they found both of their former spouses had died from strokes and were able to support each other in their grief while still having a mutual respect for each other's first spouse.

Vivian Boyce described the old relationship made new as "a soft landing for my heart."

Having experienced loss, Jim Boyce said they took a chance on giving the relationship a second try because they don't take anything for granted.

"We know how quickly life can change," he said. "When good fortune and opportunity come along, you take it."

The couple said their marriage vows about seven months after re-connecting. Yet, the couple is quick

to add, with a smile, that they already had accumulated three years of dating in high school.

Back then, they knew each other through the same church and went to separate high schools in Indiana. Jim Boyce, went off to college during their last year of dating while Vivian Boyce was still in high school.

"He didn't write or call," she said with a laugh, as her new husband reminded her that it wasn't as easy to communicate back then as it is now.

Vivian Boyce describes being "whisked away" by Ray Miller, a Mouseketeer, who was in the Stan Kenton Orchestra and toured with Jackie Gleason. He was also a worship leader at a number of differ-

ent churches in the East Bay. A week after she graduated from high school, the two married in a living room and moved to California.

Jim Boyce also married and lived on the East Coast.

Now that they're reunited, the newlywed couple lives in Pleasanton to be near family.

Now that they're reunited, they are living in Pleasanton, to be near family. The wedding was held at Castlewood Country Club, with the theme of "Old Friends" evident in the music, the décor and, of course, the guests.

While the couple has almost 90 years of combined marriage experience, they are still learning to live together, just like any newlywed couple. ■

NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

BY RENATA POLT

Bright Star

★ ★

Rated PG for brief language, thematic elements, some sensuality and incidental smoking
One hour, 59 minutes



"Bright Star" tells the story of 19th-century English poet John Keats' unconsummated love affair with his neighbor, Fanny Brawne, which obsessed them both for the last several years of Keats' short life (he died of consumption at 25).

Oddly, though, the most persuasive relationships in New Zealand writer/director Jane Campion's movie are the ones between Fanny (Abbie Cornish), her mother (Kerry Fox) and Fanny's adorable little sister (Eddie Martin). Their affection for each other looks natural and unforced. Keats' and Fanny's? Not so much.

When the two first meet, Fanny is an outspoken, flirtatious 18-year-old more interested in her clothes (which she designs and sews herself) than in the moody poet busy nursing his mortally ill brother. However, an attraction soon forms, though Keats' good friend and sometime housemate Charles Brown (Paul Schneider) violently opposes it and treats Fanny rudely. Fanny, ignorant about poetry, arranges to take lessons with Keats, providing an opportunity for him to read several of his great poems aloud (more poems are recited throughout the film, one of its highlights, together with the lovely English scenery).

But until later in the film, the romance feels more like a teenage crush — Keats himself is only 23, after all — than a mature passion. There's little chemistry between Cornish and Ben Whishaw's Keats. Matters aren't helped by the director's decision on how to depict the poet. With his shaggy coiffure and unvarying two-day growth of stubble, Whishaw looks more like a GQ model than the author of "Ode to a Grecian Urn" and (yes) "Bright Star."

Fanny's appearance poses a different problem. She's an accomplished seamstress, but given the time required to hand-sew the voluminous, ruffled garments of the era, no one person would have been able to create the number of outfits — a different one in every scene! — that she's shown in.

We know how the story ends. A postscript on the screen tells us that Fanny "wandered the moors for many years." What it doesn't tell us is that she eventually married and had three children.

"Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art," indeed. ■



CIVIC ARTS

Taisa Hrynewycz (Fern) and Luke Darga (Avery) rehearse their parts the upcoming Civic Arts Stage Co. production of Charlotte's Web.

How a spider saved a pig

Charlotte's Web opens tonight at the Amador Theater

A pig named Wilbur and his spider friend Charlotte come to life in the production of "Charlotte's Web," opening tonight at the Amador Theater.

The classic story of the lovable barnyard pig that desperately wants to avoid the butcher and is saved by an intelligent spider, is presented by the city's Civic Arts Stage Company in partnership with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, with performances through Oct. 10.

Director Paula Wujek said this production is especially unique with professional actor and aerialist Felicity Hesel as Charlotte, who will spin and flip on a web

fashioned from a large rope climbing structure. There will also be a mixture of children and adults in the cast.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 2, 3, 9 and 10 as well as at 2 p.m. Oct. 4 and 11 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$12, \$16 or \$20 for adults and \$8, \$12 or \$16 for children. Purchase them online at www.civictickets.org up to three hours before the performance, by phone at 931-3444, or at the box office.

Audition for 'Cinderella'

Pleasanton's Civic Arts Stage Company will partner again with

the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival for the production of "Cinderella." Auditions will be held for adults (ages 12 and up) from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 5 and for children ages 6 to 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 6.

Audition packets are available at www.pleasantoncivicsarts.org or at the Pleasanton Parks and Community Services office, located at 200 Old Bernal Ave. Appointments are required and may be made via email. Submit the auditioner's name, age, parent's name if under 18, phone number and email address to lebright@ci.pleasanton.ca.us. Appointments will be confirmed via email or phone.

—Emily West



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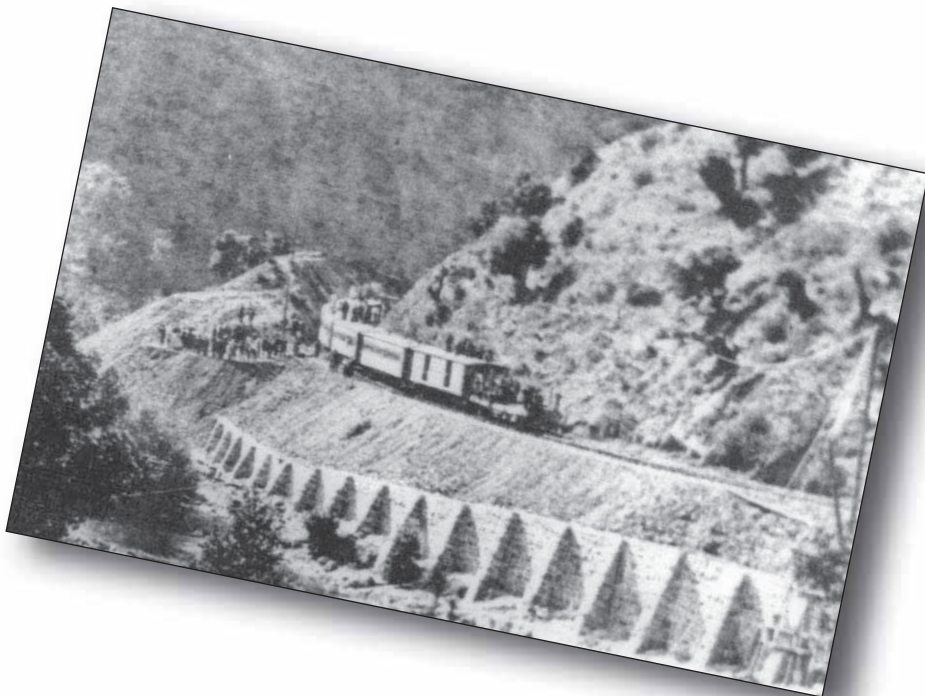
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LIVING

Niles Canyon Railway offers a ride



By JANET PELLETIER

The volunteers for Niles Canyon Railway live, breathe and sleep trains.

The sound of a train whistle or smoke billowing from a steam locomotive conjures up pleasant, nostalgic feelings, transporting them back to a simpler time when iron horses were the main form of transportation.

Traversing through scenic Niles Canyon, west of Sunol on State Route 84, you'll notice not much has changed today. Though trains were replaced by the automobile long ago, they still run through the canyon as they did more than a century before. But now, they're what Henry Luna terms "living museums."

Forty-eight years ago, Luna formed the Pacific Locomotive Association with five fellow college students from the Peninsula to preserve trains no longer in use so that people could learn their history. Just a few years out of high school at the time, Luna said he was beginning to realize that trains were nearly becoming extinct and he wanted to make sure they weren't hauled off to a stock yard to die.

"When you put these trains on a track and fire them up, they become a living, breathing thing like nothing else," he said. "I didn't want future generations to forget what came before them."

The history of Niles Canyon Railway began in 1853, when the region was surveyed as a possible route to the Pacific Coast. President Abraham Lincoln chose the route and signed the Pacific Railroad Act in 1862. The Western Pacific Railroad began operating in 1866, connecting on a 20-mile route from San Jose to a point in the canyon just beyond Farwell Bridge. Central Pacific purchased a bankrupt Western Pacific and completed the extension in 1869. Central Pacific later incorporated into the Southern Pacific line and it became a secondary route. Steam locomotives pulled trains through the canyon for 80 years before diesels took over in the 1950s. In 1984, Southern Pacific ceased operating trains on the right-of-way, pulled up the tracks and deeded the land to the county.

Luna still recalls the first train he and the five whom he formed the PLA with purchased for \$750. In 1987, the Pacific Locomotive Association entered into an agreement with Alameda County and began rebuilding the Niles Canyon rail line. Members of the association, who are all volunteers, toiled day after day, piecing tracks by hand, constructing the first piece between Sunol and the Brightside maintenance facility, roughly in the middle of the canyon.

And in 1988, passengers could ride on the route 122 years after the very first Western Pacific excursion. The railway travels over the original lines of the last leg of the Transcontinental Railroad, the final portion completed in Niles (now known to most as Fremont) in 1869.

Luna's passion for railroading is like all of those who volunteer for PLA. Because PLA members donate their labor to work on the trains' restorations, the organization relies on donations from the public to help them operate the train rides they hold throughout the year. The largest fundraiser is the popular holiday Train of Lights.

For the past few weeks, volunteers have been hang-



An excursion train passes through the Farwell Bridge, one of two bridges through Niles Canyon. The 1896 truss is still supported by stone piers, which 2002. The same bridge, originally constructed in 1865-66, is also seen in the postcard in the top right of the next page.

ing wreaths and garlands inside and strings of lights outside the rail cars. It's a sight to behold during the month of December as two trains — one from the Sunol train depot to Niles and another going the opposite route — wind through the canyon at night, decked out in the colorful display of lights. Tickets go on sale on the railway's website (www.ncry.org) at 10 a.m. Oct. 12 and sell out pretty quickly thereafter.

The Train of Lights, operating for a 20th season, started informally as a thank you to the PLA's members. Current railway General Manager Dexter Day and Rich Gill festooned a few strings of lights on a railcar and invited members to ride through the canyon. As the train traversed through the dark, motorists driving by noticed

the moving display of lights and contacted the railway asking how they could take a ride.

Day, whose weekdays start at 2:30 a.m. as a conductor for Caltrain, and is known fondly as "Dr. Christmas," heads over to the Brightside maintenance yard at 11 a.m. to work on the trains.

A year after the "thank you" ride, the San Francisco Chronicle wrote a small article that was tucked away inside a back section of the paper about it. On the first day of the Train of Lights that year, 2,000 people showed up to ride, said Karen Kadaja, who handles the publicity and marketing for the Niles Canyon Railway.

"The volunteers stayed up until 11:30 p.m. to make

sure everyone got to ride."

The lighted holiday ride is a pastime for train enthusiasts. The line was added to meet demand.

"That's really what makes the kids' and parents' faces light up is this year handling the holiday season inside of the railcars. "Man Smith will be serving hot chocolate on the train rides. Other volunteers are handling the part of Santa.

Some of the volunteers are also railroading — as former conductors — which can prove useful as the

HISTORY

of a lifetime aboard its historic trains



ALAN FRANK

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have backgrounds in rail-
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they are quickly put to work



JANET PELLETIER

Top: Pacific Locomotive Association volunteers have spent the past month decorating the insides of rail cars in preparation for the ever-popular Train of Lights, their biggest fundraiser of the year. Above: Al McCracken assembles strings of lights that will make a beautiful display as the trains pass through the canyon at night.

on restorations and in operating the trains for rides. But there are also many volunteers who didn't start out knowing much and learned on the job.

“It keeps me off of the streets and out of the bars,” volunteer Doug Campbell said with a laugh.

All joking aside, Campbell, who is a former conductor and engineer, became interested in trains as a teen, when he started going on steam excursions. But serving in the military, then marrying and starting a family postponed his hobby and he got involved with railroading again when the PLA formed.

The PLA has 800 members from all over the world, 300 of which volunteer regularly, according to Rich Alexander, the organization's membership secretary.

“Most of the trains we have are on a scrap yard or come from other railroad museums who no longer want them for whatever reason,” he said.

Aside from the Train of Lights, the railway offers other rides year-round, including wildflower trains where wine is served, education trains for children ages 3-12, summer fun trains, a wine and cheese train, speeder events featuring workman's motor cars from the late 1800s to 1970 and M200 rides. They also rent out trains for a charge for special occasions such as birthday parties, weddings or reunions. Rides begin at either the Niles or Sunol train depots and passengers are welcome to bring their own food and beverages.

The Niles Canyon Railway, built in pieces, is now 13

UPCOMING EVENTS

TRAIN OF LIGHTS

Trains will run two times a night Wednesday-Sunday between Nov. 27 and Dec. 23 and Dec. 26 and 27. Rides depart from Niles at 4:15 and 6:45 p.m. and from Sunol at 4:30 and 7 p.m. Tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. Oct. 12. Cost is \$25 per person (children under 3 ride free). The ride is about an hour. For more information, contact the station agent by email at TOLtickets@ncry.org, by telephone at 510-996-8420, or at the Sunol Depot during regular Sunday train operations.

SPEEDER RIDES

This is a 50-minute ride in rail motorcars between the Niles station and the Brightside maintenance yard on Oct. 11. All trips depart from Niles at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. Reservations are required. Call 408-249-2953.

STEAM TRAIN RIDES

Rides aboard a steam locomotive are scheduled for Oct. 4 and 18. Donations are requested (a suggested \$5 for children 4-12, \$8 for seniors and \$10 for other passengers). Visit www.ncry.org.

miles long and ends at the Sunol Depot. A few years ago, there were plans to extend train service further north into Pleasanton, but those stalled as some local senior citizens complained of noise and safety concerns. Luna said there is still a vision to bring the trains to Pleasanton, along Sunol Boulevard, past the Senior Center, north to Bernal Avenue.

He said the PLA has been given permission from the county and he's hoping that this time around, residents will be more supportive.

“People in Sunol weren't too sure of us either at first,” he said.

He also plans to give a presentation to the city of Pleasanton in a year's time.

Always dreaming big, Luna also envisions adding a steam locomotive route that would traverse through the hillside from Niles Canyon up to the top of the Sunol and Pleasanton ridgelines, something he's been discussing with the East Bay Regional Park District, which owns the land.

“There are only two others like this in the United States — Pike's Peak and one in North Carolina,” he said. “And it would be handicap accessible, which would be great for many people who find climbing the ridges too challenging.”

To learn more about the Niles Canyon Railway or donate to their cause, visit www.ncry.org. Of course, the PLA is always looking for volunteers. Call 862-9063. ■

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offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at www.hopyard.com.

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MEDITERRANEAN

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Auditions

VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE The Tri-Valley's premier chorus will hold auditions for the 2009-10 concert season Oct. 5 at the First Presbyterian Church, at the corner of 4th and L streets. Call 462-4205 to schedule and appointment. Visit www.valleyconcerchorale.org.

Book Clubs

BRAIN BOOK CLUB Brain Book Club's October selection is "The Philosophical Baby: What Children's Minds Tell Us About Truth, Love & the Meaning of Life." Meets at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 21 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.

Class Reunions

AVHS CLASS OF 2004 REUNION The graduating class of 2004 will have its five year reunion at 6 p.m. Nov. 27 at Barone's Restaurant, 475 Saint John St. The evening will include appetizers, cocktails and dancing. RSVP by Nov. 13. Tickets are \$50. Checks are payable to AVHS Class of 2004. Mail to 608 Abbie Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Call 200-7440.

Classes

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING Learn basic emergency response skills to help your family, neighborhood, and/or business when disasters strike. Classes are 6 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays from Oct. 14 through Nov. 18. Instructors are members of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Dept. Cost is \$35. To register, call 426-4290 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted.

INTRODUCTION TO BLOGS, FACEBOOK & TWITTER Introduction to popular online social media networks with instructor Sandra Kay meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursdays in October at Livermore Adult Community Education, 1401 Almond Ave., Livermore. Cost is \$75. Call 337-2320.

Clubs

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS The Amador Valley Quilt Club meets at 1:30 Oct. 10 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Speaker Marie Strait will talk about "Successes and Failures on a Fabric Diet." Anyone interested in quilting is invited to attend. Visit amador-valleyquilters.org.

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB All garden enthusiasts are welcome to attend the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 8 at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Blvd. Speaker is Bethallyn Black will discuss winter vegetable gardening. Learn how to select, plant and grown home-grown vegetables. Call 461-1725.

TRI-VALLEY INSURANCE PROFESSIONALS Tri-Valley Insurance Professionals meets from 5:30 to 8

p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at Girasole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Road, for fellowship, networking and educational opportunities relating to the insurance industry. Cost is \$30. Visit www.tvipca.com.

Concerts

JORGE ROJAS-ZEGAS, GUITARIST The Livermore Rotary Club presents a concert by Guitarist Dr. Jorge Rojas-Zegers to benefit its Music Scholarship program and Coaniquem burn center. It will be from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 1385 South Livermore Ave. Tickets are \$20 or \$15 for students. Call 447-8924 or visit www.livermore-rotary.org.

TWO OPERAS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE: CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA AND PAGLIACCI It's two operas for the price of one during Opera Week, Oct. 10 to 18, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Shows are at 8 p.m. with pre-performance lecture and artist's receptions included with every performance. Tickets are \$39-\$59 for adults or \$29-\$49 for youth. Opening night gala is at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 10. Tickets are \$50. Call 960-9210 or visit <http://livermorevalleyopera.org>.

Events

AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION The American Red Cross is holding a volunteer orienta-

tion at its Pleasanton Blood Donor Center, 5556-B Springdale Ave., from 4 to 6 p.m. Oct. 8. 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. Dates and times are subject to change. Call 510-594-5165.

ARTWALK 2009 ArtWalk 2009 will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 10 in downtown Livermore. It is a cross between an arts festival and exhibition, with over 150 artists exhibiting inside boutique shops, restaurants, wine bars and outside on sidewalks and pocket parks, accompanied by live music. Visit www.artwalklivermore.org.

AU PAIR WINE & CHEESE TASTING Cultural Care Au pair will host a wine and cheese tasting at Little Valley Winery, 739 Main St., from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 11. Families hosting an au pair and those interested in hosting one are welcome. No children, babies in strollers are OK.

BARK AND BREW Murphy's Paw, 410 Main St., will host Bark and Brew from 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 2. Mingle with your pooch and enjoy a cold beer. Donations benefit the Molly Inspires Foundation. Call 600-8925.

BINGO WITH THE PLEASANTON SEAHAWKS BINGO with the Pleasanton Seahawks at Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore, takes place Saturdays, Oct. 3, 17 and 31. Regular game pays \$175 to \$500. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., BINGO starts at 6:30 p.m. Buy in as little as \$17. Must

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BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS Valley Humane Society is hosting a Blessing of the Animals event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 10 at 3670 Nevada St. All pets are welcome on a leash or in a carrier. Pets will receive a blessing from the friar and a St. Francis medallion. Blessing is free. Donations appreciated. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR Learn the long-term benefits of effective planning compared to the hidden costs of doing nothing at a seminar from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 7 at 5994 W. Las Positas, Ste. #119. Hosted by Cents & Sensibility. Guest Speaker is attorney Kurt Grossheider. Space is limited. Call 225-1135. A donation of \$15 to \$25 is suggested, with all proceeds going to Sandra Wing Foundation.

GHOST WALK The Museum On Main's annual Ghost Walk tours are back. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$13 for children 12 and under. Tours start every half hour from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 23, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 24 and 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 30. Call 462-2766.

GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKE OUT U.S. Geological Survey is conducting California's largest earthquake drill at 10:15 a.m. Oct. 15. Learn how to participate by visiting www.shakeout.org.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE Holiday Boutiques, hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298, will be from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 16 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Veterans' Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Variety of handcrafted items including holiday decorations, jewelry, knitted items, homemade jams, candles and more.

PACE FOR PEACE AND PANAMA RED BLOCK PARTY On Oct. 3, the Panama Red Coffee Company is hosting the second annual Panama Red Block Party Benefiting Tri-Valley Haven on K Street in downtown Livermore, between 1st and 2nd streets. It begins at 8 a.m. with Pace for Peace, a 5K run/walk through downtown Livermore. The block party follows from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring live entertainment, vendors, children's activities, a bucket auction, food and beverages.

PLEASANTON DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION ANTIQUE FAIRE The faire is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 11 on Main Street. It features over a mile of antiques and collectibles will be displayed by more than 400 professional dealers from all over the West. The show will feature free appraisals by Steve Yvaska, noted appraiser and journalist from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

TWIN'S CLUB CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT SALE Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club is hosting our semi-annual Children's Clothing and Equipment sale sponsored by Kaiser Permanente from 9 a.m. to 2:45 a.m. Oct. 3 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Entrance fee is \$1 and parking is free. Visit www.TVMOTC.org/cesale.

Exhibits

DR. SEUSS COLLECTION Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St., will unveil Dr. Seuss Collections "Wisdom of the Orient Cat," a secret collection, and "Anthony Drexel Goldfarb," an unorthodox taxidermy collection, from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 17. Event includes wine, appetizers and live music. RSVP to info@studio7finearts.com.

Film

'SWEET OLD SONG' Dublin Reads presents a showing of "Sweet Old Song" from 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza. This film chronicles the courtship and marriage of musician Howard "Louie Bluie" Armstrong and artist, Barbara Ward. Filmmaker Leah Mahan will offer commentary. Call 803-7266.

Fundraisers

AMORE GOES HOLLYWOOD! Tri-Valley Animal Rescue's 10th annual dinner and auction will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Goal Line Production Studios, 5959 Coronado Lane. It includes dinner, a no host bar, live and silent auctions, raffle baskets and a grand prize drawing. Tickets are \$50 before Sept. 15 or \$60 after. Visit www.tvr.org.

BON APPETIT The sixth annual culinary event is from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at the CarrAmerica Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive. It features 15 culinary teams comprised of a corporate sponsor, a Pleasanton school principal and local chef creating dishes paired with wine. Tickets are \$60 and proceeds will fund grants and programs for students and faculty of the Pleasanton Unified School District. Reserve tickets online at www.ppie.org. Must be 21 or older to attend.

BROTHERS, BAR ROOMS, AND BANDITS Return to the Pleasanton of old from 7 to 11 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd, for a fundraiser for the Museum On Main Street. Tickets are \$40 and include food and gaming chips. Dressing up in period attire is encouraged. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

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CALENDAR

E-WASTE FUNDRAISER FOR HUMANE SOCIETY Valley Humane Society is hosting an electronic waste recycling event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 3 at 4 California Ave., about one block from VHS. Proceeds benefiting homeless pets. Most items are free to recycle, but some require a small fee that will be donated to VHS. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

E-WASTE RECYCLING FUNDRAISER The Deputy Sheriffs' Association of Alameda County hosts an e-waste recycling fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 3 and 4 at 6689 Owens Drive, Suite 100. Items recycled for free include TVs, electronics and textiles. Call 463-3760 or visit www.unwaste.com.

GOOD NEWS BEARS' OCTOBEAR AFFAIRE Alden Lane's Fall Festival, Octobear Affaire, is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 10 and 11 at 981 Alden Lane, Livermore. It will feature drawings for gift baskets and bear-related items for sale. New this year is a 2010 "Bears Around Town" calendar for \$10. They will also collect new and gently used stuffed animals to give to those in need. Visit www.goodnewsbears.org.

GROWL, MEOW & WINE This benefit event for the East Bay SPCA is Oct. 4 at the Tri-Valley branch, 4651 Gleason Drive in Dublin. A pre-party with the board of directors' champagne reception is from 1 to 2 p.m., followed by wine, music, hor d'oeuvres and silent auction from 2 to 5 p.m. Tickets

are \$75 for both events or \$40 for general celebration. Must be 21 to attend. Call 563-4605 or visit www.eastbayspca.org/events.

LOBSTER FEED AND SILENT AUCTION Dublin Rotary Club will host the second annual Lobster Feed and Silent Auction from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 10, at Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Tickets are \$75. Proceeds benefit the good works of the Dublin Rotary. Call 875-1880 or visit www.dublinrotary.clubexpress.com.

SANDRA KAY AT PANAMA RED COFFEE Local author Sandra Kay will be selling copies of "Eat, Write and Exercise" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 3 at Panama Red Coffee, dur-

ing the K Street block party in downtown Livermore. During this time, she'll donate the total proceeds to Tri-Valley Haven. In the future, she'll donate a portion to the group. Visit www.writeousmom.com.

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.

TEAM IN TRAINING INFO MEETING An informational meeting for a walk, run, cycle, tri or hike with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training is at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at Pleasanton



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TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER The tournament is from 6 to 11 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Masonic Lodge, 3370 Hopyard Road. All levels are welcome, but participants must be at least 21. Includes food, drink and play, with proceeds benefiting Foothill High School athletics. The cost is \$50, which includes \$1,000 in chips plus raffle ticket to start. Grand prize is \$500. Call 413-7788 or visit www.FAB.ticketleap.com.

VFW CRAB FEED AND BLACKJACK GAMES Pleasanton's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 will host its annual crab feed and blackjack games Oct. 10 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. This event, which often sells out, provides all-you-can-eat crab and a free glass of wine. Proceeds will support local VFW activities, including the support of currently deployed service members and local veterans in need. Tickets are \$38. For tickets, call Larry Jackson at 462.0788. Visit www.vfwpost6298.com.

WALK TO THE WATER Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser Family Event to benefit oppressed women and children in India is from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Oct. 4 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd. Sponsored by Sisters In Service East Bay Chapter. Suggested registration, which includes lunch, is \$15 or \$30 for families. Call 998-3785 or visit www.sistersinservice.org.

Kids & Teens

'YOUNG VOICES FOR RECOVERY' ESSAY CONTEST Contestants ages 13-19 are invited to submit essays of 250 to 500 words describing "What impact long-term recovery has had on your life, either through your own experiences or that of a person close to you?" Entries are due Oct. 2. Prizes are \$500 for first, \$150 for second and \$50 for third. Call Amie Sousa, 201-6201.

CLASSICAL INDIAN DANCE Members of San Francisco's Chhandam Youth Dance Company present the colorful sights and stirring sounds of ancient India in a performance of Kathak Indian dance, one of the six major classical dances of India

and one of the most dynamic theater arts in the world. It will start at 2 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Busy Bees Preschool, 4300 Mirador Drive, hosts an open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 3 to 10. The free event includes a bounce house, face painting, games and crafts. Orientation is from 1 to 1:30 p.m. for interested parents. The preschool takes ages 18 months to 5 years. Call 249-9000.

SUGAR SKULLS WORKSHOP Make your own sugar skull at 4 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Golden Apple Learning Store, 4807 Hopyard Road, in celebration of the Day of the Dead (El Día de los Muertos). Cost is \$5. Call 460-5163.

Lectures/ Workshops

DIVORCE & SEPARATED WORKSHOP This group meets from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays Oct. 7 through Dec. 16 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Join others who have lost a marriage and begin to build your life again. Call 600-1765 to pre-register.

SHORT STORY WRITING WORKSHOP Entertaining readings and free short story writing workshop with local author/blogger, Sandra Kay, a.k.a. WriteousMom. It will be held at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 10 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Workshop to include: 3 secrets to crafting a great short story, 12 reasons to start (and keep) a blog, Q&A session, encouragement and inspiration for writers of all levels. Call 337-2320 or visit www.writeousmom.com.

Political Notes

PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE The group will again hold a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. Oct. 14 in front of the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. 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. The event will continue monthly as long as necessary.

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING The Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated will host Catherine Bragg at a dinner meeting at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 8 at Cattleman's Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore. Bragg is a Marin County business owner who articulated her opposition to nationalized health care. Tickets are \$26 for members and \$30 for non-members. RSVP required by Oct. 4. Call 846-5944.

Seniors

DAY TRIPPERS — THE RETURN OF TUT From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 17, join the Day Trippers to view the artifacts from the tomb of Tutankhamun at the de Young Museum. Transportation departs from Pleasanton Senior Center. Lunch on your own. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$70 for residents or \$75 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

FALL PREVENTION & HOME SAFETY Bay Alarm Medical presents a class on fall prevention and home safety from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 13 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5355 Sunol Blvd. Learn about resources available that can assist seniors in living independently. Cost is \$1.75 for residents and \$2.25 for non-residents. Call 931-5369.

Spiritual

ENTERING THE CASTLE STUDY GROUP Study group now forming to discuss and explore the book "Entering the Castle" by Caroline Myss. The book is a call to those who wish to find guidance on their spiritual journey. First meeting is from 2 to 3:30 Oct. 11 in Pleasanton. Call Mari at 202-1752 for details.

MOMS GROUP OF CCOP Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOMS) fall workshop at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 8. This workshop meets for six weeks on Thursday evenings. All denominations are welcome. This is a chance for mothers to meet together and support each other. Workbook is \$20. Call 577-5067 or visit www.catholicsofpleasanton.org.

TRI-VALLEY UNITY CHURCH Licensed Unity Teacher Bob Hardy will speak on the topic of "Life of Zeal" at 10 a.m. Oct. 4 at Tri-Valley Unity Church, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. All are welcome. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Volunteering

PROJECT READ - LITERACY TUTOR TRAINING Pleasanton Public Library Literacy Tutor Training is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 3 at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Share the gift of reading and writing and improving English speaking skills. No teaching experience needed, just an interest in helping another adult. Call 931-3411.

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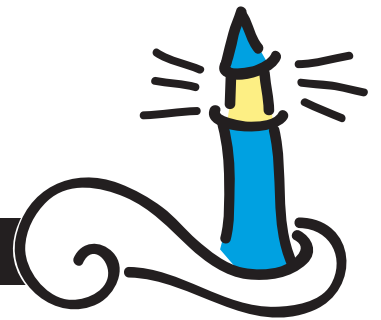
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PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Playful Pierre

When I opened his kennel door to take his picture Pierre nearly stood on his head to get my attention. I said, "Pierre, sit still." Pierre rubbed his face on my camera lens. I said, "Pierre, sit still and show the people your beautiful black and white tuxedo coloring." Pierre has four white paws, a white bib and a white belly. Pierre rubbed against my hand and tried to play with me. I said, "Pierre, I know you are a friendly cat but I need a nice photo of you so people will see how beautiful you are." Pierre finally sat down and agreed to have his picture taken. Visit Pierre (pet # 88762) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

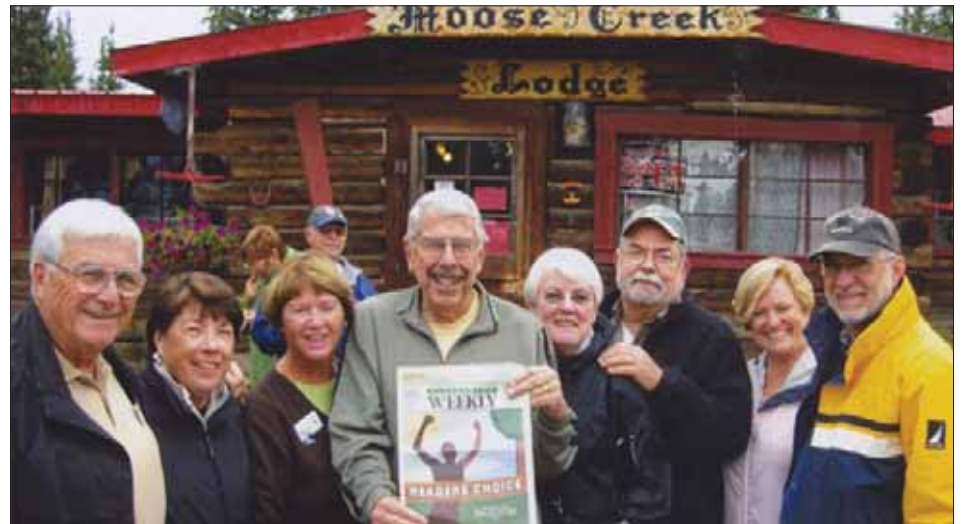
TAKE US ALONG



Dedicated reading Ed and Shirley Martin and Floyd and Jeanette Bueno enjoy some hometown news while on vacation in Skagway, Alaska.



Five times the fun Andrew, Brett, Noel, Anne and Corey Messenger managed to get some reading done in the Pleasanton Weekly while they were in picturesque Banderos Bay in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico. And, it looks like they couldn't decide on just one issue to bring on vacation, so they brought five!



Weekly? Don't leave home without it Friends and past Pleasanton residents joined Dick and Denise Parr for a tour of Alaska and the Yukon Territory. Here is the group with the Weekly in front of the Moose Creek Lodge (population 6), 100 miles south of Dawson City. L-R: Bob and Janet Besse, Alamo; The Parrs; Al and Sue Gonsalves, Minnesota and Bruce and Barbara Watson, Indiana.



Mike Gibney poses with the Weekly after riding his bicycle a whopping 4,000 miles to Acadia National Park in Maine. We bow down to you, sir.



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.



BUSC U13 go undefeated in Harvest Classic

The BUSC U13 Div III Select team went undefeated in last weekend's Pleasanton Fall Harvest Classic tournament. Overall, the BUSC boys played four very aggressive and strategic matches out shooting their opponents with 76 shots on goal to only 17 against the entire tournament. Goals were scored by Pierre Marie (4), Ryan Vicencio (3), Mason Picone and Dylan Tuell (two each), and Lucas Warzyniak, Matt Teng, Brian Kinnee, Roberto Beard and Thomas Rozas (1 each). Assists were provided by Mason Picone (4), Matt Teng and Lucas Warzyniak (2 each), and Brian Kinnee, Reed Marques, Thomas

Rozas and Roberto Beard (1 each). Also a key performance to the scoring success was Joshua Cole with a relentless attack on the opponent's defenders. The defensive coverage was outstanding as well, limiting opponents to only two goals for the tournament. The defensive stars were Chris Klahr, Matt Teng, Chris Goldhawk, Andrew Griehshammer and Sammy Hanson. Keeper duties were shared by Sammy Hanson (3 matches) and Andrew Griehshammer (consolation match) who registered a total of 12 saves and were key factors in limited all opponents to only two goals for the tournament.



Rage U9 White-hot in weekend

The Rage U9 D1 White were as hot as the weather this past weekend as they played spectacular team soccer in route to four straight wins at the Castro Valley Footie Fest. Outscoring opponents 18-4 and never allowing more than one goal in any game, U9 Rage White improved to 8-4 on the season and have won seven straight. Back Row: Assistant Coach Steve Moura, Head Coach Jen Mello; Middle Row: Molly Griston, Isabella Clark, Emily Tincher, Mary Tincher, Zoe Moura, Devyn Baldus; First Row: Allison Jenzon, Makena Densmore, Kira Broacha, Quinn Lombardi, Kiera Hegarty and Allison Hunter.



ELENA LABELLA

Medal of honor

The Rage U12 Premier team pose with their third place medals from the Dublin Premier Fall Classic, played last weekend. Front row: Carley Robertson, Sophie Santos; Second row: Hannah McGillivray, Brooke Villanueva, Katlyn Franciskovich, Hailey Mann and Eilis Hegarty; Third row: Julianna Leedeman, Sophia Brown, Sami LaBella, Kayla Bowers and Jasmine Des-souky; Fourth row: Coach Trisha Gonzales, Julia Densmore, Christy Jensen, Makena Elias and Malissa Shadle.

SPORTS DIGEST

Rage U10 Grey go 2-1-1 in Footie Fest

The Pleasanton Rage U10 Grey went 2-1-1 in the Castro Valley Footie Fest last weekend. On day one, the Rage fell behind 2-0 early but turned it around with three unanswered goals to beat an undefeated team from West Marin. Jasmine Yaeger, Katie Judson and Erin Shaefer sparked the offense, with Judson scoring to tie the game and Yaeger hitting the net twice with a nice assist by Grace Vardell. The defense stepped up, led by Lauren Casby, Taryn Baldus and Kiley Pohlmann. Lily Kreiger and Nadine Cobb moved the ball well through the midfield, putting West Marin back on their heels for most of the second half. In game two, the Rage passed and moved the ball well against Mill Valley, opening up a lead early on another goal by Yaeger, this time off a corner kick assist by Alex Cravens.

On day two, the Rage played Castro Valley to a 1-1 draw; when Katie Judson outran the defense and goalie on a through ball assist by Kiley Pohlmann. In game two, the Rage fell behind early against a quick Livermore team, with Yaeger scoring the only Rage goal. Sophie Tuell and Alex Cravens kept each game close from goal, making several saves and delivering long punts downfield to open up the field for the offense.

Broncos get second shutout

The PJFL Broncos were as hot as the weather Saturday when they faced the Raiders, shutting them out 14-0 — their second consecutive shutout of the season.

The Broncos defense shut down

the Raiders' first possession with the first big tackle of the game by Frankie Banks and Alex Omo at the line, and Jake Massie came up with a big fourth down sack. The offense took charge immediately with QB Ronnie Jones' handoff to Napoleon Kaufman for a 50-yard TD, followed by Cory Barrios who ran it in for the extra point. Blocks by Alex Narvani, Ashwin Anand, Colby Gilbert, Craig Gin and Jordan Reed aided in the scoring runs. The defense held the Raiders as time ran out on the quarter with tackles by Alex Lazzereschi, Sam Tarasow, Deangelo Ty and Barrios.

The second quarter opened with a bang with Brian Bergman's 51-yard TD pass reception, followed by Cameron Beck's pass reception in the end zone for the extra point for a 14-0 score. The defense took over at their 42, but not for long when Ryan Jenkins-Wilburn intercepted the Raiders' first pass play. The offense moved the ball steadily down the field with runs by Barrios and Kaufman and pass reception by Bergman, all of which earned two first downs. The defense finished out the half keeping the Raiders' yardage in check. A team tackle by Nick Massie and Jenkins-Wilburn stopped a first down conversion, Banks, Omo, and Barrios held the offense to the line, Luke Spiller sacked for a loss, and Alex Creapeau, Andrew Lambert and Omo broke up a pass as time ran out on the first half.

BUSC U16 Select win consolation game

In a stunning finish to a miraculous day, the BUSC U16 Select rode a five-goal first half barrage to win the consolation game of the BUSC Fall Harvest Classic last weekend.

The Select were on in game one against the SASC Stallions. Jared Shofi drove the right sideline, evaded his mark, and sent a negative ball to Hunter Meurrens in the 19th minute.

Lurking around the 18 as he usually does, Meurrens buried it for a 1-0 lead. The final would be 2-0.

Game two was a heavyweight bout in the extreme triple digit heat of the afternoon against the Elk Grove Heat. Joe Lee, Randy Copeman, Tyler Mende, and Frank Morley were all-league in shutting down an attack that had netted 11 goals in their first game. The Heat caught the Select short in the back and knocked three passes that resulted in an open player at the top of the box for a goal late in the game. The Select battled but came up short 1-0.

Needing some help to advance, the Select got their miracle. The Heat lost to the Stallions, opening the door for the Select, and they barged through it, defeating the Newark Rebels 3-1. Select moved on to the consolation game versus the Eureka Attack, coming out with a fury, and struck quickly in the third minute. Brandon Cohen's corner kick went to Lorentz, who lead Nino for a great set-up and finish for the 1-0 lead. The team took a 3-0 lead in the 18th minute, finishing the opponents off for a 5-0 win.

Jackrabbits rebound, ending in tie

The Rage Jackrabbits U10 Division 3 came back in the final minute to end the match against the Junglecats Saturday in a 2-2 draw. Lauren Milligan scored both goals. The team displayed a team effort in spite of the 100-degree heat. The girls pressured the ball all over the field and had 10 shots on goal. Their persistence paid off as they scored the equalizer with one minute to play. Top Offensive Player: Lauren Milligan. leading scorer Wynne Velzy was a constant threat up top. Emma Goldner and Terra McHone led the attack at mid-field. Top Defensive Players: Miara Pipe and Holly D'Amico. ■



Rachel Knowles runs through the finish line to garner first in the open water swim in the 13 & under category.

Seahawk wins Tiburon swim

Rachel Knowles competed with 400 polar bear types (8 to 75 years old) in the 10th annual Tiburon Mile in San Francisco Bay Sept. 13, finishing first in the open water swim in the 13 & under category.

Decked out in a thin swim suit, goggles and double swim caps anchored with duct tape, the 12-year-old who swims for the Pleasanton Seahawks swam against the chilly 50-something

degree current from Angel Island to Tiburon Harbor. In preparation for the race, Knowles has competed in multiple open water swims. She said that when the swimmers left the bay, they were hosed off and the cold water felt "like a hot shower."

"The best part of the experience was finishing and running on the red carpet at the finish line," she added.



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Crunch cuts number of foreign buyers of U.S. properties

Interest up in California due to more affordable homes

By JEB BING

Interest in U.S. real estate by international buyers declined due to the worldwide recession and severe credit crunch, according to the 2009 National Association of Realtors "Profile of International Home Buying Activity."

The share of real estate clientele who are foreign buyers is smaller than in previous years but, among those purchasing, nearly half paid all cash, bypassing the mortgage process. The survey showed that 23 percent of Realtors who responded at least one international client in the 12-month period between the end of May 2008 and the end of May 2009, down from 26 percent in the 2008 study.

During this period an estimated 154,000 homes were sold to foreign nationals, which is down from approximately 170,000 international transactions during the previous 12 months.

The median price for a home paid by foreign buyers for the year ending in May 2009 was \$247,100, higher than the overall national price of \$198,100 in 2008. A significant number, 45.8 percent of foreign buyers, paid cash for their property, in part because obtaining a mortgage was more difficult than in prior years. The total dollar volume was \$38.7 billion.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said recent improvements in the credit market will help reverse the slide in foreign buyers.

"Stock market gains and improving bank balance sheets will permit a greater amount of lending for second home purchases," he said. "In addition, expanding foreign economies for international buyers and favorable exchange rates give them more purchasing power, particularly in a period of record high affordability conditions in the U.S."

"Property investment here generally builds wealth over the long term," Yun added. "U.S. laws do not restrict or scrutinize most property purchases by foreign nationals. There are few barriers to owning property here, unlike transactions in many other countries, although immigration laws prohibit foreign-

ers from remaining in the U.S. continuously for more than six months without a special visa."

In addition, international investors are afforded the same property rights as those enjoyed by U.S. citizens.

The top five countries of origin for foreign buyers were Canada, with 17.6 percent of buyers; the United Kingdom, 10.5 percent; Mexico, 9.8 percent; India, 8.5 percent; and China, 5.4 percent. The percentage of buyers from Canada, the U.K. and China declined from the previous study, while purchasers from Mexico and India increased.

Although most buyers were from North America, Europe and Asia, buyers from Latin America, Africa and Oceania also purchased U.S. real estate.

Foreign buyers were active in every state and the District of Columbia, with the most popular states being Florida, which accounted for 23 percent of all foreign purchases; California, 13 percent; Texas, 10.7 percent; and Arizona, 7.1 percent. These states are major gateways into the U.S. from other countries and also offer relatively mild climate.

California saw a notable rise in foreign interest as affordability conditions improved markedly in the state last year.

"Florida is the most popular state for European and Latin American buyers, while Asian buyers are drawn to California," Yun said.

The study shows 69 percent of international purchases were single-family homes, while condos accounted for 18 percent. Townhomes made up 8 percent of transactions, with commercial property at 4 percent. Nearly 46 percent of properties were in suburban areas and 25 percent in urban environments. The rest were evenly split between resorts and small towns or rural areas.

The prime purpose for purchasing a property in the U.S. is to use it for a vacation home, cited by 33.9 percent of respondents; for both investment and vacations, 23.5 percent; as a residential rental property for investment, 18.3 percent; and commercial property for investment, 3.5 percent. ■

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4 BEDROOMS		
25 Palamos Court	\$625,000	
Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	997-1585
2887 Fieldview Terrace	\$899,000	
Sun 1-4	J. Rockcliff Realtors	698-2274
1100 Canyon Green Drive	\$899,950	
Sun 2-5	J. Rockcliff Realtors	683-5165

HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during September 2009

Pleasanton

2115 Alexander Way J. & K. Higgins to K. Tayyeb for \$530,000
5730 Belleza Drive Knight Trust to B. Kamath for \$500,000
1194 Blanc Court R. & P. Frizzell to K. & M. Bravmann for \$800,000
2643 Calle Morelia Takacs Trust to V. Chandrasekaran for \$850,000
3207 Cheryl Circle C. & M. Mitchell to Y. Zhang for \$768,000
2768 Corte San Blas J. & L. Horen to J. Xing for \$685,000
2719 Curry Street C. Nielson to V. & L. Raisinghani for \$655,000
2806 Daylily Court L. Latronica to J. Liao for \$607,500
2832 El Capitan Drive Hughes Trust to A. & M. Atkinson for \$559,000
4136 Georgis Place A. & A. Williamson to G. Singh for \$481,000
2345 Greenwood Road Hatcher Trust to S. Liu for \$650,000
7424 Ironwood Court Ponderosa Homes to Y. & N. Shah for \$1,085,000
7865 Knollbrook Drive JP Morgan Chase Bank to C. Peng for \$605,000

1033 Kolln Street JP Morgan Chase Bank to S. & J. Tor for \$535,000
5980 Laurel Creek Drive A. Reyes to Ziari Trust for \$1,400,000
2940 Lethbridge Court Brazil Trust to H. Dan for \$720,000
7922 Limewood Court S. Severs to A. Heydarian for \$550,000
1016 Madsen Court Shellen Trust to R. Deshmukh for \$940,000
2628 Maria Street G. Day to L. Romm for \$605,000
536 Neal Street Belluomini Trust to R. Vandeverdonk for \$706,000
124 Rocky Creek Place Hsu Trust to A. & M. Shah for \$860,000
4701 Saginaw Circle Merrill Lynch to D. Kim for \$280,000
5600 San Juan Way M. & C. MacHi to T. Zanon for \$600,000
4481 Seminole Way C. & T. Delk to A. Cheung for \$270,000
3110 Snowdrop Circle M. Cummings to S. & S. Gundavaram for \$685,000
7455 Stonedale Drive Pajero Trust to G. Ruegsegger for \$440,000
1561 Trimmingham Drive J. & S. Davenport to K. Brown for \$535,000
3158 Zuni Way A. Taylor to O. Mahmood for \$350,000



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PLEASANTON 4246 CASTERSON CT



CUSTOM KOTTINGER RANCH Panoramic views of both Mt. Diablo and Tri-Valley area. Dramatic pillars line the formal entry to this stunning & elegant executive home. **\$1,950,000**

Karla Brown, Realtor® Lic#01349250
925.200.1909

PLEASANTON 1012 BARTLETT PLACE



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4 PM
THE GIBSON Two story 4BR/3BA optional 5th bedroom, approx. 3180 sq. ft. with 3-car garage, fireplaces in both living room & family rm sumptuous master suite with retreat. **\$1,135,000**

Pat Burns, Realtor® Lic#00396535
925.426.3833

PLEASANTON 5511 CALICO LANE



NOLAN FARMS Elegant Single Level Home with spacious 4 BD + Den, 2 1/2 BA wutg approx. 3,089 sq. ft. ib approx. 1/4 Acre, Professionally landscaped. **\$1,099,000**

George McKean, Realtor® Lic#00609308
925.426.7100

SAN RAMON 4055 MARBLEHEAD CT



STUNNING ESTATE HOME approx. 3720 sq. ft. on a private 23,421 sq. ft. lot features 4 large BR + huge bonus rm, 3 updated BA, 3 gas fireplaces & 3-car garage. **\$1,079,000**

Mike Chandler Realtor® Lic#01039712
925.426.3858

PLEASANTON 7905 SPYGLASS CT



GOLDEN EAGLE PATIO HOME Fantastic Single Level with 3 large BR/3BA, dual fireplace, extensive use of Travertine on floors & baths, oak cabinets & granite kit. counters. **\$850,000**

Pat Burns, Realtor® Lic#00396535
925.426.3833

FREMONT 2475 DYER LANE



PRIME LOT IN MEDICAL DISTRICT 3BR/1BA may be converted to commercial space or build your own small medical building. 5 minute walk to Washington Hospital or BART. **\$649,999**

Angela Ochs, Realtor® Lic#01154274
925.426.3831

CASTRO VALLEY 32075 PALOMARES RD



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

Karla Brown, Realtor® Lic#01349250
925.200.1909

PLEASANTON 3038 YUMA WAY



ONE STORY TOWNHOME Private end unit. 2BD/1BA with gorgeous kitchen, remodeled bath, inside laundry and private patio. Walk to restaurants, bike to BART. **\$339,500**

Pat Griffin, Realtor® Lic#00769083
925.426.3844

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SALES AT A GLANCE

Dublin

Total sales reported: 19
Lowest sale reported: \$181,000
Highest sale reported: \$770,000
Average sales reported: \$487,132

Livermore

Total sales reported: 31
Lowest sale reported: \$169,000
Highest sale reported: \$835,000
Average sales reported: \$407,226

Pleasanton

Total sales reported: 28
Lowest sale reported: \$270,000
Highest sale reported: \$1,400,000
Average sales reported: \$651,839

San Ramon

Total sales reported: 23
Lowest sale reported: \$125,000
Highest sale reported: \$956,000
Average sales reported: \$524,174

Source: California REsource

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JUST LISTED in beautiful **Laguna Oaks**

OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4

8286 Regency Dr., Pleasanton
 Boasts lovely backyard with sparkling pool and 4-car garage!!! Much more!!!
 Location: Westside Pleasanton Ridge!
 Features: Granite, Hardwood, 4 bedrooms, bonus rm, office, 3.5 bathrooms, a powder room, 3,886 interior sq. ft. and 20,033 sq. ft. lot.
 Offered at **\$1,450,000**
 Traveling Notary services available. Call for pricing.

Cindy Gee
 Realtor, Notary
 925.963.1984
cindy.gee@prurealty.com

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PLEASANTON - This absolutely stunning Laguna Oaks home offers: stainless built in frig., GRANITE, hardwood, maple cab. tile entry, wet bar, four bed,bonus,office, 4 CAR GARAGE, 1st floor Master suite w/ fireplace and gorgeous view of private backyard. Sparkling Pool. Much more!!
 Tennis, parks, com pool, commute!

8286 REGENCY DR \$1,450,000



DUBLIN - Beautiful views from this spacious 4 bed plus large bonus room home. Gleaming hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen with center island and breakfast nook. One bed and bath on main level. Enjoy 180 degree views of the ridge from rear deck or spa.

7688 TOPAZ CIR \$739,000



OAKDALE - Wow! This is an amazing Short Sale Opportunity. Plenty of upgrades in this model-like home! Designer paint, granite, stainless, stylish lighting fixtures, built-in entertainment center...and MUCH MORE! Relax and entertain in the backyard near the outdoor fireplace! You must see this home!

541 TRIPLE CROWN \$359,000



FREMONT - Fantastic home in Charter Square with one of the largest lots. Storybook elegant yard with custom patio / deck and lawn. The inside is open and spacious with updating throughout with granite, slate, travertine, canned lighting, wet bar and MORE! MUST SEE!

34272 GADWALL CMN \$499,900



PLEASANTON - Fabulous court location! Great views out front of Hansen Park. Updated baths, kitchen, beautiful mahogany wood floors and newer a/c. 4 bedroom set up with Master on ground floor. Rear yard with pool, fruit trees, patio and lawn. Spacious side yard with raised garden beds. Great opportunity!

2109 CORTE RICARDO \$759,000



SAN RAMON - WOW!! This short sale home is spectacular! Approx \$140k in upgrades. Amazing end unit w/ incredible panoramic views! Faces Watermill Dr with views from almost all windows! Cherry Hdwd, berber, murphy bed, gourmet kitch. Closet organizers in every bedroom closet. Done to the nines!

2396 MILLSTREAM LN \$538,888



PLEASANTON - Charming newer home in great loc. across fir park & within walking dist. of downtown! Curb appeal galore! Vaulted ceilings w/ arch. interest, hardwood floors, custom paint, downstairs office. Adorable bkyd w/ built-in BBQs,brick planter,lrg grass sideyd,extra storage. Normal sale!

4031 VINEYARD AVE \$695,900



SAN RAMON - Gorgeous home with 2 master suite set up - full master suite up and down plus two other large bedrooms. Granite kitchen, hardwood floors, soaring ceilings, private yard with no rear neighbors, remodeled baths, dual panes, loaded with upgrades.

3350 ESTERO DR \$719,500



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BRIDLE CREEK



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**

SAN LEANDRO

OPEN SUN 1-4



1307 WAYNE AVENUE, SAN LEANDRO

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

LAGUNA OAKS



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 \$1,399,000**

MISSION HILLS

SALE PENDING!



451 JUNIPERO STREET, PLEASANTON

Highly upgraded Mission Hills home with views of Pleasanton Ridge. Private Yard with in-ground pool. Large, open upgraded kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms. Approximately 1,919 square feet. Remodeled bathrooms. Formal living and dining rooms. Laminate flooring, crown molding. Newer dual pane windows. Close to Mission Hills Park, schools, shopping & Downtown! **OFFERED AT \$739,500**

CASA DE CAIAFIA



OPEN SUN 1-5

5464 BLACK AVENUE, PLEASANTON

Custom builder meets Casa de Caiafia!!! Three bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms. Remodeled kitchen with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Approximately 1,330 square feet. Upgraded bathrooms. Custom tile flooring, crown molding, upgraded baseboards. Large master with walk-in closet and balcony. Two car garage. Great location! Walk to Downtown! **OFFERED AT \$429,500**

GREY EAGLE ESTATES

SALE PENDING!



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**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



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PLEASANTON

Open SUN 1 - 4

558 SANTEL COURT
GORGEOUS SINGLE STORY \$1,640,000
4 BR 2 BA office + bonus rm, upgrded kit/opens to family room, pl/spa in backyard, court loc, hrdwd flrs 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON

Open SUN 1 - 5

753 SYCAMORE ROAD
AN ARTFUL DESIGN \$890,000
2 BR 2 BA Worthy of your taste! Irresistible 2BR/2BA stucco single-level. Handy workshop. 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON

Open SUN 1 - 4

2303 FAIRFIELD CT
PRISTINE PLEASANTON \$650,000
3 BR 2 BA kit w/granite cntrs, Wilsonart flrs, dual pane wndws, new crpt thru out, living w/brick frplc 925.847.2200



SAN RAMON

Open FRI/SAT/SUN 11 - 5

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

ANTIOCH

4620 FIELDCREST WAY
GENEROUS FLOORPLAN \$218,000
5 BR 3 BA Here is space galore. Smart 5BR/3BA stucco Contempo. Family room. A beautiful buy! 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

11501 SOLEADO CT
WESTSIDE LOCATION BEAUTY \$735,000
4 BR 2.5 BA + huge loft, many upgrades, updated kitchen & parklike large backyard 925.847.2200

5953 HILLBROOK PL
GREAT HOME! \$460,000
3 BR 3.5 BA apx. 1700 sf, 5 yrs old, granite counters, move-in ready. For info, www.RomarProperties.net. 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

1289 ACCRA COURT
AWESOME SINGLE LEVEL \$519,000
3 BR 2 BA eat-in kit, lrg bdrms, covered patio, dual pane vinyl wndws, rf, heat/air cond replaced in '01 925.847.2200

1221 ECHO SUMMIT ST
A FANTASY OF FEATURES \$489,000
4 BR 2.5 BA Dreams become real with this tile-roofed 4BR/2+BA Contempo. Truly spacious. Family room. 925.847.2200

980 CROMWELL STREET
BEAUTIFUL & UPDATED \$460,000
3 BR 2 BA Dual pane windows, cherry wd kitchen cabs, granite counters/island, remodeled guest bath 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

Open SUN 1 - 4 **2924 AMOROSO COURT**
HANDSOME & CONTEMPORARY \$1,100,000
4 BR 2.5 BA 1 stry on cul-de-sac w/views, hrdwd flrs, priv yrd w/pl, patio overhang/new rf Sept 2009 925.847.2200

446 SYCAMORE ROAD
FABULOUS HOME! \$985,000
7 BR 4 BA multi-unit, fabulous property for income rental or family living on approx 1/2 acre 925.847.2200

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

6928 CORTE MONTEREY
GREAT HOME! \$739,000
4 BR 3 BA + bonus, 2422 SF, gorgeous remodeled

Pondorosa home in cul-de-sac, granite cntnrs/ hrdwd flrs 925.847.2200

5121 BIANCO COURT
NICE HOME \$725,000
3 BR 2.5 BA in desirable Avila! Court location, eat-in-kitchen, large living/family rm w/frplc/built-ins 925.847.2200

2930 LIBERTY
REMEDELED HOME! \$509,000
2 BR 2 BA tile flrs/cntrs in kit w/cozy eat-in area, master w/walk-in closet, liv rm w/brick fire-place 925.847.2200

"If you are a licensed realtor interested in joining our real estate office please contact Will Butler, Manager at 925.847.2257. We look forward to welcoming you to Coldwell Banker!"



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ANNI HAGFELDT BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,704,999
5bd/4.5ba beautiful custom home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. Panoramic views, large backyard, pool, and more. A must see.

STASIA POIESZ BY APPOINTMENT



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

DOUG BUENZ BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,469,000
5BD + Office, 5.5 ba, gourmet kitchen with granite counters, cherry cabinets. Luxurious master suite situated on .47+/- acre lot, too much to list!

DOUG BUENZ OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$1,459,000
THIS IS IT! Rarely available luxury single story, .32+/-acre lot, 5bd/4ba, granite/cherry/stainless kitchen w/island, designer carpeting. 1075 Shadow Hills Court

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$1,359,000
Absolutley Charming in Castlewood! Completely Rebuilt from Floor to Ceiling, this 1 story 4bd. Plus Office on a 1/2 Acre is a dream come true!

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 baths new furnace /AC Sparkling pool

SUE MCKINLEY BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$990,000
2 Master Br on Main Floor! Custom Home; Court location w/open country views. Gourmet Kitchen, coffered ceiling, crown molding, hardwood floors ADA Compliant (American Disability).

SUSIE STEELE BY APPOINTMENT



LIVERMORE \$859,000
Just Listed in one of South Livermore's most desired neighborhoods- Prima! Absolutley a Charmer, extremely upgraded and well priced! Don't miss this fantastic opportunity.

STEVE ELDRIDGE BY APPOINTMENT



ALAMEDA \$739,900
Fantastic 4bd/3ba corner lot home. 2805+/-sf, SS built-ins, formal LR&DR, attached garage. Must See! Too much to list.

DAN GAMACHE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$649,995
Excellent location for this 4 bedroom Country model in Pleasanton Valley. Walk to schools, parks, & shopping. Home upgrades; kitchen, bathrooms, pool. Don't miss this opportunity!

DOUG BUENZ BY APPOINTMENT



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

GINA HUGGINS BY APPOINTMENT



LIVERMORE \$549,000
Large addition with tons of extra living space. 4bd/2ba, plus den. Sparkling pool. 141 Cameo Drive

TIFFANY ROSE BY APPOINTMENT



PLEASANTON \$525,000
Rare chance to build dream home in majestic Pleasanton setting. Sweeping views of Pleasanton Ridge. 16,000 +/-sf lot on private lane ready to build a 4007+/-sf single story dream home!

KEVIN COLLINS BY APPOINTMENT



LIVERMORE \$499,900
Mostly original, hardwood floors, 2003+/-sf, large corner lot, two fireplaces, currently 4 bd/2.5 ba easily converted back to 5 bd.

GINA HUGGINS BY APPOINTMENT



LIVERMORE \$365,000
Great South Livermore location, close to everything. 4bdr/2bath, large kitchen. Central A/C and side yard access

LINDA TRAURIC BY APPOINTMENT



CASTRO VALLEY \$300,000
2bd/1ba, Great starter home with large backyard. Close to shopping, BART, easy freeway access.



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