

Pleasanton Weekly

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Wild animals on stage: Amador Theater to host ballet rendition of 'Jungle Book' **PAGE 15**

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BART to Livermore?



At first ignored, agency now seeks Pleasanton's input on routing plans **PAGE 12**



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Pleasanton Marine helps those who lost loved ones in war

Given the growing hassle over flying commercial, we might all want to sign up with Col. Chris Buescher on his next all-volunteer "Snowball Express." Buescher, an American Airlines pilot who with his wife Tracey is active in the Pleasanton Military Families organization, recently flew an American Boeing 757 from Dallas to Sacramento, to Los Angeles, to San Diego, to Phoenix and back to Dallas, picking up some 180 children between the ages of 5 and 18 who had a parent killed in action while serving in Afghanistan or Iraq. They were guests of the nonprofit Snowball Express organization set up in 2006 to honor children of those who gave their lives in the military since Sept. 11, 2001. More than 8,000 children and their surviving parents have been treated to four days at Disneyland, Universal Studios, or this year at a series of events in Dallas.

American Airlines is a major sponsor and the official airline of Snowball Express and this year provided eight commercial jet aircraft to pick up and take home again more than 1,500 children and a chaperone (usually a surviving parent) for the unforgettable holiday gathering. Like Buescher, pilots and crew members of the American Airlines planes that brought the families to Dallas from airports around the country volunteered their time, along with ground crews and airport agents. After Buescher landed his plane in Sacramento for the start of the trip, he worked with flight attendants and other volunteers to decorate the plane with streamers and banners, seat gifts and more. Then, wearing red hats and holiday-designed clothes — one pilot was dressed as Elvis, a flight attendant dressed as Elmo — they welcomed aboard the first group of families, doing the same on the next three stops as the plane filled up. As the plane left each terminal, fire crews lined the taxi way with all lights flashing and as the plane came by, water cannons sent a rainbow of water crossing over the jet.

For Buescher, it was an exhilarating way of making life a little more enjoyable for children who have lost a parent in the war. His emotions are real and personal. A Marine colonel, Buescher's reserve unit was among the first to be deployed at the start



Buescher joins the crew after decorating "Snowball Express."

of the Iraq war in March 2003. That meant leaving Tracey to care for their home and two daughters, Olivia, then 8, and Krista, then 5, while he joined Marine units moving toward Baghdad from Kuwait. He knew fellow Marines who didn't survive. On Snowball Express, he found himself thinking of those fellow soldiers as he squeezed hands and gave bear hugs to children the age that his daughters were then whose father or mother were killed in action.

Still, Buescher said he was proud to be part of the Snowball Express effort that brought smiles to these children's faces and gave them and those with them four days of back-to-back fun in Dallas. Activities included a trip to the famous Southfork Ranch where the TV series "Dallas" was produced, an inside look at the new Dallas Cowboys stadium and a private concert by actor Gary Sinise's "Lt. Dan Band." At the Dallas departure gate when the group left four days later, Santa was there with a band. Singer Lee Greenwood took the microphone and had the whole crowd singing a selection of Christmas songs. A lone trumpeter played the national anthem. Then hundreds of American Airlines employees said goodbye as the war widows and children headed back home with Snowball Express mementos in their hands.

Buescher said he hopes to be asked to serve as a volunteer pilot next December for Snowball Express V. He believes that he and others on his all-volunteer crew provided hopes and new memories to the children and their parents on board, giving them a chance to honor their fallen hero in ways other than by being sad or at a somber place, allowing them to have fun and to realize that it's OK to laugh.

For more information about the charity, sign on to www.snowballexpress.org. ■

About the Cover

BART representatives, who up to now have failed to include Pleasanton officials in plans to extend the rapid transit system to Livermore, now see they need the city's OK since all the routes under consideration would go through Pleasanton. They've called a public meeting to discuss plans at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Cover photo provided by BART.

Vol. X, Number 51

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Streetwise

ASKED AT THE HOLIDAY ICE RINK

What is your New Year's resolution and how do you intend to keep it?



Chris Sommerfield
Financial Professional

To find a job. I'll continue to be proactive, take initiative by spending one to two hours per day looking at job postings on different sites, keep in touch with my recruiters, and networking — getting my name out there. Also being patient and understanding that it isn't a great economy right now but it is getting better and having a positive attitude.

Jennifer Williams
Office Administrator

I haven't even had time to think about it yet. I guess if I had a New Year's resolution it would be to be healthier, to work out more and eat healthy. I don't know how I intend to keep it.



Christine Tanis
Day Care Provider

Spend more time with my family and not be so worried about dust bunnies. I will plan activities on weekends and not worry about how the house looks. Getting out of the house with my family — that's what I plan to do.

Christina Argo
Mom

De-clutter. We're going to learn the art of letting go and living simply — and pray that God will find someone who wants our stuff. Craigslist is our new best friend.



Alejandro Flores
Cook

The same as every year — try to be healthy and exercise. I need to try harder than last year. I'll eat better, not too much fast food. Try to avoid McDonald's and Burger King.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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

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DIGEST

LPC expands veterans program

Readjustment counseling is now offered for veterans at Las Positas College in Livermore, as a part of the expanded veterans program. With the counseling services provided by the Concord Vet Center, the program will include individual and group counseling, as well as marital and family counseling, medical referrals, employment counseling, transition counseling and other support services. With the new offerings, Tri-Valley veterans and their families no longer have to drive to Concord or San Jose for similar services. The community college currently has 300 student veterans. Call 424-1571.

Opera auditions

Auditions for the Livermore Valley Opera production of "Die Fledermaus" are from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Jan. 5 at the Bothwell Performing Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. LVO seeks 24 singers with sight-reading ability and tenors and basses in particular. Prior opera chorus is not required and rehearsals begin Jan. 25. If interested, contact Pat Goard, Chorus Coordinator, at goardp@att.net.

Classic films

The classic film series continues at the Pleasanton Public Library, with the next installment featuring "The Man in the White Suit." Shown at 7 p.m. Jan. 7, Dr. Candy Klaschus, coordinator of the humanities program at Las Positas College and film historian, will be present to discuss the feature. The series continues on the first Thursday of the month through June.

Fire burners recorded

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District recorded 47 potential violations of the regional no-burn restriction set for Christmas Day. Dec. 25 was forecast to have an unhealthy amount of particulate matter in the region, meaning residents were not allowed to burn wood, manufactured fire logs or any other solid fuel. The air district received 216 calls that day ranging from complaints to compliments, they said, and 12 inspectors patrolled the region and watched for smoke.

A violation does not automatically equal a citation, but the violators are entered into a database and a citation with a \$400 fine will go to repeat offenders. The district reported the air quality to be within standard.

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

Dons to host 'Kick for the Cure' honoring beloved boy's soccer volunteer

Susan Dawson, who dedicated her time on both club and high school level, died of breast cancer Oct. 3

By DENNIS MILLER

Susan Dawson was always someone who put a lot of time and effort in the Amador Valley High School boy's soccer program.

When Dawson died Oct. 3 from breast cancer, it left a huge void in the entire Pleasanton soccer community. Fueled by a desire to honor the legacy of Dawson, a parent who volunteered her time on the club and high school level, the people involved with Amador soccer felt there was only one way to pay respect to both Dawson and

her family — have a soccer game in her honor.

On Saturday, the Dons will play host to Richmond in the "Kick for the Cure," game, a 1 p.m. contest at Amador Valley High School.

The proceeds for the game will go to the Ryan Comer Cancer Research Library at ValleyCare Medical Center. Comer was a former youth soccer player in Pleasanton, who also died of cancer.

There will be no cost for admission to the game, but donations will be welcomed. In addition,

Amador will be selling pink hooded sweatshirts at the game, which were donated by Adidas, as well as book angels, which can be dedicated to the memory of someone who was lost to cancer. There will also be pink wristbands for sale, which will have "Kick for the Cure," imprinted on them.

The Amador Leadership program will be selling baked goods and the snack bar will be open as well, with all money collected going to ValleyCare and the Ryan Comer Library.

Representatives from ValleyCare

will also be on hand to pass out literature in both English and Spanish regarding breast cancer, and will be available to answer questions. There will also be students from Amador's AP Spanish classes on hand to act as interpreters if necessary.

Finally, the Amador boy's team will be wearing pink jersey tops in honor of the day and Adidas has supplied enough wristbands for the players on both teams, as well as the referees to wear the day of the game. ■



DINO VOURNAS

Census lends a hand

Volunteers loaded up holiday food bags last month to distribute to patrons of the Open Heart Kitchen at the Vineyard Christian Church in Livermore. More than 9,000 reusable bags were donated by the U.S. Census program through the Tri-Valley Complete Count Committee and Alameda County and distributed to nonprofit agencies serving the populations of Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton, according to Pleasanton city spokeswoman Joanne Hall. Pictured (L-R): volunteer Michelle McDonald, Open Heart Kitchen Executive Director Linda McKeever and volunteer Annie McDonald with Girl Scout Troop 32869.

School district seeks new revenue sources

Special meeting to be held Jan. 5 in Amador's library

By EMILY WEST

The Pleasanton Unified School District is hoping to start the year with out-of-the-box thinking as they solicit ideas from the community at a special board meeting Tuesday at the Amador Valley High School's library.

Around 7 p.m., staff will provide an update to the state budget, which would give a clearer picture of the 2009-10 budget and beyond. Past reports have estimated a state deficit of \$20 billion, which would likely mean more cuts for Pleasanton schools in the current and upcoming year.

Board and community members alike have suggested that creative ideas for finding alternative revenue sources would take away the dependence on state funding as well as maintain services for quality education. Last school year, the community identified class-size reduction (in grades K-3 and ninth grade math and English), counsel-

ors, reading specialists and music programs.

Last year, the board cut nearly \$17 million to maintain a balanced budget. Possible program-saving solutions included a \$233-per parcel tax, which voters didn't approve by the necessary two-thirds majority in June. A follow-up summer fundraising effort garnered around \$460,000 and saved some of the prioritized programs for the current school year only.

Depending on the success of Tuesday's meeting, the board had said they would consider making these town hall forums a regular monthly or even bi-monthly feature.

Also on Tuesday's agenda, following the start of the board meeting at 6:30 p.m., is the action to possibly approve California's Race to the Top participating local educational agency memorandum of understanding. The school is located at 1155 Santa Rita Road. ■

Drinking water may be cloudy for Castlewood, other customers of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir

Bubbles, cloudiness 'no cause for concern,' SF Public Utility says

By JEB BING

Water customers in Pleasanton's unincorporated Castlewood community and other parts of the East Bay, South Bay, the Peninsula and in San Francisco may see some temporary cloudiness in their drinking water for the next couple months, a San Francisco Public Utilities Commission spokeswoman said.

Starting this week, some SFPUC

customers, who include Castlewood users, may see tap water that appears cloudy or milky-white in color but is nevertheless perfectly safe to drink, spokeswoman Maureen Barry said.

Customers in the city of Pleasanton, which has its own water department and service, and those in Happy Valley who access their water supplier from individual wells, are not affected by the SFPUC advisory.

The change in the water is due to tiny air bubbles caused when an increased rate of flow from the agency's Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant allows air to be mixed into the water.

If the water is allowed to stand for a few minutes, the cloudiness will dissipate as the air bubbles rise to the surface and break apart.

Due to maintenance on the re-

gional water system, SFPUC customers are not receiving water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada, but rather local reservoirs in the East Bay and Peninsula.

The cloudiness is expected to dissipate when Hetch Hetchy supplies reach the Bay Area again after the completion of the work, which is scheduled to finish late

See **WATER** on Page 8

New laws from Bay Area state senators set to take effect Jan. 1

By JEB BING

Californians will ring in both a new year and an assortment of new laws on Jan. 1, including several authored by Bay Area lawmakers.

Beginning in 2010, drivers must be extra-vigilant when approaching emergency vehicles, tow trucks or other service vehicles with flashing lights, as several new laws expand the state's existing "slow down and move over" laws.

Senate Bill 159, authored by Palo Alto Democrat Joe Simitian, makes permanent the law requiring freeway motorists to slow down when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle or tow truck that is flashing its emergency lights. If a driver is in the lane adjacent to the service vehicle, they must move to another lane if it's safe to do so.

Another senate bill from Inglewood Democrat Rod Wright expands these "slow down and

move over" guidelines to include Caltrans vehicles that are flashing their amber lights.

Democratic Sen. Leland Yee of San Francisco authored several bills that take effect Jan. 1, including Senate Bill 340. This bill attempts to reign in the business sneaky practice of selling customers a product or service, or giving something away for free, then automatically renewing their purchase or sending them additional shipments later, along with a bill.

Yee spokesman Adam Keigwin said the senator had received complaints from constituents, and many office staff members reported similar experiences with deceptive renewals.

Customers provide their personal information, he said, and "lo and behold you get a subscription to this magazine."

The law requires businesses to

clearly explain all automatic renewal terms and obtain the customer's consent.

"It can't just be in the fine print," he said.

Another Yee-authored bill becoming law in January, Senate Bill 786, protects the rights of citizens who sue to enforce open government laws. The law protects public entities from recovering legal fees from individuals who sue in these cases, unless the lawsuit is deemed frivolous.

People who challenged cities or counties on open government laws were getting stuck with municipalities' attorney fees when they lost, Keigwin said. "Folks would say, 'let's not try to enforce these laws in case we lose,'" he said. "We hope our open government laws will be enforced better."

—Bay City News contributed to this report

State water pipeline breaks, floods part of Wente vineyard

Crews from the state Department of Water Resources are investigating a break or leak in a state water pipeline near Livermore that flooded a parking lot and vineyard at a local winery.

A portion of the 5-foot-diameter pipeline broke into three sections, according to DWR spokesman Eric Alvarez. The situation was discovered Dec. 22.

The spur line transports water from Lake Del Valle to communities in Alameda and Santa Clara counties. It was being pressed into extra service during the state's ongoing project to enlarge and improve the South Bay Aqueduct, the main means of water delivery in the region.

DWR engineers believe the breakage is the result of water, either from recent rainstorms or from a small leak in the pipeline, saturating the earth beneath the pipe that supports its weight.

Residents should not see any effect in their water supply, according to Alvarez, and DWR engineers are putting alternative water sources in place.

"The immediate supply they are already rectifying from the San Luis Reservoir," he said.

Repair of the spur is expected to take at least two months, but the aqueduct enlargement project is scheduled to be completed Jan. 11, restoring the region's main water delivery source.

Crews are still assessing the total damage and planning the specifics of the repairs, according to the DWR.

The break occurred in a portion of the water line on a hillside just above the Wente Vineyards. Water flooded a vineyard and parking lot at the facility, according to the DWR.

—Bay City News contributed to this report

CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION

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Presented by: Bhavna Malik, MD, Internist and Anamika Sharma, MD, Pediatrician

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Army captain returns home from Afghanistan

Capt. Jared Miller flew Chinook helicopters during one-year mission in war-torn country

Several hundred well-wishers from around Pleasanton joined in a rally to welcome home Army Capt. Jared Miller, 25, from a year's service in Afghanistan last week in front of his parents' home on Paseo Santa Cruz.

Despite brisk temperatures dropping into the 40s, the crowd waved banners and flags as Miller arrived in the neighborhood, led by the Warriors' Watch Riders motorcycle escort group that met him at San Francisco International Airport.

His parents Jan and Doug Miller, his older sister Ashley and his twin sister Reagan and her fiance Simon Maher joined in the tribute, led by Chris Miller and other members of the Pleasanton Military Families Support Group.

Also joining in the welcome home celebration were the Pleasanton and Livermore posts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America,

the Lafayette Flag Brigade, Operation S.A.M. from Livermore, the Pleasanton Police Department represented by Capt. Eric Finn, Blue Star Moms of Danville and the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department.

Pleasanton Vice Mayor Jerry Thorne also participated in the ceremonies, saying: "The men and women who wear the uniform of this country are among our most valued citizens and we are very, very proud of you. So on behalf of the City Council and a grateful community, welcome home."

During his year in Afghanistan, Capt. Miller flew Chinook helicopters. He said that as dangerous as his missions were, it is the military on the ground that's most at risk around the clock, getting shot at every day and with no safe haven to fly back to as helicopter pilots are able to do after their missions.

—Jeb Bing

Police detective, dispatcher receive top year-end recognitions

Eric Fredgren, Betsy Jones honored for extra efforts to keep city safe

By JANET PELLETIER

Detective Eric Fredgren's tireless work to clear criminal cases and dispatcher Betsy Jones' penchant for a strong work ethic have earned them top honors from the Pleasanton Police Department.

Fredgren, who joined the department in 1997 after being an officer in Redwood City, has been named Officer of the Year. He is credited with clearing a large amount of criminal cases, including 27 vandalism cases in the early part of the year. His work helped the department achieve a high Part 1 crime clearance rate (Part 1 crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson.)

Fredgren has been assigned as the department's

Crimes Against Persons detective for 2010 and will serve as a primary liaison with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. A three-year member of the department's Criminal Investigations Unit, Fredgren has also held positions such as a patrol officer, motorcycle traffic officer and field training officer.

Professional Employee of the Year was awarded to dispatcher Betsy Jones. Jones joined the department in 1990 and has been trained as a tactical dispatcher to provide assistance during SWAT call outs.

Jones is credited with having a strong work ethic, loyalty and a willingness to help wherever it is needed, even if it means starting a shift in the middle of the night. Jones often volunteers in department and Pleasanton Police Officers Association events. ■

Detective Eric Fredgren and dispatcher Betsy Jones were named Officer of the Year and Professional Employee of the Year by the Pleasanton Police Department. PLEASANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Hacienda Helping Hands awards grants

22 area nonprofits receive more than \$52,000 for projects

Hacienda Helping Hands distributed more than \$52,000 in grants to 22 local nonprofit organization during an awards banquet Dec. 9.

Hacienda Helping Hands is a charitable campaign supported by contributions from Hacienda companies and affiliates conducted in partnership with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation.

The organization, project the funds are earmarked for, and the amount of the grant are as follows:

- Abode Services: "Families Have Fun Together," which provides weekly enrichment activities to low-income families who are facing adverse circumstances, \$1,000
- Axis Community Health: Direct medical services for 32 uninsured, low-income Tri-Valley residents, \$5,000
- Buenas Vidas Youth Ranch: to support a kitchen upgrade and repairs for group foster home, \$1,000
- East Bay Innovations: to support the Connect University Project, which will provide mental health counseling and education to individuals and small groups of adults with developmental disabilities, \$1,000
- Easter Seals Bay Area: to support the Kaleidoscope After School Program, providing children with autism and similar developmental disabilities a comprehensive and creative approach to recreation, education and socialization services, \$1,000
- Grid Alternatives: support of the Solar Affordable Housing Program in Pleasanton, \$2,500
- Hope Hospice: in support of grief support counseling and center, \$1,000
- Horizons Family Counseling: to support parents who enroll in the Parent Project and the concurrent program called "Keepin' It Real," \$5,000
- Open Heart Kitchen: to support the Hot Meal Program and Box Lunch Program, which provide meals for low-income children and families within the Tri-Valley, \$2,000
- Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council: to support the 2010 Pleasanton Poetry, Prose, and Arts Festival, \$3,000
- Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation: in support of the challenge campaign for the Firehouse Arts Center, \$5,000
- Pleasanton Partnership In Education: Supports the PPIE grant program which offers funding for enrichment and support programs for students and teachers of Pleasanton Unified School District, \$2,000
- San Francisco Shakespeare Festival: Support of performing arts productions and arts education activities in Pleasanton, \$1,000
- Shakespeare's Associates: Help fund union actors to strengthen the quality of 2010 Livermore Shakespeare Festival, \$1,000
- Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley: To support a peer counseling program for seniors in the Tri-Valley, \$5,000
- Sentinels of Freedom: To support the Pleasanton



DAVID RICE

Elaine Taylor of the Taylor Family Foundation thanks the Helping Hands organization for its contribution of \$2,000 to support the nonprofit's Camp Arroyo, which serves children with conditions such as autism, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, heart disease and celiac disease.

Sentinels of Freedom Mentor Project which supplies one veteran (with a traumatic brain injury) employment, education, housing and transportation, \$2,500

- Stand Against Domestic Violence: To support the Crisis Line Services offering women immediate crisis counseling, linkages to STAND's services, and referrals to other agencies and services as needed, \$1,000
- Taylor Family Foundation: to support the Taylor Family Foundation's Camp Arroyo serving children with conditions such as autism, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, heart disease and celiac disease, \$2,000
- The Arc of Alameda County: to support a new initiative to 32 clients at a Livermore facility to participate in integrated community-based experiences, \$1,000
- TransForm: for the support of a project to engage Tri-Valley Communities in healthy transportation and giving access to low-income families and seniors through public transportation, \$2,500
- Tri-Valley YMCA: to support a mentoring program for at-risk middle school students. The program pairs at-risk students with caring, responsible adults who will provide academic and social support and positive life coaching, \$2,000
- Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center: to fund the Family Stability Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program, \$5,000

—Gina Channell-Allen

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Boy Scouts prepare for Christmas tree pickups

Annual tradition is a big fundraiser for troops

Local scouts will set out across Pleasanton to pick up Christmas trees from driveways and curbs.

Boy Scout Troop 941 and Venture Crew 940 conduct the annual pickup as a fundraiser for troop activities. Funds raised are used to pay for camping equipment and scouting activities such as summer camp and weekend outings.

The big day will be Jan. 9 and residents can register ahead of time in the following ways: filling out an electronic form, printing out a registration form and mailing it in, or calling 399-1377.

Trees must be in the driveway

or at the curb by 8 a.m. At that time, scouts will start picking up trees, but it's a day-long process to finish the job. Tree stands should be removed. Payment should not be attached to the tree.

Donations are not required, but donations are recommended to help the boys out for their hard work — \$5 for trees 8' and under, \$10 for bigger trees and an additional \$5 for flocked trees. Donations can be made either by credit card using PayPal or by enclosing a check with the registration form. For information, visit <http://tree-pickup.troop941.org>.

—Janet Pelletier

WATER

Continued from Page 5

next month.

Customers in Alameda and Santa Clara counties are most likely to see the cloudiness, according to Barry. As the water works its way through the system, up the Peninsula and into San Francisco, the air bubbles will not be as apparent, she said.

The SFPUC is emphasizing that

the cloudy water is "nothing to cause concern," Barry said. The water continues to meet all state and federal regulatory requirements for water quality.

She said the same thing has happened in recent years, and although the agency did not receive many calls about the cloudy water last year, "it could happen, so we didn't want to alarm anyone if it does over the holidays." ■

LPCD reports strong toy collection drive

13,000 toys delivered to Tri-Valley families in need

As the Christmas season came to a close last week, the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department was thanking the community for its involvement in the annual Toys for Tots drive. Even with the receding economy and campaigns across the nation reported 30 percent

fewer toys, the LPCD collection surpassed the goal of bringing in 15,000 toys.

With the added resources of the Marines this year and the recycling of past support materials the campaign was able to collect more than 16,600 toys so far.

The LPCD sent about 13,000 toys to the Tri-Valley area, with an added 1,000 last-minute requests on Saturday. They also reportedly sent out 1,600 toys to San Jose, where they received 45,000 of the 90,000 they had hoped to receive.

—Emily West

OF NOTE

Project for home-bound seniors earns Wheaton Eagle Scout

Scott Lee Wheaton, a 17-year-old senior at Foothill High School, has attained the rank of Eagle Scout the highest rank in Boy Scouts of America.



Wheaton started as a Tiger Cub in Pack 948 at Valley View Elementary School, later joining Troop 943 and Troop 908. He has held leadership positions such as Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader.

To achieve Eagle Scout, Wheaton completed a community service project coordinating and implementing an e-waste collection for home-bound senior citizens in Pleasanton. The idea for the project came about a when he noticed televisions discarded into the trash dumpsters at the mobile home park where his grandparents live. He talked to several residents and learned that the seniors could not get their e-waste to the city-wide collection days for various reasons such as health issues, lack of transportation and being unable to move the heavy items they had to discard. He contacted Pleasanton Operations Department and received approval to coordinate his collection with the citywide drop off days. More than 300 items were collected.

Pleasanton woman receives American Cancer Society award

Helen Mendel, CMD, a long-time volunteer with the American Cancer Society, serving as chairman of the board of the California division in 1997-1998, president of the All Pro Promotions Company, and marketing and special events consultant to many successful Bay Area corporations and nonprofits, has been awarded the Capitol Dome Award on behalf of the American Cancer Society.



The society established the award in 1994, which is given annually to

one volunteer in each division who has on a long-term basis engaged in the American Cancer Society's legislative advocacy efforts, playing a leadership role recruiting, training, and motivating others.

Mendel, who lives in Pleasanton, has influenced legislators, and she played a leading role in safeguarding Proposition 99 tobacco tax funds, defending the Smoke-Free Workplace law, passing the Proposition 10 tobacco tax increase, recognizing supportive legislators and raising money for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society.

Pleasanton represented in Miss California top 15

Sonia Talati, Miss Pleasanton USA, recently made it to the top 15 at the Miss California USA 2010 pageant. A panel of judges selected these girls from 136 contenders based on poise, personality, confidence and character. This was the first time in years Miss California USA 2010 was televised. Talati said she was "ecstatic to represent the city where her mind grew, the community spirit ran strong, and home is forever." The 21-year-old is a communications and economics graduate from UCLA. She is currently pursuing a career in broadcast television.



The weekend was jam-packed with rehearsals, preliminary competition events and preparation for the final day. The contestants competed in three categories: swimsuit, evening gown and interview. The difference in this year's pageant was the focus on individuality. Talati said she strongly believes that "pageants are an opportunity to answer the question 'Who do you want to be?' and then strive to become that person. It takes true dedication."

Kim and Shin win competition for Young Musicians

The Livermore-Amador Symphony recently held its 37th annual Competition for Young Musicians and named Curtis Kim and Frank Shin its winners. The winners will perform as soloists with the symphony at its Feb. 13 concert.

Curtis, son of Andrew and Jenny

Kim, is a student at Foothill High School and performed the first movement of Concerto No. 1 in B minor by Dvorak.

Frank, son of Chang and Hyo Shin, is also a student at Foothill and performed the third movement of Weber's Concerto No. 2.

Lee named Math for America San Diego fellow

Eunice Lee, a 2004 graduate of Amador Valley High School, was recently selected as a 2009 Math for America San Diego Fellow, according to Barbara Edwards, executive director of Math for America San Diego. Now in its second year, MfA SD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to significantly improving mathematics education in San Diego County public secondary schools by providing significant financial support and encouragement to new exemplary mathematics teachers.

Lee graduated with a bachelor's degree in statistics and bachelor's in economics in 2008 from UC Davis.

Lee is currently pursuing her Single Subject Math teaching credential and Masters in Education at the University of California, San Diego. Upon completion, Lee will receive placement assistance from one of MfA SD's partner school districts to begin her mathematics teaching career in a local area high need high school.



8th grader nabs 1st place in piano competition

Nisha Kale, an eighth grader at Pleasanton Middle School, took first place in the California Music Teachers Association Sonata Competition held in Orinda in November. Kale played the second movement of Ravel's Sonatine, written in 1905. She competed in the preliminary round against 22 other pianists at level eight and was one of five finalists selected to perform before a panel of three judges. Last year, she had placed third at level six in the sonata competition playing Haydn. She has been playing since age 6 and also enjoys reading, writing and basketball. She also plays in the symphonic band at PMS. ■



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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Heads up! BART's draft EIR could affect all of us

We're glad to see that BART officials have recognized the importance of including Pleasanton in its discussion on which routes would be best for extending rapid transit service to Livermore. After all, BART's Pleasanton-Dublin station, which now serves as the end of the line for the Tri-Valley, is in Pleasanton. Both sides of Interstate 580 on which BART tracks run are wholly within the Pleasanton city limits all the way east to El Charro Road. Staples Ranch, where BART is proposing to run 40-foot-high elevated tracks atop multi-million-dollar developments now nearing final approval, will likely be annexed into Pleasanton within a year. Given that it will take a Pleasanton OK before a BART extension can be built, it was puzzling to find the transit agency, Livermore's Mayor Marshall Kamena and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty colluding on detailed plans to route BART tracks through Pleasanton without so much as a phone call to tell City Manager Nelson Fialho, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman or any of the other City Councilmembers what's going on. For years, BART's announced plan for extending service to Livermore was to build new tracks down the median of I-580, where trains now roll to a staging area between Hacienda Drive and Santa Rita Road. That's still the cheapest at \$3 billion or so and by BART's own studies would attract the most new riders to the system. Of course that route would not help Livermore's redevelopment plans for its downtown, nor the wish to have rapid transit service to the front doors of its proposed multi-million-dollar performing arts center.

Two weeks ago, after a blistering letter from Fialho asking them why Pleasanton was being ignored in the BART to Livermore planning process, District 4 BART Director John McPartland and BART Project Manager Malcolm Quint showed up unscheduled at a City Council meeting to sooth rough feelings and clear the air. From now on, Pleasanton officials — both elected and staff — will be at the table for all community discussions. Public meetings will be held alternately in Pleasanton and Livermore. In fact, the first will be held at 6:30 p.m. next Wednesday in the City Council Chamber on Old Bernal Avenue, a meeting well worth attending or watching on TV29 if the community television station chooses to cover it. At issue will be BART's 2,000-page "BART to Livermore Extension Draft Program Environmental Impact Review." Like most EIRs, it's filled with data, background studies, commentaries and detailed analyses of available transportation, land uses, population and housing, air quality and "geology, soils and seismicity." Just the index listing the location of figures, such as peak hour traffic volumes projected for 2035, runs three pages, followed by five index pages showing where to find tables, such as "Interaction between Build Alternatives and the Existing/Planned Multimodal Transportation Network."

We don't want to make light of this comprehensive document nor of the information it contains. It's just that no one at City Hall saw the document until early December when the CEQA-required public review period deadline was Dec. 21. That has now been extended to Jan. 21 which will terminate BART's acceptance of comments on the draft EIR.

Even though any BART extension to Livermore is probably 20 years away or longer, the draft EIR once finalized and approved would be the land use document guiding future development in both Livermore and Pleasanton where possible, future BART construction plans are concerned.

That's why it's important for everyone in Pleasanton with an interest in the city's development to carefully review the BART draft EIR and comment. A good place to start will be at Wednesday's meeting.

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GUEST OPINION

Rural lifestyle shouldn't be denied to those who enjoy it

Your editorial regarding Happy Valley has a few items that need addressing ("Happy Valley: Joining Pleasanton lot by lot," Dec. 4, page 10). The residents did not view annexation as a "missed one time opportunity," but as their choice to preserve their rural life style. The city, developers, and Happy Valley residents all agreed on golf course construction which included a bypass road. It was not an "insistence;" it was a three-way agreement. The article states taxpayers would bear the cost of the bypass road. Not so. The cost was to be borne by golf course fees, fees from the developers, and land transfer agreements. Because the city ignored the agreement, homeowners sued to enforce it. The judge agreed and ruled that the city must put in the road, but gave an out by not requiring a completion date. A

bypass road was the agreement, but as the article points out, no action in 17 years.

Regarding the cost of water and sewer hookups, the \$41,000 hookup agreement "to the lot line only" does not include removing the existing septic tank, the installation of backflow valves, valves at the stubs in the street, trenching and installation of pipes from the street to the residence, water meters and monthly city utility fees. The all-inclusive costs in 2002 would have been at least \$50,000 for most properties. The cost in 2002 was as substantial then as it is today, and many residents chose then as they do now not to participate. Since all properties are 1 acre and larger and many with large amounts of vegetation, water costs to maintain would be prohibitive, to the detriment of the Valley.

The comment that septic tanks and wells are aging, implying non-maintenance — also not correct. Residents who use such systems are very attentive with maintenance knowing no city repair service will be coming to the rescue. Longtime residents that use the septic/well systems have done so without ill effects. In

2008, Alameda County requested well water tests. There were no negative test results. Chance of ground water contamination is more of an issue from chemicals used at the golf course, and new residents using pesticides, weed sprays, commercial spray companies and animal poisons. People say they love the country and want to live here, but soon after moving in, want to change it. Those moving into a rural area should be willing to adopt that lifestyle or choose a standard neighborhood. As far as referring to estranged neighborhood relations — irrelevant; it is a rare neighborhood that does not have strained relationships.

Phyllis Couper has lived in Happy Valley for 37 years.

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

READ MORE/COMMENT

Town Square Forum

LETTERS

Transit-oriented development for BART extension?

Dear Editor,

MTC demands dense housing near new suburban rail transit stations, and calls it TOD — transit oriented development. Real TOD, however, brings scads of surface parking there instead.

A number of cars, each with at least one transit user, fit in the space occupied by one dwelling unit. Don't forget occupant and guest parking spaces. From their home, transit riders can drive much farther than they can reasonably walk, greatly extending the station's service area. At their destination, fewer people have cars to drive.

As destination uses come, it is much easier to convert surface parking to structure parking and build mid- to high-rise there than it is to tear down dense residential. Thus, TOD for new BART extensions should bring ample surface parking and dense land uses other than residential.

Robert S. Allen
(BART director from 1974-1988)

Where did Obama's hope for change go?

Dear Editor,

Barack Obama was elected president by a populace hungry for change and still believing in the possibility of government of, by, and for the people. While it is true in his campaign Obama said that he would shift emphasis from Iraq to Afghanistan in the "global war on terror," his continued focus on a military solution rather than a more humanitarian approach to the roots of terrorism promises a continuation of death, misery, and squandered resources.

Most disappointing to those hoping for change was his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech which resembled a thinking-person's version of the Bush Doctrine of preemptive war. Obama is an intelligent man — he must

get it that war to end terrorism only creates more of both. Clearly, there are other motivations for war without end.

There is an alternative to continued disappointment over the failure of our elected leaders to keep their promises. Pleasantonians 4 Peace, a group of Tri-Valley residents, holds a candlelight vigil on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in front of the Museum on Main Street in Pleasanton, where we reflect on the human and monetary costs of war, honor our veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize a more peaceful world.

In the immortal words of Pete Townsend, we have met the new boss and he's the same as the old boss. We've tried electoral democracy to end these wars. It's time to try direct democracy. We hope you will join us.

Matt Sullivan
(Pleasanton City Councilman)

Kernan not an automatic president if re-elected

Dear Editor,

Thanks for the coverage about the school board's selection of president. One point, however, that you might want to amend: you may not want to predict that Pat will automatically become president in 2011 if he is re-elected. This is because he has served as president in prior years.

Although Pat would be a good president, the clerk role is a way for newer board members to gain leadership experience before becoming president, just like Chris Grant did. (By the way, Chris was on the school board almost two years before becoming president. Valerie has served just one year.)

Our board has traditionally been good about rotating the president position to newer board members, which is why I had hoped Valerie would become clerk. But even though she didn't accept that role (and though I can't guarantee the future), I think the board will select someone who has not served as president in December 2010.

Jim Ott
(PUSD board member)

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Community Pulse

POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

More than 1,200 drivers arrested for DUI during new regional enforcement effort

More than 1,200 people have been arrested in the Bay Area for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the first 10 days of a regional anti-DUI campaign.

The Bay Area Regional Avoid campaign involves 125 law enforcement agencies around the Bay Area and, as of 6 a.m. Sunday, has netted 1,291 arrests since the

increased enforcement efforts began on Dec. 18.

There has been one death attributed to an impaired driver on Bay Area roadways during the campaign, which will continue through Jan. 3.

The Avoid program involves 21 agencies in Alameda County, 25 in Contra Costa County, six in Napa County, 10 in Solano County, 13 in Marin County, 13 in Santa Clara County, 13 in Sonoma County, 14 in San Francisco and 23 in San Mateo County.

More information on the campaign is available at www.californiaavoid.org.

—Bay City News Service

POLICE REPORT

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

Dec. 20

Theft

■ 5:25 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Drive; theft of services

■ 8:36 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

■ 9:56 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Vehicular burglary

■ 6:47 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

■ 9:57 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

■ 10:49 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Assault with a deadly weapon

■ 1:45 a.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive

Dec. 21

Theft

■ 12:04 p.m. in the 3500 block of Ballantyne Drive; identity theft

■ 2:37 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Burglary

■ 5:03 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

Vandalism

■ 8:56 a.m. in the 1400 block of Santa Rita Road

■ 9:52 a.m. in the 1400 block of Santa Rita Road

■ 11:18 a.m. in the 7500 block of Canyon Meadows Circle

■ 11:41 a.m. at the intersection of Busch Road and Valley Avenue

■ 2:06 p.m. in the 4500 block of Ross Gate Way

Drug/alcohol violations

■ 5:35 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; public drunkenness

■ 6:52 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Hopyard Road; DUI, under the influence of a controlled substance

■ 8:46 p.m. at the intersection of Main and West Neal streets; public drunkenness

Arson

■ 7:59 p.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive

Dec. 22

Theft

■ 3:08 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; stolen vehicle

■ 3:46 p.m. in the 2800 block of El Capitan Drive

■ 4:01 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vehicular burglary

■ 1:42 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

Vandalism

■ 10:41 a.m. in the 5000 block of Owens Drive

■ 1:00 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

■ 3:01 p.m. in the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

■ 4:14 p.m. in the 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol violations

■ 10:25 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive; DUI

■ 11:41 p.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and West Las Positas Boulevard

Dec. 23

Theft

■ 8:03 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vine Street; stolen vehicle

■ 11:01 a.m. in the 3100 block of East Ruby Hill Drive; petty theft

■ 1:02 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

■ 5:57 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; forgery

■ 8:38 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vehicular burglary

■ 8:34 a.m. in the 3300 block of Prairie Drive

DUI

■ 2:02 a.m. at the intersection of East Angela and First streets

■ 11:03 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Koll Center Parkway

Dec. 24

Theft

■ 9:52 a.m. in the 3400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

■ 12:39 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft

DUI

■ 12:13 a.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue

Dec. 25

Grand theft

■ 8:27 a.m. in the 5700 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Vehicular burglary

■ 8:27 a.m. in the 5700 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Drug/alcohol violations

■ 12:00 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Puerto Vallarta; DUI

■ 12:43 a.m. in the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive; public drunkenness

Dec. 26

Theft

■ 3:36 p.m. in the 1200 block of Harvest Road; grand theft

■ 7:26 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft

■ 8:51 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft Vandalism

■ 10:45 a.m. in the 4200 block of First Street

Drug/alcohol violations

■ 12:15 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; non-narcotic controlled substance possession

■ 10:37 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street; DUI



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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, January 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Commission Chair and Vice Chair selection for 2010
- Review of El Charro Road monuments on/near El Charro Road and I-580 Freeway Overpass
- Final review of Public Art Project, "Vision 3"
- Review FY 2009/10 City Grant Mid-Term Reports

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Review FY 2009/10 City Grant Mid-Term Reports
- Consideration of Changing the April 7, 2010 Commission Meeting Date
- Commission Reorganization
- Eden I & R, Inc. 211 Alameda County Monthly Narrative Report: November 2009
- Housing Commission Minutes – September 17, 2009

GENERAL INFORMATION

The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) which evaluates nine different alignment, station, and maintenance facility combinations originating in the Interstate 580 (I-580) median at the existing Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station, and traveling eastward to Pleasanton and Livermore through an area known as the Tri Valley.

The BART is inviting the public to submit PEIR comments at a BART public hearing to be held on the following date/location:

BART to Livermore Extension Public Hearing
Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 6:30 pm.
Pleasanton City Council Chambers
200 Old Bernal Avenue

Written comments to the PEIR will be accepted until 5:00 pm on January 21, 2010. Mail comments to:
BART Planning Department
Attn: Malcom Quint
300 Lakeshore Drive
Oakland, Ca 94612

Comments may be emailed to: info@barttolivermore.org

Additional information concerning the PEIR, including the schedule public hearing, is available at: <http://www.barttolivermore.org>

**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

BART to Li

At first ignored, agency now seeks

By JEB BING

BART representatives will hold a public meeting in the City Council Chamber Wednesday to discuss long-range plans to extend the rapid transit line east from the Dublin-Pleasanton station to as far as Greenville Road and possibly into downtown Livermore.

The long-planned BART to Livermore route is about as old in the planning stages as the BART system, itself. Since 1960 when BART was formed, taxpayers, including those in Livermore, have paid millions of dollars in revenue to expand BART service to the East Bay cities of Pittsburg and Pleasanton, even to San Francisco International Airport. But Livermore has long been considered too far, too expensive and with too few riders to make it worthwhile.

That has changed, at least as a planning concept, which is what Wednesday's meeting is all about.

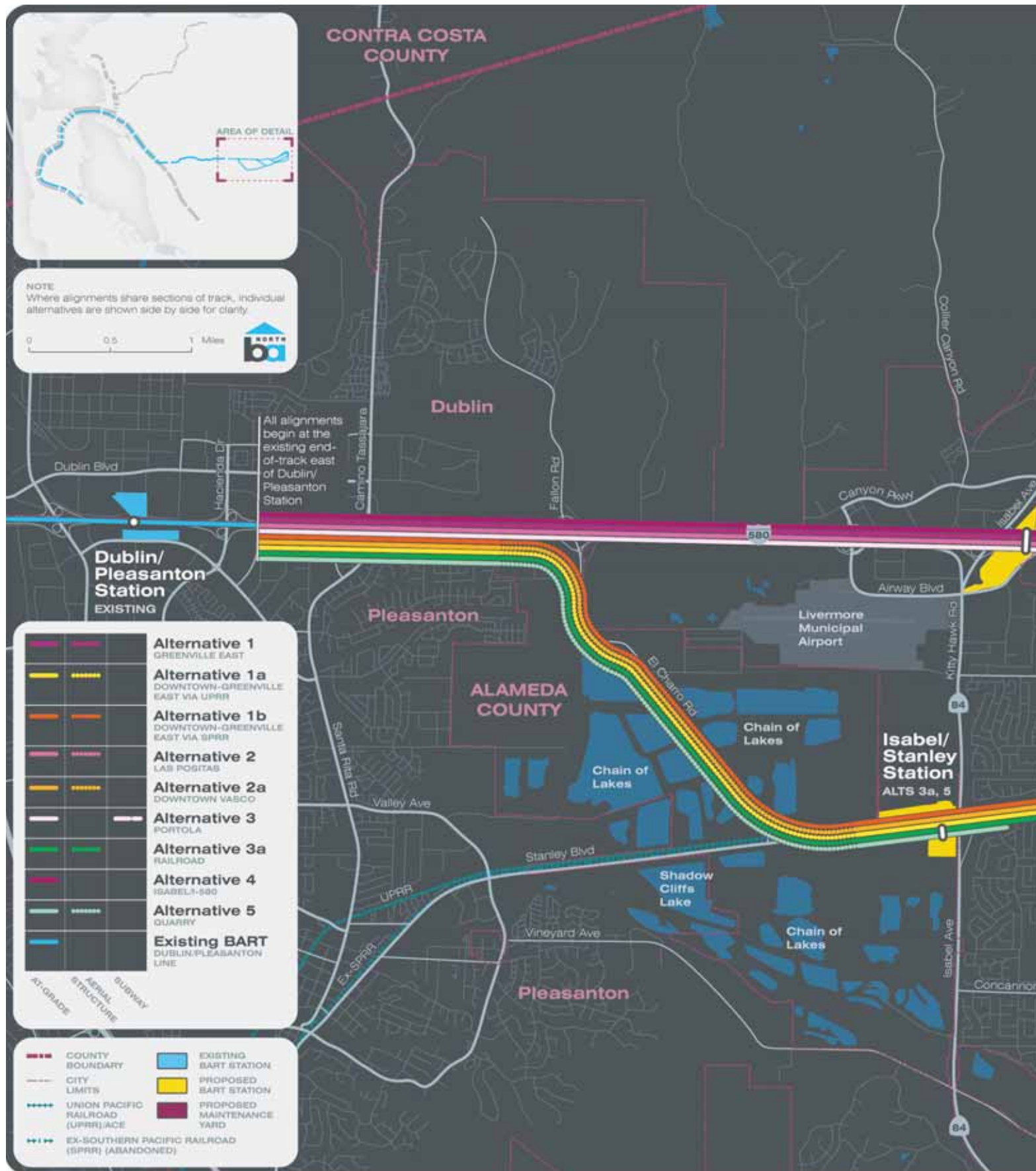
Yet Pleasanton officials say that the decision BART authorities will make with regard to the 2,000-page Livermore Extension Draft Environmental Impact Review, which is the focus of the Wednesday meeting, will be critical to Pleasanton's development in 2010 even though it's unlikely any tracks would be laid within the next 10 to 20 years.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said that Pleasanton has long supported Livermore's plea to extend BART east, but the favored route has always been in the median of Interstate 580 to as far as Greenville Road.

"BART tracks running east from the Pleasanton station to Greenville Road in the center of the freeway, as trains now operate from Castro Valley, makes sense," Fialho said. "It's the cheapest route to build and, because stations would continue to be on the freeway, would attract the biggest increase in riders."

But BART planners, after discussing Livermore's interests, added several other suggested routes as shown in its comprehensive EIR. Four of them show the BART extension tracks rising to 40 feet in height from the Pleasanton station, crossing over I-580 and then heading south and east toward downtown Livermore. At their highest point, the tracks would also cross over the northwest corner of Staples Ranch, a 124-acre parcel now owned by Alameda County where four multi-million-dollar development projects are planned and property that Pleasanton plans to annex.

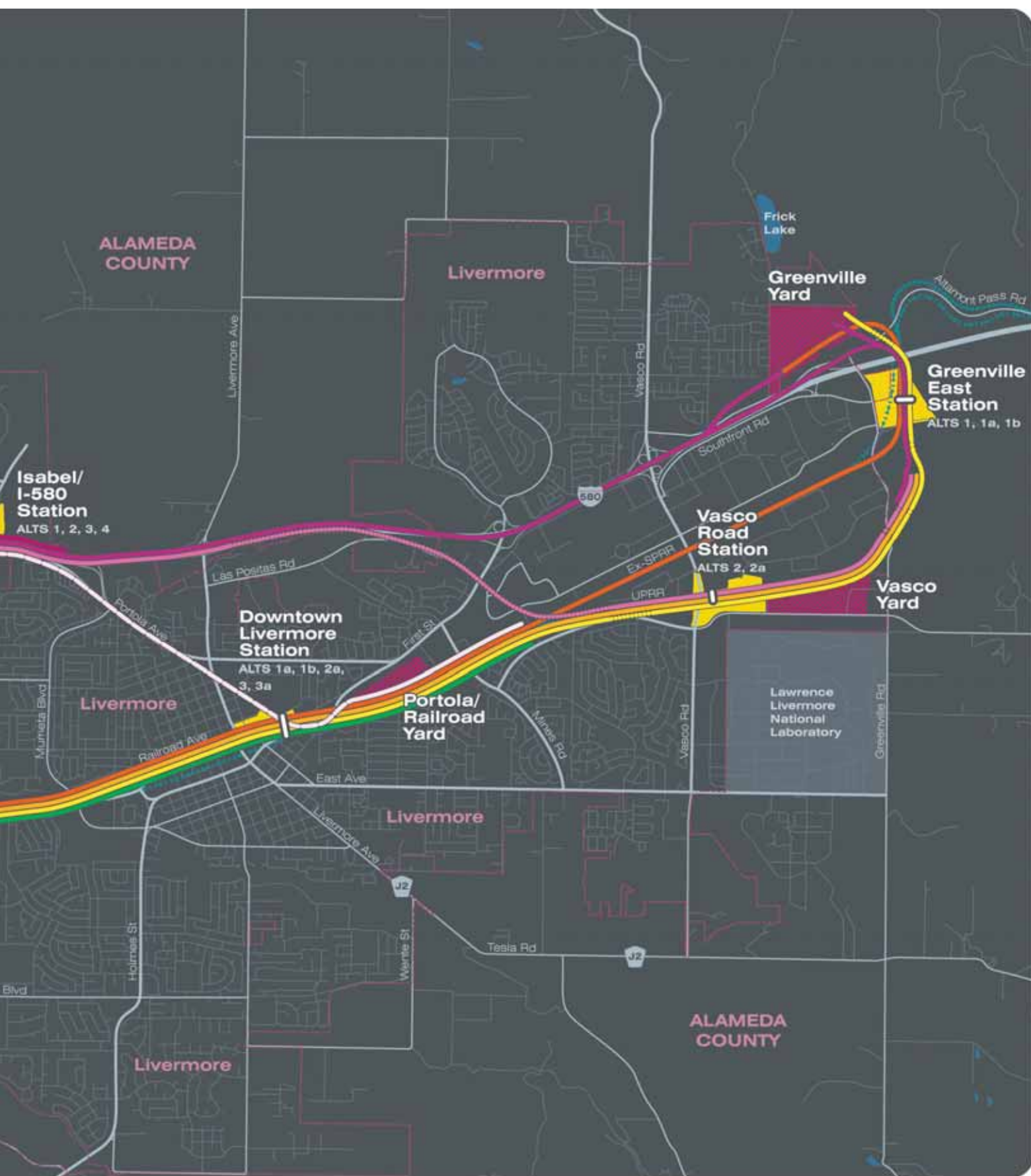
The projects, in fact, could be in jeopardy if elevated tracks are built over land that is now designated for a 37-acre auto mall planned by the Hendrick Automotive Group and within eyesight of those who would live in the adjacent Stoneridge Creek complex planned by Continuing Life Communities (CLC),



DRAFT Preliminary and tentative. For discussion purposes only

Livermore?

Pleasanton's input on routing plans



BART GRAPHIC

with up to 800 units for assisted living, skilled nursing and independent living residents

Although it would take years and billions of dollars to ever build the BART extension, the agency's EIR tends to favor the Staples Ranch elevated tracks, which Hendrick vehemently opposes. For Pleasanton, the Chicago-New York City style elevated line would add a new view of Pleasanton's eastern gateway for motorists on I-580, a view which city officials have said they oppose as well.

At a meeting with the Pleasanton City Council Dec. 15, District 4 BART Director John McPartland and BART Project Manager Malcolm Quint insisted that no decisions have yet been made on where to route a BART extension to Livermore. Only four of the nine routing alternatives actually take BART over Staples Ranch, although that could be a preferred route since the tracks would follow mostly vacant, public land, traveling south and then southeast into downtown Livermore.

The downtown location is supported by some city leaders, including Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena and the city's urban redevelopment agency that see rapid transit to the city center a boon to businesses located there as well as to the future multi-million-dollar performing arts center planned for the downtown. Livermore is in the midst of a massive downtown redevelopment and Kamena sees a downtown BART station as essential to that development.

But a downtown Livermore BART station was largely panned by residents who attended the public hearings. A majority favored the original extension plan that would keep BART in the freeway corridor, terminating at Greenville Road. They said that route would be less noisy with vacant land available for commuter parking and that it would attract less crime. Several also said they would not want BART tracks or a station near their homes.

Quint's and McPartland's appearance before the Pleasanton council Dec. 15 was unscheduled and not an official presentation. Nevertheless, it soothed some ruffled feathers among Pleasanton leaders who had been watching from the sidelines as BART pursued its Staples Ranch flyover plan without consulting them or even inviting them to any of the meetings, which BART held only in Livermore. Quint said the meetings from now on would be held alternately in Pleasanton and Livermore. Pleasanton's Deputy City Manager Steven Bocian was named to an advisory board to confer on the EIR.

"Pleasanton has always been very supportive of extending BART to Livermore," said Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. "We look forward to working with you." The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. ■

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Transitions

WEDDINGS ● ENGAGEMENTS ● OBITUARIES ● BIRTHS

OBITUARIES

Gerald Henry (Jerry) Stunkel

Gerald Henry (Jerry) Stunkel died peacefully Dec. 23 surrounded by his family. He was 79.



Mr. Stunkel, who had been battling Parkinson's disease, spent his entire educational career in the Livermore school district.

He was born on July 26, 1930 in Greeley, Colo. and was the second-born son to Henry and Gladys (Gieser) Stunkel. His older brother, Jim Stunkel, was tragically killed in an airplane accident shortly after returning home from World War II.

Mr. Stunkel graduated from Greeley Central High School in 1948. He was very active in the Boy Scouts of America, attaining the rank of Eagle Scout and securing friendships that would last his lifetime. He excelled in academics and athletics, distinguishing himself as an accomplished tennis player well into his senior years.

Mr. Stunkel graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in 1952, earning a Bachelor of Arts in education. In 1953, he married Janet Bailey. By 1954 he had completed his Masters of Education and entered the Army, serving at Fort Ord, Calif. during the Korean War.

After military service, he completed his California teachers credential and accepted an appointment as an English teacher at Livermore High. He also coached the high school tennis team. His career with the Livermore Valley Unified School District lasted nearly 40 years, during which time he served as principal at East Avenue and Mendenhall middle schools. In one of his efforts to motivate students, he promised to move his office to the roof of East Avenue School if they met a goal. The students hit the mark so he spent the day as principal administering the school from the roof.

In 1974, he married Beverly Reisbig Steinhaus and they made their home in Pleasanton. They were devoted members of Pleasanton Presbyterian Church (now Centerpointe) and provided leadership with the Cursillo movement (a weekend short-course in Christianity). He was a dedicated

member of the zany and world-renowned Balloon Platoon comedy drill team that has marched in parades all over the world.

He is survived by his brother, Jack Stunkel of New York; his sons, Jim Stunkel and George Randal Stunkel of Livermore and Martin Gregory Stunkel of White Rock, N.M.; his daughter, Jennifer Farian of Tracy; step-daughters, Diane Steinhaus of North Carolina, Kathy French of Irvine and Amy Martz of Mission Viejo; and 14 grandchildren, David Stunkel, Michelle Carmichael, Heather Christine Cooney, Timothy and Shawna Stunkel, Nicole Nixon, Holli and Shelby Stunkel, Jamie and Robin Stunkel, Ian and Annie French and David and Daniel Martz.

A service will be held at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court. The family prefers donations in his memory to Centerpointe Church. Burial will be private.

Armand Cattalini

A memorial service for Armand Cattalini will be held at 2 p.m. Jan. 16 at Parkview Assisted Living, 100 Valley Ave. Mr. Cattalini, a lifelong Pleasanton resident,

died Nov. 26 after fighting a long-term illness at the age of 88.

John Lawrence Barker

John Lawrence Barker died Dec. 12 after a battle with lung cancer at the age of 55.

Mr. Barker was born Feb. 17, 1954 in Spokane, Wash. and raised in Walnut Creek and Pleasanton. He was a 22-year resident of Livermore.

An iron worker for 25 years, Mr. Barker's passion was fishing. Although he was well-skilled in fly fishing and fly tying, he preferred chasing bass. He holds the lake record at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park for catching an 18 pound, 1 ounce bass there.

Mr. Barker is survived by his wife of 22 years, Diana Barker; daughter, Dawn (Hatch) Patterson; son, Eric Hatch; sister, Jody Barker Wood; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A service is planned to be held later this month at Trinity Baptist Church in Livermore. Call 895-7145 for more information.



WEDDINGS

Laura Wanlin & Daniel Fast

Laura Wanlin and Daniel Fast were married on Nov. 7 at The Purple Orchid Inn in Livermore, with 130 guests in attendance.

In lieu of cake, the couple opted for an ice cream sundae bar.

Laura, the daughter of Gary and Claudia Wanlin, grew up in Pleasanton and attended Amador Valley High School. She graduated from Biola University in 2004 and later completed her master's degree at St. Mary's College.

Daniel, the son of Philip Fast,



grew up in Sacramento and attended Florin High School. He currently works for a start-up IT company in Sacramento.

The couple honeymooned on a cruise to Mexico, visiting Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta.

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ROGE EICHENBAUM

The wild invades the Amador Theater

State Street Ballet presents contemporary version of 'Jungle Book'

Wild animals get some sophistication as Civic Arts Presents hosts the State Street Ballet's production of "Jungle Book." The story, based on Rudyard Kipling's classic collection of stories inspired by his childhood in India, will unfold on the Amador Theater stage at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8 and for a SaturYay! performance at 11 a.m. Jan. 9.

State Street Ballet, an innovative professional dance company hailing from Santa Barbara, is known for combining classical technique with updated looks, special effects and digital technology to produce original works for contemporary audiences.

Tickets to "Jungle Book" range from \$18 to \$35 for adults and \$10

to \$25 for children and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at www.civicticketstickets.org up to three hours prior to the performance, by calling 931-3444, or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Box office hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and for two hours prior to the performance. Group discounts are available.

The audience is also encouraged to drop off food donations in barrels found in the theater lobby. Donations will be given to the Tri-Valley Haven food pantry, which distributes free groceries to more than 4,000 low-income Tri-Valley residents.

—Emily West

NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

BY TYLER HANLEY

Sherlock Holmes

★★★★

Rated PG-13 for violence and action, startling images and a scene of suggestive material
2 hours, 14 minutes

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary sleuth gets a cinematic adrenaline shot for this wildly entertaining and action-packed mystery. British director Guy Ritchie ("Snatch") makes a welcome return to quality filmmaking after several flops, revitalizing Holmes and his steadfast sidekick Dr. Watson for a new generation of filmgoers.

Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) is the private investigator du jour in turn-of-the-century England. The often eccentric but always brilliant Holmes works alongside his colleague Dr. John Watson (Jude Law) to solve unsolvable crimes. Case in point: Convicted killer Lord Blackwood (Mark Strong) seems to have cheated death through the use of dark magic, and his unexplainable powers have forced the populace into a frenzied panic.

Blackwood isn't Holmes' only concern. Holmes' old flame and former adversary Irene Adler (Rachel McAdams) resurfaces with a request to find a missing man. As Holmes desperately tries to stave off his feelings for Adler, he begins to realize the two cases are linked. Furthermore, Watson's forthcoming nuptials may spell the end of his partnership with Holmes.

And a mysterious, manipulative professor lurks in the shadows.

As a longtime fan of Doyle's tales, I'll admit I was initially skeptical about this action-oriented rendition. Sherlock Holmes is my favorite literary character and I worried that he would suffer in the

hands of an American actor and an inconsistent director. But my fears were quashed in the first five minutes. Downey Jr. is exceptional as the iconic detective and Law comfortably fills the shoes of Dr. Watson. The two make a perfect pair, rivaling some of the best big-screen buddies of the past two decades.

This Holmes is an adept fighter, skills Doyle only alluded to in print. Holmes' unparalleled deductive-reasoning abilities and knowledge of human anatomy enable him to anticipate punches and quickly neutralize attackers. The on-screen combat — a proven strength of Ritchie's — is a welcome addition and helps energize and accelerate the story. Ritchie and company are careful not to stray too much from Doyle's original vision, perfectly depicting Holmes' observation and deductive-reasoning prowess and ensuring that his familiar pipe is never out of reach.

The music by Oscar magnet Hans Zimmer is tremendous. The only slippery slope for "Sherlock" is that it feels somewhat akin to a superhero flick. The plot is a little generic and although Strong makes a good villain, his Lord Blackwood is too one-dimensional.

Clues sprinkled throughout the film lead to an exciting climax — "Sherlock" is well worth investigating.



PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Ping is January's top pick

Start the New Year right by adopting this beautiful cat named Ping. She is part of the Tri-Valley Animal Rescue's new "Cat of the Month" program, which is in partnership with the East County Animal Shelter. As January's pick, Ping is a gorgeous black 2-year-old, spayed female housecat. Ping has a gentle nature and she loves to be brushed. Introduce a toy mouse into the mix and watch Ping play her version of Pong!

As Cat of the Month, Ping will go to her new home with a large covered litter pan, a comfortable new bed, a bag of cat food, and food and water dishes. Ping will receive a free health examination at a local veterinary hospital within two weeks of her adoption at which time TVAR will provide her with a microchip and rabies vaccination free of charge.

Visit Ping (pet #89245) 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. The animal shelter will be closed on New Year's Day.

TAKE US ALONG

Honeymoonin' with the Weekly: Harvey and Marty Kameny brought the Weekly along on their recent honeymoon cruise to Victoria, B.C. They're joined by their Pleasanton friends Bob and Joyce Shapiro, Jim and Cheryl Isaac and Jim and Dana Gulseth.



Golden Weekly: Forty-year residents Tom and Sue Johnson brought the Weekly on their travels to South America for their golden anniversary. Here they are in the Falkland Islands, where penguins can be seen in the background. An anniversary celebration, given by their children Kevin and Leslie Johnson, Keith Johnson and Cherie and Greg Blades and grandchildren, was held at Kevin and Leslie's home in Pleasanton for 80 friends and family.

Holiday Fund Donors

Since the launch of the 2009 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, a total of \$306,292 has been raised.

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From: Friends of Joan.....	100
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Jim & Diane Brittain & Dave & Kris Snyder from Ross & Sheri Kapp.....	**
Francises, Otovses & Malatestas from The Schussels.....	**
Adrian & Bernie Wong from Alex & Kit Wong.....	**
Ross & Sheri Kapp & Jim & Diane Brittain from Dave & Kris Snyder.....	**
Frank & Ann Lordman.....	100

In Honor of

Grandmas Adeline & Eva.....	100
Daggett Children & Grandchildren.....	**
Auntie Junk & Uncle Stevie from The Sil- cox Family.....	50
The Staff of Pleasanton Nursing & Rehab Center from Leslie Rutledge.....	**
Karissa, Chelsea, Sarah, Dashell & Des- mond.....	**
Our Military from The Gualandri Family.....	100
Jana Grant from Steve & Jori Grant.....	100
Bobbie Jensen, Capt. Callippe Niners.....	100
Rev. Paul Henshaw & Rev. Kim Risedorph from Rev. Gary & Debbi Grundman.....	**
The Staff of Lynewood United Methodist Church, Diana, Cindie, Donna, Carlene, Michelle & George from Rev. Gary & Debbi Grundman.....	**
Barb, Kevin, Michael & David Brooks from Dan & Lou.....	250
My Grandchildren from Doris A. Slater.....	**
Our Military from The Cederquist Family.....	**
A special group of employees City of Pleasanton.....	1000

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AST POS.....	**
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Mathnasium.....	**
Mission Pipe & Cigar Shop.....	150
Pleasanton Fairways Ladies Golf Club.....	300
Pleasanton Pet Sitting.....	50

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund was created to provide financial support from our readers for a select group of people in need to lend a helping hand, despite our community's prosperity. This marks the seventh year of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund. It provides us an opportunity to aid local families at a time when the numbers of those without such basic necessities as food, shelter and medical care have increased in this economic downturn.

The Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund drive could not exist without the help of the Tri-Valley Community Foundation and its generous donors. We have a unique opportunity this year that will allow the Holiday Fund to offer a 4-to-1 match, meaning every \$1 you give will equal a \$5 donation. This will provide assistance to some of the poorest families in the Tri-Valley area through the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative, sponsored through TVCF, the Tri-Valley Business Council and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. An added benefit: Neither the Pleasanton Weekly nor the Tri-Valley Community Foundation will take any fees or expenses for administering the fund.

We appreciate your support of the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and these worthy recipients.

Ponderosa Homes.....**	Don Foreman..... 100
Stan Angelov.....**	Marie Petrone from Jim & Kate Anderson**
Susan Sparber, CMT.....**	
Sycamore Heights Bunco Babes.....**	Susan Dawson from Mark & Janet Mul-
Tahara Detox & Weightloss Center.....**	laney..... 150
Tri-Valley YMCA.....**	Dick Waldron from Mrs. Virginia Waldron**
Vagaro.com.....**	Karl K. Witze..... 500
Wednesday Tennis Gals.....**	Betty Patrick from Chuck & Joan Brown.**
	Stan Kallo from Blake & Suzanne Heitz-
	man..... 300
	Jackie Barnett..... 25
	Roger Dabney from Mrs. Marty Zarcone**
	Sarah Lees from Mr. & Mrs. Donald
	Person.....**
	Michael & June Carboni from Richard &
	Nancy Shockley..... 100
	Bob, David & Jodi Armknecht..... 150
	Anthony Prima from Daniel & Teresa Mor-
	ley & Family.....**
	Marge Schaefer & Skip Mohatt from Tom
	& Barb Treto.....**
	May, Harold & Mike Consedine from The
	Hamm Family..... 100
	Dave Chestnut from Tim & Teri Bush.....**
	Kyle O'Connor from The Dadrass Family**
	MaryAnn Butler, Gil & Juanita Haugen &
	Brent Lovell from The Bob Group.....**
	Kittie, Edward & Margie Turnbull.....**
	Gerald Grater Love from Laurie Woods....
	150
	Mary May.....**
	Fred Elling.....**
	Dorothy Gordon.....**
	Floyd Bueno from Gil & Gretchen Zabal-
	los..... 100
	Bonnie Zenter..... 100
	Allan Hillman, Randy & Margie Warner 100
	Hank Gomez from Frank, Debra & Doro-
	thy..... 125
	Ernie Bridges from The Bridges Family..**
	Laura Mayo from Don & Nancy Shelton..**
	Grandpa Dot from The Reedy Family.....**
	Howard Hill from Sally Hill.....**
	David DeBernardi from Connie DeBer-
	nard..... 150
	Mary DeBernardi from Connie DeBernardi
	150
	Joe Hatfield from Helen Hatfield.....**
	Jeffrey J. Alves from Ed & Dorene Alves .
	100
	Ernest Alverson from Bill & Janis Alverson
	**
	Elizabeth Stewart & Lisa Lum from Gor-
	don & Elite Stewart..... 200
	Doris Cink & Charles Glass from Vern &
	Tracy Cink.....**
	Maurice I. Smith from Carol Smith &
	Family..... 50
	Karen & Tom Elsnab & Chuck Volonte
	from Jon & Linda Elsnab..... 150
	Bill Haraughty from Anita Haraughty.....**

In Memory of

Our Mom Lora from Dmitriy & Lada Ko-	
sarikov.....**	
Gene Rega..... 25	
Gam & Papa Abbott from The Casey	
Family.....**	
Laura Maya.....**	
Nicholas Daniel Lesser.....**	
Verna Mae Silva from Steve & Kathy Mc-	
Nichols..... 1000	
Tony Paradiso & Gene Paradiso from	
Dorene Paradiso-Carroll.....**	
Dan Gabor from Ann Gabor..... 125	
Linda Scherschel..... 50	
Doris T. Walberg from Todd & Brenda	
Walberg..... 100	
Rob Meierding..... 100	
Aldo Macor.....**	
Gene Strom, Keith Strom & William Kolb	
from Carol (Kolb) Strom.....**	
Mary Erickson from Al Copher..... 50	
Matt Rybicki & Michael Conner from Jerry	
& Josine Pentin..... 100	
Althea McGill from The Grimes Family... **	
Tom & Karen Elsnab from Nancy T.	
Elsnab.....**	
Clifford Cowan from Mrs. Nancy Cowan.**	
Lindsey Jones.....**	
Nick Del Boccio.....**	
Rick Aguiar from Nancy Aguiar Fargis ... **	
In Loving Memory of Brian Melin from Pa-	
tricia Melin..... 100	
John A. Mavridis from Mr. & Mrs. Ted Ma-	
vridis.....**	
Teddy & Arthur Adams..... 100	
Our Grandparents from The Grimes	
Family.....**	
Liz Ray from Alex & Emily Corbishley....**	
Marilyn Bowe from James Bowe..... 50	
Ed Kinney, George Spiliotopolous, Hank	
Gomez, Ralph Romero & Roger Dab-	
ney from Ken Mercer..... 400	
John Silva..... 100	
Hilda Gutierrez from Martin & Amory Guti-	
errez.....**	
Lola Palladino..... 100	
Bill & Ann Brown.....**	
Bob Williams.....**	
Jim Snodgrass.....**	
Norma Holway from Joe & Janice Biggs**	
Beverly Oberg from Ed & Holly Heuer....**	
Grampa Ray & Grampa Tom from Jeff,	
Annie & Kevin.....**	

**The asterisk designates that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.



How to give

Your gift will help needy families

Contributions to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund Will be increased through a unique partnership of the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative and administered by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation. For every \$1 contributed, \$5 will go to families in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley who are in need of some of life's basic necessities. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

For more information, call us at 600-0840 or email editor@pleasanton-weekly.com.

As we launch our 2009-10 Holiday Fund campaign, we want to express that we have a unique opportunity this year to provide assistance to some of the poorest families in the Tri-Valley through the 2009 Tri-Valley Regional Initiative, a collaborative economic recovery initiative sponsored through the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, the Tri-Valley Business Council and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. A quadruple match is possible through federal stimulus funds designated for temporary assistance to needy families, including a strong employment development component. The matched funds will be used to identify and evaluate the needs of families hardest hit by the economic downturn and help them directly with housing, job training, medical care and other basic necessities.

We feel that in this time of economic crisis, it is imperative that we take advantage of the opportunity to receive federal funds to assist the largest number of families and individuals in our community.

In addition to a wider base of needy recipients, the Weekly's campaign will continue to provide grants to Pleasanton and Tri-Valley nonprofit organizations that provide "wrap around" services for families, including Axis Community Health, Open Heart Kitchen and Tri-Valley Haven. This year, these groups will benefit more than ever by the 4-to-1 match of your contribution to help them provide necessary services to families in need.

Name of Donor _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I wish to designate my contribution as follows:

In my name as shown above

OR

In honor of: In memory of: As a gift for: _____
(Name of person)

Business or organization: _____

I wish to contribute anonymously. Don't publish the amount of my contribution.

Please make checks payable to **Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund**

Enclose this coupon and send to: **The Holiday Fund, Pleasanton Weekly
5506 Sunol Blvd, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566**

Credit card donations will be accepted by calling the
Tri-Valley Community Foundation at 734-9965.



The Tri-Valley Community Foundation is located at 5674 Stoneridge Dr., Ste. 112, Pleasanton, CA 94588. More information about the Foundation can be obtained by contacting the organization at the above address, by calling its President David Rice at (925) 734-9965 or through its website: www.tvcfoundation.org. The Pleasanton Weekly will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2009, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food Restaurant" and "Best Meal under \$20", Eddie Papa's American Hangout celebrates the regional food and beverage cultures of America. Bring the whole family to enjoy iconic dishes from across the United States, Old World Hospitality, and hand crafted artisan cocktails. www.eddiepapas.com

BARBECUE

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

BREW PUB/ALEHOUSE

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard 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.

ITALIAN

Pastas Trattoria

405 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-2222. Pastas Trattoria has been an elegant atmosphere and a one-of-a-kind menu. We feature steaks, seafood and our famous pasta, plus a superb selection of spirits and fine wines. Reserve our banquet facilities for large parties, up to 70 guests.

To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

Pleasanton Weekly
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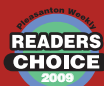


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- | | |
|--|---|
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| Fisherman's Wharf Lobster and Crab Bisque or Caesar Salad | Garlic Crusted Slow Roasted Midwest Prime Rib |
| | Alaskan Halibut with Wild Mushrooms |
| Cranberry Orange Creme Brulee or Baked Alaskan Chocolate Cake | |



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Auditions

AUDITIONS FOR OPERA CHORUS

Auditions for the Livermore Valley Opera production of "Die Fledermaus" are from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Jan. 5 at the Bothwell Performing Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Contact Pat Goard, Chorus Coordinator, at goardp@att.net.

YOUTH MUSIC FESTIVAL AUDITIONS

Vocal and instrumental auditions, for ages 18 and under, are from 6 to 9 p.m. Jan. 13 and 14 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Audition to participate in a themed production called "Unique." If chosen, youth may be asked to perform in pre-existing musical acts. Placement in show not guaranteed; rock bands not included in festival. Appointments required. Call 931-3433.

Book Clubs

GREAT BOOKS OF PLEASANTON

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

Civic Meetings

CITY COUNCIL The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first

and third Tuesdays at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

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

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

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

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

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

Classes

6-WEEK MEDITATION CLASS In this six-week class, explore the main pathways of the energy body.

Class is held in Pleasanton from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursdays from Jan. 7 to Feb. 18 (no class on Jan. 28). Cost is \$60. To register, call Mari Coniglione at 202-1752.

INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOSHOP

ELEMENTS This course will include procedures for editing digital photos using both manual and auto features. Resizing photos, cloning, cropping, filters, layer styles and other photo enhancements will be covered. The class meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. for six Thursdays beginning Jan. 14 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Fee is \$35 for residents or \$40 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

PLEASANTON LIBRARY ENGLISH

CONVERSATION The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., offers free English conversations classes from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, and 10 to 11 a.m. Thursdays. Call 931-3411.

Clubs

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

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is represented once. The First two meetings free. Call 829-5620.

CAREER NETWORKING EVENT FOR EXECUTIVES Executives are invited to a Breakfast Career Networking meeting for mid- and senior-management from 7:30-9:30 a.m., on the third Tuesday of every month, at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Cost is \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members if pre-registered; \$35 at the door. Call 218-1868.

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

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution, Jose Maria Amador Chapter meets the second Saturday of the month. It is a time for social gathering and history of our American roots. We are descended from Patriots who won the American Revolutionary War of Independence from England. For meeting time and location, call Susan, 699-4147.

KIWANIS CLUB The Kiwanis Club meets at 11:45 a.m. Fridays at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 A Main St. For information, call 1-800-Kiwanis.

ROTARY CLUB OF PLEASANTON The Rotary Club of Pleasanton since 1965 has been a leader in the community in helping make Pleasanton a great place to live. They meet for a luncheon meeting from 12:15-1:30 p.m., every Thursday, at Hap's Restaurant, 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton. Cost for lunch is \$17. For information, visit www.PleasantonRotary.org.

TRI-VALLEY EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION This business networking organization meets at 7 a.m. Thursdays for breakfast at Vic's All-Star Kitchen, 201-A Main St. Membership is open to businesses that are not in competition with a current member and the first two meetings are free. Call 736-4522 or visit www.trivalleyexecs.com.

Events

A SPECIAL EVENING WITH RICH VOS Rich was the breakout star of NBC's "Last Comic Standing" seasons 1 and 3, was a regular guest on Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn, and wrote for Chris Rock when he hosted The Academy Awards in 2005. He will perform from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Jan. 14 and 15 at Bunjo's Comedy Club, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Tickets are \$10-\$15, plus a two-item minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.bunjocosmody.com.

CHICKS WITH SCHTICK Some of the best female comedians in the Bay Area perform at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at Bunjo's Comedy Club, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Featuring Rachel McDowell, Candie Churilla, Carrie Gilbert and Colleen Watson. Cost is \$10 plus a two-item minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.bunjocosmody.com.

FARMERS MARKET Island Earth's farmers market is open from noon to 6 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays in the parking lot between Macy's and Sears at Stoneridge Shopping Center. It features organic produce, artisan wares, fresh flowers and more. Call 415-834-5358 or visit islandearthfarmersmarket.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CRAB FEED The Pleasanton Knights of Columbus is holding their 41st annual crab feed from 6 to 10:30

p.m. Jan. 16 at St. Augustine's Church Hall, 3999 Bernal Ave. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and must be purchased by Jan. 10. Call 846-7181 or email crabfeed@comcast.net.

Exhibits

MODEL TRAINS AT BLACKHAWK MUSEUM The European Train Enthusiasts will be bringing their exhibition of HO Scale Model trains to the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays, Nov. 27 to Jan. 17. With hand built miniature countrysides and an assortment of locomotives and engineers, this exhibition shows the European rail experience. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors and children 6 and under are free. Call 736-2280 or visit www.blackhawkmuseum.org.

PORCELAIN PAINTING AT WENTE VINEYARDS Livermore resident Eugenia Zobel's exhibit, "Porcelain Painting" will be displayed from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily through January at the Wente Vineyards Estate Winery Tasting, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore.

Fundraisers

5TH ANNUAL CLAWS FOR PAWS The fifth annual Claws for Paws crabfeed, sponsored by Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, is from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Shannon Community Center, 11600 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Tickets are \$45 if purchased by Jan. 15 and \$50 thereafter. Includes all-you-can-eat crab, pasta, Caesar salad, dessert and tea/coffee. A no-host bar available for wine, beer and soft drinks. Call 828-8664 or visit www.tvrar.org.

PLEASANTON LIONS CLUB CRAB FEED The Lions Club Crab Feed is Jan. 16 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. A no host bar opens at 6:30 p.m. and crab is served at 7:30 p.m. The event includes casino games and dancing. Tickets are \$38. For tickets, call Greg Aynesworth, 484-3524 or Steve Grimes, 336-6069.

Health

LIFETIME WELLNESS WEIGHT LOSS WORKSHOP The Lifetime Wellness Weight Loss Workshop meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on four days over six weeks starting Jan. 14 at Lifetime Wellness Holistic Health Center, 4125 Mohr Ave. Ste. K. Improve health, increase energy, get results in a group setting. Cost is \$20 per session, plus supplements. Space is limited. Call 484-3955 or visit www.LifetimeWellness.biz.

Kids & Teens

JOB'S DAUGHTERS BETHEL No.14 This group meets at 7 p.m., on the second and fourth Monday of every month, at Pleasanton Masonic Lodge, 3370 Hopyard Rd. The group is for girls between the ages of 10 and 20 years old who have a Masonic relationship. It teaches the girls team work, leadership and public speaking. Call 683-5401.

JUNGLE BOOK State Street Ballet melds the familiar storyline with exciting dance movement and special effects, giving the tale a modern and unique twist. Show is at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$18-\$35 for adults and \$10-\$25 for children and seniors. Call 931-5361 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

SUPER SMASH BROTHERS BRAWL TOURNAMENT The Super Smash Brothers Brawl tournament is from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 9 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza. Must be ages 12 to 19. Space is limited and registration is mandatory. Call 803-7272.

Lectures/ Workshops

INTERIOR DESIGN WORKSHOP Ethan Allen hosts a free workshop on tackling home design challenges from 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 16 at 4230 Rosewood Dr. RSVP by Jan. 14 to 734-6675.

JOB SEARCH FROM A TO Z Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center in partnership with Dublin Library will present a workshop on job search basics in today's difficult job market in the Dublin Library Program Room, 200 Civic Plaza. The free workshop is from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 14. Call 803-7286.

On Stage

JUNGLE BOOK The State Street Ballet melds the familiar storyline with exciting dance movement and special effects, giving the tale a modern and unique twist. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Jan 8 and 9, and at 11 a.m. Jan. 9 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$18-\$35

for adults and \$10-\$25 for children and seniors. Dry Good food donations to benefit The Haven Food Pantry will be collected in the lobby. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

Scholarships

AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM The American Legion Pleasanton Post 237 hosts a high school oratorical scholarship program. The Constitutional speech contest will take place at 1 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. The prizes are \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$75 for third place. The first place winner advances to the district contest in Pacifica and that winner advances to the finals in Modesto. Entry deadline is at 5 p.m. Jan. 15. Contact Norman Houghton at 846-8725 or norm4064@email.com with name, school, age, phone and email.

Seniors

TAI CHI/CHI KUNG FOR HEALTH Practice Tai Chi/Chi Kung to improve "chi" circulation and massage the internal organs for health and longevity from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Thursdays and Saturdays at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Classes designed for dedicated beginner to advance level students. Class led by Raymond and Terri Mok. Cost is \$2.50 per class. Call 556-4511 or visit www.dublinseniorcenter.com.

THE MILLS LINE DANCE SOCIAL The Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., hosts an afternoon with DJ Millie Dusha plays tunes from classic oldies such as All My Exes and Chocolate City Hustle, to newer dances like Duck Soup and 123 Summertime. Event is from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 7. Dancers of all levels are welcome. Cost is \$3.

YAMUNA BODY & FOOT FITNESS WORKSHOP Stimulate nerve endings in the feet to increase foot flexibility, muscle tone, and strength from 10:30 a.m. to noon Jan. 9 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Pre-register by Jan. 4. Cost is \$17 for residents or \$22 for non-residents and those under 50. Call 556-4511.

Spiritual

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP DAY WOMEN'S CLASS BSF is a 33-week, in-depth, interdenominational Bible Study at Cedar Grove Church, 2021 College Ave., Livermore. This year's study is the Gospel of John. Includes a full program for pre-school children (age 2 to K). New members are welcome throughout the study. Call 449-1035 or visit bsfinternational.org.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP EVENING WOMEN'S CLASS BSF is a 33-week, in-depth, interdenominational Bible

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	45 to 49	\$514	
	50 to 54	\$602	
	55 to 59	\$714	
	60 to 64	\$883	

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Classified Listings

Study at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. This year's study is the Gospel of John includes a full program for children grades 1-12. New members are welcome throughout the study. Call 426-0481 or visit www.bsfindernational.org.

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? Anyone interesting in learning about how to become a Catholic can attend an Inquiry Meeting at 9:30 a.m. Sundays in the St. Augustine Church Rectory, 3999 Bernal Ave. Call Father William at 846-4489.

Sports

KICK FOR A CURE The Amador Boys Soccer will hold the first Kick for the Cure game against Richmond to promote breast cancer awareness. It will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 2 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. ValleyCare will be on hand to provide breast cancer information to the public. Admission is free but donations

for the Ryan Comer Library will be accepted. Match times are 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Call 484-3851.

PLEASANTON BOYS U-9 LACROSSE Pleasanton Lacrosse Club is looking for new and experienced U-9 players for the 2010 spring season. Learn to play the fastest sport on two feet. Equipment rental available. Email Mark at mdcranney@gmail.com.

Support Groups

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

EAST BAY ESSENTIAL TREMOR SUPPORT GROUP This group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, on the third Saturday of each month, in the Blackhawk A and B conference rooms at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 6001 Norris Canyon Rd. If you have recently been diagnosed with ET or would like to learn more about the most common movement disorder in a safe and supportive environment, please join us. Call 487-5706 or e-mail galexplor@comcast.net.

FIBROMYALGIA "PLUS" This group meets from 6:30-8 p.m., on the first Thursday of every month, at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Please come fragrance free. Call Teresa at 443-5707 or JoAnna at (510) 276-0530.

TRI-VALLEY PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP This group meets at 10 a.m. Jan. 9 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Discussion will cover various aspects of Parkinson's disease

and where to get help if needed. Those with or who care for someone with Parkinson's are most welcome to join. Call 831-9940.

Volunteering

ONGOING VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for Volunteer Drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments. The Senior Transportation Program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer drivers. For information, call Jennifer at 931-5387.

READING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED If you would like to volunteer for a worthwhile cause, consider becoming a Barton Reading Tutor. No experience is necessary and training and materials are free of charge. There are currently over 80 volunteer tutors making a difference for over 160 Pleasanton students. Call Christina Clark at 596-0292 or email christina.clark2@comcast.net.

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Parent photographers

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



Top row, L-R: Head Coach Dave Zieker, Katie Zieker, Hayden Harker, Caroline Gates, Kristina Breckenridge, Jessica Rieble, Savannah Miles, Kelly O'Neill, Danielle Klessel and Coach Allison McCutcheon. Front row, L-R: Natalia Christensen, Haley Wesenberg, Lauren Moulton, Samantha Villegas, Caroline Gerlach, Taylor McCutcheon, Ellen Olson, Tasha Halim and Jessica Martin.

Rage Barracudas take bite out of Gladiators in championship match

The U12 Rage Pleasanton Barracudas soccer team took first place in the Crossroads Tournament recently.

In the championship game against the Fremont Gladiators, the Barracudas came out early and dominated the match and finally scored at the 10-minute mark on a goal put in by Kelly O'Neill (assist by Caroline Gerlach). The score seemed to wake the Fremont Gladiators and the battle was on. The Gladiators scored at the 20 minute mark to tie the game at 1-1. The second half was even tighter and again Barracudas got superior defensive play from their goalies and

backline. The tie was broken in the 35 minute mark on a free kick by Kelly O'Neill from 20 yards out. O'Neill put the ball in the back of the net and the fans went wild. The Gladiators put their attack into overdrive but were not able to breakdown the superior defense the entire Barracudas team played. The final score was 2-1 with the Barracudas taking first place in the U-12 division. Players like Natalia Christensen, Tasha Halim, Jessica Martin, Lauren Moulton, Caroline Gates were key in the Barracudas' success, as they finished their season with a perfect record of 14-0 and first place in Crossroads.

BUSC U12 Premier take home NorCal Gold championship

Pleasanton's BUSC U12 Premier team captured the NorCal Gold Division Championship Dec. 19 with a 2-1 victory against a well organized and determined Elk Grove Everton side.

BUSC's Cameron Owens controlled a Jackson Still feed and beat two defenders for the first score of the match. Minutes later, Owens would again out-manuever his marker sliding the ball to Cameron Ritchie who hammered the ball home for a 2-0 lead.

Sam Molz, Chudi Atuegbu and Jeffrey Klei all had critical defensive plays to help preserve the victory. The BUSC U12 Premier team are coached by Justin Rothling and include: Chudi Atuegbu, Nathan Esparza, Max Gershman, Jeffrey Klei, Sam Molz, Cameron Owens, Carsen Paynter, Ryan Racer, Cameron Ritchie, Tylor Silva, Jackson Still, Jack Traube, Bryce Veit, Geoffrey Wiederecht, Mitchell Wilson and Omeed Ziari.



Seahawks women's relay places 5th at nationals

The Seahawks had the great honor of sending eight of their champion swimmers to Winter Nationals in Federal Way, Wash. Dec. 3-5. All Seahawk swimmers went the distance with the women's team placing 16th overall. After pulling out the university/USA sponsored teams, the PLS women's team was actually eighth in the women's scoring for club teams. The foursome, (Sasha Alcon, Karen Wang, Allison Brown and Catherine Breed) placed fifth in the 800 free relay behind four University teams.

Additional results: Allison Brown was 16th in the 500, 23rd in the 400 IM and 23rd in the 1650, Catherine Breed was eighth in the 1650, 24th in the 200 and 21st in the 500 free, Karen Wang was 20th in the 100 fly, 18th in the 100 back and 15th in the 200 back, and Tory Houston was 20th in the 200 breast. Bryan Hughes swam a best time in the 1650 (15.54), and Nick Silverthorn swam best times in the 100/200/500 free, while Celina Li swam best times in the 200 IM and 200 Breast. The women placed in the top 16 in all five relays.



Back row: Coach Luis Coelho, Ali Gonsman, Marianne Fernandez, Madi Lingenfelder, Danielle Deike, Rachel Black, Shandis Bemanian, Kylie Cardozo, Asst. Coach Majid Bemanian. Middle row: Kylie Kruger, Shelby Richmond, Lauren Antilla, Roni Stone, Annie Geasa. Front row: Tori Rudolph, Josey Beidleman, Ali Racer, Natasha Coelho.

Finding their inner Rage

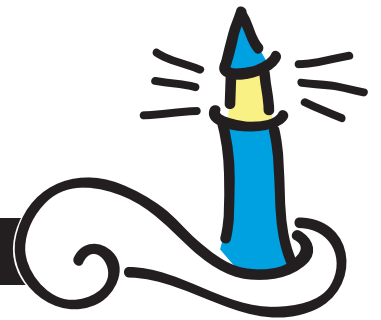
The Rage U14D3 White team are Green Flight Division champions, winning seven games, including six shutout victories, tying two and losing just one. They finish the league's season five points clear of the table with 13 goals for and only two against.

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140 Lost & Found

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203 Bicycles

2004 Schwinn Stingray Bike - \$200
2009 Specialized Mountain Bike - \$1285

210 Garage/Estate Sales

E. Palo Alto, 279 Daphne Wy, Jan. 2nd & 3rd, 8-4
Estate Sale. . . Everything goes; living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, and garage contents.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

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HOME SALES

This week's data represents homes sold during November 2009

Dublin

7948 Cranford Lane T. & M. Rowell to E. Lemi for \$544,000

3465 Dublin Boulevard #111 Toll Dublin Limited to J. Maningo for \$377,500

3465 Dublin Boulevard #117 Toll Dublin Limited to A. Zemlok for \$376,000

3465 Dublin Boulevard #430 Toll Dublin Limited to L. Choo for \$372,500

5953 Hillbrook Place B. Chen to C. Chang for \$485,000

7386 Larkdale Avenue New Greater Alameda Fi to V. Salviejo for \$475,000

McArdle for \$630,000

8010 Camino Tassajara D. & D. Taylor to J. Valentine for \$1,850,000

4627 Denker Drive Eastburn Trust to G. Reddy for \$540,000

1678 Holly Circle G. Rooney to S. Wu for \$495,000

6731 Paseo San Leon Dawney Trust to C. & M. Macknight for \$717,000

4814 Saginaw Circle Calmanque Trust to J. Steffen for \$310,500

3599 Touriga Drive Johnson Trust to J. & M. Helms for \$690,000

3689 Woodbine Way R. Liu to A. & M. Deshpande for \$415,000

4272 Zevanove Court Chow Trust to P. Jayaprakash for \$485,000

Pleasanton

2909 Calle De La Mesa D. Gazzano to W. & N.

Source: California REsource

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Lafayette, CA 94549
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