

Pleasanton Weekly

On a roll: ESPN to cover pro bowlers for the Earl Anthony Memorial in Dublin **PAGE 5**

Ladies night: Local group of networking women combine business and pleasure with GNON **PAGE 20**

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Ben Tarver: 1946-2010

Former mayor, champion of Pleasanton's slow-growth policies, dies at 63

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Buried treasures aren't easy to find

A buried treasure has always captured the imagination as something to find that's fun, but finding theirs was a bit more physically challenging for TJ McGrath and his family over the New Year's weekend. Buried in the McGraths' backyard of their Foothill Knolls home just ahead of the onset of the 21st Century — and the ominous threats that the start of 2000 might bring — the McGraths placed "items of interest" inside a 5-gallon plastic paint bucket, sealed it tight and buried it deep in the backyard for opening 10 years later.

The time to uncover came and, like in "Raiders of the Lost Arc," the McGraths took shovels in hand to unearth the time capsule that everyone remembered was buried there. Or was it there? Or there? Even with a picture of the spot shown in a photo taken at the end of 1999, the first deep dig found nothing. So they moved a few feet in a different direction and dug again.

Joining in the "fun" was McGrath, sales manager for Lindsey Olive; his wife Sheila and their sons Thomas, 22, a chemical engineering senior at Santa Clara University, and JT, 16, a junior at Foothill High School. Also digging or supervising was McGrath's mother Rita, his brother Bill and his wife Mary Beth, neighbors George and Cis Puricelli, girl friends of the sons and other friends. It was quite a crowd of diggers, but as one hole after another was dug, part of the crowd started leaving — Rita back to her assisted living home, Bill and Mary Beth back to their hotel and finally, after five hours with darkness and rain settling in, most others left, too. A curious neighbor across the backyard fence, concerned by all the dug holes he saw from an upstairs window, even called to see if a water main had broken.

The search was made more difficult because the backyard had been landscaped with new sod put down during the 10-year period, so most landmarks were gone. Still undeterred, the McGraths kept digging, by now obsessed with finding the buried pail before the new year came.

Looking at the family photo that everyone thought had been taken at the burial site 10 years earlier,



The McGraths after the dig: (from left) TJ McGrath, JT, Sheila and Thomas.

JT sought other documentation. Searching through the attic, he found an old home video that included a clip of the great dig of 1999. It showed the site in the center of the yard, not near the base of the home chimney where the snapshot had been taken. So the digging resumed and by 12:30 a.m., with much of the yard now dug up, JT and Thomas struck pay dirt, retrieving a muddy but still sealed pail with all of their items still in tact.

Among the treasures were love notes from TJ and Sheila to the kids, a Sports Illustrated swim suit edition from 1999 (TJ says he knows nothing about that keepsake), a Sony Walkman, Pokémon cards, itemized grocery store receipts and a PG&E bill showing that costs have continued to escalate, and favored mementos of TJ's father William F. McGrath, who died three years ago and the man TJ says could have found the exact spot where the time capsule was without a photo or any landmark.

In spite of the frustrations, hours of digging, a bad back and the work ahead to repair his dug-up backyard, TJ encouraged everyone to do it again. So last week, the family gathered to place items of interest from 2009 in a new time capsule to be recovered in 2020. Everyone had a one-quart Zip-Lock baggie to fill, and each contributor also placed sealed letters about themselves, their aspirations and messages to the others in the capsule. It's now reburied with exact details about its location carefully tucked away in a kitchen drawer. As long as someone remembers where the buried treasure map is located, the recovery effort 10 years from now should be easier. McGrath expects that with his sons now 22 and 16, there could be more family members by then to help in the next big dig. ■

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About the Cover

Ben Tarver, active in Pleasanton politics for nearly 20 years and the city's mayor from 1992-2000, died Monday at the age of 63. Golf was his passion and through his leadership, the city acquired land in the southwest hills for what is now the Callippe Preserve municipal golf course. Cover photo shows Tarver with Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and former Mayor Tom Pico at opening day ceremonies for Callippe in 2005. Photo by Jeb Bing

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Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

What are you most looking forward to in 2010?



Michele Reed
Hair Stylist

I'm most looking forward to summer. My son is going to turn 1 this summer so that'll be fun. We're planning a camping trip with our friends. I'm really looking forward to hanging out with friends and just having a great year.

Alex Herzfeldt
Student

I'm looking forward to my first rowing season at Sacramento State because it's full of excitement and I don't know what it entails. It's a big unknown.



Wayne Biser
Machinist

Good times with my kids. I have seven of them from ages 28 to 18, six girls and one boy. They seem to provide a lot of entertainment.

Nancy Blair
Administrator

I'm optimistic about this year. I'm alive and I'm breathing and the sun is out and hopefully it will be that way tomorrow. I'll roll with the punches and take everything as it comes.



Julia Krieger
Student

I'm most looking forward to graduation. I've been looking forward to it since kindergarten, pretty much my whole life. We were talking about how 2010 always seemed so far away, but now it's here.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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

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DIGEST

Haven needs helpers

Tri-Valley Haven, a non-profit agency providing shelter and counseling for survivors of sexual assault and battered women and their children is in need of volunteers who are interested in training to be sexual assault, crisis line or legal clinic advocates. The 65-hour volunteer training course will begin Jan. 19, with classes held every Tuesday and Thursday evening through April 1. Volunteers must be 21 years old or older. Applications and information can be found at www.trivalleyhaven.org. Call Geneal at 449-5845 ext. 2711 or email geneal@trivalleyhaven.org.

Gala tickets for sale

Tickets are now available for the Amador Valley High School's athletic booster club's annual Purple and Gold Gala. The event takes place from 5:30 to 11 p.m. March 6 at the Casa Real Event Center, located at 410 Vineyard Ave. The evening of dinner, dancing and an auction will help support the school's athletics program. Last year they raised \$93,000 and this year's goal is \$100,000. Tickets are \$100 to \$250 and table reservations are available as well. For more information, contact Sally Parsons at 846-9531 or e5hoov@comcast.net.

Roe v. Wade event

Members of the Alameda County Tri-Valley Chapter of the National Organization for Women (ACT NOW) are planning a Roe v. Wade demonstration from noon to 1 p.m. Jan. 22 at the corner of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive. The event will commemorate the Supreme Court's decision on the same date in 1973 when abortion was legalized in the United States. For more information, contact Nancy Freedom at 249-0000 or freedomna@earthlink.net.

School opens doors

Carden West School, serving children in preschool, elementary and middle school grades, will hold two open houses in the open enrollment period for the 2010-11 school year. They are from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 12 and Feb. 17 at the school, 4576 Willow Road.

Corrections

In the Dec. 25 story "Sober living provider in danger of losing home," (News, page 6) it should be clarified that of the 250 showings of the Hardings' home in 2006, 35 "promised" offers were made, but no prospective buyers followed through on an offer. Also, the Hardings appealed to the Office of the Comptroller of the U.S. Treasury — National Administrator of Banks — Customer Assistance Group, not the state comptroller.

Nearly 200 meet to discuss school finances

District plans second special budget meeting for Jan. 19

BY EMILY WEST

Standing crowds wound around bookshelves and back to the fiction section of the Amador Valley High School library for a community forum regarding the Pleasanton Unified School District's budget. The group of nearly 200 concerned community members were there to learn about the impacts to Pleasanton schools as well as ask questions of district staff.

The district had intended to have a two-hour meeting, with equal parts dedicated to presentations of the school budget from Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of Business Services, and a parcel tax Q&A with Larry Tramutola, chief strategist with a political consulting company. It was set up a little differently than past forums on the topic, with the school board not seated at a table in front of the audience.

Kevin Johnson, senior director of Pupil Services, acted as the moderator, and said the meeting was successful enough to schedule another for Jan. 19. He did say, however, that the district had not anticipated the large audience and shouldn't have attempted to cover the two topics in one evening.

In Cazares' presentation, she explained the source of the PUSD funding, how the money is spent, that their finances are audited by external parties, and how they are anticipating a budget deficit of more than the current projection of \$3.6 million.

Ninety-three percent of the district's funding, Cazares said, comes from the state.

"We rely on the state so much," she said, "that when the state has a good year, we have a good year. And when the state has a bad year, we have a bad year."

With California projecting at least a \$20-billion deficit for this fiscal year, Cazares said updated numbers were expected to be released today and that Tuesday night's presentation did not reflect a worst-case scenario.

If the state's budgeting solutions are similar to last year — solving the budget with expenditure reductions, accounting techniques and revenue enhancements — Cazares said it would translate to an \$8 million loss in revenue, in addition to the \$3.6 million. She was quick to add that at this time, however, they have no reason to believe the state would act in this way because they don't have a magic ball or inside information. In fact, there are months of negotiations ahead to the May revise, with more negotiations following that.

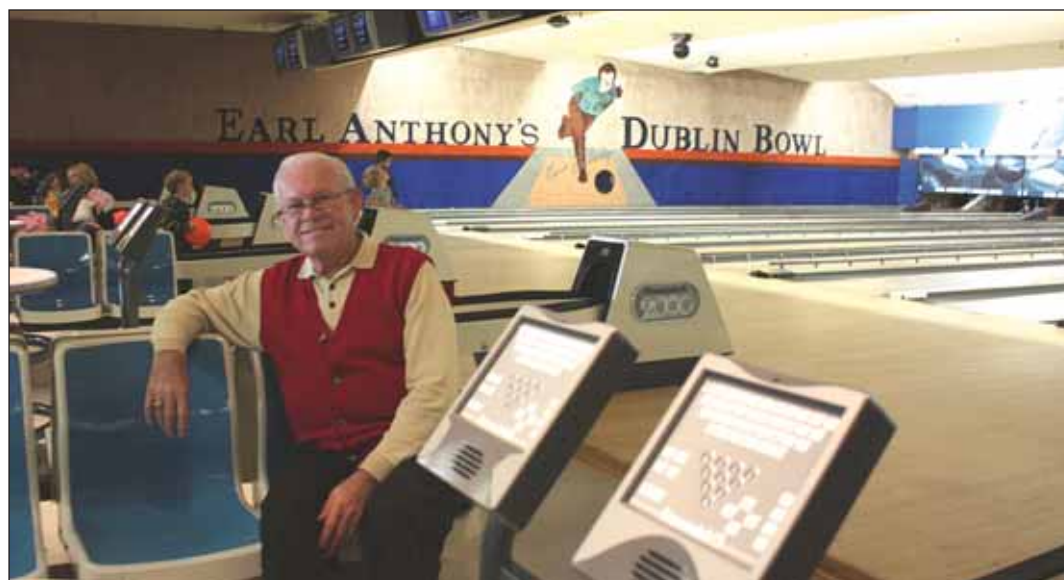
A general idea of what this

would entail, would mean the loss of about 50 full-time positions (which could be more than 50 people), including 34 in teaching, 14 in classified and two in management. This would be in addition to the 150 to 160 people laid off last year.

The district is currently about \$100,000 short of their required 3 percent reserve, about \$3.6 million. In years past they had a reserve of about 4.5 to 5 percent. The district was forced to use the "rainy day fund" last year in order to make up for mid-year cuts imposed by the state. In order to maintain the 3 percent reserve for the following school year, Cazares the district will have to reduce spending or increase revenue.

Questions and suggestions were taken from the audience,

See **SCHOOL** on Page 8



JANET PELLETIER

Ted Hoffman, Jr., who owns Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl, said his staff is anxiously awaiting the Professional Bowlers Association's return to Dublin after 18 years away. The Earl Anthony Memorial tournament final will be televised live next Sunday at 10 a.m. on ESPN.

Pro bowlers head to Dublin next week

Live, ESPN televised Earl Anthony Memorial comes to Tri-Valley bowling alley which shares its namesake

BY JANET PELLETIER

Next week, the sounds of balls rolling, pins crashing down and hands clapping in a show of support will fill the walls inside Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl. But it won't be a typical week at the lanes — the Professional Bowlers Association is coming to town after 18 years, bringing with it dozens of pro players, their entourages and an ESPN crew that will broadcast competition play live nationally on the cable sports network.

The Lumber Liquidators PBA Tour Earl Anthony Memorial and the PBA Women's Series Earl

Anthony Memorial will be under way with qualifying games Tuesday, a Pro-Am next Saturday and wraps up with the big finale next Sunday, televised live at 10 a.m. Big names in the bowling world will include Walter Ray Williams Jr., Wes Malott and Walnut Creek native Wendy Macpherson, who will be defending her Earl Anthony Memorial title.

Everyone over at the Dublin bowling alley is "pumped," according to Ted Hoffman Jr., who knew the man the tournament is named for. Earl Anthony purchased the 40-lane bowling center in 1980 and in 1985, asked

Hoffman to partner with him and operate it. Anthony, who was the first bowler to earn \$1 million in earnings in a single year and won a total of 41 titles, died in 2001 of a head injury after falling down a flight of stairs in a friend's home. His wife Susie retains part ownership of the Dublin bowl.

The PBA was last in Dublin in 1992. The association broadcast tour events here beginning in 1984. The Earl Anthony Memorial started in 2002 and was first held in Tacoma, Wash., where Anthony grew up. The oppor-

See **BOWLING** on Page 7

Young man gets started on firefighting dream early

19-year-old David Monicle puts out night fire outside neighbor's home

BY EMILY WEST

When 19-year-old David Monicle was doing his nightly ritual of ensuring the doors and windows were locked on a typical December night, a glimpse of an orange glow caught his attention. Quickly stepping outside, he saw flames across the street at his neighbor's home on Wind Cave Court off of Valley Trails Drive.

Quickly waking up his parents and telling them to call 911, Monicle ran out to wake the neighbors. The house where the fire originated was a family with two small boys under four years old and their mom was pregnant with twins.

Monicle said the fire was burning outside, between the two homes and was reaching about 4 to 5 feet above the fence. Within about two minutes, Monicle, his dad and his neighbors were able to put the fire out before it spread and caused too much damage.

For Monicle, grabbing a garden hose and putting out the fire was a matter of following his instincts. The innate spurring to action, however,

See **FIRE** on Page 8



DAVID MONICLE

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NFL player, former Amador football star Rick Kane dies

1973 grad succumbed to complications from pneumonia at age of 55

By JANET PELLETIER

When Dennis Georgatos thinks about Rick Kane, he remembers the best football player to ever come out of Amador Valley High School — and possibly the most underappreciated.

"That's not surprising because Rick was never one to wear his stardom on his sleeve," Georgatos said.

Richard James Kane, 55, died on Christmas morning in his Reno home from complications of pneumonia, his family said.



Born Nov. 12, 1954 in Lincoln, Neb., Kane moved to Pleasanton at age 12 and a couple short years later, became a rising star on Amador's football squad. A 1973 graduate, Kane was a standout as a running back during his four high school years, Georgatos said.

"He was always one of us, whether he was running on the field with us or running around with us off the field," he said. "Rick was as quick as anyone with a helping hand or encouraging word."

After high school, Kane went on to meet more success as a running back for the University of Oregon. At Oregon, he earned the Len Casanova Award for Rookie of the Year in 1973, according to his family. He transferred to San Jose State University as a junior, where he would go on to rush for a school record of 1,143 yards.

Outside of Pleasanton, his name became more well-known as he was a third round draft pick in 1977 for the National Football League. He would go on to play for the Detroit Lions from 1977-1983 and for the Washington Redskins from 1983-

1984.

After nine years, Kane ended his football career and subsequently moved to Reno, Nevada, where he began a 25-year career in car sales. Sixteen of those years he spent as sales manager of Reno Jeep Chrysler and the past four years at Scott Motor Co., also serving in sales.

In 2005, he lost his leg in a traffic accident. A 17-year-old girl, distracted by her cell phone, crashed into his motorcycle, according to the Reno Gazette-Journal. Kane made the most of the situation by starting a support group for amputees, the Journal stated.

Kane is survived by his wife of 13 years, Dianne; sons, Ryan, Sean and John; daughter, Kelly; and mother, Anne Kane. Services were planned



KANE FAMILY PHOTO

Rick Kane is seen here in his NFL days.

for Dec. 30 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Reno. Burial was to follow at Mountain View Cemetery in Reno. ■

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City moves location for paying utility bills

Move expected to improve effectiveness, customer service response

Beginning Jan. 11, residents looking to pay their utility bill in person will do so at a new location.

The city is moving the utility billing division to the administrative offices of the Operation Services Center at 3333 Busch Road. Residents can pay utility bills at the new location from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The new move is expected to improve the program's day-to-day coordination and customer service response, according to city spokes-

woman Joanne Hall.

Although the location will change, the phone number for the utility billing staff will remain the same, 931-5425. Customers can mail utility bill payments to P.O. Box 45805, San Francisco, CA 94145-0805.

Bicycle, dog licenses and business licenses will continue to be issued at 200 Old Bernal Ave. and the payment drop box at that location will remain intact. For more information, call 931-5500.

—Janet Pelletier

OF NOTE

Fredette earns title of professor at Albany State

Pleasanton native Jennifer Fredette is now a professor in the department of political science at The Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany State University in New York. Her research addresses law and society themes such as law and identity, legal consciousness, and legal mobilization, as well as political theory's concerns with justice and democracy.

Fredette studied at Sciences Po-Paris in 2006, and was a visiting research fellow at Sciences Po-Bordeaux in 2008. Her dissertation, entitled "Muslim and French: Plural identity and today's elite republican discourse in France," explores the disconnect between how Muslims and French elites discuss citizenship, identity, and belonging.

McCoy-Thompson earns Eagle Scout honors

Matthias McCoy-Thompson, a senior at Amador Valley High School, recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Matthias began as a Cub Scout in 1999 in Pack 934 where his father Steve McCoy-Thompson served as Cub Master. Matthias advanced to the rank of Webelos Scout and earned the Arrow of Light award in 2003. Shortly afterward, he joined Troop 908 and became a Boy Scout.

In addition to earning 21 merit



badges and holding various leadership positions on his journey to Eagle Scout, Matthias had the unique experience of serving as senior patrol leader for Boy Scout Troop 60 in while living in Delhi, India from 2005-06. Matthias also canoed over 80 miles during a Boy Scout High Adventure Program in Boundary Waters, Canada.

In affiliation with Operation MOM, Matthias collected more than 50 boxes of sundries to be sent to a U.S. Marine Corps unit stationed in Iraq. In addition to collecting the sundries at local school drives and at Wal-Mart, he raised more than \$600 with a car wash to pay for shipping expenses. In return for these efforts, Matthias received a certificate and letter of commendation from Marine Corps Combat Regiment 1 as well as an American flag that was flown over its headquarters in Fallujah, Iraq.

Margolin earning honors for community service

Shelby Margolin, a 2009 graduate of Amador Valley High School and daughter of Zack and Robin Margolin, is enrolled at Clark University as a Making a Difference Scholar. She is one of only four entering students to be awarded the special scholarship for outstanding commitment to, and leadership in community service activities.

During high school, she founded and served as president of STAND, an anti-genocide coalition club. She organized conferences and information nights for the community and served as the California High School Outreach Coordinator for STAND in her senior year. In this role she

coordinated with 60 schools in the region. Shelby also served as a board member for the Jewish Teen Association and was a council member for the World Affairs Council.

Since arriving at Clark, Margolin has become an active participant in the University's own STAND club, as well as the Jewish student group Hillel, and the Social Action and Tik-kun Olam committee. Off campus, she volunteers at Jeremiah's Inn, a homeless shelter for men recovering from substance addiction, by co-leading a 12-step recovery program. She also volunteers at the Inn's food pantry, and is coordinating a school supply drive for the Rainbow Child Development Center.

Foothill junior collecting prom dresses in honor of friend

Mackenzie Huss is collecting prom dresses to give to teens who can't afford one. She's doing it to honor her childhood friend Marissa, a former Pleasanton resident who died unexpectedly last month. It's something Huss, a junior at Foothill, said was near and dear to her friend's heart.

"She was a very giving girl," Huss said. "She had a very big heart."

So, she's named her effort Marissa's Closet. Already, some students at Foothill have said they would like to donate their dresses and she said she plans to meet with staff at needy schools in Hayward and Oakland to coordinate donations. Clothes hangers and clothes racks are also appreciated items. To participate, contact Huss at marissascloset@yahoo.com. ■

BOWLING

Continued from Page 5

tunity to bring the event to Dublin came a year ago, Hoffman said.

"There was an opening for January of 2010 and Earl's wife Susie and myself had dinner with the PBA commissioner and he wanted to know if we would like to host the tournament," Hoffman said. "So, we made that decision last January."

Anthony's connection to the Tri-Valley region happened on accident, Hoffman said. He was visiting friends in Moraga in 1979 when he had a heart attack. He spent a month recovering here and decided he liked the area, moving to the Crow Canyon Country Club in Danville soon after. It wasn't long before owners of bowling centers in Danville and Dublin approached him about taking over ownership. Anthony accepted, and later called on Hoffman to become his partner so he could handle operations while Anthony was touring on the bowling circuit. Hoffman, a member of the PBA Hall of Fame, was a touring pro from 1961-1968.

"I was finishing up my career when he was starting his career," Hoffman said of Anthony.

Having the Earl Anthony Memorial back in town is expected to bring a mini stimulus in Dublin — hotel

stays, restaurant and bar patrons and gas station purchases. While Hoffman said he's working on a \$50,000 budget to host the event here, it will more than pay for itself.

"It's a lot of work, more than I anticipated, but the rewards will be there," he said. "People already are hyped up. We're getting a lot of support from the city of Dublin. Mayor Sbranti is really high on this. He's a big sports fan. And I've gotten a lot of support from my vendors, bowling centers in the area."

To cover the cost, some 60 businesses and organizations, including the city of Dublin, have paid \$1,500 to have their name put up at the ends of the lanes.

"We will close the facility from Tuesday through Sunday," Hoffman said. "Starting this coming Monday, the PBA will show up with the bleachers, which they'll put down the lanes to become a stage. People will be sitting in seats on the lanes watching the pros bowl."

While Hoffman is hoping the financial boost from national notoriety won't be short-lived, business at the lanes is fairly brisk as he estimates sales are only down 5-8 percent year-to-date, pretty good numbers in a struggling economy. Nearly half of the bowl's income stems from league play (some 1,500 bowlers at junior, adult and senior levels) and the rest comes from corporate and birthday

parties, followed by open bowling. The center is more than prepared for the pro event since it underwent an extensive \$1-million renovation in 2003.

The Earl Anthony Memorial could become an annual event in Dublin, but that decision will be made by Hoffman and Anthony's widow after competition ends.

Mayor Tim Sbranti, who will be bowling in the Pro-Am (where bowlers play with the pros) next Saturday, said a high-profile event such as this will put Dublin on the map.

"To have an event of that stature in the house that Earl built, literally, is something that's really exciting for our city," he said.

"It's exciting not only for Dublin, to have bowling returning to the Bay Area for the first time in almost 20 years," Sbranti added. "There's the LPGA in Danville and there's been taped events, but to my knowledge, it's the first nationally televised live event in the Tri-Valley, so for us, we think that's pretty significant."

Tickets to the event are selling fast, but some are still available for those wanting to watch the final next Sunday. Spaces are also open for the Pro-Am, in which a portion of the proceeds benefit the Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship Fund. Tickets can be purchased at www.pba.com or in person at Dublin Bowl. ■

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JAN. 12-17, 2010

PRO-AM
Jan. 16, 2010

JUNIOR: 9 A.M.
SENIOR: 11:15 A.M.
ADULT: 1:30 P.M., 4:30 P.M., 6:45 P.M., 9 P.M.

*Portion of each Pro-Am entry goes to the Earl Anthony Memorial Scholarship Fund

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Tickets: \$30, \$25, \$20. Available at LVPAC Box Office, 2400 First Street, Livermore. Open Tue-Sat, noon to 6 pm; on performance days, open two hours prior to performance. 925/373-6800. www.livermoreperformingarts.org. Free youth tickets and reduced-price student rush tickets available on day of performance.



Information about Del Valle Fine Arts is available at www.delvallefinearts.org.

TAKE US ALONG



Fast cars and the Weekly

Jerry Okazaki took the Weekly along on vacation to Italy, where he posed outside the Ferrari factory in Maranello.



A Peterson, Petersburg and the Weekly

Dick Peterson takes a photo with the Weekly in front of St. Catherine's Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Shaka Weekly

Terri and Ted Wendt (throwing the shaka sign) and their daughter Heather Giustino, along with husband Tony and daughter Leila, enjoyed a family vacation with the Weekly on the Hawaiian islands of Maui and Kauai.



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FIRE

Continued from Page 5

may be from his experiences in the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department's explorer program.

"I would have done the same thing if I wasn't in the program," he said.

A part of the program since he was 15, it meets twice a month to help young people with the dream of being a firefighter undergo training and other drills needed for the job.

Monicle graduated from Amador

Valley High School in 2008 and plans to attain his fire science degree at Las Positas College in Livermore, which he is on track to complete this spring. He's certified as an EMT, but sees it as just another step to his dream job of being a firefighter. He's been applying for the past year. Once accepted, he said the road ahead includes a tough, year-long process before donning the official firefighting gear.

"I'm very thankful to have noticed the fire and that there wasn't too much damage," he said. "It could have been much worse." ■

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 5

with ideas ranging from an aggressive fundraising campaign similar to what's done in San Ramon to shortening the school year and negotiating a freeze in step-and-column raises to cutting from special education funding. The district said written responses to these questions will be posted on their website, www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

As for the parcel tax discussion, Johnson insisted that the district has not decided to pursue another parcel tax. Instead, they brought in Tramutola to offer some insight and advice after some requests from the community.

Tramutola said the same type of discussion is likely happening across the state because the need for funding is so great, but his advice was not to rush because a parcel tax will not solve every problem. His estimations say it takes about six months to a year to effectively campaign.

The board will meet for their regular meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday night at the district offices. The meeting place for the Jan. 19 meeting was not finalized by press time. The second of two meetings to survey the community about the search for a new superintendent will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at the district offices. ■

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Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 119

PUBLISHER

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 118

Managing Editor

Janet Pelletier, Ext. 111

Features Editor

Emily West, Ext. 121

Contributors

Dennis Miller

Jerri Pantages Long

Joe Ramirez

Elyssa Thome

ART & PRODUCTION

Lead Designer

Katrina Cannon, Ext. 130

Designers

Lili Cao, Ext. 120

Kristin Herman, Ext. 114

Manuel Valenzuela, Ext. 120

ADVERTISING

Advertising Sales Manager

Mary Hantos, Ext. 123

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Ad Services

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BUSINESS

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 126

Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 141

Front Office Coordinator

Kathleen Martin, Ext. 0

HOW TO REACH THE WEEKLY

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Tarver brought a sea change to Pleasanton's destiny

One of our first interviews with Ben Tarver, Pleasanton's former mayor who died Monday, came with a blunt rejoinder after we talked about launching this weekly newspaper on Jan. 28, 2000. "I like the concept but you probably won't last long," he told us, "because Pleasanton is a small town and there's just not much news here." That was Tarver: say it as he saw it, even if it hurts. We've proved him wrong but there were few times Tarver lost in his passionate, deliberate, unyielding determination to change the seemingly uncontrolled growth of Pleasanton as a major residential, business, retail and corporate center. He championed the call for slow growth (though he would have preferred no growth) from the time he was appointed to the city's Planning Commission in 1986, to his election to the City Council two years later, and then as mayor in 1992, a post he held for the next eight years.

Tarver was a product of the 1960s, coming of age in an era of street demonstrations and anti-war protests. He was not a rabble-rouser, however, but believed strongly in environmental issues and like the Great Society, that government had a major role to play in quality of life issues, at the local level as well as in Washington. Among his first political victories was to block a proposed annexation of what is now part of the East Bay Regional Park District holdings in the ridgelands west of Pleasanton where a private partnership was moving forward with a planned 2,400-home development around a golf course.

A hard-driven elected official who was very idealistic, Tarver felt strongly about what he believed in. Lacking support at first — even failing to have any of the other four on the City Council vote for some of his growth-dampening proposals, he found allies beyond Pleasanton at a time when many California cities were questioning their own rapid growth that the state's infrastructure — water availability, sewer capacity, parkland — couldn't handle. When Tarver moved here in 1974, he saw the dilemma first-hand when Pleasanton's antiquated sewer system couldn't handle the growth occurring then, leading to a cut-off of new building permits until the problem could be solved. For many of those reasons, he later fought the development of the Hacienda Business Park, backing an unsuccessful referendum to block its construction, and later the annexation into Pleasanton of the Ruby Hill gated community development, which he thought was too far from the city's limits and years ahead of a time when development should occur that far east. He relented only when colleagues on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved Ruby Hill anyhow and he agreed that it would be better to make the proposed upscale community a part of Pleasanton rather than Livermore or to be left as a new, independent municipality.

Whether political friend or foe, those who knew Tarver respected him as an honest, straight-forward, you-always-knew-where-you-stood kind of guy, a strong-willed city leader who shouted his beliefs from the rooftops and aggressively fought to put them in play. His commitment was not only to Pleasanton's future as he wanted it to be but also to his employer, the city of Concord where he was Director of Information Technology. No one ever complained about his work ethic. In fact, it was not unusual to find him driving back to his office in Concord after a long night of City Council deliberations to finish work that needed to be completed. Like the late Mayor Warren Harding and former mayors Ken Mercer and Tom Pico, Tarver brought a sea change to Pleasanton's destiny that continues today.

Code of ethics

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

LETTERS

Let's join together for peace in this new year

Dear Editor,

When I read the article on peace in the Dec. 25 issue of our Pleasanton Weekly ("Peace," Cover Story, pages 12-13) and how important it is to resolve in this new year that we all work together to bring peace and a new trust in 2010, I remember the trust Albert Schweitzer foresaw our world in need of nearly a century ago when he observed: "We live in a time when the good faith of peoples is doubted more than ever before — with mistrust paralyzing us after the first world war when the nations experienced dishonesty, injustice

and inhumanity from one another. How can a new trust come about? — another spirit must enter into people and only the awareness of its necessity suffices to give us strength to believe in its coming."

In this new year, let all people of peace vow to join together and practice ongoing direct action such as that ongoing each second Wednesday at 7 p.m. in front of the Museum on Main Street. There, Pleasantonians 4 Peace assemble out of necessity to give us all strength to believe another spirit of peace is coming. Please join us and do whatever else you can to spread a new trust about.

Art S. Tenbrink

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Transitions

WEDDINGS • ENGAGEMENTS • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS

BIRTHS



Maxwell Cooper Sadek

Maxwell Cooper Sadek was born at 4:16 p.m. Nov. 20 to parents Melanie and Mike Sadek. Baby Maxwell weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 inches long.

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

Dec. 2

Chantelle and Jayson Lanakila
Cadiraao, a girl

Dec. 3

Rene and John Kinnear, a boy

Dec. 14

Gina and Keith Klumb, a boy

Dec. 16

Kathleen and Todd Flower, a boy

Deaths, Weddings and Births
Information should be submitted, typewritten or emailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to:

Transitions
Pleasanton Weekly
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Or email: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Please include a contact name and telephone number. Not responsible for lost photos.

The Weekly reserves the right to edit information for space and format considerations.



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POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

More than 1,900 arrested in Bay Area DUI holiday period crackdown

More than 1,900 people were arrested in the Bay Area for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs during a regional anti-DUI crackdown that started Dec. 18 and ended Jan. 2.

While final figures have not been tabulated, the regional Avoid campaign, which involves 125 Bay Area law enforcement agencies, had netted 1,960 arrests through 6 a.m. Saturday, according to officials. The arrest numbers are provisional, since a number of agencies have not yet reported their statistics.

Last year, the winter holiday Avoid campaign netted 3,261 arrests in the Bay Area. There were five DUI-involved fatal collisions in the region during the 2008 enforcement period, while there were two reported for the current period.

Officers arrested 226 drivers in the Bay Area for being under the influence between Thursday at 6 p.m. through Saturday at 6 a.m. The number is up from last year's total of 173 during the same reporting period.

DUI arrests also have increased across California compared to last year. CHP officers have arrested 1,252 drunken drivers, up from 986 at this time in 2009.

—Bay City News

POLICE REPORT

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

Dec. 28

Theft

- 5:53 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 9:22 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Marijuana possession

- 11:42 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 4:58 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Sutter Gate Avenue
- 10:22 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; underage alcohol possession

DUI

- 1:49 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita and Morganfield roads

Dec. 29

Vandalism

- 3:27 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Parkside Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:35 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
- 7:32 p.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Dorman Road; under the influence of a controlled substance
- 10:53 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

Dec. 30

Theft

- 12:53 p.m. in the 3100 block of Persimmon Circle; identity theft
- 1:35 p.m. in the 4700 block of Muirwood Drive
- 2:31 p.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road; stolen property possession

DUI

- 12:10 a.m. in the 4300 of Valley Avenue

Dec. 31

Theft

- 9:51 a.m. in the 3700 block of Fairlands Drive; forgery
- 11:37 a.m. in the 1600 block of East Gate Way; stolen vehicle
- 2:29 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 5:10 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Burglary

- 1:22 p.m. in the 6600 block of Arlington Drive

Vandalism

- 8:13 a.m. at the intersection of West Neal Street and Railroad Avenue
- 9:28 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:57 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; DUI, paraphernalia possession, controlled substance possession
- 11:42 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Jorgensen Lane; DUI
- 11:49 p.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; public drunkenness

Jan. 1

Vandalism

- 1:26 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Stanley Boulevard

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:28 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 8:15 a.m. in the 7300 block of Linwood Court; underage drinking on private property
- 4:00 p.m. in the 4400 block of Mohr

Avenue; DUI

Battery

- 8:15 a.m. in the 7300 block of Linwood Court

Jan. 2

Grand theft

- 12:36 p.m. in the 4700 block of Golden Road

Burglary

- 8:23 p.m. in the 3800 block of Newton Way

Vandalism

- 12:30 p.m. at the intersection of Moller Ranch Drive and Foothill Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 8:11 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Koll Center Drive; marijuana possession
- 3:37 p.m. at the intersection of Newton and Angus ways; public drunkenness
- 9:15 p.m. at the intersection of Owens and Chabot drives; DUI
- 11:38 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Danbury Park Drive; underage DUI



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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission meeting scheduled on January 13th has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting will be January 27, 2010.

Youth Commission

Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- FY 2009/2010 City Grant Program Mid Term Reports
- Valley Teen Job Fair – Save the Date

Library Commission

Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Library Exhibit Policy
- Library Commission Goals

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discussion of Proposed Permanent Name for Bernal Community Park (T)
- Consider the recommendation of the Trails Ad Hoc Committee to merge its committee with the Bicycle And Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Selection and Committee assignments
- Parks Projects Quarterly Status Report for October, November, and December 2009
- Parks Maintenance Division Quarterly Report for October, November, and December 2009

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

Holiday Fund Donors

Since the launch of the 2009 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, a total of \$415,866 has been raised.

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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.

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My Grandchildren from Doris A. Slater.....	**
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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@pleasantonweekly.com.

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Credit card donations will be accepted by calling the
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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. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

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Ben Tarver: 1946-2010

Former mayor, champion of Pleasanton's slow-growth policies, dies at 63

By JEB BING

Ben Tarver, active in Pleasanton politics for nearly 20 years and the city's mayor from 1992-2000, died Monday in Penn Valley, Calif., where he lived with his wife Jeanie. Born April 23, 1946, he was 63 years old.

He was Pleasanton's first "slow growth" mayor, actively supporting measures to slow down new home construction and an outspoken advocate of saving open space and the Pleasanton hills from business and residential development.

Although politicians often campaign on slow growth themes, Tarver actually succeeded in slowing the residential growth momentum, winning City Council backing and broad public support for measures that capped housing at 29,000 units, reined in developers with tighter annual building permit limits at less than 350 a year, down from some earlier years when as many as 1,000 permits were issued, and established rigid city boundary lines to stop further annexation and preserve open space beyond the city limits.

While he won most of his land use and environmental battles, he failed in his effort to block the development of Hacienda Business Park and later Ruby Hill, arguing that they didn't fit in his long-range plan for a less commercially and residentially populated city.

Tarver served on the Pleasanton Planning Commission and then was elected to the City Council in 1988. He was elected mayor in 1992 and again in 1994, 1996 and 1998. In stepping down, he backed his long-time friend and fellow councilman Tom Pico, who was elected mayor in 2000. Shortly after, Tarver retired as head of Information Technology for the city of Concord, moved to Colorado and re-married.

Pleasanton prospered during the Tarver years with the city becoming a prestigious residential and business destination. Housing prices appreciated rapidly and have been among the highest in the East Bay. Downtown rents soared in those good economic years and prospective buyers and tenants were on waiting lists for space in Hacienda Business Park. A vibrant downtown and other prosperous retail centers, including Stoneridge Shopping Center, added to the city's appeal and financial strength during Tarver's tenure.

Early on, Tarver instituted strong fiscal controls and financial accountability under the leadership of Sue Rossi, then the city's financial director. Those policies continue today under City Manager Nelson Fialho and Finance Director Dave Culver, making Pleasanton one of only a few California cities that are still in good fiscal shape despite a mounting state budget deficit and state take-aways of millions of dollars from Pleasanton in recent years.

Higher housing prices hiked property tax assessments, resulting in soaring municipal tax receipts with the city's general fund revenues now about three times the \$33 million reported when Tarver was first elected mayor in 1992.

"Clearly, Ben Tarver was a great steward for our city," said former Mayor Pico. "He set a high standard for integrity and did everything possible to protect Pleasanton's future. In the days and years ahead, we will see the continued benefits of his good leadership."

Former Councilwoman Becky Dennis agreed. Like Pico, she was part of Tarver's Dream Team of select council candidates in the early 1990s, although she and Tarver later parted as political allies.

"Ben was pretty much ahead of the curve on many of the growth issues we faced as a city when he became mayor," Dennis said. "Although every mayor talks about growth, he really pursued measures to bring it under control and got the City Council to work to get it done."

In general, Tarver advanced his ideas for

Pleasanton even if others disagreed. He often sparred with the business community and developers and there were times when as a councilman he found his proposals lacking any support. As mayor, though, he actively sought volunteers to fill key positions on various city commissions and committees, appointing political friends and foes alike in his effort to provide balance.

He opposed the Ruby Hill development but relented after the planned gated community was approved by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and would have been developed outside of Pleasanton. Reluctantly, and with the urging of Livermore officials who agreed to handle sewer connections but otherwise didn't want to annex Ruby Hill, itself, Tarver cast his vote with a majority on the council to bring Ruby Hill into Pleasanton.

After battling the city and county of San Francisco over its plan to build several thousand homes on the 510-acre vacant and unincorporated Bernal property, Tarver agreed to a 1,900-home development there that would have added more affordable housing and provided the city with an 18-hole public golf course, parks and trails at the developers' expense. At the last minute, however, Dennis recalls, he changed his mind and that early agreement fell apart.

It wasn't until a new council with Pico as mayor that an agreement was made to allow Greenbriar Homes and its associates to buy Bernal from San Francisco and build 581 homes, which it now has done, and also give 318 acres of the Bernal property to the city of Pleasanton free of charge.

Tarver moved to his Vintage Hills home from Martinez in 1974 when the city's population was just over 20,000. He first got involved in city affairs in 1982 as part of Citizens for Balanced Growth, a newly-formed citizens' action committee that was concerned about balanced jobs and housing growth in the Tri-Valley. Then he heard about

Hacienda Business Park.

"The more I read and heard about this monstrous park, which was being promoted as the biggest business park west of the Mississippi, the more I felt that it wasn't right," Tarver told the Pleasanton Weekly in an interview. "It wasn't being planned the way it should have been. It wasn't going to be cost effective. There was too much money being spent on streets and sewers ahead of development to make it work."

Tarver supported a voter referendum to block Hacienda's approval. It failed in a 60-40 vote, but his ability to rally such strong support on an anti-development issue made him an instant hero among those who believed Pleasanton was moving too fast again with commercial and housing growth.

Even later when he was stepping down as mayor with Hacienda generating significant tax revenue for Pleasanton, Tarver considered the business park poorly designed.

"Look at what happened," Tarver said. "When the economy went sour in the early 1990s, the owners of Hacienda came to the city for help. Here are the people who assured voters early on that the park would generate jobs and have absolutely no impact on housing. Now, all of a sudden, they had to get retail stores and 1,500 apartments to bail them

out."

"Had we done the commercial, industrial general plan review properly with full citizen participation, we would have planned Hacienda with the right mix of residential, retail, business office and other development, with a school and parks. It would have been better."

Just as Hacienda helped Tarver gain prominence in the community, he ran for City Council in 1984 and again in 1986, losing both times. Then he won a surprise appointment to the city Planning Commission by then-Mayor Ken Mercer. That gave Tarver the public visibility and platform needed to win a council seat in 1988, and to campaign for

"Although every mayor talks about growth, he really pursued measures to bring it under control and got the City Council to work to get it done."

Becky Dennis,
Former Pleasanton
Councilwoman



FILE PHOTO

Tarver, back row fourth from the left, is seen in this file photo with L-R: Becky Dennis, Tom Pico, Kay Ayala, Sharrell Michelotti, Cindy McGovern, Kris Weaver, the late Juanita Haugen and Deborah Kleffman.

the mayor's post when Mercer stepped down in 1992. Bucking the odds, he beat a former mayor, Frank Brandes, to win the mayor's post. He ran successfully against Brandes again two years later, against Councilwoman Sharrell Michelotti in 1996 and against Jack Hovingh in 1998, winning all contests by large margins.

"Under Ben Tarver, the whole city process opened up," Pico said. "Tarver truly tried to make sure that all sides got represented, even when he made appointments to various committees."

His appointments sometimes raised the eyebrows of even his staunchest supporters. He named Brandes, his longtime opponent, to the San Francisco property task force. He gave Michelotti the coveted Mayor's Award and stunned his no-growth supporters when he also bestowed the Mayor's Award on the developers of Hacienda Business Park: Joe Callahan, Mark Sweeney and Patrick O'Brien.

At Tarver's urging, Pleasanton also became the first Bay Area city to broadcast City Council meetings on community television, which, depending on the issues before the council, has turned out to be some of the best Tuesday night television programming on the air ever since.

He also was a strong advocate for Pleasanton children, working constantly to increase joint uses of school district and city facilities to provide more opportunities for youth. Under Tarver, the city started sharing financial responsibilities for middle school gymnasiums and other facilities that are now open after school for community use.

As part of the slow growth measures he supported, Tarver worked with Pico, Dennis and others to protect the ridglands, campaigning successfully to prevent a housing and retail development on acreage that is now part of the East Bay Regional Park District.

Among other accomplishments, Tarver also brokered a pay-as-you-go developer fee agreement that provided developer-paid funds upfront for schools, sewers, water lines, street improvements and other infrastructure that would be needed by their proposed construction projects.

A golfing enthusiast, Tarver also formed a golf course advisory committee to develop an 18-hole championship public golf course in Happy Valley. It took years of work to meet stringent regional, state and federal environmental agency requirements, but his effort paid off in 2005 with the dedication of Callippe Preserve Golf Course, an event that brought Tarver back for one of his few visits to Pleasanton after moving away.

City leaders often cite the work of the late Mayor Warren Harding for initiating zoning and planning measures to place large office and retail centers along the Interstate 580 and 680 freeways when they were built, protecting residential neighborhoods and the city's historic downtown. Later, Mercer, the city's longest-serving mayor, was credited with Pleasanton's dynamic growth as a regional business and retail center with a wide mix of housing to accommodate a growing workforce. Tarver's legacy is clearly halting that growth and what some saw as runaway development with measures in place to restrain the city's development, measures that continue today.

Tarver suffered a stroke six weeks ago, but was recovering until Monday morning, when he died. He leaves his wife Jeanie, and three children by his first marriage to Margo Tarver, currently a member of the Pleasanton Library Commission. The children, all grown, are Tiffany, Benjamin IV and Melanie.

No services are planned in Paradise. Arrangements are now being made for a memorial service in Pleasanton. Check www.pleasantonweekly.com for updates. ■

ON THE TOWN



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Auditions

AUDITIONS FOR VALLEY CONCERT CHORALE Auditions for Mozart's Requiem are from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 11 and 18 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. Call 462-4205 to schedule an appointment.

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.

Author Visits

MAGGIE ANTON, AUTHOR, RASHI'S DAUGHTERS Maggie Anton, best-selling author of the "Rashi's Daughters" trilogy, will be at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17. Admission is \$5 and refreshments will be served. Learn about life in medieval France and its fascinating similarities to our lives and modern times. Call 931-1055.

Classes

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.

PRUNING CLASSES Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave., hosts free pruning classes in January: Fruit tree pruning, Jan. 9 and 10; rose pruning Jan. 16 and 17; and Japanese maple pruning, Jan. 30 and 31. Saturday classes start at 10 a.m. and Sunday classes start at 1 p.m. Call 462-1760 or visit www.westerngardennursery.com.

Clubs

CALIFORNIA WRITERS CLUB, TRI-VALLEY BRANCH The California Writers Club, Tri-Valley Branch meets from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 16 at Oasis Grille 780 Main St. This month's topic is "Freelancing Today" with LeeAnne Jones and Peggy Spear. The cost is \$21 for members and \$27 for non-members, which includes lunch. Reservations are required. Contact Fred Norman at fnorman300@aol.com or 462-7495 by Jan. 13. Visit www.trivalleywriters.org.

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

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.

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB (LAVGC) Guest speaker Kathy Echols will discuss Australian and South African plants from 7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 14 at Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden

Lane, Livermore. Echols will share her expertise on Australian, rare and unusual perennials, as well as California natives. All garden enthusiasts are welcome to attend. Visit www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc.

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

16TH ANNUAL BURNS SUPPER The Pleasanton-Blairgowrie-Fergus-Sister City Organization is celebrating its 16th annual Burns Supper Jan. 30 at the Pleasanton Marriott. The event honors Robert Burns, the Bard of Scotland, in memory, song and poems. Tickets are \$65

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or \$600 for a group. RSVP by Jan. 20. Visit www.pbfsco.org or call Malcom Carden, 510-654-7627.

A SPECIAL EVENING WITH RICH VOS Rich was the breakout star of NBC's "Last Comic Standing" sea-

sons 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.bunjoscomedy.com.

CHICKS WITH SHTICK 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.bunjoscomedy.com.

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 crab-feed@comcast.net.

OPTIMAL HEALTH SPECTRUMS OPEN HOUSE At this open house from 4 to 7 p.m. Jan. 16 at Optimal Health Spectrums, 4463 Stoneridge Drive, Suite A, hear Dr. Mielke talk about the importance to your health of Bioidentical Hormones. Learn new information about wellness, plus free skin care and makeup samples, wine and healthy snacks. Register at www.optimal-healthspectrums.com.

PEACE ART Explore peace with the community as they create art, word, music and dance in the name of peace as we remember Martin Luther King, Jr. The event is at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 18 at UCC Livermore, 1886 College Ave., Livermore. Designed to be children/youth friendly as well as intergenerational. It will include listening to the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. A \$3-\$5 donation is suggested. Email Jen@jenlock.com.

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING Tri-Valley Republican Women will host retired Navy Captain Harold Strunk, Ph.D., at a dinner meeting at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at Cattlemens Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore. Drawing on his distinguished career in military intelligence, Dr. Strunk will offer insight into the current political and social climate in the Middle East. Cost is \$26 for members, or \$30 for non-members. RSVP by Jan. 10. Call Jan, 846-5944, or visit www.trivalleyrepublicanwomen.org.

Exhibits

THE ART OF QUILTING: LANDSCAPE IMPRESSIONS Alexander's Fine Art, 608-G Main St., hosts "The Art of Quilting: Landscape Impressions" by Denise Oyama Miller and Nancy Ryan. This show features features landscapes produced by the art quilt movement. Artists reception is from 6 to 9 p.m. Jan. 15 and discussions with the artists is from 1 to 4 p.m. Jan. 16. Call 846-6015 or visit www.alexandersfineart.com.

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.tvar.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

FREE H1N1 VACCINES San Ramon Regional Medical Center will provide free H1N1 vaccines from noon to 4 p.m. Jan. 9 at 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon, to pregnant women, healthcare workers, emergency personnel, children ages 6 months to 24, adults with chronic medical conditions or weakened immune systems. Wear short sleeves. No second H1N1 vaccines offered to children. Supplies are limited. Call 275-6030.

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start from 7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 18 with Holistic Moms at Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St. Have questions on how to clean green? Do you have some fantastic green cleaning solutions that you've discovered and would like to share? Join the Green Cleaning discussion. Free to members and first-time visitors. Call 519-3003 or visit www.holisticmoms.org.

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.

LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM Learn about Lymphedema, risk factors, prevention and treatment from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 20 at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Free boxed lunch and drink will be provided to all cancer patients, their loved one and staff. Register at 734-3319 by Jan. 18.

Kids & Teens

FREE TEEN WORKSHOP ON LOSS Teen can learn how to deal with disappointment and loss, identify different types of loss, explore emotions surrounding loss and learn coping strategies from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Share experiences in a supportive and confidential setting. Free \$5 jamba juice card. Call 600-9762 ext. 7 to register.

NATIONAL SERVICE DAY Have a fun experience while kids learn to give back to nature at the National Service Day, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Jan. 17 at the MA Center, 10200 Crow Canyon Road, Castro Valley. The hands-on ecological activities are hosted by the Amrita Bala Kendra. Kids learn to plant and nurture trees with expert guidance with adult eco-volunteers. Visit <http://dayofservice2010.eventbrite.com>.

Lectures/ Workshops

BASIC DIGITAL CAMERA OPERATIONS Ralph Cooksey-Talbott, will teach a free workshop on basic digital camera operations from 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 16 at the Fremont Art Association Gallery, 37659 Niles Blvd., Niles. Please bring manual. Call 510-792-0905 or visit www.cookseytalbotgallery.com.

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.

POETRY PUBLISHING WORKSHOP The workshop will be led by prominent poet Connie Post, first poet laureate of Livermore, from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 17 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. She will discuss how to handle editors, submissions guidelines and rejection while navigating the path to publication. Cost is \$10. Call 846-882 or visit www.civcartsliterary.org.

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.

Recreation

HIDDEN WORLDS Visit the naturalist as he shares the world as you have never seen it before at 11 a.m. Jan. 9 at the Alviso Adobe. Travel into the little seen worlds; the macroscopic and microscopic universes. Call Eric Nicholas, 931-3483. Cost is \$8 for residents or \$11 for non-residents.

Scholarships

AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM The American Legion Pleasanton Post 237 hosts a high school oratorical scholarship program. 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

DISEASE PREVENTION The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., hosts a series of healthy living and disease prevention workshops. The next will meet at 10 a.m. Jan. 15. Seniors will receive information and resources, and learn how to live a happier and healthier life. Cost is \$1.75 for residents or \$2.25 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

ETHICAL WILLS An Ethical Will is a document which you prepare for your loved ones. It shares ideals, life lessons and experiences with family & friends. Learn how to write an ethical will and how it can be of great meaning after your passing from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Jan. 12 or from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 14 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5369.

Spiritual

ECK WORSHIP SERVICE "What Would Love Do Now?" is the theme of the next Eck Worship Service that will be held at 11

a.m. Jan. 17 at Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road. Eck is another name for the Holy Spirit. The service focuses on an aspect of Eckankar. People of all faiths are welcome. Call 944-0118.

TRI-VALLEY UNITY CHURCH "Prayer for Today" is the sermon topic of guest speaker Rev. Margaret Stortz at 10 a.m. Jan. 10, at Tri-Valley Unity, 2260 Camino San Ramon, San Ramon. All are welcome. Ongoing classes and groups. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Sports

PLEASANTON AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION It is not too late to register for Pleasanton American Little League's 2010 baseball season. We are accepting registration for players 9-12 through Jan. 9 and players 5-8 through Jan. 31. Visit www.pleasantonamerican.com.

Support Groups

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, TRI-VALLEY CHAPTER There will be a monthly meeting of the Tri-Valley chapter of the National Federation of the Blind from 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 9 in the cafeteria room 2 at the Valley Memorial Hospital,

1111 East Stanley Blvd., Livermore. The organization can help people to adjust. Any visually impaired or blind person is urged to attend. Call Carl at 449-9362.

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.

TV30

TRI-VALLEY SPORTS FINAL Join hosts Ian Bartholomew, George "Dr B" Baljevich and guest host Greg Kragen as they provide up to the minute sports reporting on Tri-Valley High Schools. Exciting footage and commentary covering boys and girls basketball and soccer on Channel 30. Visit our web site at www.tri-valleytv.org.

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

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GIRLS NIGHT OUT NETWORKING

The women of Girls Night Out Networking meet for wine and a bite to eat at their December meeting at Crooked Vine Winery in Livermore. The group meets to have fun and make connections once a month at a Tri-Valley location.

Girls night out with a purpose

Women in the Tri-Valley hit the town in the name of networking

BY EMILY WEST

A glass of wine and gabbing with the girls could help grow business. At least, that's what Frances Hewitt is finding to be true for many women in the Tri-Valley.

In June 2008, Hewitt was looking for a new way to network. While she appreciated the more formal meetings typically held weekly and in the mornings, she was craving something more lighthearted and fun.

So she and about 15 friends met up for drinks and a bite to eat at Eddie Papa's in Pleasanton to form a new women-only networking group. Calling themselves Girls Night Out Networking — or GNON for short — the group has since grown to include more than 200 members, with 50 to 60 women meeting monthly at various locations in the Tri-Valley.

While not intending to necessarily replace more formal networking groups, the idea is to combine a night out with friends and the benefits of networking. This, Hewitt says, takes place without an agenda. Instead, people gather after work (on a Wednesday or Thursday night) and the only thing planned is introductions around 6:15 p.m. Attendees can come and go as they please.

GNON appears to be thriving, particularly in an economy where many are looking for work or more clients and

Check out GNON

Who: Women interested in networking

What: An informal night out

When: after work Jan. 27 (introductions at 6:15 p.m.)

Where: Hairlights Salon, 4307 Valley Ave., Ste. F

Details: Bring your own beverage and \$5 for appetizers. Visit www.localmarket2me.com/business/gnon.html for more information

wanting to do business in their hometown. To join, there are only three requirements: members must be female, want to meet friends and like to have fun.

Hewitt, an account executive at Pleasanton-based Allegra Print and Imaging, credits the informal and fun settings to fostering relationships that often lead to growing businesses.

"I carry around a special Rolodex with me of GNON members," she said. "Whenever I hear someone say they need a service or product, I go there first."

Members, or GNONers, range from being business owners to a stay-at-home mom, some who may be looking for

full- or part-time work.

Hewitt said some women with resumes in hand "working the room" have found job leads and offers.

"It's a really diverse group," she added. "We've got everything from a funeral director to a massage therapist to doggie daycare."

Even if a networking connection isn't initially apparent, the GNONers will most often remark about the camaraderie found through the monthly mixers. Hewitt said she's heard some hesitation from prospective members because they don't know anyone, but said people are often surprised to see familiar faces and that meeting new people is the name of the game.

As the group grows into its second year, something Hewitt never imagined at the GNON's first meeting, they have had to make certain changes. Now that the monthly meetings are so large, they now meet at the businesses of GNONers, instead of making a small reservation at a local restaurant or winery. Hewitt said she is also planning to have a \$50 annual membership fee to help cover overhead costs. With the membership, she plans to include advertising in the GNON Gazette newsletter, the ability to host a mixer and access to members.

For those interested in learning more about the networking group should contact Hewitt at 487-4748 or fmhewitt@yahoo.com. ■

Folk music to kick off the New Year

Tom Rush performs Jan. 10 at the Bankhead Theater

Folk guitar legend Tom Rush will bring old and new favorites ranging from traditional to contemporary, as well as songs from his newest album "What I Know," to the Bankhead Theater Jan. 10. The show will be the start of a guitar-centered performances on the Livermore stage, leading up to the Guitar Player Superstar Competition Finals in September.

Rush, known for his guitar-playing style, warm stage presence and expressive voice, is known to

be influential in the revival of folk music and its evolution into an American music style that became forever identified with the 1960s.

The show will be at 7 p.m. at the Bankhead, located at 2400 First St. in Livermore. Tickets range from \$26 to \$46, with student tickets available for \$12. To purchase tickets and for more information, call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

—Emily West

PET OF THE WEEK

Calvin's a cutie

Meet Calvin. Valley Humane Society staff describe him as "the sweetest cat ever." He is a 3-year-old, neutered male orange tabby and he has the coolest disposition. Purr, purr, purr! Calvin sits up on his back legs when he wants attention and he gives the best head butts. Calvin is declawed so he needs to be an indoor-only pet. This big, healthy boy will surely enrich your life and he may even help you with your chores. See www.valleyhumane-society.org for a photo of Calvin assisting in the office. Visit Calvin at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada Street in Pleasanton, open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 426-8656.



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

NOW SHOWING

REVIEWS OF NEW MOVIES

By JEANNE AUFMUTH

Nine

★★

Rated PG-13 for some sexuality and adult themes
1 hour, 58 minutes

Rob Marshall (of "Chicago" fame) lays a big Christmas goose-egg with this frazzled and frenetic adaptation of the 1982 stageplay of the same name.

Daniel Day-Lewis does his charming best to carry this misogynist tale, based on Fellini's classic "81/2," as famous — and infamous — film director Guido Contini who has a disabling case of writer's block. His new film "Italia" will star Italian bombshell Claudia (Nicole Kidman), but it's anyone's guess over the advent of a script, a story or a start date.

While juggling the cosmic complexities of cinema verite, Guido semi-balances a hefty love life that includes ex-leading lady and current wife Luisa (Marion Cotillard), neurotic mistress Carla (Penelope Cruz) and the aforementioned starlet with whom Guido has had relations. Add the sultry ghost of his beloved mother (Sophia Loren), a kittenish Vogue reporter (Kate Hudson) and voice-of-reason costume designer Lilli (Judi Dench) and you've got yourself one exacting harem.

The petulant philanderer at-

tempts to get his mojo back and put the "Maestro" back on top while the rest of us are subjected to a series of strident, overwrought dance numbers with little in the way of catch or class. The project looks luscious — with fantastically cluttered sets and the casual cool of 1960s Rome — but the insecurities of a world-class alley cat are more superficially disconcerting than entertaining.

I confess to enjoying Day-Lewis' smile — his tortured anti-heroes are so often mired in gloomy agony — and the man can carry a tune of sorts. Cruz brings a refreshing fire to her neglected lover and Cotillard does her level best as the scorned wife who describes her wayward mate in one damning phrase: "an appetite."

Kidman is wasted, her uncomfortably slinky sashay distracting. Dench adds grace but the part is all wrong for her soberly brilliant gifts.

The scripting is tired and re-



petitive, the migraine-inducing music lacks magic (hello, it's a musical!) and the narrative structure's a mess. What should have been one of the best films of the year is one of the worst — color me bummed. ■

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Blue Devils pack a punch

Midget 18 team goes 4-1-0, while PeeWee wins division tournament

Two Tri-Valley Blue Devils youth ice hockey teams were victorious this past weekend at the Winter Classic tournament held in San Jose. The tournament included teams from all over the Western United States.

The Blue Devils Midget 18 team went 4-1-0 to win the Midget Open division of the tournament, scoring a total of 25 goals while allowing only seven. Goalies Sam Bouwens and Nate Szumowski each registered one shutout and Sam was the top goaltender in the tournament. The team also had five players in the top 10 point leaders for tournament: Joshua

Mikes, Bo Hendrickson, Cale Schoenberg, Daniel Mikes and Randall Hahn. The team includes three players from Pleasanton: Randall Hahn (son of Sharks announcer Randy Hahn), Cody Leibow and Tyler Theobald. Other players are from Livermore, Concord, Orinda, Danville, Walnut Creek, Concord Clayton and Napa.

The Blue Devils PeeWee (under 12) team also won their division at the tournament. They were undefeated, scoring 36 goals and allowing only seven. Pleasanton players on that team include Mitchell Walsh and Jeremy Goldhawk. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMI KELLY

Ryan Gordon Games raise \$6,200, reunite former rivals



PHOTO COURTESY OF CURT GORDON

Men's and women's games representing the 1970s, 80s, 90s and 2000s in graduating years were held last weekend to raise money for the soccer programs at Amador Valley and Foothill high schools.

Foothill High School and Amador High School soccer alumni met for the seventh year last weekend at Foothill High School for the Ryan Gordon Alumni Games.

After a wet morning of rain and fog, the sun broke out just in time for the games, which featured male and female players from the 1970s, 80s, 90s and 2000s. This year featured 78 players, 56 men and 22 women, many of them returnees from prior years, according to event organizer Curt Gordon. The games are named after Curt's son Ryan Gordon, who was a 2003 graduate of Foothill killed in a jet ski accident shortly after graduation. He had planned on attending Santa Barbara City College and to play soccer there.

Fifteen of Ryan Gordon's former teammates participated Sunday. A few players also played last weekend who originally fought against

each other back in the 1970s, including Dion Hock (FHS, 1978), Kevin Crow (AVHS, 1979), Keith Clay (AVHS, 1977) and Lynne Sullivan (FHS, 1979).

Monies raised are donated to the men's and women's soccer programs at the two high schools. This year's games raised \$6,200, the most raised since the inaugural games in 2003, and bringing the total since they started to \$42,000. In the first game the Foothill women extended their win streak to three games by winning 3-1. Foothill has now won five of the seven games. Jill Sweetnam (2003) scored first for the winners, followed by goals from Erin Mares (2001) and Carrie Andrews (2006). Allie Cefalo (2004) on loan from Foothill scored for Amador near the end of the game.

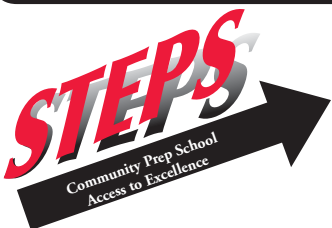
The men's side saw Amador getting by Foothill 4-1 and continuing their series dominance by winning 6 of the

7 games played so far. Amador scored first on a goal by Mike Klotovich (1999) but the game was soon tied on a spectacular shot by Kyle Crain (2006). Amador also got goals from Mike Carlson (1996), Nick Rodriguez (2003) and Tom Snyder (2003).

Volunteers manned the snack bar, collected tickets, announced the action and refereed the games. Additionally members of the Foothill freshman boys team chased after errant balls. One of the highlights was when before the women's game the pre-recorded national anthem went on the blink right in the middle and the 22 women's players gathered in the center of the field took over and loudly completed the song.

The Hop Yard Alehouse and All Star Sports both contributed to the cause. Each winning team was provided with a trophy that travels back and forth to each year's winning high school. ■

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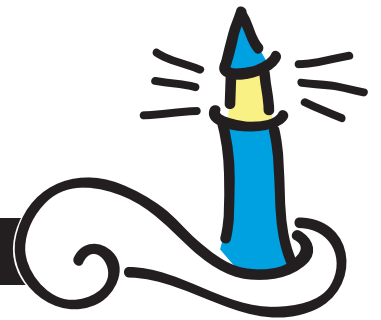


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Home staging a necessity for sellers

By JEB BING

A growing number of sellers in Pleasanton are giving their homes that "ooh" and "ah" model-home ambiance through what's known as staging, an increasingly popular tactic that often helps them sell their homes faster — and for more money.

According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), "home staging seems to be a more important selling tool than ever." NAR points to a new book, Staging to Sell: The Secret to Selling Homes in a Down Market, which found that even in today's slower housing market, 95 percent of staged homes sell (on average) in 35 days or less. On the

other hand, homes that are not staged take 172 days or more to sell, if they sell at all.

Local real estate professionals have seen the benefits of home staging time and again, and are convinced it can more than pay for itself, according to Hometown GMAC Real Estate.

"In a competitive marketplace, home staging can be a huge, yet subtle, way for sellers to score that all-important great first impression — the kind of feel-good impression that helps get their home sold fast," Mike Peel of Hometown GMAC Real Estate said. "With so much competition today, and with so many choices

See STAGING on Page 26

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Lafayette

3799 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Ste 100
 Lafayette, CA 94549
 925.253.7001

Livermore

1983 Second St.
 Livermore, CA 94550
 925.667.2100

Orinda

89 Davis Rd., Ste. 100
 Orinda, CA 94563
 925.253.7000

Pleasanton

5075 Hopyard Rd. Ste 110
 Pleasanton, CA 94588
 925.251.2500

Walnut Creek

1700 N. Main St.
 Walnut Creek, CA 94596
 925.280.8500

MAGNIFICENT VIEWS



3615 CALDEIRA LIVERMORE
 Custom built estate surrounded by your own Petite Sirah vineyard. Enjoy magnificent views filled with vines & hills galore.
Peggy Cortez 925.648.5454

CURB APPEAL



927 MARCELLA STREET LIVERMORE
 Lovely 2-story home with lots of curb appeal. Great location; easy access to shopping, dining areas, schools, and Hwy 580. 4 bd/ 2.5 ba. 2,055+/- sq.ft.
Margarita Cavalieri 925.251.2515

ADORABLE HOME



1565 MORNING GLORY CIR LIVERMORE
 court location w/huge yard! Bay window w/window seat+plantation shutters. Upgraded carpets, Corian in updated kitchen & baths. Popcorn ceilings removed.
Diane Sass 925.583.2168

HIGHLY UPGRADED HOME



404 BRIDLE CT SAN RAMON
 Rarely available single story home backs to open space! spacious open floor plan & designer touches throughout. Over 13,000 sq ft private backyard & more!
Khrista Jarvis 925.855.4065

DESIRABLE FLOORPLAN



2356 AVALON WAY SAN RAMON
 Features one bed & bath downstairs, bonus room upstairs, huge family room/kitchen w/ high ceilings, gourmet kitchen w/center island, SS appl. & more!
Khrista Jarvis 925.855.4065

CORNER LOT



500 ADRIATIC CT SAN RAMON
 Gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops, spacious bedrooms, close to schools, freeway, shopping & more. 3 bd/ 2.5 ba 2,246+/- sq.ft.
Joe Ledesma 925.251.2559

DAYBREAK COMMUNITY



10073 FOXBORO CIR SAN RAMON
 Nice home, location and schools. 4 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 1,800+ sq. ft. Pool and play area behind home. New floors and updating are needed throughout.
Corey Green 925.583.2173

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 1-4



35650 PALOMARES ROAD CASTRO VALLEY
 Nicely updated 3 BD 2 BA w/ lots of Charm. Redwood Siding, French Patio Doors, Velux Skylights, 3 Car Garage, Near wineries, Over 3.59 Acres & so much more!
Kristy & Company 925.251.2536



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THE PRESERVE



6229 DETJEN COURT, PLEASANTON

Wow! Beautiful and priced to sell. This upgraded home in the desirable Preserve community on a private .68 acre (29,506 square foot) estate lot. This beautifully landscaped property backs to open space. Enjoy the views of the surrounding open land and the quiet court location. Four bedrooms, bonus room, private office, 4.5 baths, approximate total square footage 4,689. Fully integrated home sound system with individual multi-source, multi-zone audio selection key pads. Furniture negotiable. **OFFERED AT \$1,495,000**

PLEASANTON 900 Main Street



OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Castro Valley

3 BEDROOMS

35650 Palomares Road \$879,000
Sun 1-3 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2536

Danville

4 BEDROOMS

3491 Cashmere Street \$1,049,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-6873

Dublin

3 BEDROOMS

4519 Sandyford Court \$424,900
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-5499

5 BEDROOMS

8019 Brittany Drive \$869,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 260-2508

Pleasanton

4 BEDROOMS

1012 Bartlett Place \$1,129,950
Sun 1-4 Hometown GMAC 426-3833

3825 Cheshire Court \$729,000
Sun 2-4 Joyce Jones 398-6706

1597 Maple Leaf Drive \$979,950
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

1541 Maple Leaf Drive \$989,950
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

5 BEDROOMS

2309 Romano Circle \$1,285,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 202-6898

9663 Crosby Drive \$1,998,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 251-2585

6384 Paseo Santa Cruz \$790,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

San Ramon

3 BEDROOMS

3007 Tahoe Place \$549,500
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 683-5165

STAGING

Continued from Page 24

for buyers out there, it is absolutely essential for sellers to take advantage of every opportunity available to them. And that's where home staging can be a big bonus."

According to Peel, it is often a good idea to bring in an objective, third-party home-staging expert who can provide effective, results-driven home staging advice and guidance. Home staging can offer a variety of benefits, including:

- Helping sellers view their homes from the perspective of potential buyers.
- Motivating sellers to get their homes ready for showing and selling by removing clutter and making each and every room look its best.
- Minimizing the home's days on market.
- Helping to justify — and in some cases, even increasing — the listing price.

According to Peel, staging should involve as many areas of the home as possible. Two of the most important areas to stage are the family and living rooms, because potential buyers so often focus on these spaces when considering a home.

Hometown GMAC Real Estate offers these home staging suggestions, which local real estate professionals have used with good results:

- Take down any pictures or personal items — the goal is to help buyers imagine what their belongings — not yours — would look like in your house.
- Freshen up rooms with a neutral yet warm wall paint. Your local paint store will have dozens of samples — buy a small amount and come back and test it on your walls to see if works for your purposes.
- Look into renting a few key pieces of furniture to help freshen and stage your home for success. For instance, if your couch is old and shabby, rent one for 90 days or so; ditto for that rickety coffee or end table.
- If renting isn't an option, you can often purchase a slip cover to dress up the appearance of your sofa or chairs. ■

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"I highly recommend Phyllis Weiner. She is the utmost professional, with decades of market experience, who works hard to get the best deal for her clients. She is extraordinarily responsive and a joy to work with. Phyllis sold our house in a challenging market, quickly, for a good price. She works hard for her clients and we are happy to recommend her."

-Seller 3267 BELVEDERE CT



5075 Hopyard Road Suite 110
Pleasanton CA 94588
CA DRE #00673849 & 01423772



View From 1515 Honey Suckle Ct

OPEN HOUSE SUN 1-4PM



9663 CROSBY DRIVE THE PRESERVE, PLEASANTON

Absolutely gorgeous home with every top of the line amenity & attention to detail. Incredible views of the Pleasanton Ridge, & one of the best kitchens you will see anywhere. Extensive & tasteful use of marble, limestone, granite & woodwork throughout.

WWW.9663CROSBYDRIVE.COM
\$1,998,000

BEST PRICED!



1515 HONEY SUCKLE CT GOLDEN EAGLE ESTATES PLEASANTON

Best priced home in prestigious Golden Eagle Estates! Beautifully appointed with 4 bd, 5 full ba, plus Library, Retreat and Bonus Room, 4892+/- sq.ft. with pool & spa on over an acre of private, oaktree studded land.

WWW.1515HONEYSUCKLECT.COM
\$1,975,000

PANORAMIC VIEWS!



2801 GRAY FOX CT FOXBOROUGH ESTATES PLEASANTON

Private, gated single level Mediterranean style estate home on nearly 2 acres with panoramic views, resort like yard, and wonderful single level floorplan. One of kind custom home.

WWW.2801GRAYFOX.COM
\$2,450,000

Thinking of selling your home?
Let Alain Pinel Realtors list your property.
We have qualified buyers. Contact us today.



ANNI HAGFELDT BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,699,999
Beautiful 5bd/4.5ba custom home in desirable Kottinger Ranch. Updated kitchen, granite counters, new appliances, panoramic views, large backyard, swimming pool, outdoor BBQ & more!

SALLY MARTIN BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,299,000
Immaculate, Expansive, 5bd, 3.5 ba, 3991+/-sf home situate on .76+/- acre lot. Numerous upgrades. Go to www.2303Gloria.com Too Much to List!

DAN GAMACHE OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$989,950
Fabulous 4bd/3ba, 2637+/-sf home, updated throughout. Beautiful pool with large arbors and outdoor BBQ. Must See! Too much to list! 1541 Maple Leaf Drive

JOYCE JONES OPEN SUN 2-4



PLEASANTON \$729,000
Desirable 4bd, 2.5ba, prime court location, 2150sf+/-living space, large 8197sf+/- lot, updated kitchen, w/granite counters, hardwood floors, roof 2009, exterior paint 2009 & much more! 3825 Cheshire Court

MARY JANE DEERING OPEN SUN 1-4



HAYWARD \$1,690,000
Gated private one acre lot with views. Prestigious Greenbrier 5500+/- sqft remodeled single story 4 bd in main house + 1 bd, 1 ba guest house. Pool, gazebo 4 car garage. Gorgeous! 4023 Oak Manor Court

CHRISTINE STARK BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$1,299,000
This property features 4bd/2.5ba, 2400 +/-sf. plus large barn with loft on 7.8+/- level acres. Plenty of room for horses.

DAN GAMACHE OPEN SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$979,950
Beautiful Charter Oaks Home in the Heart of Pleasanton! 4bd/3ba, 2541+/-sf, open floor plan, large loft, fiberglass pool, a must see! 1597 Maple Leaf Drive

MOXLEY TEAM BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$699,000
3BD,2B, 1,204SF home on 21,000 SF lot. Possible second home on lot or possibility to sub-divide lot. Close to freeways and downtown Pleasanton.

STASIA POIESZ BY APPT



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

DANIEL ALPHER BY APPT



LIVERMORE \$1,199,900
Inviting custom home in South Livermore nestled in a court on over 1/2+/-sf acre lot. Featuring 5bd/4.5ba, 4787+/-sf of living space. Backyard paradise with pool/outdoor kitchen, sideyard access/garden.

MARTA RIEDY OPEN SUN 1:30-4:30



FREMONT \$969,000
Immaculate home in Mission San Jose! Gorgeous remodeled kitchen, fresh paint, light and bright home ready for occupancy. Sparking pool with solar unit. 44936 Pawnee Drive

SUE MCKINLEY BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$446,500
"Model Home Perfect!" Updated bathrooms & gourmet kitchen w/granite counters. Formal LR and DR, fresh paint, new carpets large yard w/patio/garden.

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,495,000
Views of surrounding open land, quiet court location, situate on .68+/-acre private estate lot. This 4689+/-sf, 4bd + bonus, 4.5 bath, upgraded home with beautiful landscaping has it all!

MAUREEN NOKES BY APPT



PLEASANTON \$1,099,000
Price Reduced- New semi-custom 1 story 4bd/3ba home. 'Old World' quality craftsmanship and high-end upgrades. 'Barefoot Contessa' kitchen. Location features a 10,000'+ lot and 10 minute walk to town.

MARK KOTCH OPEN SAT/SUN 1-4



PLEASANTON \$790,000
5bd/2.5 bath 2 story move in ready home. Beautiful new kitchen with quartz counters all done with permits, updated pool and spa. 2219 sf. +/- on a 6800 sf +/- lot. 6384 Paseo Santa Cruz

STEVE ELDRIDGE BY APPT



HAYWARD \$270,900
Fantastic Opportunity awaits with this single story home. 3bd/2ba spacious open floor plan, fireplace, nice front & backyard. Close to Mt. Eden & Kaiser.



It's not just selecting a doctor,
it's choosing **someone you can trust with your life.**



Find a physician 24 hours a day. Selecting a doctor is a very important decision. You need a doctor you can trust and who can talk to you and your family. The physicians on staff at San Ramon Regional Medical Center want you to feel confident that you've made the right choice when selecting us to provide your healthcare services. Our physician referral service gives you access to information about our doctors – specialties, insurances, office locations, education, and languages spoken. Visit Find-A-Physician on our Web site, www.OurSanRamonHospital.com or call 800.284.2878.

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