

Pleasanton Weekly

Redcoats gets green light: Council allows popular downtown pub to operate four nights a week **PAGE 5**

Job help wanted: Tri-Valley career center seeing thousands a month who need work **PAGE 18**

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Take Us Along ... to the Olympics

Readers bring the Weekly on winter escapes **PAGE 12**

“Come home right away, the baby is burning up!”

And no matter what I do he won't stop screaming...

Dear friend,

What a story. It's a story that I heard long ago that I should tell you about, too. It may help change a life.

The year is 1977 and Bob and Susan are newly married. They are setting out creating a life together and starting a family with the arrival of their first child, a boy named David. Their son is healthy and happy, that is until one day when he has his first fever.

At first, Bob and Susan are not too worried. After all, kids get fevers. It is no surprise to parents that the first night of David's fever meant that Bob and Susan are not sleeping much. David is cranky and waking up all night long. As the morning sun comes through the window these two parents are exhausted, Bob is leaving for work and the baby's fever is not changing.

Susan stays home with David, trying her best to keep him comfortable. But as the day passes, David is getting worse. His fever is higher and after lunch he just starts screaming. No matter what this young mother does, nothing seems to be helping her little boy. She is trying to reach her husband Bob, but back before cell phones, it takes a while to track him down. Hours later, she finally reaches him, and says *“Come home right away, the baby is burning up! And no matter what I do he won't stop screaming!”* Bob hears real worry in his wife's voice, clears his schedule and heads home.

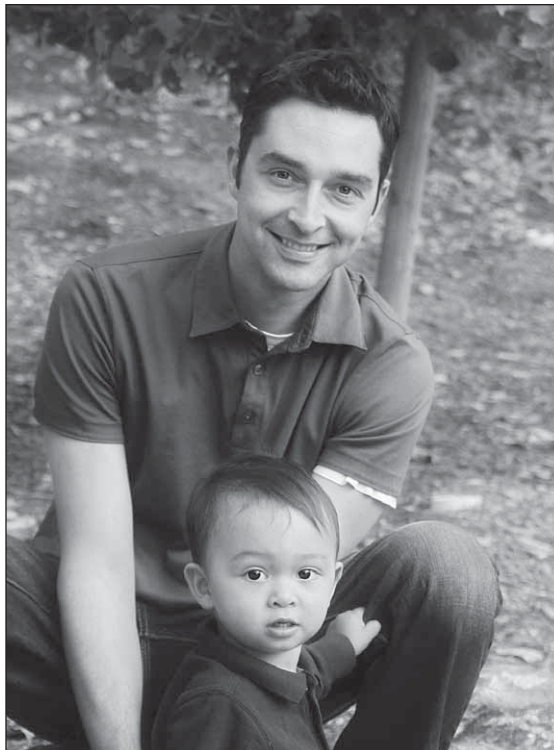
It is after 8 p.m. before Bob can fight his way through the traffic and make it home. He is walking up the stairs and approaching to door to his apartment when he hears his son's screams. As he walks in he sees his wife, visibly upset, holding David. Bob takes David and feeling how hot he is, begins to check him. He finds a misalignment and he gives David an adjustment. You see, Bob is a young chiropractor.

The crying continues for a few minutes and then David settles down and falls asleep. David (and his tired parents) sleep through the night that night. David sleeps and sleeps as his little body fights off whatever bug he has. In fact David sleeps for 18 hours straight! And as Bob returns home from work that night, the night before hearing screams, on this night he hears the joyous laughs and giggles of his happy baby boy.

I know this story very well. *You see, this is my story.* Bob and Susan are my mom and dad, and yes, I am David. I am a chiropractor now too, and I too have a baby son now, Benjamin. That's me and Ben in the photo.

Ben was checked and adjusted within the first minutes of his life. He obviously didn't complain of neck pain or back pain; I adjust him to keep

him healthy ... as with all the children I care for in my office. You see, it's not normal for kids to get ear infections, headaches, allergies or a number of other illnesses we see clear up in our office. When the nervous system is working



correctly your internal resistance and healing powers are enhanced.

It's strange how life is, because now families come to see me when they have problems like I used to have. Also, they come to me with their *headaches, migraines, chronic pain, neck pain, shoulder/arm pain, whiplash from car accidents, backaches, ear infections, asthma, allergies, numbness in limbs, athletic injuries,* just to name a few.

Here's what some of my patients had to say:

“Prior to meeting Dr. De Bonis, I had a long history of stomach issues which sometimes made me unable to sleep. The other doctors I had seen could only recommend a drug to mask the symptoms. I wasn't comfortable or satisfied with that long term solution. Then my wife told me to meet with Dr. De Bonis. Since my first appointment my symptoms gradually subsided and now completely disappeared. My overall health and quality of life have improved significantly, thanks to Dr. De Bonis.”

—(Greg A. – Pleasanton)

“Before I started chiropractic care, my back and neck hurt all the time. I was in constant pain. So I got used to hurting and forgot how it felt to not be hurting. The first time Dr. De Bonis adjusted me I started to remember how it felt to be normal and free of pain. I have been off my medications for 1 year now.

Dr. De Bonis helped me a lot and now I feel great!”

—(Sarah K. – Pleasanton)

There are millions of people who suffer from health problems, and many do not know where they can turn. For over one hundred years, chiropractors have been helping those people and making a difference to them, one by one.

Many people are beginning to understand that health comes from within. This is why chiropractic helps so many people. You see, you have a body that can heal itself. Your body doesn't need any help; it just can't have any interference. With chiropractic, we don't add anything to the body or take anything from it. We find interference in the nervous system and remove it thus enhancing the healing capacities of the body. We get tremendous results... it really is as simple as that.

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Thank you.

—David De Bonis, D.C.

P.S. When accompanied by the first, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$10.

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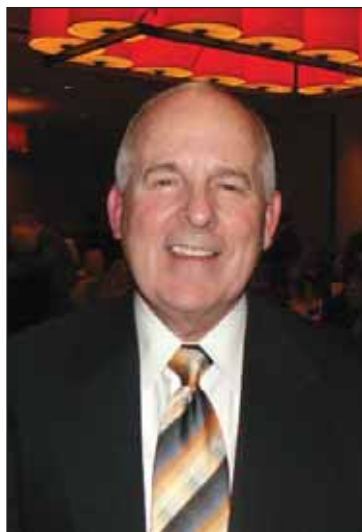
AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Seven share in Community Service awards for 2010

Local businesses, organizations and individuals were recognized at the 47th Annual Community Service Awards and Chamber of Commerce Dinner last week, an event that celebrated good people doing great things in the community. They included Safeway, Inc., ValleyCare Health System, the Tri-Valley YMCA and then the coveted distinguished individual service award top Joe Cristiano.



Joe Cristiano, winner of this year's Distinguished Individual Service Award.

As UNCLE Credit Union CEO Jim Ott pointed out in making the award presentation, Cristiano is a special person. Not only is he an accomplished businessman in both the corporate and small business worlds, he is humble, kind and generous with his time, talent and expertise. A longtime Pleasanton resident, Cristiano is the retired president and chief executive of Kelly Moore Paints, one of the world's leading paint companies. He is also chairman of the board for the Bank of San Francisco. Perhaps even more important to our local community, Cristiano is also chairman of the MCM Group, an international consulting firm that advises start-ups as well as Fortune 500 companies on strategic planning and executive coaching. This work makes him literally in demand all over the world.

Cristiano was recognized for his volunteer work here in the Tri-Valley. Over the past year, he has logged hundreds of hours of coaching, advising and helping local business owners and managers to navigate these challenging economic times. His personalized support has meant a great deal not only to the entrepreneurs he counsels, but to their employees and families who have felt the positive impact of his expertise.

"Joe's Mentoring Group," as it's come to be known, meets monthly on such subjects as business fundamentals, problem solving, management and supervision, strategic planning, leadership and more. Giving freely of his time, he plans and leads every meeting. He frequently draws on his extensive contacts and brings in guest speakers with expertise in areas of interest

to a particular group he is mentoring. He also gives out a few assignments, including books for individuals in the group to read and review for the others. His enthusiasm for business and success is infectious and it was, in fact, members of Joe's Mentoring Group who nominated him for the chamber award.

The local group has more than 30 attendees and, despite increased demand on his time, Cristiano still finds a way to meet one-on-one as needed. Of those he coaches, he only asks that if and when their time comes to be in a position to help others in a similar manner, that they do so freely in what he calls a "pay it forward" fashion.

Other awards this year included the chamber's Business Philanthropy Award, given to Safeway, Inc., for providing philanthropic service beyond the scope of normal business activity; the Excellence in Business Award, given to ValleyCare Health System for its positive impact in the Pleasanton community through its achievement within the scope of normal business activity, and the Excellence in Service Award, given to the Tri-Valley YMCA as the non-profit organizations that have contributed to Pleasanton.

New "Green Business" awards also were given to businesses that promote sustainable environmental business practices throughout their organizations for the benefit of employees, customers and the community. Recipients of this first-time award were Life Technologies, Pleasanton Corporate Commons and Postnet. ■

About the Cover

Some Pleasanton residents got a head start on the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, which get under way with opening ceremonies next Friday. Marrying in Whistler, Canada, where many of the skiing events will be held were Kyle and Samantha Messersmith. They were joined by Samantha's parents Leslie and Larry Rusca, and the Ruscas' other daughter Sarah and her husband Ryan Wimber — oh, and the Weekly, of course. Cover story design by Lili Cao.

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Streetwise

ASKED AT THE FARMERS' MARKET

What is the most romantic thing you've done for someone?



Michelle Williams

Teacher

I arranged a surprise birthday cruise to Baja for my husband. He didn't know about it until I got him on the boat. He thought we were going to visit friends in L.A. The thing that wasn't real romantic was that I had invited 40 people to join us.

Esteban Blancas

Cook

I guess when I proposed to my wife. I was here and she was in Mexico. She was my first love, my high school sweetheart. I didn't see her for three years, didn't really talk to her. Then one day I called her and I asked if she wanted to marry me. She said yes.



Diana Fuller

Project Manager

I surprised my fiance by making him dinner for his birthday. I kind of told him I was going to do something for him, but he didn't know what. I made him his favorite dinner, steak fillet with blue cheese.

Emily Sill

Sales

I surprised my husband with a watch in his birthday cake. He really wanted this expensive watch. I was hemming and hawing and finally decided to get it for him. I took the box in and had it frosted like a cake, so he cut into the cake and found the watch. It was a nice surprise.



Ted Raabe

Sales Manager

I proposed to my sweetheart on Valentine's Day 2008. I used a "Da Vinci Code" cryptex to hide the engagement ring. The question was "What is the key to my heart?" and the five letter answer was her name: D-O-N-N-A.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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

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DIGEST

Woman arrested for Pleasanton embezzlement

Pleasanton police arrested a resident of Walnut Creek for embezzling \$900,000 from a Pleasanton company over the past two years where she had previously been employed as a controller. Police searched the home of 51-year-old Kathryn Britto-Florence and she was arrested without incident Jan. 27 after they found evidence including financial documents from the company, which has not been identified, but has about 85 employees.

Changes to Dublin BART parking

Parking changes went into effect Monday for the Dublin side of the BART station. A developer of nearby residential property has taken over management of 800 spaces in the surface lot, with future plans to build housing there. Riders will now pay parking to a machine at the south end of the lot instead of inside the station. Daily parking is \$1/day seven days a week and customers will need to enter their stall number. BART EZ Riders must park in the fourth through seventh floors of the parking structure now and drivers with BART parking permits will need to park on the first, second and third levels.

Drop-off a used prom dress

The Princess Project, a Bay Area non-profit that provides free prom dresses to girls that otherwise could not afford them, is collecting gently used prom dresses and accessories from Feb. 8 to 19. The nearest drop-off location is at Stoneridge Mall. The dresses will be given to local girls in March. For more information, visit www.princessproject.org.

Visit with an educational therapist

Kathryn Tournat of BellaMenti is offering free parent consultations from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 19 through March 26 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Tournat will listen to concerns and issues about students, answer questions about learning issues and recommend next steps. Learn more by calling 872-8728 or visiting www.BellaMenti.com.

Corrections

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

Pub gets OK for four nights of entertainment

Council approval comes 4 months after Redcoats owner's request

By JEB BING

Mari Kennard finally won the approval of the Pleasanton City Council Tuesday to add Wednesday and Thursday nights to nighttime entertainment being offered at her Redcoats British Pub in downtown Pleasanton.

She had asked for the required conditional use permit last September in hope of offering four nights of music and dancing at her popular St. Mary Street restaurant during the Thanksgiving to New Year's Day holiday period.

But a nearby resident's complaint and Councilman Jerry Thorne's concern over neighborhood noise delayed final action on the request until this week.

Redcoats already offers music and dancing starting at 9:45 p.m. and ending at 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays with a conditional use

permit required in Pleasanton for nighttime entertainment. Her request in September, which was unanimously approved by the city Planning Commission on Nov. 18, asked that the permit be modified to add music and dancing from 9

Redcoats already offers music and dancing starting at 9:45 p.m. and ending at 1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays

With its approval, the Planning Commission stipulated that Redcoats post signs directing cigarette smokers to an outside designated patio so that they would not congregate in the front of the pub on St. Mary Street.

Gene Finch, who with his wife Genie own and live in a second floor apartment just 30 feet away from Redcoats, told city planners that while they didn't oppose Kennard's request for more nighttime entertainment days and hours, they're concerned about litter, loitering, smoking and other activities by the pub's patrons near their front door. Finch suggested that the nighttime entertainment also be subject to noise monitoring.

Thorne agreed and appealed the Planning Commission's decision, moving Kennard's request to the City Council for another round

See REDCOATS on Page 6



Record jump

Walnut Grove Elementary School third-grader Alexandra Greth and other students participate in an attempt to break the Guinness World's Record for "Most People Jumping Rope at the Same Time" Monday. Schools all over California participated in the record attempt coordinated by The California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. An estimated 80,000 students in California participated.

ALAN GRETH

Parents find \$8M deficit hard to swallow

School district developing survey to learn donation interests, priorities

By EMILY WEST

Pleasanton Unified School District is now preparing to make \$8 million in reductions to next year's budget, and parents aren't happy about it.

Amador Valley High School's multipurpose room was packed Tuesday night for the special board meeting, with many of the parents passionately speaking about services and programs they can't imagine losing.

If the option of a seventh period is taken away from high school students, band parents say the successful music programs will likely be decimated. If physical education specialists are cut, others said it would only overwhelm the classroom teachers that would be required to cover the subjects. The elementary schools were also represented by many parents who say the youngest students are facing disproportionate cuts.

Some of the items on the potential cut list include elimination of reading specialists and the Barton program; class-size reduction; counselors; and PE, music and science specialists.

PUSD's projected shortfall was recently upped to \$8 million to account for risky assumptions in Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget. Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services, said this includes plans to account for \$6.9 billion of the \$19.9 billion deficit with new, ongoing and unrestricted federal dollars.

The rest of the district's shortfall is based on \$1.3 million of one-time dollars spent on programs in the current year, \$2.3 million in rollover costs and \$3.3 million in

See SCHOOLS on Page 7

Labor dispute at Castlewood

65 workers facing wage freezes, 400-700% increases in medical premiums

A labor dispute involving roughly 65 full-time and part-time employees at Castlewood Country Club could disrupt services at the prestigious organization's golf course and dining rooms if not resolved.

Representatives of Unite Here! Local 2850 said they are in negotiations with Castlewood management to avoid a lockout the club has threatened if union members don't accept "a final contract offer" the club has offered. The contract offer

calls for a wage freeze this year and only nominal increases, if any, in the next two years of the three-year contract.

Most onerous, however, according to Sharon Cornu of the Alameda Labor, are hikes in health care premiums for unionized workers which, up to now, have been fully covered by Castlewood.

Under the management contract offer, workers would have to shift from a union-sponsored plan to one controlled

by Castlewood. Monthly fees would jump from zero to \$366 a month for single policies and to \$739 for families. A medical insurance tracking formula computed by Kaiser shows that those rates would jump about 10 percent a year.

"With the average wage of union workers at Castlewood now \$12.52 an hour, these new premiums would make it impossible for these people to pay the costs," said Pleasanton

See CASTLEWOOD on Page 7

Driver arrested after finding beaten girlfriend in back seat

23-year-old San Leandro man accused of domestic battery; woman treated for injuries

A 23-year-old San Leandro man was arrested for domestic assault in Pleasanton early Sunday morning after police found a badly beaten woman in the back seat of a vehicle.

At about 1:45 a.m., police received a report of an incident involving a man and woman near a dark-colored 1970s Buick by the intersection of Moller Ranch Drive and Foothill Road. Officers responded but did not find the vehicle or either person.

About five minutes later, police received a report of a gray vehicle driving recklessly in the parking lot of Foothill High School.

Five minutes after receiving the second report, officers spotted a vehicle matching that description driving on southbound Foothill Road near Bernal Court.

Officers stopped the vehicle, a light blue four-door 1989 Chevrolet Caprice,

and found an injured woman in a back seat of the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle, Andre Baker, had blood on him and was agitated, according to police.

While he was detained, officers determined that he and the woman were boyfriend and girlfriend, and that Baker appeared to have beaten the woman near the vehicle.

Baker was arrested on suspicion of domestic battery, assault with a deadly weapon, and violation of parole, and was booked into Santa Rita jail, police said.

The female victim was taken to Eden Medical Center to be treated for her injuries, which were not believed to be life-threatening, according to police.

Anyone who may have witnessed the incident is asked to call Pleasanton police at 931-5100.

Dan McMenamin, Bay City News

REDCOATS

Continued from Page 5

of public hearings and discussion. Thorne asked that a noise monitoring system be installed as part of the council's approval, devices, he said, could be purchased for less than \$100.

Tuesday, he withdrew the demand after city staff and the Pleasanton Downtown Association said they would include noise level considerations later this year when they consider a broader plan that would set standards for all downtown establishments. The current 60 decibel level maximum that governs all Pleasanton outdoor activities also will be studied to see if it's too limiting.

Left in the new "good neighbor policy" that the council added to its approval Tuesday is a requirement that Redcoats' staff perform inspections with flashlights after closing the pub reach night on both sides of St. Mary Street to clean up litter, beverage containers and cigarette butts. ■



JEB BING

Redcoats British Pub, seen here on St. Mary Street, was approved Tuesday to have four nights of entertainment a week.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Have a blast with Ollie



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Meet Ollie. With his red and white checkered kerchief on, he looks like he is ready for spaghetti! Throw him a dog biscuit for dessert and Ollie will catch it in mid air. This dog is fun, fun, fun! Ollie is a 5-year-old neutered male cattle dog. He is mostly white with black and brown markings on his head and two large black spots on either side of his torso. He is a handsome boy. Look at that smile! Ollie's previous family could not provide him with the attention he deserved so Ollie is looking for a loving family who can devote more time to him. Ollie likes to be active and he would make a terrific hiking companion! According to his previous owner, Ollie is people friendly and well mannered in the home. Visit Ollie (pet #91707) at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

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CASTLEWOOD

Continued from Page 5

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who met with two Castlewood employees.

"The union said it acted in "good faith" by agreeing to a wage freeze," Hosterman said. "Its contract proposal also called for health care payments, amounting to \$25 for singles, \$100 for single plus 1 and \$175 for families. It's my understanding that management has flatly rejected the union's offer and has ordered a lockout if Local 2850 doesn't sign Castlewood's final contract offer."

Hosterman said she understands that Castlewood has been losing members because of the recession and has fielded a deficit budget for several years. The more aggressive stance towards Local 2850 is an effort to change the financial course of the club.

"I had two union members who work at Castlewood come to see me," Hosterman said. "They reside in Pleasanton and have been living



JEB BING

A labor dispute is brewing at Castlewood Country Club, seen above.

paycheck to paycheck as it is just trying to pay the rent and keep their kids in Pleasanton schools.

"They told me union workers at Castlewood couldn't afford the high health care premiums, that they rely on the health care policies they have for themselves and their families, and they are afraid they're going to lose their jobs."

Hosterman said she has asked Castlewood's general manager Jerry

Olson to consider a "time out" before imposing the new contract and maintaining a status quo to give employees time to determine their next step.

At press time, neither Olson nor John Hughes, the club's senior pro, had returned calls from the Weekly. Dining room manager Tom Hunt said he couldn't respond to questions about the labor dispute and that only Olson could speak for the club.

—Jeb Bing

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 5

decreased state funding. In looking into the 2011-12 school year, they anticipate making further reductions of \$1.8 million in roll-over costs.

Responding to those who have said to use reserves for this "rainy day" crisis, Cazares said to use the \$3.6 million in reserves would be a "delay tactic, not a solution." The funds would need to be replenished and the action could lead to the county having control over the board and district spending, making cuts as they see fit.

Cazares said that the current crisis isn't necessarily an unforeseen "rainy day" whereas like the instance of mold of Hearst Elementary School was unexpected and unforeseen.

Superintendent John Casey told

the audience not to panic yet. There is still time to gather funding and save programs, he said, but the board still needs to identify the \$8 million in possible cuts to be prepared. The district is currently in the process of developing surveys to send to parents, asking them for their priorities and how much they would be willing to donate to save the programs. Employee concessions are also being considered, he added.

A parent group is said to be forming, with talk of another fundraising effort, similar to the I Love Pleasanton Schools campaign that took place over the summer.

Long-term solutions being considered include developing a foundation and endowment; petitioning changes in legislation, such as changing the majority threshold of a parcel tax to 55 percent instead of two-thirds; and a parcel tax. The

Budget Advisory Committee has also created specific subcommittees to explore various revenue-enhancing solutions.

Resources outlining the potential cuts, the impact of the previous year's cuts for the 2009-10 school year and a draft of the surveys to parents are available on the school district's website, www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

The board's regular meeting is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. Feb. 9 at the AVHS multipurpose room. ■

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JANET PELLETIER

Girls from the Brownie Troop 1268 hold up some of the gently used shoes donated to the Soles4Souls campaign.

Brownies collect hundreds of pairs of shoes for Haiti

Items donated to Sport Chalet's Soles4Souls program

By JANET PELLETIER

Last Friday, Mary Soble, Stephanie Skinner and the Brownie troop they help lead along with other moms were having trouble figuring out how to get several dozen pairs of shoes to fit in the car. They knew Pleasanton residents were generous, but this was beyond imaginable.

The troop, made up of 8- and 9-year-olds from Valley View Elementary School, saw and heard about the devastation in Haiti and wanted to help any way they could. After discovering the Pleasanton Sport Chalet on Rosewood Drive was collecting shoes for its campaign Soles4Souls to be donated to the Third World country, the troop decided it would reach out to the community for gently worn sneakers, boots and sandals of every size, shape and color.

"We're trying to teach our girls, they're only third-graders, how important it is to help others and this is going to go toward their bronze award," Soble said. "The girls made flyers and they've passed them out in classrooms and made speeches. The response has been overwhelming. One lady dropped four bags of shoes in the hallway."

Soble is a flight attendant for American Airlines and was recently flying on red eyes to Miami.

"On my last flight, I had six rescuers heading over to Haiti and the more supplies, shoes, medical supplies — anything — is going to help them. We have to help our neighbors and to use 'neighbors' loosely."

As the Brownies reached out to third through fifth grade classes at Valley View, another mom, Michelle Alabanese, led the effort for kindergarten through second grade.

"It made me sad," Brownie Zoe Morgenroth said when asked what she thought about the devastation in Haiti. "Some of our world is getting destroyed."

"We can just buy shoes at the store every day, but they have to wait for them," added Sophia Bueche.

The troop also includes: Isabella Huyler, Devyn Baldus, Kira Broacha, Isabella Clark, Natalie Custer, Jasmine Erickson, Emily Smith, Katie Murphy, Kylie Racer, Savana Sadler, Grace Skinner and Delaney Soble.

The Brownies weren't the only

ones aiding in Haiti relief. The Pleasanton Rotary Club's drive for mobility devices for Haiti got off to a positive start last week, according to club members, who collected 857 mobility devices including 283 walkers and 77 wheelchairs.

The club has partnered with MedShare International, which will ship the devices from its San Leandro warehouse. Rotary President Steve Brozosky estimated the value



JANET PELLETIER

A pair of Amador students participate in the Run for Relief Wednesday at the track to raise money for Haiti.

of the collected items at more than \$50,000.

The club will continue its collection. Devices can be brought to Realtor Tom Fox at his Hometown GMAC office, 4725 First St. in Pleasanton. For pick-up, call Fox at 872-1275 or email rotarysteve@brozosky.com.

Vintage Hills Elementary School is also getting involved with a collection event from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, while Amador Valley High School students and faculty participated in a Run for Relief on the track to raise money to be donated to Haiti. ■



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Pleasanton Weekly

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Wishful thinking might not solve school budget crisis

Wishing may not bring the extra dollars needed to balance an \$8-million shortfall in the Pleasanton school district's 2010-11 fiscal year budget, but comments and suggestions from hundreds of local parents and other taxpayers are offering a wide range of hope for addressing the crisis. These range from salary freezes and reductions to cutting sports completely — at least some of them — and reducing the school year for a year or two to revising the statewide, voter-approved Proposition 13 that curbed runaway property tax increases and, some believe, caused the education-funding dilemma to begin with. Some ideas, including a proposal to ask voters again this year to approve a parcel tax for Pleasanton schools, are not likely to be in the final budget plans now under consideration by the school board and school Superintendent John Casey.

This will be Casey's final budget as superintendent, a post he'll be leaving June 30 after eight years at the helm when he retires and turns the top job over to a new superintendent, who is now being recruited by an executive search firm. The new leader is expected to be at work by mid-May, in time to recommend further changes — and possibly more belt-tightening — before the board approves the final, and balanced, budget document in late June. Although the shortfall now totals \$8 million, it could swell after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state legislature wrestle themselves with a \$19.9-billion budget shortfall they're facing in the state's 2010-11 budget, which also should be adopted by June 30. The governor and legislature can, however, "stop the clock" until they reach an agreement on the new budget, but the Pleasanton school district and others facing the same funding shortfalls throughout California, don't have that luxury. School district budgets must be balanced by the start of the new fiscal year July 1, which means all districts, including ours, will have to make major teacher and other staff cuts and reduce programs and increase class sizes before then. Teachers, in fact, must be notified by March 15 if their jobs are in jeopardy, with actual pink slips to follow by the end of this school year.

Parents and teachers jammed school board meetings pleading with board members to spare children from some of the onerous cuts that could affect the quality of education in Pleasanton. Those pleas and hundreds more being sent by emails and phone calls, and also being discussed in this newspaper's Town Square online forum, are urging Casey and the board to find funds needed to cover the shortfall — wishful thinking at best in a state that handles the funding for education and is simply running out of money. ■

LETTERS

H1N1 has been personally devastating

Dear Editor,

Thank you for publicizing "Not too late for that H1N1 flu shot," (Staying Healthy special section, Jan. 28, page 6). However, I believe you missed an opportunity to really let people know how devastating this flu can be not only for a person with a chronic illness but healthy people as well.

My daughter Shelly is 42 years old with no health problems prior to contracting the H1N1. She has been hospitalized for nine weeks

and is considered the "miracle patient" at ValleyCare hospital. This flu caused her to have ARDS (acute respiratory distress syndrome), sepsis (a deadly blood disease), kidney failure as well as destroying many nerves and muscles in her body. She is unable to stand, walk or use her right arm due to this horrific virus and will need weeks if not months of physical rehabilitation.

Also, you should have given H1N1 statistics for the state of California as people tend to relate to things that are closer to "home." I hope you consider a follow-up so people are really aware this is a horrific virus that can strike anyone.

Sherrie Howell



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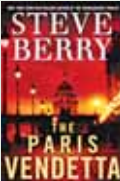
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OBITUARIES

Clare Spicer Evans

Clare Evans died peacefully in her sleep Jan. 14 at age 85.

Mrs. Evans was born Oct. 27, 1924 in Philadelphia. She met her husband Joe while in high school and they married soon after he returned from World War II. She worked for the federal government in administrative assistant positions before her children were born and then returned to work when they were older. Her husband's job with the FAA took the family to live in many places over the years: New York, Phoenix, Lancaster, Livermore, New Jersey, then finally retiring in Sedona, Ariz. and Las Vegas. In 1999, she moved to Pleasanton to be closer to family.

Mrs. Evans had many hobbies — bowling, baking, playing cards, crocheting, crafts — but her special passion was bingo. She struggled with losing the vision in one eye and impaired vision in the other in her 50s due to a genetic condition, but made the most of life with the use of visual aids, patience and good humor. She greatly appreciated the services of the Pleasanton Senior Center's Low Vision group and the Paratransit buses.



She is survived by her sons, Shawn of Mendocino and Tim (Amy) of Fayetteville, Texas; daughters, Eileen (Claudio) Pinto of Pleasanton and Patricia (Rick) Gindes of Swampscott, Mass.; and six grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Joseph, in 1991.

The family would like to thank and acknowledge the loving care provided by her caregivers at the Valle Verde Care Home.

In respect for her wishes, no formal services will be held, but her ashes will be brought to join her husband's at the Southern Nevada Veteran's Cemetery in Boulder City, Nev. Donations may be made to the organization researching her genetic condition, PXE International, 4301 Connecticut Ave., NW, Ste. 404, Washington, D.C. 20008.

Derald "Del" Siebert

Derald "Del" Siebert died peacefully Jan. 20 at home at the age of 75.

Mr. Siebert was born Nov. 11, 1934.

He is survived by wife, Marty Siebert; sister, Doris Burns; half-brother, Robert Kirkpatrick; daughters, Lisa, Leslie and Chris; stepchildren, Andy and Carrie; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A service was scheduled to be held Jan. 24.



grandsons Chris (Sara) LaFlash of Laguna Beach and Dan LaFlash of Pleasanton. She was preceded in death by her husband, Chet Johnson.

A service was scheduled to be held Jan. 30 at The Parkview Assisted Living. Donations can be made to the American Heart Association in lieu of flowers.

Christopher Mantione

Christopher Stephen Mantione died Jan. 21 at the age of 42.

Mr. Mantione was born April 7, 1967 in Portland, Ore., and moved to San Ramon in 1981. He was a 1985 graduate of California High School. He was a Certified California Nurseryman and worked for nurseries in the Tri-Valley area. He loved being outdoors and working with plants. He had most recently worked at Orchard Supply Hardware in Livermore.

Mr. Mantione had been a passionate Star Trek fan since childhood. He also enjoyed fishing, camping, all sports, especially baseball and hockey, and reading.

He is survived by his parents, Charles and Patricia Mantione, formerly of San Ramon, now of Charlotte, N.C.; brother, Mark Mantione of Livermore; sister, Alicia Beach; nieces, Emily and Stephanie Beach of Charlotte; many aunts, uncles, cousins and numerous friends.

Services will be held in Charlotte, N.C. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to St. Matthew Catholic Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Charlotte, N.C., 28277.



Velma Emma Johnson

Velma Emma Johnson died Jan. 19 in Pleasanton, where she lived for the past 15 years.

She was born in Oakland in 1923.

She is survived by her daughter Greta (Hal) LaFlash of Pleasanton,

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POLICE BULLETIN & LOG

POLICE REPORT

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

Jan. 27

Vandalism

- 7:35 a.m. in the 4600 block of Sandalwood Drive
- 8:14 a.m. in the 4800 block of Muirwood Drive
- 11:17 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

DUI

- 12:50 p.m. at the intersection of Singletree Way and Payne Road

Fighting in public

- 2:37 p.m. in the 3400 block of Norton Way

Jan. 28

Theft

- 1:42 p.m. in the 1100 block of Vintner Way; identity theft
- 2:19 p.m. in the 5400 block of Black Avenue; identity theft
- 5:37 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vandalism

- 9:49 a.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 10:44 a.m. in the 1 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 1:51 p.m. at the intersection of Laguna Creek Lane and Interstate 680

- 1:53 p.m. in the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Public drunkenness

- 12:45 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Battery

- 8:44 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street

Jan. 29

Theft

- 11:52 a.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 12:33 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; grand theft
- 5:09 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Burglary

- 11:06 a.m. in the 5100 block of Case Avenue; vehicular
- 6:10 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Vandalism

- 10:41 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:49 a.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and First Street; DUI
- 2:39 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Hansen Drive; driving with open alcohol container
- 4:10 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; public drunkenness

Assault with a deadly weapon

- 9:32 p.m. in the 600 block of Division Street

Massage misconduct

- 8:28 p.m. in the 1400 block of Cedarwood Lane

Jan. 30

Petty theft

- 4:01 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 6:24 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Shoplifting

- 6:43 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Vandalism

- 12:57 a.m. in the 2900 block of Chardonnay Drive
- 10:57 a.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard
- 5:15 p.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road

Public drunkenness

- 2:07 a.m. at the intersection of St. Mary Street and Pleasanton Avenue
- 4:53 p.m. in the 200 block of Mavis Drive

Controlled substance possession

- 2:36 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue

Battery

- 12:57 p.m. in the 2900 block of Chardonnay Drive

Threats

- 7:14 a.m. in the 500 block of Sycamore Road



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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for February 10, 2010 has been cancelled. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on February 24, 2010.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Final Meeting)

Monday, February 8, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Status of Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan
- Recommendation to Merge the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee with the Trails Ad Hoc Committee

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

Monday, February 8, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review, discuss and approve the Youth Master Plan Update Vision, Values and Goals
- Discuss and approve methodology for developing strategies for the Updated Youth Master Plan.

Youth Commission

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Gingerbread Preschool, 4333 Black Avenue

- Informational Review of Community Grant Process
- Youth in Government Day
- Teen Job and Community Service Fair

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Naming of Staples Ranch Community and Neighborhood Parks
- St. John's Place HOA request for financial assistance to repair the Low-Flow Crossing at Arroyo Del Valle
- Community Services Report – Hometown Holiday & Special Events

Library Commission

Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Library Conference Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Library Commission Goals – Outreach
- Adult Program Division Presentation

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The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items.
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Weekly on winter escapes

Take Us Along ... to the Olympics

Weekly peak:
Celebrating his 48th birthday, Jim Pease, left, is jumping for joy that he reached the top of Mt. Whitney ... and that he has something to read until the poor weather improves.



Let it snow:

At right, the Jensens: Bjorn, Kristina, Erik, Annalise and Sofie brought the Weekly to Montecito Sequoia Lodge for New Year's Eve in Sequoia National Forest. At left, Derek Greenberg and daughter Emma, who is a second-grader at Alisal Elementary School, took the Weekly along to Lassen Volcanic National Park on New Year's Day 2009. The park is a favorite of the Greenbergs.



Penguin encounters:

At right, 40-year Pleasanton residents Tom and Sue Johnson took the Weekly on their travels to South America celebrating their golden anniversary. Here they are at the Falkland Islands, and a short distance from some tuxedoed friends.

At left, Kathy Mercola and her husband Jerry visited the Penguin Sanctuary in Chile on a round-the-world trip.



If you own a television, you're not immune to the barrage of promos for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, which gets under way next Friday.

Beginning Feb. 12, led by opening ceremonies, millions of people will get their viewing pleasure of such sports as curling, snowboarding, skiing, ski jumping, bobsled racing, ice hockey, speed skating and figure skating through Feb. 28. This is the third time the Olympic games have been held in Canada — Montreal (summer 1976) and Calgary (winter 1988) preceded Vancouver.

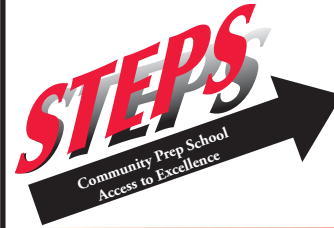
Some Pleasanton residents got a head start on the games (see our cover photo). Marrying in Whistler, Canada, where many of the skiing events will be held during the Olympics were Kyle and Samantha Messersmith. They were joined by Samantha's parents Leslie and Larry Rusca, and the Ruscas' other daughter Sarah and her husband Ryan Wimber.

And to honor the Winter Games, let's take a look at some other cold climate excursions where Pleasantonians also took the Weekly.



Weekly: Allen Roberts and Shiera Henderson took the Weekly along as they went helicopter skiing — bravely, we might add — on the Deserter Glacier in Valdez, Alaska.

TUTORING FOR GRADES 6-12



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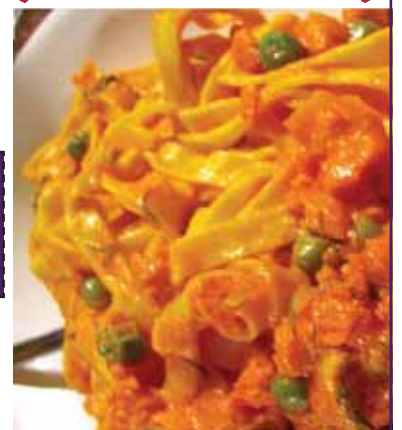
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GARDEN CLUB (LAVGC) This month's meeting is from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 11 at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. Call 461-1725 or visit www.org-sites.com/ca/lavgc.

NCHRA TRI-VALLEY CHAPTER

MEETING Group meets at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 10 at 4125 Hopyard Road. Guest speakers are Peter Chen, Wendy J. Brenner, and Analia Morris. Cost is \$25 for members or \$35 for nonmembers. Call 415-291-1992 or visit www.nchra.org.

NORMAN SOLOMON: AFGHANISTAN

TriValley Democratic Club presents Norman Solomon, media critic and author, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at the IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Call 451-4303 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

Concerts

CONCERT PIANIST DANIEL GLOVER

TO PERFORM Daniel Glover, internationally known concert pianist will perform compositions by Chopin, Schumann and Samuel Barber from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L

streets, Livermore. Tickets are \$25. Call 866-4003 or visit www.valley-concertchorale.org.

Events

AVHS WINTER PERCUSSION/

WINTER GUARD SHOW The AVHS Winter Percussion and Winter Guard will host a home show from 12:30 to 10 p.m. Feb. 6 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students. Call 462-7814 or visit <http://amadormusic.org>.

CAMPANA JAZZ FESTIVAL

The 35th Annual Campana Jazz Festival will from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Admission is \$10, or \$8 for seniors and students and includes all performances and two awards concerts. Call 918-0893 or visit www.amadormusic.org.

THOMAS COYNE WINERY WINTER

OPEN HOUSE The Thomas Coyne historical tasting room will be open from noon to 5 p.m. Feb. 13-15 at 51 E. Vallecitos Road. Bottle Your Own Wine is back, with Vino Tinto Barato for \$5.50 or \$6 without a bottle. Call 373-6541 or visit www.thomascoynewinery.com.

VALENTINE'S DAY WINETASTER

DINNER The dinner includes Elliston champagne and hors d'oeuvres along with a self-guided tour of the first two floors of the historic mansion, followed by a five-course meal with wine pairings. It is from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at 463 Kilkare

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Film

'IRON-JAWED ANGELS' Katja von Garnier, the director of the film "Iron-Jawed Angels," tells the dramatic story of a group of fiery young women led by Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor) who became leaders in the fight for women's right to vote. The film will be shown at 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Vine Cinema, 1722 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$5 and door prizes will be given. Hosted by the National League of Women Voters. Call 484-0839.

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 \$50. Call 828-8664 or visit www.tvr.org.

A RAGIN CAJUN GOOD TIME FUNDRAISER To benefit the Sandra J Wing Healing Therapies Foundation, which directly helps people in the Tri-Valley living with cancer. The event is from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Feb. 19 at the San Ramon Golf Club. Includes dinner, dancing and auction. Tickets are \$75. Call 683-4804 or visit www.healingtherapiesfoundation.org.

STAND UP AGAINST LEUKEMIA/LYMPHOMA The comedy show from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 11 at Bunjo's Comedy Club, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Partial proceeds will benefit The Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. Tickets are \$15, plus a two-item minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.bunjoscomedy.com.

VALENTINE RAFFLE Tri-Valley Unity is sponsoring a sweetheart raffle of baskets containing unique presents and services. Join us for the 10 a.m. service on Feb. 14 at 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon, which will include the Clarewood Singers and refreshments; or just for the raffle at 11:30. You don't have to be present to win. Tickets are \$1 each, \$10 for 12, or \$20 for 25. Visit

www.TriValleyUnity.com. Call Ruth Kellogg at 828-8470.

Health

GET YOUR METABOLISM BALANCED Learn to get your metabolism healthy and balanced at the Holistic Moms Network meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 15 at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. Free to first-time visitors and members. Call 519-3003 or visit www.holisticmoms.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

FREE SEMINAR ON SERENITY Local Christian author and psychologist Dr. Joy Bodzioch will offer a free seminar, "The Secret of Serenity," from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Center, 4477 Black Ave. Call 400-5744.

SCIENCE ON SATURDAY Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Science on Saturday lecture series continues from 9:30 to 11:15 a.m. Feb. 6 when LLNL scientists Bruce Macintosh and Lisa Poyneer, along

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Miscellaneous

CELEBRATING ROBERT FROST AT CENTURY HOUSE David Alpaugh, a nationally-known poet and performer from Pleasant Hill, will present a celebration of Robert Frost and his poetry. Event is from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. An open mic will follow Alpaugh's performance. Cost is \$5 or free for students with ID. Visit www.civcartsliterary.org.

CREATURES OF IMPULSE TO HOST 'IMPROV FACE OFF' Teens of all ages are invited to join Creatures of Impulse as they compete on stage for two nights of scenes, games and interactive theater. The "Improv Face Off" is from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 11 and 12 at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Teen improv groups interested in competing, contact Mark Duncanson at 931-3433 or mduncanson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door.

On Stage

SATURDAY! THE SIPPY CUPS The Sippy Cups' "family rock" performances are inspired by children and feature, in addition to their pop-rock band, a circus performer and large-scale puppets. Show is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets for adults are \$10, \$14 and \$18, and for children and seniors \$6, \$10 and \$14. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

Political Notes

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING Tri-Valley Republican

Women hosts Noel Sheppard, Associate Editor of NewsBusters.org, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 10 at Cattlemans Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Road, Livermore. Cost is \$26 for members or \$30 non-members. RSVP to Noelle at 362-0116 by Feb. 7. Visit www.trivalleyrepublican-women.org.

Seniors

DAY TRIPPERS — JELLY BELLY/ ANHEUSER BUSCH Day Trippers will tour the Jelly Belly Plant, have lunch at Mimi's Cafe and then go to the Anheuser Busch Brewery. Group will meet at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 17 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$52 for residents or \$55 for non-residents. Call 931-5372.

MARDI GRAS DINNER DANCE Spend an evening dining and dancing to the sounds of live band, Smoothsounds, from 5:45 to 9 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Tickets are \$32 for residents or \$35 for non-residents. Reservations and payment can be made by Feb. 12. Call 931-5365 or visit www.pleasantonseniorcenter.org.

RETIREMENT ISSUES — WHAT TO DO? Learn about common retirement issues, including IRAs, estate tax, probate and veterans benefits, from 10 to 11:30 p.m. Feb. 9 or 7 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.75 for residents or \$2.25 for non-residents. Call 931-5365. Scholarships

RECRUITMENT GRANT AVAILABLE A \$500 recruitment grant from the local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma is available for a female student pursuing a career in education. Applicants must be a graduate of a high school in Pleasanton, Livermore or Dublin; be a full-time student of upper division or graduate standing as of fall 2010; and must have a good GPA. The deadline to apply

is March 20. For information, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Kathy Brooks, 1581 Oslo Ct., Livermore, CA, 94550.

Sports

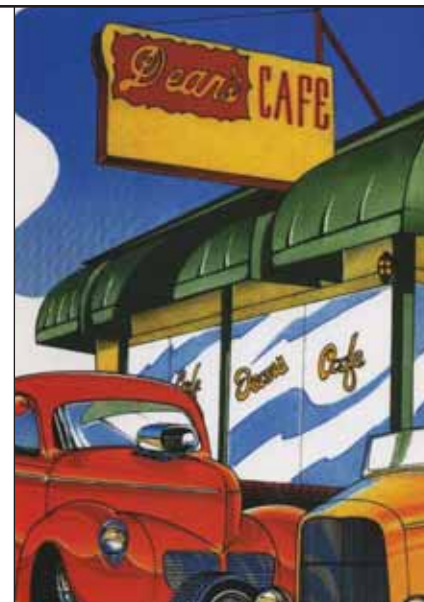
TRIATHLON TRAINING INFORMATION MEETING Have you always wanted to do a triathlon? Learn about our 18-week professionally coached training program designed for all levels from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 9 at 337 B Main St. Includes an overview of swim, bike, run program; transition, nutrition and "What to Expect on Race Day" clinics and more. RSVP requested. Call 984-7531 or visit www.cyclepath.com.

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On the hunt

Hundreds seeking employment help from Tri-Valley career center

By EMILY WEST

The Tri-Valley One-Stop Career Center is busier than ever, and staff is currently bracing for additional impact as the NUMMI plant in Fremont is set to close soon.

Pat Donovan, job developer at the career center, said many people from the Tri-Valley work at NUMMI (New United Motor Manufacturing Inc.) and that suppliers who depended on the Fremont plant for business may soon be out of work as well. She expects the closure to impact at least 5,000 area workers.

Just this week, a Livermore-based NUMMI supplier announced they will shut down in the spring. The closure of Johnson Controls Inc. would mean a loss of 320 jobs.

In the past six months, the career center has seen about an average of 1,300 people each month.

Currently, people are looking to be retrained as they have been unemployed anywhere from six to 14 months.

"They may not have all the skills to shine as brightly as others," she said.

California's unemployment rate was steady in November and December, with the Employment Development Department reporting at 12.4 percent and 38,800 payroll jobs decreasing. In December 2008, the unemployment rate was at 8.7 percent.

Losing a job and figuring out unemployment benefits, along with everything else, can be tricky to navigate. Tri-Valley One Stop Career Center, is there as a resource with free programs available through federal funding.

Stop by the center, located at 5020 Franklin Drive, to access computers, a fax, phones with conferencing capabilities and other equipment helpful in the application process. There are also assistance programs, career exploration software, resume templates, on-site career specialists and monthly job-search workshops.

One goal of the staff is to motivate and encourage those who have been at the job hunt for many months.

"Just sending in one resume may make the difference," Donovan said. "It only takes one."

Keeping the unemployed motivated, however, has proved to be a difficult task. Job loss isn't discriminating; it is affecting new and old workers across the board. Even those who



EMILY WEST

Top: More and more people from all over the Tri-Valley and beyond stop by the One-Stop Career Center in Pleasanton to make use of the job hunting resources such as computers, faxes and career exploration software. **Above:** Pat Donovan, job developer at the career center, said there are about 1,800 people seeking services each month and expects that number to grow with the closure of Fremont's NUMMI plant.

have retired are now going back to work in order to receive more affordable medical coverage. In fact, the center's older workers workshop is the most popular group, with around 35 people in attendance.

"It's affecting everybody from 18 to 65 -- people who are looking for their first job and people with 35 to 40 years of experience," she added. "It's hitting every occupational field."

The staff at the career center is constantly re-evaluating their services to meet up with demand. After watching and listening to clients, Donovan said they have increased stress counseling services and workshops as well as one-on-one counseling for families.

Workers' concerns include trying to keep the family together as they may end up losing their home, children not understanding the situation and the frustration involved with not hearing back from employers after sending out hundreds of resumes.

One creative way for people to find work, Donovan said, is to volunteer. While working free may seem counterintuitive, she said it's a great place to network and get experience, referrals and job leads.

It may also take a change of mindset to consider temporary employment at a place like Starbucks. With decent benefits, Donovan said it's a chance to get to know people in the workforce, which is key to finding work.

"Even if you're in a part-time position, it's easier to find employment when you're working," she added. "At a place like Starbucks, you're networking and it helps to know someone on the inside."

While it may be small for those struggling to find work, Donovan said there is hope. More employers are calling the center and people are starting to be placed in new positions.

"We're here to work with employers as well," she said. "We have a great pool of highly educated people with a good work ethic. We're starting to see a turn and we're optimistic for 2010."

The Tri-Valley One Stop Career Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from noon to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fridays. For more information on the center's programs, call 485-5262 or visit <http://www.eastbayworks.com/ebw-resources/Pleasanton.htm>. ■

READY TO RENT

REVIEWS OF NEW DVD RELEASES

By JOE RAMIREZ

Whip It

Fox Home Video DVD & Blu-Ray
1 hour, 51 minutes
Director: Drew Barrymore

The most surprising thing, for me, about director Drew Barrymore's "Whip It" is its breezy, unfrontational attitude given its pretty aggressive subject, mainly, girls' roller derby and living in Texas. Although this sounds pretty silly, I dare you to go onto our Bay Area's own "Bay City Bombers" (who are based in San Francisco) website and watch these girls pummel each other and not tell me that that kitsch can sometimes come at an ugly price. Barrymore and her screenwriter Shauna Cross (whose own experiences make up the movie's drama) keep the story to an almost expected minimum — out of place girl from a conservative background comes into her own playing a not-so-traditionalist sport — but it's expected. This is modern feminist fantasy for adolescent girls who need some chutzpah in their pop-culture after the weird, fatalism that the "Twilight" series has to offer.

What can constitute today's adolescent girl's fantasies? How much has really changed within the last 20 or 30 years in terms of role models? It may seem out of place in a movie recommendation, but this touched a nerve in me while watching "Whip

It." I suppose I can only add my two cents basing this in the context of the movies themselves while risking sounding like a pretentious tool. The answer, however, lies in actress Ellen Page's roles. It's no accident that she is the star of "Whip It" when she also played the flipside in 2007's "Juno," another story of a modern adolescent girl who is trying to reign in her life. I feel that there is a cultural polarization right now when it comes to role models — with a deluge of princesses and cheerleaders on one side and then, every once in a while, girls like Juno on the other who don't necessarily walk away into the sunset or, discovers that it's never a straight line.

"Whip It's" Bliss Cavendar (Page) finds that straight line within the circle of the roller rink. She is a 17 year old whose mother (Marcia Gay Harden, in iron butterfly mom mode) gently clobbers her with beauty pageants and society parties for Bliss' own good. Like all oppressed girls, however, Bliss rebels in her own way by dyeing her hair and wearing punky clothes until, one night, she and her pal Pash (Alia Shawkat) sneak out to Austin and discover the joys of roller derby. Bliss is so enamored that she lies about her age and joins up, under the radar of her parents and the team officials. When she becomes a circuit star, however, she discovers

that fame, family, secrets and emo-rock guys are never the best mix.

I have to say that Barrymore as a director is very good. This is a movie that has an intimate feel, captured by cinematographer Robert Yeoman in clean, warm and exciting terms, that make you feel the camaraderie without making you choke on it. It's three performances, however, that give "Whip It" the weight that it needs: Harden adds a hidden pathos to the archetypal role of the overbearing mom; Andrew Wilson (the other Wilson brother after Luke and Owen) is perfect as the team's spacey, ever frustrated, airbrushed-van toting coach; however, it's Juliette Lewis that steals the movie with a piece of dialog that she snarls, summing up the frustrations of her life. Barrymore knows that these women are small time, and that outlets for self-esteem can come in the strangest of places. ■

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



DUBLIN
3676 RIMINI LANE
BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY **\$580,000**
 3 BR 2 full BA + 2 half Apx 2380 sf, upgraded w/drk chryrwd cabs, granite ktch ctrtps, hrdwd flrs, frplc, 3 car garage 925.847.2200



FREMONT
 Open SAT/SUN 1 - 4 **38744 CHERRY LANE**
TOTALLY REMODELED! **\$699,000**
 3 BR 2 BA like brand new, 1800 sf, granite counters, hrdwd flrs, recess lighting, baths w/granite/tile 925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
2528 LEONA PL
QUAINT COMMUNITY **\$1,095,000**
 4 BR 3 BA den/optional 4th bdrm, wonderful floorplan, granite counters/island, 29,000 sf lot w/privacy 925.847.2200



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

DANVILLE

1349 LAWRENCE ROAD
EQUESTRIAN'S DELIGHT **\$1,425,000**
 5 BR 3 BA 1.4 level acres, pl/spa, covered/lighted arena w/sand ftng, 5 stall barn w/pipe paddocks 925.847.2200

DUBLIN

7339 AMANDA ST
FANTASTIC SINGLE STORY! **\$499,000**
 3 BR 2 BA updated thruout, newer roof, kitchen w/newer cabinets, granite tile, hard wood floors, must see 925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

1638 PRIMA DRIVE
ONE STORY ELEGANCE **\$849,900**
 4 BR 3 BA + library, beautifully appointed home

w/gourmet kit, spac mast w/retreat, 4 car tandem garage 925.847.2200

1715 SUTTER STREET
LIGHT, BRIGHT SINGLE STORY **\$428,000**
 3 BR 2 BA Great home with upgraded carpet, decorator paint, large gourmet kitchen and 2 car garage 925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

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

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

1624 CINDY WAY
BEAUTIFUL HOME! **\$1,199,000**
 4 BR 3.5 BA gourmet eat-in kit w/cherry wd cabs, slab granite, SS appli, cntr island w/sink, 3 car garage 925.847.2200

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

4117 CRISFIELD LN
DESIRABLE COURT LOCATION **\$675,000**
 3 BR 2 BA w/pl/spa, open floor plan + office/den area, kitchen w/tile, backsplash, island, breakfast bar 925.847.2200

3655 VINEYARD AVE
VINTAGE CHARMER **\$499,900**
 2 BR 2 BA hrdwd flrs in living, hall & both beds, dual pane windows, mastr w/walk-in, deck/covered

patio 925.847.2200

2935 LIBERTY DR
GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD! **\$460,350**
 2 BR 2 BA updated w/tile flrs, newer appli/inside laundry, light/bright, beautiful yard w/rear deck 925.847.2200

7835 CANYON MEADOWS CIRCLE, UNIT E
BEAUTIFUL HOME! **\$265,000**
 2 BR 2 BA top floor w/2 balconies/views! Great location! Fireplace, tile entry, large eating area in kit 925.847.2200

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



Pleasanton 925.847.2200 | 5980 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. 122



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BLAISE LOFLAND



925.846.6500
 www.blaiselofland.com
 blaise@blaiselofland.com

apr.com

BRIDLE CREEK

COMING SOON



806 SYCAMORE CREEK WAY, PLEASANTON
 Highly upgraded Hillstar Model on premium .35 acre lot. Expansive views of Pleasanton Ridge. Faces open space. Highly upgraded with beautiful front and rear grounds. Includes in-ground pool and spa. Built by Greenbriar Homes in 2002. Five bedrooms, plus guest suite and bonus room, 4.5 bathrooms. Approximately 4,455 square feet. Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops. Crown molding, plantation shutters, and custom built-ins. Close to Downtown, Castlewood Country Club, Oak Hills Shopping Center, and Mission Hills Park.
OFFERED AT \$1,549,000

THE PRESERVE

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4



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

VENTANA HILLS



925 SHERMAN WAY, PLEASANTON
 Don't miss this Gibson model in desirable Ventana Hills. Five bedrooms, 5th is bonus, three bathrooms. Approximately 3,179 square feet. Lot size is 9452 (.21 acre lot), with large side yards. Located on quiet street. Private rear yard backs to single level home. New carpet throughout. New exterior paint. Three fireplaces. Walk to great neighborhood park and Main Street Downtown Pleasanton!
OFFERED AT \$1,095,000



WOMEN'S HEALTH FAIR

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS available Saturday, February 27, 2010



check
up on your HEALTH

San Ramon Regional Medical Center is teaming up with California State Assemblymember **Joan Buchanan** to present a community health fair.

Come to San Ramon Regional Medical Center for some preventive health screenings. We encourage you to make positive lifestyle changes to help reduce your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses. These screenings are a first step to help you identify some of your health risks. The next step is to schedule an appointment with a physician for a clean bill of health. Our staff will be available to introduce you to our hospital services. Screenings will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Screenings are appropriate for adults.

Saturday, February 27, 2010
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

San Ramon Regional Medical Center
South Conference Center
7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon

No reservations required.
For more information, call 800.284.2878.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

- Cholesterol (total) screening*
- Blood pressure screening
- Body mass index calculation
- Computerized body fat analysis
- Diabetes screening*
- Pulmonary function test
- Osteoporosis screening

* Fasting recommended, but not required

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Quake Cottage – experience an earthquake
- Tour The Breast Center
- Cardiac & stroke health
- Arthritis
- Spine health
- Cancer prevention
- MRI
- Children's health

800.284.2878

www.OurSanRamonHospital.com



SAN RAMON
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Celebrating **20** years of care