

Pleasanton Weekly

Fundraising planned: School district hoping to get monetary support to save programs on the cut list **PAGE 5**

Power of words: Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival is approaching and so is the registration deadline **PAGE 10**

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Going. guinea

Loveable furballs proving to be an educational tool

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Another Hosterman helping to make downtown thrive

Another Hosterman has taken a leadership position in Pleasanton. Michael Hosterman, an attorney with offices downtown and whose wife is Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, has been chosen chairman of Downtown Vitality Committee, a part of the Pleasanton Downtown Association where he also is a board member and former president. Mike Hosterman, a personal injury attorney, has been active in the downtown since moving his practice from San Jose to Main Street in 1990, and later to Peters Avenue, where his office is now located. Shortly after opening his office, he was hit with a fee he had to pay to the PDA, a quasi-public assessment district that all businesses located downtown must join. Curious, he decided to attend a few meetings to see just how his assessment was being used and, like so many here whose curiosity gets the best of them, he was quickly given committee and task force assignments that continue to this day.

That seems fine with Hosterman, who has become one of the most visible lawyers in town, always handling the beer garden, booth placement and other activities during the popular summertime First Wednesday events. As a member of downtown Rotary, he also joins in community service projects, including luncheons at the Pleasanton Senior Center and chairing the club's annual Spirit Run. Downtown events have increased since he was first elected to the PDA board, where he served as president in 2000 and worked with the group's new executive director at the time, Craig Scharton, to launch the First Wednesdays.

In his new role as chairman of the Downtown Vitality Committee, Hosterman is focusing on programs under way or being planned to invigorate the downtown with new businesses and entertainment. With other PDA members, he has visited other picturesque and perhaps more profitable downtowns in San Luis Obispo, Menlo Park and Walnut Creek. Although, neither Hosterman nor others now in charge of the PDA want any large chain or department stores such as those found in Walnut Creek or Dublin moving to Main Street. Scharton, he recalls, liked to point out that the most viable — and profitable — downtowns usually had a Victoria's Secret lingerie store to attract younger shoppers. When a similar-type lingerie store moved to Angela Street a few years ago, some merchants complained that it was too racy for their more traditional

customers. In the end, the store closed and moved to Livermore for lack of business. Still, Hosterman doesn't think it hurts to watch what others are doing to spur business activity downtown, which is why he supports a type of "Right to do Business" ordinance for the district, similar to one that's been enacted in Livermore. The idea is to establish entertainment standards relating to noise and hours that would apply to all PDA members. As it is now, he says, restaurants such as Barone's or Redcoats must go through extensive reviews to have their applications for late night dancing and other entertainment approved, often a six-month-long process through the city's Planning Commission and City Council.

With the city's \$10-million Firehouse Arts Center scheduled to open on Railroad Avenue in September, Hosterman's committee is considering steps to be taken to make it easier for bars and restaurants that might want to move here to serve crowds moving onto Railroad, Division and Main Street after evening performances. The DVC's plan is to beautify Division Street, possibly even turning it into a cobblestone walkway between Main and Railroad Avenue, connecting pedestrian traffic between downtown businesses and the new theater.

The Hostermans moved to Pleasanton in 1987 with their three daughters, Heather, now 29; Sarah, who is 27, and Meghan, 24, who just graduated from San Jose State University last Saturday. Although Jennifer Hosterman thrives in politics, that's not an interest Mike Hosterman shares. An avid golfer as part of a men's group at Callippe Preserve Golf Course, he also hosts card parties at his office on a monthly basis: poker the fourth Fridays and Hearts on the second Thursdays. He also leads the regional Business Builders networking group that meets twice a month in Dublin, and is a regular at the racetrack at the Alameda County Fairgrounds when the horses are running and at other racetracks as well. He attributes his love of the sport to his younger years when his family moved from city to city, and coincidentally he insisted, near racetracks. These included tracks in Arlington Heights, Ill.; Bay Meadows in San Mateo; Santa Anita in southern California's Arcadia, and Hollywood Park near UCLA, which he attended for two years. He then transferred to Berkeley, where he completed his undergraduate work, and also took advantage of races at nearby Golden Gate Fields.

In fact, it was a Golden Gate Fields where he first met Jennifer on April 15, 1980. They were married three months later. ■

About the Cover

Students in Christine Fitzsimmons' Alisal Elementary classroom are glad to have Lily the guinea pig to help them learn. Photo by Emily West. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

How prepared are you for disaster?



Eugene Jamison
Glazer

I was just thinking about that with the earthquakes in Haiti and now Chile, and tsunami warnings in this area. I'm prepared as far as I have a little kit with one of those crank radios, water and dehydrated food. But that's probably only good for one or two nights. It's scary to think about.

Al Bullock
Retired

We have a plug-in electric car. We don't need gasoline and won't have to stop at a gas station. So I can go wherever I want if there is a disaster.



Sara Sanders
Commercial Real Estate

I think we're pretty much prepared. My husband is an Eagle Scout and works in insurance, so we have disaster kits and family meeting places. Especially with everything that's been going on, it reminds you that you need to be prepared. But I feel pretty good about it.

Don Marek
Real Estate Finance

Completely unprepared. My wife has been bugging me for about five years to have a plan. For Cub Scouts it's a merit badge this year, so maybe my son Noah will encourage us to make a plan.



Rosemarie Dix
Retired

I'm probably only 50 percent prepared. I have a kit with lots of water and all that. I'm just too lazy to get the rest done.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

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

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DIGEST

Talk with mystery writers

The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., brings together a trio of mystery writers — Writers Diane Orgain of “Motherhood is Murder,” Dina Mentink of “Endless Night” and Penny Warner of “How to Host a Killer Party” — at 2 p.m. Saturday. Authors will be on hand to chat and copies of their books will be available for purchase. For details, call 931-3405.

Rain dampening sports games?

To learn if a city or school sports field is closed because of wet weather, residents can check out www.pleasantonsports.org or call the sports field wather line at 931-5360. According to the city, some fields are closed for maintenance, while others can be closed for inclement weather.

Sunol Rep in its 29th season

The Sunol Repertory Theatre presents its 29th season production of “She Was Only Marginally Modest” or “Have You No Shame?” by Vern Harden and directed by Sue Marshall. Shows are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays starting Saturday and going through March 27 at Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St. in Sunol. Tickets are \$15 and on sale at Little Valley Winery, 739 Main St. in Pleasanton.

Golfing for good

The third annual Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting the Tri-Valley YMCA, will be April 30 at Callippe Preserve Golf Course. Early bird rates are \$165 or \$850 for a corporate foursome and include lunch, golf, cocktail auction and live action. Events for non-golfers, including dinner and auction, are \$40. Register online at <http://trivalleyymcaeastbay.org>. For more information, call Marilyn Casper at 475-6108.

Correction

A photo from the Chinese American Cooperation Council’s Chinese New Year Evening Gala (“Welcome to the Year of the Tiger,” cover story, page 12-13) was misidentified. The photo at the lower right was of a martial arts presentation by Wuchi Kungfu Academy and taken by Frank Geng.

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

Vineyard Villa gets a new lease on life

By JEB BING

For the Pleasanton City Council, Tuesday night’s meeting was a love fest like none other as council members, the owner of a mobile home park and many of the residents who live there shook hands and applauded a new agreement that all three sides had rejected only a year ago.

Daniel Guggenheim, a Southern California businessman whose Guggenheim Corporation owns a number of mobile home parks in California, including Vineyard Villa in Pleasanton, won the right to gradually convert the 204-unit park facility from a rental home park into a manufactured home condominium project where resident owners of the homes could also own the lots on which their mobile homes sit.

Vineyard Villa, with a street address of 3263 Vineyard Ave., extends along Vineyard and a

part of Bernal Avenue, backing onto the Arroyo del Valle at its northern border. It abuts the Hacienda Mobile Home Park to the east, which is under different ownership.

When the park first opened, it was restricted to adults only. Later, it was converted to seniors only and both Vineyard Villa and Hacienda are now restricted to those 55 years old and older, although a spouse can be younger. The parks also have changed ownership several times, but the city has controlled rents under an affordable housing agreement.

Both the city and residents expressed concerns that the conversion would force them to pay prices to be determined later by Guggenheim for the land under their homes. Given today’s credit crunch and difficulties prospective buyers have in finding mortgage money, there was the added

concern that even those who choose to buy their lots couldn’t obtain financing.

The cost of mobile homes in the park range as high as \$300,000, although most sell for \$95,000-\$150,000. The estimated cost of the land beneath the homes would be in the \$120,000-\$200,000 range.

But Tuesday’s agreement allayed most of those concerns with Guggenheim agreeing that no one would be forced off their lots and that they could continue renting. He also agreed not to start the conversion process before 2020 and to retain the rent stabilization agreement that controls rents.

The agreement also ends the possibility of costly litigation for Pleasanton and an even costlier court judgment against the city. Guggenheim

See **COUNCIL** on Page 6



MEHTAP KESKIN

Neighborhood stroller

All by himself on a Pleasanton street, this turkey is one of many that are back in town, leaving their “calling cards” as they jump on parked cars and outdoor furniture all over town. Thousands of wild turkeys seem to find the city a welcoming place to roost with even one Happy Valley resident asking for signs along some streets to alert motorists to “Turkey Crossing.”

Museum On Main receives grant

Pleasanton’s historical hub one of 2,700 museums to join Conservation Assessment Program

Heritage Preservation recently selected the Museum On Main to participate in the 2010 Conservation Assessment Program. It would be one of 2,700 museums to have received help from CAP in its 20 years of serving small museums.

The program would provide funds for professional conservation and preservation specialists to identify the conservation needs of the collections and historic buildings. The group would then recommend ways to improve any problem areas.

Lawrence L. Reger, president of Heritage Preservation, praised the Museum On Main, for “making the vital work of caring for collections and sites a priority of their institution, even in these challenging financial times, and helping ensure that they are available to present and future generations.”

Heritage Preservation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the United States. By identifying risks, developing programs, and

providing broad public access to expert advice, it can assist museums, libraries, archives historic preservation and other organizations, as well as individuals, in caring for our endangered heritage.

Professional conservator Niccolo Caldararo of Fine Arts Conservation in San Francisco, and Mark McMillan, an historical architect with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates in Emeryville will spend two days surveying the Museum On Main and three days writing comprehensive reports.

Museum Director Jim DeMersman said the award is a great honor, as only seven museums were selected this year, that will dramatically help in setting priorities.

The Museum On Main is located at 603 Main St. and is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays. To learn more, visit www.museumonmain.org. Find out more about the Heritage Preservation at its website, www.heritagepreservation.org.

—Emily West

School fundraising efforts planned

By EMILY WEST

Pleasanton schools saw \$11 million in cuts in the current year and is projecting about \$8 million in cuts for the 2010-11 school year. Despite concessions from teachers and management, totaling just over \$4.8 million, Pleasanton Unified School District is still looking for alternative revenue sources to save programs.

In order to identify the priorities of parents at each grade level, the district put out surveys asking how they would be impacted if particular programs or positions were not funded in the next year.

Responses from about 1,780 parents showed the highest priorities were science, physical education and class-size reduction. About 580 middle school parents favored athletics, extracurriculars and site funds, while about 740 high school parents favored athletics, extracurriculars, counseling, site funds and seven periods.

The survey was created before the contract agreement was made, which ended up funding current class-size reduction levels, elementary PE, science and vocal music specialists, elementary reading specialists, current counseling levels and restoring the Barton reading program.

At the board’s special budget workshop meeting Tuesday evening, they decided to move forward with a fundraising campaign that would be a joint effort by PUSD, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) and parents. After a meeting with these groups as well as school principals, they have come up with an initial goal of items to fund at each level.

In order to keep things fair between the sites, the board discussed the idea of an equitable base that all schools would need to reach before funding extras.

While details are still being discussed between parties, the district said they plan to send out a single letter to parents outlining the goals and needs of the district. There is also the possibility for a fundraising event.

Last year, the summer I Love Pleasanton Schools fundraiser sought to raise \$2.8 million after the parcel tax Measure G failed. While the effort fell short of its goal, they raised \$463,379 and put it towards counselors, elementary strings and band, and reading specialists.

As for another source of income, parent Barbara Kirk is heading up the committee to research for another possible try at a parcel tax. The next step is holding a privately-funded information gathering workshop today. Not open to the public, the goal is to learn from Wise Campaigns — a group from San Ramon who has experience passing the parcel tax there — and learn what it would take to pass a parcel tax and is it something that can be agreed upon.

While it’s not planned to be a part of the upcoming November election, Kirk said the issue will probably carry into next year.

“It will take the community to support and get behind it,” she said. “The schools really need the help right now. The numbers could still change. It’s something that should be on everyone’s mind moving forward in the next year or so.” ■

Ballot materials being readied for Oak Grove referendum

Four on City Council writing arguments "for" and "against" measure

By JEB BING

City Council members have been chosen to write arguments in favor and against a ballot referendum to be voted on June 8 that will decide if the proposed Oak Grove development project on Pleasanton's southeast side can move forward as planned.

The question on the June 8 ballot will be: "Shall the Development Plan for the Oak Grove property be approved?"

The multi-million-dollar project, proposed by developers Jennifer and Frederic Lin, would create 51 lots for custom homes on a 562 acre site at the end of Hearst Drive. As part of the proposal, the Lins would give 496 acres of their land to the city of Pleasanton free of charge along with \$1 million in traffic mitigation fees and a hillside firefighting vehicle, and they would build a staging area in the city's new parkland and trails before selling the sixth home lot.

The City Council approved the proposal in late 2007. After that, a citizens' group petitioned that a public referendum be called in an effort to block the council's action. After more than two years of litigation, it is that referendum that will now go to voters June 8.

Council members Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne will write a direct argument in favor of the measure with council members Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan writing the argument against the measure. The same two will also write rebuttal arguments to the other two council members' arguments.

The direct arguments cannot exceed 300 words in length and must be written and submitted to City Clerk Karen Diaz by 5 p.m. Monday, March 15, with the rebuttals not to exceed 250 words and to be written and filed with Diaz by 5 p.m. Thursday, March 25. Diaz will then certify the submissions and forward them to the Alameda County Registrar's office, where they will become part of the sample ballot for the June 8 election.

Diaz has already accepted the impartial analysis of the ballot measure by City Attorney Jonathan Lowell as required by the Registrar's office. In his analysis, Lowell said the environmental impacts that would result from the development were analyzed in an Environmental Impact Report that was certified by the City Council.

He also noted that Ordinance 1961 which was adopted by the council established Planned Unit Development zoning that governs the Lins' site and subjects the development proposed there to specific conditions of approval. These conditions, Lowell said, specify grading requirements, air quality restrictions, protection of special status species, hazard abatement, disclosure requirements, construction limits, design guidelines, development standards, engineering requirements, tree preservation and mitigation, fire safety, geotechnical requirements, water quality protection, open space dedication, payment of school impact fees, traffic mitigation (including the payment of traffic related fees), as well as other building permit requirements.

The conditions require the property owners to dedicate 496 acres of the site as permanent open space and to construct a regional trail and related improvements within the open space area.

Lowell said that while the Oak Grove development plan addresses the creation of lots and regulates house size and height; it does not approve the design of any particular home.

"Issues relating to design, siting and construction of each home would be addressed in the future through the project's design review process," Lowell states in his analysis.

"This process consists of city planning staff review, subject to appeal by any interested party, Planning Commissioner or City Council member to be considered at a public hearing before the Planning Commission or City Council," he explained. ■

Civic center lobby to be revamped

Permit functions to be relocated to 157 Main St. through mid-June

By EMILY WEST

When it comes to receiving services from various departments at the city offices, Community Development Director Brian Dolan said people would end up succumbing to the pinball effect.

The current setup at 200 Main St. has a horseshoe-shaped, tall counter houses planning, business license, cashier, laserfiche machines and permit services. If people need multiple services, they often must move back and forth, without an opportunity to sit at the counter. Dolan said a team of customers were put to the task of coming up with a better public counter experience.

The plan is to tear out the current counter and replace it with a lower



EMILY WEST

Construction of a new counter expected to start March 16.

one that is in a straight line. People would be able to sit and each station would have a computer to

help with looking up documents. There will also be a single reception desk and waiting room added, as well as a small conference room, to better serve the estimated 200 people coming through each day.

"For our regular customers, it will be more comfortable, but not a dramatic difference," Dolan said. "This is targets at people who don't come that often and are intimidated by the city hall process."

The plans for this project were approved in early January, with construction planned to start March 16. If all runs according to schedule, the new lobby will be completed by mid-June. Until that time, the city is moving its permit functions to 157 Main St. starting Monday, March 8. ■

Brown announces run for governor

California's governor from 1974-1982 wants to serve again

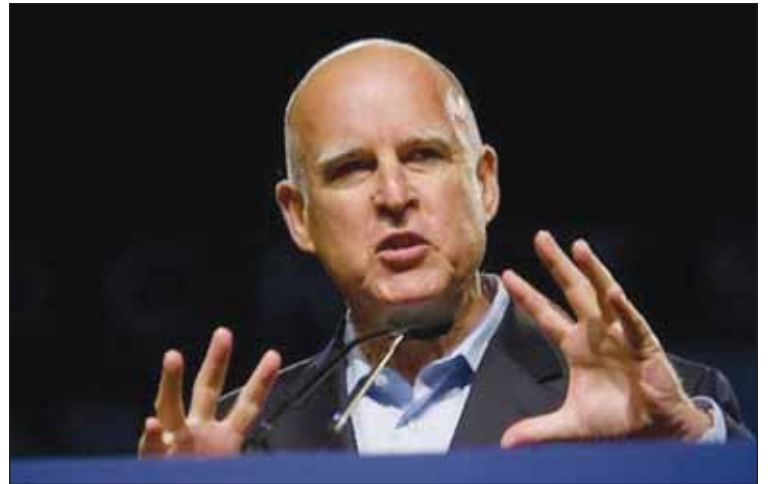
Promising to use his knowledge and skills to end "partisan bickering" in Sacramento and fix "this state I love," Attorney General Jerry Brown formally announced his candidacy for governor of California this week.

"The political breakdown in Sacramento is threatening jobs, our schools and the state's credit rating, which is the worst in the country," Brown said in an online video message to voters released as he began a series of news interviews around the state.

"Our state is in serious trouble and the next governor must have the preparation, the knowledge and the know-how to get California working again. That is what I offer and that's why I'm declaring my candidacy for governor," he said.

Brown, who served as mayor of Oakland before being elected attorney general four years ago, was California's governor from 1975 to 1983.

During those years, Brown marshaled both Democrats and Republicans in the legislature to slow the growth of state government, eliminate capital gains taxes for many small businesses, abolish the business inventory tax, index personal income taxes, adopt the nation's first energy efficiency standards, and make Cali-



FILE PHOTO

Attorney General Jerry Brown announces he will seek the California Governor's post.

fornia the leader in co-generation, solar and wind energy. Private-sector jobs grew at almost double the national rate.

"When I was governor, California added 1.9 million new jobs in eight years," Brown said. "I know we can do it again and be the leader in renewable energy, good jobs and quality schools."

Brown said the key to ending the state's partisan gridlock is a governor with in-depth knowledge of how government and Sacramento politics actually function.

"Some people say that if you've been around the process you can't handle the job, that we need to go out and find an outsider who knows virtually nothing about state government," Brown said. "Well, we tried that and it doesn't work. We found out that not knowing is not good."

Brown rejected the idea that a political outsider was right for the job, saying the state had already tried that and discovered that "it doesn't work."

—Jeb Bing

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 5

had filed a \$29-million lawsuit after both the city's Planning Commission and City Council rejected his bid to convert the park into ownership lots. In his lawsuit, Attorney Richard Close, representing The Guggenheim Corporation, argued that he and others had worked for more than two years to seek the city's approval to convert the park.

The lawsuit gained new impetus for Pleasanton after the council rejected the Guggenheim petition

when a three judge panel of the Ninth Circuit last fall, in a ground breaking decision in Guggenheim v. the City of Goleta, concluded that Goleta's adoption of rent control in 2002 caused "a taking of the Guggenheims' Rancho Mobile Home Park property." The Court found that the adoption of the rent regulation was a taking because it had resulted in a huge wealth transfer from the park owner to tenants.

Faced with the lawsuit and believing that the city, Guggenheim and the Vineyard Villa residents were

really not that far apart in accepting Guggenheim's conversion plan, City Manager Nelson Fialho discussed a compromise plan with Guggenheim and eventually arranged meetings between him and two representatives chosen by the council to negotiate an agreement: Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilwoman Cindy McGovern.

Guggenheim traveled to Pleasanton several times for meetings with Fialho and the council representatives and also met with Vineyard Villa residents. Everyone found they were on common ground and

the deal was made.

"All along, owning and maintaining Vineyard Villa has been my interest," Guggenheim said. "I've never had any motivation to get out of rent control or to sell this park. I hope to own it for the rest of my life, but at age 72, I've also made sure my wife and my four daughters understand my passion for keeping this park forever."

Guggenheim admitted that he had become disenchanted with some government procedures after his petitions were rejected time and time again without much explanation.

"I was pleasantly surprised to have the phone call from Nelson Fialho asking that we meet to discuss this issue," Guggenheim said. "I was frankly amazed that after all these months anyone here wanted to sit and talk about what I hoped to do. And then to have two members of your council negotiate with me was even more appreciative."

He said Fialho even delayed a planned ski vacation with his family a few weeks ago to meet with him to work out the final details which were approved Tuesday. ■

Dublin projects up to \$4.6-million budget shortfall for 2010-11

State 'takeaways' and slowing economy taking their toll on city revenue

By JEB BING

A special budget report reviewed by the Dublin City Council shows declining future revenue projections and a reported budget shortfall of as much as \$4.67 million in Fiscal Year 2010-11.

City Manager Joni Pattillo reported that needs for essential city services continue to exceed revenues. She said the city has already had to utilize one-time economic uncertainty reserves to balance the current budget.

"This growing deficit will affect our ability to maintain current levels of service to the community in the long term," Pattillo said.

The \$4.67 million budget gap does not include more than \$2 million in state takeaways from Dublin this year or any future state takeaways that are currently being discussed in Sacramento, Pattillo added.

The city's ongoing budget problems are primarily due to the lagging economy which has negatively impacted property and sales tax revenues, she explained. These two

funding sources together make up over 70 percent of the city's operating revenues.

In the last two years, Dublin's sales tax revenues have rolled back to less than what was received in 2001 and property tax revenues per capita have decreased by 13 percent.

"Many people don't realize that the city is only allowed to keep 24 cents out of every property tax dollar and only 10 cents from every dollar collected in sales tax," said Pattillo. "For its part, Dublin has already slashed millions in city operating expenses to address the budget gap in its previous year and current year budgets."

"However, the city cannot continue to maintain current service levels without putting a substantial strain on emergency reserve funds," she added. "Without additional revenue, the city will be forced to examine cuts in services."

"We are focused on trying to protect and maintain the services that the community relies on, such

as the number of firefighters and paramedics needed to keep emergency response times short, saving lives," Pattillo said. "While we want to protect and maintain our emergency response times, the city can't ignore the fact that more than half of Dublin's operating budget is comprised of costs relating to public safety and these budget areas must be examined."

"Dublin's population includes a significant number of seniors who depend on the city having reliable emergency response services," the city manager noted. "It would be devastating if we could not meet the needs of all of our families, including our senior population."

The City Council will be taking up the budget discussion again in April and will continue to get input from the community on its priorities for Dublin.

"It is important we hear from residents on what types of services they want protected as we address these serious budget issues," Pattillo said. ■

Hundreds mourn loss of AVHS freshman

Teen suicide prompts district to host community forum

More than 800 students, teachers and others packed the sanctuary of Valley Community Church last Wednesday for the memorial service for Evelyn Gonzalez, 14, an Amador Valley High School freshman who died Feb. 19.

Mourners stood along the sides and in the church foyer as the pews in the main sanctuary and the balcony quickly filled for the 6 p.m. service. Flowers also filled the church with several large tables positioned in the foyer for students to sign cards to express their sorrow and tributes to Gonzalez.

The Rev. Jeff Lange, the church's youth minister for high school students, talked about the many friendships Gonzalez had made during her first year at Amador, at Harvest Park, where she attended middle school, and in the community. An avid Facebook contributor, she also had friends far beyond Pleasanton she never really knew but enjoyed those communications, Lange said.

Friends and family members also talked about the cheer she brought to them, even in the most trying moments.

Following the incident, the school district held a community forum last Thursday night in the Amador library. Sheryl Pacheco, head counselor at the high school, said that room had been filled with students throughout the week who needed extra support.

Amador Vice Principal Rhea Brandon shared signs of depression and suicidal feelings so that parents could help identify needs for their children. With some of the signs can include typical teen habits, Bran-



JAY FLACHSBARTH

Services for Evelyn Gonzalez, a freshman at Amador Valley High School who died Feb. 19, were held last week with hundreds in attendance.

don said that parents know their children best and should watch for them showing strange and out-of-character behaviors and changes.

Parents also had to opportunity to speak with the panel of experts, and many were concerned about how a suicide could happen with the current level of counseling support and resources.

Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services for the district, said they've also put together a parent support group. Anyone interested in learning more about that should email publicinfo@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

Emily West contributed to this report.

PAID BY ROBERT BYRD

Downtown and Dudley — Part I



If you watch City Council meetings then you've probably heard speakers use words like "micromanage," "inconsistent," and "infinite" when describing downtown's approval process. So, how fast, fair and effective is the process? Let's find out! Two weeks ago I submitted a request to the Planning Department asking for permission to operate a restaurant/lounge on the second floor of the old Oddfellows building on St. Mary Street, the "Dudley," a gathering place for the community, a social club if you will (food, drink, music, events, meetings, etc.). Let's follow the process from submittal to fees as it winds its way through the system. According to city literature I should be standing in council chambers asking "Big Brother" for three votes 4 to 6 weeks after the Planning Department releases its "Staff Report." I'll keep you posted.

—Robert W. Byrd

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LETTERS

PUSD needs to think as a business

Dear Editor,

One concept I would like to introduce to the PUSD School Board and administration is that of "the myth of scarcity." You have a declining budget and need to cut services. One resource that seems to be overlooked is the Pleasanton community and "an out of the box" approach to leveraging "public/private" partnerships to keep programs that might be destined to the cutting block.

There are plenty of parents in this community that would be willing to volunteer time to lead an after school homework club, coordinate the Barton program (the best ROI that this school district has for dyslexic kids), play music, etc. I know this concept is sheer heresy in the halls of the education community, however, the issue facing PUSD are not educational right now, but rather business.

We pay the administration of PUSD to find creative solutions to problems and hold the School Board's feet to the fire to "think outside the box" to address the challenges we face. You have a great resource in the Pleasanton community. Why don't you introduce the concept of private/public partnership and see what kind of feedback you get from the community? You will be surprised.

I encourage you to be bold and take a page from successful businesses that are weathering this global economic crisis, which isn't going to end next year. Don't fear the unions or the unknown, but rather be willing to take a chance — you won't be faulted for that.

Peter C. Balas

McNerney should oppose latest healthcare effort

Dear Editor,

Congressman Jerry McNerney's final chance for healthcare redemption in the eyes of his constituents is fast approaching. The people have overwhelmingly rejected the house and senate's healthcare bills, only 30 percent of the people are in favor. Yet Pelosi/Reid/Obama still insist on throwing their party under

the bus by pushing this forward with procedural "tricks" like reconciliation. Real healthcare reform is not in either of these bills. There is no tort reform, there is no ability to purchase insurance across state lines, there is no ability for groups to form their own insurance pools. McNerney voted for the house bill that includes the public option and would cut \$500 billion in Medicare back on Dec. 7. Moreover, McNerney has already demonstrated poor judgment by believing the Global Warming hoax and voting for "Cap and Trade" which will raise energy prices on Americans. He has already shown poor judgment by voting for the "stimulus bill" that focused on pork barrel spending and has not resulted in creating any new jobs. Now is an opportunity for McNerney to oppose this latest healthcare cram-down effort and show CD-11 that he was wrong and the people are right. The decision he makes this week will help or haunt him through the November elections. I hope he finally sides with the people and stands up to Pelosi to make the right decision and opposes Obamacare.

Pleasanton deserves better.

David Miller

Writing to the troops

Dear Editor,

Saturday, Feb. 13 was a great day for our town. Here's why: Moms and Dads with kids, couples holding hands and grandmas galore, stopped by a little table on Main Street to celebrate Valentine's Day by writing a message of thanks and encouragement to a recuperating vet or active military hero serving America away from home.

In just four hours, 54 grateful hearts had created a homemade card to be included in a support our troops "gifts from home" care package to be sent by Freedom Alliance (www.freedomalliance.org). I was deeply touched by the enthusiasm and sincerity with which each card was written and at the often repeated words, "We love you. How can we ever thank you enough for your bravery in keeping us safe?" To all those who stopped by to remember our troops, thank you! I don't know your names, but I remember your faces and I saw your hearts.

Candyce Roberts

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Helping students face tragedies

Pleasanton's school teachers, counselors and administrators deserve praise for their quick and ongoing response to the death of Amador Valley High freshman Evelyn Gonzalez, who died Feb. 19 after being hit by a Union Pacific train near the Santa Rita Road crossing. Her death has been ruled a suicide. Almost immediately, students, most of them still in classrooms, began meeting with teachers, administrators and counselors in an outpouring of grief and a search for why this 14-year-old classmate would take her own life.

What happened here that Friday seems all too familiar. Another Amador Valley student, William Russell, committed suicide in October 2007 by stepping in front of a train near the site of Friday's incident. In Palo Alto, four high school students committed suicide last year within a span of six months.

Alex Briscoe, director of healthcare services for Alameda County, told the school board that suicide in the 14-24 year age group is now the second leading cause of death, following behind car accidents, with homicides the third leading cause. He described all three as behavioral motivated, explaining that they involve the decisions that these young people make on their own and often without asking for help or receiving professional counseling. These losses are especially tragic because many could be prevented with appropriate help. A recent California Health Department report shows that depression has reached epidemic proportions among youth. In the U.S., nearly 5,000 young people die from suicide each year. For every youth that dies, an additional 100 to 200 suicide attempts are made. Countless other young people struggle with serious depression that goes undiagnosed or untreated.

In Pleasanton, counselors at Amador High stayed late into the evening the Friday of Gonzalez's death and returned to school Saturday to meet with another group of 75 grieving students and some parents. Counselors and district staff also met on Sunday to develop an action plan to comfort students and to assess programs in place or needed to prevent another tragedy on campuses. Because schools were closed the following Monday, Feb. 22 in observance of Washington's birthday, the district began Tuesday with counselors, teachers and administrators in place to address the issue head-on. When Kevin Johnson, director of pupil services, learned that an accident had tied up traffic on I-580, with some commuting teachers stuck in traffic, staff worked quickly to assemble counselors and available teachers from Foothill High School and the middle schools to Amador by 7:30 a.m. so that every classroom would have professionals there to talk to arriving students.

At the school board meeting, Johnson outlined further steps that district was taking to deal with behavioral issues that could lead to life-threatening actions, including asking Briscoe to talk about suicide concerns and how the county can help. He has also enlisted the support of Axis Community Health, the YMCA and Hope Hospice to help plan programs and added counseling services to keep a better watch on the teenage population so that those who are troubled can receive immediate help. The school district's student support tip line, 417-5199, is also being programmed to accept text messages, the common way teens communicate these days.

These initiatives and school board President Chris Grant's efforts to form a partnership with Briscoe's healthcare services, the city of Pleasanton and the school district are a commendable response at a time when training and education within our community will hopefully provide the resources to make sure these kinds of tragedies don't happen again. ■

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POLICE BULLETIN

Alleged Main Street burglar arrested

Pleasanton police arrested a 19-year-old Pleasanton man who was reportedly caught attempting to rob Pans on Fire, located at 310 Main St.

Police responded to an alarm at the store around 4:20 a.m. Tuesday and found Marco Antonio Aguilar-Fragoso allegedly in possession of stolen property, including keys and two cash boxes, police said. The man allegedly admitted to this burglary and two others on Feb. 28 at the offices above The Farmer Restaurant at 855 Main St.

Aguilar-Fragoso was booked at Santa Rita Jail for three counts of burglary.

POLICE REPORT

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

Feb. 25

Theft

■ 1:34 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft

Vehicular burglary

■ 9:24 a.m. in the 8200 block of Golden Eagle Way

Drug/alcohol violations

- 4:01 p.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- 5:31 p.m. at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Sycamore Roda; DUI
- 10:07 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Rheem drives; marijuana possession

Robbery

■ 1:26 p.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Feb. 26

Theft

- 5:33 a.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive; stolen vehicle
- 10:38 a.m. in the 3500 block of Crespi Court; grand theft
- 11:27 a.m. in the 3600 block of Virgin Islands Court; identity theft
- 11:29 a.m. in the 700 block of Main Street
- 1:59 p.m. in the 4600 block of Chabot Drive
- 2:38 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 5:16 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Shoplifting

■ 5:31 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

Vandalism

■ 8:20 a.m. in the 600 block of Junipero Street

Feb. 27

Theft

- 10:26 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; petty theft
- 10:31 a.m. in the 600 block of Main Street
- 6:13 p.m. in the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 11:32 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Burglary

- 9:04 a.m. in the 800 block of Main Street
- 10:17 a.m. in the 800 block of Main Street
- 2:23 p.m. in the 200 block of Rose Avenue; vehicular

DUI

- 12:13 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and West Las Positas Boulevard
- 6:52 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue

OBITUARIES

Ray King

Ray King died of a heart attack at his home in Pleasanton Feb. 21. He was 77.

Born Jan. 1, 1933 in Montrose, Colo., Mr. King received his Master of Science in electrical engineering and doctorate degrees from the University of Colorado. Prior to moving to Pleasanton, he was a professor for 18 years at the University of Wisconsin, Madison until 1982. He moved to Pleasanton as a research engineer at the Lawrence Livermore Lab where he worked from 1983 to 1990. He co-formed a company in 1983, KDC Technology in Livermore, where he worked until his death.

Mr. King loved camping, hiking, fishing, waterskiing, canoeing, kayaking, gardening and yard work, as well as wood building and hunting.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Diane; daughter Kristin Strickland; son Karl King; sister Bernice McClanahan; and three grandchildren.

Mr. King was preceded in death by sisters Mable Colhour and Marie Sanger.

Services were held Feb. 26 at CrossWinds Church in Dublin. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Compassion International, 12290 Voyager Pkwy., Colorado Springs, CO, 80921.

Paul Josef Zischka

Paul Zischka died Jan. 21 at the age of 45 after a brave and spirited battle with esophageal cancer.

Mr. Zischka grew up and lived in Pleasanton. After graduating from Foothill High School in 1984, he attended the Carpenters Union School. In 1993 he started his own company, Paul Z Construction, and was quickly recognized in the trade for his upstanding professionalism and superior craftsmanship.

He enjoyed camping, jet skiing, snow skiing/snowboarding and snowmobiling (go B.L.T. guys), but most of all riding his dirt bike and dicing it up on the trails. His talent and passion for the sport was evident in both a competitive and fun nature and quickly became a family affair. Together, he and his son Travis enjoyed riding and competing in Cross Country Hare Scrambles and the local Carnegie Hill Climb events.

Mr. Zischka was also a very generous man with his time and talents. Whether he was at work, home, camping, or out on the trail, he was the "go-to" guy. It was widely known

that he could fix anything and had the ingenuity and tools to do it. He happily shared his knowledge and truly enjoyed helping others.

He had an infinite passion for life and his energy was boundless. For him, it was all about spending time with family and friends, working hard and playing harder. He lived each day to the fullest and took pride in everything he did.

He touched many lives by just being himself. His warm heart and contagious smile made people want to be a part of his world. He was an incredible and loving son, husband, father and dear friend. He will be genuinely missed by many.

Mr. Zischka is survived by Tanja, his wife and love of 27 years; his son Travis; his mother Sue; his brothers Kurt and Peter; and his sister Kirsten.

His father Herbert preceded him in death in 2006.

A celebration of Mr. Zischka's life and memorial service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 6 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America.



BIRTHS

Samantha Fern Ebright

Samantha Fern Ebright was born Jan. 31 at the Barton Hospital in South Lake Tahoe. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Jim and Erin Ebright. Jim is a snow board trainer/instructor at Sierrat-Tahoe and Erin is a professional photographer. Proud grandparents are Joel and Linda Ebright of



Pleasanton and Bryce and Dianne Farmer of Austin, Texas.



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PAP 140 through PAP 144, Phil Benzel, Robert Miller, and Todd Briggs, Appellants (PDR 883 through PDR 887, Ponderosa Homes, Applicant)**

Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's Design Review approvals to construct five single family homes on five vacant lots located at 6120 Sanctuary Lane, 6136 Sanctuary Lane, 6168 Sanctuary Lane, 6184 Sanctuary Lane, and 6139 Sanctuary Lane, in the Happy Valley Specific Plan Area.

- **PUD-84-21-4M, Civic Square, L.L.C., & Andy Bye, Braddock & Logan Services, Inc.**

Application for a PUD modification to add 36 new apartment units in five new buildings, a new clubhouse/rental office in one new building, and miscellaneous site modifications at the Civic Square Apartments located at 4800 Bernal Avenue.

Library Commission

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

- Library Exhibit Policy
- Library Commission Goals – Outreach

Youth Commission

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

- Presentations from Non-Profit Agencies and Recommendations to Allocate Community Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2010/2011.
- Appointment of Alternate to the Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
Cancelled

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

(YMPIC)

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

- Review and approve the JamFest ad hoc committee recommendations for the Summer 2010 JamFest
- Review and approve the Draft Updated Youth Master Plan Strategies

GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of Pleasanton invites you to apply for vacancies on the following commissions and committees:

- Civic Arts Commission – 1 Member, 1 Alternate
- Housing Commission – 1 Member
- Human Services Commission – 2 Members, 1 Alternate
- Library Commission – 1 Alternate
- Parks & Recreation Commission – 1 Alternate
- Youth Commission – 6 Youth Members
- Committee on Energy & the Environment – 1 Member
- Economic Vitality Committee -- 1 representative from each of the following categories:
 - Commercial Services Firm
 - Environmental Industry
 - Infrastructure
 - Medical Services
 - Medical Technology

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) Citizens Advisory Committee – 3 Pleasanton representatives

Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging -- 1 Pleasanton representative

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or on the City's web site at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 19, 2010. Postmarks are not accepted.

If you are interested in serving on a commission or committee that has no current vacancies listed, you may register your interest in future vacancies by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027 or by completing an interest card on our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Employment Opportunity

The Pleasanton Downtown Association seeks a self-motivated, visionary with great networking skills to serve as Executive Director to oversee the promotion and marketing of the City's vibrant Downtown. Please submit a resume and letter of interest to the following or online at: www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us by March 5, 2010.

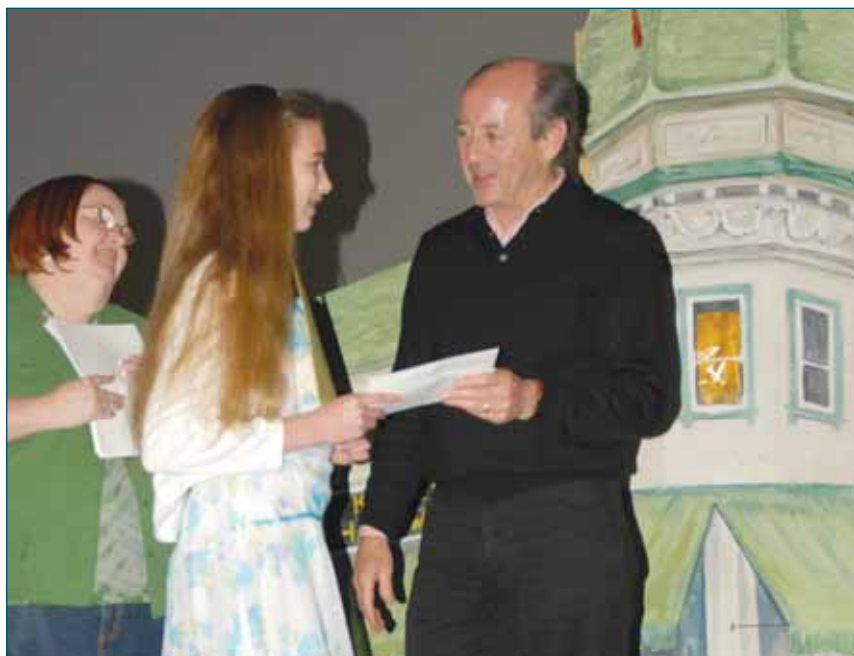
City of Pleasanton
Human Resources
PO Box 520
Pleasanton, CA 94566

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

Poets unite!

Registration is open for the ninth annual Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival



PHOTOS COURTESY DAVE WRIGHT

Left: At a previous festival awards ceremony, youth winner Sarah York is awarded her prize by past Poet Laureate of the United States Billy Collins as Cynthia Bryant (Pleasanton Poet Laureate 2005-07), looks on. Right: Poet Cheryl Dumesnil leads a poetry workshop at a past Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival.

With a growing interest in literary arts in Pleasanton, it is natural for the city's poetry festival to expand as well.

In its ninth year, the Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival is back with new workshops, contests, an awards banquet, arts events and a keynote address from storyteller Bob Jenkins. The two-day event is hosted by the city as well as the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council and will take place from April 17 to 18 at the senior center, located at 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Due to popular demand from young writers, the festival has mostly expanded in its offerings for teens.

"We have a full two days of teen workshops," said festival co-chair Dave Wright. "We've never had more than two workshops (for teens) before."

The focus on supporting young poets is a passion of Wright's, who has chaired the festival for all its nine years.

"People who get into writing and expressing themselves early on carry it with them their whole lives," he said. "A lot has to be put into words and the fact that people are putting into words what most deeply touches them in poetry and prose, that starts early on."

Wright, who has taught at Las Positas College in Livermore for several years, said he's often had students say they knew they were going to be writers from as young as age 6.

"I see these opportunities as life changing," he said. "They have experiences that really set them off."

In addition to programs for teens, there are workshops for children, starting at age 6, as well as

2010 Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival schedule

Saturday, April 17

- 8:30 a.m. Festival registration and breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. Opening ceremony
- 9:30 a.m. Keynote address
- 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Morning workshops
- 1 to 2:30 p.m. Buffet lunch, music, literary row, PAL fine arts show and reception
- 2:30 to 5 p.m. Afternoon workshops
- 5:15 to 7 p.m. Festival banquet and awards ceremony with music and door prizes

Sunday, April 18

- 9 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. to noon Morning workshops
- Noon to 1 p.m. Buffet lunch
- 1 to 3:30 p.m. Afternoon workshops

adults. There are also some new types of workshops, including songwriting lyrics and storytelling, the latter thanks to keynote speaker Jenkins.

Wright is also excited for the mini courses: "On the Chapbook" by Rebecca Foust and "Putting the Pieces Together: The Six Elements of Fiction" by Ann Parker.

These mini-courses, he said, allow people to go more in-depth as each carries over from Saturday to Sunday.

In addition to literary arts, there will also be other art forms for the community to enjoy. The Pleasanton Art League will have a free exhibition that is open to the public from 1 to 2:30 p.m. April 17. Also during that time will be the popular Literary Row, a reception and book signing that connects authors with readers. There are also various musicians that will be playing throughout the weekend.

All of these newest features are quite a jump from when Wright and others put the event together in 2001. It has grown to attract about 100 people from Pleasanton and afar. First held at CarrAmerica before the Pleasanton Senior Center, the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council is excited to eventually move the festival to the Firehouse Arts Center next year.

Wright said he hopes the venue between Railroad Avenue and Lions Wayside Park would allow them to have more music and art in addition to the literary event. It would also help bring more people into restaurants and shops downtown, he added.

Until then, the literary arts lovers can sign up for this year's event, with early registration open through March 15 and the final registration deadline April 9. A full-weekend package is \$160-\$185 for adults and \$120-\$145 for teens. The Saturday youth session is \$15-\$20. One-day only packages are also available. Tickets to the awards banquet on Saturday night are \$35.

Details as well as registration and contest forms can be found at www.pleasantonarts.org.

—Emily West

READY TO RENT REVIEWS OF NEW DVD RELEASES

By **JOE RAMIREZ**

Where the Wild Things Are

Warner Home Video DVD & Blu-Ray
1 hour, 41 minutes
Director: Spike Jonze

Director Spike Jonze's "Where the Wild Things Are" has to be the most peevish kid's movie since "Willy Wonka," "Polar Express" or even "Up." Now, this is not a bad thing; just be warned that screenwriters Jonze and author David Eggers have constructed something akin to an adult reflection on the pains of growing up emotionally, and it comes out feeling like a mash-up between Lewis Carroll and Kurt Cobain on a blue day, with a little of Ingmar Bergman to flavor the leaden stock. This means there is a lot of angst to go around, so much so that it may leave a bitter taste in mouths of some small kids who probably won't understand the primal aggressiveness and moodiness of Maurice Sendak's monsters. However, they have to learn somewhere, so they might as well start with a good movie like "Where the Wild Things Are," where the moviemakers may have missed the mark in some respects, but never out of commercializing their work.

Jonze is a mystery of sorts. I never think of him as a professional director per-se until I see one of his movies, and I then I'm reminded of how original his unpretentious eccentricities make his movies feel just right. His greatest stuff — like "Adaptation," Bjork's video of "It's Oh So Quiet" and Fatboy Slim's "Weapon of Choice" which allowed Christopher Walken to do what he loves the most (tap dance) — make a point of lending a feeling of uncomfortable comfort. Jonze takes familiar themes, and especially images, and assembles them askew, as to hide his aesthetic insurgencies, and the viewer is silently sabotaged. Take for example the last 20 minutes of "Adaptation" where real life author Susan Orlean, as portrayed as Meryl Streep, runs around with a shotgun trying to kill screenwriter Charlie Kauffman. It's good stuff without calling attention to how good it really is.

"Where the Wild Things Are" is a faithful adaptation of the book, as it should be with author Maurice Sendak's forked-tongue having guided Jonze and Eggers. The movie opens with 9-year-old Max (Max Records) at first innocently roughhousing with his big sister's friends, until his frustration and aggressiveness becomes a little too demanding. Max's unhappiness, we find, may stem from a missing dad, loneliness or maturing, but it doesn't mean he has to like it. One night when mom (perfectly maternal Catherine Keener) has her boyfriend over, Max acts out and runs away, finds a boat and sails

to an island where there are more than a few monsters to match is temperament.

"Where the Wild Things Are" could be seen as Jonze's failed epic. Every director needs one: Francis Ford Coppola has "Apocalypse Now," Werner Herzog "Fitzcarraldo" and James Cameron "Avatar." It's as if the material itself was too much for their talents to wrap their arms around, and in Jonze's case, I feel it is more of not having enough of a story to work with. What there is, however, is strangely haunting, as if beamed directly from a child's psyche. The monsters themselves are quite brilliant, wisely built and operated by Jim Henson's Creature Shop with a little bit of digital manipulation to smooth out the edges. It is the voice of James Gandolfini's monster Carol, which really gives the movie its weight. Gandolfini, a subtle master of intonation, lends Carol the pathos akin to Max's pain. It's a performance that is overlooked, but illustrative of what a good actor can achieve despite the limitations. ■

Feel the power of Mozart's 'Requiem'

Valley Concert Chorale to perform at Bankhead Theater Sunday

"This is music that will move your soul and excite your spirit," said John Emory Bush.

Bush is the artistic director of the Valley Concert Chorale and the San Francisco Concert Chorale, who along with the Las Positas College Chamber Choir will perform Mozart's "Requiem" at 3 p.m. March 7 at the Bankhead Theater, located at 2400 First St. in Livermore.

Accompanied by a full orchestra and professional soloists, "Requiem" is perhaps the most performed choral work throughout the world. Not all performances of the Requiem, however, are the same, that is, not even the same musical score.

"Mozart never finished the Requiem before his death," Bush said. "The version known to the general public was completed by Mozart's assistant Franz Süssmayr. Many musicians have attempted to complete the Requiem as Mozart would have intended, removing deficiencies introduced by Süssmayr. We will perform the most recent completion by Robert Levin, a highly recognized Mozart scholar and theorist, and professor of Humanities at Harvard University."

Tickets are \$27, \$30 and \$33 and \$12 for students. Purchase them through the Bankhead The-



Members of the Valley Concert Chorale will perform the powerful "Requiem" by Mozart on Sunday.

ater by calling 373-6800 or visiting www.bankheadtheater.org or www.valleyconcertchorale.org or call 866-4003.

To learn more about VCC, visit

—Emily West

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Abbie 4-H meets the second Wednesday of the month at Mohr Elementary School. The program runs from September through June, with the county fair being the year-end event. Those interested can visit www.abbie4h.org.



Going. guinea

Loveable furballs proving to be an educational tool

By EMILY WEST

On a Friday morning in Room 24, Christine Fitzsimmons' students were waiting with anticipation as she doled out the group activity assignments. One group was to play with blocks, while another was to create art with stamps. The other group of children was fidgeting with excitement on the colorful rug, waiting for a chance to read to Lily.

Lily, a furry, white guinea pig, has become an integral part of the special day class, a place for first- through third-graders with various special needs ranging from ADHD to difficulty with processing information. For example, one child has trouble transitioning, even if the new activity is enjoyable, Fitzsimmons said.

"I could announce that we're having an ice cream party and the student would still have a tough time," she said.

One of the bigger transitions making it difficult for the student was heading home from school. The anxiety connected to that time of day has dissipated, however, ever since the student started bringing Lily along to wait for the ride home.

Another student has difficulty retaining information. Through reading to Lily, Fitzsimmons said it has helped the student's ability to grasp and understand the story.

The Lily adventure began last year, when one of Fitzsimmons' students with behavioral problems had an affinity for hamsters. She said a pet store had a guinea

pig available for adoption and came with a recommendation over hamsters for being more child-friendly.

Since then, Lily has made an impact in the class. Students who said they were afraid of animals at the beginning of the school year are now vying for a chance to take care of her on the daily chore sign-up sheet. The class has learned responsibility by learning to feed her and supply her with water, and also by taking her home on the weekends.

Donna Kellar is a second grader in the class who enjoys taking Lily home on the weekends and also during the summer. Andrea Mosley, Donna's aunt and guardian, said their family is glad to host the little animal. They have a handful of guinea pigs at home, but she claims Lily to be extra special.

"Generally guinea pigs are nocturnal," Mosley said. "But Lily sleeps at night. She loves the class and loves the kids and doesn't want to miss a moment. Given the choice of playing with other guinea pigs or kids, she'll choose kids."



Another quality Lily has is the ability to heal. Donna's mom died recently and it's been tough on her. Mosley said taking care of Lily has given Donna "an opportunity to shine." As part of the Abbie 4-H cavy (guinea pig) group, she is preparing to show Lily at the Alameda County Fair this summer.

"(Having Lily) especially helped Donna come into our family where her cousins already had guinea pigs," Mosley said. "I was adamant about not adding any more that I would have to take care of. But when we got into the classroom and saw she had one in her class that she was able to bring home, it made her feel like she was much more a part of the family."

Lily has become a part of the Mosley family, too, even when she's not around as Donna provides a report of her day with the cavy around the dinner table.

"There's always a smile and a sparkle in her eyes," Mosley said. "Things may not have been the same without Lily."

The affect on children with special needs is also apparent for Mosley's daughter, who has autism.

"We know, in our family, how wonderful animals are for children with special needs," she said. "(Special needs children) require stability. While hamsters are really cute, a cavy can live eight to 12 years. They are a very special friend for a long time."

Other qualities making them ideal pets, she said, are a calm demeanor, vocal interaction and that they are small enough for apartment living.

The Abbie 4-H cavy group has about 17 children involved. There, they learn about proper care and nutrition as well as about the animals in order for them to



present their skills and knowledge to the judges at the county fair.

Jane Morehouse, who has been with the Abbie 4-H group since 2000, said she notices a bond between the children and the animals, particularly the guinea pigs.

"Sometimes children feel that they can't talk to a person, but you notice they talk to their animal," she said.

She encourages this bond by reminding the children to care for their animals when they get home. Mosley said she has noticed that Donna and her children, who are also in the program, have gained self confidence in being able to protect and care for these animals.

"These are just delightful pets," Morehouse continued. "They fit today's economy and space restrictions and add so much more, 10 times more to a child's life than what it takes to take care of them."

Until the fair comes, Lily seems to be enjoying life in the classroom. On a recent weekday morning, Donna and some other classmates read her "Duck on a Bike." As Fitzsimmons turned the page, a student would be able to pet Lily. Before she could be passed around the circle, the student would then provide a summary of the page's words and explain the pictures to Lily.

Animal therapy has also been used for years through the Pleasanton Public Library's Paws to Read program. This concept is also used in this classroom once a week when Paws to Read volunteers visit and the students read books to a dog.

Fitzsimmons said she is glad to have the uncommon learning aids in her class.

"It encourages the students and has helped build a community," she said. ■



EMILY WEST

Top: Jamie Washington, Mustafa Beg, Tarek Ysry, Gavin Beidleman and Donna Kellar take turns with Lily the guinea pig as they listen to teacher Christine Fitzsimmons (center) read "Duck on a Bike." Above: Donna Kellar and Samantha Mello make sure to follow along and report the story back to Lily.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT



French Connection Exhibit

The French Connection III: Prehistory to Present is a collection of paintings and photographs by Charlotte Severin and fellow artists from a recent trip through Spain and France. An artist's reception is from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 6 and the exhibit continues from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays, and noon to 6 p.m. Sundays. It is located at the Livermore Civic Center Library Gallery, 1188 South Livermore Ave. Call 373-5500.

Class Reunions

AVHS CLASS OF 1980 30 YEAR REUNION The reunion is scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 17. Fri. night BBQ meet & greet; Sat. night will be held at the Pleasanton Hilton. Call 453-7673 or email minsmit@aerosurf.net.

Classes

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING Learn skills to assist your neighborhood, school, or workplace respond to disasters, from 6-9:30 p.m., March 18, six sessions, 3301 Busch Rd. Call 510-454-2361 or email CERT@lpfire.org. 6-9:30 p.m.

PEE WEE ART TIME Preschoolers and their parents can spend the morning creating art together. Enjoy enriching toys, books and story time. Three 4-week sessions. 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. March 11 Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. Cost \$80. Call 462-5915 or visit www.sites.google.com/site/peeweearttime/.

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS ROUNDTABLE Share ideas with other business owners March 9. Explore how to differentiate your business from the competition, creative/affordable marketing, adapting to business in a down economy, handling growth, motivating personnel, and developing "outside the box" business strategies. Cost is \$45. Call 426-4280.

SUCCESS WITH MONEY AND SPENDING CLASS Find out how to recognize self-defeating money habits, attitudes and beliefs at this class from 9 a.m. to noon March 6

at Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Road, Rm. 202, Livermore. Discover lasting practical solutions to money problems. Cost is \$49. Call 424-1467 or visit www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed.

Clubs

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

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB This club meets from 7-9 p.m. March 11 at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. Designing Beautiful and Bountiful Gardens. Guest speakers are Susan Ballinger and Victor Ruesga. Call 461-1725 or visit www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc.

Concerts

NATS VOCAL RECITAL The concert is from 3-4 p.m. March 6 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd. Students of the Sarah Sloan Vocal Studio as well as advanced students of other Tri-Valley voice teachers will perform. Call 719-4984 or visit www.sarahsloan.net.

Events

'CHICKS WITH SHTICK' WITH LAURIE KILMARTIN This show is from 7:30 to 9 p.m. March 6 at Bunjo's Comedy Club, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. It features headliner Laurie Kilmartin,

who has been on Comedy Central, Jimmy Kimmel, and Tough Crowd, as well as other funny Bay Area females. Cost is \$15 plus two-item minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.bunjoscmedy.com.

2010 BRIDAL FAIR Elliston Vineyards, 463 Kilkare Road, Sunol, will host their 2010 Bridal Fair from noon to 4 p.m. March 7. Tour the mansion, speak with a coordinator and meet with local wedding professionals. Admission is free with reservation and \$5 at the door. Call 862-2377 or visit www.elliston.com.

BIRTHDAY DINNER IN PLEASANTON This event is at 5 p.m. March 14 at La Vite Italian Restaurant, 3037 G Hopyard Rd. Widowed Men and Women of Northern California host this event. RSVP to Ruby by March 11 with check and dinner choice: options, veal claudia or salmon dijon. Cost is \$24.50. Call 452-9636 or email hskoog@comcast.net.

BRAIN FITNESS LECTURE Dr. William Jagust discusses his cutting edge research on age-based memory loss, dementia and Alzheimer's disease. 6:30 p.m. March 9 at Farmer Restaurant, 855 Main St. Cost \$10. Call 463-6615 or email audrey.glafkides@morganstanley.com.

EIGHTH ANNUAL YOUTH FOOD DRIVE The drive will be held, rain or shine, on March 6 in Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, Sunol, San Ramon, Alamo, Danville, Walnut Creek, Concord, Moraga, Orinda, Lafayette and Pleasant Hill for Alameda and Contra Costa county food banks. Place bags by 9 a.m. to be seen from street. Call 998-6513 or visit www.youthservicecouncil.com.

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Who Is Mama Rosa ...

Sebastian and Savarine Sandoval, owners of Mama Rosa Pizza and Pasta, thought what better way to honor their heritage than to name their new family-run restaurant after their biggest mentor and hero, their Grandmother Rosa. Their fondest memories of her revolve around the dinner table and her love for cooking. Their weekly visits to Grandmother Rosa's kitchen were never a disappointment and always a feast for the eyes and stomach. The family would sit around for hours eating, catching up with one another, telling jokes, playing cards, arm wrestling, and listening to old music. The children would wait in line to get pushed on the tire swing that hung from the old oak tree on the front lawn. Grandmother Rosa would smile, happy that her children and grandchildren were with her for the day. Grandmother Rosa would talk about her childhood, eccentric relatives, and life experiences.

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- Course 3
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As is Italian tradition, many families gather Sunday afternoons with each other and friends to talk about the past week and to connect for their busy schedule ahead. This is often done in a ristorante or trattoria close to home. In honor of that tradition, Mama Rosa Pizza and Pasta offers its "Prezzo Fisso" the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month, in addition to its regular menu. Prezzo Fisso is a traditional 3 course Italian meal of appetizer, pasta, and dessert, at a fixed price. Mama Rosa Pizza and Pasta offers this delicious three-course meal at the low price of \$19.95 per person, excluding beverages, and \$24.95 per person with wine pairings.

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Fashion Show & Luncheon Saturday is from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 6 at the Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Drive. Proceeds will be donated to the Hospice Foundation of the East Bay and the British Home for Retired Men and Women in Sierra Madre, Southern California. Tickets are \$30. Call 510-796-2810 or email pam.stewart@comcast.net.

FENESTRA'S CHOCOLATE & CABERNET WEEKEND This event takes starts at 12:00 p.m. March 13 at Fenestra Winery, 83 Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Red wines are paired with different chocolate dishes, both savory recipes and sweet chocolate treats. \$10 gets you a logo glass and buffet plate and \$5 for non-drinkers and children. Call 800-789-WINE or visit www.fenestrawinery.com.

GEM FAIRE The gem fair is from noon to 7 p.m. March 12, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 13 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 15 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Includes fine jewelry, gems, beads and crystals from more than 60 exhibitors. Classes and demos throughout the weekend. Cost is \$5 weekend pass. Call 503-252-8300 or visit www.gemfaire.com.

HACIENDA SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Hacienda School, 3800 Stoneridge Drive, is holding an open house from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. March 5. Hacienda School is a year-round, full day program for grades 1-8. It offers individualized Montessori curriculum with emphasis on thinking skills and personal values. All students receive Chinese and

Spanish instruction. Call 485-5750.

HOLI Join us for a day of fun, music, dancing, color and food to celebrate Holi — the Indian Festival of Colors — from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 7 at Emerald Glen Park, 4201 Central Pkwy., Dublin. Food will be available for purchase from local vendors. Tickets are \$7 for adults, or \$5 for kids 4-12. For tickets, email tvia@gmail.com.

MANSION WINETASTER DINNER The winetaster dinner includes Elliston champagne and hors d'oeuvres along with a self-guided tour of the first two floors of the historic mansion, with a five-course meal with wine pairings following. It is from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. March 13 at 463 Kilkare Road, Sunol. Cost is \$75. Call 862-2377 or visit www.elliston.com.

MOUNT DIABLO ROSE SOCIETY The event is at 7:30 p.m. March 10 at the Dublin Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Dolores Moffat, Master Rosarian will demonstrate flower arranging. Meeting is free. Call 425-9904. 7:30 p.m.

PAINT OUT — CA ART CLUB This event is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 13 at Sycamore Grove Park, 1051 Wetmore Rd., Livermore. Artist members of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the California Art Club will be painting out doors. This event is free. Call 447-5134 or visit www.californiaartclub.org.

PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE Pleasantonians 4 Peace is again sponsors a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. The group reflects on the human and monetary costs of the war, honors veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. They plan to continue this monthly event as long as necessary. Contact Cathie Norman at 462-7495; Matt Sullivan at mjs7882@gmail.com; or visit www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org.

TEXAS HOLD'EM STYLE TOURNAMENT This event is from 3-7 p.m. March 14 at Sunshine Saloon, 1807 Santa Rita Rd. Cost is \$100. Prizes for 1st through 5th place. Taco bar opens at 3 p.m. and tournament begins at 4 p.m. Players must be 21. Call 463-9393 or email pleasantonholdem@gmail.com.

Fundraisers

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT The third annual Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting the Tri-Valley YMCA will be April 30 at Callippe Preserve Golf Course. Early bird rates are \$165 or \$850 for a corporate foursome and include lunch, golf, cocktail auction and live action. Events for non-golfers, including dinner and auction, are \$40. Register online at <http://trivalleyymcaeastbay.org>. Call Marilyn Casper at 475-6108.

LYDIKSEN RUMMAGE AND WAREHOUSE SALE Gently used clothes, sporting goods, furniture, household items, books, toys, games and more will be fore sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 13 at Lydiksen Elementary School, 7700 Highland Oaks Drive. Brand new excess inventory donations too. Proceeds support student programs.

Health

LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM This takes place at 11:30 a.m. March 16 at ValleyCare Health System, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Learn about HD Brachytherapy - Updates in Treatment for Breast Cancer. Speaker: Rakesh Patel, MD. Call 734-3315 or visit www.valleycare.com.

Kids & Teens

DR. SEUSS AT THE LIBRARY Enjoy a sneak peek at scenes from "Seussical the Musical," a joint production by Amador Valley & Foothill High Schools from 2-2:45 p.m. March 13 at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400 ext 8 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/.

IRISH DANCE AT THE PLEASANTON LIBRARY This free event is from 4-4:45 p.m. March 20 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Dance & Sing Around the World, family cultural series presents the McBride School of Irish Dance. Enjoy an afternoon of individual & line dances by members of this award-winning group. Call 931-3400 ext 8 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/.

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

Lectures/ Workshops

CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT LAW IN 2010 — TRACKING THE TRENDS This lecture is from 12-1 p.m. March 10 at ADP, 4125 Hopyard Rd. Hear a summary of the latest employment laws and court cases and get tips on adjusting your HR policies and procedures accordingly. Cost is \$35 or \$25 for NCHRA members. Call 415-291-1992 or visit www.nchra.org.

CAREY PERLOFF: A CAREER IN THE AMERICAN THEATER This event is from 7:30-10 p.m. March 18 at The Bankhead Theatre, 2400 First St., Livermore. Artistic director Carey Perloff will share her insights into how she transformed a ruined historic landmark building into the vibrant American Conservatory Theater. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$12 for students under 21. Call 373-6800 or visit www.bankheadtheater.org.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS 101 This class is from 7-8:30 p.m. March 9 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Learn how colleges evaluate students, how to find a good fit, and how to prepare for college admissions. Call 963-2932 or visit www.dianescollegeconnection.com.

GOING NATIVE DITCHING YOUR LAWN Learn to create a low maintenance, low water garden from 7-9 p.m. March 15 at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. Call 519-3003 or email jen.pinter@gmail.com. Presented by Kat Weiss, Owner of Kat Weiss Landscape

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INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE Pamela McDonald, NP, author of "APOE Gene Diet" and Kate Mackinnon, PT, Craniosacral Therapist, will discuss Integrative Medicine: Providing Powerful Tools for Real Changes from 7 to 9 p.m. March 11 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. Call 980-9655 or visit www.apoegenediet.com.

WEBINAR ON REOs — BUYING BULK PROPERTIES FROM BANKS Learn from Bill Twyford how to find, analyze, buy, and flip Bulk REO deals from noon to 1 p.m. March 11. Learn how to find the buyers, make money without having any and much more. Webinar is free, but requires registration. Call 230-2352.

Live Music

CHRIS BRADLEY'S JAZZ BAND Enjoy live jazz music from the 20s, 30s and 40s from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the Sunol Jazz Cafe, 11986 Main St. Cover is \$5.

Miscellaneous

CALIFORNIA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, TRI-VALLEY DIVISION 85 This group will hold a luncheon meeting at 11:15 a.m. March 16 at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Hall (IBEW), 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. The meeting will feature a panel discussion on domestic and foreign travel. The cost is \$11. Guests are welcome. Call 443-9913.

On Stage

SATURDAY! BEETHOVEN'S WIG Show at 11 a.m. March 6 at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. National and Grammy award winning Beethoven's Wig performs zany lyrics set to the clas-

sical works. Tickets are \$10-\$18 for adults and \$6-\$14 for children and seniors. Call 931-3444 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

STRAUSS OPERA 'DIE FLEDERMAUS' WALTZES INTO BANKHEAD THEATER Shows are at 8 p.m. March 13 & 20 and at 2 p.m. March 14 & 21 at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Romantic comedy performed in English. Tickets are \$29-\$59. Opening night gala March 14 and tickets are \$50. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermorevalleyopera.org.

Political Notes

REPUBLICAN WOMEN LUNCHEON Tri-Valley Republican Women hosts Laurie Firestone, former White House Social Secretary, at 11:30 a.m. March 13 at Castlewood Country Club. Cost \$30. Advance reservations required. Call 454-2927 or visit www.trivalleyrepublicanwomen.com.

Recreation

ANIMAL HOUSE So you think you'd like to own an exotic pet? Learn how to make a proper habitat for your next possible companion. Class is at 11 a.m. March 13 at the Alviso Adobe. Cost is \$8 for residents or \$11 for non-residents. Call Eric Nicholas, 931-3483.

Scholarships

LPD AAUW LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP The Local Scholarship Foundation of the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of AAUW is now accepting applications. Applicants must be women who live, or have gone to high school, in the branch cities, be an undergraduate planning to attend a four-year college in fall 2010. Applications are due April 1. Call Joan at 484-0602.

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.

Spiritual

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

EASTER SERVICES Celebrate Easter April 4 with festival music at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Rd. Services with Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclare-spleasanton.org.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION The American Red Cross is holding a volunteer orientation from 4-6 p.m. March 11 at its Pleasanton Blood Donor Center, 5556-B Springdale Ave. Tour the center and learn about ways to volunteer. Advanced sign-up required. Dates and times are subject to change. Call 510-594-5165 or email blackstonea@usa.redcross.org.

TV30

TRI-VALLEY SPORTS FINAL Tune in to Channel 30 as hosts Ian Bartholomew and George "Dr. B" Baljevic provide up-to-the-minute sports reporting on Tri-Valley High Schools. Thrilling footage and expert commentary covering soccer, basketball and wrestling. Visit www.tri-valleytv.org for days and times.



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Sports

Seahawks Soar at Zone 2 Championships

Swimmers achieve new 'Best Times' in winter meet

BY JEB BING

The Pleasanton Seahawks climbed to new heights achieving many New Best Times at the Zone 2 Championships February 20 to 21.

Mair Moran, publicity chair for the Seahawks, said many "Best Times" and "New Cuts" were achieved in the following categories:

B-Times: Kyle Kenny, Ian Venzon, Tanaya Gondhalekar, Sruthi Mukkamala, Timothy Yao, Natalia Bello and Samantha Howell;

A-Times: Tanmay Gandhi, Justin Tsai, Sofia Barrera, Resha Panda, Aditya Gupta, Rishab Nair, Weldon Yang, Madison Burson, Kayla Lindsay, Matthew Huo, Jeffrey Wang, Michael Yao, Stephanie Aronson, Bridget Booe, Heather Chandler, Elise Cox, Bernadine Martin, Morgan McGrath, Perry Jia, Daniel Cheng, Shridhar Gandhi, Urian Lee, Andrew Song and Jason Yu;

Junior Olympic Cuts: Emma Kauffeld, Michelle Wang, Audrick Antonio, Wolfgang LaChance,

Michael Martin, Adrien Rooney, Analese Chinn, Regis LaChance, Jeffrey Tang, Brian Lee, Caleb Wang and Theresa Martin;

Far Western Cuts: Eva Chung, Alex Gilchrist, Jonathan Ong, Kyle Oslund, RJ Scott and Jason Chen;

Pacific Reportable Times: Maxim Rooney.

Special recognition also went to Adrien Rooney (9-10 Boys) and Alex Gilchrist (11-12 Boys), who earned spots on the Zone 2 All-Star Team that will compete this Sunday in Morgan Hill. ■

TAKE US ALONG TO THE WINTER OLYMPICS



Going for gold

The Shoemakers made sure to carry around the Pleasanton Weekly throughout their trip to Vancouver for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Pictured are Scott, Paisley, Madison and Peggy.

Cheering on USA

Sarah and Vince Ciccarello also got into the Winter Olympics action in Vancouver where they watched everything from curling to women's hockey to the cross country skiing 15K pursuit. Having the Pleasanton Weekly in tow became a great conversation starter, they said, and the couple were thrilled to cheer on the USA athletes with our flags and cowbells.



Pleasanton shows USA pride

Jerry, Michele, Gabrielle and Molly Fournie of Pleasanton with family members pose with the 2010 Olympic Mascots, Miga and Quatchi, before the USA v. Canada men's curling match. Later that day, they attended the men's freestyle aerial qualifications at Cypress Mountain. They also attended the Russia v. Czech Republic hockey game and the victory ceremony where Shani Davis and Apolo Ohno received their medals.



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Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - 904.00

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Browse thousands of rental listings with photos and maps. Advertise your rental home for FREE! Visit: http://www.RealRentals.com (AAN CAN)

Livermore, 3 BR/2 BA - \$1795/mo

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1350/mo

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Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: http://www.Roommates.com. (AAN CAN)

Pleasanton, 1 BR/1 BA - \$750.00

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Danville, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$879,000

Livermore, 4 BR/2.5 BA - \$419,950

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PET OF THE WEEK

Spotty Simon

Meet Simon. Is he a cat or a Dal-matian? Covered in spots, this cat is a showstopper! Simon is a 1-1/2 year-old, neutered male friendly housecat. He is white with an abundance of tabby spots and a tabby tail. Simon gets along well with other cats and he loves attention. Simon is Felv/Fiv tested, vaccinated and available for adoption to an indoor-only home. Visit Valley Humane Society's "Kitty City" and you will find yourself smiling as you watch Simon and his friends cavort around the room. Some of the cats will be napping on a cat tree or on a sunny window ledge. Others will scamper around the room playing with toys and each other. Visit Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St., open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumaneociety.org.



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

HOME SALE OF THE WEEK

1436 IRONGATE CT., PLEASANTON, **\$1,350,000**



Sold before going on the market! Located in the Ironwood Estates this Essex model has upgraded flooring, kitchen, entertainment package & 4 car garage. This 5 bedroom has over 4,200 square feet with a bonus room. Sold by the Moxley Team, the Ironwood neighborhood specialists, of Alain Pinel Realtors. (925) 621-4064

OPEN HOMES THIS WEEKEND

Danville

3 BEDROOMS

609 Morninghome Road \$589,000
Sat 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 984-6788

4 BEDROOMS

764 El Cerro Blvd. \$895,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 855-4111

5 BEDROOMS

1 Tamalark Lane \$1,695,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 977-8965

12 Gold Poppy Court \$919,000
Sun 1-4 J. Rockcliff Realtors 736-1666

Fremont

2 BEDROOMS

41609 Carol Common \$449,950
Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors 583-1111

Pleasanton

2 BEDROOMS

607 Palomino Drive \$338,000
Sun 1-4 Keller Williams 352-7307

4 BEDROOMS

7478 Alder Court \$838,800
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

5812 Corte Mente \$985,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 462-7653

5812 Corte Mente \$985,000
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111

5 BEDROOMS

2556 Arlotta Place \$1,438,000
Sun 1-4 Prudential Cal Realty 963-1984

4222 Remillard Court \$1,699,999
Sat/Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 519-3534

6 BEDROOMS

8046 Rockford Place \$1,599,000
Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors 251-1111



WALK TO DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON!!

1020 Division St., Pleasanton

This Victorian home is set on a large open lot with a calm view of the Arroyo and upper level sights of the foothills. Take a stroll downtown and enjoy brunch at the many sidewalk cafés or just check out all the boutiques. This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom with 1926 square feet is meticulously clean and ready for you to just move right in! Perfect neutral décor this home features gleaming hardwood floors, formal living room with cozy fireplace, family room/kitchen combo and is all dressed up with custom window treatments. The sunlit kitchen has a great breakfast bar for those quick meals on the go and for entertaining there is formal dining too! Enjoy the master bedroom suite high amongst the surrounding greenery which also boasts a fireplace and balcony. You can relax after a long day with a glass of wine in the master bathroom soaking tub with separate shower. At \$619,000 you won't find anything like this gorgeous home close to downtown!



Julia Korpi
925.963.6135
www.juliakorpi.com
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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
8899 BELLINA COMMONS
BEAUTIFULLY UPGRADED \$399,900
3 BR 2.5 BA aprx. 1600 sf,2-car garage,built 2006,great commute loc,kitchen w/granite slab/island
925.847.2200



PLEASANTON
4117 CRISFIELD LN
DESIRABLE COURT LOCATION \$648,000
3 BR 2 BA w/pl/spa,open floor plan + office/den area,kitchen w/tile,backsplash,island,breakfast bar
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

DUBLIN

5982 HILLBROOK PL - PENDING
STYLISH/SOPHISTICATED \$470,000
3 BR 3.5 BA Gourmet kitchen w/granite counters/island,SS appli,1 bed/bath on lower level, 2 car garage
925.847.2200

LIVERMORE

21800 MINES RD
COUNTRY LIVING \$375,000
2 BR 2 BA w/amenities!Bunk house w/1 updated bath/laundry area.Wood stove;3 generators,4 water tanks
925.847.2200

PLEASANTON

1624 CINDY WAY
BEAUTIFUL HOME! \$1,099,000
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

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

2927 LETHBRIDGE COURT- PENDING
FABULOUS IN PLEASANTON! \$719,900
4 BR 2.5 BA Aprx. 2165 sf,w/huge private bckyrd,lot aprx 7150 sf,lrg deck!Great school district,gr8 loc
925.847.2200

4107 MOLLER DR- PENDING
BEAUTIFUL! \$550,000
3 BR 2.5 BA upgraded baths,frplc/ upstairs patio, new SS appli,granite cntrs/laminate flrs,great loc
925.847.2200

3655 VINEYARD AVE
VINTAGE CHARMER \$499,900
2 BR 2 BA hrdwd flrs in living,hall & both beds,dual pane windows,mast w/walk-in,deck/covered patio
925.847.2200

2935 LIBERTY DR- PENDING
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

3263 VINEYARD AVE., UNIT 54
GREAT LOCATION! \$19,900
1 BR 1 BA covered driveway,great loc in prk,comm center has pool,spa,libraryMo space rent,\$875
925.847.2200

SAN RAMON

2140 CANYON CREST AVE
GORGEOUS! \$775,000

4 BR 3 BA w/over 2800 sf & aprx 8000 sf lot.Walk to elem sch!! Gourmet kitchen,backyard w/large patio
925.847.2200

6210 BYRON LANE- PENDING
GREAT HOME! \$535,000
4 BR 3 BA 2 cr gar,2347 sf,2 patio areas,3+ stries,upgrd w/hrdwd flr,granite slab in kit/SS appli
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GOLDEN EAGLE ESTATE



8044 Golden Eagle Way PLEASANTON
Designer features throughout w/ extensive use of cherry wood, stone & more. Level park-like backyard, pool, spa, lrg grass area. Photos - www.8044GoldenEagle.com
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

GORGEOUS CUSTOM ESTATE



2801 GRAY FOX COURT PLEASANTON
Panoramic views, 1.91 acres of privacy. Resort-like backyard w/ pool, spa, swim up bar, barbeque, palm trees. See details: www.2801GrayFox.com
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

DRAMATIC HOME!



833 PIEMONTE DRIVE PLEASANTON
Dramatic street presence! Huge gourmet kit, sauna, exercise rm, library, 4 fireplaces, 5-car garage. Incomparable 0.70 acres, pool, spa, outdoor kitchen & more.
Diane Gilfether 925.648.5443

BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED



1515 HONEYSUCKLE CT PLEASANTON
Prestigious Golden Eagle Estates home! Beautifully appointed w/ 4 bd, 5 full ba, plus Library, Retreat & Bonus Room, 4892+/- sq.ft. w/ pool & spa on over an acre.
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

PRESERVE COMMUNITY



9663 CROSBY DRIVE PLEASANTON
This stunningly beautiful, totally custom home is located on the desirable West side of Pleasanton. The finest materials and workmanship.
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

PROFESSIONAL REMODEL



3152 PASEO GRANADA PLEASANTON
Chef's Kit w/SS Top of the Line Appl, Solid Granite Counters. Custom Mill-Work thru-out, Cherry B/I 2 Station Office, Big Bonus Room! 4 Bd, 3 Ba.
Joel and Cindy Engel 925.251.2509

DOWNTOWN LIVING



4524 2ND STREET PLEASANTON
Stunning remodel on desirable 2nd St. Walk to all that downtown Pleasanton has to offer. Custom Cherry Cab's. Granite Slab. S/S appliances. Harwood floors thru-out.
Todd E. Martinez 925.784.7000

ENERGY EFFICIENT



3355 TOURIGA DR PLEASANTON
Highly energy efficient turn key home. Mostly everything has been updated or replaced in the last year. 4Bd, 2.5Ba 45K solar system w/ no energy bill. Vintage Hills
Jared Higgins 925.855.4178

UPDATED



774 SYLVANER DR PLEASANTON
Huge family room with vaulted ceiling, kit cabinets/counters updated, French doors, 2 fireplaces, enormous yard, separate living & dining rooms. Possible side yard access.
Diane Sass 925.583.2168

WALK TO DOWNTOWN



3911 VINEYARD AVE PLEASANTON
Contemporary living. One the the most upgraded homes you'll find for the price. Hand scraped hickory flooring, crown molding, maple cabinetry, granite counters.
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

WELL MAINTAINED



3771 PLATT CT N PLEASANTON
Fantastic opportunity for large, 4-bedroom home in established Pleasanton neighborhood. This property has been well-maintained, with an updated kitchen.
Greg Fielding 925.855.4029

TWO ESTATES



MORGAN TERRITORY RD LIVERMORE
Two beautiful custom Estates on a 92 acres. Main house is a 4 bd, 3.5 ba, approx. 9378 sqft, 12 car garage. 2nd house is a 3 bdrm, 4 bath, approx. 3000sqft.
Taso Tsakos 925.648.4199

RUBY HILL ESTATE



655 EAST VINEYARD AVENUE LIVERMORE
Fabulous 20+ acre parcel w/ 8090 +/- sqft custom home. 14.8 acres of income producing Chardonnay grapes. Part of Ruby Hill Vineyard Estates.
Carol Cline, CRS 925.648.5415

VINES & HILLS GALORE



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

VINSANTON COMMUNITY



2670 VERNAZZA DR LIVERMORE
Custom paint, beautiful hrdwd flrs, granite ktchn counters w/full granite bckspsh, ss appliances, surround sound & more! Desirable Vinsanto neighborhood!
Taso Tsakos 925.648.4199

FIVE BEDROOMS



4263 Cornell Way LIVERMORE
Spacious, light & airy home w/ FIVE bedrooms in a great neighborhood near Livermore Lab! New kitchen, new bathrooms, Pergo floors, Italian tile fireplace w/ insert.
Karen Wilson-Fontaine 925.583.2171

CONTEMPORARY LIVING



7870 GALWAY CT DUBLIN
New custom, top of the line features incl.; solid quartz counters, glass mosaic, designer fireplace, Wolf appliances, home theater w/wet bar, steam shower & more!
Phyllis Weiner 925.872.1416

AMAZING LOCATION



5120 ROYAL PINES WAY DUBLIN
upgraded TOLL HOME with Travertine flooring including custom Medallion, custom window covering, upgraded appliances, 2 fireplaces, corner lot, LIGHT & Airy.
Joe Frazzano 925.735.7653

MEDITERRANEAN STYLE



7810 BLOOMFIELD TER DUBLIN
Completely remodeled with high end upgrades. AGA gourmet stove, Sub-Zero Frig, Stone stairs, Bonus Room, Farmers sink, Cherry plank floors throughout.
Vickie & Bill Keller 925.583.2182

DUBLIN RANCH



3778 HOBSTONE PL DUBLIN
Oversized Court location, bed/bath down + separate office/bonus room, Kitchen Aid appliances, Granite counters, maple cabinets, gas cooktop, and more!
Joe Frazzano 925.735.7653

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BRIDLE CREEK



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, 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



PENDING

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



PENDING

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

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4222 Remillard Court Kottinger Ranch

Stunning Views from this One Of A Kind home in Kottinger Ranch!

This custom home features close to 4700 sq. ft. of living space, 5 bd/4.5ba, bonus room and separate office, front porch to relax and enjoy the quiet, outdoor built in bbq, pool and spa, nice flat grassy area, panoramic views of Pleasanton and Livermore Valley and Mount Diablo. Sits on just less than 2/3 acre on a private road. Award winning schools, cabana club, tennis courts, open space. Too many amenities to list! www.4222remillardct.com
Offered at \$1,699,999



Sylvia Desin

Direct 925.413.1912
sdesin@apr.com
www.sylviadesin.com



COMING SOON!

This stunning 4684 square foot custom home features 5 bedrooms and 4 1/2 baths, an incredible gourmet kitchen, and a library. The large, private yard boasts almost a half an acre and a sparkling pool. This home is great for entertaining, with a solid cherry bar and a spacious formal living room with covered patio. Extensive custom woodwork throughout. 4897 Dolores Drive, Pleasanton. Call for details (925)413-1912

Offered at \$1,649,000

apr.com | PLEASANTON 900 Main Street 925.251.1111



ANNI HAGFELDT BY APPT



4222 REMILLARD CT \$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, & more!

DOUG BUENZ SUN 1:00-4:00



8046 ROCKFORD PL \$1,599,000
Gorgeous luxury home in prestigious Oak Tree Farms! 6bd+bonus+office, 5.5ba, sunny granite kitchen, gleaming floors, vaulted ceilings, designer mural/limestone accents.

BLAISE LOFLAND BY APPT



806 SYCAMORE CREEK WAY \$1,549,000
Highly upgraded Hillstar Model on premium .35 acre lot. Views of Pleasanton Ridge. Faces open space with beautiful grounds.

STEPHEN MCDONOUGH BY APPT



1394 CASA VALLECITA \$1,145,000
Beautiful remodeled home on Westside of Alamo. Island kitchen/new cabinets/granite counters/modern baths/new carpets/gleaming hardwood floors/fresh paint in and out.

DOUG BUENZ BY APPT



1075 SHADOW HILLS CT \$1,399,900
Rarely available luxury single story home with 5bd (5th bd currently an office), 4ba, granite/cherry/stainless kitchen with island, hardwood floors, plantation shutters.



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MAUREEN NOKES BY APPT



1608 CINDY WAY \$999,000
Price Reduced- New semi-custom 1 story 4bd/3ba home. 'Old World' quality craftsmanship and high-end upgrades. Gourmet quality kitchen. 10,000'+ lot. Walk to town.

TIMOTHY MCGUIRE SAT/SUN 1:00-4:00



5812 CORTE MENTE \$985,000
Calaveras model, eat-in kitchen, vaulted ceilings, Plantation shutters, dual pan windows, Hardwood floors, Master bedroom with retreat, inside laundry, pool and spa

DOUG BUENZ SUN 1:00-4:00



7478 ALDER COURT \$838,800
Prime West Pleasanton with stunning view of ridge! 4bd/3ba, dramatic vaulted ceilings, granite/stainless kitchen, updated baths, new carpet, Must See!

LINDA FUTRAL BY APPT



4326 BELLMAWR DR \$675,000
Grand and gracious describe this beauty w/master suite on first level. Roman style pool & spa w/sideyard access. Granite slab kitchen, upgraded floors, wainscotting..

JOYCE JONES BY APPT



3032 FERNDAL COURT \$670,000
Single story, built in 1985, prime court location, 3bd(possible 4th), 2ba, updated kitchen w/granite counters, bamboo floors, large side yard, roof 2003, low HOAs & more.

SUE MCKINLEY BY APPT



5760 DICHONDRA PL \$625,000
ROOM TO PARK 10+ CARS!! Single story court location Newark home, 4bd/2ba, 1704+/-sf with huge detached in-law/office/rental unit/ w/full bath! 9500+/-sf lot.

ANDY PORYES BY APPT



4603 TERRA GRANADA DR #2B \$499,950
Highly upgraded Rossmoor Condo with great views. Upper Montrose model, 2 Bd, 2 Ba, 1577 SqFt. Granite Kitchen, walk in spa tub, crown moldings, garage, carport .

JENNIFER MALAKOFF BY APPT



6168 SPRINGTIME CMN \$495,500
Its Springtime! Fantastic newer home in great location in Livermore. 3/2.5 with large family room loft. Not a distressed sale! Hurry!

LANCE AND KELLY KING SUN 1:30-4:30



41609 CAROL CMN \$449,950
What a beauty! Traditional Sale! New yard with new fencing/patio, remodeled kitchen and bths, large bedrooms, very bright home, beautifully upgraded throughout.

Making heart history for 10 years... and the beat goes on.



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& MAZE

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When it comes to your heart, results speak louder than words. And in the eyes of the authorities that statistically measure outcomes, the heart program at San Ramon Regional Medical Center is among the best, not only in the East Bay, but in all of California. See the outcome studies for yourself at www.oshpd.state.ca.us. Perhaps most convincing of all are some of your neighbors...who haven't missed a beat. Visit Find-A-Physician on our website, www.OurSanRamonHospital.com or call 800.284.2878.



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Neal White, M.D.
Christopher Wulff, M.D.

Updated 2.10

AWARDS

- Gold Performance Achievement Award for Coronary Artery Disease from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get with the Guidelines 2008
- UnitedHealth Premium® Cardiac Surgery Specialty Center 2009
- UnitedHealth Premium® Cardiac Care Specialty Center 2009

These testimonials reflect results achieved by these patients. As each case is different and must be independently evaluated and managed, actual results will vary.