

# Pleasanton Weekly

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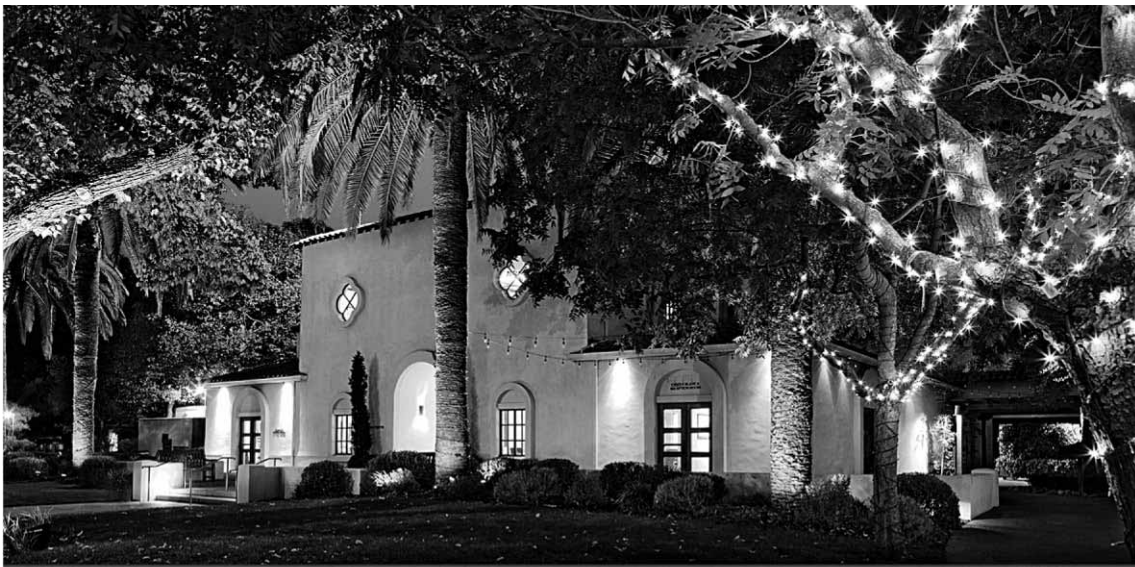
## THE BIG COUNT

Census crews will continue to gather data in the weeks, months ahead

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United States  
**Census  
2010**

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# AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

## Dealing with stress among our youths — helping them achieve balance

It's been more than a decade since I worked with others in city and civic organizations to develop a Youth Master Plan for Pleasanton. At the time, the key drivers of a plan that would focus on the city's growing population of youths from birth until they reached the age of 21 were Cindy McGovern, now a City Councilwoman and then on the school board, and the late school board member Juanita Haugen. For me, in the years before we launched the Pleasanton Weekly, it was a chance to meet many in elected positions, on the city and school district staffs, police lieutenants, business leaders and parents who shared my interest in developing a plan to determine what teenagers and those younger needed in Pleasanton, where often we heard that "there just isn't anything for us to do here."

This grassroots effort led to the adoption by the school board and City Council of the Youth Master Plan on June 4, 1998, which then established the Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee (YMPIC) to carry the plan forward after thanking the 30 of us who had completed our initial work. Over the course of the last 12 years, that committee has worked to implement the plan's strategies. Some of these accomplishments include the creation of the website P-town 411, the BMX park near Shadow Cliffs, and sponsoring several city grants to local non-profits that provide programs and services that support the Youth Master Plan strategies. Some objectives have not yet been realized as city funds have been directed elsewhere, including, disappointingly, the construction of a teen center to serve both that age group and a separate facility for pre-teens and those younger that is still intended to be built in the Bernal Community Park. At least the lighted baseball fields have been completed, which

opened this year, adding to the YMP's call for more sports fields to serve the city's still-growing youth population.

The vision of the YMP is to nurture a safe, supportive community that is responsive to the full range of needs of all children, youths and their families. In partnership with the city's Youth Commission and youth sports, schools and other organizations, such as the Scouts and 4-H clubs, the YMPIC considers scores of requests and ideas at its monthly meetings.

Just as important has been the committee's focus on maintaining and expanding a healthy and safe youth environment in Pleasanton. Studies have shown high levels of anxiety and depression among some youths, coupled with high achievement pressures in our community, fears of bullying or

discrimination on or near school campuses, increases in drug and alcohol abuse among our young people, and participation in risky sexual activities. Working with local agencies to improve services that address these concerns, the YMPIC has developed mentoring and counseling programs where peers can exchange experiences and support each others' physical and mental well-being.

At a recent Youth in Government Day, 80 students from Amador Valley, Foothill, Village and Horizon high schools joined Julie Duncan and Kathleen Yurchak to "shadow" city and school district leaders and staffs of their choosing for a better understanding of how these two government agencies function. They also met together to discuss challenges and opportunities facing Pleasanton youths. Duncan is the school district's coordinator of Career and Technical Education. Yurchak is the city's Community Services Manager. Breaking into eight discussion groups for the afternoon, the students gave their ideas for programs that can help youths achieve "balance" in their lives to deal with school conflicts, the stress of homework and academic competition, and the fear of rejection by social groups and athletic teams. Their suggestions are being reviewed and will help form new strategies now under consideration as the city and school district updates the Youth Master Plan at the start of this new decade. ■



Cindy McGovern

### About the Cover

Census workers will spread throughout town in the upcoming weeks to gather information from residents who do not return their forms by tomorrow night's deadline. So far 74 percent of Pleasanton residents have responded, just short of their 2000 Census return rate of 78 percent. Photo courtesy U.S. Census Bureau.

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# Streetwise

ASKED DOWNTOWN

## How do you feel about the recently passed Health Care Reform Bill?



**Jon Todd**  
*Network Engineer*

Too early to tell. I think there are a lot of things up in the air and yet to be determined. I hope they come to some consensus. There is a lot of contention right now with the threatened litigation.

**Brenda Beale**  
*Administration*

I'm happy about the new health care reforms. I'm one of the people who has never been able to afford health insurance and my employers have never offered it. The taxes are probably more inappropriate than I feel comfortable with. I think there are better ways to pay for it.



**Carlos Gutierrez**  
*Retired*

I don't like it. I didn't know anyone who didn't have health care before the reforms. For catastrophes, there are hospitals, there's 911. The problem with hospitals right now is they are overloaded because they can't turn anyone away. I know people who had the option to take health care but don't because it is too expensive.

**Linda Doyle**  
*Retired*

I'm not sure. I don't know enough about it, but the little I do know makes me want to see a bill that is a little more fine-tuned. There is so much upheaval and discontent, it would be nice if there was some agreement.



**Kevin Watson**  
*Auto Body Shop Owner*

It's up in the air. I am not sure what the realities of the bill are going to be yet. I am a small business owner, so it'll be interesting to see how this affects us.

—Compiled by Elyssa Thome

**Have a Streetwise question?** E-mail [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

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## DIGEST

### Swimmers in town

Pleasanton's Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center will be the host site for the Tri-Valley Masters swim meet to be held Friday-Sunday, April 16-18. The meet is expected to draw about 800 swimmers who will begin to arrive at 8 a.m. each day and leave around 5 p.m.

The city of Pleasanton has worked closely with the organization to plan a successful competition with reduced impact on the neighborhoods surrounding the Aquatic Center, located at 4455 Black Ave. near Santa Rita Road. City staff has developed a traffic flow system to facilitate competitor drop-off.

### Recycle e-waste

Harsch Investment Properties is holding an e-waste recycling day from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Thursday, April 22, at the parking lot at Hacienda West, 3875 Hopyard Road in Pleasanton.

Shred Works is providing five boxes of free shredding. All documents will be collected and shredded off site to reduce traffic and noise pollution. There is no need to remove paper clips, staples, binders or clasps. Shred Works will provide free AAA NAID Certified Shredding of your confidential documents complete with a certificate of destruction.

Electronic items accepted include televisions, monitors, computers, computer components, fax machines, printers, copiers, toner cartridges, MP3 Players, VCRs/DVDs, cell phones and telephone equipment.

### Plant sale tomorrow

The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club is putting on its annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 17, at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Available for purchase are vegetables, annuals, perennials, shrubs, and home and garden supplies. Volunteers will be on hand to provide information. Call 216-1786 or visit [www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc](http://www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc).

### Healthy Kids Day

The Tri-Valley YMCA is sponsoring Healthy Kids Day from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 24, at Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave. (across from the post office) in Pleasanton.

The free event will begin with an "Every Buddy" Walk, a 0.9 mile long walk around the park with stops at interactive activity stations en route. There will be music, healthy food, and all kinds of opportunities for recreation and learning related to healthy lifestyle and diet.

Contact Jeff Atwood at 475-6112.

## Banquet groups leaving Castlewood due to labor strife

### Foothill juniors move prom to Livermore

By JEB BING

Two major Pleasanton organizations have cancelled their annual luncheons at Castlewood Country Club so that their participants don't have to cross picket lines set up by locked-out union workers.

The Foothill High junior class prom also scheduled for Castlewood next Saturday has been moved to the Robert Livermore Center in Livermore to avoid the labor strife.

Today's 23rd annual "Salute to Partnerships" luncheon by the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation was switched to the Pleasanton Hilton Hotel. Debi Covello, executive director, said more than 150 attended the luncheon, paying the same \$40 a plate charge that was listed on the invitation to the luncheon at Castlewood.

"We have no issues with Castlewood and they were very nice in letting us out of our contract

"We have no issues with Castlewood and they were very nice in letting us out of our contract so that we could go elsewhere."

Debi Covello,

Executive Director, PPIE

so that we could go elsewhere," Covello said.

The fourth annual Community of Character luncheon scheduled for May 6 also has been moved out of Castlewood. Ellen Pensky, who is in charge of the event, said the move was made to avoid any concerns over holding the luncheon during the club's labor dispute.

Although Castlewood management has scheduled a negotiating session later this month with UniteHere! Local 2850, Pensky said no one

could assure her that the current stand-off between the two sides would be ended by the time of the Community of Character luncheon.

The cancellations came after political, church and civic leaders asked Castlewood to engage again in negotiations with the union. The Pleasanton City Council also approved a resolution asking the club to end the lockout and resume negotiations.

The union represents Bay Area hotel and restaurant workers and also 61 bartenders, kitchen helpers, waiters and other unionized hourly employees at Castlewood. It rejected a new contract offer from Castlewood that would freeze wages while also adding monthly fees for those with family health care policies, which have been paid up to now by Castlewood. Castlewood said it would continue to provide single-member insurance coverage without charge, but others would have to pay \$739 a month for family coverage.

With the average wage of union workers at Castlewood now \$12.52 an hour, the union

See **CASTLEWOOD** on Page 8



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Nichelle Baviera reads "A Tree is Nice" to her enthralled young audience at the Museum on Main on Wednesday morning, as part of M.O.M.'s Reading Time, a free monthly program to introduce preschoolers to books and people and cultures in their community.

## Museum features reading for tots

### This month focuses on caring for the earth

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

"What can we do to help the earth?" storyteller Nichelle Baviera asked the children gathered at the Museum on Main on Wednesday morning.

"You plant a seed, a tree grows, and a bunny hops around," answered one little guy donned in a firefighter's hat and coat.

"Put out the garbage," suggested another.

"Give trees water," said another tyke.

It was the new, free literacy program that introduces preschool-aged children to books and activities about the people, cultures and events in Pleasanton.

"M.O.M.'s Reading Time is a fantastic way for parents to introduce their children to their community while at the same time developing a love of reading and books," said Jennifer Amiel, director of education for the museum. "Participants will enjoy the storytelling portion, then participate in a fun, related activity, such as a craft they can make and take home."

On Wednesday, the stories and activities were based on the theme "Celebrate Earth." After Baviera read "A Tree is Nice" and "Follow That Trash," the

room of preschoolers decorated drink holders and made sun catchers out of old CDs.

M.O.M.'s Reading Time takes place from 10-11 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the museum, 603 Main St.

Future topics will be:

- May 12, Cowboys and Cowgirls
- June 9, The Centennial Light
- July 14, Our Great Nation
- Aug. 11, A Ramadan Story
- Sept. 8, Autumn Harvest
- Oct. 13, Spooky Stories
- Nov. 10, Celebrate Duvali
- Dec. 8, Winter Holidays

"We hope families and playgroups will make us part of their 'can't miss' monthly activities," said Amiel.

For more information about the program, contact Amiel at [education@museumonmain.org](mailto:education@museumonmain.org) or 462-2766. Visit [www.museumonmain.org](http://www.museumonmain.org).

Baviera also talked to the youngsters about trees. "Are there a lot of trees in Pleasanton?" she asked.

"I'm from Livermore," shouted out one young man. ■

## Little cuts add up as school district looks for revenue

### Purchasing department reducing vendor costs

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

While the Pleasanton Unified School District board and administration worries about the big picture in dealing with budget cuts, the district staff managers have been initiating savings behind the scenes.

One technique is obvious, according to LeeAnn Pomplun, director of purchasing, who deals with vendors.

"This past year, we've just started asking them, 'Is this the best you can do?'" Pomplun told the school board at its meeting Tuesday. She said vendors often know about the district's budget problems and are willing to help out.

"It's a \$30 savings here and a \$20 savings there," she said. "That can add up."

Pomplun said everyone in purchasing is making a concerted effort to negotiate, sometimes with big savings.

"That's what purchasing does every day," she said. "This is what we do all the time, and not only during the budget crunch. It really is a team effort."

One big cost-saver is piggybacking, which allows any state agency to buy at a cost already negotiated down by another agency, as long as it's exactly the same product.

Meanwhile, the school board may look into lowering the threshold for bids so that more contracts require direct board approval. Currently, maintenance projects have a \$15,000 cap before needing board approval, while others, for supplies, materials and services, have a \$78,500 cap.

"I definitely think it's something we need to explore," board member Jamie Hintzke said.

See **PURCHASING** on Page 8

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JEB BING

A demolition firm has finally torn down a house at 839 E. Angela St. more than 16 months after an explosion and fire left it in ruins.

## Burned-out house demolished

Only foundation remains from 2008 explosion

By JEB BING

With insurance investigations completed, a wrecking firm has demolished a house at 839 E. Angela St. that exploded and burned more than 16 months ago, seriously injuring Deonna Zuffa, 41, and damaging two neighboring properties.

Charges of felony arson and forgery are included as part of an investigation Pleasanton police submitted to the Alameda County District after the incident.

Zuffa is reportedly recovering from extensive burns in an undisclosed location.

Since the explosion on Dec. 8, 2008, the burned out home has been an eyesore in the neighborhood and also for parishioners at St. Augustine Catholic Church, which has its main driveway located just across Angela

Street from the home.

Sgt. Jim Knox of the Pleasanton Police Department said police wrapped up their investigation "a few months ago" and sent the paperwork off to the DA's office for review.

Zuffa and her husband Keith filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy in June 2008, according to public records. Records also show the home, at one time valued at nearly \$1 million, was sold for \$75,000 in a foreclosure sale on in September 2008 to Marilyn and Richard Greenberg in the name of the Greenberg Trust.

Wrecking crews demolished the house but left the undamaged foundation and utility connections in place. It's expected the lot will be sold and a new home constructed on the site. ■

## 'PTA Shops Ptown'

Program aims to be win-win for merchants, PTA

By DOLORES FOX GIARDELLI

Pleasanton PTA Council representatives will be hitting the streets soon to drum up support for its program, PTA Shops Ptown.

"We're waiting for the weather to improve," said Jodie Vashistha, vice president of membership. "We want to drop off our brochures."

"With what is going on with the budget crisis, we're hoping to get more businesses," she added. "They can write it off as a tax deduction."

The program has gone through a few changes since it was started four months ago, she explained. Originally the council was asking businesses to offer special deals to PTA members.

Now businesses have the option of making a donation to the cause whenever a PTA member makes a purchase, or they can wait for dollars to add up from the purchases.

"One store downtown said they would rather do it where they could make a donation," Vashistha explained.

"We want to help our local businesses during these tough economic times," said Joan Laursen, Pleasanton PTA Council president. "Studies have shown that for every \$100 spent at a locally owned merchant, \$68 stays in the local economy. When you

spend \$100 at a chain store, only \$43 stays in the area. When you buy on-line, nothing stays local.

"Further, choosing to shop in Pleasanton helps our city by retaining sales tax revenue for our city services."

The important thing with this program is that businesses agree to recognize PTA shoppers, and that PTA members frequent these establishments. Four businesses have signed on so far: Fusion3; Filigree Cakes and Pastries; Crispin BJJ Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu; and Fabulous Friends Pet Sitting.

The PTA Council has 5,000 members in Pleasanton from Amador Valley High School, Harvest Park Middle School, and Oak Grove, Fairlands, Vintage Hills, Hearst, Mohr and Alisal elementary schools. Participating merchants are given a PTA Shop Ptown window cling to identify themselves.

In order to participate, the business owner or manager must be a PTA member at a Pleasanton school. Anyone in Pleasanton may join any school PTA of their choosing to get the discounts; membership fees range from \$10 to \$18.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.pleasantonpta.org](http://www.pleasantonpta.org). ■

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## Cook-Kallio launches bid for re-election

Priorities include extending Stoneridge Drive, developing Staples Ranch

By JEB BING

Pleasanton City Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio has launched her campaign for re-election to a second four-term in the Nov. 2 municipal election.

Cook-Kallio, who teaches civics, government and American history at Irvington High School in Fremont, was first elected to the council in 2006. Council members can serve two four-year terms. She recently received the American Civic Education Award from the Alliance for Representative Democracy.

"When I was first elected I remember driving downtown one morning," Cook-Kallio recalled. "It was twilight, just one of those beautiful moments. I thought how fortunate I was to live in such a wonderful place, to have raised my children here and now to have the opportunity to serve my city."

She said that when she ran for the council in 2006, she emphasized three issues: Improving traffic circulation, the need for more affordable housing and building community.

"We have made some progress but it is not enough," she said. "We need to do more. We need to be proactive in order to meet the needs of our residents and to thrive in the coming decades."

Among her goals is to complete the extension of Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road and Livermore.

"It has taken too long and we need Stoneridge Drive built," she told the 75 supporters assembled at her campaign launch breakfast. "It is crucial for traffic circulation and it will benefit all of Pleasanton."

"In addition, we must move forward to develop Staples Ranch," she continued. "We need what that parcel has to offer us as a city; the dream of a wonderful retirement community, some businesses, perhaps a retail center, and, of course, a park with amenities, maybe an indoor ice skating rink. All of these things will generate needed revenue. It is time to move forward."

Cook-Kallio also said Pleasanton needs more workforce and affordable housing.

"We want to have a place where young families, young profession-

als, young people at the beginning of their working career, can afford to thrive—people just like most of us when we were just starting out," she said.

"We want people who work in Pleasanton to be able to live here and if they can't work here, to be able to get to work without contributing to the congestion on 580."

In that regard, she called for the redevelopment of Kottinger Place and Pleasanton Gardens, a project now before the City Council. The need for these types of facilities will increase as the people of Pleasanton mature," she explained, and the city and organizations need to provide the types of senior housing "where we all would be proud to have our parents reside."

"I have talked about building community," she said. "What does that mean? I believe it means working together to make sure we have the things that make this city great. We want to live in a place with excellent schools, with a thriving economy, with recreation areas for the entire family, including neighborhood parks as well as open space."

"In 1986, my husband and I bought the house we live in so that our children could walk to school and so that our family could stroll downtown to have a leisurely dinner or an ice cream cone," she added. "We still run into the families of my kids' childhood friends and maintain close relationships with longtime neighbors. It's that same hometown feel that all of us still enjoy that we need to preserve."

Cook-Kallio highlighted key advantages and challenges.

Economy. While Pleasanton continues to offer many amenities, ultimately it must address the slowed economy. The city has already taken steps to reduce spending. Departments have been consolidated, managers have reorganized

personnel, attrition has reduced the work force, and like many cities, Pleasanton is examining ways to reduce its pension liability.

Business. In order to provide services, the city must have revenue. That means strengthening the businesses here now. It means shopping downtown so that sales tax dollars stay here. There's also a need to continue making Pleasanton attractive to new businesses and making it easier to do business in Pleasanton.

Downtown. It's the city's center. That means working with downtown property owners in an effort to increase occupancy with a variety of businesses that residents and visitors want to frequent. This spring, the Firehouse Civic Arts Center will open stimulating the local economy and strengthening its commitment to the arts.

Housing. Young people want to live in this community and eventually raise their children in Pleasanton. People who are here want to have their parents close. The city's leaders should make it possible for this to be a family town, where there are young people with children, where our grown children return. That is how you build community.

"The reason the downtown events, like the Farmers Market, First Wednesdays and Concerts in the Park, are so successful is because we have an opportunity to connect with families with whom we have shared our life's benchmarks," Cook-Kallio said. "We are a not just a city, we are a community. Those of us who live in Pleasanton know it's a special place."

"That's why I want to continue serving on the City Council—to tackle these issues and finish what we have started," she added.

Besides the Pleasanton City Council, Cook-Kallio also serves on the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, Alameda County Mayors' Conference, Associated Community Action Programs, Association of Bay Area Governments, League of California Cities, East Bay Division, and the Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency. ■



Cheryl Cook-Kallio

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## Boutique to benefit animals

Fundraiser named after Pleasanton animal lover

The Animal Lover's Boutique, located year-round in the lobby of Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Road, will hold a special "Spring Fling for the Animals" event Saturday.

Proceeds from the 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. boutique will benefit Jackie Barnett's Just Like New Fund, a Valley Humane Society program that aids sick and injured pets.

The boutique will showcase new items for spring and Mother's Day such as dog and cat planters filled with hardy succulents, animal-themed wind chimes, travel mugs, brass gifts and colorful pillows,

as well as Laurel Burch handbags, totes, scarves, socks and jewelry. There also will be a new line of whimsical greeting cards and a wide selection of pet toys, dishes and accessories, and dog- and cat-themed gifts for people. A "bargain bazaar" will offer items that have been discounted 50 percent.

The Just Like New Fund was founded in 1991 by Pleasanton animal advocate Jackie Barnett, who died in October. The fund, which now bears her name, assists with one-time emergency veterinary costs for sick or injured pets to prevent euthanasia due to lack of funds.

"Jackie's dedication and tireless efforts saved the lives of hundreds of companion animals through the Just Like New Fund," said veterinarian Sue Marshall, owner of Feline Medical Center. "Fortunately, Valley Humane Society volunteers are continuing the work begun by Jackie."

Although the veterinary center does not offer services on weekends, it is opening its lobby on Saturday for the event. For more information, contact Vicki Zeigler at 872-7668, or visit the Valley Humane Society Web site, www.valleyhumane.org.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

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## Lecture on sustainability

What sustainable practices did Native populations use in the Amador-Livermore Valley hundreds of years ago? What steps can we take to ensure a healthier region today and into the future?

The Museum On Main Street's Ed Kinney Lecture Series presents "Sustainability: Then and Now" in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 22, at Lynnewood

United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton. The lecture is sponsored by Jack Harrington.

Alviso Adobe Community Park Naturalist Eric Nichols will talk about native and historic land use, including hunting game, gathering food, and creating shelter. Maria Lara, from the office of Pleasanton's city manager, will discuss local sustainability programs including

Solar Cities, a program focused on educating residential consumers about solar energy in the cities of Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin; the curbside recycling program; and more.

Tickets, at the door, cost \$5 members and seniors, \$10 non-members, and \$3 students and teachers with ID. No reservations necessary. For information call the museum at 462-2766. ■

## CASTLEWOOD

Continued from Page 5

said its workers could not afford the new premiums.

Larry Ferderbeck, a 10-year member of Castlewood, told the council that when he tried to engage Castlewood's board of directors on the issue to learn how it determines salaries and health care policies for employees, "I was told that this is not something where they want member input."

"I believe that the club's board

and its negotiating team are disconnected from the membership and their interests and it will take multiple inputs from external people to get the board to become focused and to get back on the right track," Ferderbeck said.

"In my opinion, they (the Castlewood board) are not representing the best interest of the members," he added. "I think their egos have gotten caught up in the negotiations and something needs to get them focused on the current issues on the table and what's in the best

interest of everybody."

Another speaker, Fred Norman, said the locked-out union workers at Castlewood need Pleasanton's help.

"When Katrina hit, the City Council helped the people of New Orleans," Norman said. "When Haiti was severely hurt by the recent earthquake, many Pleasantonians that I know helped the Haitians. Let us now help those in our local area. Let us at least give the Castlewood workers the opportunity to resume their contract negotiations." ■

## PURCHASING

Continued from Page 5

While lowering the amount required for board approval could save money, it could also mean extra work for administrators and a longer approval process, according to Luz Cazares, assistant superintendent of business services.

"It would probably add on something," she said. "We would have to tie that item to a board meeting. We do use some discretion about

**"It's a \$30 savings here and a \$20 savings there. That can add up."**

**LeeAnn Pomplun,**  
director of purchasing for PUSD

bringing items to the board."

Pomplun said the change could end up costing the district money

if a bid needs to be re-advertised after being rejected by the board.

The board recently approved cutting an estimated \$8 million for the 2010-11 school year after cutting \$11 million for the current year and \$2 million last year. Much of the shortfall is due to less state funding for schools although local developer fees, which in earlier years had provided \$2 million and more to the district, have withered with the economy, providing only \$300,000 this year. ■

## TAKE US ALONG



**Weekly goes to war:** U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Michael Pearson reads his hometown news at Helmand Province in Southern Afghanistan. The Pleasanton Weekly sends copies of the paper every Friday free of charge to Pleasanton men and women serving in the Gulf and Afghanistan.

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## LETTERS

### 'No' on Measure D

Dear Editor,

Vote "no" on Measure D so that developers follow normal city review processes, not a wired "Council consensus" first special process that Charter Properties/Lin asked for on Feb. 17, 2004, when they requested their "clustered house sites along accessible ridges" proposal circumvent the normal city review process.

The "sham 'public' process" has resulted in three City Council members favoring building luxury mansions on ridgetops. Can they not read city reports/topographic maps to figure out the mansions are in fact on ridgelines? Or are they so swayed by the developers' campaign contributions that they'll attempt to fool Pleasanton voters into thinking that the mansions are really on the flatlands?

The truth, from the Feb. 17, 2004, city report: "The main east-west trending ridge which separates the headwaters of Kottinger Creek and Mission/Sycamore Creeks continues to its highest point near the easterly boundary of the Kottinger Hills site, and smaller ridges/swales run northerly off of the main ridge. The site is quite visible from the valley floor, contains numerous small creeks/drainageways, and is the northernmost expression of the mixed blue oak woodland/grassland which extends southerly over the Mt. Hamilton range."

Save our ridgelines. For no destruction of ridgelines, vote "no" on Measure D.

**Anne Fox**

### Sticking up for Castlewood

Dear Editor,

I find the recent Guest Opinion ("End the lockout of Castlewood workers," April 2) by City Councilman Matt Sullivan to be short-sighted and lacking the vision of understanding both sides of the situation.

As a member of Castlewood, I have been hesitant to speak out regarding the one-sided portrayal of the Castlewood Union Negotiations that has been evident in the local media. I am not a spokesperson for Castlewood, however, Mr. Sullivan's Guest Opinion deserves a response. In my opinion, Castlewood has been upfront and has negotiated in good faith with the union. All that we have asked from the beginning of the negotiations is to have a health plan for our employees that is competitive with the area in which we live. As Mr. Sullivan has pointed out, "Castlewood should be congratulated for offering health insurance to their employees in an era where it is indeed rare for workers such as these to have benefits." Times have changed regarding health care and the costs to the employee, if it is offered at all. Castlewood must be fiscally responsible in our operational expenses. We have honored our contract with the union and now it is time to modify our position. At least Castlewood will still provide a level of participation on employee health care

costs. Do the food service workers at our local Callippe Golf Course have any health insurance? I assume now that the Health Care Bill has passed, they will in the future.

I also find it reprehensible that Mr. Sullivan chose to provide our president's phone number with the solicitation for direct calls. In my opinion, Mr. Sullivan should spend his time with the Pleasanton School Board to find a way to maintain the level of teachers in the Pleasanton School District that we have enjoyed for so many years. Mr. Sullivan, you have lost my confidence and vote in the next election.

**George Kozloski**

### Clearing up jet noise editorial

Dear Editor,

Your editorial regarding continued concerns about jet noise at the Livermore Airport (April 2, "Jet noise still a concern for Pleasanton") contains similar naiveté found in most articles about aviation. You state that Southwest Airlines changed its approaches to Oakland Airport. Airlines simply don't fly anywhere in the sky they feel like. Routing is actually directed by Air Traffic Control either on fixed routes (highways in the sky) or by an assigned compass heading. As planes arrive over Pleasanton, they are typically assigned a westerly heading to intercept the final approach course that aligns them with the runway for decent to landing.

As far as noise, yes, planes make some. So do the cars on the Interstate 680 close to my house. When I purchased my home here approaching 20 years ago, there was much less traffic and thus less noise. Using the same logic as those forecasting jumbo jets landing at Livermore Airport, why don't you support reducing the size of freeway to two lanes, thus reducing noise to where it used to be? Silly, of course. In fact, if you would use the facts on the number of takeoffs/landings, you would see a reduction of approximately 25 percent due to the escalating costs of flying. Five dollars per gallon aviation gas is keeping most planes parked for longer periods between flights.

**Jim Simone**

### Airport noise vs. housing

Dear Editor,

If the Pleasanton City Council is truly concerned about aircraft noise in the northeast portion of Pleasanton ("Jet noise still a concern for Pleasanton," April 2), why did they approve the building of senior housing in Staples Ranch? At meetings to review Staples Ranch development, I personally advised the council against building additional residential closer to the airport than existing (due to the potential noise issues) as well as the representative of Continuing Care Communities (the developer), who assured me they have similar developments near airports with no noise issues.

By approving the senior housing development, the council has denied

Continued on Page 10

## EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

### Donate \$150 to help our schools

In what likely was School Superintendent John Casey's last report to a Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce group last Tuesday, the veteran teacher, principal and superintendent, who is retiring June 30, said financial uncertainties facing school districts throughout California are so dire and chaotic that most, including Pleasanton's, can no longer develop long-range plans that educators need to do — and have always done in the past. Although the district has made reductions of \$11 million to its once-proposed \$120 million budget in the current school year and made \$2 million in cuts last year, given the current state budget crisis the district has to make additional reductions of up to \$8 million for the 2010-11 fiscal year, which starts July 1. This is roughly equivalent to spending \$1,400 less per pupil on programs and personnel.

For two years now, the district has been cobbling together the best it can to preserve as many programs and opportunities for its students and families. Class sizes at the kindergarten through third-grade levels and for freshmen level high school English and math moved from 20:1 to 25:1 this year. The 2010-11 budget for now maintains those levels. Counseling staffs and high school vice principals also are spared any cuts in the coming year, thanks largely to \$4.8 million in salary cuts agreed to by district management and the Association of Pleasanton Teachers, the teachers union. Last Monday, the school district's classified workers union, representing salaries and hourly employees, agreed to forfeit another \$300,000 to help the district meet its budget obligations. Still, more is needed.

Now, a new fundraising effort called CORE (Community Outreach for Education) has launched a two-month-long campaign to raise \$900,000 through \$150 donations from parents of every student in the district. Sponsored by the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, the PTA Council, all school site parent groups, and the school district, the funds will allow the district to continue supporting on-site technology specialists, library assistants and longer library hours and school site discretionary funding for student support. The overall fundraising goal is \$399,375 for elementary schools, \$229,689 for middle schools and \$325,000 for high schools. CORE has already raised \$130,000 in its early campaigning.

Casey said the new fundraising effort will kick off in earnest next Thursday with a "Drop and Donate" campaign at every school, where parents will be asked to give their \$150 checks made out to CORE to volunteers at curbside when they take their students to school. Don't worry, Casey added, if anyone leaves their checkbook at home, the volunteers will be there after school for the Drop and Donate campaign. A similar effort is planned for May 27, the last day of school before the Memorial Day weekend that includes teacher furlough-no school days on Friday, May 28 and Tuesday, June 1. The organizations will take a snapshot of how much their campaign raised on June 1, which will determine how many of the specialists and programs can be put back into the budget for the 2010-11 school year.

As Casey pointed out to the Chamber group, school district budgeting is being done one year at a time during the economic downturn and state budget crisis that has diminished public school funding. The least we can do is drop and donate next Thursday at our local schools. The \$150, which is tax deductible, can also be donated to CORE directly at the school district headquarters or to PPIE, where more information can be found on its website at [www.ppie.org](http://www.ppie.org). ■



Visit Town Square at [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com) to comment on the editorial.

Continued from Page 9

there are noise issues in that area of Pleasanton. Any noise issues from the senior housing development will be the burden of the Pleasanton mayor and City Council, not the airport. The most recent noise complaint statistics (February 2010) are a total

of 38 complaints from Pleasanton, 17 from Livermore, with 47.3 percent coming from two households in Pleasanton (statistics courtesy Livermore airport). This percentage being from two households is typical month to month.

Regarding Southwest Airlines (or any airline) rerouting its incoming

flights (to Oakland) over Ruby and Vintage Hills, airlines do not choose their routing, this is determined by FAA air traffic control.

Rezoning the Livermore airport property for aviation and aviation-related uses (previous zoning was educational and institutional) does not open the door for unlimited development, it means that any development proposal must be aviation-related. All proposals must go through the normal review and approval processes. Previously any development proposal of any type would have to have been reviewed by the planning commission.

The sky is not falling (or becoming dark with airplanes in this case) as a result of the rezoning, despite the

propaganda and misinformation that has been rampant in the last several years.

**Kevin Ryan**

### Ochoa doesn't speak for everyone

Dear Editor,

In response to Dom Ochoa's letter ("McNerney didn't represent his district," April 2) that said Congressman McNerney didn't represent his district when voting on health care, I ask, "How does he know?" Did Mr. Ochoa take a non-partisan poll of the 11th District, which stretches from Stockton through Pleasanton and down to Morgan Hill? Did he phone everyone in the district or go out knocking on doors? Of course there was opposition.

But democracy is not based on who shouts the loudest, rather on the wishes of the majority. Far from serving Nancy Pelosi or Barack Obama, McNerney took a long and careful consideration of how he would vote on this legislation, not making his mind up until he had read the final version. I know because I spoke to him personally about it. If he did not represent the people of this district fairly, he would not have been re-elected.

As for the Health Care Bill, thankfully we have at least begun the reform process. Changes can be made as we go along and find out what is working and what is not. I can't believe the majority of the people in this area have the attitude, "I've got what I need so I don't care about anybody else." We are better than that.

**Trudi Hartley**

### Sullivan should print his number

Dear Editor,

As a non-Castlewood member, I thought it odd that you would go as far as to let Matt Sullivan publish Castlewood Country Club President Jim Clouser's phone number without publishing an equivalent for Mr. Sullivan ("End the lockout of Castlewood workers," Guest Opinion, April 2). Please do so in a future edition so Mr. Sullivan has the benefit of hearing from Pleasanton residents regarding his views of the current union lockout at Castlewood (which, if memory serves me right, isn't in the city of Pleasanton, but is in the unincorporated county - an area that Sullivan should present himself not as a city council member, but as a private citizen).

**Bill Davis**

### Half truths for Measure D

Dear Editor,

I, like many of you, have received letters from Fred and Tanya in support of the Oak Grove project. Do not be misled by their smoke, "Pie in the Sky," half-truths. Please read "the rest of the story."

\* Oak Trees - we all love those grand giants. If approved, Oak Grove - check out the name - will chop down 115 of these giants just for roads. Would you like to see a couple hundred more whacked down? No me!

\* Now, the grading maps show that 42 feet will be cut from the ridge. How's that work for you?

\* This whole mess could have been

avoided by the City Council. Pleasanton voters passed items PP and QQ in a recent election. Both of these severely restricted what could be developed in those hills and ridgelines. The City Council could have rescinded this approval of this project and it would be finished. Are they listening to the people?

\* Fred should give this land to the East Bay Regional Park District, take a tax write off and forget it. In land speculation, you win some and you lose some.

Join me in rejecting the Oak Grove project. Vote No on D.

**Paul Ebright**

### School dollars from D?

Dear Editor,

"Millions of dollars for our schools." Sounds nice right about now in our district when class sizes are going up and the number of high school periods are going down?

The Oak Grove developers are busy at work spreading this message via telephone "surveys" to folks who are rightly nervous about the direction are schools are heading in. Trouble is that the "millions" the developers are talking about can't be used for anything but facilities (improvements, additional classroom space, etc), NOT teachers, class size reduction, vice principals or programs.

Still, any money will be better than nothing right? Again, it's more complicated than they want to let on. This money is NOT a one-time gift from the developer as many have been led to believe, it's a funding source that will be generated as homes are built-from the homeowners who in turn will expect facility additions to house their incoming children.

Another disturbing fact is that any money dribbling into the district would be subject to a possible payment to developer Signature Properties for the appellate court judgment against them. Boy, what irony that would be, Pleasanton Unified School District having to come up with funds to house new development students because the mitigation dollars meant for that purpose went to another litigious developer who successfully sued their way out of a commitment to build a new school.

Say NO to developers who try to bend the truth to get what they want. They don't have our best interests in mind.

Vote NO on Measure D.

**Laura Danielson**

### 3 reasons for 'no' on D

Dear Editor,

Three reasons to vote "no" on D:  
1) Look up to the hills surrounding you from Bernal at Valley. No houses on our ridgeline. Let's keep in that way. Vote "no" on D.

2) The developer sued your city and its citizens to keep Oak Grove off the ballot. We won in court after two years and thousands of dollars. Vote "no" and send the message, we will not be intimidated.

3) The voters passed ridgeline protection in November 2008 and this subdivision doesn't follow the rules.

Vote "no" on D in June. For more information: [www.savepleasanton-hills.com](http://www.savepleasanton-hills.com).

**Kay Ayala**

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# Transitions

WEDDINGS ● ENGAGEMENTS ● OBITUARIES ● BIRTHS

## OBITUARIES

### George Lewis Helgeson

George Lewis Helgeson, inventor of the first mobile whole-body radiation counter, died March 31 after suffering his second stroke in six weeks. He was 86.



Mr. Helgeson founded Helgeson Scientific Services in 1966 in Pleasanton, after developing the whole-body counting technology while working at General Electric's Vallecitos facility near Sunol. It allowed operators of facilities using nuclear materials to immediately evaluate exposure to radiation. The company's equipment was used after the Three-Mile Island reactor accident. The company sold its units worldwide, including installations in Pakistan, South Korea and Spain. Growing up, he had a footlocker full of radio tubes that he used to build Ham radio and other devices. His fascination with technology lasted throughout his life. He continued to operate his company and used state-of-the-art computers daily. He also was an avid photographer. He routinely recorded and videotaped his wife's organ concerts while Carolyn Helgeson served as the choir director at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Helgeson grew up in Minnesota, the oldest of four boys, graduating from Denfeld High School in Duluth. He enrolled in the University of Minnesota, Duluth before entering the U.S. Army in 1941. He had built an X-ray machine as a college project so the Army trained him as an X-ray technician. He spent World War II in England. His brother recalled that Mr. Helgeson managed to take a photograph of himself with the Queen Mother. Ever the perfectionist, he reportedly told the Queen Mum to move away from the window to improve the image.

After being discharged from the Army, he returned to marry his high-school sweetheart, Carolyn, and then moved to Seattle. He trained as a health physicist at the University of Washington. After graduating, he joined G.E. in Hanford, Wash., and then was transferred to Pleasanton in 1956.

Mr. Helgeson was a leader in the Presbyterian Church and led the campaign to build the church's campus on Mirador Drive in the 1970s. The Helgeson family loved going to Rio Del Mar Beach in Aptos and body surfing. Last September, he attended his 68th high school reunion.

He is survived by his sons, Peter Helgeson of Pleasanton and Steve and his wife Sandy Helgeson of Eureka; a daughter Julie and husband Mark Wilkins of Soulsbyville, Calif.; and his brother, John Helgeson of Ritzville, Wash. He has three grand-

children and four great grandsons.

Helgeson's wife of 63 years, Carolyn, died in 2009.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, April 17, at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court. The family prefers contributions in his memory to the Centerpointe choir program.

### Fay A. Dishong

Fay A. Dishong died March 4 at the age of 90. He had lived in Sunol for 55 years.

He was a veteran of World War II. He volunteered for many years at the Cancer Society, at Pleasanton Kaiser, at the Pleasanton Senior Center and for Sunol 4-H. He was a bocce champion, playing for years at the Pleasanton Senior Center, and he collected many trophies. He was a kind, giving, loving man who was there for everyone.



He is survived by wife of 60 years, Joan; son Glenn and wife Patti; son Mike and wife Julie; and daughter Kristy and husband Tony; granddaughter and grandson, Adrienne and Andrew Nigg; grandson Christopher Dishong; and granddaughters Victoria and Leilani Dishong. He is also missed by his dog Mattie.

Family and friends will gather to remember him at the Sunol KWA Clubhouse, 12051 Glenora Way, Sunol, from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, April 24.

### Branca Catherine McDonald

Branca Catherine McDonald died April 12 at the age of 75 at her home, surrounded by her family.

She was born Feb. 25, 1935, the youngest of Arthur and Maria Silva's seven children. She attended Holy Names High School in Oakland. She met Ed and started her married life in Hayward, then moved to Castro Valley. The family moved to Monterey for a few years and for the last 40 years, Branca and Ed lived in Pleasanton where she was an active member of the Catholic Community. Full of life and spirit, she loved living in Pleasanton; she loved her church, her family and friends, flowers and everything positive. She had a smile, a hug and a prayer for everyone and finished every conversation with, "I love you."

She is survived by her children, Madelyn Carr and Evan Carr, of Austin, Texas, and by her brother Dr. Nicholas Wallerstein (Jean) and his family in Spearfish, S.D., and her sister, Lisa Wallerstein (John Schuster) and her family in Livermore. A memorial service was held at St. Clare's Episcopal Church on March 29. Her family requests donations in her name be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development for Haitian relief, % St. Clare's, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton 94588.

(Jim) Porep, and George (Lorraine) Silva; and dozens of nieces and nephews. The family thanks everyone who helped during her illness, especially Jennifer Silva, the Tandowsky family, and Hope Hospice.

A vigil was held April 15 with a Mass at 9:30 a.m., Friday, April 16, at St. Augustine's Church, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. Donations may be made to Hope Hospice (www.HopeHospice.com) or St. Augustine's Church.

### John Peglow

Pleasanton resident John Gilbert Peglow, Pfc. U.S. Army, died April 11 at the age of 21. He was born Dec. 9, 1986, the oldest child and only son of Mona and Steve Peglow.



He was a graduate of Valley Christian High School and attended Diablo Valley College. He leaves behind an everlasting imprint of his love, sense of humor, loyalty to his friends and devotion to God and country. He was an avid runner, swimmer, martial artist and snowboarder, and his love of life energized all who knew him.

He is survived by his parents and younger sister, Sarah Louise; maternal grandparents Manuel and Mary Louise Calderon; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

A prayer vigil was held at Graham-Hitch mortuary April 14, with a funeral Mass on April 15 at St. Elizabeth Seton in Pleasanton. Donations may be made to The Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org/

### Marcia Bolton Carr

Marcia Bolton Carr died suddenly at her home March 25 at the age of 56.

She was born to Edward Perry and Jennifer Dole Wallerstein in Norwalk, Conn., on Dec. 27, 1953, and grew up in Massachusetts. She was married to Dr. Robert Scott Carr, and lived in Corpus Christi, Texas. She had bachelor's and master's degrees in literature and a master's in Family Counseling, all from Texas A&M. She taught English and later worked for a charitable organization in Corpus Christi. After her divorce, she had lived with her parents in Pleasanton since 1997.

She is survived by her children, Madelyn Carr and Evan Carr, of Austin, Texas, and by her brother Dr. Nicholas Wallerstein (Jean) and his family in Spearfish, S.D., and her sister, Lisa Wallerstein (John Schuster) and her family in Livermore. A memorial service was held at St. Clare's Episcopal Church on March 29. Her family requests donations in her name be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development for Haitian relief, % St. Clare's, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton 94588.

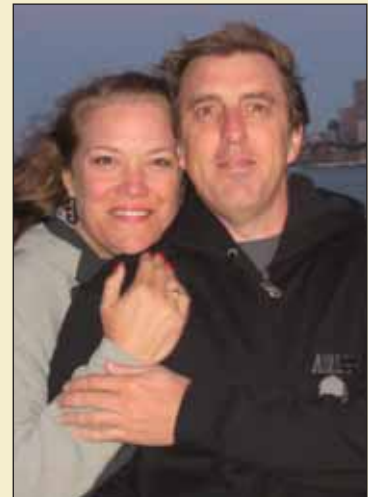
## ENGAGEMENTS

### Kathy Mitchell and Bob Simpson

Kathy Mitchell, daughter of longtime Pleasanton resident Alfred Mitchell and the late Marilyn Mitchell, in engaged to marry Bob Simpson, son of Gene and Rita Simpson of Viola, Ark., formerly of Pleasanton.

The couple were friends and second-grade classmates at Alisal Elementary School in 1972-73 and graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1983. They were reconnected on Facebook, thanks to a mutual friend's "friend suggestion."

Bob lives and works in Denver, and Kathy lives in Pleasanton and teaches in Brentwood. The two are planning a fall wedding in Pleasanton.



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# THE BIG COUNT

By EMILY WEST

**T**ime to return America's 23rd Census form is ticking away, with the countdown clocks ending at midnight Saturday. Despite the deadlines, local Census workers said they expect to keep working for several weeks, if not months, until the region has been properly represented in the big count.

Hype surrounding the Census started early, most notably with TV commercials during the Super Bowl. The number 10 is at the heart of the message: 10 questions in 10 minutes in the decade tradition taking place in 2010. It's said to be one of the simplest forms in several decades.

Many people in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley got that message. As of press time in Alameda County, the return rate was at 65 percent with 74 percent of Pleasanton residents participating.

Karen Koistinen, manager of the Pleasanton Census office, which covers an area from Piedmont to Livermore, said she is pleased with both rates.

"It's a success," she said. "We definitely received our estimated mail-in rates."

Pleasanton is just short of its 2000 Census return rate, which came in at 78 percent.

Nearby Contra Costa County's rate of return is at 68 percent and Santa Clara County is at 69 percent. San Francisco County stands at 62 percent.

The state in the lead as of Wednesday was Wisconsin with a rate of 77 percent, closely followed by neighboring states Minnesota with 75 percent and Iowa with 74 percent.

Census advertising has focused on the fact that updated figures will be used for federal funding allocations instead of emphasizing the goal of proper districting and government representation.

"The two are tied together," Koistinen said. "It's absolutely all measured and allocated by population count. Large funds are apportioned to communities based on population, and congressional seats are also based on population."

The more than \$400 billion in federal funding that is spread throughout the nation can be seen at the local level for things like school lunch programs, she added.

For those in the area who did not mail back their forms, Koistinen said they are planning to send out Census Takers door-to-door in May.

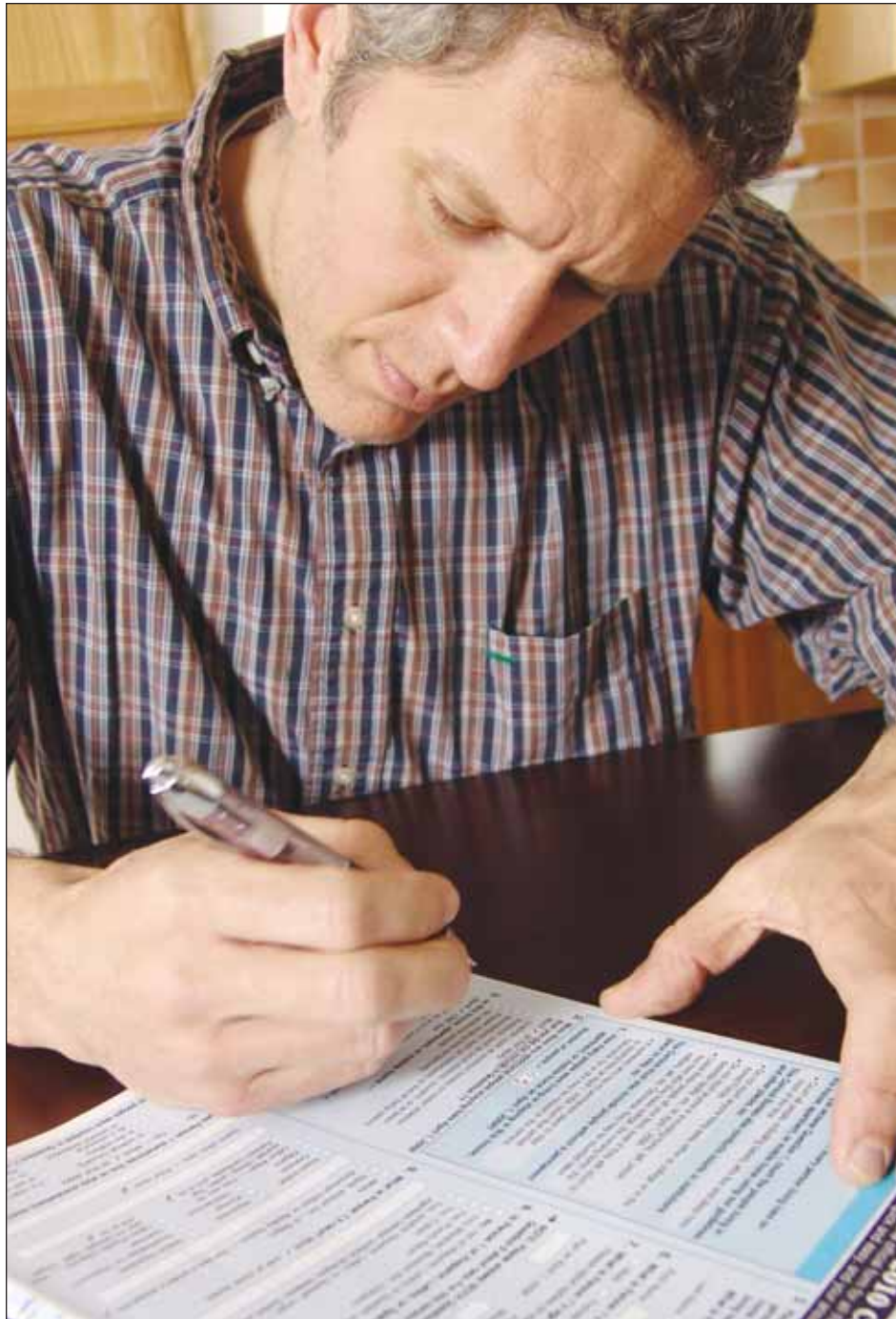
"We have different areas within the office assigned to different groups of people," she said. "We make certain there are plans to visit the neighborhoods."

The workers will repeat their visits if people are not home.

When a Census Taker comes to the door, residents should expect to be asked the same questions that are on the form, she added.

The main reason why people don't return Census forms, Koistinen said, is because they are busy or have concerns over privacy.

"We're trying to get the word out about the confidentiality," she said. "It will not be made public for 72 years. And when the information is made public, it's very general. There's nothing specifically to do with the neighbor-



STAFF PHOTO

## By the number

■ 134 million — The estimated number of housing units the Census Bureau contacts, either by mail or in person, to conduct the 2010 Census.

■ 72 percent — The final mail participation rate in the 2000 Census. As of press time, the national 2010 rate stands at 66 percent.

■ 3 — The number of NASCAR Spring Cup races in which the 2010 Census-sponsored No. 16 Ford Fusion, with driver Greg Biffle, competed.

■ 11.6 million pounds — The collective weight of the paper the questionnaires were printed on. It also required 295,259 pounds of ink. Printed forms would fill 425 tractor-trailers, and would circle the globe three times, if stretched end to end.

■ 6 — The number of languages that the questionnaires were available in: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese.

■ 63 — The number of "It's Easy" tutorial videos found on the Census website ([www.census2010.gov](http://www.census2010.gov)).

■ 3.8 million — The total number of people recruited for 2010 Census operations during fiscal years 2009 and 2010 (as of March 1).

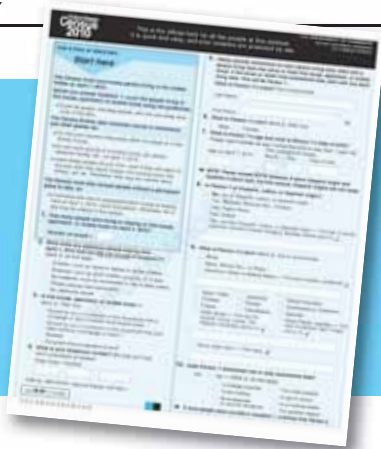
■ 133 million — The cost of the national advertising campaign to boost participation rates in the 2010 Census.

■ 0 — The number of organizations with which the Census Bureau shares confidential information. Title 13 of the U.S. Code prohibits the Census Bureau from sharing confidential information with other government agencies, immigration authorities, law enforcement or any other organization. Employees take a lifetime oath swearing to keep the information confidential; penalties for violations include up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The 10-question Census form is one of the shortest in recent counts, with most people finishing in about 10 minutes. These questionnaires can still be mailed back, otherwise a Census Taker will begin pounding the pavement of non-responding areas beginning in May. The Census Bureau said the cost of sending a Taker to ask the questions is about \$57, whereas mailing it back costs 42 cents. Bottom left: In speaking at the Pleasanton Census office when it opened in January, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, chairman of the Alameda County Complete Count Committee, said that like many residents, he used to be afraid of giving personal information on a Census form but recognizes now how important it is.

# CENSUS CREWS WILL CONTINUE TO GATHER DATA IN THE WEEKS, MONTHS AHEAD



hood, let alone specific houses on the street.”

Another potential roadblock to getting higher return rates would be reaching the non-English speaking populations. There are efforts to reach those groups, she said, to provide help and hire people in those neighborhoods.

Another wallet-focused message being sent by the Census Bureau is the extra cost to taxpayers for those who don't mail back a completed form. Door-to-door Census Takers in the area are paid \$22 an hour. According to information released April 1, the Census Bureau estimates that for each percentage point increase in the 2010 Census mail-back response rate, \$85 million of taxpayer money is saved by not having to go door to door to count non-responding households. They also say a mailed-back form costs 42 cents, whereas the in-person response costs about \$57.

The team is expected to remain in its Pleasanton office, located off Koll Center Parkway, until the end of September, if all goes according to schedule.

“We will be working on non-response mail follow-up until July,” Koistinen said. “We’ll take our time to do the most thorough job possible.” ■



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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: Annual Weed Abatement Program and to order abatement of public nuisances
- Discussion regarding background, issues and options related to the Urban Habitat housing cap litigation.

### Hacienda Task Force

Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.  
Hart Middle School, Multipurpose Room  
4433 Willow Road, Pleasanton

- Introduction to TOD Planning and Design Concepts
- Project Background, Part 2: Retail Study

### ENERGY TIPS OF THE WEEK

#### Do-It-Yourself Green Cleaners

Some of the greenest cleaners are the ones you make yourself. Some sample recipes include:

- **Drain Cleaner:** Pour a half-cup of baking soda down the sink and add a cup of vinegar. Cover the drain; wait a few minutes, then rinse with boiling water and salt.
- **Window Cleaner:** Mix two ounces of vinegar with a quart of water.
- **Silver Polish:** Place aluminum foil into a glass bowl. Sprinkle the foil with salt and baking soda than fill bowl with warm water. Soak your silver. Dry and buff.
- **Brass Cleaner:** Rub half a lemon, sprinkled with salt on the metal. Buff with a cloth.
- **Rust Remover:** Use straight vinegar to remove rust.

#### Green Cleaning Products for the Ages

- **Arm & Hammer Baking Soda** is a mild abrasive for many cleaning chores.
- **Bon Ami Polishing Cleanser** cleans many surfaces, kitchen small appliances and outdoors.
- **Fels Naptha** deters the effects of poison ivy or insect repellent.
- **Dr. Bronner's Pure Castile Soap** can be used for shaving, shampooing, treating athletes' foot, purify water, and to kill diaper odor.
- **20 Mule Team Borax** is a disinfectant and mold killer. Use in toilets, your laundry (as a stain remover) and on carpet.

#### Water Saving Tips in the Garden

Gardening can quickly turn into a sink for precious natural water resources with millions of gallons of water used and wasted. Cut back by adjusting your lawn mower to a higher setting, watering early in the morning, adjusting sprinklers to cover lawn area, collect and use rainwater, direct downspouts/gutters towards trees and shrubs, and installing a drip irrigation system.

#### Disposable batteries

Most batteries discarded in landfills break down and leak chemicals into the groundwater. Switch to rechargeable Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries and save yourself some money. The City of Pleasanton has a Battery Recycling Program available, with 5 drop-off stations. Locations are at the Pleasanton Senior Center @ 5353 Sunol Blvd, the Pleasanton Library @ 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Livermore/Pleasanton Fire Station #2 @ 6300 Stoneridge Mall Rd, Pleasanton OSC Administration Building @ 3333 Busch Rd, and Pleasanton Civic Center Main @ 200 Old Bernal.

#### Earth Day Begins at Home

Make every day Earth Day. For spring-cleaning, garden preparation, and home improvements purchase non-toxic biodegradable cleaning products. Reduce paper use by using rags or cloth. Refurbish responsibly. Repair instead of replace. Replace disposable goods with renewable ones and plant for the planet.

**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](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

## POLICE BULLETIN

### Would-be thieves lasso ATM

A loud crash alerted residents to a van backing into the glass front doors of the Food and Deli in the 5000 block of Stoneridge Drive, shortly before 6 a.m. Sunday morning. The suspects tied a rope around the freestanding ATM machine inside the store and tried to move it with the van, according to Pleasanton police reports.

"They didn't get very far. It was bolted to the ground," said Lt. Jeff Bretzing.

The deli is located behind the courthouse, he said, and nearby residents called police when they heard the glass break. An alarm also alerted police.

Responding officers saw the white Ford van leaving the area but its driver failed to yield to the officers. They pursued the van through North Pleasanton and eventually onto I-580 where it headed west.

The van exited the freeway at Eden Canyon Road in Castro Valley, then drove west up the eastbound

I-580 off-ramp. Police did not follow the suspects the wrong way onto the off-ramp. Minutes later California Highway Patrol officers and deputies from the Alameda County Sheriff in the area located the abandoned van. Sheriff's deputies used their K-9 to search the area for 30 minutes but the three suspects were not found.

No one saw the driver closely, but the two who entered the store are described by police as a white male, age 35-30, heavy set with a mustache and wearing blue jeans, a blue jacket and black and white shoes; and another male adult, possibly Asian, wearing blue jeans, a gray shirt, brown jacket and a camouflage cap.

Police determined that the van was stolen from Yang Fan Academy, a nearby childcare facility.

The ATM machine was damaged but no money was removed and nothing else was missing from the store, said Bretzing.

Police ask anyone with additional information to contact them at 931-5100. Bretzing said police also hope to obtain further information from the digital surveillance camera at the store.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

## POLICE REPORT

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

### April 6

#### Theft

- 6:03 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 8:22 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- 8:54 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
- 9:02 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall road; identity theft
- 9:44 p.m. at the intersection of Birch Creek Drive and Vine Street

#### Vehicular burglary

- 7 a.m. in the 2700 block of Hartley Gate Court
- 8:03 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
- 9:22 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

- 4:33 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

#### Vandalism

- 9:47 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

### April 7

#### Theft

- 8:35 a.m. in the 1300 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft
- 10:23 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- 2:58 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; grand theft
- 6:49 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- 8:55 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
- 9:35 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

#### Burglary

- 11:58 a.m. in the 6100 block of Homer Court; vehicular

#### Possession of drug paraphernalia

- 10:23 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

### April 8

#### Burglary

- 8:06 a.m. in the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard; vehicular
- 5:55 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue
- 6:14 p.m. in the 1700 block of Baywood Court

#### Drug/Alcohol violations

- 1:30 p.m. at the intersection of Sylvaner Drive and Burgundy Drive; marijuana possession

#### DUI

- 10:50 p.m. at the intersection of First Street and Stanley Boulevard

### April 9

#### Theft

- 8:23 p.m. in the 6900 block of Knoll Center Parkway; petty theft

#### Burglary

- 7 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

#### Vandalism

- 7:49 a.m. in the 6900 block of Owens Drive
- 7:28 p.m. at the intersection of Ruby Hills Road and Vineyard Road

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:31 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Valley Avenue; DUI
- 1:52 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Sutter Gate Avenue; public drunkenness

- 7 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; possession of hypodermic needle

### April 10

#### Theft

- 12:53 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- 8:31 a.m. in the 5600 block of San Juan Way; stolen vehicle
- 9:47 a.m. in the 600 block of John Street; identity theft
- 10 a.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue; stolen vehicle
- 10:25 a.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court; petty theft
- 3:08 p.m. in the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
- 3:18 p.m. in the 200 block of Main Street; petty theft
- 3:30 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

#### Burglary

- 3:03 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; vehicular burglary
- 5:49 a.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive
- 9:07 a.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue; vehicular burglary
- 9:24 a.m. in the 5900 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; vehicular burglary
- 11:04 a.m. in the 4500 block of Harper Court; vehicular burglary

#### Public lewdness

- 11:04 a.m. in the 4500 block of Harper Court

#### Drug/alcohol violations

- 1:16 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Hopyard Road; DUI
- 1:18 a.m. at the intersection of Ray Street and Walnut Drive; DUI
- 1:28 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI
- 1:48 a.m. at the intersection of Johnson Drive and Stoneridge Drive; DUI
- 2:57 a.m. in the 500 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness

### April 11

#### Theft

- 3:42 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement and possession of stolen property
- 4:11 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- 7:45 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

#### Battery

- 12:42 p.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court

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## Striking up the band for 35 years

Sunday's concert will celebrate this and other anniversaries

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

**B**ob Williams, conductor of the Pleasanton Community Concert Band, was home earlier this week polishing his horn. He noted that the instrument once was known as a "French horn."

"In Great Britain they called it a 'French horn' because it came across the Channel from France," he explained. "It's really a German hunting horn."

On Sunday, Williams will pick up his conductor's baton and lead the Pleasanton Community Concert Band in this year's Spring Concert, which will be a celebration of the orchestra's 35th anniversary.

The program also observes the bicentennials of Frederic Chopin, Otto Nicolai and Robert Schumann, said Williams, plus the centennials of Samuel Barber, William Schuman and the Boy Scouts of America. Music by these composers and others will include Commando March, Merry Wives of Windsor, American Hymn, Boy Scouts of America March, and Fantasy on a Theme by Samuel Barber. Also they will perform the Monterey Bay Suite, a commissioned piece written for them 10 years ago by Dr. Arthur Barnes.

"When we do an indoor program like this, we like to hit some of the classics that don't go well outdoors," Williams explained.

"Every program has to have a march or two in it," he added. "Indoors it can be a 'concert march,' a good foot-tapping tune."

The Pleasanton band was begun 35 years ago when the city built its bandstand in Wayside Park on First Street for the nation's bicentennial celebration. Committee member Charlotte Severin recalled that City Councilman Bill Herlihy heard about the bandstand plans and commented: "Well, if you have a bandstand, what about a band?"

The rest is history. Plus a lot of hard work and practices by musicians and their supporters to fine-tune the Pleasanton Bicentennial Band, which became the Pleasanton Community Band and eventually took its current name, the Pleasanton Community Concert Band.

Williams was one of the original band members and later became conductor. From a group of 35 musicians, the band has grown to 70 members who play up to 20 concerts a year, he noted.

"We play a lot of music — 150 different pieces every year," he said. "We work on them on a steady basis and play them depending on the audience and venue."

Williams said the band has a few of the original members in its core group of 30 performers.

"We have a low turnover so we are able to maintain a good quality cadre of 30 people," he said. "We have maybe 70 on the roster, and we usually get 50 to play a concert. We always have 35 or 40 for rehearsal."

The band practices each Thursday at Pleasanton Middle School. Call Personnel Manager Pat Wheeler at 443-5526 to make arrangements.

"Every year we have at least two people call and say they haven't played since they had their kids and they'd like to try it again," said Williams. "I tell them, 'If you've got the horn, pick it up and make sure you know how to blow it. Try a little tooting on your own.'"

Some will find a teacher and take a few lessons before showing up for their first rehearsal.

"Some have come back at 50, and at 75 are still doing it," said Williams. "They either love what they're doing — or they don't come back."

As for himself, Williams has been playing the horn for 65 years and keeps his lungs in shape by swimming and walking.

"I play the horn (in the Livermore Symphony) and a little piano — and do a lot of conducting," he said.

He'll keep playing the horn as long as his lungs — and his lips — allow him to do so. ■



### Spring band concert

**Who:** Pleasanton Community Concert Band  
**What:** Celebrating its 35th anniversary

**When:** 2 p.m., Sunday, April 18

**Where:** Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton

**Cost:** Free

**Information:** [www.pleasantonband.org](http://www.pleasantonband.org) or 846-5897

### Hear the band play

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band gives three concerts a year: Spring Concert, Family Concert and Holiday Concert. It is also invited to perform for other events, including:

- Ø Fourth of July Ceremony, Pleasanton
- Ø Pleasanton Main Street Party
- Ø Art Under the Oaks, Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore
- Ø Farmers Markets, Pleasanton and Livermore
- Ø Veterans Day Ceremonies, Livermore and Pleasanton
- Ø Memorial Day Ceremonies, Pleasanton and San Francisco Presidio



COURTESY PLEASANTON COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND  
The Pleasanton Community Concert Band has grown from its beginnings (left) in 1975 to an orchestra with 70 members that play up to 20 concerts a year.

## Swashbuckling on stage

Treat the family to adventure on the high seas when Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company presents "Treasure Island," opening April 23 at the Amador Theater. It's being presented with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival.

This production is Frederick Gaines' adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic. In the action-packed story, Jim Hawkins finds a map of Treasure Island and embarks on a series of escapades in search of buried treasure.

"To offer more children the wonderful experience of being in a play, we have two complete 'Treasure Island' casts," explained Festival Artistic Director Rebecca Ennals. "Our expansive cast of 44 young actors includes four sets of siblings, a hearing impaired girl who uses an interpreter in rehearsal, and several children whose parents who have relocated to the Tri-Valley from outside the United States."

"Treasure Island" is directed by Bill Olson, a teaching artist for the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival for the past five years. Professional combat choreographer Dexter Fi-



L. BRETON

Jordan Hindiyeh as Black Dog (left) battles with Ted Marshall as Billy Bones in the Pleasanton Civic Arts Stage Company production of "Treasure Island" at the Amador Theater, playing April 23-May 2.

ler directed the fight scenes. He was Robin Williams' trainer in sabre and cutlass for the movie "Hook."

"Treasure Island" will take place April 23-24 and April 30-May 1 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Find more information at [www.civictickets.org](http://www.civictickets.org) or by phoning 931-3444.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli

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## READY TO RENT

REVIEWS OF NEW DVD RELEASES

BY JOE RAMIREZ

### Crazy Heart

Fox Home Video DVD & Blu-Ray  
1 hour, 52 minutes  
Director: Scott Cooper

The whole reason to watch writer-director Scott Cooper's "Crazy Heart" is not only Jeff Bridges' Academy Award-winning portrayal of alcoholic country singer "Bad" Blake — it is the colicky nuances that Cooper infuses into the movie with Bridges as the boozy keystone. Clearly the director is trying to invoke the spirit of Robert Altman (whose repertoire of actors over the years did not include, I'm very surprised, fellow L.A. flunky Bridges, who seems like Altman's Spirit of '76 doppelganger), whose throbbing neon lit interiors, drab hotels rooms, pre-fab Americana cast of characters are more than a homage to Altman's "Nashville." Like Altman's portraits, at the heart of this "Crazy Heart" is an intimate yet reserved portrayal of a man who has numbed himself against his life to the point where he stopped forgetting why, and Bridges plays Blake wisely as a resigned Buddha of pain, but very humanly living in oblivion.

The first time I remember seeing Jeff Bridges in a movie was the 1976 version of "King Kong" (when I was 4), which I feel incidentally is the spiritual cousin, in a sense, of "Nashville." Both deal, in their own ways, with the death of an era, or at least the realization of the greed at the center of the system. "Nashville" invoked the nastier side of post-hippie hedonism behind the sudden surge of patriotism at the time, while "King Kong" displayed the death of the utopian dream as the wild Kong fell from the Twin Towers. It was Jeff Bridges in his breezy, SoCal manner that out-acted the monkey, of course,

and was on par with Jessica Lange as well. Bridges has the knack of taking any role and making it believable due to his low-key, earnest approach. Not to say that he is lazy, he is just talented and intuitive enough to recognize when to crank up the energy. Evidence then and now is when Kong is being gunned down, and Bridges cries out psychically in pain, making us feel that this is the tragedy of the century, big monkey or not.

"Crazy Heart," however, plays its sorrows out in song more than action. We meet "Bad" Blake, a 50ish, Merle Haggardesque country singer who was once packing stadiums but is now playing small bars and bowling alleys due to his drinking. He lives on the road, driving himself across the southwest in a broken down pickup, only stopping at home to pick up his mail. It is journalist Jean (a very good Maggie Gyllenhaal) who asks Blake for an interview after a good night's show, and the two slow burn into a relationship in which she is well aware of who is at the other end.

"Crazy Heart" works in so many ways because Cooper lets his characters wisely drift and change with the tide of time. There are no big revelatory moments, just small ones that add up into something of a shared experience for the audience. I can honestly say that this is one move that lets you live and breathe with the characters, and who wouldn't want to spend time with Bridges and Gyllenhaal? The silent cast also includes music producer T. Bone Burnett and Stephen Bruton, whose songs capture the best of a Nashville sound that once prized such hallowed pain and, with Bridges at the microphone, it makes "Bad" Blake's aching honest and pitiful. ■

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

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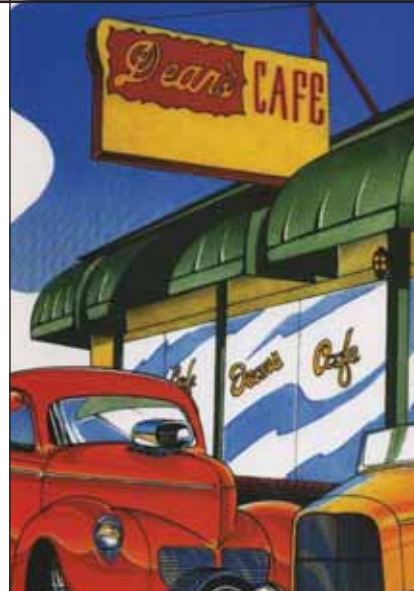


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## Author Visits

**MEGAN McDONALD** Towne Center Books will host Megan McDonald, author of "Judy Moody" and "Stink," at 4 p.m., Friday, April 16, at the bookstore, 555 Main St. She will also talk about her books at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 17, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 846-8826.

**READ IT AND EAT WITH SHIRLEY TALLMAN** The event is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. April 18 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Enjoy lunch with Shirley Tallman, author of The Sarah Woolson Mysteries. Sarah is a 19th century San Francisco sleuth, whose latest adventure is Scandal on Rincon Hill." Shirley comes dressed in period costume, and her visits are always lively. Cost is \$30 for the book and lunch, or \$15 for lunch only. RSVP. Call 846-8826.

## Classes

**BABYSITTING CERTIFICATION CLASS** The class is from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. April 17, at Cultural Arts Center, 4477 Black Ave. City of Pleasanton's Babysitting for Beginners. Participants will learn the essential skills needed to be a successful babysitter. Cost \$48. Visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

**SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS ROUNDTABLE** The class is from 7-9 p.m. April 28 at Amador Valley Adult Ed, 215 Abbie St. It can be lonely at the top. Share ideas with other business owners. Topics may

include developing, enhancing your market niche; creative, affordable marketing; adapting to business in a down economy; handling growth; and developing outside-the-box business strategies. Cost \$45. Call 426-4280 or visit [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted).

## Clubs

**TOASTMASTERS AT CLUBSPORT OPEN TO ALL** The club meets from 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Tuesday April 13 - June 29 at Club Sport Pleasanton, 7090 Johnson Dr. Professionals, become the speaker and leader you want to be with Toastmasters International. Drop by the next meeting to find out more. ClubSport members and non-members welcome. Call 225-2433 or visit [www.clubsports.com/pleasanton](http://www.clubsports.com/pleasanton).

## Concerts

**EARLY MUSIC AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE** In The Battle of the Basses, David Morris will masterfully demonstrate how bowed basses changed throughout the renaissance and baroque eras in concert at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 24, at Las Positas College Library, 3000 Campus Hill Dr., Livermore. Tickets are \$15. Call 424-1209 or visit [www.lpclearlymusic.org](http://www.lpclearlymusic.org).

**SPRING CONCERT** The concert is from 2-3 p.m. April 18 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. The Pleasanton Community Concert Band is celebrating its 35th anniversary along with the bicen-

tennials of Otto Nicolai, Frédéric Chopin, and Robert Schumann; and the centennials of Samuel Barber, William Schuman, and the Boy Scouts of America. Call 846-5897 or visit [www.pleasantonband.org](http://www.pleasantonband.org).

## Events

**'DOOLITTLE RAID' REMEMBERED** The USS Hornet will present the "Doolittle Raid and Pacific Remembered" from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, April 17, at the USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. Admission is \$6-\$14 with ample free parking. There will be a special program at 1 p.m. Call (510) 521-8448, ext. 211 or visit [www.uss-hornet.org](http://www.uss-hornet.org).

**24TH ANNUAL PLANT AND WHITE ELEPHANT SALE** The event is from 9-noon, April 17 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. See what the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club "Potting Parties" have produced from their gardens. Stretch your dollars by purchasing vegetables, annuals, perennials, shrubs, home and garden supplies. Volunteers will be on hand to provide information. Call 216-1786 or visit [www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc](http://www.orgsites.com/ca/lavgc).

**A LA CARTE BRUNCH FOR WIDOWS** The event is at 11:30 a.m. April 18 at Sapphire Restaurant and Lounge, 2300 First St., Livermore. The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California would like you to join them for an a la carte brunch at this new restaurant. Cost menu item price. Call 447-7680.



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**ARTISTS' FLEA MARKET** Pleasanton Art League will host an artist flea market from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, April 24, at DeLucchi Park next to the Farmers Market. This will be a great place to buy paints, frames, canvas, art books, pottery and more. Booth space is also available; 10x10 space for \$25. For information, call Gail Ruvalcaba at 846-8960.

**FARMERS MARKET** Island Earth's farmers market is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays in the parking lot between Macy's and Sears at Stoneridge Shopping Center. It features organic produce, artisan wares, fresh flowers and more. Call 510-769-1525 or visit [islandearthfarmersmarket.org](http://islandearthfarmersmarket.org).

**HIKE FOR HOPE** A hike like no other, this non-competitive memorial hike takes place from 9 a.m. to noon May 1 along the scenic trails of the Sunol Regional Wilderness. Designed for anyone who would like to honor a loved one, pledges will support the Hope Hospice Grief Support Center. Families welcome. Can't attend? Be an "In Spirit" hiker. Registration is \$25. Call 829-8770 or visit [www.thehikeforhope.com](http://www.thehikeforhope.com).

**LUNCH IN LIVERMORE** The event is at 11:45 a.m. April 22 at Uncle Yu's, 39 South Livermore, Livermore. The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California would like you to join them for lunch. 2010. RSVP by April 17. Cost menu choice. Call 999-9936.

**PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE** Pleasantonians 4 Peace sponsors a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. the sec-

ond Wednesday of the month and a peaceful war protest at 5 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month, both 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 visualizes 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](mailto:mjs7882@gmail.com); or visit [www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org](http://www.Pleasantonians4Peace.org).

**ROBOTS IN ACTION OPEN HOUSE** Adept Technology will host the "Robots in Action" Open House from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, April 16, at Adept Technology, Inc., 5960 Inglewood Dr. Come "explore the possibilities" of human/machine interaction. Demonstrations will include robots being controlled by human brain activity, the new iPad & Wii. Admission is free. Call 245-3400 or visit [www.adept.com/nrw](http://www.adept.com/nrw).

**THIRD ANNUAL WINE TASTING SILENT AUCTION** The event is from noon-4 p.m. April 25 at White Crane Winery, 5405 Greenville Rd., Livermore. The event benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Local wineries showcase wines for tasting while you enjoy finger food, music, inspirational speakers, and drawings. Silent auction items. Cost \$25. Call 413-7788 or visit [www.WineHike.ticketleap.com](http://www.WineHike.ticketleap.com).

**TRI-VALLEY SPORTS HALL OF FAME** Join Easter Seals Bay Area and more than 400 local Tri-Valley community members as they honor the contri-

butions of Tri-Valley athletes from 5:30 to 10 p.m. April 29 at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. Banquet tables are \$1,000 for eight seats or tickets are \$125. Call 510-835-2131 ext. 103 or visit [bayarea.easterseals.com/tvshof](http://bayarea.easterseals.com/tvshof).

## Exhibits

**SEWARD JOHNSON SCULPTURES IN DOWNTOWN PLEASANTON** The sculptures will be on display from April 1 through June 30. City of Pleasanton is hosting an interactive art exhibit by internationally known sculptor J. Seward Johnson to sidewalk locations in downtown Pleasanton. Eleven life-size, three-dimensional bronze sculptures depict the everyday activities of people who may be found anywhere. Call 931-5355 or email [jfinegan@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:jfinegan@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

**THROUGH THE GLASS EYE** The exhibit is open from 11-5 p.m. April 16, 17, and 18 at Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. Photographic landscapes will be on display featuring Marc Davis, Chris Foster, Stephen Joseph, Lon Overacker and Lawrence Piggins. Reception for the artists is from 2-4

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## Film

**'THE COVE'** A screening of the Academy Award winning documentary, "The Cove," which exposes the secret Japanese annual extermination of dolphins, will be hosted from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Saturday, April 24, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. There is wheelchair access and convenient parking. This event is free, but a donation of \$3 will be appreciated. Call 462-3459.

**'FLOW' MOVIE SHOWING** The Environmental Club will be showing the award-winning film "Flow" about the world water crisis and the issues surrounding privatization of water at 7 p.m. April 21 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Snacks will be sold. Call 484-1652 or visit [www.avhsenvironmentalclub.blogspot.com/](http://www.avhsenvironmentalclub.blogspot.com/).

## Fundraisers

**4-H PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER** The Sunol 4-H 44th annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser is from 8 a.m. to noon April 25 at Sunol Glen Elementary School, 11601 Main St., Sunol. It includes silent auction, plant sale, and bake sale. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Call 510-862-6247 or email [phartkopf@yahoo.com](mailto:phartkopf@yahoo.com).

**5TH ANNUAL INDIAN DINNER** The event is from 5:30-8 p.m. April 18 at the Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. The Tri-Valley Chapter of Sisters in Service hosts its annual Indian Dinner. Guest Speaker: Mano Vasanthraj - a ministry partner from India. Enjoy great music, fellowship and food. Cost \$10 for adults and \$3 for children. Call 998-3785 or visit [www.sisterinservice.org](http://www.sisterinservice.org).

**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.

**E-WASTE RECYCLING FUNDRAISER** Hart Middle School will host an E-Waste Recycling fundraiser from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, April 25, at Lucky's parking lot at the corner of Hopyard & West Las Positas. Proceeds benefit Hart's Parent Association. Cash donations will be accepted. TVs, monitors and cell phones will be accepted for free. \$5 fee for CPUs, printers, DVD/VCRs, copiers/fax and stereos. Visit <http://hartmiddleschool.org>.

**MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY** This fundraiser is from noon-4 p.m. April 24 at Aahmes Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. Join us for a fun afternoon including charming tea tables, food and a fashion show of authentic vintage clothing. Proceeds fund philanthropic programs in the Tri-Valley: school

clothes for local children-in-need, vision screening, and more. Cost \$50. Call 371-4566 or visit [www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org](http://www.amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org).

**PIZZA PARTY** Two local women, Heather and Elaine, are sponsoring a pizza fundraiser for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 20, at Papa Murphys Take and Bake, 1991 Santa Rita Rd., Pleasanton. You buy a pizza for your family to enjoy and the Avon Walk receives \$2. Call 417-7511.

**THE LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY** Hop Yard Alehouse and Grill will donate 20 percent of the net proceeds to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and Team HOLST from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, April 24, at Hop Yard, 3015 Hopyard Rd. Call 895-6607.

## Health

**MURPHY'S WAG AND WALK** The very first Murphy's Paw-sponsored dog walk will be held from 8-9 a.m., Saturday, April 17, starting at the store that is located at 410 Main St. This event is free. Call 600-8925 or visit [www.murphyspaw.com](http://www.murphyspaw.com).

**RAISING A CHILD THAT THRIVES** This event is from 7-9 p.m. April 19 at Harvest Park Middle School, 4900 Valley Ave. Hosted by Todd Sarner, a Marriage and Family Therapist, will be talking about attachment parenting. Have you ever wondered if there was another option for dealing with behavior problems in your child? Call 519-3003 or visit [www.holisticmoms.org](http://www.holisticmoms.org).

**RECLAIMING YOUR SEXUAL PASSION: ENHANCING YOUR DESIRE SEXUAL FULFILLMENT** The meeting is from 11-1:30 p.m. April 17 at Kaiser Medical Offices, 7601 Stoneridge Dr., north building, 2nd floor, conference rooms A/B/C. Women-only lecture about "Reclaiming Your Sexual Passion." Increase communication and intimacy in your relationship. Open to members and non-members, RSVP to 847-5110.

## Holiday

**AN AFTERNOON OF POETRY ABOUT MOM** Rebecca Foust, Joan Gelfand and Deborah Grossman will read poems in honor of mothers from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, May 2, at Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$5; free of charge for students. Light refreshments and an open mic will follow the readings.

## Kids & Teens

**FAMILY MUSICAL FUN AT THE LIBRARY** Parents' Choice award-winning duo Toucan Jam present "A World of Music" featuring music, songs and instruments from around the globe at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 2, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. This free, interactive, high-energy concert is great for all ages. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

**FREE TEEN WORKSHOP** "Body Acceptance at Any Size" is from 2-4 p.m. April 18 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Av. Are you critical about your body? Do you diet or skip meals to lose

weight? No body is perfect-we all come in different sizes, shapes and colors. We'll discuss how self-acceptance is important to happiness. Jamba Juice card for participating. Call 600-9762 ext 7 or email [jjuelee@gmail.com](mailto:jjuelee@gmail.com).

**PETCO HAMSTER BALL DERBY** The event is from 2-4 p.m. April 24 at PETCO, 11976 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Kids across the country are gearing up for PETCO's annual Hamster Ball Derby, start training your furry pet today. For more information about the derby visit [www.petco.com/hamster](http://www.petco.com/hamster).

## Lectures/ Workshops

**THE 2010 WOMEN'S SUCCESS IMPERATIVE** The lecture is from 6-9 p.m. April 20 at the Pleasanton Hilton, 7050 Johnson Dr. The eWomenNetwork is leading a charge to help make 2010 the most driven & coordinated expression of unity among businesswomen ever. Lifting up each other. Cost \$55 nonmembers \$55 non-members, \$45 eWN members \$45 and \$65 beginning April 17. Call 510-523-2568 or visit [www.events.ewomennetwork.com](http://www.events.ewomennetwork.com).

## Live Music

**DEL VALLE FINE ARTS PRESENTS THE PARISSI STRING QUARTET** The performance is at 8 p.m. April 17 at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Founded in 1984 by prize-winning graduates of Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris, the Parisii Quartet won early acclaim at 3 major international competitions. Program includes: Debussy: Quartet in G minor; Chausson: Quartet in C minor; Ravel: Quartet in F Major. Cost \$20-\$30, high school free, college \$10 day of concert. Call 373-6800 or visit [www.livermoreperformingarts.org](http://www.livermoreperformingarts.org).

## Recreation

**3RD ANNUAL LADY BUG RELEASE** They're cute as a bug, but don't let it fool you. Did you know that ladybugs are ferocious predators? They are if you're an aphid! Visit the lady bugs at 11 a.m. April 24 at the Alviso Adobe Community Park and find out how they can help keep gardens healthy and safe. Cost is \$8 for residents or \$11 for non-residents. Call Eric Nicholas, 931-3483.

**NIGHT HIKE WITH THE NAT** Join the City Naturalist for a night hike around Bernal Creek from 6:30 to 8 p.m. April 24. Learn about local wildlife, plants, habitats, tracking and much more. Dress with weather in mind. Cost is \$8 for residents or \$11 for non-residents. Call Eric Nicholas, 931-3483.

**RIDGE RUNNER COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING** Calling all former Ridge Runner Campers. A counselor-in-training meeting will be from 2 to 5:30 p.m. April 17 at Augustine Bernal Park. Learn about tracking, emergency preparedness and wilderness travels as you gain experience for possible future summer employment. Cost is \$15 for residents or \$20 for non-residents. Call Eric Nicholas, 931-3483.

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