

Pleasanton Weekly

Lots of pies: Pleasanton pumpkin tips the scales at 823 pounds **PAGE 5**

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VOL. XI, NUMBER 40 • OCTOBER 15, 2010

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Making sense of science

Sandia's intern program prepares top students for research leadership **PAGE 10**

COMMITMENT AND LEADERSHIP

During my 16 years of elected service to Pleasanton, I have proven that I am an effective, experienced leader with integrity.

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- 2 terms School Board President
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Awarded:

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- Chamber of Commerce, Community Service Award
- Pleasanton Weekly "Woman of the Year"

ENDORSEMENTS

"We endorse Councilwoman Cindy McGovern for mayor... Of the two mayoral candidates, McGovern was the one sensitive to the concerns of residents during the fight over hillside development..."

Valley Times

"McGovern recognizes the ... huge long-term debt the City must bring under control quickly... The community needs leaders who respect the will of the voters."

Tri-Valley Herald

"Cindy McGovern is the best choice for Pleasanton Mayor... She never forgets that she is there to serve the people of Pleasanton. She can be trusted to provide an honest, transparent explanation for any decision she makes. We believe she would be a unifying force as mayor."

The Independent

Paid for by McGovern for Mayor, FPPC #1268435

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

It takes money to win an election

True to the requirement of a state legislative law enacted back in 1893, candidates for election as mayor and city council members in Pleasanton have filed the Form 460s showing how much money they've raised, have spent and what others are contributing in kind to help them in their campaigns.

There were no surprises in the Campaign Finance Disclosure Reports for the upcoming election with council-candidate Jerry Thorne once again outpacing the others with contributions totaling \$19,015 for this election period, a bit ahead of Cheryl Cook-Kallio who has received \$18,315. The others are trailing with single-digit earnings (we're talking in the thousands of dollars here). The newcomer to the council race, Karla Brown, has \$9,837 in contributions, followed by mayoral candidate Cindy McGovern with \$8,780 and Mayor Jennifer Hosterman with \$8,080. Tea Party council candidate Fred Watson has raised \$2,001, but that appears to be a loan he made to himself to get the campaign rolling.

Campaign expenditures, which the state also requires be accurately reported, vary from the donation totals. In this category, Thorne is the front-runner, having spent \$14,970 so far on printing, signs and newspaper ads, including in this newspaper, which we're glad to have. Next is Hosterman, who has spent \$11,108; Cook-Kallio at \$10,881; Karla Brown at \$6,233; and McGovern at \$3,769.

Watson, the operations manager at Open Heart Kitchen, shows in his 460 that he's spent nothing so far, although he must have paid a filing fee of \$1,142 to get his name in the Sample Ballot, which the other candidates have reported. He also has a few campaign signs on home yards in Pleasanton. City Clerk Karen Diaz has asked him to re-file the campaign expenditure report.

Since part of the state reporting requirement also makes candidates fess up to just who is contributing to their campaign, the 460s provide a quick look at who's behind these folks, financially speaking, at least. In Pleasanton, full disclosure starts at \$25, which most contributors think is far too low when other cities don't disclose names until the contributions reach \$50 or \$100. Since there are many in the \$25 and \$50 donation category, I'll only tell you who's spent

more than \$100.

And to be fair, I'll out those contributors alphabetically starting with Brown. I'd end with Watson but for the fact he has only four contributors besides himself, and none gave more than \$75.

For Karla Brown, Allen Roberts of the "Save Pleasanton's Hills" citizens' coalition contributed \$1,000; Lou Astbury, \$200; John Carroll, \$250; Richard Pugh, \$250; William Rasnick, \$200; Steve Brozovsky, \$250; Christine Schlies, \$150; and Greg O'Connor, \$500.

Cheryl Cook-Kallio is next, with contributors to her campaign for re-election to the City Council including Kathleen Wat, \$500; Nancy Allen, \$200; Teresa Cox, \$150; Carol Molinaro, \$150; Robert Molinaro, \$150 on Aug. 9 and \$250 on Sept. 9; Salwan Property Management & Investments, \$250; Frank Capilla, \$250; Boulder Company, LLC., \$250; Wendy's of the Pacific, \$500; Central Labor Council of Alameda County Solidarity PAC, \$250; U.A. Local 32 PAC, \$400; and Rental Housing Owners Association of Southern Alameda County, \$250.

Contributors to Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's re-election campaign include Jerry Anderson, \$500; Karen Chamousis, \$500; Jack Edwards, \$500; Tom and Sue Fox, \$200; Graham-Hitch Mortuary, \$200; Walter Lupeika, \$250; Rosemary Martelli, \$200; Robert Molinari, \$500; Matthew Solopov, \$500; John Steinbuch, \$200; Joan Theobald, \$200; Weldon Theobald, \$500; James Tong, \$500; Steve Watty, \$500; Brad-dock & Logan Services Inc., \$500; Joan Buchanan, \$250; The Bowlby Group, \$250; Leisure Sports, \$500; and USA Title Data Xpress Services Ltd., \$300.

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern has received the following contributions in her campaign for mayor: Allen Roberts, \$1,000; Louis Astbury, \$150; Chris and Christine Schlies, \$250; Joe and Lynn Candaux, \$350; John Carroll, \$250; Mark & Roberta Emerson, \$250; Richard Pugh, \$500; Julie Rasnick, \$200; Brenda Balletto, \$200; Steve and Annie Brozovsky, \$200; Richard Duffy, \$200; Robert Howe, \$200; Jim and Debi Frost & Lutkenhoust, \$200; Carol Molinaro, \$250; and June and Ray Thompson, \$125.

Councilman Jerry Thorne's contributors to his campaign for re-election include Daniel Tsai, \$500; Robert Molinaro, \$250; Tom Richert, \$200; Elizabeth Molinaro, \$200; Frank Capilla, \$250; Joe Johal, \$500; and the Rental Housing Association of Southern Alameda County, \$250. ■

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About the Cover

Mary Langham, a graduate of Amador Valley High School and now an undergraduate student at UC Davis, explains her poster at a Sandia/California lab symposium where she was an intern this summer. Photo by Dino Vournas. Cover design by Lil Cao.



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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Vote by mail ballots are now being distributed. Will you vote now, wait for more information, or vote at your polling place on Nov. 2?



Mike Stewart

Program manager

My wife and I will both be voting absentee ballot because it is much more convenient. I haven't decided how I will vote yet, though.

Tim Harkness

CEO, Biotech company

I will vote by mail. It's easier and I have always done it that way, though I do need time to gather more information in order to make my final choices.



Eric Carr

Engineering, Cisco Systems

I'm going to my polling place. With absentee voting, I can't be sure that my vote will count. But I know that if I actually go there to cast my vote, it will count.

Homaira Nekrawesh

Senior Banker

I need more time to decide how I will vote, but I will probably go to my local polling place.



Kelly Hilton

Teacher

I will be voting by mail and I have pretty much made my final decisions. I just have to send in the ballot.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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DIGEST

It's a Green Scene

Pleasanton and Hacienda Business Park are presenting a free Green Scene Fair for local employees and residents from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21, at the CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive in Pleasanton.

This comprehensive fair will feature 75 vendors specializing in green practices in six main categories: air, water, waste, commuting and transportation, healthy homes and healthy living, and energy. The event will include a treasure hunt and drawing of green-related prizes, plus will feature a display of fuel efficient vehicles. Sustainably produced food will be for sale.

The Green Scene Fair is the first in a series of activities and events that will be folded into Pleasanton's climate action plan for the entire community.

Holocaust author

Eva Libitzky, author of the memoir "Out on a Ledge: Enduring the Lodz Ghetto, Auschwitz and Beyond," will make an appearance at Pleasanton's Congregation Beth Emek at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 19.

Libitzky's memoir, co-authored by Lehrhaus founding director and award-winning historian Fred Rosenbaum, tells the rarely examined story of a Hasidic girl in the Holocaust, a dutiful daughter who survived the Lodz ghetto, Auschwitz, a slave labor camp and Theresienstadt. Research led to unearthing documents from a German archive after 65 years.

Copies of the book will be available for signing in exchange for donations to Lehrhaus Judaica or the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. There is no charge to attend the event but donations are accepted for future programs. Congregation Beth Emek is located at 3400 Nevada St. in Pleasanton. Call 931-1055.

Time for Bon Appetit

Tickets are still available for Bon Appetit: Toasts and Taste of Fall, the eating extravaganza to benefit Pleasanton Partnerships In Education Foundation. Tickets at \$65 per person include 15 culinary experiences presented by competing teams of chefs and principals in one location with wine, live entertainment and a silent auction.

The event takes place from 6:30-10:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16, at CarrAmerica Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive in Pleasanton. For more information and tickets (over 21 only), go online at www.ppie.org or send email to mail@ppie.org. No tickets will be issued; names will be placed on a guest list.

Brown-Whitman debate presents few solutions

Crowds gather at Dominican University to hear — and protest — the candidates

BY RONNIE COHEN

Leaning on crutches, Tom Brokaw hopped into the center of the stage at Dominican University on Tuesday night to open the third and final televised gubernatorial debate between Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman. Before the cameras began rolling, the newscaster and debate moderator used his broken ankle as a metaphor for the condition of the Golden State.

"We're both broken at the moment," he said. "The difference is I hope to be repaired before the beginning of the year."

No one expects California's problems — a 12.4% unemployment rate, a public school system ranked at the bottom of the 50 states, a \$19 billion budget deficit, illegal immigration so rampant that the Republican candidate herself employed an undocumented housekeeper for nine years — to be fixed as quickly as Brokaw's ankle. And the two candidates offered little in the way of concrete solutions to the state's daunting problems during their hour-long debate.

Mostly, with just three weeks left until voters weigh in on the tightly contested race, the ex-eBay CEO and the attorney general jabbed at each other's weak spots. Brown questioned how much of her own money his billionaire opponent

would save under her plan to eliminate capital-gains taxes. Whitman rebuked the former two-term governor for his lukewarm apology after a Brown campaign worker who did not realize she was being taped was heard on a leaked voice-mail message calling Whitman a "whore."

"If you like the process we have in California, you should elect Jerry Brown," Whitman told the audience. "It will be the same old, same old."

Brown attacked Whitman's proposal for a temporary guest-worker program as "basically treating people from Mexico as semi-serfs."

A Dominican student walked out of hall after the debate saying: "I don't know how much debating was going on as opposed to bickering."

Outside the debate hall, supporters of each of the candidates screamed slogans over one another. Third-party candidates and people holding signs saying, "I am Nicky," referring to Nicky Diaz, the housekeeper Whitman fired after learning she was in this country illegally, began gathering two-and-a-half hours before the debate. Green Party supporters wearing green gags around their mouths chanted, "Let Laura debate."

Not only did Dominican and NBC, hosts of the debate, bar Green Party candidate Laura Wells of Oakland from participating in the



ROBERT VENTE

Gubernatorial candidates Meg Whitman and Jerry Brown make nice before the debate Tuesday while moderator Tom Brokaw hobbles to his place.

debate, she was arrested when she tried to enter the hall to watch it.

Wearing a green shirt with white stars, Larry Bragman, vice mayor of Fairfax and a Green Party member, demonstrated alongside Wells and introduced her and Marnie Glickman, co-chair of the Marin County Green Party, to someone who gave the two tickets to go into the hall. After Wells

See **DEBATE** on Page 8



MARY MARTIN

A great pumpkin

Harkening to the call of the Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival, Quentin Martin, a freshman at Foothill High School, planted a quarter-sized seed earlier this year then protected and nurtured the gourd as it grew — and grew and grew. He received the seed from his pumpkin-growing uncle in Castro Valley, who is a 10-veteran of the Pumpkin Fest, and when the plant was in its infancy Quentin placed it into specially prepared ground on property behind his home on May 23.

"I went up there one morning and it was this small little plant. Then the next morning it was overgrowing the box," he recalled. By September it was gaining 25-30 pounds a day.

Quentin protected it in a makeshift greenhouse until Saturday when he and his dad Paul used a tractor and a harness to hoist it into the back of a pickup truck to travel to Half Moon Bay at 7 a.m. Monday for the weigh-in with about 50 others. Quentin's pumpkin tipped the scales at 823 pounds. His uncle's pumpkin, a sibling to Quentin's, weighed 868. The winning pumpkin, from Citrus Heights, was 1,535 pounds.

"I will definitely do it again next year," said Quentin. "I figured out some tricks from the guys that grew the big giants."

Teacher training highlighted at school board

State budget and Hearst mold project also discussed

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

While teachers across the country have been getting lambasted for poorly performing students and failing schools, their counterparts in Pleasanton have been addressing the problem for nearly a decade.

The Pleasanton school board heard an overview of three programs Tuesday night: two to help struggling teachers or teachers who just want to be their best, and a third for school administrators.

PAR, the district's Peer Assistance and Review program, was established in 2000 and began in the 2001-2002 school year, working with both referred teachers — those who have received an unsatisfactory evaluation — and voluntary teachers.

Those teachers work with consulting teachers, both singly and in groups. PAR includes classroom observations and peer support, and makes sure teachers are competent in their subjects. Among the topics set for group discussion this year are time management, lesson planning, learning to say "no," and defusing difficult situations.

A second program, TV/TIP, the Tri-Valley Teacher Induction Project, began in 2004 and is a two-year voluntary program for teachers from seven districts: Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, Sunol, Castro Valley and two local private schools, Carden West and Quarry Lane.

TV/TIP also includes coaching, and works collaboratively with PAR. It also incorporates a professional development component, with area colleges and universities, and seminars like 6-12 Classroom Management and Active Learning Instructional Practices.

The third program is for administrators, such as new principals. Like TV/TIP, it involves other

See **SCHOOL BOARD** on Page 8

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TV30 to air prep football

Tri-Valley Community TV30 will broadcast five Tri-Valley high school football games for the first time starting this weekend.

The games, played on Friday nights, will be broadcast the next day. Hosts from TV30 will include Ian Bartholomew, George "Dr. B" Baljevich and field reporting by Anna Kagarakis. Interviews during the game will include coaches, students and mayors.

The following games are scheduled:

- Oct. 15 — Livermore at California High
- Oct. 22 — Cal High at Granada
- Oct. 29 — Monte Vista at Foot-hill
- Nov. 5 — San Ramon Valley at Amador Valley
- Nov. 12 — Dublin at Dougherty Valley

"Production of this type is new for Tri-Valley TV," said Melissa Tench-

Stevens, executive director at TVCTV. "Last year we only broadcast one game so we could see what the feedback from the community would be. We received such an enthusiastic response we have increased our coverage to five games this year."

"We truly appreciate the underwriters from our community who have provided generous support and stepped up to make this happen," she added.

For complete air dates and times, visit the Tri-Valley TV web site at www.trivalleytv.org. In addition, the games will be available via Video on Demand at the website the following Monday. DVDs of the games also may be purchased.

Tri-Valley Community Television provides programming over channels TV28, TV29 and TV30 on Comcast Cable, over AT&T U-Verse channel 99, and live streaming on its website.

Fore! for Harvest Park

Golf tourney to benefit middle school

By **DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI**

A day on the greens can help out Harvest Park Middle School at its first golf tournament being held Friday, Oct. 22, at Callippe Preserve. That evening a dinner with a silent auction and entertainment by the Amador Jazz Combo will be held for golfers and non-golfers to enjoy.

"The funds will support different programs at school," said event co-chair Lorry Epps. "Two of the main areas are technology and academic intervention." This includes the afterschool study hall and reading programs.

The tournament is open to all skill levels, and is still accepting

sponsors, said Epps, including bronze for \$250 to display company name and logo on one hole; silver for \$500 for two holes; gold for \$750 with name and logo at clubhouse entrance and golf patio; and platinum for \$1,000 with name and logo at clubhouse entrance, golf patio and dining facility.

Donations are also needed in the form of services, prizes, products or merchandise to support the tournament and the silent auction.

Cost to play is \$160 individuals or \$600 for a foursome. Dinner only is \$40 per person. Call 600-8493 or mail entry to 5982 Via Del Cielo, Pleasanton 94566, check payable to Harvest Park Middle School PTA. ■

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GLENN WOHLTMANN

Local officials urge Yes vote on Prop 22

A crowd of local officials gathered Tuesday to protest a state practice that's shifted billions from city budgets to the California budget, and to ask voters to approve Proposition 22. The policy, known as ERAF (Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds), has taken millions from Pleasanton alone, according to Mayor Jennifer Hosterman.

"In our little town of Pleasanton, with only 70,000 people, the state has stolen a little over \$100 million," Hosterman said. "It's completely dysfunctional."

Hosterman was joined by Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Chief Jim Miguel and others, including representatives from the Fremont library and Chamber of Commerce, outside a firehouse near the Livermore Airport that's been shut down as a result of ERAF. Miguel said the station's closure had led to increased response times for firefighters who now have to travel from other stations.



TONI BUENZ

Perfect 10

Pleasanton's Morgan Buenz was a perfect 10 when she was born 10 minutes after 10 on the 10th day of the 10th month in 1990 plus was the 1,010th baby born at Eden Medical Center that year. The local newspaper at the time memorialized the event with a photo of the baby with her parents, Toni and Doug Buenz. Morgan, a 2008 Foothill High grad, returned to Pleasanton last weekend from the University of Southern California to celebrate turning 20 on Oct. 10. Festivities included 10 cupcakes and a lottery ticket purchased on the 10th for \$5 — that yielded \$50. "The multiples of 10 just seem to continue," said Toni.

Safeway on council agenda

City cancels Election Day meeting

The City Council will have the first reading Tuesday, Oct. 19, on plans by Safeway to build one of its new "Lifestyle" supermarkets in Pleasanton with a scheduled opening of November next year. The project was OK'd by the Planning Commission in August.

The multi-million-dollar Safeway complex on Valley Avenue near Bernal and I-680 will include the large supermarket and other small retail shops, restaurants, a drive-through pharmacy and outdoor dining. Safeway also is reserving an additional 10,000 square feet for possible future expansion of its store.

The Pleasanton City Council cancelled its Election Day meeting Nov. 2, despite the fact that usually it meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month. If the election results are tabulated in time, the council members and mayor elected could be seated at the Nov. 16 meeting.

—Dolores Fox Ciardelli



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SCHOOL BOARD

Continued from Page 5

schools and runs two years. It includes topics such as recruitment and working with new teachers, understanding school culture, and leadership styles.

All three programs have been successful, according to Kim Ortiz, who began TV/TIP. She said 90% of the teachers who have been through that program are still teaching.

With the new state budget in place, the school board also got an update on funding from Assistant Superintendent Business Services, Luz Czares.

Czares said the budget was 100 days late, the latest in California history, and contains what she described as a number of "shaky assumptions" including banking on federal funds that may not materialize and a "rosy" prediction of the economy. She said

it also includes money from the sale of state property that may not occur and assumes \$7.5 billion in expenditure reductions, although the first quarter of the state's fiscal year has already passed.

On the positive side, Czares said \$400,000 in cuts that were part of the governor's May revise were restored, and that the district will also see \$500,000 in mandate reimbursements, something she said she hasn't seen in years. The state also passed along \$2.7 million in federal stimulus money; Czares had worried that the state might take all or part of that funding.

The district will still have to deal with deferred payments that were part of the budget. Instead of disbursing money in April and May, the state won't make that payment until July. That will require the district to borrow money to get through those months.

In other matters, the school board:

■ Heard an update on the Hearst Elementary mold remediation project, which is now 90% complete. Principal Michael Kuhfal and a number of teachers and staff were thanked for their work in keeping the school running smoothly from the time the mold was discovered and doing the necessary work with a minimum of problems. As of Sept. 30, that project has cost more than \$1 million, although the district is hoping to recoup some of that money from the original builder.

■ Proclaimed Oct. 10-16 as Disability History Week. The request came from the Disability Action Network for Youth (DANY); Jack Nespore, a member of that group, was recognized for his work in bringing the resolution before the board. ■

DEBATE

Continued from Page 5

and Glickman, who lives in San Rafael, made their way through one security barrier and were standing on the stairs a few feet away from the auditorium entrance, Glickman said a plainclothes security guard stopped them.

Wells, wearing a bright green shirt and a black skirt, refused to step down from the stairs, and security officers and plainclothes police officers surrounded her a little more than an hour before the debate's start.

"I'm a candidate," she said, her voice rising as a security guard held her arm. "I even won my primary. We want to have solutions, not the status quo."

About half a dozen officers led Wells to a squad car. A San Rafael police press release says officers arrested the 62-year-old Green Party candidate for trying to enter the hall with someone else's ticket. Wells, the release says, presented a

ticket issued to someone else and refused to relinquish it to campus security when asked to do so.

She was cited for trespassing, released and is scheduled to appear in Marin County Superior Court on Nov. 2 — Election Day.

"Laura's arrest epitomizes the poverty of a political culture which has abandoned youth, the unemployed and the foreclosed," Bragman said in an email message. "In these difficult days, California needs more voices and more choices if it is ever to progress beyond the wall of political conformity, which is crushing its future."

Other politicians were given tickets to the event. All the members of the San Rafael City Council received tickets, as did members of the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Assemblyman Jared Huffman attended.

The university distributed nearly 800 tickets through a lottery, but some audience members said they were offered the tickets without applying. Each of the candidate's supporters was supposed to get 10 tickets. Brown gave one of his to 15-year-old Ethan Borrasso, a student at Oakland Military Institute, who sat next to his proud mother in his dress military uniform. Brown founded the institute as a charter school in 2001, when he was mayor of Oakland.

After the debate, Supervisor Steve Kinsey pronounced Brokaw the winner. "They were punchy questions, even if you didn't get punchy answers," Kinsey said.

Brokaw kicked off the debate by quoting President John Kennedy's inaugural request: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country" and asking the candidates to tell Californians what sacrifices they would have to make.

Whitman deflected the question and talked instead about coming to California 30 years ago with her husband as newlyweds and living the California dream, a dream she says is now broken, and she can fix. Before her time was up, Whitman did add: "There's going to have to be some shared sacrifice." But she did not say what the sacrifice might be.

Brown offered no more specifics.

"We do have to make some tough decisions, live within our means," he said. "We're going to have to rise above the poisonous partisanship."

But the partisanship continued unabated Tuesday night.

When Brown fumbled, intending to say he had the backing of the police chiefs but instead saying, "I've got the police chiefs in my back..." and stopped to correct himself, Whitman laughed and interjected that her opponent meant to say "in his back pocket."

After passionately advocating for federal immigration reform, Brown said he did not want to get into the uproar over Whitman's housekeeper but launched right into it.

"We have millions of people here illegally," he said. "They're in the shadows. We need comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level. We need to think about this very carefully — not just from a political point of view but from a human point of view. These are real people, mothers, dads and kids. They have this fear, the fear that her housekeeper had."

"It's kind of a sorry tale. After working for her for nine years, she didn't even get her a lawyer."

Nicky Diaz, Whitman's former housekeeper, has become a symbol of the national immigration quandary. Whitman says she hired Diaz, who is from Mexico, through an employment agency and was under the impression she had the legal documents necessary to work in the United States. In June 2009, when Whitman learned Diaz had forged her documents, she fired her on the spot.

"It's not fair that we work hard and then get thrown away like garbage with no thought about what will happen to us," Diaz said in a news conference.

A couple of Spanish-speaking women carrying signs saying, "I am Nicky," assembled with their children outside the debate hall.

Alondra Torres held a sign saying, "No Megusta." The 14-year-old Santa Rosa middle school student accused Whitman of lying and trying to buy votes. "Jerry Brown was with Cesar Chavez," she said, "and we want it to be the same story as it used to be." ■

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Transitions

WEDDINGS • ENGAGEMENTS • OBITUARIES • BIRTHS

Services tomorrow for Derek Allen

The life of Pleasanton resident Derek Allen, 22, will be celebrated by friends and family tomorrow. He was struck and killed by a bus in San Francisco around 5 p.m. Oct. 7 while riding his bicycle on Sixth Avenue between Geary Boulevard and Clement Street.

The memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 16, at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. A reception will follow from 1-4 p.m. at the St. Augustine Catholic Church hall, 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. There will be an open mic for friends to read poems, play music or otherwise share memories.

To pay tribute to his passion for the visual arts, a memorial fund has been set up in his name to benefit the Amador Valley High School ceramics program, which meant so



much to him as he developed his artistic talents.

Mr. Allen was a 2006 graduate of Amador Valley high school. He is survived by his mother Karen Haley Allen of Pleasanton, and his father John Michael Allen. ■

OBITUARIES

Joyce Theodore

Joyce Theodore, a Pleasanton resident for more than 60 years, died Oct. 8 at the age of 79.

She was born in Alabama on Feb. 14, 1931, to Emmet and Tula Walker, and moved to Livermore when she was 13 years old.

Mrs. Theodore enjoyed cooking, gardening, ceramics and bowling. She took great joy in her family, especially her grandchildren, and her dogs.

She was predeceased by her hus-



band, Erman Theodore Sr., her oldest son Gary Kruse and her sister Mary Abrott. She is survived by her daughter Vicki Leon of Pleasanton and sons Erman Theodore Jr. of Discovery Bay and Steve Kruse of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, grandchildren Sofia Leon, Brodie Theodore, Chelsie Theodore, Jasmin Kruse, Steve Kruse Jr. and Melissa Kruse plus many great-grandchildren and nieces, nephews and friends.

A visitation will be held from 6-7 p.m. today with a 7 p.m. service at Graham Hitch Mortuary in Pleasanton. Burial service will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow at St. Augustine's Cemetery in Pleasanton. Donations may be made to the Heart Association or Arthritis Foundation.

ENGAGEMENTS

Compeau-Cornfield

Kimberley Compeau of Tracy and Clint Cornfield of Pleasanton have announced their engagement and plan to marry July 16 at Diablo Grande Resort in Patterson. Clint proposed to Kimberley on June 9 while kayaking in Monterey Bay.

Kimberley is a 2004 graduate of Tracy High School. Clint is a 2006 graduate of Foothill High School. The couple earned their bachelor degrees from California State University Monterey Bay in May; they both work for the International School of Monterey.

Kimberley is the daughter of Dave and Cathy Compeau of Tracy. Her grandparents are Pat Allgrove of Tracy, Gordon Allgrove of Santa



Cruz and Jo Thompson of San Jose.

Clint is the son of Scott and Sandi Cornfield of Pleasanton. His grandparents are Audrey and Bob Cornfield of Sunol, and Georgia and Warren Potts of Lodi.

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Making sense of science

Sandia's intern program prepares top students for research leadership

BY JEB BING

Sandia National Laboratories in Livermore hosted 115 of the country's top science, engineering and administration students this summer, including three from Foothill and Amador Valley high schools.

"It was a very unique experience, and I'm very grateful to my mentor and Sandia for being so enthusiastic about getting high school and college students into science research," said Prihatha Narasimmaraj, who graduated as valedictorian last June from Foothill High and is now a freshman at Princeton University.

Sandia/California is a premier science and engineering lab for national security and technology innovation. As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, Sandia conducts R&D work to meet national needs in five mission areas: energy and infrastructure assurance, homeland security, defense systems and assessments, nuclear weapons and nonproliferation.



Its summer program, which is part of a year-long program that offers internships to students both in Livermore and at Sandia's headquarters near Albuquerque, places students with mentors and involves them in actual on-going projects they help advance or complete.

The program "promotes training and professional development in research, applied science, technology and engineering as well as providing career guidance," said Kelly Nykodym, who has the unique title of Talent Acquisition manager for Sandia/California.

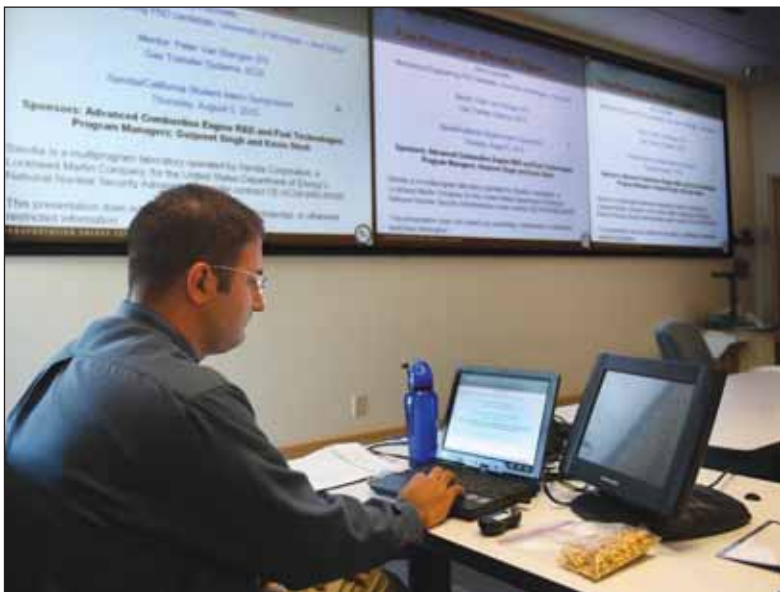
"By bringing high-achieving students to Sandia for research and applied

interns," Nykodym said. "We only take those chosen coming from undergraduate colleges and universities."

Internships are something like a full business needs on its website and then views to work with mentors on "real-life" contributing to Sandia's work program.

Typically, an internship lasts 10-12 weeks of experience and skills, ranging from \$10

"We also use some skilled students as part of a red team to poke holes in our security. These students come with pretty exciting professional ideas and it's fun for our researchers to work



internships, we have the opportunity to show them what Sandia is all about," she added.

Interns work with accomplished scientists and engineers to contribute to the fulfillment of Sandia's mission. In addition, enhanced learning and social activities give them a chance to interact with each other and their mentors as well as experience what the Bay Area has to offer.

Besides Narasimmaraj, the other Pleasanton students at Sandia this summer were Mary Langham, a graduate of Amador Valley High and now an undergraduate student at UC Davis, and Chelsea Finn, a 2010 graduate at Foothill who is now attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Narasimmaraj's poster, introduced at a recent intern symposium was on the "Induction curvature and tabulation on temporary lipid compositions of giant unilamellar vesicles."

Langham's was just as simple: "Scalable synthesis of nanoporous palladium powders and alloys."

Finn, in displaying her poster, talked about "Differences in ligand binding specificity with dihydrofolate reductase."

Walking from one end of Sandia's main research building lobby to the other, the posters and their content were just as scientific in details, hardly conducive to a layman reporter's interpretation.

"It's a real credit to these high school students to have been selected as

\$30 for returning and more advanced internships," Nykodym said there are time-outs for students and even trips across East Avenue to the lab, which offers noon-time concerts on Fridays.

Other than their proximity as neighbors, the students are independent of the other. Sandia is operated by a consortium led by the Berkeley Lab and UC Berkeley.

Narasimmaraj, whose parents and 10 siblings live in Pleasanton, where she attended elementary and middle school, enjoys playing tennis and the piano, enjoys cooking and is a member of the Princetonian.

She also interned at Sandia last summer.

Asked to explain this summer's project, she said her mentor Dr. Darryl Sasaki on exploring the synthesis of vesicles from different compositions and sizes. This showed how the polymer would be used in a variety of important systems because lipids have several applications in biological systems and even solar power.

Interns also work together as teams. Wang, a Cornell University student, is currently working on imaging the vesicles.



DINO VOURNAS

Summer interns at Sandia/California laboratory explain scientific papers they posted after a summer of internship on special projects at the lab. Below, an intern makes a PowerPoint presentation during the internship program at Sandia/California lab.

...a very few each year with most of...
...ate and graduate programs at leading...
...-time job at Sandia. The lab posts its...
...hires qualified applicants after inter-...
...-life" projects so that they are actually...
...while they are there.
...weeks. The hourly pay is based on their...
...0 for beginning interns to as much as

"This experience has definitely helped me in several ways," Narasimmaraj said. "First, it gave me some exposure to more advanced science, specifically organic chemistry, as well as lab experience. This was helpful because I plan on majoring in molecular biology."

"More importantly, though, this was my first 'real job,' so I learned a lot about working with others, satisfying deadlines and producing results when needed," she added.

For "Talent Search" manager Nykodym, the end of the summer internship program signals the start of campus recruiting for next year's interns, as well

...y system to check on its vulnerability.

...with them." Kelly Nykodym, Talent Acquisition manager for Sandia/California

...interns. Although the work is intense, ...
...social activities, luncheons, volleyball ...
...the Lawrence Livermore Lab, which of-

...as for full-time employees for Sandia/California. Sandia managers are now ...
...making their specific job requests for interns with decisions scheduled to be ...
...made in January and February.

"It's a rolling application kind of thing," Nykodym said. "We recruit at our ...
...core college campuses but anyone who meets our requirements is invited to ...
...apply."

Undergraduates must have a 3.2 GPA to be considered; graduate students ...
...need as 3.5. They also must be full-time students and U.S. citizens.

"The program provides a primary pipeline for excellent talent for our full- ...
...time positions," Nykodym said. "We also use some skilled students as part of ...
...a red team to poke holes in our security system to check on its vulnerability. ...
...These students come with pretty exciting professional ideas and it's fun for ...
...our researchers to work with them."

Sandia also has special outreach programs for local high schools, including ...
...its Stars program that provides awards to outstanding young women in high ...
...school science programs.

Nykodym, who works with Mike Janes, public and media relations officer ...
...at Sandia/California, joined the Livermore facility four years ago from a con- ...
...sulting position in Washington, D.C.

"Sandia's work-life balance reputation is one of the biggest things that attracted ...
...me," she said. "The mission of the lab is working for the greater good and the ...
...chance to also work with students is both exciting and important to me." ■

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Re-elect McNerney to Congress; Elect Abram Wilson to 15th Assembly District

We first met Jerry McNerney when he and his wife Mary stood at the corner of Farmers Market and Main Street seeking votes for his singular effort among Democrats to challenge Richard Pombo's re-election bid for the 11th Congressional District. Few stopped to shake his hand, but we did and took an immediate liking to this long-time Pleasanton homeowner-turned-citizen-activist whose son urged him to challenge Pombo when other Democrats wouldn't. He lost that race but came back strong in 2006 to win the Democratic Party nomination and in November the Congressional election. He did it again in 2008 and we support his bid for re-election to a third term in office on Nov. 2.

Not only has McNerney made his mark in Washington and the district he serves, especially in areas of energy, transportation, education and veterans' affairs, but he continues to be our "Congressman on the corner," as he likes to call his frequent Pleasanton chats on Main Street and in other Tri-Valley locations. Whether it's serving meals to homeless veterans at the recent Stand Down at the Fairgrounds or at neighborhood homecomings when we gather to welcome back Pleasanton military men and women from Iraq

and Afghanistan, McNerney is there with a Congressional citation in hand. He comes back from Washington almost every weekend to his home in Val Vista where he and his wife Mary have raised their children and are often seen at hometown events such as First Wednesday street fairs.

His Republican challenger in this year's election is David Harmer, a San Ramon attorney who has represented the Pacific Legal Foundation and is campaigning as a lifelong Ronald Reagan Republican. Except for a pre-primary reception at Barone's Restaurant and an invitation-only speech at Castlewood Country Club, where he unknowingly crossed a union picket line, we've seen little of Harmer in Pleasanton. We appreciate McNerney's efforts to work for the constituents in his hometown and the 11th Congressional District that he represents and urge voters to cast their ballots for his re-election on Nov. 2.

15th Assembly District

San Ramon Mayor Abram Wilson lost in his 2008 bid for the 15th State Assembly District that covers the northeast portion of Pleasanton to Democrat Joan Buchanan of Alamo, a former member of the San Ramon Valley school board. Shortly after her election, she

campaigning for election to the 10th Congressional District seat that was being vacated by Ellen Tauscher, who was appointed by President Obama as undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security at the U.S. State Department. That brought shouts of protest from some in the 15th Assembly District who felt she was violating their trust in voting her into the state Legislature. Since then, she has done a commendable job as assemblywoman although generally following the majority on key votes, including this month's agreement to approve another stop-gap budget that was nearly 100 days overdue "because it was late and we needed to move on."

Wilson calls the fiscal year budget another way of subsidizing the future and "kicking the can down the road again." He signed a "No News Taxes" pledge and insists that he would take to Sacramento the same determination that has made San Ramon fiscally strong with no unfunded employee pension liabilities and ample reserves to meet municipal budget crises. He also is well-known in the Tri-Valley where he meets frequently with the mayors of Pleasanton, Danville, Dublin and Livermore, travels with them to Washington to lobby

for federal dollars to help the Valley's cities and school districts, and serves as a member of the board of the Tri-Valley's community television system where he is working to keep the system on air despite dwindling support from cable companies. As a member of the League of California Cities, he's joined other mayors in supporting a ballot measure that would prevent the state from seizing local gas tax and other municipal revenues to pay for state budget shortfalls, actions by the Legislature that are costing San Ramon's redevelopment agency \$3 million this year — and have cost Pleasanton more than \$4 million in local taxpayer revenue. His success as a mayor of San Ramon and a team player in Tri-Valley endeavors makes him a good choice for the 15th Assembly District in the Nov. 2 election. While we disagree with Wilson on some key issues, including the need to repeal the two-thirds budget vote requirement, we believe and hope he will take the non-partisan perspective of city government to Sacramento.

Other endorsements:

- State Sen. Ellen Corbett (D-10th) for re-election
- 18th Assembly District Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi (D-Castro Valley) for re-election

LETTERS

McGovern for mayor

Dear Editor,

Cindy McGovern is an excellent choice for mayor of Pleasanton. I have known Cindy for close to 30 years, and I know she has the heart of a public servant. I have worked with and/or observed her in numerous roles in PTA, School Site Council, Board of Education, and City Council. I've found 1) She has no hidden personal agenda; 2) She researches issues thoroughly; and 3) She asks the hard questions. She works well with people in respectful ways, and makes decisions based on what's right for the most people involved in situations affected by her vote. I heartily recommend a Yes vote for Cindy McGovern as mayor of our wonderful town.

Carol Boster

System at fault

Dear Editor,

As a junior at Foothill, I can safely say that I and many of my classmates have an excessive amount of homework. Many of us have long since forgotten how to be children. However, implying that the fault of this problem lies with the teachers is wrong.

Teachers are under serious pressure by the administration to produce results — tangible, numerical indicators of our "success." The district cares more about API numbers, WASC accreditation, and fill-in-the-bubble state tests than the true and complete edification of our minds. The system disregards the kind of education that the forefathers of our country envisioned for its youth, Jefferson's "crusade against ignorance." I cannot imagine that his intention was to force us to regurgitate facts but to be free-thinking, capable and worldly

citizens. The teachers that perpetuate robotic education are not necessarily to blame; they're just trying to do their jobs. I would not want them to be forced to revise their curriculums to fit any more "standards" than they already do.

While I know that I don't have to go to a UC, get a perfect SAT score, and achieve over a 4.0 GPA, many students don't. Please know that our children are suffering under these modern values, this oppressive force that tells us that we need to be academically flawless. Remind them that in this life, there are other paths to success. Know that it is not electronics, classes or teachers that are at fault, it is the system at its core.

Athena Lathos, Foothill High School Class of '12

Brown for Council

Dear Editor,

Pleasanton is a better city today and in the future thanks to the ef-

forts of citizen Karla Brown. Karla is an energetic and fearless worker that has been actively involved in making Pleasanton a better and safer place to live. Her successful efforts helped stop PG&E from placing high power lines directly under residential neighborhoods using untested technology. Also, she was a leader in the successful hillside protection initiative (Measure PP) that was passed by a significant majority of voters. Pleasanton is one of the last cities in the East Bay to develop such protection for the remaining undeveloped ridge tops. If not for Karla's efforts, I don't think that the underfunded grassroots effort to allow the voters to enact Measure PP would have succeeded in defeating the well funded efforts by special interest groups to prevent voters from being heard. In addition, Karla is a strong businesswoman and will focus her

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LETTERS

Continued from Page 12

energy and balanced judgment on reinvigorating our downtown area and keeping the city financially sound.

Vote Karla Brown for City Council!

Lou Astbury

Sierra Club for Brown

Dear Editor,

The San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed Karla Brown for the Pleasanton City Council. Karla Brown listens to the residents of the Pleasanton community, understands critical issues in depth, and then takes action. She strongly supports resident participation in the public process and has been a key leader in the effort to save the southeast hills from destruction.

After the City Council failed to develop a long overdue ridgeline preservation ordinance that was promised back in 1996, Karla Brown not only co-authored a ridgeline preservation initiative but collected petition signatures and qualified it for the ballot. Pleasanton voters overwhelmingly adopted this ridgeline preservation initiative in 2008.

Karla Brown has excellent credentials to protect the environment. The Sierra Club strongly recommends a vote for Karla Brown in November.

Richard Pugh, Sierra Club, Tri-Valley Group Executive Committee

'She really listens'

Dear Editor,

Joan Laursen really cares about our schools and has put in loving time over many years to strengthen our district. I truly appreciate all the time and effort she gave for implementing the CORE program in conjunction with PPIE. Joan made sure everyone knew exactly where our money would be going and how much we needed to reach each goal. She even worked long hours at Kindergarten Roundup speaking with many new parents who were interested in hearing about the CORE program. Because of CORE, our school libraries remained open and we kept our technology specialists.

Joan currently has a child in our school system and one that graduated from PUSD, and she has been closely involved all the way through. Joan understands all of the levels from elementary to high school. Her knowledge of school finance and education issues, combined with her financial background will really help us do the best we can for our children's education.

Joan is a delight to work with and she is always available for questions or comments. She really listens and her personable nature makes her easy to communicate with.

I am voting for Joan Laursen and I hope you will too.

Michelle Flanagan

Let's all vote

Dear Editor,

Last Weekly's editorial on the endorsement of the City Council incumbents was an example of excellent journalism, lacking only one point, in that of mentioning a third candidate, Mr. Fred Watson.

There are a couple of comments that should have been mentioned about Karla Brown that have disturbed many of us older residents. One: She broke our City Council protocol by announcing her candidacy at the City Council Meeting under matters not on the agenda. The Mayor should have stopped her to state that was not proper unless equal time was given to the other candidates. Two: When someone runs for City Council and they have just sponsored a recall that will cost the city of Pleasanton possibly a million dollars on the Oak Grove Project, we need to check their real interest in our community.

As in the past when a City Council member runs for mayor from a "safe seat" and wins, then the city has to have a special election according to our current law, so again we need to check out their real interest for our community financially.

Personally, I agree to the re-election of Cook-Kallio, Hosterman and Thorne. In two years Brown, Mc Govern and Watson can have another opportunity along with other dedicated citizens. Let's hope that Pleasanton has over 75% of registered voters cast ballots. Go P-town.

Howard Neely

Vote for Laursen

Dear Editor,

As a former school teacher in the Pleasanton Unified School District, I'm endorsing Joan Laursen for the Pleasanton School Board. I've known Joan for many years

and know she has the intelligence, the experience and the integrity for the job. Through CORE, she helped raise money for our school district at a critical time and she'll continue to support our district as a member of the school board. Please join me in voting for Joan Laursen for School Board in the November election.

Marilyn Foreman

Vote for McNerney

Dear Editor,

There are important reasons beyond being a Democrat or Republican that should go into the individual choices we make for our national elective representation. There are several that sway me to vote for Jerry McNerney for Congress.

Long arguments pro and con can be made regarding our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, the bulk of the cost of these wars has been borne by our service personnel and their families. Toward alleviating this, Congressman McNerney has written laws which will improve care for traumatic brain injuries, the signature wound from these conflicts. He has also gone to great lengths to keep and expand the VA facilities in this district.

Similarly, one can argue whether to now increase drilling for domestic oil supplies or to wait for an improved economy before going green. I agree with McNerney that we need to immediately expand our green energy economy. Through his leadership he has authorized a bill to expand green job training programs. We really need his two decades of renewable energy experience in our next Congress.

I met Congressman McNerney in a small meeting where he spent individual time with all who attended, addressing any questions and concerns we had.

Ron Rigge

Trusted voice

Dear Editor,

A vote to re-elect City Councilman Jerry Thorne is insurance that our quality of life here will continue. As difficult issues continue to arise, we need someone who will thoughtfully listen and fully consider the issues at hand, without a rush to judgment or unhelpful rhetoric. Jerry Thorne has tirelessly been that civil servant for the City of Pleasanton and his fellow residents. From his days on the Parks and Recreation Commission to his years on the city council, Jerry has ensured Pleasanton stayed on track with growth that doesn't outpace services, with parks and facilities that benefit everyone from kids to seniors, with continued concern over traffic congestion and senior housing, with dedication to both the workforce and the chamber of commerce, with a commitment to fight to retain the city's fair share of federal funding while also stopping the state's borrowing of local funds.

Please help keep Pleasanton's most trusted voice, Jerry Thorne, working for all of us. Your vote will continue his commitment to our city for everyone's benefit.

Jack Balch

Tireless advocate

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my support of Joan Laursen for Pleasanton School Board. The fact that Joan is running during these difficult economic times is a testament to her dedication and passion for public education. She has been a tireless advocate for students in Pleasanton for over 15 years both at the state and local level. Joan is the kind of person who thinks independently and backs up her beliefs with action. She is not

afraid to tackle tough issues, even when that comes at personal cost.

Joan's longtime service to Pleasanton ensures that she has a deep understanding of district policies, as well as the needs of our students and community. In Pleasanton we expect excellent schools. There is no one who understands this better than Joan Laursen. As a School Board member we can expect her to serve with the highest level of professionalism, commitment and a spirit of community. I urge you to join me in voting for Joan Laursen for School Board in the November election.

Eileen Armstrong

McNerney must go

Dear Editor,

Fellow citizens of the 11th Congressional District, we must vote for David Harmer and get Jerry McNerney out of office. McNerney doesn't seem to understand he's in Washington to represent and serve us. Instead, he seems to think he's there to serve Obama and Pelosi and implement their agenda regardless of what his constituents think.

Our country cannot afford more of the Obama/Pelosi agenda, and that's what we'll get if McNerney is re-elected. He voted for the \$800 billion "stimulus" bill that accomplished nothing. He voted for the \$800-plus billion Cap & Trade tax. Perhaps worst of all, he voted for Obamacare, the government takeover of healthcare, which we have learned will cost the country hundreds of billions of dollars and is already causing our premiums to rise despite all the promises to the contrary.

McNerney needs to go. The Obama/Pelosi agenda is not working, and we cannot afford it. Vote for David Harmer.

Dom Ochoa



Re-Elect Cheryl Cook-Kallio

City Council

www.votecook-kallio.com

Trusted Leadership: We must provide the best we can for our residents through tested leadership.

Economic Sustainability: Cheryl balanced the budget while sustaining city services and public safety. Cheryl will develop an economic stimulus program and streamline the permitting process.

Building Community: Cheryl was instrumental in revitalizing Pleasanton cultural centers. Cheryl will work to strengthen families by building transit oriented development and increasing access to affordable senior housing.

Regional Leadership: Regional collaboration is the most effective way to manage traffic congestion. Cheryl will fight for funds to ease traffic on 580/680 & 84.

Coming together in support of Cheryl:

- Congressman Jerry McNerney
- State Senator Ellen Corbett
- State Senator Loni Hancock
- Assemblymember Joan Buchanan
- Assemblymember Alberto Torrico
- Supervisor Scott Haggerty
- Former Mayors Brandes, Mercer & Pico
- Former Councilmembers Denis, Michelotti & Mohr
- Trustees Grant & Kernan
- Tim Sbranti, Mayor of Dublin
- Marshall Kamena, Mayor of Livermore
- The Alameda County Democratic Party
- The Alameda Central Labor Council
- The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce
- Livermore Pleasanton Firefighters

partial list

Paid for by Cook-Kallio for Council 2010 FPPC #1289382

A living lesson in history

Tuskegee Airman tells students about life in the '40s — and as a prisoner of war

BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

Foothill students could have watched a video or read about a chapter in American history. Instead, some 550 kids, along with some teachers and parents, got to hear about World War II and segregation from someone who lived it.

Retired Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson was a member of the now-famous Tuskegee Airmen, a group of black fighter pilots who literally saved thousands of lives while escorting bombers to and from runs into Germany.

"Where do I start? Do I start out as a young black — Negro — back in 1940?" Jefferson asked the crowd.

"In 1940, World War II is going on ... no blacks are flying for the Army Air Corps (the precursor to the U.S. Air Force). We raised all kinds of hell to get us to fly," he said.

Finally, after years of discrimination and segregation from the rest of the Army, Jefferson said Congress agreed to build a base in Tuskegee, Ala., to train blacks to fly.

"I had to be a college graduate. If you were white, you could be a high school dropout," he said, pointing to the man who broke the sound barrier, Chuck Yeager, as an example, although he added that Yeager "was a darn good pilot."

Jefferson, an 80-something former teacher, comes off as a grandfatherly figure. He peppered his language with mild oaths and said kids who don't know their history are "dumb-dumbs."

"If I were drafted, I'd go to the quartermasters: heavy, nasty, dirty work loading ships ... and I'd make \$21 a month," he said, explaining that at that time, cigarettes were a nickel a pack, eggs were a dime a dozen, and a new car sold for \$700.

To fly for the Army, he said, not only did he have to go through college, but he had to be "super."

"During the war, there was only 1,000 blacks who actually flew for the Army Air

Corps," Jefferson said. "Out of the 1,000, only 400 went across to Italy flying combat. We escorted B-17s. We flew top cover for the B-17s and B-24s that left Italy to bomb Berlin.

"I only had 18 missions. My 19th mission was a strafing run ... We went in, flying at these radar stations and suddenly, boom! There was a hole in the canopy right above me and fire come up through the floor. The dog-garn shell had come right up through."

Flying at treetop level at 400 mph, Jefferson said he had to gain altitude before he could parachute from the plane.

"Bang! I'm in the trees. I go down and get some black bruises, fortunately, no broken bones. Ordinarily, they'd say if you go parachute and go down in southern France, you dig a hole, hide your parachute and get with the free French, the French Marquee (resistance fighters). I got to my knees and I looked up and a dog-garn German says, 'Yah.' I said, 'Oh, hell, you got me.'

"The German enlisted man noticed the gold bar on my collar that said 'lieutenant.' He saluted me," Jefferson said. "I know he was flabbergasted because of my skin color ... His eyes got big."

Jefferson was taken from Toulon, France, where he was shot down to Frankfurt, Germany, to be interrogated.

"I stood before a guy at a desk, the interrogator. He pulled out a big book," Jefferson said. "He opened it up and all of a sudden I saw all of the pictures ever made at Tuskegee. I recognized them, they were my former classmates. He come to a page and said, 'Lieutenant, isn't this you?' There's my class picture, my graduation picture (taken) at Tuskegee Air Field — in Germany. All I could do is say, 'Yah.' He had my high school grades. I went to college at Clark College in Atlanta and he had all my grades ... He even knew how much (in) taxes my father paid on his house."

Jefferson said this was a lesson in Ameri-



GLENN WOHLTMANN
Foothill High School students (l-r) Su Wan Oh, Vivian Hare and Shabnam Mashhoon present Tuskegee Airman retired Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson with their paintings.

can history: While Japanese-Americans were forcibly removed from the West Coast and interred in concentration camps, nothing was done to prevent German-Americans from spying for their former country.

After his interrogation, Jefferson said, he was shipped to Stalag Luft 3, a prison camp for officers only. He said enlisted men were sent to different camps where they could be made to work.

"Why? Because of the Geneva Convention. You've heard of this," he said, bringing the issue current with a short aside about Guantanamo, where enemy combatants from Iraq and Afghanistan are being held.

"Bang! I'm in the trees. I go down and get some black bruises, fortunately, no broken bones. I got to my knees and I looked up and a dog-garn German says, 'Yah.' I said, 'Oh, hell, you got me.'

"Google the Geneva Convention. Find out what you're supposed to do," he said. "You young people — what are you going to do with these terrorists who were responsible for 9/11? You're going to have to answer this."

Returning to his personal experiences,

Jefferson said that as the lone black man in a prison camp, he got little respect from the other officers being held.

"I could almost feel the racism," he said, but added that things changed when the crew of a bomber was brought to the camp. "They came and said, 'If you Red Tails (Jefferson's fighter squadron) had been with us, we wouldn't have been shot down.'"

Jefferson was freed after nine months when Allied forces took the camp. After hearing about Jewish concentration camps, he said he went to Dachau to see for himself.

"All of a sudden, there's this odor, this smell. It's something I'll never forget," he said. "The ovens were still warm."

To those who don't believe in the Holocaust, Jefferson says, "I've seen it, smelled the stench. They can't tell me it never happened."

Upon his return to the U.S., Jefferson found new levels of racism. An enlisted man in Ohio refused to salute him. A war hero and self-admitted nerd who majored in chemistry and biology, Jefferson was unable to get a job. Ultimately, he became a teacher, and that's something he's continuing to do.

No longer confined to a class, he and the remaining Tuskegee Airmen travel, lecturing students, telling them to remember the past and to embrace the future.

"Our job is to inspire young people to excel in science, math, the arts — whatever," Jefferson said. ■

Kids find many ways to earn their money

Babysitting, mowing lawns — the list goes on

By KATIE LYNNESS

Many kids ask their parents for money when they need it, but some kids prefer to earn their money themselves. Although it might be more difficult to work for money as a kid, in the end they feel accomplished and spend their earnings more wisely than if their parent had just handed it to them.

Kaitlyn Schnierer, an eighth-grader at Pleasanton Middle School, babysits, typically one or two nights a week. She usually lets the parents decide how much to pay her by the number of kids or how well she does, and she enjoys the time she spends babysitting.

Kaitlyn describes her job as being mostly easy. "I just have to entertain the kids, feed them lunch or dinner, and anything else their parents ask me to do," she says.

Not only is her job mostly easy, but it's fun, too. Occasionally if the parents of the children ask for two babysitters, she brings a friend.

With or without a friend, Kaitlyn loves to play with the children and learn their different personalities, and she brings toys and games so the kids will have fun. She knows that even the simplest game or toy will be fun if it is something new and different.

Kaitlyn remembers her own experiences from when she had sitters. She uses some of her old babysitters as role models for how to act with the kids that she babysits now.

While Kaitlyn is working, she is also learning, she says, including that working for money is exciting. The only disadvantage is that once she has committed to a job, she can't back out.

"If a friend asks if you want to hang out, but you already agreed to babysit, you can't decline," Kaitlyn says.



Katie Lynness

Some of the advantages she names are meeting new people and getting paid. Also, she finds that babysitting motivates her more in other aspects of life. From babysitting, Kaitlyn says that she learns to manage her time well. Plus she has the satisfaction of doing a good job, especially when the kids are hugging her and are excited for the next time.

To help Kaitlyn, her parents drive her to and from the house where she is babysitting. In addition, they help her arrange the times and dates for babysitting, and they encourage her to do a good job.

When Kaitlyn has earned her money she can choose to spend it or save it. She likes to spend it on frozen yogurt when she goes to Yogoholic with her friends, and also on magazines, and on makeup.

Other kids in Pleasanton earn their money, too. Some mow the lawns in their neighborhood, help out around the house, walk dogs, run their own at-home businesses, collect recyclables and more.

Max Gershman, a Pleasanton eighth-grader, often works at Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton. He helps prepare food for various functions at the Jewish temple, and cleans up afterward.



KATIE LYNNESS

Kaitlyn Schnierer (right), an eighth-grader at Pleasanton Middle School, babysits one or two nights a week.

Aditya Palapati, a sixth-grade boy at Pleasanton Middle School, says, "I do the laundry and take out the trash. I'd also like to start walking people's dogs for money."

Kristin Farris, an eighth-grader who is new to Pleasanton, says she helps out her parents by making lunches every morning, doing the dishes, and helping with dinner.

"I also babysit sometimes, and I think that it motivates me to work harder," she adds.

Though most kids earn their money through chores, Neela Yar, an eighth-grader, receives money from her parents but does some helpful things for no money at all.

"I mow the lawn, mop/vacuum the floors, and help with our cats," says Neela.

She feels like she works very hard even though she does not actually get paid a specific price for a specific job.

Everyone benefits when children are hired to do a job. The kids get paid, while the adults save money since kids can often do the same work at a price much more favorable to the adult.

Most of the time parents appreciate their children working hard for their money so they add their own incentive. For example, some parents will "match" the amount of their child's earnings to support their hard work and encourage them to work for money in the future. Other parents reward their children with extra privileges.

"When children earn their own money, they learn the value of a dollar at a young age and are much more likely to become careful spenders as adults," says parent Nancy Lynness.

—Katie Lynness is a youth correspondent for the Pleasanton Weekly. She is an eighth-grader at Pleasanton Middle School.

OF NOTE

'Naked' recognition

Las Positas College student Brenda Cruz of Pleasanton is one of six finalists in the annual competition of Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) for her feature story in the student publication, "Naked." Other finalists are from George Washington University, Indiana University, University of Georgia, Kent State University and Miami Dade College.

"The purpose of 'Naked' is to expose the diversity of Las Positas College students by digging deeper into their lives and stripping away the layers," according to the magazine's website. In her story, Cruz writes about student perceptions of Las Positas College.

Cruz became a staff writer of the "Naked" spring 2010 edition, and now serves as executive editor. In

April, her cover story won third place in state competition of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges. Cruz also received honorable mention from JACC for her first-person "Naked" article about the experience of re-entry students.

Pvt. Scott McEtchin

Pvt. Scott McEtchin, son of Cindy and Doug McEtchin of Pleasanton, graduated from Marine basic training at the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He completed an intensive 13-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Marine Corps values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills. McEtchin is a 2009 graduate of Amador Valley High School.



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POLICE BULLETIN

THE CITY OF

PLEASANTON

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.

City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- PUD-02-07M and PCUP-210, Pleasanton Gateway, L.L.C. – Consider the introduction of an ordinance modifying the Bernal Property PUD development plan and a resolution approving a Conditional Use Permit for the operation of a grocery store and drive-through uses for a mixed-use development including 129,370 square feet of commercial/retail floor area and 588,781 square feet of office floor area on a 39.22-acre site located at 6750 Bernal Avenue, between the northbound I 680/Bernal Avenue exit ramp and Valley Avenue; and consider a resolution approving the Mitigated Negative Declaration
- PGPA 16, City of Pleasanton – Consider the adoption of a resolution removing all references to the housing cap (Measure GG 1996, limiting the total number of residential units to 29,000) from the 2005-2025 General Plan
- Confirm members of an ad hoc Housing Element Task Force; Select two City Council Members to serve on the Urban Habitat Final Settlement Agreement and Growth Management Subcommittee

Housing Commission

The Oct. 21 Housing Commission meeting has been cancelled.

Energy Tips

Is your thermostat accurate? If not, chances are that the temperature sensor is being affected by cold air coming through the opening where the thermostat is mounted.

Keeping control of your thermostat is one of the simplest ways you can save a great deal of energy – and money – all year round.

ENERGY FACTS:

- During the winter, you can save as much as 2-3% of the energy your furnace uses simply by lowering your thermostat 1°F (if it's set between 65°F and 72°F).
- In the summer, the process is reversed. You save 3-5% of the energy used by your air conditioner for every degree you raise the thermostat setting (if it's set between 70°F and 82°F).
- Do you chronically forget to turn down the heat? There are low-priced, easy-to-install thermostats that adjust the temperature automatically. The simplest have built-in clocks; the more advanced models are computerized. An advanced model will, for example, turn your furnace on 30 minutes before you wake up, turn it off when you leave for work, turn it on just before you return home, and then set it for 55°F when you go to bed. Some also have a "minimum energy use" setting that monitors temperatures when you go on vacation.

Simple Ways to Save Energy:

- Keep the thermostat under control. Recommended winter setting for heaters: 68°F in the daytime, 55°F at night. In the summer, turn the air conditioners thermostat to 78°F.
- Check the temperature. Using an accurate thermometer, make sure that the temperature near your thermostat is representative of the rest of the house. If it's located in a drafty or sunny spot, you may be getting false readings and wasting energy.
- Plug the hole in the wall behind the thermostat with a piece of fiberglass insulation.

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

Pleasanton men get prison time for BB gun assault

Two of the three Pleasanton residents charged with shooting a learning disabled man 20 or more times with BB guns will be doing time for the crime.

Jonathan Fala pleaded guilty to one count of assault with a deadly weapon and will receive one strike in California's three-strike system for his role in the crime. Fala was ordered to serve three years and eight months in prison and five years of probation.

A second man involved in the attack, Sergio Ramirez, pleaded no contest to one count of physical abuse of a dependent adult. Ramirez was sentenced to three years in prison.

The charges came after a Feb. 18 incident, when the 19-year-old victim ran into a local business bleeding from the hand, saying he'd been shot and trying to hide from his attackers. Police said at the time he'd been shot 20 to 25 times with "BB type guns."

Police discovered the man had been driven to a remote area off Foothill Road; his attackers told him to stand near a tree and began shooting. The victim had BBs lodged in his hand and leg and also received injuries to his head, neck and back.

The man has since recovered.

A 16-year-old Pleasanton girl was also charged in the attack; no information on her case was available.

Complaint leads to prostitution charge

A call to police about suspicious activity led to a prostitution charge against a Pleasanton woman. Kelle Ann Brossard was arrested Oct. 8 at her home in the 700 block of Palomino Drive, according to a police report.

Pleasanton Lt. Scott Rohovit said these cases happen from time to time although they are not common in Pleasanton.

"We have cases that surface through various means," Rohovit said. "Oftentimes they get encountered at hotels in town, often through the Internet."

In August, a man was arrested after fleeing Alameda County deputies conducting a prostitution sting, allegedly with an underage runaway in his car when he crashed in Pleasanton.

In September 2009 a woman was arrested on prostitution charges at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and California Avenue; and between 2006 and 2008, there were three larger scale prostitution stings, with 13 arrests in 2006 following a joint operation involving the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and Pleasanton police.

In 2007, Tranquility Health Center on Main Street was closed after an undercover prostitution operation; and in 2008, a joint undercover operation netted 56 arrests at hotels in Castro Valley and Dublin.

POLICE REPORT

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

Oct. 5

Theft

- 4:22 p.m. in the 4000 block of Cid Way; identity theft
- 5:12 p.m. in the 4600 block of Holland Drive; theft from an elder or dependent adult

Burglary

- 3:36 p.m. in the 2300 block of Westbridge Lane

Battery

- 9:25 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Oct. 6

Theft

- 4:42 p.m. in the 4400 block of Willow Road; grand theft
- 8:05 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forgery

Vandalism

- 10:20 a.m. in the 4700 block of Muirwood Drive
- 2:28 p.m. in the 5800 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Drug/alcohol charges

- 9:54 a.m. in the 5800 block of Valley Avenue; public drunkenness
- 7:29 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and St. Mary Street; DUI, possession of a controlled substance
- 10:59 p.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

Oct. 7

Identity theft

- 9:42 a.m. in the 600 block of Abbie Street

Drug/alcohol charges

- 12:41 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, possession of paraphernalia
- 1:24 a.m. at the intersection of Ross Gate Way and Mohr Avenue; public

drunkenness

- 9:35 p.m. near the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Pimlico Drive; possession of marijuana

Oct. 8

Theft

- 12:19 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street
- 5:29 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting
- 8:54 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting

Burglary

- 1:50 a.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

Automotive burglary

- 7:03 a.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive
- 1:02 p.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue

Drug/alcohol charges

- 8:51 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 10:42 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

Oct. 9

Drug/alcohol charges

- 12:57 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; public drunkenness
- 4:53 a.m. in the 2400 block of Crestline Road; public drunkenness
- 2:15 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Kottinger Drive; under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine
- 7:30 p.m. in the 800 block of Palomino Drive; under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine

- 9:50 p.m. in the 1500 block of Calle Santa Anna; possession of paraphernalia

Oct. 10

Theft

- 5:14 a.m. in the 8100 block of Regency Drive; grand theft receiving stolen property
- 12:08 p.m. in the 800 block of Sunset

Creek Lane; grand theft, automotive burglary

- 12:29 p.m. in the 100 block of Sycamore Creek Lane; petty theft, automotive burglary

- 12:58 p.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

- 1:04 p.m. in the 4700 block of Canary Drive; theft

- 1:06 p.m. in the 3500 block of Milleford Court; petty theft

- 4:11 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall road; shoplifting

Automotive burglary

- 11:09 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

- 6:09 p.m. in the 3800 block of Keneland Way

- 9:15 p.m. in the 1500 block of East Gate Way

- 10:33 p.m. in the 1400 block of East Gate Way

Assault and battery

- 5:35 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive

Drug/alcohol charges

- 1:22 a.m. in the 2800 block of Hopyard Road; DUI

- 1:54 a.m. in the 9100 block of Olson Court; possession of a false prescription

- 6:24 p.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; public drunkenness

- 9:58 p.m. at the intersection of W. Las Positas Boulevard and Hopyard Road; DUI

Oct. 11

Theft

- 6:47 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue

Drug/alcohol charges

- 1:17 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Sutter Gate Avenue; possession of a false prescription, possession of a controlled substance

- 1:42 a.m. in the 3100 block of Saginaw Court; public drunkenness

- 2:08 a.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and Johnson Drive; public drunkenness

ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

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

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4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2010. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

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3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

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

ITALIAN

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

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

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Auditions

'DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS' Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre will be holding auditions for "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" at noon, Saturday, Oct. 23, and at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 24, at Triple Threat Performing Arts, 315 Wrights Brothers Ave., Livermore. Dance Call: Please bring appropriate shoes and clothing; prepare 32 bars from classic Broadway; bring sheet music in your key. Accompanist provided. Call 462-2121 or visit www.trivalleyrep.com.

Author Visits

REINA TELEMEIER Reina Telemeier, best known for her adaption of four of Ann M. Martin's "Baby-Sitters Club" books into a graphic novel series, will be speaking at 4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 22, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Her new original story, "Smile," has received critical recognition and has broad appeal for all readers. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

Book Clubs

PLEASANTON LIBRARY BOOK CLUB The club meets at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 at

the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. If you enjoy reading and would like to share your thoughts with others, the book this month is "Stones into Schools" by Greg Mortenson. The author of "Three Cups of Tea" offers the continuing story of his humanitarian efforts to promote peace through education. Call 931-3400 ext. 7 or visit www.pleasantonlibrarybookclub.wordpress.com.

Classes

LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT Classes on domestic violence will take place from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Oct. 23 and Oct. 30, at Las Positas

College Room 203 in Livermore. Statistics show that one in every three women will be abused during their lifetime. This course will cover the definition of domestic violence, and the pattern of misusing power to control and hurt someone in an intimate relationship. Cost \$59, and \$5 for materials. Call 216-2025 or email nasiehsani@gmail.com.

Events

ANNUAL PICNIC The Widow and Widowers of Northern California invite everyone to their annual picnic at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 23, at Eleanor's home, 3649 Chelsea Ct. Back 40 Texas BBQ; bring your own beverages. This is an open event for all who want to attend. Cost \$11 for members and \$17 for non-members. RSVP to Ruby at 462-9636 by Oct. 20.

AUPAIR PUMPKIN CARVING Aupairs from all agencies and their families are welcome to the pumpkin carving from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 24, at Cultural Care Au Pair, 4530 Sandalwood Dr. Bring a pumpkin to carve. Call (650) 465-1000 or visit www.hbrewer.aupairnews.com/wp-admin/. Highland Oaks community room 4530 Sandalwood Drive Pleasanton (near Muirwood park)

BAY AREA TRAVEL & LEISURE SHOW Looking for ideas for your next vacation? Visit the Travel & Leisure Show from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 15; 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16; and 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Cost \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students, 12 years and younger are free. Show AAA card for \$3 discount. Call (206) 367-2420, ext. 1223.

CHINESE DINNER The Widow and Widowers of Northern California are having a Chinese dinner at 5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17, at Chinese Szechwan Restaurant, 3059 Hopyard Rd. RSVP to Hilda at 398-8808 by Oct. 15. Cost is your menu item.

DEL VALLE DOG SHOW Visit more than 75 vendors selling everything you could imagine for your pets from Oct. 16-18 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. A great opportunity for pre-holiday shopping. Call 455-4158 or visit www.dvdc.org.

FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL BAND REVIEW The top high school bands in Northern California and Nevada will compete in Pleasanton for the Foothill Band Review on Saturday, Oct. 23. The parade, with 50 bands performing, is at 8:30 a.m. downtown. The field show will be at Foothill High School from 4-10 p.m. at 4375 Foothill Rd. Visit www.foothillband.org for more information.

HALLOWEEN AT ALVISO ADOBE Imagine the ghosts of Francisco Alviso or milkmen-past from the old Meadowlark Dairy. City Naturalist Eric Nichols will walk you around Alviso Adobe Community Park to learn about nocturnal animals and some of the eerie myths that surround the

site, and participants will make a Halloween craft. All ages welcome; 20-minute tours begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 9:20 p.m., Friday, Oct. 22, and Saturday, Oct. 23, at the park, 3465 Old Foothill Road. Cost \$5 for residents and \$8 for non-residents. Call 931-5340.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE The Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298 is hosting its 35th annual Holiday Boutique from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 15, and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16, at Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. A variety of handmade gift items, jewelry and home and holiday decorations will be for sale. Call 606-7676.

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Hacienda School is holding an open house at 4:45 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 3800 Stoneridge Dr. The school is private and uses modified Montessori teaching techniques. Call 485-5750.

THE MESHUGENAH COMEDY TOUR The Meshugenah Comedy Tour features a rotating cast of Jewish Comedians from all walks of life, from 7:30-9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16, at Bunjo's Comedy Lounge, 6513 Regional St., Dublin. Cost \$15 plus two-item minimum. Call 264-4413 or visit www.bunjoscomedy.com.

WOOD CARVERS SHOW Tri-Valley Woodcarving Club's 37th annual show will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 23, and Sunday, Oct. 24, at Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Wonderful wood carvings for sale, carving demos, wood burning demos, prize drawings, soap carving for the kids. Call (408) 386-6042 or visit www.tri-valleycarvers.com.

Film

'BABIES' The Pleasanton Library is hosting a series of free documentary films at the new Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Each film will start at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:15 p.m. "Babies" will be shown Oct. 21, which simultaneously follows four babies around the world from birth to their first steps. Call 931-3405.

Fundraisers

OPEN HEART KITCHEN The third annual "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" fundraiser for Open Heart Kitchen will take place from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 22, at Blacksmith Square, 21 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. Wine tasting, Latin jazz and salsa music, food and wine pairing, appetizers, olive oil and balsamic vinegar tasting. Custom jewelry for sale. Great drawing prizes. Call 580-6793.

TVAR'S 11TH ANNUAL 'THAT'S AMORE' Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is holding its 11th annual "That's Amore" from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16, at Goal Line Productions, 5959 Coronado Ln. Funds raised go directly toward TVAR's mission to rescue homeless animals in the Tri-Valley area. Cost \$75. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvlar.org.



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Health

FLU SHOTS Sutter VNA and Hospice will be providing flu and pneumonia shots from 9 a.m.-noon, Sunday, Oct. 17, at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3419 Cornerstone Ct. Proceeds from their flu shot clinics support their not-for-profit mission of providing home health care and hospice services to all those in need in the community, regardless of ability to pay. Cost \$25 Flu; \$30 Preservative-Free Flu; \$45 Pneumonia. Call 510-450-8829 or visit www.suttervna.org.

YOGA FOR A HEALTHY BACK Do you struggle from back pain? Try yoga for a healthy back from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16 through Oct. 30, at ClubSport, 7090 Johnson Dr. A free yoga class is designed specifically to ease your pain and gain strength and flexibility for the back, neck, hips and shoulders. Call 344-4273 or visit www.clubsports.com/pleasanton/current-specials.do?action=detail&id=6999.

Kids & Teens

UN-SCARY HALLOWEEN Creepy or cool? Meet special Halloween guests - a bat, a tarantula, a snake and a great horned owl at Sulphur Creek Nature Center Naturalist Diane Lang introduces us to our sometimes-scary animal neighbors, from 2-3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 24, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Best for ages 5 and older. Call 931-3400, ext. 8, or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/.

Lectures/ Workshops

ROAD SCHOLAR Road Scholar volunteer Margaret Hankle will speak about the trips she has experienced, at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) participants are curious, adventuresome and open to experiencing the world through learning and travel. Call 931-3400.

Live Music

A CEREMONY OF CELLOS A Ceremony of Cellos will be performed in memory of cellist Larry

Granger at 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 24, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Mr. Granger, who grew up in Pleasanton, became known as the "Mr. Cello" of the Livermore-Amador Valley, playing with local symphonies and teaching cello. Tickets are \$16-\$24 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$12 for children. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

ANONYMOUS 4 Lovers of medieval music can enjoy the exquisite blending of the four unaccompanied female voices of the Anonymous 4 at 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16, at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 1st St., Livermore. Cost \$21-\$33 for adults and high school free. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

ROMANIAN ORPHANED SINGERS TO PERFORM Six orphans from the Caminul Felix home in Romania will present a concert at 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17, at Centerpointe Church, 3410 Cornerstone Ct. The six teenagers will present the vocal music in both English and Romanian. There is no admission charge. A free-will offering will be taken. Call 846-4436 or visit www.centerpointechurch.info.

Miscellaneous Recreation

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ONLINE BOOK SALE Did you know you can buy books from the Friends of the Library at Amazon.com? The Friends have a year round magazine and paperback book sale in the library and have two major book sales a year. To buy books, visit www.amazon.com/shops/ptwnfriends or call Nancy Bering at 462-4368.

SUNOL BED RACES & CHILI COOK-OFF Bed racers and chili cooks will compete for prizes and fame from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17, at Sunol Community Park, Main St. and Kilkare Rd., Sunol. Proceeds go to the Little Brown Church, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary. Call 862-2004 or visit www.littlebrownchurchofsunol.org.

On Stage

'JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH' Civic Arts Stage Company presents "James and the Giant Peach," the story of young James, who lives with his nasty aunts, Spiker and Sponge, at 2 p.m. Oct. 10, 16 and 17; and

at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 8, 9, 15 and 16 at Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Tickets \$10-\$18 for adults, and \$6-\$12 for seniors and children. They may be purchased online at www.firehouse.org.

'THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE' Tri-Valley Repertory Theatre will present "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 22-Nov. 7 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$33 for seniors, and \$25 for juniors under 18. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

AMADOR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA AIDS BENEFIT This evening of performance art created by AVHS Advanced Drama Students includes dance, music and thematic exploration, from 7:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21, at AVHS Second Stage, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Performance Art is theater that uses various media to visually deliver a theme with a theatrical "punch." Donations requested for UCSF AIDS Health Project. Call 461-6100, ext. 6197, or visit www.amadordons.com.

ANIMALS OF THE NIGHT Watch a slide show about some creatures of the night that often cause a fright, then meet some of the creepy creatures up close and personal, from 7-8 p.m. Oct. 16 at Alviso Adobe Park, 3465 Foothill Rd. Participants under 7 must be accompanied by an adult. Call 931-3483 or email enicholas@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Sports

PGSL WALK-THRU REGISTRATION Pleasanton Girls Softball League (PGSL) representatives will have registration forms available for the 2011 season from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 9 and Oct. 16, at Farmers Market, East Angela and Main streets. Representatives can answer questions regarding the league. Call 351-3328 or email christine.t@pleasantonsoftball.org.

SOFTBALL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN Register online at www.srvgal.org and save \$50 if you register before Nov. 1. RED (Competitive) or BLUE (Developmental) Division Players

PET OF THE WEEK

Cuddle-bug who loves to play

Meet Thor, a handsome male pit mix currently up for adoption at the East County Animal Shelter. From what we have seen, this loveable big fellow is good with other dogs and very friendly with people. Sometimes he gets so excited when he meets new people that he forgets his manners! Because of this, and his large size, he is probably best suited for a family with older children. The shelter volunteers are polishing up Thor's manners with continuous training, and he is a very quick learner. He is learning sit, down and heel commands, to stay when doors are opened, and to mind his manners when he starts to get excited. TVAR will include three complimentary training lessons with his adoption. You can meet this one-of-a-kind dog in cage E-5. The shelter is located at 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.



KEVIN METZ

TAKE US ALONG



Tropical palms: Tatyana, Olga and Victor Aristov with their Weekly on Sen-tosa Island of Singapore in May 2009.

must register by Nov. 2 and sign up for a tryout session online. Tryouts are being held Nov. 13, Nov. 14, Dec. 4 and Dec. 5. Cost \$210. Call 575-0815 or email stevenrenfro@gmail.com.

Volunteering

AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION The American Red

Cross will hold a volunteer orientation at its Pleasanton Blood Donation Center from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21, at 5556-B Springdale Ave. Tour the center and learn about ways to greet, inform and thank the community's blood donors or help post fliers at key locations. Advance sign-up required. Call (510) 594-5165 or email blackstonea@usa.redcross.org.

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