

Pleasanton Weekly

Pleasanton grieves: Soldier is the city's first fatality since war in Afghanistan began **PAGE 5**

Good news for downtown: Domus to reopen store on Main Street this summer **PAGE 5**

IN THIS ISSUE...

Buying & Selling



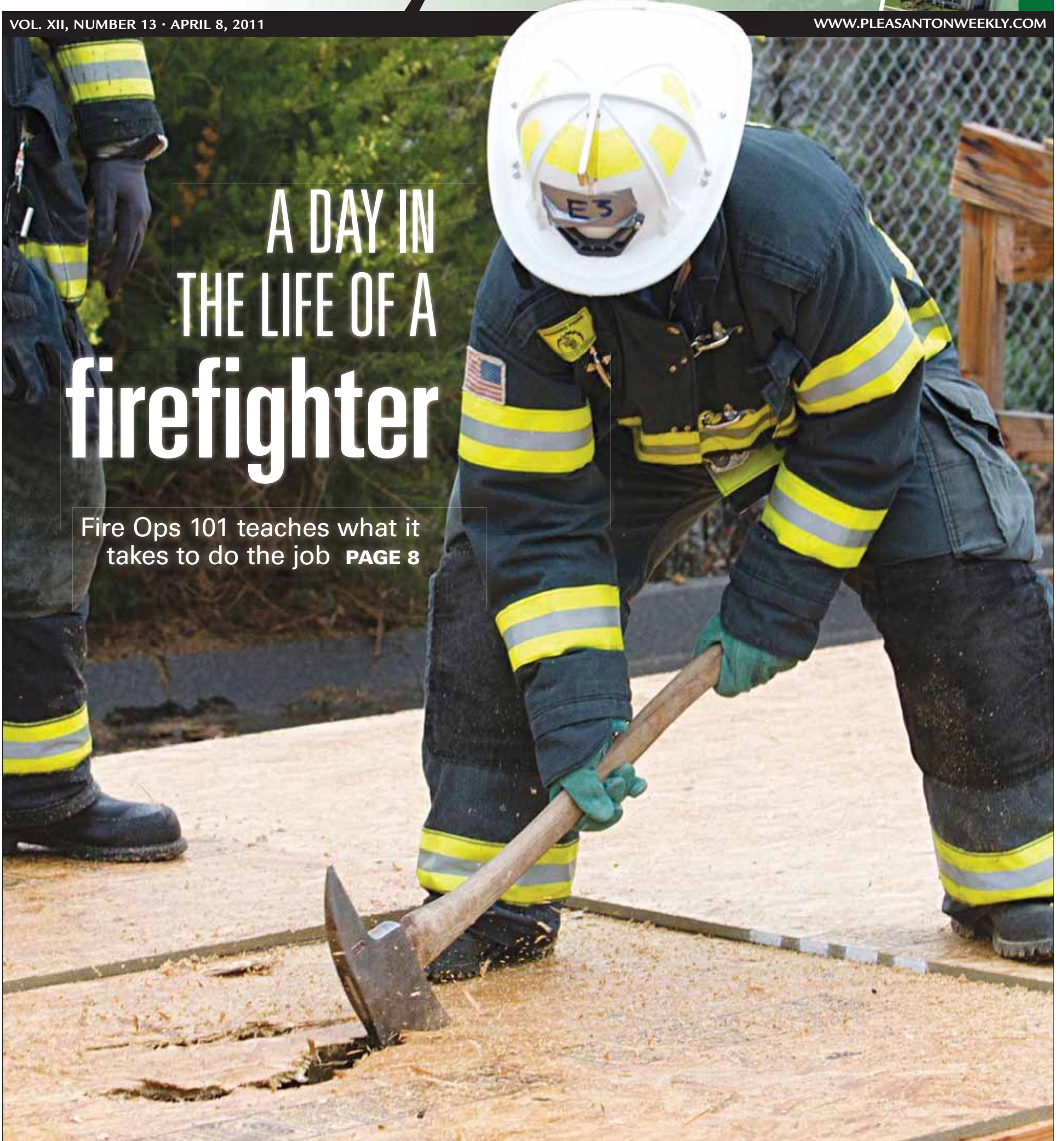
INSIDE

VOL. XII, NUMBER 13 · APRIL 8, 2011

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A firefighter

Fire Ops 101 teaches what it takes to do the job **PAGE 8**



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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

Soldier's homecoming a sad one

Army Specialist Jameson Lynn Lindskog deserved better. The tall, physically fit army medic was due home from Afghanistan later this month. His family planned to celebrate his 24th birthday on May 25. He was looking forward to being transferred off active duty and into the Army Reserves next year. Instead, he was gunned down by small arms fire last week 10,000 miles away in Afghanistan's Konar Province along with five other U.S. soldiers he was trying to help. Last Tuesday, I joined others at the Livermore Airport where his mother Donna Walker of Pleasanton and his father Curtis Lindskog of Livermore paid their final respects as other Army troops lifted his flag-draped coffin off a chartered jet. I doubt that there was a dry eye on the tarmac as uniformed men and women from local veterans organizations stood at attention, their own American flags at hand, to give Jameson a somber welcome home.

I go to many welcome home celebrations that the Pleasanton Military Families organization, the local VFW and American Legion and other veterans give for Pleasanton men and women coming back from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are festive events with speeches and refreshments, usually in the soldier's home driveway, with school chums, even cheerleaders, adding to the party. Jameson's homecoming should have been like those.

Like so many in his age group, he had been unable to find a job — in his case, as a massage therapist after graduating from the National Holistic Institute in Emeryville. So, again like many of his colleagues, he enlisted in the Army in 2008 in hopes that by the time his three-year tour was over, jobs would be more plentiful at home. Because of his therapy training, the Army placed him in an accelerated emergency medical



FAMILY PHOTO

Army Specialist Jameson Lindskog, who was killed in action in Afghanistan March 29.

technician program, experience he could use once his service was complete. He had a plan for what he wanted, his father said, and that plan included eventually getting married and having children. And it was as a medic that his life ended as he rushed to aid a fellow soldier who had been hit by enemy fire.

When Jameson completed eighth grade at Pleasanton Middle School, he attended Amador Valley High for his freshman year, but then transferred to Orion Academy in Moraga, a school specializing in teaching children with Asperger's syndrome and other various learning disabilities. His mother said that although her son struggled with dysgraphia, a writing disability, and dyscalculia, a math disability, testing never showed he had the autism-like disorder. In fact, he was consistently on the school's honor roll.

We'll hear more about Jameson's challenges and accomplishments on Saturday, April 30, when Pleasanton and Livermore veterans' organizations hold a special public memorial service for Jameson and his family at the Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street. In the meantime, Donna Walker asks that in lieu of flowers or cards, those who want to make a donation direct it to the local VFW, P.O. Box 601, Pleasanton, CA 94566. ■

About the Cover

An Alameda County firefighter demonstrates how to ventilate a roof to channel fire upward and away from others battling the fire from the inside. Photo by Harry Arruda. Cover design by Lili Cao.

Vol. XII, Number 13

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www.PleasantonRealEstate.com

If you are considering buying or selling a home this Spring, consider the following...

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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

Have you read any good books lately?



Alex Keir
Student

I've been reading "Crazy Love" by Francis Chan. It's very easy to relate to, and it's about deepening your faith.

Denielle Manos
Retail

The last book I read was "My Friend Leonard," which was the sequel to "A Million Little Pieces" by James Frey. It is my favorite book ever, because I really enjoy long books. I like to keep referring back to them.



Amy Leonard
Mom

I just downloaded Tina Fey's book, "Bossypants," on my Kindle. I adore her, and I can't wait to read it. I also keep coming back to "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett time and time again.

Shelly Elkins
Clerk

I just finished "Freedom" by Jonathan Franzen. I loved it because it was complex and interesting. It came from a woman's point of view, which surprised me.



Natalie Kozlow
Teacher

"Water for Elephants." I decided to read it when I found out it was being made into a movie with Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson. I really liked it.

—Compiled by Kerry Nally

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

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Newsfront

DIGEST

Calling all poets

Pleasanton is accepting applications for its seventh Poet Laureate to advocate for the appreciation of the literary arts. The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. April 29. Current Poet Laureate Deborah Grossman will end her term in June.

The Poet Laureate provides poetry at civic events such as dedications and public ceremonies, coordinates literary events, and serves on the Poetry, Prose & Arts Festival planning committee. He or she also is a liaison between Pleasanton and the schools, plus literary and community organizations.

Candidates must be Pleasanton residents who have published poetry. They must demonstrate affiliations with schools and literary groups, and they must be prepared to serve a two-year term without compensation, from July 2011 to June 2013.

After a preliminary screening, selected finalists will be invited to present their poems and visions to the Selection Committee in person in May. For more information, go to the city's website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us or call Michelle Russo at 931-4847.

Visiting swimmers

Pleasanton's Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center on Black Avenue near Santa Rita Road is hosting the Pacific Masters Championship Swim Meet today through Sunday, which is expected to draw about 800 swimmers. The city has been working to alleviate traffic congestion in the area.

Participants and spectators are asked to use Gingerbread Preschool, Alisal Elementary School and Amador Valley High School as a first option for overflow parking. All three schools are closed today for spring break.

Nuclear watchdogs go to D.C.

A delegation from Tri-Valley CAREs, based in Livermore, spent April 3-6 in Washington, D.C., to press officials for funding priorities other than nuclear weapons. The delegation planned to conduct approximately 100 meetings, working with colleagues from a dozen other states who are participating in the 23rd annual Alliance for Nuclear Accountability "D.C. Days."

Tri-Valley CAREs also has joined scientists and community-based organizations up and down the West Coast to conduct background radiation monitoring after the Japanese nuclear tragedy to ensure that the results are publicly available.

Somber service for Pleasanton soldier killed in Afghanistan

City grieves for its first fatality since war began

By JEB BING

Family, friends and uniformed men and women paid their final respects to Army Specialist Jameson Lynn Lindskog Tuesday, whose body arrived aboard a chartered military plane at the Livermore Airport.

Lindskog, an Army medic, was killed when enemy forces attacked his unit in Afghanistan's Konar Province on March 29. He was one of six "Screaming Eagle" soldiers killed by small arms fire that day, all of whom were assigned to 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

He was the son of Donna Walker of Pleasanton and Curtis Lindskog of Livermore. Donna Walker and her husband Matt were at home when an Army chaplain and staff sergeant rang the doorbell to convey the tragic news.

"We send our condolences out to the families of the other five soldiers, as well as the families of all soldiers who have fallen before these brave young men," Donna Walker said in a message posted on Pleasanton Weekly's Town Square.

His family had asked that only those specifically invited be on the airport tarmac for the somber 30-minute ceremony, and the media and public honored that request, staying behind the airport fence next to the terminal building.

A public memorial service will be held Saturday, April 30, at the Veterans Memorial Building



JEB BING

A military escort carries the casket containing Army Specialist Jameson Lindskog at a Livermore Airport ceremony Tuesday. Lindskog was killed March 29 in Afghanistan.

in Pleasanton, with the time of the service to be announced later.

When the military plane arrived at the Livermore terminal about 11 a.m. Tuesday, a military escort lifted the soldier's flag-draped coffin onto a wheeled gurney. At that time, Lindskog's grieving mother and father and their families were invited to pay their respects privately at the coffin.

There were few dry eyes among the 75 or so at the ceremony, many holding flags. They included honor guards and other units of the Pleasanton and Livermore American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, police and firefighters, Blue Star Moms, Pleasanton Military Families and a motorcycle escort. For 10 minutes, except for one small plane taking off, the airport, under sunny skies, was com-

pletely quiet.

Then the military escort moved the coffin into a waiting hearse for the ride to Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore. Family members said that following cremation, Lindskog's remains would be spread across the ocean waters as the young soldier had requested when he joined the Army.

Born in 1987, he would have turned 24 years old on May 24, and was scheduled to be deployed back to the U.S. in a few weeks and due to be discharged next year.

"Jameson was an outstanding adult who had a bright future ahead of him," his father Curtis said. "He was home right after the Christmas holidays and I drove him back to the Oakland Airport on Jan. 14. That's where I said my last

See **SOLDIER** on Page 7



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Library in full bloom

Liz White of Pleasanton is one of many people stopping these days to photograph the spectacular blossoming trees in front of the Pleasanton Public Library. White, an art student, said she frequently photographs beautiful things around town that she might use in her work. The trees are a species of flowering cherry, *Prunus subhirtella Autumnalis*, which has the unusual characteristic of blooming twice each year — once in the spring, and again in autumn, although the autumn bloom is "less inspired," said City Landscape Architect Mike Fulford.

Domus to reopen downtown Pleasanton store

Owner, faced with doubling of rent at Los Gatos location, moving flagship store here

Domus, the popular kitchen and home accessories retailer that closed its downtown Pleasanton store in July 2008, announced Wednesday that it's coming back.

Margaret Smith, owner of the flagship Domus store in Los Gatos, said she will close that store and relocate to Pleasanton, reopening the Domus store at 652 Main St. this summer. A smaller Domus store in the Willow Glen section of San Jose will remain open.

When Domus opened its Pleasanton store in September 1998, it was part of the Las Gatos operation. Then Smith sold the Pleasanton business to John Maloney and his wife Cathy, who were allowed to continue using the name. The Maloneys later closed their business to pursue other interests, and the building has been vacant ever since.

Smith said Domus' current lease with the Farwell Family in Los Gatos, which owns the land and the building, expires at the end of April

See **DOMUS** on Page 6

DOMUS

Continued from Page 5

and the renewal rent will be more than double. The store, which has a dozen employees, will close in late May, but the specific date has not been set.

"We would love nothing more than to stay in Los Gatos, but we simply cannot survive this rent increase, and there is no other suitable space available now," Smith said. "We intend to return as soon as we possibly can. Meanwhile, we hope our customers will continue to shop at Domus of Willow Glen and at our online store, and we invite everyone to visit our Pleasanton store when it reopens in June."

Domus has been a Los Gatos landmark since 1969. Smith purchased the store at 40 N. Santa Cruz Ave. from its original owners in 1996.

"We are indebted to Los Gatos and the thousands of loyal customers who have supported Domus over the years," she said.

She said customers come from all over the Bay Area and beyond to shop at the Domus store for kitchenware, home accessories, toys, books, stationery and other items. San Francisco Magazine once described Domus as a unique blend of Williams-Sonoma, Pier 1, Pottery Barn, Papyrus and Crate and Barrel.

The 8,500-square-foot Los Gatos store was originally the site of a gas station before a Dutch family opened the business under a different name in 1969. They changed the name to Domus in 1976.

When it was open for business here, Domus was one of a few retail stores that kept late evening hours in downtown Pleasanton and was a popular after-dinner shopping spot.

"This is exciting news," said

Laura Olson, executive director of the Pleasanton Downtown Association. "Having the Domus building occupied with retail will be wonderful for our downtown and will definitely create a lot of buzz!"

Pamela Ott, economic development manager for the city of Pleasanton, has been in the forefront of seeking tenants for the vacant Domus

site. She said prospects told her the 11,000-square-foot building was either too big for their small retail businesses or too small for a drug store or fitness center or other possibilities, which also were considered.

"It turns out the best fit for Domus is Domus," she said. "It's great to see them coming back."

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman agreed.

"I'm glad to see Domus re-opening its downtown store," she said. "I think this community will be wildly ecstatic!" ■

"It turns out the best fit for Domus is Domus. It's great to see them coming back."

Pamela Ott,
economic development
manager for the city
of Pleasanton

Go green at Pleasanton Earth Day Fest

From booths and 'green' crafts to EcoTainment

By DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Celebrate the earth and learn more about helping it at the Pleasanton Family Earth Day Festival next Saturday at the library. Booths will offer information about composting, energy and kid-sized carbon footprint calculators. Children also can make recycled art and natural birdfeeders at craft tables, and there will be free bicycle safety checks.

City Naturalist Eric Nicolas will give short interpretive lessons about the natural world around us. And Doug Nolan's "EcoTainment" kicks off at 3 p.m. in the library meeting room, with juggling, comedy and audience participation to convey a green message perfect for ages 5 and up. Free admission tickets will be at the children's desk beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Art by Pleasanton students based upon a "green" theme will be on exhibit. Ongoing short films created as part of "The Story of Stuff" project will also be shown throughout the day. This project was begun

with the goal to get kids asking new questions, such as: What is this made of? Where did it come from? Who made it? What happens when I throw it away?

The Family Earth Day Festival will take place from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. April 16. Earth Day activities throughout the month include:

■ Sunday, April 10, at 2 p.m. — Scott Lankford discusses his book, "Tahoe Beneath the Surface."

■ Friday, April 15, noon-5 p.m. — Free E-Waste Event at the Fairgrounds (enter at Gate 12, Valley Avenue).

■ Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. — Free E-Waste Event at the Fairgrounds continues; unused or expired pharmaceutical drugs will also be collected Saturday only.

■ Saturday, April 16, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. — Family Earth Day Festival at the library.

■ Sunday, April 17, 2 p.m. — Climate: What's Love Got to Do With It? Free presentation at the library by Doug Grandt of "The Climate Project." Best for middle school age.

■ Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m. — Library presents a free screening of the movie "Dirt!" at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton.

■ Friday, April 22, 7 p.m. — Celebrate Earth Day at the library with a free screening of the film "Tapped," which examines the bottled water industry.

■ Saturday, April 23, 2 p.m. — Library will host Uncle Jer's Bee Show, featuring a traveling honey-bee hive and an engaging presentation about bees and beekeeping. Best for ages 5-plus. No registration required; free admission tickets distributed at the children's desk at 1:30 p.m. on show day.

More than 200 countries participate in Earth Day, which was begun in 1970 by Wisconsin Sen. Gaylord Nelson as a way to force the environment onto the national agenda, the same year the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air Act were created. The Clean Water Act passed in 1972. ■

Scam alert

Phone and mail solicitations by fake Salt River Project employees

By GLENN WOHLTMANN

The Salt River Project, an energy provider in Arizona, is warning people about a number of scams being operated using the company's name.

In one scam a caller offers cash or incentives to provide information on energy-saving programs, according to a release from the firm; caller ID shows an invalid Salt River Project phone number, (602) 236-7290, with callers trying to obtain personal information to make illegal

purchases. Calls back to that number indicate it is not in service.

Other scams are related to the sale of residential solar energy systems, and a mail fraud scam involving a fake SRP check and the promise of more money; the company said in its release that the checks look real but are not from the company. Often, those checks are accompanied by a letter asking a customer call to verify receipt of the check, and a victim will be put on hold and subject to expensive pay per-minute charges.

SRP said in its release that company employees never call asking

for personal information, that it does not sell products or services door-to-door or offer cash to solicit appointments. Anyone concerned over a telephone or mail solicitation should call the company at (602) 236-8888 to verify employee identification and program information.

Pleasanton police Sgt. Jim Knox said his department has not had any reports of the scam although a resident brought it to the attention of the Pleasanton Weekly. Anyone suspecting a scam is advised to call the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100. ■

TAKE US ALONG



Earthquake report: Michiyo Krause, a Pleasanton Realtor, was in the Shinjuku district of Tokyo when the 9.0 earthquake struck Japan at 2:46 p.m. March 11. "It was very horrific, devastating, and a sad natural disaster which will also change the Japanese economy," she reported. "When the earthquake hit I was thinking about what might happen in the Bay Area. We all have to prepare for it."

Do you know someone who deserves a nomination?



Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award announced

April 15 deadline for submissions; winners to be named May 11

The Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award was established in 2008 to recognize Pleasanton residents chosen by their peers who consistently model high ethical and moral standards of behavior advocated by the Collaborative: Responsibility, Compassion, Self-Discipline, Honesty, Respect and Integrity.

Go to www.communityofcharacter.org.

This year's Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award recipients will be announced May 11, 2011 at the Community of Character Collaborative Luncheon Celebration at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Cost per person is \$35 (this includes a \$5 donation to the Community of Character Juanita Haugen Civic Engagement Scholarship Fund).

Past award recipients are:

Lori Rice (2008), Diana and Howard Mendenhall (2008), Jerri Pantages-Long (2009), Sue Evans (2009) and Ken Mano (2009), Dr. Pushpa Dalal (2010), Bob Aihenour (2010), and the GASIT Volunteers (2010).

Nomination forms and information available at www.communityofcharacter.org

About the Community of Character

For information about our organization or on becoming an Organization of Character visit www.communityofcharacter.org or contact us at P.O. Box 516 Pleasanton, CA 94566.

Measure E parcel tax ballots mailed to voters

Marked ballots for this mail-in-only election due back to county registrar May 3

Ballots for the Pleasanton school district's proposed Measure E parcel tax have been mailed by the Alameda County Registrar's office to registered voters in the school district.

Sample ballots and voter information pamphlets for the proposed \$98 a year parcel tax were sent to voters last week. Details of the parcel tax proposals as well as arguments for and against the measure are included in that material.

The actual ballot mailed starting Monday includes a postage-paid return envelope. The marked ballot is due back at the Alameda County Registrar's office by close of business Tuesday, May 3. Postmarks will not count, so voters are being urged to vote early to ensure their ballots are received by the registrar by 8 p.m. May 3.

If approved by two-thirds of the votes cast in this special mail-in ballot election, each parcel of taxable real property in the school district will be assessed \$98 a

year for a total of four years. For purposes of this special tax, "parcel" means any parcel of land that receives a separate tax bill from the Alameda County tax collector, large or small.

This marks the second time that the Pleasanton school district has asked voters to approve a parcel tax. Measure G, which sought approval of a \$290 a year parcel tax, was defeated in June 2009 by a narrow margin. This time, the school board hired a consulting firm to conduct a public survey, which showed that more than two-thirds of those queried would support a parcel tax of under \$100, but not a higher amount. The board chose to set the proposed tax at \$98 and also to limit it to four years at the most.

Faced with a budget deficit of \$7.7 million, the school board agreed to seek a parcel tax again in hopes of continuing some programs that otherwise would be

cut. Already, the district has made tentative cuts in personnel, with 67 teachers, 25 school staff and 17 administrators and other services on the chopping block for a total of \$3.5 million unless more funds come in. Although Measure E would not prevent all of the cuts, district officials said it could prevent the most devastating by providing stable and predictable funding.

With Gov. Jerry Brown's decision last week to call off negotiations for legislative approval of his much-touted special election in June to extend higher taxes on income, vehicles and sales, hopes are dimming for school districts around the state, including Pleasanton's, to see an uptick in state education funds.

The Pleasanton district, skeptical anyhow that the Brown plan would succeed, moved forward on preparing a fiscal 2011-12 budget without any of the increases his tax measure might have produced. ■

Free Wednesday bus rides for Foothill High

Campaign to boost public transportation starts April 13

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Foothill High School students can hop on the bus for a free ride to and from school each Wednesday in a new campaign beginning April 13 and running until the end of May. Wheels routes 602 and 604 are "school trippers" that serve Foothill High each school day.

"We're trying to promote awareness and ridership on those two specific routes," said Pleasanton Economic Development Specialist Lisa Adamos.

Free Ride Wednesday is being presented by the city, Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), which operates Wheels buses, and Foothill High School ASB Leadership Club. The campaign is part of Pleasanton's Rides to School program.

Funds for the rides come from the \$2 added to vehicle registration fees that go to the Bay Area Air

Quality Management District to be administered through the Alameda County Transportation Commission, Adamos explained.

"Pleasanton received a population-based share of those funds," she said. "The grant we received pays for our Rides to School program."

The Free Ride Wednesday campaign aims to show students that public transportation is a fun, inexpensive and environmentally friendly alternative to driving. Taking the bus helps reduce traffic on Foothill Road and eliminates the hazards when students are individually dropped off and picked up.

Pleasanton's Rides to School also sponsors Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day, as well as Safety Valet Programs at elementary schools where fifth-graders help younger students in and out of their vehicles.

"This campaign is the first thing we've partnered with LAVTA to promote, this Free Ride Wednesday," Adamos said.

To encourage ridership on Wednesdays, there will be weekly drawings for food, entertainment and movie gift cards as well as grand prize drawings at the end of each month for an Apple iPod.

Route 602 begins in the Mission Drive/Sunol Boulevard area and continues on to the Del Prado Park, Valley Trails and Parkside neighborhoods. Route 604 begins service in the Fairlands neighborhood and continues on to the Hacienda Business Park and the Muirwood Park neighborhoods.

Amador Valley High School is served by three school trippers as well as being on a regular bus route.

All school tripper tickets are \$2 one way; 10 one-way tickets for \$16; or a monthly pass for \$60. ■

Ky., at the time of his death.

Besides his mother and father, he is survived by his half-brother, Kenny Nektani; his half-sister, Candace Khattab; and his stepfather, Matthew Walker, of Pleasanton.

He received the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; and the NATO Medal.

His family has asked, in lieu of flowers, cards or other similar

tributes, that people direct donations to "In Memory of Jameson Lindskog" and address them to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298, P.O. Box 601, Pleasanton, CA 94566. The donations will be used to benefit those members of the Army who are currently serving and for the benefit of current veterans who are transitioning at the end of their service.

In tribute to Specialist Jameson Lynn Lindskog, the city of Pleasanton lowered flags to half-staff for three days. Lindskog is the first Pleasanton man killed while serving in Afghanistan. ■

SOLDIER

Continued from Page 5

goodbye."

Specialist Lindskog attended Pleasanton Middle School and his freshman year at Amador Valley High School. In 2003, he transferred to Orion Academy near Moraga, where he graduated in 2005. From there, he enrolled in the National Holistic Institute in Emeryville where he became a licensed massage therapist. He enlisted in the Army and was a medical technician assigned to the 101st Airborne unit out of Fort Campbell,

Resol-YOU-sions

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BY GLENN WOHLTMANN

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A firefighter

Fire Ops 101
teaches what it
takes to do the job

On any given day, a firefighter could be called on to climb a flights of stairs while carrying more than 50 pounds of equipment, or to ride a ladder up the side of a building to fight a fire in the rain. Later that day, he or she could be called to rescue a driver or passenger trapped in a car after a crash, to crawl inside a burning building to fight a fire, provide first aid, saw through a roof or to rescue an occupant overcome by smoke.

It's not easy work, as a group of people learned firsthand recently. A class called Fire Ops 101, held by firefighters Local 55 in San Leandro, gave about 20 people some hands-on experience about what's required to do the job. The Alameda County Fire Department handles fires for some municipalities, including Dublin and Sunol, along with unincorporated rural areas in the county.

Among those in attendance at Fire Ops 101 were Jennifer Haggerty, a graduate of the Foothill High School's class of 2000, and Cole Halter, a freshman at Valley Christian High School. They were part of a three-member team led by Tony Connell, a battalion chief from Newark.

After a briefing, the class suited up and slogged through the rain to where a couple dozen firefighters gave up their personal time to walk participants through six scenarios and show them just what it takes.

VENTILATION

In this scenario, participants had the opportunity to wear firefighting gear and haul it up four flights of stairs, the way firefighters do in a high-rise building fire. They can't use the elevator since it might jam, so they move the load in stages, with a team moving the equipment up several flights at a time to hand it off to another team, carrying extra bottles of air, hoses, axes and everything else that might be needed.

The participants also learned that in fighting a structure fire, ventilation is key to keep the fire from spreading, so holes are quickly sawed through the roof with a chainsaw, with plywood and sheet rock pried out of the way. Firefighters use a tool to thump the roof, making sure it's sound as they work their way up.

FIRE ATTACK

Participants donned air packs and masks, then worked their way into a smoke-filled building. In this scenario, they learned about how hoses are deployed, and how



firefighters are trained to keep low, crawling as they work their way into a building while others feed hose to them. They also learned that a fire is brought under control by spraying above it before trying to spray the fire itself. This is done in coordination with other firefighters who ventilate the roof from above.

Ideally, every member of the team knows his or her job. With three- or four-person crews, as is currently the case with firefighters in California, the battalion chief is often called away from coordinating the response to help with other jobs, like feeding hose to those inside before a second team arrives.

SEARCH

One of the first things firefighters have to do when they arrive on a scene is determine if there's anyone inside, which can depend on the time of day and whether, for example, it's a business or a home. They're using more and more sophisticated gear, which became apparent to the participants as they began the search scenario, looking for someone trapped in a burning building. Thermal imaging equipment can often tell from the outside if someone is trapped, and the imager can be brought inside during the search to look for a victim's heat signature.

During a search inside a building, firefighters are taught to keep their left hand along one wall to keep them oriented, and to use the imager in their right to stay



HARRY ARRUDA

Left to right: An upside-down pickup truck used for firefighter training at the Alameda County Fire Training Facility in San Leandro; a participant, backed by a professional firefighter leads a fire attack on a house used for training; San Leandro City Councilwoman Pauline Cutter, playing the part of a trapped victim, looks on as Firefighter Alex Mengell gives instruction to his search dog, Nelson.



lever the dashboard away from a victim. In car crashes, rescue teams operate on the theory of the golden hour and platinum 10 minutes, which mark the optimum time to access a victim, remove him or her from a vehicle, and get that victim stabilized.

Firefighters are now first responders, called out to every injury accident to provide assistance before ambulance companies arrive, and while all firefighters are emergency medical technicians with training in first aid, each team also includes a paramedic who can provide an extra level of medical assistance. Rescue teams have to know how to deal with everything from a single car crash to a rollover to a head-on collision and what tools to use when.

Participants got to literally take a car apart in this scenario, puncturing tires, removing windows, doors and the roof to rescue the victim, a crash dummy.

EMS (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)

In this scenario, participants had to rescue a trapped person from inside a partially collapsed building. A search dog was called in to locate victims, and the EMS team then strapped a person onto a bodyboard and carried the person down three flights of steps, although in a real situation, the victim weighs much more than a practice dummy.

Three people bring the victim down the stairs, head-first, with the person holding the head of the bodyboard giving directions. One member of the team keeps a hand on the back of the person holding the foot side of the board, announcing railings and the number of steps remaining on each flight.

Basic first aid is done at the scene, and the real work begins after the victim is removed. Participants learned how an airway is cleared using a special tool, and what would be done if the victim has a collapsed lung as a result of the building cave in. They also learned about medical equipment carried by rescuers.

Haggerty, who went through a similar exercise two years ago, is looking to become a firefighter; she's been taking classes locally and has signed up for the Navy, where she'll get firefighter training.

For her, the search scenario left the most lasting impression.

"It's a totally different atmosphere," Haggerty said. "You can't see, so you have to rely on your other senses."

Halter agreed, but especially was impressed with the amount of work the job requires.

"I didn't realize what a fireman went through and how hard the job was," he said. ■

close to team members, and to watch for obstructions like furniture and wires that may have come down during the fire. In this smoky scenario, participants once again used air masks and new headset radios to help them communicate as they crawled through a home with a thermal imager, looking for a victim.

Often, a thermal imager is not enough, like in cases where a victim may be in bed, under quilts or even hiding in a closet or under a bed, where he or she might not show up; in those cases, firefighters have to do a physical search, checking each room.

AUTO EXTRICATION

People may question why so many firefighters are required during a car crash, but these participants learned about the volume of work involved, much of it needing to be done simultaneously. Tires need to be pierced and the vehicle raised on blocks, both to keep it from sliding, say, into a ditch, but also to keep the victim stable. Windows need to be broken with a special punch tool to give access to the victim or victims. If possible, one rescuer gets inside and holds the head of a person trapped inside while others use the Jaws of Life — air-driven spreaders — or air-powered cutters to remove a door or, in some cases, even a roof.

Cars currently designed to have crumple zones can be safer, but that can mean more work for rescuers who may have to use their tools to cut away more of a car and

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Opinion

EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Pleasanton Weekly

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circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407.

The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Community support of the Pleasanton Weekly is welcomed and encouraged through memberships at levels of \$5, \$8 or \$10 per month through automatic credit card charges. Print subscriptions for businesses or residents of other communities are \$60 per year or \$100 for two years. Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to sign up and for more information.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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More jobs, tax revenue for Pleasanton

A welcome sign for all of us in Pleasanton is the small billboard in Staples Ranch facing I-580 that promotes Stoneridge Creek, a multi-million-dollar residential continuing care community that is "coming soon." The 45-acre senior complex being developed by Continuing Life Communities (CLC), with up to 800 units for assisted living, skilled nursing and independent living homes and apartments, took years to win final approval from Pleasanton planners and the City Council. Construction is expected to start soon on the \$279,000 small apartments to super large homes costing as much as \$1.5 million. The first of several hundred applicants have put down their purchase deposits and are ready to move in starting next year. Stoneridge Creek is one of several large projects under way in Pleasanton that will bring millions of dollars in new tax revenue and hundreds of jobs, both in the construction trades and later as career employment opportunities when these projects are completed. On the 124-acre Staples Ranch, located at the southwest corner of El Charro Road and I-580 and recently annexed into Pleasanton, other commercial and recreational developments will include a new 37-acre auto mall to be built by the Hendrick Automotive Group, a 5-acre park that will include tennis courts and a landscaped area, 11 acres zoned for a retail center, and a larger 17-acre community park with 10 acres still earmarked for an ice rink that was proposed several years ago by San Jose Arena Management, a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks. That project appears to be fading due to financing concerns, but it's not off the table completely.

A key part in development plans for Staples Ranch, which is still owned by Alameda County, is the long-planned extension of Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road, where it will connect to Jack London Boulevard. On the Livermore side, funding for extending Jack London along the south side of the Livermore Airport is based on construction of a 160-store outlet mall at the southeast corner of El Charro and the freeway, a project that should get under way later this year, according to Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena. He sees Stoneridge and Jack London connecting in 2012, allowing traffic to move between the two cities without having to travel onto I-580.

On the west side of Pleasanton, two other projects will add to the city's employment opportunities and tax rolls. After a month of heavy rains, bulldozers are back at work preparing the ground for a multi-million-dollar complex that will include a 58,000-square-foot "Lifestyle" Safeway store at Bernal and Valley avenues, next to the northbound Bernal exit from I-680. The new store will anchor a retail center that is expected to include restaurants, shops and possibly a bank. South Bay Construction, which owns the rest of the 39-acre site, has approval to construct up to seven four-story office buildings on the site. But with the office market still lagging, it could seek a change in the property's zoning to accommodate some residential units south of the new Safeway store.

Additional growth in Pleasanton's business sector will also be seen later this year as the Clorox Co. moves hundreds of employees from Oakland into a 343,000-square-foot corporate campus it has acquired from the former Washington Mutual Bank in the vicinity of Hopyard Road and Johnson Drive. A directional sign on Hopyard already points to Clorox Way as the street leading to the site, although a bit prematurely as the street, itself, is still named Washington Mutual Way. According to the San Francisco Business Times, Clorox, which was founded in Oakland in 1914 and has long been a corporate icon there, will vacate half of the 500,000-square-foot building it owns in Oakland's City Center in making the move to Pleasanton. The company plans to transfer up to 700 employees here with another 400 to be relocated to the new campus from the Clorox research center along I-680, which will be sold. Clorox also has won approval to add a 65,000-square foot, two-story building to its new campus, adding even more construction jobs, future employment opportunities and tax revenue. So far, 2011 is shaping up to be a banner year for Pleasanton. ■

LETTERS

No on parcel tax

Dear Editor,

I am a grandparent of a child in the Pleasanton Unified School District, and I am going to vote No on Measure E, the Pleasanton Parcel Tax. Given the school district's past accountability and the current state of the economy, any increase in property taxes is simply wrong.

I for one also believe that it is extremely unfair, if not unjust, for seniors to vote for a tax increase

that they can avoid paying. This places a burden on young families, many of whom are struggling financially. The pro tax people are counting on seniors to win this election for them. I wonder just how many seniors understand that they will have to reapply every year for the exemption. If you forget to apply every year, you will pay the tax. They are counting on seniors forgetting. Check out the facts at www.pleasantonparceltaxinfo.com.

Please join me in rejecting this tax increase. Vote No on Measure E.

Dorene Paradiso-Carroll

See **LETTERS** on Page 11



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LETTERS

Continued from Page 10

Support Measure E

Dear Editor,

As local business owners and Pleasanton residents, we commend the high standard of learning our kids have received and want that tradition to continue for many years to come. As we think back, we are reminded about what actually enticed us to move to Pleasanton: It was the schools.

We've had three children pass through the Pleasanton school district and although we don't have children enrolled in Pleasanton schools at this time, we wholeheartedly support Measure E.

At \$98 year, Measure E makes sense. It's good for kids, good for our community and will help protect property values.

Measure E funds will support core academic instruction that improves math, science and reading skills. What's more, every penny will stay in our community and can't be taken by the state.

Our children's education shouldn't be subject to the whims of California politics. Pleasanton schools have already reduced spending by \$19.4 million. That's 67 fewer teachers, fewer days in school, less support for libraries, art and music programs, and fewer courses offered in high school. There is nothing left to cut.

Please join us in preserving quality education. When you receive your Measure E ballot, mail it back with a Yes vote.

Carol and Jerry Rosenblatt

Volunteer says Yes on E

Dear Editor,

As a Kinder volunteer I have found it increasingly difficult to navigate the classroom with class size increasing each year. If our students matriculate to university they will have ample opportunity to adjust to auditorium style teaching; shouldn't we give them individual teaching in their primary grades?

One writer decried the use of Science Specialists suggesting the teachers are not capable of teaching science. The teachers are teaching the principles of science very effectively, while the science specialists apply the science with hands-on experience for the students with beakers, balance beams, crystal farms, marshmallow/toothpick molecules, microscopes, etc.

I am a BookLegger presenting book talks with fifth-graders. As I go into classrooms I find a collegial atmosphere, not the pedantic role I experienced as a child; interested students, not afraid to question or challenge an adult; and a depth of knowledge that inspires me. Does this scare me? No. Make me work harder? Yes.

As a septuagenarian I have the opportunity to opt out. I will not! Instead I am considering the following budgetary options:

1. Fewer In-N-Out Burgers, saving \$10 per visit.
2. One less trip to Tahoe; saving \$100 in gas round trip.
3. Foregoing four cases of Two

Buck Chuck, saving \$96 over "X" months.

May I suggest?

1. Volunteer in your local classrooms; it is a special part of my day — you'll love the experience.
2. Vote, affirmatively, for Prop. E.
3. Put on your thinking cap to find ways to find methods to solve the fiscal issues of our district, state and nation.

Walter Bolling (aka Mr. Walt)

Parents are responsible

Dear Editor,

Measure E goals are noble, but in reality credibility is lacking that Pleasanton teachers and staff can implement them. Let us just consider the first in the measure.

■ Emphasize core academic instruction that improves math, science and reading skills. Teaching staff is generally not qualified to teach math and science and this is true throughout the U.S. The majority of teachers are overwhelmed when it comes to teaching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to students at all grade levels. This is evidenced by the need to pay extra for "science specialists" in elementary schools. Instead we should require that every classroom teacher be capable of teaching STEM.

The measure goes on to address accountability by creating an independent citizen committee to oversee and ensure the use of the funds for these purposes. There are no metrics for this. How will they know that money is being used to improve math and science skills? They won't.

■ Quality of Pleasanton Schools. What amazes me is that everybody ignores the quality of their children and the culture and upbringing that parents contribute, which in reality is responsible for the intelligence, capabilities and achievements of their kids.

Frank Doljack, Ph.D.

GUEST OPINION

Five reasons to reject Measure E

Like many Pleasanton residents, when I was transferred to the Bay Area 20 years ago, I selected Pleasanton because of the quality of the public schools. They are still among the best schools in the Bay Area.



Doug Miller

But like almost every community in the country, two overall factors have led to an unsustainable Pleasanton Unified School District financial situation. First, the local economy continues to suffer, which has led to diminished state and local tax revenue. Second, school administrators have lost control of spending. Most of the excess spending has been driven by recent increases in pay, benefits and retirement packages. Measure E fixes nothing and will have no impact on classroom programs.

The following issues must be addressed before many of us can support additional property taxes for PUSD:

1. Pay raises: PUSD must implement a pay freeze to include automatic "step and column" raises. It is unfair and unreasonable to lay off dozens of teachers but continue to offer steady pay increases to those who remain employed. Since the last effort to implement a property tax for the schools, PUSD has increased

pay by \$9 million. PUSD plans to give out approximately \$15 million in pay raises in the next four years.

2. Excessive pensions: In the past few years, 15 PUSD employees have retired with annual pensions in excess of \$100,000 per year. A former HR director is receiving \$178,000 a year for the rest of his life. Excessive pensions, a majority being paid for by local and state taxes, are taking money away from classroom programs. PUSD must work to ensure that pensions return to more reasonable levels.

3. Trust: PUSD cannot be trusted to manage our money. We are still paying an average of \$860 per parcel for a PUSD bond. Several years ago with favorable interest rates, instead of paying down our debt, PUSD "cashed out" \$7 million and spent the money, increasing our debt without our approval. In 2009, Attorney General Jerry Brown called these activities illegal.

4. Seniors will pay the tax: Seniors must remember to file for an exemption each year or they will pay this tax.

5. Worse off in four years: Without immediate and meaningful reform of pay, benefits and pensions, our unsustainable financial situation will consume even more of our limited budget. Spending will continue to outpace revenue even with Measure E. We will just feel good for a few months if it passes. The money raised from Measure E will barely pay the automatic raises in the first year, with little money making it to the classroom. The automatic raises starting in the second year exceed any money raised from Measure E.

I call on the school board to make meaningful financial reforms first and then submit a new tax proposal to the voters of Pleasanton. I know we can do better for our kids now and in the future.

Doug Miller worked for 27 years as an information technology sales and marketing manager before retiring in 2004. He is also a retired U.S. Army Reserve officer who completed two tours in Vietnam as an Army helicopter pilot. From 2007-10, he worked for the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program assisting seriously wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. He has a BA in Economics from Norwich University and MA in Systems Management from the University of Southern California.

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OBITUARIES

Elaine E. (Schuh) Moravec

Elaine E. (Schuh) Moravec died March 26 at the age of 92.

She was born Nov. 11, 1918, the day World War I ended, and grew up in Minnesota, graduating from St. Theresa College in Winona. In 1967 she moved to Massachusetts and lived in the Hingham/Norwell area for over 35 years before moving to California where she lived with her daughter and then at Pleasanton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. In her early years she was a math teacher in Minnesota. She also enjoyed sewing and rug making but her main passion was

being with her family.

She was predeceased by her husband Ralph Moravec. She is survived by her children Michael Moravec and his wife Suzanne of Tonawanda, N.Y., Patricia Sullivan and her husband L. Joseph of Pleasanton, and John Moravec and his wife Eleanor of Cohasset; three grandchildren; brothers and sisters in Minnesota; and nieces and nephews. Services were held in Massachusetts. Donations may be made to American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701 or Church of the Resurrection, 1057 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043.



POLICE BULLETIN

Parking lot check leads to drug arrests

A routine patrol check at the Best Western Pleasanton Inn in the 5300 block of Owens Court led to the arrest of three people on drug charges, a police report said.

Two men were spotted in a pickup truck at the motel around 1:07 a.m. April 3, according to the report, which said one man, Steven Ramirez, 47, had an outstanding arrest warrant against him, and the other, Rodolpho Soto, 51, was on probation. A third person, Sylvia Soto Ramirez, 50, joined the others and was also arrested.

A search of the truck turned up heroin, methamphetamine, hypodermic needles, a pipe used to smoke

methamphetamine and a switchblade knife, the report said. Rodolpho Soto and Ramirez were charged with possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance, possession of controlled substance, possession of a hypodermic needle and paraphernalia possession, according to the report, which said Soto Ramirez was charged with possession of a hypodermic needle and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

In other reports, a laptop computer valued at \$1,600 was stolen from Iron Planet in the 4600 block of Chabot Drive sometime between 5 p.m. March 25 and 9 p.m. March 28, according to a police report, which said a lock was bypassed to gain access.

The Sports Chalet and Walmart, both in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive, were burglarized in the early morning hours of April 1, according to a police report. A bolt cutter was used to gain access to the Sports Chalet, and the lock was bypassed at Walmart.

POLICE REPORT

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

March 29

Sexual abuse

- 1:08 a.m. in the 4400 block of Mohr Avenue

Theft

- 10:40 a.m. in the 4100 block of Moller Drive; grand theft
- 3:36 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 6:41 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; auto theft

Drug/alcohol violations

- 2:48 p.m. at intersection of St. Mary Street and Pleasanton Avenue; possession of a hypodermic needle, possession of a controlled substance, paraphernalia possession
- 7:18 p.m. in the 900 block of Main

Street; marijuana possession, possession of tobacco by a minor

March 30

Theft

- 7:46 p.m. in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

Possession of marijuana for sale

- 10:08 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue;

March 31

Theft

- 11:13 a.m. in the first block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft

April 1

Theft

- 2:24 p.m. in the 600 block of Peters Avenue; forgery

Burglary

- 7:47 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- 10:02 a.m. in the 4500 block of

Rosewood Drive

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:50 a.m. at intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Trails Drive; DUI
- 10:16 p.m. at intersection of Vineyard Avenue and First Street; possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance

April 2

Theft

- 8:29 a.m. in the 200 block of Abbie Drive; forgery

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:52 a.m. at intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive; DUI
- 1:27 a.m. at intersection of Bernal Avenue and Pleasanton Avenue; DUI

- 6:04 p.m. in the 4000 block of Francisco Street; two counts possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance

- 8:23 p.m. in the 4000 block of Francisco Street; possession of a non narcotic controlled substance, paraphernalia possession

- 11:30 p.m. in the 6100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; DUI

April 3

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:56 a.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court; possession of a controlled substance, possession of a non-narcotic controlled substance; hypodermic needle possession, paraphernalia possession, under the influence of a controlled substance
- 2:01 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; DUI

April 4

Drug/alcohol violations

- 12:38 p.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; transporting marijuana, sale of marijuana to a minor, contributing to the delinquency of a minor
- 11:48 p.m. at intersection of Main Street and St. Mary Street; DUI



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council Workshop

Thursday, April 14, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.
Library, Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review and Discuss 2011/12 City Council Priorities

Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- PCUP 289, Maggie and Louis Liou/Summit Tutoring Application for a Conditional Use Permit to expand an existing academic tutoring facility located at 4430 Willow Road, Suite C into 4430 Willow Road, Suite B.
- PREV 781, David and Francine Cunningham Work session to review and receive comments on a Preliminary Review application to demolish the existing residence located at 205 Neal Street and to construct a new, approximately 1,862 square-foot, two-story residence.

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, April 11, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approve Proposed Artworks for Phase Two of the Nancy and Gary Harrington Public Art Acquisition Plan (Attachment 2) (Attachment 3)
- Review of FY 2011-12 Community Grant Process

Youth Commission

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.
Gingerbread Preschool, 4333 Black Avenue

- Receive Youth Master Plan Implementation Work Plan Update and Provide Input on Youth Website
- Review of FY 2011-12 Community Grant Process

The April 5, 2011 City Council meeting has been cancelled. The next regular council meeting will be held on April 19, 2011.

The April 14, 2011 Library Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next regular meeting will be held on May 12, 2011.

The April 14, 2011 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission has been rescheduled to April 28, 2011.

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

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BIRTHS



Charlotte Grace Olson

Erik and Laura Olson of Pleasanton joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Grace, born Dec. 21. Charlotte was excitedly welcomed into the family by her big brother, Luke, and is adored by her grandparents, John and Gail Gilpin of Pleasanton and Ed and Leslee Olson of Danville.

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just like the
OLD DAYS

BY DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Ravenswood volunteers bring back times past and have a great time doing it



DOLORES FOX CIARDELLI

Left: Sandy Silva tries one of the hats she makes for the Ravenswood gift shop on Valarie Huff, who heads up the volunteers. Huff says she has a variety of volunteer opportunities open. Below: Ravenswood Historic Site includes the Cottage (at left) and the Main House, on 33 acres that include commercial vineyards. The front bedroom in the Cottage features a seating arrangement with a table surrounded by windows. The wallpaper is the same as the original, ordered from Bradbury and Bradbury.



COURTESY RAVENSWOOD HISTORIC SITE



The long driveway from Arroyo Road to Ravenswood Historic Site in Livermore takes visitors not just to a Victorian country estate — it leads back to an earlier era.

The country home, built in 1885 as a summer home for Christopher A. Buckley of San Francisco, is referred to now as the Cottage. The large Main House next to it, with a wraparound veranda, was added in 1891 as a place to entertain, and this is rented out for celebrations. The Tank House to the rear served as a kitchen with quarters upstairs for the cook.

Enthusiastic volunteers open the home two Sundays a month, wearing vintage clothing and conducting half-hour tours, and they are looking for others to join them.

"I kind of fell in love with Ravenswood many years ago," said volunteer Sandy Silva, a Pleasanton resident, who runs the gift shop located in the Tank House. "I introduced it to my son and he ended up getting married there 16 years ago. Then I got involved with the volunteer group there because it's such a neat historical spot, and I've been busy, busy, busy ever since."

She began as a docent, conducting tours. "It's still my favorite thing to do — school tours and that sort of thing," Silva said. "The gift shop is my second favorite thing. I go to the city when they have the gift show twice a year. I also find a lot of things locally and make a lot of things. I make hats, Christmas ornaments, little flower pot napkin holders."

The volunteers hold three big events at Ravenswood each year:

■ **Spring Tea (May 1):** The formal high tea is served by volunteers in Victorian dress, and volunteers also bake the goodies. Reservations are required; call 443-0238; cost is \$37.

■ **Ice Cream Social (Aug. 14):** This free old-fashioned day has banjo music, hot dogs, lemonade and several ice cream flavors.

Volunteers scoop the ice cream, play croquet dressed in white outfits, and more.

■ **Victorian Yuletide (Dec. 11):** Volunteers decorate the Cottage and Main House for the Christmas celebration, which features St. Nicholas, musical entertainment, holiday food and children's crafts, all for free.

Christopher A. Buckley had great influence in San Francisco in the 1870s and 1880s, as he managed political careers for others, including U.S. Sen. George Hearst. His Alhambra Saloon on Bush Street was known as the "Buckley City Hall."

When he bought 100 acres in Livermore in 1862, Buckley named it after a park in Long Island, planted grape vines and built a winery.

"He found this area and loved the weather — he called it the best in the world," said Valarie Huff, who heads up the volunteers.

The Buckley family spent summers at Ravenswood from 1885-1920, and lived there fulltime for awhile after their San Francisco home was destroyed in the earthquake and fire of 1906. Christopher Buckley Jr. attended Livermore High School during this period; a photo in the cottage shows him as captain of the football team in 1909.

Silva said for children's tours, she has them sit on the "magic carpet" in the parlor and tells them stories about the little boy who once lived there.

"They always want to know if the Cottage is haunted," she said.

She cranks up the old Criterion music box and points out that the Buckylys had no television or computers and that the big disk with holes to make the music is like a CD.

"I used to call it a record but I had to stop doing that because now they don't know what a record is," she explained with a laugh. "Every once in awhile seniors come in a group, and they get so excited when they get to stuff they remember from their childhood."

Silva said she recommends Ravenswood

Visiting Ravenswood

Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Road in Livermore, is part of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. It is open for free tours from noon-4 p.m. on the second and the fourth Sunday of each month, except Easter Sunday and Mother's Day. Group tours can be arranged Tuesdays-Fridays at \$5 per person. Call 373-5708.

as a place to volunteer, with jobs as varied as leading tours, working in the gift shop, scooping ice cream or playing croquet.

"It's a neat opportunity, especially for people who appreciate history or old houses," she said. "Sometimes it's hard work when we do events but at the end of the day when people enjoy themselves, it makes it all worth it."

Valarie Huff was a docent at Filoli in Woodside when she lived on the peninsula and she also does walking tours in San Francisco. When she moved to Livermore a few years ago, her Realtor told her about Ravenswood.

"I made it over in the first few months and threw myself at them," she recalled.

Now she's encouraging others to become involved, too, because the site needs volunteers and because she knows how enjoyable it is. Call her at 292-4112.

"Ravenswood needs volunteers for tours, gift shop sales, merchandizing, Victorian decorating, baking, hostessing, food serving and croquet playing," Huff said. "Make new friends while helping preserve our local heritage." ■

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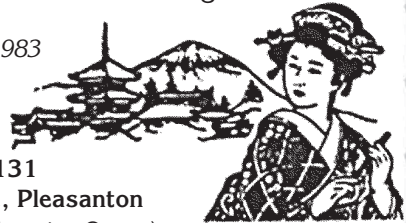
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Red Smoke Grill

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.

BREWPUB/ALEHOUSE

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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.

Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub since 1995. Try one of our 6 House Beers brewed FRESH weekly. Full bar and daily happy hour! Watch all sports with friends on our multiple screens. We feature a full menu including lunch and dinner specials. To-go orders are welcome. Facilities available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday. Visit www.mainstreetbrewery.com for activities and special events.

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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.

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New Dinner Menu

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ENTREES

- Bourbon Street New York Strip Steak (marinated in bourbon brown sugar, garlic, lemon, chutney)
- Pan seared Salmon (mashers and mango beurre blanc)
- Double cut smoked Pork chop (mashed sweet potato and yams chutney and Creole mustard cream sauce)
- Traditional New Orleans Chicken and Andouille Sausage Gumbo (served with Parsley rice or chipotle mashers)
- BBQ Pork Fajitas (pineapple corn salsa)

"HOME MADE" DESSERTS

- Ice Cream Sandwich
- Almond Maple Raisin Rice pudding
- Home made chocolate brownie with fresh berries
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Author Visits

READ IT AND EAT Meet Margaret George, whose latest book is "Elizabeth I," at noon, Tuesday, April 12, at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. George writes about characters who may be misunderstood, letting them tell their stories. Reservations required. Cost \$35 for lunch and book. Call 846-8826 or email townecenterbooks@sbc-global.net.

Clubs

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD Terri Thayer, quilt artist and author, will speak on "From First Quilt to First Novel" at the meeting of the Amador Valley Quilters Guild from 1:30-3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 9, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Thayer, whose interest is art quilts, has published three quilt mystery novels. Guests are free. Call 510-292-5635 or email laniluisa@comcast.net.

CHARTER SCHOOLS - PROS & CONS

The TriValley Democratic Club monthly meeting will present Carolina Monroy, a California Teachers Association Charter School Specialist, discussing charter schools, from 7-9:30 p.m., Saturday, April 16, at IBEW 595 Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. The presentation will be followed by a discussion and a Q&A. The public is invited to participate. There will be refreshments. Call 831-8355 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

LAVGC will meet from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 14, at Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Rd. Emma Connery of the Contra Costa Master Gardener Program, and an expert in pest management, will speak about "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs." Visit www.LAVGC.org.

Events

25TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club members will offer great deals on plants from their gardens at their annual plant sale from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, April 16, at Amador Valley High School parking lot, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Come early for the best selection. Visit www.LAVGC.org.

ARTIST STEVE MEMERING

Steve Memering, a California favorite, will demonstrate and display his creative and elegant collection of colorful Koi fish paintings from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, April 9, at Studio Seven Arts Gallery, 400 Main St. Steve creates exciting works featuring bold, rich and bright colors, and powerful imagery stemming from his own interpretations. Call 846-4322 or visit www.studiosevenarts.com.

HAWAIIAN AND TROPICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Shop for tropical clothing, jewelry, sandals for men, women and children, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, April 8; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, April 9; and noon-5 p.m., Sunday, April 10, at American Cancer Society Discovery

Shop Furniture Store, 1987 A Santa Rita Rd. Home accessories with pictures and dishes featuring palm trees and shells. Call 462-7374.

NATIVES TOUR GARDEN GUIDES

Register for the free Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour now at www.bringingbackthenatives.net, to ensure that you receive your guide. The event is expected to fill up fast. For more information, call Kathy Kramer at 510-236-9558 or email kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net.

PLEASANTONIANS 4 PEACE

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

Exhibits

'HORIZONTAL/VERTICAL' The landscape painting of Mark Bowles and the sculpture of Sam Tubiolo will be on display in an exhibit called "Horizontal/Vertical," from April 9-May 19 at the Harrington Art Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Suggested donation, \$2. Call 931-4848 or visit www.firehousearts.org.

Film

'INSIDE JOB' The film "Inside Job," which won an Oscar for Best Documentary at the 2011 Academy Awards, shows us exactly what caused our economy to crash. The film will be shown from 7-9:30 p.m., Saturday, April 16, at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Every American should see this astounding film. Meet and greet potluck starts at 6:30 p.m., short discussion follows the film. Suggested donation \$3. Call 462-3459.

Fundraisers

'SHE IS SAFE' - SIXTH ANNUAL INDIAN DINNER

Enjoy music, fellowship, dinner and an inspiring report on rescuing women and girls in some of the hardest parts of the world, from 5:30-8 p.m., Saturday, April 16, at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Dr., Dublin. Special guest speaker is Michele Rickett, founder of She is Safe. Cost \$15 for adults; \$5 for children. Free childcare with reservations; email maryhootman@comcast.net or call 998-3785.

5K FAMILY WALK FOR A CURE

Get kickin' for a good cause on a family-friendly 5K walk along the Arroyo Trail to support JDRF, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, from 9-11 a.m., Sunday, April 17. Sign up for the walk with family and friends to enjoy great outdoor exercise, fam-

ily time, give-away items and a social afterward. Cost \$10. Call 463-2822 or visit www.clubsports.com/pleasanton/upcoming-events.do?action=detail&id=7930.

HELP BATTLE CANCER

"A Party for Belinda Eugster" will take place from 6-9 p.m., Saturday, April 9, at Main Street Brewery, 830 Main St. Tickets are \$20, available at the door until sold out. The money will go directly to Belinda to financially assist her battle with cancer. Entertainment provided by Persuaders, P-Town Rockers and Bad Animals. Call 462-8218.

Lectures/ Workshops

ED KINNEY LECTURE SERIES

Museum on Main welcomes enrichment lecturer Ronald Kaufman to speak on "Strike it Rich: The California Gold Rush," in the Ed Kinney Lecture Series. The event is at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 20, at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848 set off the Gold Rush and forever changed the face of California. Kaufman will discuss the migrant rush, miner life, mining techniques, and the environmental impact of the California Gold Rush. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$5 for members and seniors, and \$3 for students and teachers with ID. Call 462-2766 or email education@museumonmain.org.

Political Notes

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

TVRWF's next monthly meeting is from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 14, at Cattlemens Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Rd., Livermore. Special guest is Hoover Institution Research Fellow Bill Whalen. RSVP by April 11. Call 462-4931 or visit www.trivalleyrepublicanwomen.org.

Seniors

ADVANCE FUNERAL PLANNING

A presentation to heighten awareness of funeral information before the emergency of death takes place will focus on options of cremation and burial, suitable payment plans, cost control and protecting your family from government attachment. Information will be presented in a light and casual format, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 12 at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.75 for residents and \$2.25 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Volunteering

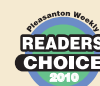
AMERICAN RED CROSS Volunteer orientations will take place from 4-6 p.m., Thursday, April 14, at Pleasanton Blood Donation Center, 5556-B Springdale Ave. Tour the center and learn about ways to greet, inform and thank the community's blood donors. Advanced sign up required. Call Anne at 510-594-5165 or email blackstonea@usa.redcross.org.

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Saturday, April 16, 2011

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