

Citizens Push To Open Up Stoneridge Drive

Pleasanton residents near the east end of Stoneridge Drive have been vocal since May 2005 about trying to block extension of that street to El Charro Road and ultimately to Livermore. Now they have opposition in the form of a grassroots organization that wants the extension put through.

The pro-extension group has endorsed Steve Brozosky for mayor and councilman Jerry Thorne and newcomer Cheryl Cooke-Kallio for the city council.

The residents formed their pro-extension group recently. Their website is www.stoppleasantongridlock.com.

Although the group began with just a handful of neighbors, it has generated so much interest that a total of 150 people turned out at two community meetings that it sponsored. One was with Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and councilmember Matt Sullivan, the other with councilmembers Steve Brozosky and Jerry Thorne.

The councilmembers requested the meetings on their own, said Nancy Allen, a spokesperson for the group.

Most of the concerned people live in various tracts near Valley Avenue, and also near Santa Rita Road, which feeds big flows of traffic onto Valley. One major trouble spot is where Valley moves eastward from Santa Rita Road to the intersection where Valley becomes Bernal Avenue, at Stanley Boulevard.

Allen said that the root of the problem is that Valley Avenue is already full to capacity, as stated (See STONERIDGE, page 2)



Signs are part of the campaign. These were at the Vintage Hills Shopping Center. Photo - Doug Jorgensen

Focus Has Been on Mayor's Race

Pleasanton residents will choose a new mayor and two new councilmembers on November 7. They are also being asked to ratify a plan for a "grand park" on the city-owned portion of the Bernal property.

Most of the attention has been on the mayor's race. The council campaign, in comparison, has been fairly low key.

Mayoral candidates are incumbent Jennifer Hosterman and challenger, Councilmember Steve Brozosky.

Council candidates are incumbent Jerry Thorne and challengers Brian Arkin, Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Dan Faustina. With Brozosky running for mayor, there is one seat open.

The campaign for mayor has been most notable for its accusations back and forth.

Among the issues raised in the mayor's race is Hosterman's use of a city owned computer in her home to produce campaign flyers, respond to inquiries and send out information about her campaign. Hosterman has apologized for her actions. The city has referred Hosterman's action to the Alameda County District Attorney.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said he did not

expect a decision from the district attorney prior to the election. "It is common for the DA's office to get this type of stuff. The practice is not to influence elections by issuing an opinion prior to the vote," said Fialho.

Her opponent, Steve Brozosky, has been accused of financial gain through the promotion of his software through contacts he has made as an elected official. He has contact with officials from other cities from meetings he attends. In addition, he has given a talk to the League of California Cities about the use of software packages to improve efficiencies. Brozosky said that he does make money from his software package. He does work with cities. However, when giving the talk, for example, he did not mention the name of his company.

Traffic and housing were the top issues during both the council and mayor campaigns.

All of the candidates agree on protecting the housing cap, building senior housing on Staples Ranch; and working on a regional basis to improve traffic on the freeways.

The candidates for mayor differ on devel-

(See PLEASANTON, page 8)

Livermore Looks Into Character Counts Program

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, Livermore City Council and Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District governing bodies were on hand for a presentation Wednesday from a representative of the Josephson Institute of Ethics on its Character Counts program.

The Foundation developed and provides training the program. The school district has already launched a pilot program at several schools. The results will be presented to the school board in January. A decision would be made at that time on whether to take the program districtwide.

In the meantime, a subcom-

mittee comprised of two representatives from each of the city's governing bodies will be meeting to discuss how the program might be implemented citywide. The subcommittee will put together a recommendation, which will be sent to each of the governing bodies for discussion and ratification.

Mayor Marshall Kamena commented, "I think there is some enthusiasm for the subcommittee to put together a recommendation."

LARPD Board President Scott Kamena said it would be helpful to have endorsements of all the boards.

The Character Counts program (See CHARACTER, page 2)

On November 7, The Independent recommends:

(i indicates incumbent)

Pleasanton Mayor: **Jennifer Hosterman (i)**

Pleasanton City Council: **Brian Arkin and Jerry Thorne (i)**

Pleasanton Measure P (Bernal Park): **Yes**

Livermore Board of Education:

William Dunlop (i) and Anne White (i)

11th Congressional District: **Jerry McNerney**

10th Congressional District: **Ellen Tauscher (i)**

East Bay Regional Park District, Ward 5: **Ayn Wieskamp (i)**

State Proposition 90: **No**

15th Assembly District: **Terry Coleman**

18th Assembly District: **Mary Hayashi**

10th State Senate District: **Ellen Corbett**

Superior Court Judge: **Dennis Hayashi**

Four Run for Three School Board Seats

Four candidates are running for three available seats on the Livermore School Board this November.

Seeking reelection are William Dunlop and Anne White. The newcomers are Kate Runyon and McKinley Day. This campaign has been very low key, with no controversial issues surfacing.

Among the issues are district test scores, inequities among the elementary schools, retaining teachers, and a third high school.

All of the candidates said testing will continue at all levels.

When it comes to the number of tests that students are required to take, Day said, "It doesn't matter whether testing is good or bad, it's reality." He added that he

teaches to testing. In the learning process, students learn how to recognize problems and answer questions.

Day's main interest would be to raise the level of math test scores in the district. "Teachers and schools are responsible for educating all students," Day commented. He would like to take his experience as a tutor and put it to use in Livermore schools by acting as a math counselor for the district. He said he would recommend programs that he feels would work to improve math grades.

Dunlop said there are two types of achievement gaps. There is one gap for students who are not performing at grade level.

That represents an achievement gap the district needs to deal with. The other is an individual gap, where kids are not doing as well as they could. They need programs to help them perform better, programs such as Math Counts.

He believes that testing is good, because it creates an expectation of what children should learn. Testing also ensures some uniformity in what students learn.

Runyon noted that while we are concerned about the low achieving students, we can't forget about the rest of the kids, Runyon added. We have to hire the best people available and re-

(See SCHOOL BOARD, page 3)

Rules Have Been Established For Oversight Of Pesticides On Frog Habitat

The red-legged frog species, whose habitat is found in the Valley, will be protected from 66 of the most toxic pesticides used in California, thanks to an agreement reached by environmentalists and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The agreement, which is expected to be approved by a federal court in San Francisco, prohibits use of the pesticides in or

near the core habitats of the frog until there has been a consultation between EPA and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to ensure that the chemicals are not posing a danger to the species or contributing to its decline.

The settlement was the result of a suit filed in 2002 by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), which has been vigilant in protecting the red-legged frog

and other threatened or endangered species that are found in the Valley.

CBD conservation director Peter Galvan said in a formal statement issued Oct. 19 that the EPA "must now ensure that pesticide applicators look before they leap into activities that can harm (Mark) Twain's frog or

(See HABITAT, page 3)

College Hoops Come to Livermore

Intercollegiate basketball arrives in the Tri-Valley on Tuesday, November 7th beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Las Positas College Hawks will hit the hardwood with a men's and women's his-

toric, home opening double header at "The Nest" - the new gymnasium at Las Positas College.

The men will take on the College of Marin with tip off at 6

p.m. and the women will take the floor at 8 p.m. versus Diablo Valley College.

To celebrate this historic event there will be basketball, food, music and lots of prizes and give-aways from the Golden State Warriors, KKIQ and the Tri-Valley's two new hometown college teams, the LPC Hawks. Other prizes include a Mexico vacation for four and two digital cameras. Between games, area high school boys and girls basketball standouts will take part in a 3-point shoot out.

District board member Barbara Mertes will serve as honorary assistant coach for the men's basketball game. Mertes served as the founding Dean of Las Positas College and was instrumental in securing funding for many of the buildings on campus.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Students with a valid student body card will be admitted free. Also, because the game is being held on election night, admission is free with a ballot receipt or "I Voted" sticker.

Las Positas College is located at 3033 Collier Canyon Road in Livermore.

Basketball is the third intercollegiate sport at the college. The Hawks already field men's and women's teams in cross country and soccer.



Photo - Doug Jorgensen
Mike Gammage (23) holds the ball in preparation to starting a drill during practice in preparation for the first intercollegiate game in Livermore.

ELECTION ROUND-UP

Cable Channel TV-30, the Tri-Valley's community television station, will air election results on a live special report, Tuesday, November 7 starting at 8:00 p.m. on Channel 30.

Hosted by veteran reporters, Carolyn Siegfried and Robin Fahr, the broadcast will provide up to the minute election results of all the races on Tri-Valley ballots.

The election coverage will include live field reports, live results analysis, interviews at campaign headquarters with local leaders and candidates in most of the hotly contested races. Expert analysis and commentary will be provided by Tim Hunt, former Editor and Associate Publisher of the "Tri-Valley Herald;" Jeb Bing, Publisher/Editor of "Pleasanton Weekly," and Tri-Valley elected officials.

Derek Highsmith, TV30's News Producer says, "We'll be covering over 50 races, probably the most we have covered in recent years. Our report-

ers will be in the field closely following the Pleasanton Mayoral, Pleasanton City Council, and Dublin City Council races."

Laura Bush and Bill Clinton campaign for candidates: The candidates for the 11th Congressional District brought in top names to campaign for them this past week.

First Lady Laura Bush led a rally for incumbent Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Tracy, in Pleasanton on Friday.

Former President Bill Clinton campaigned with Jerry McNerney at a Get out the Vote Rally on Wednesday in Stockton for Democratic candidates for local, state, and federal office.

McNerney's challenge to incumbent Republican Richard Pombo has recently emerged as one of the hottest Congressional races in the country.

Laura Bush is viewed as a GOP campaign star and has appeared in recent days on behalf of Re-

publicans in Florida, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. She has considerably higher approval ratings than her husband. In February, the Gallup Poll reported that 82 percent of Americans approved of the job Laura Bush is doing as first lady, nearly 30 points higher than her husband's rating.

Coleman on Prop. 90: Democratic Assembly candidate Terry Coleman (D-Danville) today announced his opposition to Proposition 90, calling the eminent domain initiative a "taxpayer trap that will cost billions and threaten our environment."

Coleman's opponent, Assemblymember Guy Houston (R-Livermore) supports Proposition 90.

"Prop 90 would be a disaster for our communities, our environment, and for taxpayers," said Coleman. "It will result in more bureaucracy and more red tape. On top of that, it would severely limit our ability to enact and enforce the laws that protect our open spaces, farmland, and air and wa-

ter quality."

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst cites "potentially major future costs" to deal with regulatory takings provisions in Prop 90 and "potentially major changes in governmental costs to acquire property for public purposes."

The measure, says Coleman, also would dramatically reduce resources available for local police and fire protection, emergency response, and other critical local services by forcing local governments to pay billions of dollars to enact measures that protect communities.

Coleman joins the California League of Conservation Voters, Consumers Coalition of California, California Chamber of Commerce, California Nurses Association, California Farm Bureau Federation and more than 100 other groups in opposing the initiative. Local newspapers, including the Sacramento Bee, Contra Costa Times, San Fran-

(See ELECTION, page 4)

STONERIDGE

(continued from page one)

in a city traffic report published in 2003. Stoneridge needs to be extended to take the traffic pressure off Valley, she said.

Residents who oppose extending Stoneridge say that commuters would come into their neighborhood in droves from Interstate 580 to cut over to Interstate 680.

However, Allen countered that few would be interested in traveling a route adding "15 or 20 stoplights" to their journey, and then re-enter a congested freeway.

Traffic engineers were not available before the Independent's deadline. However, Hosterman said that it's not clear right now that there would be that many stoplights along the route. She said that a study updating the 2003 report will be published in a month. Staff will have a better indication of what might be done.

Hosterman also said that her experience as a representative to the Congestion Management Authority (CMA) shows that "if we punched through Stoneridge Drive today, it would look like I-580 in peak commute hours. I'm not going to let that happen to my town."

Widening Interstate 580 would help greatly to halt the temptation for cut-through traffic, said Hosterman. She said that once the new traffic study is pub-

lished, the city can go to work on traffic-calming measures.

Allen maintains that the problem is local traffic, not cut-through, whether now or in the future. She quoted the city's study that said anywhere from 85 to 97 percent of the traffic at the Valley/Santa Rita intersection in the late afternoon and evening is just Pleasanton traffic trying to get home.

Since 1990, Pleasanton has added 7000 homes and 25,000 jobs, according to city figures, said Allen. However, Stanley Boulevard is still the only eastern gateway to the city, and that has put incredible pressure on Valley Avenue, said Allen. She said it's time for the city to open Stoneridge Drive, especially since it has more than \$2 million already allocated for the project.

Hosterman said that \$2 million is nowhere near enough to do the job.

Assistant city manager Steve Bocian said that \$2.3 million has accumulated in the Stoneridge Drive fund from developers in the area.

However, that money is for improvements in the entire area, not specifically for extending the road, he said. The funds could also go for "soundwalls, park improvements, or a whole host of improvements that the city is responsible for," explained Bocian.

Allen cited data from the city traffic report to show how jammed the intersections become during rush hours. There are unacceptable levels of service "at critical intersections," says the report. At Valley Avenue and Busch Road, morning commute traffic is at F level, which is below acceptable standards.

The evening and morning traffic are at E level, which is within acceptable standards, but not by much. It is still very crowded, with delays. Safety is another concern.

The Valley/Santa Rita intersection had the worst record in a city survey done between September 2002 and September 2004. The traffic report logged 29 collisions there, including 16 with injuries. The runner-up was Stanley/Valley/Bernal with 23 collisions, 14 with injuries.

Cooke-Kallio is the only candidate who said she thinks the extension should be built. Other candidates support the memorandum of understanding with Alameda County that retains the right-of-way for the extension. Under the memorandum, the city would make the final determination as to whether the extension is built.

Arkin has said the road should be removed from the general plan.

Cooke-Kallio said that if the

extension were kept in the general plan, it would avoid the expense of having to do another EIR, if the city at some future time decided to go ahead with the extension. She emphasized to the Independent that she has not made a commitment to call for building it.

Allen said that the people who were endorsed gave the pro-extension group the impression that they are open to a citywide solution, and "would not add more traffic to levels that already are dangerous."

Asked whether the group met with any council candidates other than the incumbents, Allen replied that the incumbents called them, and asked if they could meet with the group. Hosterman and vice mayor Matt Sullivan were at one meeting, and Thorne and Brozsky at the other.

Cooke-Kallio was in touch separately. Arkin and Dan Faustina did not get in touch with the group, she said.

CHARACTER

(continued from page one)

gram is based on what are called six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Gary Smit, the presenter, stated, "We feel the program should be education based and community embraced. It helps to empower a community to surround each child with a common message, a common set of expectations, and a unified network of support relating to good character."

He pointed out that adults that children come in contact all leave their mark on the children. It is important to make sure that adults are sending a good message. Smit said the program is simple. There are four implementations: T(each), E(nforce), A(dvocate), and M(odel).

Teach children that their character counts. Enforce the six pillars of character by rewarding good behavior and discouraging bad behavior by imposing fair, consistent consequences. Advocate character by continually encouraging children to live up to the six pillars. Model good behavior.

Smit cited studies he said demonstrate the effectiveness of the program. He said that studies show it cuts crime, drug abuse and other misbehavior, and bolsters students' commitment to school. He cited several statistics including a 75% drop in disci-

pline referrals at one school, a decrease of 71% in incidents of physical violence at another school, and a 74% reduction in offenses from substance abuse to vandalism at yet another school.

Smit said a successful coalition can be a group of community members who really care about the future, share a vision for change and are willing to spend their time to work together to make the program happen.

There is a cost involved. Councilmembers Marj Leider and John Marchand asked about that aspect of the program.

Smit said it would depend on what citizens might like to see. For example, two seminars in the community would cost \$22,000. A one day meeting has a cost of \$3000.

"Once people are trained, there is not necessarily any on-going costs," explained Smit. He added that in his community grants have been obtained to fund a staff member. The program does seek membership dues from coalitions and solicits donations from groups such as the Rotary. "There is not a huge budget associated with the program," he added.

City Manager Linda Barton suggested that the subcommittee could talk about how broad a group might be involved in the program and what the budget might be.

There are seven steps a coalition would take to implement a communitywide character development program. First would be a needs assessment; second, a leadership committee would be established followed by step three, a community development program that includes buy-in from community leaders and creation of subgroups focusing on implementation, fund-raising and marketing. Step four would be publication of a handbook; fifth parent involvement, the sixth step involves community training and a speakers bureau, and the final step, evaluation of the program.

Some aspects of the program in other communities include selecting citizens or students of the month based on the designated character for that month. For example, October the featured trait could be fairness.

Other cities have put up signs advocating the six pillars.

Planning Commission Considers Cemetery

A public hearing on the proposed creation of Vineyard Memorial Cemetery on North Livermore Avenue is on the agenda of the Alameda County Planning Commission Nov. 6.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the county building at 224 W. Winton Ave., Hayward.

The commission looked at the proposal in July and is scheduled to hear a presentation on the project and a negative declaration for it. The cemetery would be on 40 acres of a 110-acre parcel on the west side of North Livermore Avenue, approximately one mile north of Interstate 580.

It would have a mortuary, a crematorium, mausoleum, a maintenance building, two residents in a two acre building envelope plus a residence on top of the mortuary.

There is room for up to 115,000 burials.

There would also be several acres of grapes at the front of the property.

The applicant's proposal shows consumption of 125 acre feet annually to water the grassy areas. That's the amount of water that 250 homes use each year. In other terms, approximately 60 acres of vineyards could be irrigated with that amount of water.

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Endorsements

- Tom Pico - Former Mayor
- Ben Tarver - Former Mayor
- Frank Brandes - Former Mayor
- Cindy McGovern - City Councilmember
- Matt Sullivan - City Councilmember
- Anne Fox - Planning Commissioner
- Phil Blank - Planning Commissioner
- Greg O'Connor - Planning Commissioner
- Jennifer Pearce - Planning Commissioner
- Kris Weaver - Pleasanton School Board

FPPC No. 1274794

Brian, Valerie, Chris (14), Angela (11), Nicholas (6)

Celebrate the **JOY** of Christmas Tree Lane

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<p>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2006</p> <p>WONDERLAND FAMILY STROLL 5 - 8 pm \$10 per family</p> <p>Bring the whole family and stroll through the enchanted forest of Christmas Tree Lane. Enjoy a holiday treat and visit with Santa Claus!</p>	<p>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2006</p> <p>THE TINSEL AND CHRISTMAS TEA 10 am - Noon \$20 per person</p> <p>Features an "almost high" tea. Walk through a magical indoor forest as you preview the sparkling Christmas trees and unique silent auction gift baskets. Purchase your chance-drawing tickets for the trees and spectacular china table setting.</p>	<p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2006</p> <p>SILVER BELLS LUNCHEON 11 am - 2 pm \$75 per person</p> <p>Enter the glittering wonderland of lights and colors. Visit the Merry Gentlemen to purchase tree tickets. Enjoy holiday fare and entertainment with friends around your table. Be the lucky winner of the exquisite china table setting, or your favorite tree — and the gifts under the tree!</p>
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SCHOOL BOARD

(continued from page one)

cruit the best teachers; then ask them what they need to do their jobs better. One program she would emphasize is the Reach program, a reading program designed to bring students up to grade level. "It has made a difference with kids with the lowest scores."

Testing is a way of life for schools, said White. However, she doesn't think Livermore focuses as much on teaching to the tests as has been reported in other districts.

When it comes to a third high school, Dunlop noted that the current high schools have more students than were planned. Dunlop points out that the most recent projections predict a decline in enrollment. The board has heard mixed projections on future growth. It is a situation that will have to be monitored. If in the future, another high school is needed, it should be built north of the freeway.

Runyon said before the district builds a third high school, there needs to be a better picture when it comes to future student populations. If needed, the high school should be built north of the freeway.

White said that a larger school supports a greater variety of academic programs. She suggested one option would be to add more portables to accommodate larger student populations. White did not discuss where a third high school should go. "The kids aren't there. We may not need a third high school," she stated. In addition, a charter high school and the Catholic high school are projected to reduce the number of students in Livermore's high schools.

Day felt that the district should work more closely with

the charter school on its plans for a high school. Perhaps the school could meet both the needs of the district and the charter school. If a third high school were needed, it should be on the northeast side of the freeway.

When it comes to inequities at Livermore elementary schools, Day said, "I would go into a school like Marilyn Avenue and deal with the issues personally."

Dunlop would love to see more volunteers from the community step forward. "If you don't have parent volunteers, it would be wonderful to have the community volunteers assist with such things as reading to students and helping with homework clubs," he said.

Runyon said that the community at large has to make up for the inability of parents to be involved at elementary schools where test scores are low. There is the Roadrunner program at Marilyn. I would like to see something comparable at Portola, even if it's just reading to the kids, Runyon stated.

White commented that at elementary schools where there are fewer resources resulting in lower scores, the faculty should be able to focus on academics. The community should help provide outside programs that will help the teachers to keep that focus. The school board needs to make sure those schools have enough and appropriate materials. "The board may have to come to the point where it doesn't treat all of the elementary schools the same when it comes to providing resources."

Day is a math tutor. He received an honorable discharge from the military.

He says his focus would be on improving academic achieve-

ment and citizenship in the schools. However, his main interest would be to raise the level of math test scores in the district. He was particularly concerned about the performance of minority subgroups. One of the schools not meeting the improvement requirement in math is East Avenue Middle School.

Day was hired last year to teach math at East Avenue Middle School. He was let go in a manner that was considered controversial. Since then he has established himself as a math tutor. His website includes letters from parents praising him for his skill in teaching math to their children.

Day did not list any endorsements. His website includes letters of recommendation from parents of children he has tutored in math.

Dunlop is completing two years on the board. He was one of the co-founders of the Livermore Valley Education Foundation and served as president for three years.

He would like to see is more and better use of technology in the schools. "We have got to be able to take advantage of emerging technology," he stated. Dunlop provided several examples. Video conferencing would allow students at Livermore High and Granada High to take the same advanced placement class. Perhaps there would be 5 students at Livermore and ten at Granada.

Continuing education classes for teachers could be provided on site through the same means. Perhaps Tri-Valley schools could work together to provide teleconferencing of advanced placement classes and teacher development classes.

Dunlop has received endorse-

ments from Charles and Debbie Ball, Barry and Kay Schrader, Paul and Ann Kasameyer, Tom Reitter, Bill and Mary Zagotta, Scott Burkhardt, and Pat and Clarence Hoenig.

Runyon has been very active in the schools since moving to the city in 1998. She served on a school site council. Runyon was also president of the Livermore Valley Education Foundation for two years. She chaired the Dollar a Day Campaign from 2000 to 2004 to fill the funding needs of the district.

As a board member, she says she would work to maintain the fiscal health of the district, to enhance student performance, and to recruit and retain the best personnel possible.

One program Runyon would like to see introduced into the Livermore high schools is the international baccalaureate. It is a writing based program. Students have to pass six tests, one in a foreign language, one in their own language, and they select the other four subjects. Tests results are sent to Geneva and graded.

The district still needs to seek more funding from the state through equalization. "We have gotten more. It's not any where what is spent in schools on the east coast. I think we need to be concerned about education throughout the state," Runyon declared.

Among those endorsing Runyon are David and Barbara Mertes, Jim Ott and M. Weldon Moreland.

White has spent 16 years as a member of the school board. She explained when she is running for re-election. "We spent so many years taking the district apart piece by piece, it will be fun to rebuild it today." White doesn't envision returning all of the programs of the past, because it is a different world now.

"We must add to the traditional 3 R's. Instruction must be rigorous for all students, as well as relevant to the careers and challenges of our shrinking world," according to White.

High school overcrowding may take care of itself, mused White. At the high school level, the numbers indicate the district is not growing.

Among those endorsing White are Joyce and Paul Brown, Joe Medeiros, John and Helen Shirley, Ayn Wieskamp, Jim and Bobbie Hadley, Raquel Holt, Bob and Marion Stearns, Don and Miriam Miller, and Pat and Clarence Hoenig.

HABITAT

(continued from page one)

contaminate the wetlands it depends on."

The red-legged frog is believed to be the species of the frog in Twain's well-known short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

The court, the EPA and representatives of the pesticide industry all agreed that buffer zones are permissible until the chemicals' effects can be assessed. "Many of these pesticides are known to be harmful to human health as well," said Galvan.

The court found last year that the EPA had violated the Endangered Species Act by registering pesticides for use without considering how they might impact red-legged frog habitat. The settlement requires completion of consultations on all 66 pesticides within three years.

The buffer zones around the frog habitat are 200 feet for aerial applications to prevent air drift, and 60 feet for ground application, to prevent a threat from runoff.

The settlement calls for distributing an educational brochure for pesticide applicators and county agricultural commissions regarding the species and the impacts of pesticides on it and on progress of recovery generally.

CBD spokesman Jeff Miller said that "informed consultations with the Fish and Wildlife Service should result in permanent restrictions on many of the proven harmful contaminants such as atrazine."

A CBD statement said that studies by Tyrone Hayes at the University of California have

strengthened the case for banning atrazine, the most common contaminant of ground, surface and drinking water. Hayes demonstrated that atrazine is an endocrine disruptor that interferes with reproduction by chemically castrating and feminizing male amphibians. Atrazine has been linked to increased prostate cancer and decreased sperm count in men and high risk of breast cancer in women.

An estimated 90 percent of red-legged frogs have disappeared from 70 percent of their former range, said CBD. Studies have pointed to pesticide drift as a major contributor. Amphibians in general are declining at a major rate around the world. Scientists blame industrial chemicals and pesticides.

Plans Underway to Modernize Weapons Complex

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has announced plans to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the transformation and modernization of the Cold War-era nuclear weapons complex.

The nuclear weapons complex consists of the eight major facilities across the country that work together to keep the nation's nuclear stockpile safe and reliable without underground nuclear testing. The facilities include: Los Alamos National Laboratory (NM), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (CA), Sandia National Laboratories (NM and CA), Pantex Plant (TX), Y-12 National Security Complex (TN), Kansas City Plant (MO), Savannah River Site (SC) and Nevada Test Site (NV).

Earlier in the year, NNSA outlined its plan, called Complex 2030, for a smaller, more efficient nuclear weapons complex that is better able and more suited to respond to future national security challenges. Complex 2030's goal is to achieve President Bush's vision of the smallest stockpile consistent with national security needs.

By 2012, the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile will be re-

duced by nearly 50 percent making it the smallest stockpile since the Eisenhower administration.

Complex 2030 refers to the configuration of the nuclear weapons complex that NNSA envisions by the year 2030. It includes dismantling of retired warheads, consolidating special nuclear materials, eliminating duplicative capabilities, establishing a consolidated plutonium center, and implementing more efficient and uniform business practices throughout the complex.

The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, which includes Tri-Valley CAREs, calls Complex 2030, "A bizarrely inappropriate Dr. Strangelove-esque plan to revitalize the United States nuclear weapons production capability in order to manufacture the new Reliable Replacement Warhead."

They point to testimony before Congress in April 2006 by Thomas DiAgostino, NNSA's Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs. He stated, "We seek an ability to design, develop, certify and begin production of refurbished or replacement warheads within 48 months of a decision to begin engineering development"

The stated goals of Complex 2030 include the following: Production of the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW), a series of new weapons claimed to perform reliably without ever needing nuclear testing; an increase of the dismantlement of retired warheads; Consolidation of special nuclear materials used in nuclear weapons to fewer sites in the complex and fewer locations within the sites to reduce the cost of security; the establishment of a consolidated plutonium research and production center; and introduction of more uniformity in technical and business practices to reduce risk and increase efficiency.

In order to further define the EIS and identify key issues, NNSA is requesting comments from the public. The public comment period will continue through January 18, 2007. Public comments will be accepted in writing or at one of the 17 meetings that NNSA will be hosting in the local communities surrounding each site in the nuclear weapons complex and in Washington, D.C. The NOI (notice of intent) includes additional public comment information and a complete list of the meetings including dates, times and locations.

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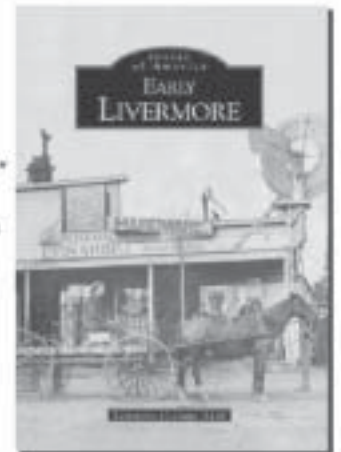
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EDITORIALS

Global Warming

Local voters will be in the national spotlight Tuesday when they help decide one of the key congressional races, Jerry McNerney versus Richard Pombo.

McNerney is going all-out to unseat Pombo, who has represented the 11th Congressional District since 1992. The district includes Pleasanton and Sunol.

In addressing issues of national security, we hope voters will give thought to global warming. Here is an enemy that threatens the U.S. and the entire world with far-reaching destruction.

Though scientists are pretty well united in seeing the warming as a real and dire threat, the present ruling regime in Washington — of which Pombo is a major player — continues to belittle the problem. Instead of seeking alternatives to the polluting industries, Pombo and his cohorts in Washington work to protect the profits of those corporations.

McNerney speaks about the alternatives with expertise. A Pleasanton resident, he works as a wind energy consultant. When asked by this newspaper about global warming, McNerney said, "We need to take it seriously. We can reduce consumption of oil. ..." He went on to offer a string of specific solutions, from cars that get 100 miles per gallon to "green" buildings.

We urge 11th District voters to elect Jerry McNerney. The stakes have never been higher as they relate to the long-range security of the nation and world.

Bringing Global Warming Home

As mayor of Pleasanton, Jennifer Hosterman has made global warming a local issue.

She has tried to involve Pleasanton in the global debate over the warming. Moreover, she has campaigned tirelessly at the local level for "green" policies and projects. Thanks to Hosterman's endeavors, the City of Pleasanton practices the green ethic wherever it is possible to do so, striving for clean energy and sustainable energy in its buildings and transportation fleet.

Hosterman's attempts to get the City Council to take stands on issues such as the Kyoto Treaty have been less successful. They've brought criticism from those who claim the council should concern itself only with Pleasanton issues.

Of course, global warming IS a Pleasanton issue. Because of the comprehensive green operations of the city government, Pleasanton stands in the ranks of those who are doing something about global warming — who are confronting the problem with action.

To keep moving Pleasanton in this enlightened direction, Jennifer Hosterman deserves reelection.

ELECTION

(continued from page one)

cisco Chronicle, Stockton Record, and The Independent also have editorialized against Proposition 90.

Cheryl Cook-Kallio endorsed: Cheryl Cook-Kallio, a candidate for Pleasanton City Council, has among her list of endorsements Congressman Pete Stark, State Senator Liz Figueroa, Assemblyman Alberto Torrico, Assemblyman Johan Klehs, former assemblymember and state senate candidate Ellen Corbett and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty.

She had been previously honored by two of these representatives for outstanding service to the community. In 2004, she was chosen by Figueroa as the 10th Senate District's Woman of the Year. She was recently selected by Torrico as Citizen of the Year.

Mary Hayashi Press Release: A press release from the Mary Hayashi campaign notes that the San Francisco Chronicle, serving over 1.1 million readers in Northern California, announced its endorsement of Mary Hayashi for California State Assembly District 18.

Hayashi is the Democratic nominee for Assembly District 18, having won the primary election in June 2006. She is a member of the California Board of Registered Nursing, which licenses and regulates registered nursing in California, having been appointed to this position by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez. Mary has received the endorsement of the Central Labor Council of Alameda County, the California State Council of SEIU, Hayward Firefighters Local 1909, California Federation of Teachers, California Nurses Association, Sierra Club California, California League of Conservation Voters, as well as a number

of other local unions, community leaders, and elected officials.

Lockhart for Buck: Democratic Mayor of Dublin, Janet Lockhart is supporting candidate Jill Buck for State Assembly. Buck has numerous high level local Democrats in her corner, largely due to her work in public education advocacy and environmental protection.

Mayor Lockhart praises Buck, "As a life-long Democrat I look to my party to provide the best candidate. Sometimes that does not happen. I must step outside my party affiliations and select the best person for the job. Jill Buck is just that candidate. I know she will work hard to form a bipartisan team in Sacramento and will represent all of the district's interests."

Houston poll: According to a press release issued by Assemblyman Guy Houston he has a commanding lead over his challenger in the race for the 15th Assembly seat. According to the press release, a poll released Wednesday shows the two-term incumbent up by 19 points in a poll taken of likely Election Day voters.

The Democrat in the race is Terry Coleman.

In addition, numbers in Assembly District 15 show that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is beating State Treasurer Phil Angelides by a 30 point margin. The survey was conducted by nationally recognized Public Opinion Strategies.

The 15th Assembly District includes Livermore, Walnut Creek, Alamo, Danville, San Ramon, and a portion of Pleasanton. The district also includes the Sacramento Delta communities, the City of Galt, and portions of Stockton and Elk Grove.

MAILBOX

(Opinions voiced in letters published in Mailbox are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Independent. Letter Policy: The Independent will not publish anonymous letters, nor will it publish letters without names. Frequent letter writers may have publication of their letters delayed.)

Vote for Prop. 87

**Susan Steinberg
Livermore**

Thanks to a newspaper's recent graphic chart, the true facts about Prop. 87 are finally clear. Just as clear are the reasons why Californians should approve Prop. 87.

I hadn't realized that our state, America's third largest oil producer, taxes oil companies at a pitiful fraction of other states' levels.

Texas, the biggest producer, charges oil firms a hefty 4.6%, while second-place Arizona levels a whopping 12.5% to 15%. Even Wyoming, smallest of the Big Seven, gets a healthy 6%.

I couldn't believe that third-place California, pumping over 200,000 barrels of oil a year, gets less than a measly 1% in taxes. Obviously we are the only state missing out on an enormous source of badly-needed revenue.

Why? Because our legislature, which receives such substantial campaign contributions from this powerful industry, has never mustered the nerve to impose appropriate tax rates on their corporate "friends."

These are the same corporate heavies who have thrown over \$100 million into a huge advertising campaign to derail a Prop. 87 victory. We've all been deluged by their slick and expensive propaganda for months now.

They can well afford it; they've been earning phenomenal record profits from us, the gas-buying public. (Top anti-87 contributor Chevron even posted an obscene 150% profit in refining and marketing, from \$573 million to \$1.44 billion.)

As usual, the good guys trying to publicize the truth about Prop. 87 are being overwhelmingly outspent by the big agencies. After all, they're a small public-service coalition, not a private-profit mega-power.

But that one factual chart clears away all the PR fog and shows how shamefully low our oil tax has been all these years, and how Prop. 87 would finally give California the oil revenue that every other state already receives.

It's obviously long overdue. Vote "yes" on Prop. 87.

Why not the best?

**Marshall Kamena
Mayor of Livermore**

**Janet Lockhart
Mayor of Dublin**

**Scott Haggerty
Alameda County Supervisor**

Sandra Bean is clearly the best choice for Superior Court Judge. Fair, honest, experienced, Sandra would be the first Tri-Valley judicial candidate ever to win a contested Superior Court race. Her superior experience and abilities have drawn support from all segments of our community, Senator Figueroa and Assemblymember Houston, Sheriff Plummer and the National Women's Political Caucus, Firefighters, Neighborhood Leaders, and 38 of the 43 Superior Court Judges that have endorsed in this race, and of course the three of us.

Sandra has been successfully working as Deputy County Counsel, helping and representing our elderly and infirm. She also serves as a Judge Pro Tem, and is the only candidate with actual judicial experience. This time the choice is easy. The better candidate is also the one with long-time ties to our communities, and a true desire to serve.

Please join us in supporting Sandra Bean for Superior Court Judge.

Arkin for Council

**Phillip J. Blank
Pleasanton**

I am writing as a private citizen of Pleasanton to ask for your support in helping elect Brian Arkin to the Pleasanton City Council. Brian has served almost eight years as a Planning Commissioner and been twice elected Chair.

I have worked closely with Brian as a member of the Planning Commission. I have watched as he consistently uses his creativity and commitment to craft good planning decisions for the City of Pleasanton. He is willing to be creative and original in his proposals; in fact, the current approach to the traffic element of our general plan was, to a great extent, Brian's idea accepted by both the Planning Commission and the City Council. It got the process moving!

Brian is a staunch supporter of our local business community and is an active proponent of

both business growth and a vibrant downtown. He is the only candidate who holds a Masters of Business Administration.

Brian has not accepted any PAC money or large out-of-town corporate donations. He has not indebted his campaign. He is running a based on local support not special interest support.

He is has always been sensitive to the issue of affordable housing. He understands the importance of "measured" development and wisely using our existing housing cap to provide housing for all. Multimillion dollar homes in the City is not the best way for those with young families to become part of our City landscape.

On Election Day, vote for Brian Arkin. He is the best qualified candidate to preserve the wonderful quality of life that we all enjoy in the city.

'It's about Brozosky'

**Pat Smith
Pleasanton**

Recently it has come to light that Pleasanton Mayoral challenger Steve Brozosky owns a company that develops and sells "citizen complaint" tracking software to nearby local governments. When asked if this might influence his dealings as Mayor with these neighboring cities, he scoffs at any concern of a conflict of interest, stating, for example, that he "gave away" his software to the Livermore Airport. But an examination of his web site, www.govoutreach.com/news/press/tracy1.htm, reveals that he installs the software for "free" and then charges up to \$15,000 a year for its use. He has contracts in sixteen cities so far, including Livermore, San Ramon, Tracy, and Pittsburg. It seems clear that Brozosky is using his relationships developed as a City Councilmember to market his product to other nearby cities.

Despite his denials, one wonders if Brozosky's business dealings with the Airport had any bearing on his refusal to consider Pleasanton's participation in the airport noise monitoring program, raised at the September 5th Council meeting, stating that "airplanes make noise" - echoing the mantra of airport expansion advocates. One also wonders how he might be influenced when other contentious issues arise between Pleasanton and our neighbors if he continues doing business with them.

Pleasanton needs a Mayor with integrity, and whose priorities lie in representing our City. We don't need a Mayor who will use the office as a springboard for their own personal business interests. I think he got his campaign slogan wrong. It should be: "It's all about Brozosky."

Elect Kate Runyon

**Katie Caulk
Livermore**

I met Kate Runyon eight years ago while working on a school issue, and have been consistently impressed with her ideas, her dedication and her energy towards preserving quality education for Livermore's students. I am so pleased Kate is running to serve on the Livermore School Board. It's about time!

On days when Kate wasn't in the classroom as math tutor, Kate stepped into the community and garnered school support. Kate's brainchild, the successful Dollar-A-Day campaign, under her leadership as president of the Livermore Valley Education Foundation, helped our schools in a time of fiscal crises. In addition to helping save class-size reduction, science and library programs Kate's innovative ideas and integrity helped bring local business, the city, and LARPD to the school district's aide.

I trust Kate. She not only has vision, she knows how to realize that vision at both the local and State levels. Her proven integrity will guide the district to act in the best interest of our children. Please join me in voting for Kate Runyon as a new Trustee on the Livermore School Board.

Re-elect Hosterman

**Billie Otis
Pleasanton**

Councilmember Steve Brozosky is at it again. His campaign slogan should be "Do as I say, not as I do."

First it was Mayor Hosterman's use of her title at meetings outside the Council chamber. He said it implied she was representing the city when she used her title. Is that what it means when Councilmember Brozosky's title and position are used on his website as advertising to sell his "Government Outreach" software?

During the last Mayoral election, Councilmember Brozosky challenged Mayor Hosterman on a \$1,000 campaign contributions from developers, stating, "These people do not normally donate this much money at the local level unless they are expecting something in return." Of course,

there has never been any evidence that Mayor Hosterman has been swayed on any decision before the Council. However, the comment by Councilmember Brozosky certainly begs the question: What is he getting in return from his recent "gifts" of his company's software to political entities like neighboring towns, Livermore Airport and Wheels? Now that certainly looks, feels and smells like a conflict of interest to me.

Currently he's accusing Mayor Hosterman of using a city based e-mail account inappropriately during this campaign. The City Attorney has deemed this use inadvertent, at worst. Councilmember Brozosky failed to mention that he used city resources to obtain e-mail addresses of persons who have contacted the city on business, and then utilized the information to disperse candidate endorsements, his campaign status, and criticism of Mayor Hosterman. From his actions in the Council chamber to the campaign he running, Councilmember Brozosky has blatantly disregarded our Community of Character principles. Please join me in voting for someone who has shown nothing but honesty, respect, and integrity during her present term and this campaign. Re-elect Mayor Jennifer Hosterman.

Buck for Assembly

**Jan Batcheller
Pleasanton**

Jill is a proven leader. She has served our country honorably as a Naval Officer. Jill created the Go Green Initiative for schools. It is the largest environmental education program for children in the United States. It is now an international program teaching children how to save our planet.

Jill is a consensus builder. She believes in working across party lines to serve the people she represents. She will work with whoever will get the job done. She knows this district and its needs, having lived here for many years. Jill does not play partisan politics. Jill understands our healthcare and traffic issues and is eager to tackle those problems. She is passionate about education and the environment. She has the endorsement of Democrats and Republicans alike. Please check out Jill's website, www.JillBuck.com.

Jill is young and enthusiastic. She is intelligent and focused. She is honest, kind and has a positive outlook. Her enthusiasm is infectious. In a word, Jill Buck is a breath of fresh air for the politics of today.

Please give every consideration to Jill Buck for California's 18th Assembly District.

Re-elect Thorne

**Bradley Hirst
Pleasanton**

Jerry Thorne has served our community well during his first two years on City Council. He listens well, does his homework, is always prepared, and presents himself with decorum and respect for all others present at Council meetings. He does not practice negative politics and he does not lower himself into personal attack.

Best of all, Jerry is a positive person and makes his decisions and recommendations based on best serving the entire community, not on favoring one neighborhood over another, or a personal political agenda.

Jerry is a Council member we can be proud to represent Pleasanton.

Cut-through traffic?

**Dan Maslana
Pleasanton Teacher**

Since moving to Pleasanton in 1973, I've seen the city evolve and grow in many different ways. I remember a small town with only one traffic signal, rural roads, and open fields. But, regardless of the changes that have taken place, one constant has been thoughtful planning, especially where traffic is concerned. That's why I am absolutely amazed that the Stoneridge Drive extension is even being considered.

Although it was once in the city's master plan, that was before the massive growth of cities like Tracy and the associated commuter traffic on Interstate 580. Allowing through traffic to El Charro Road would encourage large numbers of frustrated commuters to exit North 680 at Stoneridge and follow it all the way across town to escape the freeway parking lot. Those traveling east on 580 could also easily exit on Foothill and proceed to Stoneridge attempting to do the same.

Contrary to those who argue this is a "not in my backyard" issue, the truth is actually much more common sense. Not only will extending Stoneridge Drive not alleviate other congested areas in town, but it will actually create a Tracy cut-through traffic expressway splitting our city in two. Every citizen of Pleasanton

will suffer from the constant parade of vehicles driving through on their way to the valley. If you find this scenario disturbing, please join me in supporting Jennifer Hosterman for Mayor and Brian Arkin for City Council — the only two candidates who are unequivocally against the Stoneridge extension and traffic gridlock in our beautiful community.

Arkin for Council

**Matt Morrison
Pleasanton**

Brian Arkin is the perfect choice for Pleasanton City Council. I have known Brian since about 1998, a couple years prior to his service on the planning commission.

When I first met Brian he demonstrated his devotion to our city by becoming involved in civic decisions as a citizen. Brian tirelessly studied the many voluminous reports prepared by city staff and consultants. Brian formed intelligent and even visionary conclusions that he had confidence in to present and discuss in a variety of public forums. Over the years Brian earned the respect of his colleagues as an individual of knowledge and integrity. I believe the reason Brian worked this hard is because the quality of Pleasanton made a difference in the lives of his family and friends, so Brian was prepared to make a difference in the quality of Pleasanton.

Based upon my personal interaction with Brian over many years and demonstrated by his six years of service on our planning commission, two of which he served as its chairperson, Brian has the expertise Pleasanton needs to tackle our serious housing, open space, and traffic issues. As important, Brian is a member of our community first who has worked diligently for solutions that promote a healthy Pleasanton today and tomorrow. As a Pleasanton resident since 1968 I have had the opportunity to observe many officials of various capabilities. I hope you will join me to elect a council member who is first rate and vote Brian Arkin for Pleasanton City Council.

Campaign Funding

**Terry Messick
Pleasanton**

According to Dave Bouchard, President, and CEO of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber felt that neither candidate for Mayor, "rose to the standards set by the Chamber for endorsement." Who does the Chamber think they are fooling? It is much more likely that neither candidate for Mayor would lower their standards to conform with the self-serving interests of the Chamber. The Chamber must be frustrated by how certain candidates steadfastly refuse to be bullied by the desires of well-heeled special interest groups.

Not to worry too much, the Chamber, has had an extremely poor track record in electing their chosen candidates. The Chamber, out of desperation, created a Political Action Committee to fund their endorsed candidates. Their BACPAC spent an enormous amount of money to get Jerry Thorne out of the \$25,000 debt he acquired when he ran for City Council in 2005. If not for the \$10,000 in campaign mailers paid for by PG&E Corporation in the last few days of the 2005 election, it's very likely Jerry Thorne would have lost for a third time. According to his Form 460, Jerry Thorne, and his contributors, spent an unprecedented \$36,774 of his Campaign in 2005?

Brian Arkin and Dan Faustina spent far less on their Campaigns in 2005! Before you cast your vote, maybe you should find out where the candidates are getting their funding? I don't want anyone who might be perceived as being beholden to big money contributors like the BACPAC and PG&E. How about you?

Protect Pleasanton's Future

**Nancy Krakau
Pleasanton**

A vote for Brian Arkin for City Council is a vote to protect Pleasanton's future. For eight years Brian has tirelessly committed himself to the betterment of our community. His efforts on the Pleasanton Planning Commission have focused on smart development. He has ensured that our neighborhoods and our quality of life have not been sacrificed as new development has occurred. As a Pleasanton Planning Commissioner Brian has carefully scrutinized projects based on how the additional traffic will affect local residents and businesses. He has voted against those that will add to our existing traffic congestion. He's a champion for senior affordable housing, sports, arts and youth facilities, environment-friendly buildings and the enhancement of Downtown.

As a father of three children

(continued on page 5)

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MAILBOX

(continued from page 4)

enrolled in Pleasanton schools he is integrally involved as a school volunteer and has committed himself to protecting the safety and security of our children and our wonderful community. He is easily approachable and eager to listen to the needs and concerns of local parents, educators, senior citizens and business owners.

Brian Arkin has a vision that will protect and enhance Pleasanton's future. The residents of Pleasanton can make it their vision as well when they vote November 7th.

Arkin Stands Out Nancy Storch Pleasanton

In the Pleasanton City Council race, there are candidates who are well spoken and have considerable potential to help the City meet the on-going challenges of traffic and growth. How does one know whom to vote for?

In my view, one candidate, Brian Arkin stands out from the rest. Not only is he enthusiastic, well educated and committed to making a difference in the community, he is the only candidate who has actually demonstrated leadership while in a position of serving Pleasanton. Unique among the candidates, Brian Arkin has a track record of serving eight years on the City Planning Commission and working hard to preserve our high quality of life in Pleasanton. His record shows he has made a difference in voting to: reject projects that would increase traffic, approve senior housing projects, and protect hills and open space.

Dissatisfaction with the current City Council does not mean that someone new without experience will be effective. My first choice for City Council is Brian Arkin. As a City Councilmember he will be able to continue serving our community and find better solutions for the benefit of all Pleasanton. Please vote for him.

Proven Record Nick Testa

Nick Testa Pleasanton

Please join me in voting for Brian Arkin for Pleasanton City Council. Brian has the experience and proven record of working to protect Pleasanton's quality of life. He authored Measure V, which allowed us to reduce the housing and preserve much of the Bernal land for public use. He has been on the Pleasanton planning commission for more than seven years.

He has an established voting record proving his slow growth, pro neighborhood position. For nearly ten years I have watched Brian work on many issues. I will vote for Brian because I know I can trust him to always be fair and thoughtful in making his decisions. He will listen to all sides and support the position he believes is in the best interest of the people of Pleasanton. I know Brian will not be seduced by special interest groups, and is willing to work hard. There is not a better candidate for the job.

Please vote for Brian Arkin for City Council, and Steve Brozovsky for Mayor.

Elect Faustina, Thorne Sharrell Michelotti Former Pleasanton City Councilmember

On November 7th you will elect two City Council members. I urge you to vote for Jerry Thorne and Dan Faustina.

Jerry Thorne has brought a reasonable voice to the City of Pleasanton as a member of the City Council for the past 15 months. We need to continue his presence by re-electing him to a four year term. He brings a strong business background and has proven his ability to apply this knowledge to the job of representing you both locally and regionally.

Dan Faustina grew up here, and after graduating from Pepperdine University, came back to Pleasanton to work and live in his hometown. He has been and is actively involved in the community coaching youth football, serving as a youth leader at Trinity Lutheran Church, and is President-elect of

the Kiwanis Club of Pleasanton. He presently serves on two Alameda Co. Commissions and is an active Chamber member. As a businessman who has a passion for public service and a desire to shape Pleasanton's future, Dan would make an excellent City Council Member—bringing a fresh and reasonable perspective to the table as well as relentless energy and the ability to grasp issues and make tough decisions.

Elect Dan Faustina and Jerry Thorne, Pleasanton City Council.

Preserving Pleasanton Kelly Cousins Pleasanton

The upcoming Pleasanton City Council Election is a very important event as it will affect our community for years to come. The local election is also the only time where an individual vote can have the most influence of all the other races in which we participate. I have lived in Pleasanton long enough (over 16 years) to have closely followed various local elections and to have worked on the campaigns of many of our elected officials. I have witnessed how our elected officials' decisions and voting records can be driven by the wishes of the community, by the candidate's own political ambition and by special interests groups who often bring with them the bigger campaign dollars. I try to understand which of these factors has a greater influence on a councilmember's vote and his or her positions on the important decisions that shape our community. Therefore, it is very important for me to endorse a candidate whose record and actions have consistently been aligned with what most of us desire for our community and not with a small group of influential campaign contributors. When superficially looking at the four City Council Candidates' current campaign positions, there is not a significant difference in their priorities for Pleasanton. However when looking deeper, there is a great difference between the candidates.

Brian Arkin has consistently demonstrated that he is the best candidate for City Council by his continued efforts and dedication of seven years of service to our community as a member of the Planning Commission. Many of the same issues facing the future members of the City Council have been previously studied, discussed and voted on by Arkin as a member of the Planning Commission. Arkin has proven himself a good leader and a positive group member by seeking consensus on the Planning Commission yet also standing alone at times for what he believes is a worthy solution to the critical issues facing Pleasanton's future. He has worked hard to protect our hills and open space, sought more park lands and senior housing as well as encouraged more development near mass transit areas to limit the impact of increased traffic on the community. He has frequently met with various individuals and neighborhood groups as a member of the Planning Commission to help arrive at creative solutions to difficult local and city-wide problems. He has consistently demonstrated to me that he has put his unflinching efforts towards his campaign promises. The lack of proven experience and a consistent voting record of other City Council Candidates on these important issues concerns me. What do they have to show for all their campaign rhetoric?

It takes a person of strong personal conviction and a history of working specifically on the issues that affect all of Pleasanton to get my vote. Brian has worked for us from behind the scenes not only in his position on the Planning Commission since 1999 but as co-author of Measure V which put to the vote a limitation to the number of homes developed in the Bernal Property. He fought the original proposal of over 3,000 houses in the Bernal Development that would have clogged Pleasanton streets with 30,000 car trips each day.

As the City Councilmembers move toward a final decision

about the General Plan and City's future build-out, I can count on Brian Arkin to continue to work hard for what is important to me, my family and Pleasanton. Please join me in voting for Brian Arkin to help preserve what we like best about Pleasanton and what we desire for our city's future.

Buck for 18th Assembly John O'Neill Pleasanton

Jill Buck is the ideal candidate for the State's 18th Assembly District. She is a tireless worker for schools (ie. Go Green Initiative—recycle waste), safe neighborhoods, quality education and numerous community based organizations.

Jill has demonstrated working across party lines for the benefit of all citizens regardless of their political party. She is a very action oriented person who will get the job done.

Please join me in voting for Jill Buck on Nov. 7th.

Brozovsky and Business Kendall Smith President, Government Outreach, Pleasanton

As president of Government Outreach (which I co-founded with councilman and mayoral candidate Steve Brozovsky) I need to set the record straight on the wild accusations made by others.

Almost two years ago, Steve suggested to me that we offer our software at no cost to the Livermore airport so they would have a tool to monitor and reduce the impacts of airplane noise in the Tri-Valley. This was a community-relations effort and no funds have been paid to us, or ever will be, for the software or consulting services we provided the airport.

Steve is always generous with his knowledge and time, whether helping Pleasanton by giving our neighboring city free use of our professional software, producing the Pleasanton youth website, ptown411.com, or volunteering extensive technical support in our public schools. Steve should be commended. Those attacking Steve should be ashamed to criticize those who give so much to our community!

People who know nothing about our business have written letters to the papers fabricating information on our company and our sales model. We do have a real business and charge customers for our services, no differently than the mayor whose family owns a personal injury lawyer business. Our business, and Steve's passion, is to make government more accessible, efficient and accountable. Steve's expertise in customer service has made him a recognized leader in this field for 15 years. Pleasanton is lucky to have an individual like Steve freely giving his time and expertise to his community.

Don't Make The Same Mistake Again George Withers Fire Chief (Retired) Pleasanton

When I thought about what I wanted to write in this letter, I kept thinking of the axioms "History Repeats Itself" and "Don't Make The Same Mistake Twice."

When I moved to the Amador Valley in 1954 there were less than 5,000 people each in Livermore and in Pleasanton. At that time we had only one telephone prefix in each City (Hiltop-7 in Livermore and Victor-6 in Pleasanton), we did not even have ZIP Codes at that time. Each city had one City Fire Station (Livermore also had a County Fire Station). We had a total 3 East-West roadway options to drive between Livermore and Pleasanton, Hwy 50, Stanley Blvd. and Vineyard Ave.

I joined the Pleasanton Fire Department in 1965 (All Volunteer Department) and in 1967 was hired as a Paid Firefighter where I served this community for another 30 years and the last 8 years as your Fire Chief. Based on

this, I would like to offer the following historical perspective of Pleasanton's development. It is not my intent to speak for the present Fire Department Leadership.

Fire Stations locations are placed throughout a city, based on projected growth areas and planned or existing access roads. Our purpose is to provide a quick and sufficient response to control a variety of emergencies throughout the City. Think about where our Fire Stations are (have been) located; during all of my career, Station #1 was located near the center of town, it provided a quick response in any direction, and worked well for many years. As the City began to grow the Fire Department began to strategically locate additional Fire Stations based on projected and existing roadways, and growth areas/ planned developments. Because we were told that West Las Positas Blvd. was planned to be the next East-West Cross Valley access road, in 1969, we located "Temporary" Fire Station #2 in the Highland Oaks Tract, just two blocks off of W. Las Positas Blvd. In 1970, with W. Las Positas still planned to be the next East-West Valley Crossing, we built Fire Station #3 on the corner of W. Las Positas Blvd. and Santa Rita Rd.

At some point between 1970 and 1980, because of protests from the residents on W. Las Positas Blvd., a decision was made to realign Stoneridge Drive and make that the new East-West Valley Crossing. All of the property owners were notified of this intent as part of the property development /property purchase process.

Based on this decision, in 1984 when we built the new Fire Station #2 (to replace the "Temporary" facility opened in 1969), we located this station near the intersection of Stoneridge Mall Rd. and Stoneridge Drive, to provide rapid access to Stoneridge Drive, the new planned East-West Valley Crossing.

Now, in 2006, we have another protest from property owners regarding the long planned Stoneridge Drive extension.

Since 1954, we have seen the populations of Livermore and Pleasanton increase more than 10 fold, and in addition, we now have the City of Dublin. We now have multiple Telephone Prefixes in each city, as well as multiple ZIP Codes in each city, due to the population growth we've experienced over the past 52 years.

However, we still have the same 3 East-West cross valley roadway options, to permit us drive between Livermore and Pleasanton, Hwy 580 (Former Hwy 50), Stanley Blvd. and Vineyard Ave. While these 3 roads have seen improvements, they are not adequate for the population and traffic increases we've experienced during this period of time.

Do we need another East-West Valley Crossing? You bet your life we do!

I'm not even going to address the needs, or emergency response concerns, created by various types of highway emergencies we experience, and the resulting diversion of traffic into Pleasanton, as this is usually a short-term problem. I want to encourage people to think about our daily traffic flow needs, and Traffic Signal Synchronization is not the answer. We have a Computerized Traffic Signal Control System now, so why not proceed with synchronization?

Pleasanton residents know not to use East bound Hwy 580 on any afternoon, yet if they want to go to East/Livermore, they are forced to use Stanley Blvd. or Vineyard Ave. both of which force the majority people to drive toward the center of town, creating far more traffic than the surface roads in this area are designed to handle.

We need to complete another East-West Valley Crossing option, in the Northern portion of our City. Since Las Positas was

the original planed Cross Valley Access Road, and since Las Positas Blvd. already exists in Livermore, it would seem logical to continue with a modified version of that original plan. I would propose that we continue with the Stoneridge Drive extension, maybe even route it back into the existing Las Positas Blvd. roadway easement and continue East.

It's time for the City Council to complete the plans developed by those brilliant City Council members who have preceded them. Let's try to restore compliance with our City's Motto, "The City of Planned Progress." Don't let "History Repeat Itself" and "Don't Make The Same Mistake Twice."

We Need Pombo Roy Cornwell Livermore

Thousands of acres of private property are burdened with penalties as the land is declared "habitat" for various species. And all without a scientific study to determine if the particular species is truly in danger or if the species even exists on the land in question. Does the ESA need changes? Of course it does. Richard Pombo's proposed changes to the ESA are necessary and long overdue. Remember that the bill passed in the House on a bipartisan vote. It is time to bring more sensible methodology to the protection of endangered critters while still protecting the property rights of the citizens.

His book, "This Land Is Our Land," is a guide on how to end the war on private property. It should be required reading for elected officials and anyone who owns property.

Pombo has been a progressive legislator in all his time in Congress. One example is his proposal for a new route from the Central Valley to the San Jose area that makes extremely good sense. He has been instrumental in road improvements in the area to help ease the hellish commute for workers going to work in the Bay Area. Try route 205 during commute hours.

Mr. Pombo has helped those of us involved in wind power

projects in the Altamont area, showing a real concern for renewable energy. We need Richard Pombo in Congress.

Support Prop. 1E Barbara Hempill, President League of Women Voters Livermore-Amador Valley

Proposition 1E on the November 7 ballot is California's answer to the wake-up call heard around the country following Hurricane Katrina. This bond measure will enable the state to begin essential repairs to its aging and neglected flood control system. This work is needed to protect our lives and property.

In addition, Proposition 1E will protect the state's supply of clean, safe drinking water by upgrading flood control systems that can fail and threaten drinking water supplies, pollute streams, and foul beaches.

California is vulnerable to natural disasters, and our economy and quality of life are at risk if we do nothing to upgrade our water infrastructure. Join the League of Women Voters of California by voting "yes" on Proposition 1E on November 7 to meet that challenge.

Hiding? Lillie Bond Livermore

I read in a local newspaper on 10.19.06 that Republican Assemblyman Guy Houston sought and obtained a gag order keeping his deposition testimony in the fraud lawsuit filed against him secret until after the upcoming election in which he asks us to re-elect him into office.

Very serious allegations of fraud have been made against Guy Houston. Maybe they are true, or maybe they're not. But what right does he have to keep everything secret until after an election where the voters are to make judgments about one's honesty, integrity, and fitness for office?

What did Guy Houston do and why doesn't he want us to know? If he wasn't concerned about damaging information coming out in his deposition, why would he want to keep his testimony

(continued on page 6)



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MAILBOX

(continued from page 5)
secret? What is he hiding?

Softball Fields Lisa Stanford Livermore

I am writing this in hope of raising awareness regarding the upcoming decision of the LARPD board members whether to close the softball field on 7th and G streets. My daughter has played for the LGSA for the past two years. It is an activity that she and her friends look forward to every spring. There are not many affordable athletic opportunities left for the children of this valley.

It is my understanding that LGSA would be forced to eliminate up to two age groups for the 2008 season if this field is forced to close. If they must close this field, an alternate location should be provided for play. Some families have made the decision to register their children in leagues outside of Livermore due to the fear of there not being facilities available in the future. I cannot afford to transport my kids from city to city, and don't think I should have to.

Please attend the meeting to help save our playing fields, Wednesday, November 8th at 7 p.m. at the Robert Livermore Community Center on East Avenue.

Increased Taxes? Del Miles Livermore

Those who promote bonds (Prop. 1A, B, C, D, E and 84) say we can have what we want without an increase in taxes. Wrong. About half of the cost of bonds is for interest. That's additional interest we would owe, to be paid by taxes. That's additional taxes.

Pay as we go would pay the total cost in half the tie. (No interest). At the same cost as bonds, the savings in interest could double the services provided. Interest payments do not build roads. The taxes we pay for interest could.

Do we really want to pay \$50,000 for a \$25,000 vehicle???? Who is promoting bonds? Investors? Are we voting to double the price for services? Think about it.

Arkin for Council Mike Regan Pleasanton

Is public service a calling or does it merely serve as a spring board to launch self serving participants into positions of increasing power and influence? In times gone by, public service was considered a noble endeavor. To serve one's community in order to make it better was a laudable goal. Unfortunately, too many of today's politician's are more interested in sound bites, imagine making, spin and the pure pursuit of power. Fewer and fewer candidates who fit the traditional notion of serving their community are pursuing higher office.

Brian Arkin is one of those who still believes in serving his fellow citizens to keep Pleasanton a wonderful place to live and work. He is committed to ensuring its continued vitality in the future. Brian has served with distinction on the planning commission for the past eight years. He has shown himself to be a committed, objective, compassionate and creative leader during this time. His efforts in securing the Bernal property, working to increase access to sports fields, assuring the thoroughness of the General Plan update, and his commitment to youth issues exhibit Brian's true love for his city and his dedication to serve it. Brian's altruism is refreshing in today's environment. He will make a fantastic City Council member.

Experience Counts Jeff Nibert Pleasanton

I ask the voters of Pleasanton to join together in electing Brian Arkin to the City Council. Brian has worked hard as our Planning Commissioner since 1999.

He required that new development respect our community values and neighborhoods, and he has protected our hills and open space.

Brian Arkin conceived and co-authored Measure V in 2002

to preserve our Bernal Park across from the fairgrounds. The voters in 2002 agreed with Brian's vision of a Bernal Park with sports fields, gardens, art center and open space.

Experience really counts in city government, and Brian Arkin has "paid his dues." He will be a strong and effective voice to preserve our Pleasanton values.

Please be sure to vote for Brian Arkin for City Council!

Support Democrats Aziza Mara Livermore

How long do we overlook the atrocities of our present administration? How much more exploitation of our society should we endure? Some Americans condone these actions in retaliation for President Clinton's personal, consensual, sexual affair. That is really quite clever: letting a band of hooligans ruin our country for the sake of revenge. Talk about cutting off your nose to spite your face!

President Clinton's affair affected a handful of people. We are allowing Bush and his double-dealing cohorts force their self-serving agenda on the whole world. They're ruining our global standing, spying on our citizens, inventing news, squashing dissenters, denying scientific facts, mishandling natural disasters, supporting escalating pollution, corrupting the Medicare drug prescription program, squandering our children's resources, and killing American and Iraqi sons and daughters.

In these upcoming elections let us invest the time to study the candidates and issues. Know who we are entrusting with our country. Keep Big Money from buying and misappropriating our votes. Restore the balance of power we need in Congress by sending Democrats like Jerry McNeerney, Ellen Tauscher, and Dianne Feinstein to Washington so we can take America back for "all" Americans.

Please vote for Terry Coleman for state assembly, a real independent thinker, to replace Guy Houston, whose record shows nothing but rubber-stamp politics. Houston is currently embroiled in a scandal (pg. A3, V.T. 10/24/06) regarding defrauding the elderly in real estate deals—why is the deposition of this case being kept secret until "after" the elections? Hmm...

Neighborhood Park Lynn Glover Livermore

"Rebirth" of Downtown Livermore should include a new neighborhood park

The wonderful effort the City of Livermore is putting into the downtown redevelopment has failed to address one glaring oversight. The downtown residents are lacking a neighborhood, green space for people of all ages to enjoy. The LARPD is at a juncture to correct this problem on November 8th by voting to renovate the two-acre site located at 8th and G Streets (Bothwell Field) and convert it to a neighborhood green space with a tot lot, bike paths, picnic tables, an informal field and bocce court. This is the only available space to provide a park for the increasing residential population living in new, higher density housing and older homes in the downtown area.

Unfortunately there is strong opposition from a vocal, organized minority group, the Livermore Girls' Softball Association. Conversion of this field to a park would benefit thousands of Livermore residents, but would mean that 200 girls would lose the privilege of playing softball. The LGSA plans to "show up in force" to the upcoming LARPD board meeting on November 8th to ensure that progress does not go forward and that downtown residents remain underserved without a park within walking distance.

The baseball diamond was originally placed at Bothwell Center in 1939. The complexity and population density of the area is significantly different in 2006. The elected officials of LARPD need to support the city's redevelopment efforts. Though difficult, progress must benefit the majority. I urge residents to

support a neighborhood park in this location by e-mailing the LARPD Board members and attending the meeting on November 8th. Livermore officials and residents must work together to make uniform progress in our downtown.

Breath of Fresh Air David Faustina Youth Minister Pleasanton

On November 7 Pleasanton will elect two new councilmembers. I urge my fellow residents to vote for San Faustina. Dan brings new ideas and perspective to a council often wrought by past promises and pressure. As a native of Pleasanton, Dan will lead with a reverence of the past and hope for the future. As many are aware Dan has a twin brother and I am that individual. I am also the one who now asks you to join me in electing Dan Faustina. Dan has a passion for our great city and will guide us down the path that is sensible for Pleasanton.

I admire his dedication to protect our voter approved housing cap and address traffic issues immediately. I respect his ability to work with regional partners and stand strong behind his moral fiber. Dan is a role model to the students in the youth I serve at Trinity Lutheran Church and a role model to me. Pleasanton will benefit greatly with a sound voice like Dan's speaking on our behalf. I have always said that Dan gets my trust and respect merely based on the fact that he is my brother. However, he must earn my vote. Dan has earned my vote and I ask Pleasanton to join me in electing Pleasanton's own: Dan Faustina.

Vote for Arkin Susan and George Reid Pleasanton

Pleasanton voters have an opportunity to vote for a highly qualified and honest candidate for City Council, Brian Arkin.

Brian brings successful business experience (EE and MBA Degrees) and several years of experience on the Pleasanton Planning Commission where he served Pleasanton well (e.g., approval of over 200 apartment units for seniors).

Brian has a vision for leading Pleasanton with sensible development during the period of buildout of Pleasanton. Many citizens are complaining about traffic—here is an opportunity to vote for someone for City Council who will make good judgments and really do something about traffic, not just talk about it. A good example is the waterslide park, Brian opposed it mainly because it would bring as many as 200,000 additional people to the heart of Pleasanton through already congested neighborhood streets.

With his involvement in family, schools and sports he knows the quality-of-life issues that are important to Pleasanton residents. Brian is opposed to candidates taking PAC money. You can trust Brian. Please join me in voting for Brian Arkin for Pleasanton City Council.

Arkin for Council Sheri Scarborough Pleasanton

Brian Arkin, a two-term Planning Commissioner, brings knowledge of Pleasanton's growth and traffic issues and eight years of firsthand experience working with the Council, city staff and Pleasanton residents to craft creative resolutions to vexing problems.

Arkin helped put Measure V on the ballot six years ago. This vote allowed the city to acquire a portion of the Bernal property to use for a Grand City Park—now a palpable reality.

Arkin, the only candidate who articulates a "bifocal" view of Pleasanton, understands that Pleasanton is both a city as a unified whole with interests he must work to protect, as well as a city of individuals, neighborhoods and local concerns. Any local

leader must weigh these in the balance with each decision, but Arkin is the only candidate I trust to place the concerns of Pleasantonians as residents on an equal plane with the interests of the city.

I encourage Pleasanton voters to view the public record of Arkin's decisions as a Planning Commissioner. Arkin listens to and advocates on behalf of Pleasanton residents and neighborhoods from all parts of the city; he is not beholden to any single "neighborhood interest group" or any political ideology.

Support Prop. 87 Gavin Hudson Research Assistant on Climate Change

We need Prop 87! As fossil fuels burn, they cause (1) Global warming to threaten our coastal cities, (2) Preventable diseases like asthma, and (3) America's debts to China pile up as we borrow more to buy oil.

Fact: Prop 87 will cost voters nothing, yet it will ensure cleaner, cheaper, healthier fuel for us all.

On November 7, the future of our economy, our health and our environment rests in the hands of California voters. Vote to empower yourself. You can make a difference. Don't be fooled by the empty talk of oil company ads. Support Prop. 87.

Artwork Vandalized Louann Tung Livermore

We had a great day today at Granada Native Gardens. With GE volunteer help, two truckloads of mulch was spread and the new generator that GE donated allowed us to use hedge trimmers. The new chipper that GE donated allowed us to make our own mulch! The plants should now be good for the winter and I don't plan another workday until January when we'll likely have plenty of weeds. We will also miss one of our most hard working volunteers Liz who will be moving to Wisconsin in January. Thanks for all your great help, Liz!

The bad news is that someone actually removed the artwork in the outdoor displays sometime in the past several weeks. As of Sept. 30th, all was well. Two of the three panels were found in the creek. Judging by the algae this must have been done a few weeks ago. The third is missing. The aluminum frames were damaged as well. It's hard to believe no one saw this happening.

To reprint each panel costs about \$350. The lexan cover is about \$100 each so just that amounts to \$1500 not counting repair of the frames. The welds on the frame were easily broken. In all a new frame system should be designed to be more secure. Also, as I mentioned several months ago, the bench tops need to be replaced with trex and the broken slate removed from last year's vandalism. I estimate that to repair all of the benches and outdoor displays could cost around \$5000. If anyone has ideas on how this amount of money could be donated or applied for, please help. Let's send some healing energy to the vandals who have so much anger within them to be so destructive. —Louann, 455-8823.

Proposition 89 Bud Barlow Pleasanton

Quite frequently, the candidate who has the most money wins. Let's take money out of the equation and have only debates. Waait a minute! What about free speech - the First Amendment? Well now, you might be arrested if you use profanity in public. Free speech violation? You can't yell "fire" in a crowded theater. Free speech violation? There are obvious conditions where the 1st amendment rights are limited. So it could be with campaign financing. I believe candidates must debate issues in a forum and the debates must be publicly financed. There have to be rules to

become a candidate for office, but it needs to be extended to the federal level too. Grass roots money goes into a fund that is used to offset the costs of public debates - no billboards, lawn signs, TV ads, mailers. The media will probably object and cry "1st amendment" at the potential loss of revenue. But, I truly believe that the real issue is to elect the candidate of the people's choice.

We are conditioned early that name recognition is the biggest factor in getting elected to office. Some say that relying only on debates would devalue the importance of the election process. I believe it would upgrade it, by taking elections to a higher plane. Starting in the early schooling process, our children must be taught to rely on the issues, making decisions based on debates and ignoring campaign rhetoric.

Common Sense Jody Ward Pleasanton

I recently read that Congressman Pombo advocates "gutting" the Endangered Species Act (ESA.) This is a grave concern since I enjoy our great outdoors, from hiking in the Sierras to scuba diving off our California Coast.

The ESA, as it was written in 1973, was intended to conserve, and recover, America's endangered species. But of the 1304 species on the list, only 10 have been delisted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS.) That's less than a one percent return on 30 years work and millions of dollars spent.

If I were running a company based on a 30 year old business plan, pouring in millions of dollars and getting less than a 1% return, I would call that endeavor a failure, and after changing my name and hair color, would move to Dubai to avoid prosecution and an angry mob of stockholders. Obviously, like a business, after 30 years the ESA plan needs to be revised and adjusted, incorporating new scientific methods and including new technologies that will better manage the resources.

The intangible, collateral damage of the ESA has placed species like the endangered Sucker Fish at the center of a political shell game, and the constant filing of lawsuits has buried the Fish & Wildlife Service in litigation, focusing their limited time and money on legal proceedings and diverting their best scientists from field work to courtrooms - even to the point of bankrupting the funding for critical habitat in May of 2003.

The original goal of the Endangered Species Act - to recover failed species - has, quite simply, failed, and is now lost in the political dance of the Special Interest Shuffle. Yet, in spite of the fear-hype of species extinction, and the howling of environmental groups, Congressman Pombo is taking a common sense approach to revising the Endangered Species Act, committed to

actual results and saving endangered animals.

Support Prop. 87 Paul Weiss Livermore

Lies, lies, lies. All the anti-Prop. 87 ads threaten the public with higher gas prices at the pump, when the initiative clearly prohibits companies from passing their new extraction tax along to the consumer.

But who bothers to read all the fine print of a long ballot measure? Well, the analysts at UC's Energy Institute do. They have produced a report rebutting this false argument.

One modest public service press release versus tons of scary publicity about skyrocketing gas prices? No contest!

The anti-87 ads also claim this measure would rob public schools and the state's public safety network of "billions of dollars." "That's not fair to our kids," they proclaim.

Actually and factually, California's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office reports, "the loss of property taxes would not exceed a few million dollars annually," while, "the new tax would raise up to \$485 million per year, some for education."

But no laws hold the fat-cat oil companies responsible for their Big Lie campaign. In California, if you have the power of big money, you can freely spread deliberate disinformation as thick as manure on the fertile ground of public ignorance.

And it smells just as bad. Don't be a victim of the oil profiteers Big Lie propaganda. Vote to pass Prop. 87.

Assault on the Environment Samantha Murray Conservation Director Golden Gate Audubon Society

Under Proposition 90, virtually any action taken to protect the environment, including urban growth boundaries, the CA Endangered Species Act and restrictions on off-shore drilling, would result in developers receiving huge payments. And when taxpayers inevitably cannot afford to pay, the destructive actions are allowed to proceed.

Proposition 90 is modeled after Oregon's Measure 37, which passed statewide in 2004. But the overwhelming sentiment now is regret; many of the people who voted for Measure 37 wish they hadn't. Already over 2,700 claims have been filed to develop 143,000 acres, seeking \$5 billion in compensation. These include claims to turn lily farms into mobile-home parks, drill geothermal test wells inside the Newberry National Monument and launch a large gravel mining operation within 200 feet of neighboring homes. And in nearly all of the 700 settled cases, the government, handcuffed by Measure 37, has waived the regulations in question.

Following in the footsteps of the deceptively named "Clear

(continued on page 7)

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Organize a play group, during our drop-in hours, Of 12 or more and save \$1 per child. (offer valid thru Nov. 17, 2006)

Western Garden

Christmas Open House

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Pony Baseball

Travel Team Selections

Spring 2007 Season



Who: Player's age on April 30, 2007 must be 11-14 years of age.

Teams: Three teams selected: 12U, 13U, 14U.

Where: William J. "Bill" Payne Park
5800 Patterson Pass Road, Livermore, CA

Calendar: Tryouts & Player Interviews:
(player must attend at least one session)
Sunday, November 5, 2006: 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Sunday, November 12, 2006: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Cost: \$35 non-refundable payment:
additional charges for players who make the team.

Online-registration: <http://www.pleasantonpony.com>

MAILBOX

(continued from page 6)

Skies" or "Healthy Forest" initiatives, the "Protect our Homes" Initiative is not about property rights or limiting government regulation. Rather, a vote for Proposition 90 is a vote against spectacular vistas, controlled urban sprawl and the quality of life that makes California special.

Faustina for Council Erik Hobzital Pleasanton

Resembling what can only be described as the old west, Pleasanton has become the home to a new breed of gun slinger. Not the unflinching, fearless cowboys of yesteryear with their six-shooters blazing. No, this is a whining, sniveling bunch of politicians who have ridden in on their high horses slinging mud and rhetoric. Yes folks, welcome to the new arena of progressive politics. Substance, morality, and caring are completely optional. But ties are a must.

Do we really need a nonstop parade of showdowns, where the hand of deception strikes high noon and the dueling do-nothings draw their unarmed weapons of wit? I say no and I say it is time to send city hall a message.

The change can start here. The change can start now. The change can start by electing candidates like Pleasanton's own Dan Faustina to the Pleasanton City Council. Dan has the honesty and integrity needed to

move this great city forward which is evident by the nature in which his campaign has operated. Dan is more than qualified. He comes to the table with real ideas. He proves that you don't need to walk with a big stick but rather lead by example.

Let the other candidates and elected officials know you have had enough. Let them know that change begins with you. Please join me on November 7 and vote for substance, vote for change, vote for something new - Vote for Dan Faustina for City Council.

Brozosky Confused The Pleasanton Police Officers Association Jerry Niceley - President

Recently, mayoral candidate Steve Brozosky ran a full page advertisement in the October 13th Pleasanton Weekly. The ad featured three bullet points in large print, which Brozosky claims are the most important local issues - traffic congestion, public safety, and quality of life.

We agree that these are very important issues facing our city. The Pleasanton Police Officer's Association recognizes that we share a major stake in all three of those issues. Working with the support of the City and Police management, we strive to ensure those issues are our primary focus.

We also need the support of our current city council and mayor to ensure we remain a competitive and desirable

agency that continues to hire the most highly qualified applicants. We need someone that understands the direction the City of Pleasanton, the Police Department and the Association is headed in order to maintain that quality of life. We do not believe candidate Brozosky has a clear understanding of these issues nor do we believe he comprehends how they will be most effectively addressed. The Pleasanton Police Officers Association supports Jennifer Hosterman for Mayor.

Cheryl Cook-Kallio Bonnie Shamblin Pleasanton

I would like to express my endorsement for Cheryl Cook-Kallio for Pleasanton City Council.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Cheryl and I am impressed with her ideas for Pleasanton and her non-nonsense stands on issues important to our community. She comes across with a certainty, an open mindedness and a sense of practicality that we can all appreciate in a representative. She believes in doing the job that we elect her to do. She's not above listening with a fair mind then making the decisions we elect her to make. She will add an element of freshness and unencumbered ideas to our council at a time when we really need it.

I am a fourth generation Pleasanton resident and I raised my

family here. I own a small business downtown and my husband works for the city. We have very strong ties to this town and a deep sense of community. We believe in Cheryl's approach and know she will do her best to represent the citizens of Pleasanton. Our candidate for city council is Cheryl Cook-Kallio. Please join my family and cast your vote for Cheryl.

For more information on Cheryl, visit www.votecook-kallio.com

Vote for Thorne Ted Kinzer Pleasanton

I would encourage everyone in Pleasanton to get out in November and re-elect Jerry Thorne for city council. Jerry has proven himself to be a very capable leader on the council. His balanced approach and thoughtful input is needed. I believe Jerry has been very clear about the need to ensure Pleasanton is thinking of our future financially. He is also looking to create a strong legacy.

Currently, I serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Jerry is always available for advice and words of wisdom. A vote for Jerry is one for a strong Pleasanton for years to come.

Support Pombo Jody Ward Pleasanton

Sad but true, politics is a nasty business, and it doesn't turn to

sweetness and light once the election is over. The halls of Congress are no place for the naive or faint of heart, and green rookies are often politically pulverized without regard to their high ideals and best intentions. Whether it should be that way or not, the reality is, it often takes years to establish the relationships and clout necessary to accomplish anything, and even the gifted few with superior negotiating and leadership skills find the going pretty rough.

So, as a resident of the Tri-Valley, I am very concerned that with Jerry McNerney's experience and background, issues specific to our area - infrastructure, traffic, business growth, and public safety, to name a few - will not be capably represented.

According to his official website bio, McNerney has never held any position of leadership, not an officer in the military, not any appointed commission, not any local elected office, not even as a manager or executive in the business world. The closest he has come to any position of influence was "working as an energy consultant to PG&E..." and other energy agencies.

His bio states, "He is now the CEO of a start-up company that will manufacture wind turbines." This company is a home-based business that "will" produce a product, but so far has not manufactured anything. The Citizens for Responsibility & Ethics in

Congress state "McNerney has little income. Last year two separate consulting projects brought in only \$2,109." McNerney's resume for leadership is not reassuring.

In contrast, Congressman Pombo, as past member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and now the Chairman of the influential House Resources Committee, is poised to positively impact his district. He takes to congress his common sense, get results approach and blends it with his seasoned experience and committee Chairmanship that will benefit our area and California.

A Clear Choice Carl Walter Pleasanton

Pleasanton friends and neighbors, have you spent hours studying all the issues that we have an opportunity to vote on next Tuesday? Some issues are not what they seem at first, and many choices don't have a clear cut preference. Good Luck! How about the Yes and No vote for all the judges? How is one supposed to decide on that?

The one issue that is very clear is that Jerry Thorne is the best candidate for Pleasanton City Council. If you haven't already voted, please vote to re-elect Jerry Thorne. We need an experienced, knowledgeable, and dedicated council person for Pleasanton.

Voters Have a Variety Of State Propositions to Consider

The following are the summaries and arguments for and against for propositions on the November 7 state ballot. The information was prepared by the League of Women Voters and can be found at the organization's website: www.smartvoter.org.

Proposition 1A: Should the California Constitution be amended to further protect the state sales tax revenues for transportation purposes from general-purpose use and require any funds borrowed to be repaid to the transportation fund?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: Protects transportation funding for traffic congestion relief projects, safety improvements, and local streets and roads. Prohibits the state sales tax on motor vehicle fuels from being used for any purpose other than transportation improvements. Authorizes loans of these funds only in the case of severe state fiscal hardship. Requires loans of revenues from states sales tax on motor vehicle fuels to be fully repaid with the three years. Restricts loans to no more than twice in any 10-year period. (Put on the ballot by the Legislature)

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: No revenue effect or cost effects. Increases stability of funding to transportation in 2007 and thereafter.

A YES vote on this measure means: The State Constitution would specify additional limitations on the state's ability to suspend the transfer of gasoline sales tax revenues from the General Fund to transportation. In addition, all past suspensions would be required to be repaid by June 30, 2016, at a specified minimum rate of repayment each year.

A NO vote on this measure means: The State Constitution would not further limit the state's ability to suspend the transfer of gasoline sales tax revenues. State law, instead of the State Constitution, would specify when past suspensions would be repaid.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 1A: "yes" on 1A dedicates taxes we already pay at the pump for transportation

improvements like building roads, congestion relief, and safety repairs. 1A closes a loophole in the law to prevent politicians from spending gas taxes on other programs. Rebuild California: "yes" on 1A--safer roads, reduced congestion.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 1A: Vote "no" on Proposition 1A! Keep Education, health care, and disaster relief our State's top priorities. In hard economic times, "autopilot" budgeting causes massive unnecessary cuts to schools, firefighters, trauma centers, and health care. The Governor and Legislature must have flexibility to meet the needs of Californians. Vote "no" on Proposition 1A.

Proposition 1B: Should the state sell \$19.9 billion in general obligation bonds to fund state and local transportation improvement projects to relieve congestion, improve movement of goods, improve air quality, and enhance safety and security of the transportation system?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: This act makes safety improvements and repairs to state highways, upgrades freeways to reduce congestion, repairs local streets and roads, upgrades highways along major transportation corridors, improves seismic safety of local bridges, expands public transit, helps complete the state's network of car pool lanes, reduces air pollution, and improves anti-terrorism security at shipping ports by providing for a bond issue not to exceed nineteen billion nine hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$19,925,000,000). (Put on the ballot by the Legislature)

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: State costs of approximately \$38.9 billion over 30 years to repay bonds. Additional unknown state and local operations and maintenance costs.

A YES vote on this measure means: The state could sell \$19.9 billion in general obligation bonds, for state and local transportation improvement projects

to relieve congestion, improve the movement of goods, improve air quality, and enhance the safety and security of the transportation system.

A NO vote on this measure means: The state could not sell \$19.9 billion in general obligation bonds, for these purposes.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 1B: "yes" on 1B jump-starts traffic relief, mass transit, and safety improvements in every corner of the state without raising taxes. 1B builds new roads and transportation improvement projects that enhance mobility and protect our economic future. Rebuild California: "yes" on 1B--safer roads, reduced congestion, and a strong economy.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 1B: California cannot afford to continue borrowing its way into a false sense of economic security. More borrowing means worsening budget deficits. A no vote will force the Legislature to focus on paying for our transportation needs with existing funds in a fiscally responsible manner. Please vote "no" on 1B.

Proposition 1C: Should the state sell \$2.9 billion in general obligation bonds to fund housing and development in urban areas near public transportation?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: For the purpose of providing shelters for battered women and their children, clean and safe housing for low-income senior citizens; homeownership assistance for the disabled, military veterans, and working families; and repairs and accessibility improvements to apartments for families and disabled citizens, the state shall issue bonds totaling two billion eight hundred fifty million dollars (\$2,850,000,000) paid from existing state funds at an average annual cost of two hundred and four million dollars (\$204,000,000) per year over the 30 year life of the bonds. Requires reporting and publication of annual independent audited reports showing use of funds, and

limits administration and overhead costs. (Put on the ballot by the Legislature)

A YES vote on this measure means: The state could sell \$2.85 billion in general obligation bonds to support a variety of housing and development programs.

A NO vote on this measure means: The state could not sell \$2.85 billion in general obligation bonds for these purposes.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 1C: "yes" on Proposition 1C provides emergency shelters for battered women, affordable homes for seniors and former foster youths, and shelters with social services for homeless families without raising taxes. Rebuild California: Join Habitat for Humanity, AARP, and CA Partnership to End Domestic Violence. Vote Yes on 1C.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 1C: Vote "no" on Proposition 1C. Almost \$3 billion in new government debt and big bureaucracy won't make California housing affordable. Proposition 1C gives your money to a select few chosen by bureaucrats then sticks every California family of four with \$600 of debt and interest. Vote "no" on irresponsible debt.

Proposition 1D: Should the state sell \$10.4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund repair and upgrade of public schools, including kindergarten through grade 12, community colleges, and state universities?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: This ten billion four hundred sixteen million dollar (\$10,416,000,000) bond issue will provide needed funding to relieve public school overcrowding and to repair older schools. It will improve earthquake safety and fund vocational educational facilities in public schools. Bond funds must be spent according to strict accountability measures. Funds will also be used to repair and upgrade existing public college and university buildings and to build new classrooms to accommodate the growing student enrollment in the California Community

Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University. (Put on the ballot by the Legislature)

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: State costs of about \$20.3 billion to pay off both the principal (\$10.4 billion) and interest (\$9.9 billion) on the bonds. Payments of about \$680 million per year.

A YES vote on this measure means: The state could sell \$10.4 billion in general obligation bonds for education facilities (\$7.3 billion for K+12 school facilities and \$3.1 billion for higher education facilities).

A NO vote on this measure means: The state could not sell \$10.4 billion in general obligation bonds for these purposes.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 1D: Yes on 1D makes our school buildings earthquake-safe and reduces overcrowding in classrooms for students. It updates schools with new technology, builds vocational education facilities, and funds our rapidly growing community college system. Rebuild California: "yes" on 1D--an investment in our children is an investment in California's future.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 1D: We should make school construction a top priority for current spending. We cannot afford \$10,416,000,000 in new debt, which today's schoolchildren will still be paying back long after their own children have graduated. Most schools will receive nothing from this bond. Fairness requires local districts to pay for local projects.

Proposition 1E: Should the state sell \$4.1 billion in general obligation bonds to finance disaster preparedness and flood prevention projects at the state and local levels?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: This act rebuilds and repairs California's most vulnerable flood control structures to protect homes and prevent loss of life from flood-related disasters, including levee failures, flash floods, and mudslides; it protects California's

drinking water supply system by rebuilding delta levees that are vulnerable to earthquakes and storms; by authorizing a \$4.09 billion dollar bond act. (Put on the ballot by the Legislature)

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: State costs of approximately \$8 billion over 30 years to repay bonds. Reduction in local property tax revenues of potentially up to several million dollars annually. Additional unknown state and local operations and maintenance costs.

A YES vote on this measure means: The state could sell about \$4.1 billion in general obligation bonds to fund flood management projects, including repairs and improvements to levees, weirs, bypasses, and other flood control facilities throughout the state.

A NO vote on this measure means: A NO vote on this measure means: The state could not sell about \$4.1 billion in general obligation bonds for these purposes.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 1E: Yes on Proposition 1E protects against floods and helps ensure an adequate supply of clean drinking water for all Californians. It repairs levees and increases flood protection. 1E also helps prevent water pollution in our streams and ocean. Rebuild California: YES on 1E--Clean Water, Flood Protection, and Disaster Preparedness.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 1E: We cannot afford \$4,090,000,000 in new debt and higher taxes to pay it back. Local projects should be funded locally, without unfair subsidies. This bond will not provide any new drinking water. The repairs funded by this bond will need to be repaired again before this bond is repaid.

Proposition 83: Should California amend existing laws relating to violent and habitual sex offenders and child molesters to increase penalties and monitoring?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: Increases penalties for violent and habitual

(continued on page 9)



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665 A Palomino
Chef's Dream Kitchen! A Gourmet granite kitchen comes w/ this 2 bd., 2 ba. townhouse. The owners have spared no expense on this remodel. The kitchen boasts cherry wood cabinets, tumblers stone floor & pendant lighting. Beautiful patio area too! All within walking distance to schools, parks & downtown. Priced in the high \$400's.



2593 Gillian Ct.
1,000 Bottle Wine Cellar For Sale. Oh & the home that comes w/ it is magnificent as well. This 4 bd, 3.5 ba home is almost 3600 sq. ft. & sits on almost a 1/2 acre. With over \$300,000 in upgrades this home has it all inc. its own wine cellar & bonus rm. Gourmet granite kitchen, travertine floors, Tuscan doors & stunning iron staircase. Built in 2005 priced at just \$1,498,500. Call today for a private showing!



6304 Singletree Ct.
Wonderful Val Vista home with rare in-law unit upstairs. The main home is over 1600 sq. ft. & boasts 3 bedroom, 2 baths. Wonderful step down family room. The in-law quarters are over 700 sq. ft. with one bedroom, living room, dining area and kitchenette. Offered at \$749,950.00



4020 Page Ct.
Simply stunning 3 bd., 2 ba. w/ a beautifully updated kitchen that boasts hardwood floors, tile countertops & a large dining area overlooking backyard. The interior is 1550 sq. ft. & master bd. is truly a retreat. It is located on a quiet court within walking distance to schools and parks. Offered at \$669,950.00



4074 Payne Rd.
Home is where you hang your heart. Adorable 3 bd., 2 ba., 1 level home w/ almost 1600 sq. ft. Spacious step down family room, cozy fireplace & spacious updated kitchen. The owners have just recently added new carpet & paint. It's also walking distance to schools, shopping and Val Vista's new sports park. Priced in the low \$600's.



6146 Allbrook Circle
This stunning home features 4 bedroom, 2 baths with over 1900 sq. ft. of living space. Remodeled kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Open kitchen, family room combo. Large dining area, living room with cozy fireplace. Remodeled hall bathroom. Offered at \$719,950.00



6503 Singletree Way
Coming Soon... Pride in Ownership. Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 bath one level home with over 1800 sq. ft. Remodeled white washed kitchen with large dining area overlooking the patio and amazing Coy pond. The owners have taken tender loving care of this home all you need to do is move in. Dual Pane window, new composition roof. Priced in the high \$700's



11469 Rothschild
4 bedroom, 2.5 bath located in prestigious West Dublin hills on a court location. Stunning views grace this 2841 sq. ft. home Grand foyer with vaulted ceilings, spacious livingroom, formal dining area. Gourmet kitchen with slab granite countertops. Expansive familyroom. Grand master suite with elegant master bathroom. Offered at \$1,075,000.00

PLEASANTON

(continued from page one)

opment patterns in that Hosterman is more amenable to transit oriented development in the Hacienda Business Park. They agree on some development in the downtown, and at the west BART station.

When it comes to providing affordable housing, Brozosky would prefer to focus on rental units. He suggests using in lieu fees from developments to subsidize rental units in the city.

Hosterman said there are a couple of opportunities to provide affordable housing. One is to rezone land at densities where affordable or workforce housing could be built. The other is to streamline the permit process to make it easier for such projects to be built.

For traffic on Pleasanton streets, timing lights is a solution they both mention as a way to help reduce congestion within the city. Hosterman also suggests encouraging more use of trails and increasing the safety of bike lanes, so people would get out of their automobiles.

Brozosky has served on the council for four years. If he were not elected mayor, he would no longer be on the council.

Brozosky says he would bring leadership to the council. He would focus on city issues, not national or international issues.

Brozosky believes he has accomplished much during his four years on the council. These include helping to develop the memorandum of understanding with Alameda County over the Staples Ranch. As a member of the Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority, he was instrumental in providing more bus trips to take kids to and from school. He helped to gain the BMX Park and designed and wrote the program for the P-Town 411 website (for teens).

Public safety would be a focus. He believes the city is vulnerable to a man-made or natural disaster. He says that the city needs to do a better job educating citizens what to do. He would work to ensure that the residents and businesses know what to do during the first 72-hours after a disaster, the period of time when there is least likely to be outside help available.

Brozosky is chairman of the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority, a member of the Alameda County Transportation Authority, and city council liaison to the Pleasanton School District and East Bay Regional Park District.

Along with his duties as a City Councilman, Brozosky co-founded a Software Development company, Government Outreach, in 2004 to provide software solutions to transform customer service for governments.

Prior to starting his current company, Brozosky was the Director of Research and Development of a software company that went public and was later purchased by PeopleSoft (and then Oracle). He was responsible for strategic direction, scheduling, hiring, and budgetary issues.

Brozosky is endorsed by fellow councilmember Cindy McGovern, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson, Livermore Mayor Marshall Kamena, school board trustees Steve Pulido, Juanita Haugen and Pat Kernan, former mayor Frank Brandes, former planning commissioner Mary Roberts, and assembly candidate Jill Buck.

After serving two years on the city council, Hosterman was elected mayor two years ago.

Hosterman says that her ultimate goal as mayor has been and will continue to be to protect the quality of life we enjoy, to meet these challenges, and to make a great City even better.

One thing that she says that she has been pleased with during her term as mayor is that the council has been able to move priority projects forward. Many

are underway, including the Alviso Adobe Park, renovation of the Veterans Building, and planning for the Bernal property. "I believe I took a personal role in advancing them," she declared.

Environmental issues have been a focus of Hosterman, including helping to start Pleasanton's energy committee, and establishing a citywide e-waste day. Hosterman has also supported the green building ordinance. She proposes new energy and water elements for the general plan.

She is a graduate of the University of San Francisco. Hosterman served as co-chair of the Bernal Property Task Force.

She currently serves on the following committees: Zone 7 Liaison Committee, Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, Alameda County Economic Development Alliance for Business, Association of Bay Area Governments Regional Planning Committee, Alameda County Waste Management Authority, Committee of Valley Water Retailers, I-680 Smart Carpool Lane Policy Advisory Committee, Tri-Valley Business Council Executive Roundtable, and the Tri-Valley Transportation Triangle Policy Advisory Committee.

Hosterman is endorsed by the Pleasanton Weekly, The Independent, The Tri-Valley Herald, Pleasanton Police Officers Association, Firefighters Local 1974, the Sierra Club, Former Mayor Tom Pico, councilmember Matt Sullivan and the mayors of Fremont, Emeryville, Union City, Hayward, Albany, San Leandro and Alameda.

COUNCIL RACE

The one issue that council candidates differ on is the Stoneridge Drive extension. Cook-Kallio supports the extension. The other three oppose the extension until freeway congestion has been dealt with. Cook-Kallio said the city may want to rethink traffic patterns to reduce congestion. That can't be accomplished by taking things off the table, such as the Stoneridge extension, she says.

Other ideas about traffic were expressed by council candidates.

Arkin says he has been actively studying software that monitors traffic lights and learns to understand traffic counts. "The software learns traffic patterns; anticipates and adjusts traffic lights appropriately. It requires no human intervention," he explains.

Faustina would look at the impacts of traffic calming on public safety, whether they slow response time by emergency responders.

Thorne says he hears people say that timing stoplights would help. It won't solve the problems, Thorne contends. There needs to be a regional effort to solve the freeway problems. With traffic moving on the highways, there won't be as much cutting through the city.

THE CANDIDATES

Arkin has served on the Planning Commission since 1999, including two stints as chairman. He believes that experience will serve him well on the council. Arkin says he has spent the last ten years protecting the hills and open space around the city and will continue to do so, if elected.

Arkin is especially supportive of transit oriented development at BART stations. "Building homes near the stations provides the best opportunity for affordability, because of high density," said Arkin. He added, there is also the least impact on existing neighborhoods.

Arkin conceived and co-authored Measure V, which was approved by voters. It does not allow any more housing to be built on the Bernal property. He has also led and collected signatures for referendums to protect neighborhoods from what he describes as poorly conceived development projects.

He is a public school volun-

teer and a YMCA volunteer.

Arkin has a degree in electronic engineering and an MBA degree. He holds thirteen US Patents and is a published author. He works as the Director of Hardware Engineering at a semiconductor equipment company in Milpitas.

He is endorsed by former mayor Tom Pico, and city councilmembers Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan, school board trustee Kris Weaver, former planning commissioner Mary Roberts, planning commissioners Anne Fox and Phillip Blank, former mayor Ben Tarver, and former councilmember Kay Ayala.

Cheryl Cook-Kallio has been politically active in campaigns and government since high school. She teaches government at Irvington High School in Fremont and has also been the coach of the We the People team there, a competitive civics class.

As a councilmember, she believes she will play the role of a consensus builder to "help shape Pleasanton's future." Her goal would be community building.

Cook-Kallio believes it is particularly important to provide housing for citizens who serve the community, such as firemen, police and teachers. She didn't offer any specific ideas.

She has been honored by the Fremont Education Foundation for Excellence in Education in 2006, Irvington High School's Teacher of the Year 2005, Woman of the Year by State Senator Liz Figueroa 2004, Teacher of the Year by the Sons of the American Revolution 1997. In 1997, Cook-Kallio was also awarded a James Madison Memorial Foundation Fellowship, a prestigious merit scholarship awarded to only one teacher per state each year to pursue a master's degree with an emphasis on the United States Constitution.

Among those endorsing Cook-Kallio are Assemblymember Alberto Torrico, State Senator Liz Figueroa, and Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. She has also been endorsed by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, Congressman Pete Stark, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, former councilmembers Matt Campbell and Karin Mohr, the Alameda County Democratic Party, Livermore Pleasanton Firefighters Local 1974, and the Pleasanton Weekly.

Faustina would support some transit oriented development (TOD). He would scale back on some of the large home developments.

The city could come up with creative incentives, reduce fees, and/or fast track the permitting process to encourage affordable housing. The city should also seek state and federal funding and work with nonprofits and faith based groups to provide affordable housing. He pointed to the Habitat for Humanity project in Livermore as an example of what could be done.

Faustina would like to see more focus on planning to deal with all potential disasters including earthquakes, terrorism or a pandemic situation such as the flu.

Faustina serves on the Alameda County Consumer Affairs Commission, the Alameda County Human Relations Commission and is president-elect of the Kiwanis Club of Pleasanton. He is also a leader in the Trinity Lutheran Church High School Ministries, and is a volunteer coach for the Pleasanton Junior Football League.

He was the former head coach of the Saint Mary's College Men's Rowing Team - 2001-2004. While at the helm, Dan guided the Gaels to three straight West Coast titles

and two top five national rankings.

Faustina earned a B.A. in Political Science from Pepperdine University.

He is endorsed by councilmember Cindy McGovern, former councilmember Sharrell Michelotti, school board trustee Steve Pulido, Assemblyman Guy Houston, Dorene Paradiso, and former fire chief George Withers.

Thorne was elected to complete the term vacated when Jennifer Hosterman was elected mayor. Thorne believes the council has a role to play in bringing the community together.

One area Thorne would like to work on is the development of a finance matrix for the city.

Rezoning land for higher densities would provide an opportunity for affordable housing. At the same time, the rezoning would put the city in compliance with its housing element. Thorne also says he favors transit oriented de-

velopment. However, that will require tough decisions about whether the council wants to forego additional development in the downtown.

Thorne is the City Council Liaison to Pleasanton Economic Vitality Committee and City Council Liaison to Livermore Amador Valley Water Management Agency. He served on the Parks and Recreation Commission for ten years, with two terms as chairman. He was vice chairman of the Pleasanton Energy Committee and helped to develop the new energy element for the general plan.

He is a member of the Livermore Amador Valley Historical Society, Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council, and Vision 2010 Agricultural lands and Open Space Committee. He successfully led a grassroots community effort to build a 50-meter Olympic pool in Pleasanton. He co-authored the successful Ballot Initiative titled "Initiative to Save Our Community Park," which has led to the

current construction of lighted ballfields on the Bernal Property.

Thorne worked for 26 years with Agilent Technologies and Hewlett Packard Corporation, including Global Operations Management responsibility for Environmental Engineering and Safety Engineering.

He served in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard Officer Corps (1963-1969), reaching the rank of Captain, Artillery.

He is endorsed by Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty and former Pleasanton mayors Tom Pico and Ken Mercer. He is also endorsed by current councilmember Matt Sullivan, as well as members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Civic Arts Commission. He is endorsed by Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Assemblyman Guy Houston, assembly candidate Jill Buck, Livermore Pleasanton Firefighters Local 1974 and the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce.

OBITUARIES

Michael Lynn McFarland

Michael Lynn McFarland died October 29, 2006 at his home in Dublin. He was 47.

The native of Klamath Falls, OR had lived in Dublin for four years. He worked as a boat technician at Boat Masters II in Dublin. He was very involved in coaching girls softball in Dublin, both when his daughters played and for years afterward. Michael enjoyed dirt bike riding and water skiing. He was a devoted Ford car man. He will be remembered as a loving family man.

He is survived by his wife of two years, Ursula McFarland, daughters Cristal Caldwell of Turlock, Dawn McFarland of Sacramento, Danielle McFarland of Hayward and Chelsea McFarland of Sacramento, stepdaughters Carly Jones of Pleasanton and Stephanie Jones and Brittany Jones, both of Dublin; his mother, Helen McFarland of Oregon, and a brother Dan McFarland of Germany. He was preceded in death by his father James McFarland.

Funeral services were held November 3 in Livermore. Burial was private.

Arrangements by Wilson Family Funeral Home.

Florence Joan Sale

Florence Joan Sale died October 3, 2006 at her home in Castro Valley. She was 80.

The native of London, England, had lived in Castro Valley for 50 years. She worked as a bookkeeper for Bank of America, retiring after 20 years. Joan enjoyed traveling and especially to the beach and Disneyland. She also liked to read, go to the theater and work in her flower garden. In her younger years, she enjoyed dancing and "sing-songs" in the pubs of her native London.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Ted Sale, a

daughter Julie Sale of Livermore and a cousin, Roger Littler in England.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sun., Nov. 5 at the Wilson family Funeral Chapel in Livermore. Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. prior to the service.

Donations may be made to the local SPCA.

Lois Dean Power

Lois Dean Power lost a 2 1/2 year battle with cancer on November 1, 2006.

She was born November 16, 1921 at the Page family farm in Ward's Spring Oklahoma. The Doctor was summoned and arrived by horseback in time for the delivery. As the family farm began to fail during the Dust Bowl, the Page family followed other family members to California where her father got a job in Fresno working in the orchards. After making several difficult trips back to Oklahoma where they were unable to locate work, the family remained in California. When Lois was 4 they moved to Pleasanton. In 1937 Lois moved to Livermore, where her parents built the first FMHA house in Livermore. She graduated from Livermore High School in the Class of 1941. She attended San Jose State for 2 years as a pre-nursing student and then completed her RN degree at Merritt Hospital School of Nursing in Oakland. She enlisted as an Army nurse, treating injured WWII soldiers at Fort Lewis, Washington. She was discharged as a 2nd Lieutenant at the end of the War.


She returned to Livermore at the end of the War and met a recently discharged Navy sailor, Neil Power. They were married on January 5, 1947 at First Presbyterian Church in Livermore. During the summers of 1947 and 1948 they lived in Yosemite National Park where Neil worked as a seasonal Ranger. In March 1947 she moved to Fort Ross State Park where Neil worked as

a state park ranger. They lived in a small trailer next to the Russian Orthodox Church inside the Fort when their first son Jay was born in April of 1949. Lois lived at several northern California State Parks, raising a young family. Her second son, Gary, was born at Samuel Merritt Hospital on May 11, 1951. In 1960, while Neil was stationed at Calaveras Big Trees Park, she joined with 2 other ranger's wives to form a crafts business - Calaveras Cones - that produced decorated sugar pine cones. In 1962, while Neil was stationed at Samuel P. Taylor Park in Marin County, Lois resumed her nursing career at Marin General Hospital. In 1967 she completed her School Nurse certification at College of the Pacific. From 1967-1978 she was the first and only School Nurse at Sonoma High School. She was actively involved in public health issues and testified before the California Legislature on dental health issues.

Lois was a talented artist who produced dried arrangements, sewing, and oil paintings. She wishes to be thought of as the lady who "made things beautiful and bright." Her favorite recreation activity was driving over one of the Sierra passes arriving in Tahoe to hit the Blackjack tables. She was active in Omega Nu sorority for many years.

She is survived by her husband Neil of Columbia and her sons Jay and Gary, cousins Corinne Evett of Ada, Oklahoma, B. R. Sims of Tyler, Texas, Ronald Jones of Oxnard, Peggy Bumatay of Aptos and Barbara Swasey of Sonoma and granddaughters Jessica Power and Anna Power.

Funeral Services were held Saturday November 4 in Sonoma with burial afterwards at Columbia Cemetery.



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PROPOSITIONS

(continued from page one)

sex offenders and child molesters. Prohibits residence near schools and parks. Requires Global Positioning System monitoring of registered sex offenders. Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: Net state operating costs within ten years of up to a couple hundred million dollars annually; potential one-time state construction costs up to several hundred million dollars; unknown net fiscal impact on local governments.

A YES vote on this measure means: Some sex offenders would serve longer prison and parole terms. Sex offenders released from prison would be monitored with Global Positioning System (GPS) devices while on parole and for life after discharge from state supervision. Registered sex offenders would not be allowed to reside within 2,000 feet of a school or park. More sex offenders would be eligible for commitment by the courts to state mental health facilities for treatment under the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) program.

A NO vote on this measure means: Current sentencing and residency laws regarding sex offenders stay in effect. State and local agencies would continue to have authority to monitor sex offenders with GPS devices while on parole and probation. Requirements for placement of sex offenders into the SVP program would not change.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 83: "yes" on Proposition 83-- Jessica's Law. Prop. 83 gives police the tools they need to keep track of sex criminals. Prop. 83 stops child molesters from moving near a school or park. Prop. 83 keeps sexual predators in prison longer. Endorsed by cops and victims -- Vote "yes" on 83.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 83: Proposition 83 would cost taxpayers an estimated \$500 million but would not increase public safety because it's most restrictive and expensive provisions apply to misdemeanor offenders and others convicted of minor, nonviolent offenses. Similar laws have been tried and have failed in other states. Vote "No" on Proposition 83!

Proposition 84: Should the state issue \$5.4 billion in bonds for a wide variety of projects related to water safety, rivers, beaches, levees, watersheds, and parks and forests?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: Funds water, flood control, natural resources, park and conservation projects by authorizing \$5,388,000,000 in general obligation bonds. Emergency drinking water safety provisions. Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: State cost of \$10.5 billion over 30 years to repay bonds. Reduced local property tax revenues of several million dollars annually. Unknown state and local operations and maintenance costs; Potentially tens of millions of dollars annually.

A YES vote on this measure means: The state could sell \$5.4 billion in general obligation bonds for safe drinking water, water quality, and water supply; flood control; natural resource protection; and park improvements.

A NO vote on this measure means: The state could not sell \$5.4 billion in general obligation bonds for these purposes.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 84: Provides clean, safe drinking water for California's rapidly growing population; supports vital projects for coastal protection, water quality, flood prevention. Accountability, public disclosure, annual audits, no new taxes. Join League of Women Voters of California. Clean Water Action, Nature Conservancy, business groups, public health experts, local water districts throughout California.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 84: This bond was placed on the ballot by special interests that will likely receive taxpayers' money if the bond passes. This so-called "water and flood control bond" has no funding for dams or water storage and little funding for flood control. This initiative would spend billions without effective oversight.

Proposition 85: Should the California Constitution be amended to require notification of the parent or legal guardian of an unemancipated pregnant minor at least 48 hours before performing an abortion?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: Amends California Constitution prohibiting abortion for unemancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent/guardian, except in medical

emergency or with parental waiver. Mandates reporting requirements. Authorizes monetary damages against physicians for violation. Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: Potential unknown net state costs of several million dollars annually for health and social services programs, court administration, and state health agency administration combined.

A YES vote on this measure means: The State Constitution would be changed to require that a physician notify, with certain exceptions, a parent or legal guardian of a pregnant minor at least 48 hours before performing an abortion.

A NO vote on this measure means: Minors would continue to receive abortion services to the same extent as adults. Physicians performing abortions for minors would not be subject to notification requirements.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 85: Parents! Right now anyone can arrange a secret abortion for your minor daughter and you won't even know. Don't permit your young daughter to be subjected to dangerous medical procedures without your knowledge. Keep her life and health in your hands and not those of strangers. Vote "yes" on 85.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 85: No law can mandate family communication. Vulnerable teenagers from abusive, violent homes can't talk to their parents, can't navigate overcrowded courts, and may resort to dangerous, illegal abortions. Prop. 85 won't stop predators, won't protect teens, and is the first step in overturning Roe and banning all abortions. Vote "no."

Proposition 86: Should the state impose an additional tax of \$2.60 per cigarette pack to fund new and expanded health services, health insurance for children, and expand tobacco use prevention programs?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: Imposes additional \$2.60 per pack excise tax on cigarettes and indirectly increases taxes on other tobacco products. Provides funding for various health programs, children's health coverage, and tobacco-related programs. Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: Increase in excise tax revenues of about \$2.1 billion annually in 2007-08 spent for the specified purposes outlined above. Other potentially significant costs and savings for state and local governments due to program changes.

A YES vote on this measure means: The existing state excise tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products would increase by \$2.60 per pack to support new or expanded programs for health services, children's health coverage, and tobacco-related activities. Other existing programs supported with tobacco excise taxes would continue.

A NO vote on this measure means: State excise taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products would remain at the current level of 87 cents per pack and would continue to be used for existing purposes, including childhood development programs and various health and tobacco-related programs.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 86: Proposition 86 reduces smoking and saves lives. A study by the California Department of Health Services says Proposition 86 will keep 700,000 kids from becoming adult smokers and prevent 300,000 smok-

ing-related deaths. The same study says Proposition 86 will save over \$16 billion in health care costs. Yes on 86.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 86: Proposition 86 is really about hospitals using our Constitution and laws to pocket millions for themselves and HMOs through a \$2.1 billion tax hike. Section 9 even gives hospitals an exemption to antitrust laws! It's another lottery mess--and no guarantees on how the money will be spent. No on 86.

Proposition 87: Should California establish a \$4 billion Clean Alternative Energy Program to reduce California's oil and gasoline consumption by 25 percent through incentives for alternative energy, education, and training?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: Establishes \$4 billion program to reduce petroleum consumption through incentives for alternative energy, education and training. Funded by tax on California oil producers. Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: State oil tax revenues of \$225 million to \$485 million annually for alternative energy programs totaling \$4 billion. State and local revenue reductions up to low tens of millions of dollars annually.

A YES vote on this measure means: The state would impose a tax on oil production to support \$4 billion in expenditures to develop and promote alternative energy technologies and promote the reduction of petroleum use.

A NO vote on this measure means: The state would not impose a tax on oil production to fund these activities.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 87: Vote "yes" on Prop. 87 and make oil companies pay their fair share for cleaner, cheaper energy. Oil companies pay billions in oil drilling fees in Alaska and Texas--but almost nothing in California. Prop. 87 makes oil companies pay and makes it illegal to pass the cost to consumers.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 87: \$4 billion oil tax increase! Higher gas prices, huge bureaucracy, lacks accountability. No requirement they produce results. Denies revenues to schools. We need alternative energy, but Proposition 87 is not the way to get there. CA Taxpayers' Association, small business, labor, schools, police, firefighters, farmers, Auto Club say: Vote "no."

Proposition 88: Should the California Constitution be amended to levy an annual \$50 real property tax on most parcels with the funds allocated to five K-12 education programs?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: Imposes \$50 tax on each real property parcel to provide additional public school funding for kindergarten through grade 12. Exempts certain elderly, disabled homeowners from tax. Use of funds restricted to specific educational purposes. Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: State parcel tax revenue of roughly \$450 million annually, allocated to school districts for specified education programs.

A YES vote on this measure means: The state would levy an annual \$50 tax on most parcels of land in California, with the proceeds allocated to school districts for five specified K+12 education programs.

A NO vote on this measure

means: The state would not levy an annual \$50 tax on most parcels of land to raise additional funding for K+12 education programs.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 88: Proposition 88 will improve our schools. It helps teachers by providing funds directly to local schools to reduce class size and provide textbooks and learning materials. It requires strict accountability and exempts disabled and elderly homeowners. Teachers, businesses, and taxpayers agree: "yes" on 88 for Textbooks, Smaller Classes, Better Schools.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 88: The State Legislature decides where your tax money goes. New layers of costly bureaucracy are created. 95%+ of schools could "never" receive facility grants under Proposition 88! Proposition 88 creates a new kind of never ending property tax, opening the door to unlimited property parcel tax increase propositions. Proposition 88--"no!"

Proposition 89: Should eligible candidates for state elective offices receive public campaign funding that is supported by new taxes on corporations and financial institutions, and should contribution limits be imposed on those candidates that do not receive public campaign funding?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: Provides that eligible candidates for state elective office may receive public campaign funding. Increases tax on corporations and financial institutions by 0.2 percent to fund program. Imposes new campaign contribution/expenditure limits. Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: Increased revenues (primarily from increased taxes on corporations and financial institutions) totaling more than \$200 million annually to pay for the public financing of political campaigns.

A YES vote on this measure means: Candidates for state offices could choose to receive public funds to pay for the costs of campaigns if they meet certain requirements. Candidates not accepting public funds would be subject to lower contribution limits than currently. The tax rate on corporations and financial institutions would be increased to pay for the public financing of political campaigns.

A NO vote on this measure means: Candidates for state offices would continue to pay for their campaigns with private funds subject to current contribution limits. The tax rate on corporations and financial institutions would not change.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 89: Proposition 89 will curb corruption in Sacramento and reduce the power of special interests and lobbyists over our government. It will level the playing field and assure that elections are about ideas, not money. It will enable everyday people, like teachers, nurses and firefighters, to run for public office.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 89: Proposition 89 is phoney reform. Prop. 89 increases taxes for politicians to finance their political campaigns and negative ads. The special interests behind 89 wrote it to give themselves an unfair advantage, limiting the voice of small businesses and nonprofits and damaging consumers. It's too complicated and unworkable. Vote No on 89.

Proposition 90: Should the California Constitution be amended to require government to pay property owners for substantial economic losses resulting from some new laws and rules, and limit government authority to take ownership of private property?

Summary Prepared by the State Attorney General: Bars state/local governments from condemning or damaging private property to promote other private projects, uses. Limits government's authority to adopt certain land use, housing, consumer, environmental, workplace laws/regulations. Put on the Ballot by Petition Signatures

Fiscal Impact from the Legislative Analyst: Increased annual government costs to pay property owners for losses to their property associated with new laws and rules, and for property acquisitions. These costs are unknown, but potentially significant on a statewide basis.

A YES vote on this measure means: State and local governments would have significantly increased requirements to compensate property owners for economic losses to their property resulting from new laws or rules. Also, government would be more restricted in taking private property for public uses.

A NO vote on this measure means: There would be no changes in the requirements on government for: (1) paying for economic losses to property resulting from new laws and rules and (2) taking private property for public purposes.

Summary of Arguments FOR Proposition 90: Proposition 90 stops eminent domain abuse and protects the American Dream--the fundamental right of every American to own a home. It pre-

vents government from taking your home or property without your permission and turning it over to powerful developers who want to build strip malls or other commercial projects.

Summary of Arguments AGAINST Proposition 90: Prop. 90 is a deceptive and costly taxpayer trap. It would create new categories of lawsuits costing taxpayers billions of dollars every year. It is anti-taxpayer and anti-homeowner. Join taxpayers, homeowners groups, conservationists, police, firefighters, and businesses. Vote "no" on 90.

Police Officers Sponsor Annual Giving Tree

The Pleasanton Police Officers Association is again returning to the community with its annual Giving Tree program. The association will be collecting gifts for families in the community who are in need of special care this upcoming holiday season.

The Officers Association has received the names of families and seniors within the community and are now seeking those interested in providing Christmas cheer to those in need. Anyone interested in donating to a needy family in Pleasanton can pick up gift tags at the Pleasanton Police Department starting Nov. 8. The tags list the gifts requested by the families.

For additional information, contact Detective Daly Harnish at the Pleasanton Police Department, 931-5100.

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Pleasanton Students Cutting Back On Tobacco, But Not Alcohol

Tobacco use is relatively low among students in the Pleasanton school district. However, alcohol consumption and sexual experiences are found to a greater degree, according to a voluntary survey conducted by the district during the past school year.

The alcohol statistics made a strong impression on school board members when they heard a report on the California Healthy Kids Survey by special projects coordinator Barbara Heisser at a recent meeting.

The survey is a statewide document. It was filled out last October by 3570 students in 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th grades, with approximately 75 percent participation in each of the grades.

The survey showed that 59 percent of 11th graders reported having at least one drink at some time in their lives. Some 23 percent said they had at least five drinks over the course of a couple of hours within the 30 days before filling out the survey form.

Some 25 percent of 11th graders said they had sexual intercourse at least once in their lives.

Some 24 percent said they did not use a condom in their most recent sexual experience, and 11 percent said they used no pregnancy prevention then. Some 9 percent of 9th graders reported having intercourse.

Among 11th graders, 32 percent smoked marijuana at least once, compared to 11 percent for the 9th graders and 2 percent for the 7th graders.

On tobacco use, 18 percent of 11th graders said they have smoked cigarettes, as did 9 percent of the 9th graders and 1 percent of the 7th graders.

Several questions on alcohol showed that 3 or 4 percent more are using it than reported it in 2003, the last time the survey was taken.

The tobacco statistics, though, show a steady drop. Some 16 percent reported using cigarettes at least once in their lives in the 2001 survey. Two years later that dropped to 12 percent, and then to 9 percent last year. Some 98 percent perceive daily use of tobacco as harmful, compared to 90 percent who see

daily alcohol consumption as harmful, and 91 percent think marijuana use is harmful.

The board's discussion of the report brought concerned reaction and suggestions for possible future response by the district. Trustee Juanita Haugen noted that there was less concern about alcohol than tobacco, and called that "disturbing." The 23 percent of 11th graders who had five or more drinks in a couple of hours was "just incredible and very, very alarming," she said.

ACADEMIC PRESSURE MAY BE DRIVING UP DRINKING

Trustee Pat Kernan said that the board needs to "recognize we have an issue. We need to allocate money and set goals."

Kernan said he felt that part of the problem with alcohol consumption is that students are under so much pressure to perform for the high standards set by the district and the high expectations from parents.

Board member Jim Ott said that he would like to see how other districts deal with the problems. He also called for more

publicity in the press, "hoping to shake people up a little."

Another board member, Kris Weaver, talked about having students sign a contract, the way student athletes do with their coaches. It's important we take the initiative on this issue, because "what we permit, we promote," she said.

Superintendent John Casey said that the numbers show "the facts of life in Pleasanton. We can let the community know, and ask partners to do the work on this." He mentioned getting the word out through the Chamber of Commerce and also letting parents know where they can get help for their concerns about their children.

5TH-GRADERS DO ASSETS INVENTORY

The district does take part in various alcohol and drug prevention programs. With a question segment aimed at 5th graders, the Healthy Kids Survey itself showed how highly the students rate the school atmosphere in Pleasanton, though not as high as their home atmosphere, which received astronomical statistics.

The questionnaire asked the students about such things in their lives as caring relationships in school and at home. They were also asked about their "internal assets," such things as empathy, problem solving, and having goals and aspirations.

Some 85 percent said that caring relationships in the home

were "high." The other 15 percent were rated "moderate," and none was called low.

Only 1 percent rated the school atmosphere as low in the caring relationships category. However, 29 percent placed the relationship quality in the moderate category, and 70 percent in the high column, which was 15 percent fewer than the percent rating home atmosphere high.

On their own internal assets,

"high goals and aspirations" took the prize, with 85 percent rating that category high, and the remaining 15 percent rating it moderate.

Some 47 percent rated their own empathy high, 50 percent called it moderate, and 3 percent said low. Some 59 percent of the 5th graders said their problem-solving was moderate, 39 percent said it was high, and only 3 percent rated it low.

PG&E Signs Up for 'Cow Power'

Cow power is the newest and most innovative way in which PG&E is realizing its renewable energy goals. It has signed an agreement with Microgy, Inc. ("Microgy"), a subsidiary of Environmental Power Corporation (AMEX: EPG), to deliver renewable natural gas.

The agreement involves the purchase of up to 8,000 mcf of pipeline quality renewable natural gas daily. The gas will be generated by Microgy facilities in California.

The agreement will allow PG&E to purchase from Microgy 8,000 mcf of renewable natural gas. Microgy plans to construct

four production facilities on the site of large dairy farms in California and interconnect those systems to PG&E's extensive gas pipeline network. In addition to producing renewable energy, each of these facilities can produce significant greenhouse gas benefits.

"Biomethane takes the problem of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and turns it into a key part of the solution to California's reliance on fossil fuels," said Allen Dusault, Biofuels Project Director for Sustainable Conservation, an environmental nonprofit organization.

"The state has no shortage of

dairy manure. It can now be cost-effectively converted into 'cow power.' That makes good environmental and economic sense."

As Microgy constructs state-of-the-art gas-generating facilities on farms across the central valley, California consumers will benefit from a new source of renewable, environmentally friendly energy.

PG&E is also exploring other projects that will demonstrate the viability of converting biomethane to pipeline quality gas for use in power plants.

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