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Local Emergency Action Program (LEAP) offers help

Pombo wins primary
Other races decided in low turnout election

Got a seat?
Graduation ticket limit a problem for some families

Learning to lead
Foothill students reflect on groundbreaking Leadership Academy

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Local educator teaches nutrition to kids with the help of a giant doll

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Hope Hospice expands services as population ages

Hope Hospice is an organization that helps many in the Tri-Valley cope with end-of-life challenges for themselves and their families. Now, thanks to a decision to intensify its focus on fund-raising to meet an expected increasing need for its services, the organization is closing its thrift shop at Main and Angela streets to concentrate on a broader community base it will need to accelerate its care. The thrift and resale shop has seldom earned a profit. Although it has given Hope Hospice public visibility, over the years it has become more difficult to staff with volunteers in a community where both husband and wife have jobs outside the home and less time these days to give their time as needed by the thrift shop. Other nonprofits are struggling with the same dilemma, and even city committees and commissions are facing shortages these days in finding residents interested in volunteer work when they often have little time at home.

Helen Meier, who was named executive director of Hope Hospice four years ago and was director of the Tri-Valley Haven for 12 years before that, said the number of patients the organization serves has increased from 10-12 when she started to more than 50 today. Last year, Hope Hospice served 232 “patients” to comfort them as they dealt with a number of terminal illnesses and near the end of life. Working with their families, Hope Hospice volunteers ranging from nurses to doctors to bedside companions ease the worry and workload of spouses, children and other loved ones. There's even a videographer who volunteers his time to interview them and have them put their life stories and comments in a video format that will last forever.

Meier praised the work of Holly Clark, who manages the Main Street thrift shop, and her small and shrinking staff of volunteers. Her job has been made more difficult in recent months as fewer show up to help her keep the store open on regular hours and to arrange the donated merchandise for sale. Unlike larger organizations that also operate sales outlets, such as Goodwill and St. Vincent de Paul, Clark has no large central warehouse to store the many donated items brought into the store, nor trucks and “musclemen” to help bring them in for pricing and sale or to deliver them. Police Chief Tim Neal, vice president of the Hope Hospice board of directors, said concerns over staffing, the lack of profitability and the growing need to hire part-time help to keep the thrift store open and operating has occupied the board’s attention for most of the four years he’s been a member. As a hard decision as it was, closing the store on Main Street will free both people and funding resources that Hope Hospice needs.

Although there are similarly-focused hospice organizations around the country, there’s only one Hope Hospice. The organization has served the Tri-Valley and the I-680 corridor up to Alamo for 26 years and is one of the best known among a coalition of hospices that share a Web site as well as exchange information. Today, many families have used a hospice group to care for a dying family member. Some hospices have homes where the terminally ill can have 24-hour care in the final weeks. Hope Hospice has found that its patients prefer to be in their homes, and the organization can provide daily care as needed, including medical equipment, pain medications and counseling. Its counseling services have become as well known as its end-of-life care, with trained counselors and others available to help families get through their crises. There are also bereavement sessions for both spouses and children to help them cope with their losses.

Those who want to help or learn how to contribute to Hope Hospice can call the organization’s headquarters in Dublin at 925-8770 for more information. 

About the Cover

“When you are ready” is a question being addressed by Pleasanton’s city, civic and business leaders as they join the country in preparing for emergencies that could range from a chemical spill to an earthquake or even a major dam or levy break that could cause flooding downstream, including in Pleasanton. To get ready, they have formed LEAP, the Local Emergency Action program that now meets regularly to update its preparedness process. Cover photo by Ben Ho

Vol. VII, Number 20
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Q: Are you making any changes in your daily life to help conserve gasoline?  
Asked Downtown  

Zana Ibrani  
English professor  
I am planning to buy a hybrid as my next car. I am hoping to see less dependence on oil in the future. Hopefully, more of the population will choose to drive hybrid cars or at least smaller, more environmentally friendly cars.  

Crystal Evans  
Office manager  
Actually, I’m making a lot of changes to help save gas. I walk much more than I used to and I think about consolidating errands. I bring my lunch to work and I carpool as much as possible. Five dollars used to go a long way in my little Honda, now it barely gets me around the block.

Patricia McCloud  
Loan officer  
I have one fancy car and one that is much more economical. These days I choose to drive the economical car; it gets much better gas mileage. I have become much more conscientious. Now I save over $100 on my monthly gas bill.

Anthony Tsang  
New college graduate  
Gas is so expensive, but I still need to commute every day. In order to conserve, I don’t press down the gas pedal as hard, I don’t drive as fast.
Pombo gears up for November race after defeating McCloskey 2-1

Pleasanton’s McNerney to face Congressman again with Democratic nomination in hand

by Jeb Bing

Incumbent Congressman Richard Pombo (R-11th) won his party’s nomination for an eighth term in office Tuesday in a lopsided vote that saw his vocal Republican challenger and former Peninsula Congressman Pete McCloskey garner less than a third of the vote.

In brief remarks at his Tracy campaign headquarters, he said he will be in the district frequently in the coming months as he launches his re-election campaign for the Nov. 7 vote.

The contest ended earlier at McCloskey’s festive, balloon-filled campaign election headquarters at the Pleasanton Hilton Hotel. The candidate, subdued from the start by early returns that showed him losing, thanked his supporters, watched briefly as Pombo’s votes continued to mount, and then left by 10 p.m. By 11, the party was over.

Pombo, whose district includes Pleasanton, received 28,944 votes, or 62.3 percent of the votes cast, to McCloskey’s 14,856 votes, or 32 percent. A third candidate in the Republican primary, businessman Tom Benigno, received 2,676 votes, or just under 6 percent.

Pombo will face the Democratic Party’s nominee Jerry McNerney in the General Election June 7. McNerney, a Pleasanton resident who has never held an elective office, received 19,408 votes, or 52.6 percent, showing what party loyalists said was surprising strength over airline pilot Steve Filson, who had 10,539 votes, or 28.5 percent.

A third candidate, Steve Thomas of San Ramon, trailed with 7,007 votes, or 18.9 percent.

McNerney, who was rebuffed in the primary two years ago by the local Democratic organization but later qualified for a spot on the November ballot to oppose Pombo, was endorsed this time by U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-10th) and the California Democratic Party. Filson, on the other hand, was endorsed by the national Democratic Campaign Committee, which was seeking a viable candidate to defeat Pombo in November.

McNerney was one of three Pleasanton residents vying in Tuesday’s primary. Jill Buck ran unopposed for the Republican nomination in the 18th State Assembly District, earning 9,520 votes. On the Democratic ticket, Bill McCammon, also of Pleasanton, lost a heartbreaker to Mary Hayashi, who received 17,029 votes, or 51 percent, to McCammon’s 16,421, or 49 percent. Buck and Hayashi will face off in November in a district that includes Pleasanton’s downtown and most neighborhoods to the north and west.

In the 15th district, former Dublin mayor and current State Assemblyman Guy Houston ran unopposed for the Republican nomination, earning 27,910, or 100 percent of the votes cast. On the Democratic Party ticket, Terry Coleman also ran unopposed, gaining all of the 26,216 cast.

There was also no contest in the 29th Assembly District, with Democratic Assemblyman Alberto Torrico winning all 22,613 of the votes cast, and Republican Ken Nishimura receiving all 9,302 votes.

Turnout was light throughout Pleasanton, with precincts often empty. Although no specific counts of the number of votes cast in Pleasanton is yet available, the turnout for all of Alameda County was just under 30 percent, slightly higher than that statewide turnout of 28 percent.

In other races, Gov. Arnold (continued on page 8)

Graduation is the hottest ticket in town

by Rebecca Guyon

With Amador and Foothill high schools both scheduled to hold their graduation ceremonies at the Alameda County Fairgrounds next week, students and parents are getting ready to celebrate the big day. But with growing numbers of students, getting a ticket to the event gets harder each year. Each student gets five tickets to the graduation ceremony, and some families think that’s just not enough.

Jane Rosell’s son is graduating from Foothill this year, and this will be the family’s fifth Foothill graduation ceremony. Rosell’s other children graduated in 1991, ‘92, ‘94 and ‘95, and she has another child who will graduate next year in 2007. She would like to have all her son’s siblings, as well as their spouses in some cases, attend the ceremony, but five tickets are not enough for that. Although the school does offer families the opportunity to ask for one extra ticket, even that one is not enough to cover Rosell’s family.

“I’m just trying to get in my immediate family, but I can’t get enough tickets,” she said. “These are early returns that sit around my dining room table, people who have helped with Eagle Scout projects, been Confirmation sponsors, gone to football games, watched band reviews, and now they can’t watch graduation.”

The schools impose the five ticket limit because of the Fire Marshal’s regulations that stipulate the facility can hold a capacity of 3,000 people, said Foothill Principal Kevin Johnson.

“If you take a look at it, there are roughly about 500 seniors, and they all count as one even though they don’t have a ticket because they take up a seat,” explained Amador Vice Principal Greg Giglio. “We give each of them five tickets, and that’s 2,500 seats. That’s 3,000 people with just graduates and guests alone, and that doesn’t include teachers, because they’re involved in the procession, and it also doesn’t include the choir, band and honored guests.”

“I don’t know why everyone is saying it’s the Fire Marshal’s fault,” Rosell said. “Why do we have to hold it there? Why are we still holding (graduation) at the same place it was held in ’91?”

Some parents have suggested holding the graduation ceremonies at each school’s individual football field instead of the Fairgrounds so the families could be allocated more tickets.

“I completely understand that they can only allow so many people, but there are other options that I’m not aware of,” said Annette Amar, who has two students graduating from Foothill this year. “We (continued on page 8)
Manzo first started giving the presentations to local schools last year when his daughter was a fifth grade student at Mohr. In the fifth grade, students learn about the Civil War, so his presentation ties in with the course curriculum. He has also presented at Harvest Park Middle School and at an elementary school in Concord. He first got the idea to do these presentations at schools after participating in an all-day Civil War education event at the Gibson Ranch, located outside of Sacramento, sponsored by his reenactment club, the National Civil War Association. More than 4,000 students visited the event, stopping at different displays to learn about all aspects of the Civil War. Now that Manzo has gotten his feet wet, he hopes to make more presentations to schools in his home town.

“I would love to do a couple more schools in Pleasanton,” he said. “Ideally fifth grade is the best because they aren’t obsessed with being cool, and they are much more interested in wanting to learn.”

With the props and the interactive lesson, Manzo believes that his work helps to get students excited about history and learning about the Civil War.

“It gets the kids out of the classroom environment, and they enjoy the pageantry about it,” he said. “They have the chance to interact with things they’ve never seen before.”

Civil War
(continued from page 5)

experience, like what they eat, what they wear, and I show the flags, the different ranks and how they marched,” Manzo said.

Although Manzo’s day job is as an insurance adjuster, his passion is history, specifically the Civil War. Many years ago, Manzo got involved with Civil War reenactments, which is how he acquired the uniform and props used during his presentation, as well as his depth of knowledge. His specialty subject is the sharpshooters, who actually wear a green uniform rather than the blue and gray uniforms worn by other Union soldiers.

“I became interested in the sharp shooters because they use different tactics, different weaponry—they were really ahead of their time,” Manzo said.

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Civil War
(continued from page 5)
Turning students into leaders

New Foothill leadership academy wraps up its first year

by Rebecca Guyon

A t many schools, the leadership class is generally seen as a place where students just plan dances and make posters. But at Foothill High School, teachers and students are changing that image through the Foothill Leadership Academy, a new program implemented for the first time this past year, and the change has caught the eye of people across the state, including State Superintendent Jack O’Connell.

“We changed leadership dramatically to make it an interactive civics program,” said Dan Schneider, one of the three leadership teachers. “It’s hands-on at all levels—community, state and global level.”

Instead of the usual class of about 40 students, leadership is now three classes with 133 students. Each class is different, focusing on the different levels of community: school, local and global.

“With a school the size of Foothill, having one class of 40 students meant there was a very low ratio of student leaders to the student body,” said Scott Sears, another leadership teacher. “Now, with 150 students in leadership, that means about 5 percent of the student population can be involved.”

It also means students have the chance to take action on issues that concern them. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, students in Schneider’s class, which focuses on global issues, raised $40,000 for hurricane relief through a letter campaign to the students, parents and faculty at Foothill and then got clothing store Abercrombie and Fitch to match the funds.

“That’s an impressive amount for high school students to raise,” Schneider said. Students in the other global class also had a successful showing of “Invisible Children,” a film about child soldiers in Uganda. Over the course of three nights, nearly 800 students, parents and community members attended the screening.

Adam Jennings teaches the class that focuses on the local community, where students have organized blood drives and fundraisers for the Children’s Hospital in Oakland and participated in the Taylor Family Walk-a-Thon. Jennings also requires students in his class to keep up with current events.

“They read the news and talk to each other about what’s going on, then transfer that into a project,” he said.

Sears leads the class focused on the school community, which of all the classes is the closest to the traditional leadership class in that it is led by the elected student body officers and focuses on school spirit activities. Senior Laura Cusson, ASB Commissioner of Student Affairs, said she has enjoyed the changes made by the leadership academy.

“I think all the students [previously] in ASB were really nervous about the new program at first because we were so comfortable with old leadership,” she said. “But it’s more effective with the leadership academy because so many more students are involved.”

Senior Laura Cusson joined leadership for the first time this year. She moved to Pleasanton from Iowa last year as a junior and decided to sign up for leadership because she had a lot of ideas she wanted to implement. One project she led this year was to partner leadership students with English Language Learners at the school.

“I thought this would be a way to incorporate the (EL) students in more activities at school,” Cusson said. About 20-30 students from leadership meet with the EL students during their English class time. In addition to making friends, it’s also a good way for the students to practice their English and improve their comprehension of the language, Cusson said. The program has been effective in making these students feel more a part of the Foothill community, and four of them have signed up to be in the leadership class next year.

To be in the leadership academy, students must apply and go through an interview process. Jennings said the main thing they look for in a student is commitment and follow-through.

“A student can come in and want to fight AIDS in Africa, but sometimes when they see the work they do, they think it’s more than they want to do,” Jennings said. “We’re looking for students who are responsible and will follow-through on their projects.”

Apparently they have found plenty of students who fit that description because 150 students are signed up for the class next year.

One of this year’s biggest highlights was a visit from State Superintendent Jack O’Connell. O’Connell met with the classes in March and saw the program first hand.

“That was a huge success for us,” Sears said. “He told us that what we’re doing here is “best practices” and that the program is exciting, new and pushing the envelope.”

Part of what makes the program such a hit is not just that students are doing good things for their community, but that they are leading the effort and learning about project management at the same time.

“It’s not just good deed doing, but life experience,” Schneider said. “It’s organizing events, learning interpersonal skills—hands-on on education that you can’t offer inside a classroom.

“The thing that’s neat is the kids come up with the idea,” he added. “We’re there to guide them in the right direction, but it is them saying I have an idea, and then they make it happen.”

Leadership Academy, a new program

Leadership Academy, a new program implemented for the first time this past year, and the change has caught the eye of people across the state, including State Superintendent Jack O’Connell.
Community celebration to mark July 4 holiday

Volunteers, sponsors ready for 8th annual event

by Jerri Long

Pleasanton will continue its tradition of celebrating July 4, Independence Day with a free, old-fashioned family picnic and concert in Lions Wayside Park from 1-2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4.

“Let Freedom Ring!” will be the theme this year, with the Pleasanton Family Bells performing as a bell choir along with the Pleasanton Community Concert Band.

Bell ringers from four families of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Pleasanton Stake, will be chiming in with the band, which is under the direction of Bob Williams.

Adding local color to the event will be three costumed performers: Vocalist Ward Belding as Uncle Sam; Post Laureate Elzibus Kirk Ridgeway in Colonial garb, presenting an original performance poem; and Ormond Eckley in costume as General Pleasonton, the historic figure for whom the town was named.

Audience members are being encouraged to wear red, white and blue in their outfits and to bring along their own lawn chairs or blankets. The Pleasanton Lions Club will provide free hand-held American flags to the first 400 to arrive. The Lions also will again be offering their popular bargain lunch of hot dogs and sodas or water for $1 starting at 12:30 p.m. Free patriotic face "tattoos" for children will be offered.

This will be the eighth year that a small group of volunteers has organized the Fourth of July celebration. Founder and producer W. Ron Sutton dubbed the event “Celebrating Freedom and its Evolution since the Revolution.”

This year’s focus will be on the Liberty Bell, with previous year’s themes focused on the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, Constitution and Gettysburg Address.

The music at this annual event is part of the Friday night’s “Concerts in the Park” series under the auspices of the Pleasanton Downtown Association, and is sponsored by Sutton’s company, ACCUSPLIT of Pleasanton, the Bank of Walnut Creek, Raley’s Supermarket and the Lions Club.

Graduation (continued from page 5)

Ross Stores, a publicly-traded multi-billion dollar retailer experiencing strong growth and expansion, seeks a Senior Financial Analyst. This position is primarily responsible for assisting in the preparation of the Company’s SEC filings, Sarbanes-Oxley processes and validating sales/press releases. The Senior Financial Analyst will be responsible for assisting the Company and our external auditors in evaluating and testing our internal controls to be in compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley requirements. The Senior Financial Analyst will prepare and provide analyses relating to all aspects of the company’s internal and external financial statements. He/she will be responsible for assisting the Manager of Financial Reporting in developing and maintaining an Accounting Policies and Procedures manual and in performing technical research and special projects. They will also assist in the preparation of the interim and year-end audit procedures. This position will be based in the Company’s Corporate Offices, located in Pleasanton, CA. Candidates must have minimum of 3 years experience with a public accounting firm; strong knowledge of GAAP and SEC regulations; CPA preferred.

Please send resumes to Rohini.Mukand@ros.com

Election

Schwarzenegger won the Republican nomination with 89.9 percent of the vote. He will face Phil Angelides in November, who received 47.9 percent of the vote to runner-up challenger Steve Westly, with 43.4 percent.

California Senator Dianne Feinstein easily won her Democratic Party’s nomination for re-election with 1,772,995, or 86.9 percent of the votes cast, against two challengers, Colleen Fernald and Martin Luther Church, who received 8 percent and 5.1 percent of the votes cast, respectively.

Winn in the Republican nomination for the Senate seat was Richard Mountjoy, with all 1,270,000 of the votes cast.

Both state propositions failed. Proposition 81 that would have allowed the state to sell $600 million in bonds to provide grants to local agencies for the construction, renovation and expansion of local library facilities, failed 53 percent to 47 percent, or 315,000 of the votes cast.

Proposition 82, the preschool bill that would have paid for preschooling for a year before attending kindergarten, lost by an even bigger margin. There were 2,453,578 No votes, or 60.9 percent, against 1,577,048 favorable votes, or 39.1 percent.

Officials said Proposition 81 would not have affected Pleasanton, since it was aimed at districts where library improvement programs are already in place. The Pleasanton Library’s expansion plans are not expected to be ready for another two years or more, long after the Proposition 81 money would have run out.

In the highly contested nonpartisan race for the Alameda County Superior Court Judge seat, Dennis Hayashi won with 48,714 votes, or 30.7 percent, trailed by Sandra Bean, 21.3 percent, and Kathy Mount, 17.7 percent.

Other Alameda County races were uncontested. Those winning included Ron Thomesen, as Assessor; Patrick O’Connell, Auditor-Controller; Gregory Ahern, Sheriff; and Donald R. White, County Treasurer and Tax Collector.

Graduation (continued from page 5)

have a beautiful field at Foothill, and I’m sure it’s strong enough to hold folding chairs.”

Johnson said one of the main reasons for holding the ceremony at the Fairgrounds is because of the tradition.

“(The Fairgrounds) is a place where you can hold a classy event, and it’s something that has happened in our system for many years. It’s traditional, and the kids like it there, so it works out well,” Johnson said. “We’ve looked at holding it at different facilities, such as the football field, and actually you don’t get more seating. You could get more if you sit in lawn chairs on the field, but we don’t like that idea because it doesn’t give the proper tone to the event.”

Other concerns are a lack of shade for the students who would be seated on the field and finding enough parking at the school sites, Giglio said.

“It’s hard to change policy when it’s something they’ve been doing years and years, but as the years go by, each class will be larger, and that means less tickets all around for the parents and families,” Giglio said.

Neither school has a formalized system for students who do not need all five tickets to give them back and re-allocate them to students who need more. However, the schools do encourage students to turn back tickets they do not need, and it is not uncommon for families to share tickets or ask around for more, Giglio said. Last year, the schools tried a new program where they had people with-out tickets wait at the entrance and then right before the ceremony, they let in people to fill extra space.

The schools will do it again this year. Giglio is also looking into getting a closed-circuit broadcast set up at a different facility so people who do not have tickets can still watch the graduation, but it is up in the air whether it will be ready for this year’s ceremony.

For the time being, the five ticket limit stands and families will have to work around it. Amar said her family is hosting a barbecue after the graduation so everyone can celebrate, even if they were unable to attend the actual ceremony. Rosell is still unsure of what she’s going to do, but one thing for sure is that her daughter and son-in-law traveling from the East Coast for the graduation will definitively get tickets.
Along with reporting on rising interest rates and soaring energy costs, we weren’t surprised Tuesday when the Pleasanton City Council took a hard look at how costs are increasing for its multi-million-dollar list of capital improvement projects that are among its priorities. These include a new firehouse art center and performing arts theater downtown, sports fields and eventual buildout of the 318-acre Bernal public parklands, restoration and expansion of the Alviso Adobe historic area on Foothill Road, and renovation of old dorms programs Memoirs Hall on Main Street. Public hearings have been held on each of these projects, and advocates have every reason to believe they’ll be built, with most of the money to come from City Hall. They could be wrong, and Tuesday’s discussion of both future funding capabilities and expectations showed how.

A few weeks ago the council put the brakes—sort of—on the $1.4-million Kottinger Creek restoration and improvement project, parting it back by $500,000. That disappointed the Friends of Kottinger Creek who had lobbied hard for the full measure, and annoyed even more a neighborhood project that started as a $1,000,000 maintenance effort and mushroomed over countless public hearings as wide bridges and a new irrigation system were added.

Last Tuesday the council balked again when bids for two projects—they had been approved, cost estimates were off by double-digit margins. A joint venture with the school district to split the cost on rebuilding nine athletic fields at Donlon Elementary School, which public sports teams could use after school hours, moved from a $1 million estimate to $1,326,077, based on the lowest contractor’s bid. Both the school board and the council begrudgingly upped their $500,000 caps by another $150,000 to cover the real cost, satisfied that staffs in both agencies would trim back the excess to a maximum of $1.3 million. City Councilman Matt Sullivan, arguing that a majority of the council had reaped his insistence that Kottinger Creek be fully funded, voted against adding more money for the Donlon fields.

Next came a whopping bid of $432,065 to build public restroom facilities at Del Norte Park in Ohlone Park, a long-sought goal of the Downtown Specific Plan and of downtown merchants who are tired of parade watchers and First Wednesday crowds using their store restrooms. The problem: the lower of only two contractors’ bids on the project was more than $140,000 over the estimated cost of the restrooms when they were first proposed to the council last year. With costs for this kind of construction rising and little interest among builders, the council approved spending $410,600 to get the work started so the facilities will be ready next year.

Alarmed by seeing construction bids coming in that are consistently over estimates, sometimes by as much as 27 percent, both the council and City Manager Nelson Fialho agreed Tuesday to search for solutions. Cutting the time from a project’s initial acceptance by the council to the time the job is bid would reduce the increases caused by inflation. What’s also needed are better controls over add-ons that come from every new meeting with committees, commissions and the council that move the design and the cost up well beyond what officials ever conceived in approving the project. Certainly no one thought that the project of establishing a maintenance manual for Kottinger Creek would lead to a new irrigation system, wide bridges, or a joint effort to make the creek meander as it once did. The basic restrooms once planned for downtown will now have a third “family” restroom, electrically operated toilet flush valves and water faucets, and graffiti-proof exteriors, all nice additions if we can afford it. But we should know the costs early on before they get out of hand and before dashing the public’s expectations when the brakes are put on.

Opinion

Apply the brakes to cost overruns

Letters

What about adopted children?

Dear Editor,

I am the director of an adoption agency in Walnut Creek, and I live in Pleasanton. I want to make a comment about the “Just Like Mom” contest which appears around Mother’s Day each year (Cover story, “Just Like Mom,” May 12, 2006). It is a cute contest and I don’t want to be negative, but for the thousands of families in the area who have children through adoption or other means, this type of contest will always exclude those families. Many of our families who have adopted children from China, Russia, Guatemala, Ethiopia and other countries have children that may look quite different than their parents, as do many biological children.

I know this contest is all about fun, and I don’t mean to be too serious, but I am hoping you can change the format next year and have the “Just Like Mom” contest include many other wonderful characteristics and hobbies that children share with their mothers, and not just focus on physical features.

Debbie Parselski, MSW
Director of Social Services, Partners for Adoption

Editor’s Note: This was the first year the Pleasanton Weekly has held a Mother-Daughter Look-Alike contest.
"ARE YOU READY?"

That was the question facing some 60 business representatives as they filed into a conference room recently at Oracle Corporation’s Pleasanton branch in Hacienda Business Park. The message loomed large on two projection screens, and answering that question occupied the next couple of hours as participants learned about steps they could take for emergency preparedness.

The free seminar was the second one offered by the city of Pleasanton as part of the Local Emergency Action Program (LEAP), a new partnership between the city, businesses and non-profit organizations.

Those who live or work in Pleasanton may not need to wonder if an emergency will occur, but rather when and what kind. Because this community is built on or near known earthquake fault lines, quakes are inevitable, although not necessarily catastrophic. The list of emergencies that could disrupt a business includes water damage, power outages, toxic spills, fire, robbery, riots, bomb threats, acts of terrorism and even the threat of a pandemic.

“Whether the disaster is natural, as in an earthquake, or man-made or man-perpetrated, we’re going to be cut off for several hours or possibly days,” Mayor Jennifer Hosterman told the group.

“LEAP started several years ago, out of an idea,” explained Pamela Ott, director of economic development for Pleasanton. “We asked ourselves, ‘How could we help ourselves, and how could we help each other in times of an emergency?’ I want to make sure our business concerns, pointing out that business must be prepared in case disaster strikes.

Now the city is signing up LEAP business partners who specify what services, goods or facilities they might offer in a time of crisis. (Those interested can find out more at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/LeapProgram or by calling 931-LEAP.)

“Business continuity” is the goal of preparing an emergency plan, meaning that essential business functions can survive a natural disaster, technological failure, human error or other disruption. More recently, ensuring business continuity has also meant planning for terrorist-related biological, chemical or even nuclear attacks.

A full-page ad in the June 5 edition of Newsweek magazine focuses on these concerns, pointing out that business must be prepared in case disaster strikes. The ad, co-sponsored by the federal government and the Advertising Council, appeared just as the 2006 hurricane season officially began, an appropriate time for companies everywhere to ask if they are prepared for emergencies. It lists the Internet site www.ready.gov as the place to search for easy-to-use checklists, templates and other resources that are suitable to businesses throughout the country.

At the Pleasanton West Marriott, manager of business relations, Mei West, talked about how companies can be ready. She has spent years making sure that Macy’s employees could take care of their co-workers in case of an emergency.

For example, a Macy’s employee had learned from previous experiences that it was necessary to have employees’ cell phones on a list of paychecks to banks to ensure that employees still could be paid.

“There are three phases to an emergency plan,” she said. “The first is preparedness, which occurs before an event. The second is damage assessment, which can take place immediately after the disaster. The final phase is recovery, which could take years.

“Life safety planning must be reinforced by drills,” she added. “We need to be realistic as possible in designing recovery plans and ensuring that people act out being in a recovery phase. We need to rehearse what happens in the facility.

“The most important question is ‘Are you prepared?’” she said. “We always review what we have. Where are you expected to be?”

When it comes to disaster recovery, businesses must plan for alternative space. “Who needs to be out of the building?” she asked.

“Some businesses need to have vendors on the phone, others need to have employees still working. We have learned from experiences that it’s important to have backup facilities that are close to the original location,” West said.

Emergency plans must be put into effect as soon as possible. “I think of an emergency plan as a quick campaign to get everyone to the right place,” she said.

When it comes to disasters, a quick campaign to get everyone to the right place, businesses must take emergency plans that are prepared a year ahead.

Business recovery contracts are in place to help businesses get back on their feet after a disaster. Since emergencies can happen anytime, training for employees is key. “Employees need to know how to start working, at lunch, at home, at their office.”

“Employees who are prepared will be better prepared for anything that could happen,” West said.

Cover Story

Could your business survive a disaster?

Local Emergency Action Program (LEAP) offers help

by Jerri Long

Red Cross entries at the Crown Plaza, Dublin coordinating supplies that are in short supply. Red Cross workers were located at the Pleasanton Marriott, the hotel and other locations, and at the Pleasanton Fire Department. The packets included food, water, batteries, sleep kits, lights, meals and other necessities. In Pleasanton, the city fire department has 680 employees, some of whom are on standby in case of emergencies, in case of emergencies. In Pleasanton, the city fire department has 680 employees, some of whom are on standby in case of emergencies.
Could your business survive a disaster?

Local Emergency Action Program (LEAP) offers help

by Jerri Long

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Shoppin

do...
Upcoming Meeting Information

**Committee**

- **Youth Master Plan Implementation**

**City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal**

- **PCUP-163/PDR-524/PSDR-269, Gayle Thomas** Application for a conditional use permit to allow the sale of alcoholic beverages until 1:30 a.m. daily at Tommy T’s Restaurant located at 5104 Hoppyard Road.

- **PAP-93, Dennis and Barbara Georgatos, Appellants** (PADR-1472, Stan and Stacey Knight) Appeal of the Zoning Administrator’s approval of an application for administrative design review to construct: (1) an approximately 180-square-foot covered patio; (2) an approximately 292-square-foot first-floor addition on the rear; and (3) an approximately 1,251-square-foot second-story addition over part of the center and side portions of the existing residence located at 779 Mirador Court.

- **PADR-1338/PV-131, Dustin Boyce** Application for (1) administrative design review approval to demolish approximately 470 square feet of the existing home and to construct an approximately 2,222-square-foot two-story addition, an approximately 833-square-foot non-habitable basement, and an approximately 950-square-foot detached garage; and (2) variances from the Municipal Code to: (a) increase the floor area ratio (FAR) from 40 percent to 45 percent; (b) reduce the right (south) side yard setback from 5 feet to the existing 3.85 feet; and (c) increase the height of the garage from 15 feet to 20.5 feet at the property located at 4546 Second Street.

- **PUD-51, Generations Healthcare, Inc.** Application for PUD rezoning of a 0.49-acre open area from P (Public and Institutional) District to PUD-MDR (Planned Unit Development - Medium Density Residential) District and for development plan approval for a two-story single-family residential project to be located in the front of the existing convalescent facility located at 300 Neal Street.

**Housing Commission**

Thursday, June 15, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.

- City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal
- Workshop to Discuss Proposed Changes to the City’s Condominium Conversion Ordinance
- Approval of Contract with Barcelon Associates for Property Management Services at Ridge View Commons and Kottinger Place
- Approval of Vice Chairperson for 2006

**Youth Commission**

- The Youth Commission held their regular monthly meeting on June 8. The Youth Commission does not meet during the months of July and August. The next scheduled meeting is September 13.

**Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee**

- The June 12 YMIPC meeting has been canceled. The next scheduled meeting will be held on July 10.

**Upcoming Meeting Information**

- The City Council will meet again on Tuesday, June 20.
- The July 4 and August 1 City Council meetings have been canceled.
- The Library Commission will meet on June 22.
- The Trails Ad-Hoc Committee will meet on June 26.

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC COMMENT IS WELCOME

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**Police Bulletin**

Raley’s hit twice by the same suspects

The senior loss prevention officer of the Raley’s store on Sunol Blvd. reported that a theft of $1,200 worth of infant formula and diapers occurred on May 23. A report was not filed when the same two suspects took items from the store a few months back, police said.

The only piece not hidden

A homeowner in the 2400 block of Via De Los Milagros suffered the loss of a Rolex watch valued at $6,000 while he was away on a month-long vacation, police said. The home is for sale, and several realtors brought potential buyers through. The victim reported that he had other pieces of jewelry and cash hidden throughout the house that were not taken. The watch, tucked in a desk drawer, was the only item stolen, according to police. The victim surmised that the watch was taken because it was easy to access.

Display of girls clothing taken from the Mall

Fifty-five articles of girls clothing, valued at $1,695, were grabbed from a table near the entrance of the Pacific Sunwear store at the Stoneridge Mall on May 25. No one was reported “on the floor” at the time of the theft, and the store is not equipped with surveillance cameras, police said.

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**Police Report**

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

**May 29**

- **Theft:** 2
- **Vandalism:** 1
- **Found property:** 1
- **Annoying phone calls:** 1
- **Public drunkenness:**
  - 3:40 a.m. in the 300 block of Rose Avenue
  - 3:11 a.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive

**May 30**

- **Theft:** 1
- **Burglary:** 1
- **Found property:** 2
- **Possession of marijuana:**
  - 11:15 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road
  - 7:56 p.m. in the 5000 block of Rose Avenue
  - 9:49 p.m. in the 3800 block of Pinot Court
- **Child abuse:**
  - 7:56 p.m. in the 5000 block of Case Avenue
- **Public drunkenness:**
  - 2:30 a.m. at the intersection of Pleasanton and Bernal avenues

**June 1**

- **Theft:** 3
- **Vandalism:** 4
- **Burglary:** 2
- **DUI:** 1
- **Found property:** 1
- **Annoying phone call:** 1
- **Public drunkenness:**
  - 9:49 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
  - 2:57 p.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**June 2**

- **Theft:** 9
- **Vandalism:** 1
- **Burglary:** 1
- **DUI:** 1
- **Possession of controlled substances:**
  - 6:09 a.m. at the intersection of Hoppyard Road and Owens Drive
  - 8:58 a.m. in the 1000 block of Santa Rita Road

**June 3**

- **Theft:** 1
- **Vandalism:** 1
- **DUI:** 1
- **Public drunkenness:**
  - 2:58 a.m. at the intersection of Ray and Main streets
  - 2:11 p.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard
  - 9:19 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive
  - Possession of open container in vehicle:
    - 2:49 a.m. at the intersection of Spring and Main streets
  - **Animal bite:**
    - 9:27 a.m. in the 3700 block of Stoneridge Drive
  - **Assault:**
    - 2:15 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
    - **Possession of marijuana:**
      - 3:47 p.m. in the 3000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

**June 4**

- **Theft:** 1
- **Disturbing the peace:**
  - 5:09 p.m. in the 1200 block of Donahue Court

**ACCIDENTS**

**May 31**

- **10:57 p.m. - Injury accident in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road**

**June 2**

- **3:16 p.m. - Injury accident in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road**

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Obituaries

Bill Cater

Bill Cater, a Pleasanton resident for 50 years, died May 20. He was born in Warren, Ark., on October 18, 1929. He was a painter contractor in Pleasanton and owner of Pleasanton Painting and Decorating. He was well known for his ability in the use of color in painting and decorating. He was one of the founders of the First Baptist Church of Pleasanton. He helped build the original church still located on First Street. He was a Christian and life-long student and believer of the Bible. He became a reverend in his retirement years and was fondly known as “Rev. Cater.” His ministry visited people in nursing homes in the area, and he made a point of spending time with people that didn’t have any visitors or who didn’t have a spiritual resource.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 58 years, Marnette Cater, and his son, Terry Cater, both of Pleasanton; daughters Nancy Giordanengo and her husband Guy of Windsor and Sherry Cater; three brothers; three sisters; seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

 Graveside services were held at Memory Gardens Odd Fellows Memorial Park in Livermore. The family suggests visiting a lonely person in his memory. Donations may be made in his memory to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 100, Dublin 94568.

Martha Becerra

Martha Becerra of San Ramon passed away on May 28. She had a quiet spirit and loved spending time with her family. She relished the outdoors and was an avid walker who cherished her time with her friends walking the hills and neighborhoods of Pleasanton.

She is survived by her children Alina Hanson and her husband Richard, Martha Wiefel; Eugene Becerra and his wife Carole, Robert Becerra and his wife Sandra, and Lucia Becerra; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Her husband of 51 years, Eugenio, preceded her in death.

Services were held and St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Pleasanton. Interment was at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

Births

The following birth information was provided by ValleyCare Health System.

May 4
Victoria and Ted Sien, a boy

May 5
Subarna Lahiri and San Jeekumar De, a boy

May 6
Meri and Darian Edwards, a boy

May 8
Belle and Jim Munafledt, a boy

May 9
Ruth and Marcus Catlett, a boy

May 11
Kaitrina and David Spohr, a girl

May 17
Alicia Flores and Anoosh Safdar, a boy

Furniture Warehouse

open to the public
Danville/San Ramon area
NEVER PAY FULL RETAIL OR DEPARTMENT PRICES AGAIN
hurry in for spring clearance

Sealy MATTRESS SALE!!

"Glenna" twin size  $299

"Rococo" pillowtop queen set rated best value  $699

"Galliani" Ultra Luxury king set with latex and memory foam  $1,999

Free bed frame with Sealy mattress purchase

Furniture Trends

12893 Alcosta Blvd. San Ramon

(3-1-4" Molding)

Completely Affordable Prices

$139

$119

10’ columns

10’ Molding

8’ Columns

8’ Molding

$189

$159

$99

$69

$49

$29

$19

$4

(7-5/8" Crown Molding)

$109

$99

$59

$49

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FURNITURE TRENDS

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Calendar

Book Clubs
Great Books of Pleasanton
This book club meets at 7:30 p.m., the fourth Monday of each month at Towne Center Books, 355 Main St. Call Sadie Skinner at 846-1658. The June 26 meeting will discuss the writings of Aristotle “On Tragedy.” The July 24 meeting will discuss Plato’s “Republic.”

Livemore Book Club
The Live more Book Club meets 7-9 p.m. every fourth Tuesday monthly at the Livemore Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Civic Meetings
City Council
The council meets 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is June 20.

Housing Commission
The commission meets 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is June 15.

Planning Commission
The commission meets 7 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The next meeting is June 24.

Youth Commission
The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The next meeting is June 20.

Class Reunions
Amador Valley High School
Reunion, 1996
Amador Valley High School will be holding a 10-year reunion for the class of 1996 7 p.m.-midnight, Sat., June 24 at the JW Marriott Hotel, 500 Post St., San Francisco. E-mail Christina_Manthal@yahoo.com, visit www.reunionmakers.com, or register on classmates.com.

Clubs
Pleasanton North Rotary Club
The Pleasanton North Rotary Club meets at 12:15 p.m. every Friday at the Hilton, 7050 Johnson Dr. Call Wayne, 426-2510.

Quilt Guild
The Quilt Guild meets 1:30 p.m. on the second Saturday monthly at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Call Debra, 454-1971.

Concerts
Concerts in the Park
Join the Pleasanton Downtown Association for its 2006 Concerts in the Park series from 7-8:30 p.m., every Friday from June 2 through Sept. 1 at Lion’s Wayside Park, First and Neal St. Call Nicke, 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Events
Art in the Parks
The Dublin Fine Arts Foundation presents “Art in the Parks,” until Fri., June 16. Its goal is to bring art to where people live and to create a sense of identity and ownership of the individual neighborhood parks for Dublin families. Call Lynne, (415) 901-1592 or e-mail lbare@earthlink.net.

Chic in the City
The Tri-Valley Women’s Connection presents a brunch time event featuring “Chic in the City,” where runway models show off fashions from 9-11 a.m., Thurs., June 15 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Cost is $17. Reservations and cancellations requested by June 12. Call Jan, 462-9462.

Faire Affair for Children
The Mulberry Branch of the Children’s Hospital in Oakland is hosting the Faire Affair from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Thurs., June 22, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasant Ave. The exclusive adult event is held in The Court of Four Seasons the evening before the doors open for the Alameda County Fair. Prepaid tickets are $45 or $60 at the door. Call Lois, 734-5273.

German Sommerfest
Livermore Cultural Arts is sponsoring a German Sommerfest 5 p.m., Sat., June 24 at the Barn, 3151 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Enjoy German music, dinner and dancing. Admission is $10 adults, $5 children and $25 for a family of two or more children. Call Susan, 443-4909.

PAR for Kids’ Sake Golf Tournament & Banquet
The 5th annual Preventing Autism Research for Kids’ Sake Golf Tournament and Banquet will be Mon., June 12, at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Cir. Call 461-0501.

Free Shakespeare
Civic Arts is hosting the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival’s production of “The Tempest,” opening Saturday, June 24, at Pleasanton Middle School, its temporary home during the Amador Valley Community Park renovations where it has been held in years past. Admission to the show is free. The show runs until July 9 with performances Saturday and Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Call 931-5340 for more information.

Fundraisers
Super Yard Sale
Donate new or gently used household items to Tri-Valley Animal Rescue 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat., June 10 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Call Shelly, 985-6365 or 846-2512.

Exhibits
Charlotte Severin
Artist and member of the Pleasanton Art League, Charlotte Severin, will display her paintings until July 31 at Jim’s Country Style Restaurant, 5400 Sunol Blvd.

Heidi Mann
Artist and member of the Pleasanton Art League, Heidi Mann, will display her oil paintings through Thurs., Aug. 31 at Washington Mutual Bank, 561 Main St.

Walk on the Wild Side
Artwork by Kathleen Hill will be on display her paintings through Thurs., Aug. 31 at Pleasanton Middle School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. All proceeds will help homeless animals through Tri-Valley Animal Rescue.

Film
Cinema Series
Wente Vineyards is hosting the "Summer Cinema Series" with "E.T. The Extra Terrestrial" and "Dee Wallace In-Person" 7-40 p.m., Tues., June 20 at Wente Vineyards, 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Cost is $9 for adults, $5 for children. Call 362-9734.

What are you doing this summer?
JOIN US IF YOU ARE READY FOR AN AMAZING TIME
We are offering Overnight Camp experience at YMCA Camp Loma Mar located in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Day Camp experience at the Fremont/Newark YMCA.

Weekend Preview
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**Health**

**Breast Cancer**
Healthtalk@.com and Sisters Network Inc. will present a free breast cancer education forum on June 17 at 7:30 p.m. Thurs., June 15 at West St. Francis Hotel, 3535 Powell St., Pleasanton. Refreshments will be served at 7:30 p.m. Call (800) 234-6080 or visit www.healthtalk.com to register.

**Disease Meets In Vitro Fertilization**
Catholic University's integrative Jewish Medical Diseases Meets In Vitro Fertilization: Ethical and Medical Consequences "at a potluck dinner at 7 p.m., Fri., June 16 in Alamo. Call 485-1040 or e-mail culturalJewishtalk.com to RSVP.

**Exercise Class**
The Pleasanton Park and Community Services offers a month-to-month Fitness Plus class for seniors in the morning and ExerciseFintess class for those ages 13 and over in the evening at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost varies from $3 to $45 per class. Registration required. Call 931-5365 for 50 Fitness Plus and 931-5340 for ExerciseFintess.

**Holiday**

**Father's Day Barbeque**
Join our Winners from noon-3 p.m., Sun., June 18 for a Father's Day Barbeque at 5147 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Call 931-5425.

**Father's Day Brunch**
Celebrate Father's Day from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Sun., June 18 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Reservations preferred. Call 931-8106.

**Magic Mike's Funhouse**
Magician Michael Stoudt brings Magic Mike's Funhouse to the Pleasanton Library at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Thurs., June 22 at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Free tickets to each show will be distributed 30 minutes prior to start time at the Children's Desk.

**Painting Workshop**
The Pleasanton Art League will be sponsoring a Painting Workshop for children ages 9-12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tues., June 27 at Museum on Main, 603 Main St.

**K ids & Teens**

**Kid Power**
Students entering grades 6-9 are encouraged to volunteer for the Pleasanton Library's Kid Power Program, 400 Old Bernal Ave. All volunteers must attend one group orientation held between Fri., June 9 and Fri., June 23. Call Sandy, 931-3412.

**Magic Mike's Funhouse**
Magician Michael Stoudt brings Magic Mike's Funhouse to the Pleasanton Library at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Thurs., June 22 at 400 Old Bernal Ave. Free tickets to each show will be distributed 30 minutes prior to start time at the Children's Desk. Call 931-3412.

**Painting Workshop**
The Pleasanton Art League will be sponsoring a Painting Workshop for children ages 9-12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tues., June 27 at Museum on Main, 603 Main St.

**Pure Girls Party**
Pure Girls will host two parties from 3-6 p.m. on Fri., June 16 and 2-4 p.m. on Mon., June 19, at 4807 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-8106 for additional drop-in times. Call 931-5365 for 50 Fitness Plus and 931-5340 for ExerciseFintess.

**Safari Summer Camp**
Safari Summer Camps for children from preschool through grade 5, runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mon.-Fri., June 12-16, 18 at Garden Way, 4576 Willow Rd. Fees range from $150 to $290. Call 465-1607.

**Smart Girls Rock Promotion**
Beginning Sat., June 17, the first 50 girls to come into Pure Girls, 660 Main St., with their report card showing a 3.0 GPA or higher in reading and math will receive a $5 gift card and 10 percent off all Pure Girls purchases through Aug.

**Sports Camp**
Applications for Sports Camp, held from 4-7 p.m., Mon.-Fri., June 19 through Fri., June 23 for children grades 1-5 is now being accepted. Pick up a brochure and application at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Choose from basketball, cheerleading or soccer. Call 864-6622.

**Summer Space Odyssey**
Pick up a Space Odyssey logbook and join the new summer reading program from Sat., June 17 through Sat., August 5 at the Pleasanton Library, 450 Old Bernal Ave. Call Sandy, 931-3412.

**Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp**
Leaps into the 16th year and eligible to apply for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp in Thousand Oaks, Calif. College basketball scholarships available for players selected to the All-American team. Call (704) 373-0873 for a free brochure.

**Visit an Endangered Bird**
Children 8 years old and up are invited to take a bird class led by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator at 11 a.m., noon or 1 p.m., Sun., June 18. The bus will depart from Crab Cove in Alameda. Cost is $3. A free 30 minute slideshow will be offered prior to 2 p.m., Sun. (510) 636-1684 or visit www.etbparks.org.

**On Stage**

**Summer Celebration Show**
Uptown Singers presents the best of Opera to Broadway and Cabaret at 6 p.m., Sun., June 11 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Cost is $60, dinner and show included. Reservations required. Call 846-8106.

**Seniors**

**Personal Computers Group**
Meets 10 a.m.-noon the fourth Thursday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is $12.50 for residents, $17.50 for non-residents. Call 931-5365 or e-mail pegasus@rc.com.

**Senior Dinner**
Open Heart Kitchen provides seniors 60 years and older with an evening meal from 4-6 p.m. Mon-Fri., at Ridgeview Commons, 4200 Case Ave. Suggested donation $3. Call 484-5131 for reservations.

**Senior Lunch**
Spectrum Community Services provides seniors 60 years and older with a noon meal at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Suggested donation $2.25. Call 931-5385 for reservations.

**V.I.P. Senior Club**
Meets from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. the second and fourth Monday monthly at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5385.

**Woodshop Program**
The woodshop program is open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., every Friday at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Blvd. Call 931-5405.

**Mystery Dinner Theater Show**
The Pleasanton Hotel presents "Weddings are Murdor," on Fri., June 16 at 8 p.m. Call 931-5350 or e-mail mmsoloc@pleasonton.ca.us. Reservations required. Call 846-8106.

**School of the Valley Dance Theatre**
now accepting registration for summer 243-0925 www.ValleyDanceTheatre.com
Rates are subject to change without prior notice. Rates are based on par pricing with certain restrictions such as no cash out, owner occupied, 70% LTV, 660 credit scores, etc. Visit pleasantans@sbcglobal.net or pleasantans.com for special pricing. CA Real Estate Broker #01198426.

Are you paying too much for COBRA?

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Do you still have an adjustable rate loan?

Now is the time to ‘SWITCH TO A FIXED!’

An example of the savings on a $300,000 loan would have fixed payments as such:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Current Rates</th>
<th>New Rates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35-39</td>
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<td>65+</td>
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40 year fixed: 6.5% (APR 6.62%) $1,756/month

Or choose interest only and your rate is 6.625% (APR 6.72%) or $1,656/month

Call Marylou Edwards

First Security Loan
1-800-778-1077
(c) 925-285-5333
(e) marylou@klc.com

7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Road, Valley Springs. Refreshments served. Call 455-6591.

Sexual Assault Support Group
Tri-Valley Haven's support group for women 18 years and older helps provide understanding support for assault survivors. The group meets from 6:45-8:15 p.m., every Thursday. Call April, 445-5845, Ext. 129.

Six Sigma Lean Enterprise Practitioners
Members of this group should have Six-Sigma, Lean or Project Management experience to discuss real world challenges. The group meets at 7 p.m., premeeeting at 6:30 p.m., every fourth Wednesday of the month, Winecricetines, 6040 Dougherty Road, Dublin. Call 485-1699 or visit fredasatone@yahoo.com.

Stroke Support Group
ValleyCare Health System is holding a Stroke Support Group the last Thurs. of every month from 5-6:30 p.m. at ValleyCare Medical Center, 40-1A, Dublin. Call 277-7761.

Survival to Recovery
The focus of these meetings is for persons who grew up in an alcoholic home or who were affected by the drinking of one or both parents. The group, a part of Al-Anon, meets 2:30-4:30 p.m. Saturdays at the St. Philips Lutheran Church, 1886 Dayna Dr., Room 10-A., Dublin. Call 447-7000 ext. 5247.

Temporary Restraining Order Clinic
This clinic is for victims of domestic violence. Call for sexual assault and meets 5:30-7:30 p.m., Mondays at 4471 Stonedige Dr., Suite A and 2 p.m., Thursdays at 3866 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Call Michael, 449-5845, ext. 110.

Tri-Valley ADDH Adult Support Group
The group meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Lone Peak Church, 4444 Black Ave., Call Pattie, 546-4242.

Vision Support Group
This is for individuals and their loved ones who have any kind of vision impairment and meets 10-11:30 a.m., on the third Tuesday of every month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Jll, 931-5369.

TV30
City Council Meeting
The Pleasanton City Council meets Mon. June 6th, at 6 p.m., Sat., June 10 and at 10 a.m. Sun., June 11 on channel 29.

Conversations
Relationship expert and author, Susan Page, will discuss how to solve relationship problems and exposes relationship myths at 6:30 a.m., 2, 11 p.m., Sat., June 10 and Sun., June 11 on channel 30.

School Board Meeting
The Pleasanton School Board meeting from Tues., June 6th at 6 p.m., Sun., June 11 on channel 28.

Tri-Valley Sports Final
Recv the week’s local sports action at 7 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Sat., June 10 and Sun., June 11 on channel 30.

Volunteering
Alameda County Community Food Bank
Volunteers are needed to staff the Emergency Food Hotline from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Call (510) 834-3663 or visit www.acbcb.org.

Assistance League
Assistance League, a nonprofit organization, is looking for volunteers to assist with ongoing philanthropic projects and needs at 7 p.m., the third Thursday of every month at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard, Dublin. Call 484-1354 or visit www.amadorvalleyassistanceleague.org.

Community Service for Teens
Open Heart Kitchen’s Ridgeview Commons Senior Meal Program needs 10-12 teens (at least 16 years of age) from 3:30-6:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Job includes serving seniors from the buffet line, helping seniors get to their tables, bussing tables, cleaning, etc. Adults also welcome to apply. Call 580-1619.

Foster Homes Needed
Valley Humane Society, 273 Spring St., is urgently seeking temporary homes for rescued kittens, puppies, cats and dogs. Food and medical expenses are provided. Also needed are Adoption Volunteer Coordinators and counselors. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleymom.org.

Help Brighten a Senior’s Day
The Tri-Valley’s premier dining and meeting atmosphere for low-income seniors. If you are providing seasonal table centerpieces for 15 tables, call Diana, 586-1619 or Carol, 586-1616.

Jewish Community Federation
The Greater East Bay offers opportunities to volunteer within the community, such as serving meals, tutoring children, and serving on Jewish agency committees or boards. Call (510) 839-5890 ext. 20.

Museum Volunteer
Come and learn about upcoming events and special programs at 9 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Museum On Main Street, 14th and Heathen, 462-2766.

Open Heart Kitchen
If you love to cook and have a passion to end hunger, volunteer at Open Heart Kitchen, the Tri-Valley’s only hot meal service for the needy. There are many volunteer opportunities for teens and adults. Call Diana, 586-1619 or e-mail dcmahann@openheartkitchen.org.

Pleasanton Reading Program
PUSD Barton Reading Program needs volunteers to help at-risk readers. No prior experience required, and materials and training will be provided. Call Christina, 426-8621 or e-mail christina.calk@comcast.net.

Senior Center Volunteers
The Livermore Senior Center, 5253 Sunol Blvd., has an array of daytime volunteer opportunities available to adults of any age including receptionist, bingo caller, teacher's aide and other administrative assistant. Call Raymond Figueroa, 931-5366.

Shepard’s Gate
Volunteers at Shepard’s Gate Shelter, 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore or their thrift stores, 7381 Arroyo Valley Blvd., Dublin and 1600 Railroad Ave., Livermore any time Mon-Fri. Call Lyn, 433-5828 or 2900, ext. 217.

The American Cancer Discovery Shop
The American Cancer Discovery Shop needs volunteers any time from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Mon.-Thurs., from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Fri., Sat., or from noon-5 p.m., Sun. Call 462-7374.

Valleymore Auxiliary Volunteers are needed at ValleyCare Medical Center. With nine volunteer service areas in Pleasanton and Livermore, opportunities are available at the information desk, office, library, gift and thrift shop. Call 734-3368.

Volunteers Needed at RJCL
The Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living provides assisted living, Alzheimer’s and skilled nursing care to its residents. Volunteers play a key role. RJCL has a wide range of opportunities matching volunteer’s interests while ensuring the needs of residents. To apply, call Irma, 964-2098.

Thinking about a new sales career?

Let’s talk.

The Pleasanton Weekly continues to expand with opportunities, so we’re always looking to strike up conversations with talented sales professionals. If you have experience in newspaper sales, or a strong sales background in a similar field, we’d like to speak with you. Exceptional communication skills, proficient computer skills, and attention to detail are a must. We’re a deadline-oriented company, so the ability to work accurately and efficiently is highly valued. If you possess these qualities, we’re open to explore new possibilities with you.

For future consideration, please email your resume, with cover letter, to:

Laure Reynolds
East Bay Sales Manager
Pleasanton Weekly & Danville Weekly
reymonds@pleasantonweekly.com

- No phone calls, please -

The Pleasanton Weekly is an equal-opportunity employer.

Calendaryear
Savory Delights of Northern China
LUNCH SPECIALS: Monday-Friday 11:30-2:00
DINNER: Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30
Friday & Saturday 5:00-10:00
Closed Sunday.
PRIVATE BANQUET ROOM TAKE-OUT
30 West Angela St., Downtown Pleasanton
925 484 4880 • www.pandapleasanton.com

TO GO FOOD ONLY
925 484 4880 • www.pandapleasanton.com
Monday-Friday 11:30-2:00
Savory Delights of Northern China
delivers specialty dishes from a menu
that includes a variety of Chinese
fare. The menu features authentic
flavors, including Kung Pao Chicken,
Szechuan Beef, and more. Enjoy
the cuisine while sipping a cold
beer or a refreshing cocktail.

American
Chicago’s Metropolitan Deli
6003 W. Las Positas Blvd. &
Hopyard, Pleasanton, (925) 462-
1676. A new Rockin’ Restaurant
that features: Italian Beef, Chi-Dogs,
Gyros, and more. We have over 50
menu items that are hot, juicy, fun
and flavorful. Recently renovated
to create a festive atmosphere with
a new bar, beers on tap and three
sport TVs. We are family friendly
with a nice Kids Menu, soft serve ice
cream, shakes and sundaes. Come
check out the flavors of Chicago right
in Pleasanton’s back yard!

Pleasanton Hotel
855 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 846-
8106. This restored Victorian
“hotel” combines the ambiance of the
past with the exciting contemporary
cooking of Chef Neil Marquis. Also
offering Mystery Dinner Theater and
WineMaker Dinners, live music every
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, some
Sundays. Open for lunch, dinner and
Sunday Champagne Buffet Brunch,
patio dining, banquets and weddings
to 200.

Red Smoke Grill
4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton,
(925) 734-5387. The place to go
for great tri-tip, rotisserie chicken
and baby back ribs. The wonderful
staff serves up sandwiches, salads
and family dinner meals. So come
by for a glass of wine and a great
meal. Crossroads Shopping Center
on Hopyard just one block south of
Stoneridge.

Vic’s All Star Kitchen
201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-
0789. Located in the heart of down-
town Pleasanton on Main Street, Vic’s
delivers a starry mix of American food,
fast service and a bustling, cheeky
atmosphere. Owner Vic Malatesta has
learned his love of sports with his pas-
sion for good food to create a solid
dining experience with a local sports
theme. Open daily 7 a.m.-2 p.m.
Evening banquets/daytime catering.

Brewpub /
Alehouse
The Hop Yard American Alehouse
and Grill
2015 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton,
(925) 426-9600. Voted Best Watering
Hole in Pleasanton, the Hop Yard

California
Cuisine
Silver Palate Restaurant
680 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton,
(925) 417-5900. Silver Palate’s menu
is based on a concept of whole-
some cooking, using the most natural
ingredients available. The ambibi-
tance of this restaurant evokes the
light-filled expanse of a European
marketplace, while the outdoor patio
features the best in al fresco din-
ing. Choose from a wide selection of
flavorful entrees and side accompa-
niments ... among them risottos, spi-
cially soups, Kobe beef burgers, wild
salmon, Organic Sonoma Mix salads
and handcrafted desserts. Country
Brunch Buffet every Sunday. Open
seven days a week.

Catering
Fontina’s Catering
349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton,
(925) 462-9290. The seasonal tastes of
Fontina’s award-winning menu can
now be custom delivered to you, right
to your home or office. Our lunch and
dinner specialties feature homemade
soups and pastas.

Valley Humane Society
Valley Humane Society would like to thank the following
for supporting the Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour.
Because of your help, Valley Humane Society was able to
raise over $15,500 for the animals. Your generosity,
kindness and support of Valley Humane Society are truly appreciated.

Alden Lane Nursery
Frisnie Medical Center
Western Garden Nursery
Town Centre Books
James Alfyn Printing
Sir Speedy
Juanita Furtado, Realtor
Tree Wise
Valley Community Bank
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce
Shane Bohan, Realtor
John & Virginia Madden
Ruby Hill Owner’s Association
Pleasanton Downtown Association
TV30
Wine Steward
Cattelan's Antique Furniture Market
Washington Mutual
Worthington Gallery West
American Harvest
Old Republic Title
Pure Girls
Domenico
Antique Furniture Market
US Bank
Bank of America
Bank of Walnut Creek
Cats Meow Toys & Fashions
Express Fitness Center
Pearson Contracting
The Noodles Bunko Group
Mary Jean Deering, Realtor
Homeguard Home Inspection

McNichols, Randick, O’dea &
Toalldoros– Attorneys At Law
Touch of Health
Destiny’s Path
Wild Birds Unlimited
The Clock Shop
Clover Creek
The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy
Purity Cleaners
Seever’s Tire
Pleasanton Public Library
Hopyard Animal Hospital
Cassandria’s Bakery
Tri-Valley Convention &
Visitor’s Bureau
Hope Hospice
Stacey’s Cafe
Pleasanton Senior Center
Petsmart
Noah’s Bagels
Pet Food Express
VetCare
Alsilai Vet Hospital
Petway
Jim’s Country Restaurant
Dean’s Cafe
Borg Redwood Fences
Express Heating & Air Conditioning
Kreenan/Heinz Company
Tina’s Nails
Cornerstone Title
Outer Visions Landscape Design
Christensen’s

Please save the date for next year’s
Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour:
Sunday May 6, 2007
For information, contact Valley Humane Society at 925.426.8656

FREE CAR
WASH*
with purchase of any
two sandwiches
$5 Value
Expires 7/15/06
*Basic Car Wash

Pleasanton U.S. Gas
3121 Bernal Avenue
(at Stanley Blvd.)

Pleasanton

Brewpub /
Alehouse

Dining Out

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

Page 17
Dining Out

Italian

Fontina Ristorante
349 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Offering a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials, including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. Indoor or outdoor seating, Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!
11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, (925) 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic are the first things you notice in this warm and friendly classically “Italian” restaurant, complete with red checked tablecloths. It has an open kitchen where patrons can watch the cooks “hand toss” the dough for this pizza mecca of the Tri-Valley. It is perfect for romantic couples as well as the entire family, and the authentic Southern Italian cooking includes traditional dishes such as Veal Scaloppini and Lasagna as well as Lamb Osso Bucco and Scampi.

Garlic di Pasta
3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 485-4500. Rated “A” by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic. Voted the best Italian restaurant in the year 2000 by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. Located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

Pastas Trattoria
405 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 417-2222. Join us at Pleasanton’s most loved downtown Italian Restaurant. Our elegant atmosphere complemented by our one-of-a-kind menu items will offer a little something for everyone. We feature great steaks, seafood and our famous pasta dishes. Our full-service bar offers a superb selection of spirits and fine wines, and the sounds of live music will jazz up your Friday and Saturday evenings. We have banquet facilities available with wireless Internet.


Continental

Barone’s
475 St. John St., Pleasanton, (925) 426-0887. Pleasanton’s most romantic continental cuisine restaurant.

Elegant banquet room and wine bar combination ideal for all your special occasions. Sits up to 60 people. Free delivery and set up for catered events with more than 25 guests. Open for lunch, dinner and take out.

Don’t Forget Dads & Grads!
Think Pastas for All of Your Celebrations This Summer.

mediterranean escape

...It’s almost summer, so why not escape for an evening for a refreshing taste of Italy?

Don’t Forget Dads & Grads!
Think Pastas for All of Your Celebrations This Summer.

Want to order pasta online?
Use the online ordering button for fast and easy ordering from our restaurant.

Pastas Trattoria
405 Main Street - Pleasanton, CA
For reservations dial (925) 417-2222 or visit OpenTable.com
Dining Out

for large parties, up to 70 guests. The place to meet your friends!

Japanese

Hasegawa Japanese
4855 Hopyard Road, across from Chili’s Grill, (925) 734-9999. Japanese owner Kazutoyo “Joe Cool” Hasagawa has 26 years experience as a Sushi and Shabu-shabu chef. Traditional Japanese dining. Lunch served Monday-Friday. Dinner seven days a week.

Mediterranean

Athens West Restaurant
6999 Dublin Blvd., (925) 803-9601. Truly authentic Mediterranean cuisine featuring Greek specialties including delicious steaks and seafood. Large upscale dining facility with full bar located adjacent to the original Athens Burger Restaurant. Opens Tuesday-Sunday at 4:30 p.m.

Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.
288 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 846-2520. Family oriented with an extensive menu. Renowned pizza, Italian dishes, salads and sandwiches. Patio dining, Antique games for the kids. Groups, take out, call-ahead lunch orders. Wine, beer, open seven days a week, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Vinny’s 2 Go!
4001-5 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 463-0280. Vinny’s 2 Go is the Rose Pavilion’s newest authentic Italian pizzeria. Lunchtime favorites include New York pizza slices, meatball sandwiches and the popular BBQ ISLANDS

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We will not be undersold!

Come to our new FACTORY OUTLET.
We have the largest selection of islands in northern California.

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- Stainless steel refrigerator
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Summer’s Almost Here & We’re Getting Ready To Celebrate Our 1 Year Anniversary!

Starting This June!
All New Lunch & Dinner Menu
Updated Wine Lists
Great Lunch & Dinner Specials

Vinny’s 2 Go!
4001-5 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 463-0280. Vinny’s 2 Go is the Rose Pavilion’s newest authentic Italian pizzeria. Lunchtime favorites include New York pizza slices, meatball sandwiches and the popular
Dining Out

Sandwiches/Deli

Togo’s
3120-D Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 846-8646; 5556-A Springdale Ave., Pleasanton, (925) 483-3090.
Togo’s has been voted “Pleasanton’s Best Sandwich” for five consecutive years. Conveniently open seven days a week, Togo’s features its popular “Endless Combo” (1/2 sandwich, 1/2 salad or small soup) ... choose any two for only $5.19 plus tax. Everyday favorites include the Hot Pastrami #9 and the tasty Turkey-Avocado #24. Togo’s also features specialty soups for winter.

Wine Bars

The Wine Steward
641 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 600-WINE (600-9463). In historic Downtown Pleasanton is a full service wine shop with the largest selection and the most competitive prices in the East Bay area. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff can help you select a single bottle or perfectly pair wines for your next dinner party. Our Wine Bar is open Thursday through Saturday with a new theme every week—check our Web site, www.thewinesteward.com, for details.

The Rose Hotel and The Pleasanton Hotel present
Wine & Roses
Sunday, June 25, 2006
5:30-6:00 p.m. at The Rose Hotel
and The Pleasanton Hotel Patio

Wine tasting from 14 Livermore Valley Wineries, Delicacies by The Pleasanton Hotel and Music by local artists.
Tickets: $30 in advance, $35 at event, if available.
May be purchased at The Rose Hotel or The Pleasanton Hotel.
Info: (925) 846-8802

Proceeds will benefit the Livermore Valley Winegrowers’ Foundation - Children’s Charities

Garlic Di Pasta
3037-G Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton (Across from Valley Ave.)
925-485-4500
www.GarlicDiPasta.com

Elegant banquet room and wine bar combination ideal for all your special occasions. Sits up to 60 people. Free delivery and set up for catered events with more than 25 guests. Open for lunch, dinner and take out.

Mona Lisa panini. Savory Meals 2 Go and fresh cannoli are available for fast pickup. Catering is offered for special occasions and office luncheons. Visit Vinny’s 2 go! for quality, freshness and great taste!