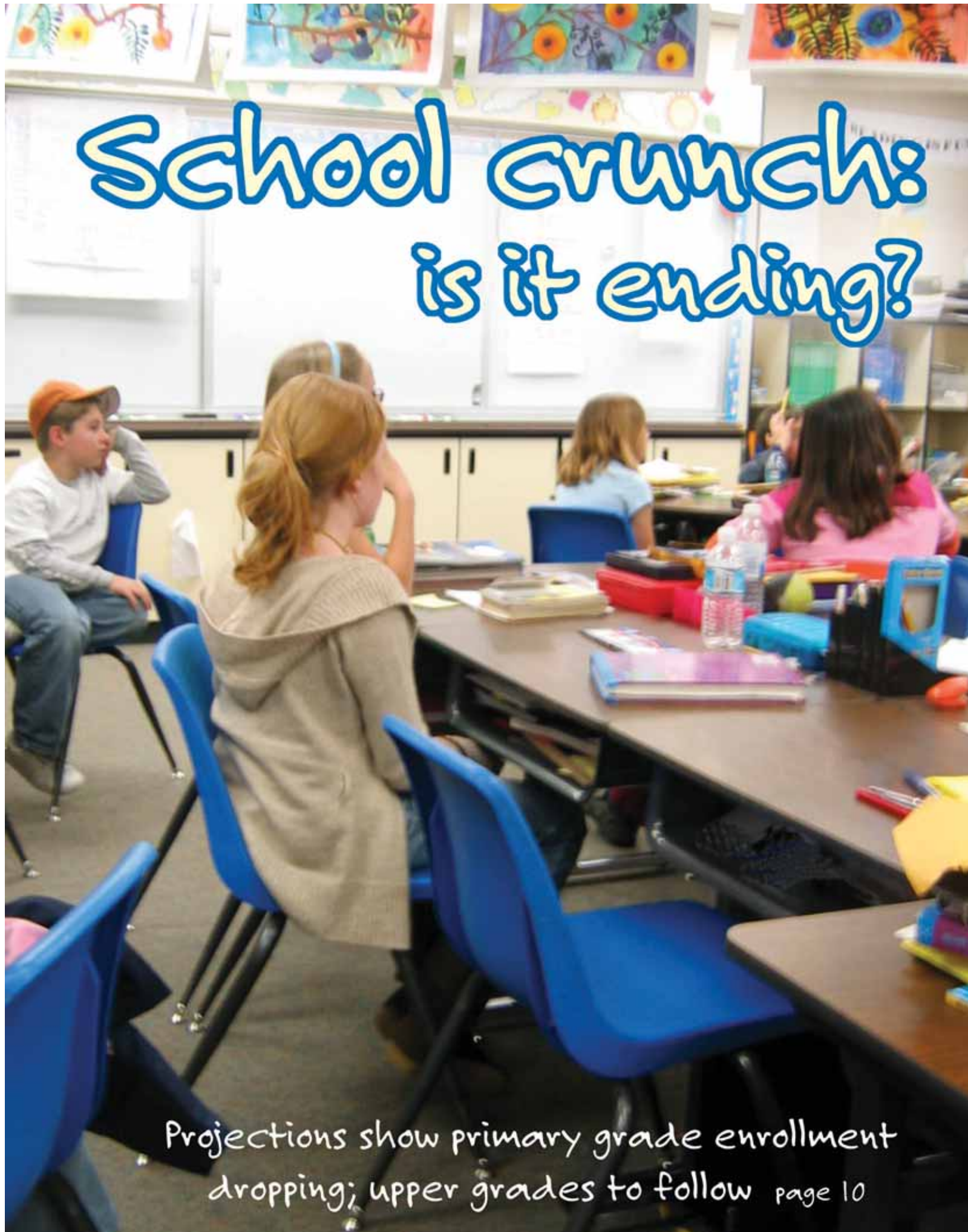


# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VII, Number 4 • February 17, 2006

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It's all about Pleasanton



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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Is press free or intimidated?

The angry protests that are continuing in the mostly-Muslim world over what its followers regard as offensive editorial caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed show—for good or bad—the power of the press and its need for sensible restraints. While recognizing the importance of freedom of the press and expression, these rights should also be coupled with press responsibility. The Pleasanton Weekly, which is one of the few newspapers, along with the New York Times that does not print editorial cartoons, carries hundreds of news stories, features, photos and advertisements that, while some may find objectionable (lingerie ads draw the most complaints), we hope are never offensive. Except for the supermarket tabloids, newspapers like ours and the dailies adhere to high quality standards that make them acceptable to readers of all ages and faiths.

That's why few U.S. newspapers have joined in the curious frenzy to reprint some or all of the 12 cartoons that were first run in the Danish paper Jyllands-Posten last Sept. 30. To date, seven European newspapers have carried the drawings, which include caricatures showing Mohammed wearing a turban shaped as a bomb and another portraying him holding a sword, his eyes covered by a black rectangle. The cartoons crudely equate Islam's prophet, and by implication all of Islam, with terrorism and ignorance. Some say they look like the provocation they were intended to be when they appeared in Jyllands-Posten, which is considered to be one of Denmark's most far-right newspapers. By reprinting them just in the last few weeks and long after Muslim leaders had expressed their outrage, the European papers in France, Germany and Spain have unnecessarily flamed the controversy, in effect ignoring the sensitivities of an entire religion to demonstrate their freedom of the press rights.

In my view, freedom of the press doesn't equate to an irresponsible

or insensitive press. Each week, we exercise editorial restraints in what we print in the Weekly. At the police station, we may obtain the names and addresses of sexual assault victims or of juveniles in trouble, which we won't publicly identify. A photographer might click on an unidentified body at a crash scene, a picture you'll never see. We don't print letters unless the writer is identified, and we reject letters that make undocumented claims or charges against community leaders or businesses. In short, we cover the news of Pleasanton and report it accurately and fairly while also showing press responsibility in what we write and in the photos we show.

Now these self-imposed restraints are again being put to the test. Are U.S. editors being intimidated in their decisions not to publish the cartoons that have become an integral part of the story? CNN tells viewers flat out that it won't show the negative caricatures of Mohammed because "their publication would only add fuel to the controversy itself." Because of the protests, the editor of Denmark's Jyllands-Posten has taken "an extended leave of absence." In France, the owner of France Soir, which also printed the cartoons, has sacked its managing editor. President Bush, who pledged to "act boldly in freedom's cause" in his State of the Union address, was publicly silent last week as he stood alongside King Abdullah II of Jordan, whose government has just arrested the editor of the Jordanian tabloid al-Shihan that published three of the Mohammed caricatures.

Publishing the caricatures last year was probably insensitive. Reprinting them again across Europe was seen as provocative. But now as mayhem spreads throughout the Muslim world and also against U.S. interests there, editors are hearing from readers who want to see the cartoons that started it all. It's time for the restraints to end and let a free press report the story. ■

### About the Cover

There will be more than this single empty chair in teacher Colleen Jewett's combined fourth and fifth grade classroom next year at Walnut Grove Elementary School as enrollment starts dropping throughout the Pleasanton grade school system. Walnut Grove could see the biggest drop—down to three-and-a-half fifth grades from five. Total students: 113, down from 185. Photo by Jeb Bing.

Vol. VII, Number 4

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# Streetwise

**Q:** Is Callippe Preserve too difficult for the average player?

Asked at the Callippe Club House.



**Brendan Binder**  
Ashton Court

Well ... I consider myself an average player, and no, I don't think it's too difficult. We had a good time out here today.

**Tony Adamich**

Danville

No, I don't think it's too difficult. The most difficult thing is spelling the name to look it up.



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**Carlos Robles**

Berkeley

I enjoyed it. I'm a frequent golfer and visit different courses around Bay Area and Northern California, and I think it's a good course.



**John Kurnik**

Berkeley

Today was our first time here, and it's a beautiful course. Multiple tees are available. The clubhouse is great, and they have a great tri-tip sandwich.



**Dan Nguyen**

Fremont

The holes all have four or five sets of tees for different skilled golfers. It's definitely a challenging course, but not too difficult if you play the right set of tees. Today is my first day here. It's an awesome course, a lot of fun. I'll look forward to the trees maturing and getting bigger.



Have a Streetwise question? E-mail editor@PleasantonWeekly.com  
Compiled by Sandy Christman

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Free tax help

The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd, is offering free tax help to low- and middle-income taxpayers. Hours are noon-5 p.m. Mondays, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Fridays. Help will be given in preparing and e-filing returns through Friday, April 14. For more information, call 931-5365

### Spring Garden Show

The Alameda County Spring Home and Garden Show starts today and runs through the weekend at the Fairgrounds. For the \$5 cost of admission, see the latest in home improvement and décor today from noon-7 p.m., 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday. Children 12 and under get in free. Parking is \$8. Visit: [www.capitalshowcase.com](http://www.capitalshowcase.com) or call (800) 222-9351.

### Fun with science

Pleasanton's Amador Theater will host "The Big Energy Show" at 7 p.m. Feb. 22. The science program offers students a fun and fact-filled adventure in the principles of physical science, and will be enjoyed by students age 5 and up. The theater is located at 1155 Santa Rita Road on the Amador High School campus. For more information, call 931-3400.

### Nature walk

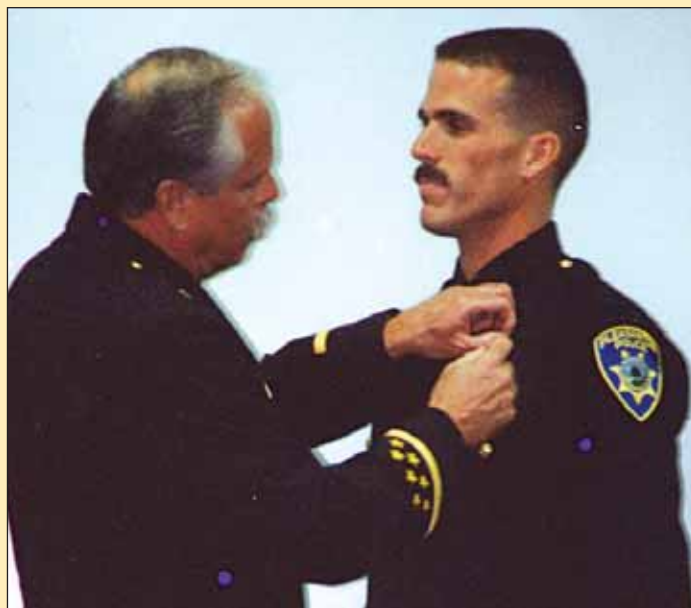
Need an excuse to get out in nature? The Pleasanton Parks Department is sponsoring a hike through Austin Bernal Park for those 18 and up. Spring will be in the air March 25 as participants meet at 8:50 a.m. at the Augustin Bernal Park Staging Area.

The hike will take roughly three-and-a-half hours. Hikers will go up the Blue Oak Knoll, head north to the frog pond, then up to the ridge-top. If it's a clear day, you should be able to see Mt. Diablo, plus have an expansive view of the entire valley.

The full hike is about four or five miles and includes a stop for lunch. A hike information sheet is available when registering. Cost is \$18 if you register in advance. For more information, visit [www.fitness-photos.com](http://www.fitness-photos.com) or call the instructor at 484-0239. Code for the hike is 31047. To register, visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation).

### Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)



Courtesy Laurence Family

When Pleasanton police sergeant Brian Laurence was inducted into the department, his dad, long-time Pleasanton firefighter and then-Deputy Chief Dennis Laurence pinned on Brian's badge.

## A father remembered

*Police officer son, Deputy Fire Chief dad*

by Rebecca Guyon

"It was a life well lived," said Pleasanton Police Department Sergeant Brian Laurence of his father, former Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Laurence, who died Feb. 4 at the age of 63. Dennis served as a firefighter for almost 40 years, starting out at the California Division of Forestry where he worked for 10 years before moving in 1970 to what was then the Pleasanton Fire Department. During his time with the department, he was integral in the consolidation of the Livermore and Pleasanton fire departments.

Although he was not a smoker, Dennis died after a battle with lung cancer, probably caused, his son said, by his many exposures to toxin-filled smoke. In honor of Dennis, LPPD firefighters wore shrouds over their badges—a strip of black tape—until after his funeral service. The tape is a tradition in fire and police departments to honor members past and present who die.

"I was very impressed and grateful for that," Brian said. "I'm convinced that it was through his job that he developed lung cancer, and it was great of them to recognize that. They really paid him a lot of respect by (taping their badges). The fire department was extremely supportive through the whole thing. It really is a

brotherhood."

Services were held Friday, Feb. 10 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Danville. Many current and retired members of the fire department attended, as well as 20 members of the police department. The hearse was escorted to the cemetery by fire engines from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, the California Department of Forestry (CDF) and six motorcycle officers from the Pleasanton Police Department.

Dennis is survived by his wife of 42 years, Maureen Laurence of Pleasanton, son David Laurence of Tulsa, Okla., and twins Brian of Pleasanton and Suzanne Gerlach of Bainbridge Island, Wash. He also leaves sister Judith Zahn of San Jose, six grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Family was very important to Dennis, Brian said, adding that some of his fondest memories of his father were spending Christmas in the firehouse.

"All the firefighters' families were there because they couldn't take the holiday off," he said. "One of the guys would dress as Santa Claus. As kids, we thought Santa was there because our dads were there."

It was because of Dennis' dedication to family that he moved



Former Deputy Fire Chief Dennis Laurence

(continued on page 5)

## Planners complete work on 318-acre Bernal parkland development

*No surprises as final drafts nix housing, ACE station, high school Academy*

by Jeb Bing

Three new reports just off the press and representing more than six years and thousands of hours planning the development of Pleasanton's 318-acre Bernal public park are about to start a review process that could lead to a November ballot measure to seek voter approval.

The documents include an Environmental Impact Report—192 pages of analysis with separate attachments on land use issues and concerns for the property, which until this year has been farmland. A second, more reader-friendly document, is a draft Specific Plan for the property, and a third booklet is a Master Plan with maps, sketches and color photos of a 50-acre section in the eastern portion of the site that is planned to accommodate sports fields and related facilities within a forested framework of open space.

Basically, the EIR and Specific Plan follow suggested land uses already approved in preliminary public hearings.

### The history

Work on planning uses for the Bernal property began when Greenbriar Homes and its association paid the city of San Francisco \$126 million to buy the acreage that San Francisco acquired in the 1930s for the water rights. That city retained ownership to those water rights in the sale, a complicated transaction that also gave Pleasanton the 318 contiguous acres free of charge for public uses on condition that developers could build 581 homes and apartments and a four-story, eight-building office complex. Greenbriar's 100 apartment units and homes built on the main tract by KB Home have been completed and are occupied, while Greenbriar completes work on the final series of \$1-million-plus homes on the westernmost section of the Bernal property west of I-680.

Planning work on developing Bernal began even before Greenbriar's purchase when the Pleasanton City Council authorized a vote on a bond measure to buy part of the land directly from San Francisco. At the time, San Francisco had proposed a housing development and golf course for the site, which the council opposed. After the bond measure failed by a

slim margin, Greenbriar and other developers stepped up to the plate with plans that the council supported, with San Francisco finally accepting the Greenbriar bid.

In December 2000, the Bernal Community Park Master Plan Task Force was appointed by the council to develop the 50-acre sports fields, which Greenbriar gave to the city first so that the proposed lighted fields could be built and in use before home construction started. That didn't happen, and only now have planners and the council given final approval to build three lighted fields, with construction to start later this year.

The now-completed Master Plan for the sports fields and the Specific Plan for the rest of the acreage could allow more development to get under way as funds become available. Eventually that would include three lighted soccer fields and another lighted field for junior football and lacrosse. Also planned are picnic grounds, a 1,000-seat amphitheater, parking lots and public art.

The 50-acre site is bordered on the north by Bernal Avenue, on the south by the extension of Valley Avenue, now under construction, on the east by the proposed extension of Pleasanton Avenue that would link Bernal and Valley, and on the west by the rest of the undeveloped Bernal park acreage.

### What now?

The draft Specific Plan, which has now been completed, provides planning direction for that undeveloped acreage. The site, which extends west of the sports park and wraps around homes and apartments, a new fire station and the Bernal Corners retail and gasoline station complex, is the city's largest remaining vacant acreage. A task force that was appointed in 2000 to consider this section of the Bernal property conducted numerous public hearings and heard from proponents of more than 40 uses, including a high school academy, ice hockey rink, a cemetery and a plan supported by County Supervisor Scott Haggerty to relocate the ACE train station off the Fairgrounds parking lot and onto Bernal. The final report omits those, but includes more open space that would link

(continued on page 6)

## Remembered

(continued from page 6)

from the CDF to the Pleasanton Fire Department. As a firefighter with the Division of Forestry, he was required to travel a lot, but he wanted to spend more time with his family. He decided to take the position in Pleasanton, even though it meant he would no longer hold the rank of captain. In his new job, he would rise to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief, serving with former Fire Chief Stewart Gary before retiring in 1999.

*"He figured his time after that was a gift from God. He looked at that as a second chance."*

Working with CDF had proven to be exceptionally dangerous, Dennis shared with his family. He'd had a close call in 1970, shortly before moving to Pleasanton, while working in Monterey County. A wall of flames shifted direction when the wind pattern changed. Dennis was directly in its path, with nowhere to run. He dove under his fire truck and burrowed down into the dirt. He would later tell his family it was a miracle that he escaped unscathed. The fire truck was destroyed.

"He figured his time after that was a gift from God," Brian said. "He looked at that as a second chance."

Dennis' work in the fire department was an inspiration to Brian and affected his decision to go into policing.

"I became interested in public safety from seeing the rewarding career he had and the impact he had on people's lives," Brian said. "These guys really do put their lives on the line every day. They are very dedicated to the career they chose." ■

## Bernal

(continued from page 6)

planted woodlands and meadows to restored and recreated lakes and ponds for, the report said, a "grand park-like character intended to create the dominant visual theme for designing future development."

The Specific Plan lists 15 potential land uses for that setting, including a Child Care facility, cultural arts center, a 4-H demonstration farm and animal care facility, art-related classrooms and a Native American History Reflective Area. Trails, hiking paths and a youth and community center also are part of the long range plan.

The three draft documents will be reviewed first by the City Council and then sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Planning Commission for public hearings before being considered again by the council in late spring. If approved, voters could see a measure on the Nov. 7 ballot about the overall plan for building out Bernal. ■

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## 'Pets inside'

*Firefighters have new tool for saving Fido*

by Carol Bogart

If you've read stories about people forced to flee a burning home with no time to search for a terrified pet—and the dog or cat is later found comatose or dead by firefighters, you can imagine just how devastating such a scenario would be. Bad enough to lose all the photo albums, let alone a devoted companion—no matter how thankful the family is that all human members got out alive.

Now, firefighters with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department have a new tool that could give such pet owners anxiously awaited good news. Thanks to the generosity of local realtor Jeanie Reitzell, Valley Humane has presented the depart-

ment with oxygen masks designed just for cats and dogs.

Fire trucks at 10 stations are now equipped with devices designed to fit snugly on snout, refilling struggling lungs with oxygen. In cities where such masks are standard equipment, otherwise sad stories sometimes report happy endings—when pets that seem to have died from smoke inhalation are revived.

"Valley Humane Society is so excited to bring this program to the community," said Wendy McNelley, Operations Director for Valley Humane Society. "If my two dogs were trapped in a fire, I would want them to be rescued and resuscitated just like everyone else.



Courtesy Valley Humane



Melissa Adkins

Above: "Otis" models newly donated equipment as demonstrated by Sabrina Emrie, coordinator of Emergency Medical Services for the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department. The oxygen masks are specially designed for pets suffering from smoke inhalation.

Left: The masks come in three sizes: cat, medium and mastiff.

They are my family."

Each kit has three masks ranging in size from small to "mastiff." Reitzell donated the kits to honor of her dog, Daisey. The masks have been dubbed "Daisey's Gift of Life." ■



Courtesy Pleasanton Civic Arts

### Young talent to perform in Pleasanton

Aya Keller, 6, of Pleasanton will be among the performers at the Fourth Annual Youth Music Festival. The festival begins at 8 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Amador Theater. Advance tickets are \$7 (until 2 p.m. Feb. 24), \$10 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.civictickets.org](http://www.civictickets.org) until 1 a.m. the day of the performance; by phone, 931-3444; or in person at the Amador Theater Box Office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays and for two hours prior to the performance. Tickets are for general admission and seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. There are no group discounts. The Amador Theater is located at 1155 Santa Rita Rd. For more information, call 931-5353.

—Carol Bogart

## Gymnastics IN Pleasanton

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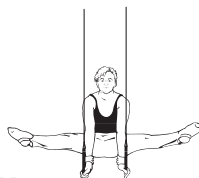
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To register, call (925) 931-5350 or visit [www.pleasantonarts.org](http://www.pleasantonarts.org).



## Bee-ing good at spelling

First Bee in six years at Walnut Grove

Thirty-six students at Walnut Grove Elementary studied a spelling booklet that had 42,000 words, then did their best to correctly spell 109 of them. At the first spelling bee at the school in more than six years, third, fourth and fifth-graders all stepped up to the plate, but fifth-grader Rafael Ramirez (seventh from left in above photo) was the champion, correctly spelling "fiercest." Samantha Danis, also a fifth grader, was runner-up.

As champion, "Raffie" Ramirez will compete in a spelling bee next month against other Bay Area schools' top spellers. The winner of that bee will compete in a national spelling bee in May in Washington, D.C.

—Carol Bogart

### Spelling bee participants Jan. 24 at Walnut Grove Elementary:

Rafael Ramirez, Samantha Danis, Jamie Altman, Daniel Arthur, Elise Berendt, Akshay Bommireddi, Arnold Chan, Tiffany Chung, Yassine Elmandjra, Arlene Firoozan, Max Gastineau, Annie Holmquist, Mekhala Hoskote, Martin Hughes, Ryan Ibanez, Justin Jeon, Irene Kim, Leslie Lam, Max Lam, Hanying Mo, John Malchar, Hunter Milano, Zach Mufti, Dhruvika Sahni, Kayla Barber-Scot, Kaelan Song, Suman Tripathy, David Vanderstraeten, Ryan Vicnecio, David Wang, Branden West, Kevin Wiener, Alex Williams, Glynn Williams, Kayla Wong, Peter Xie.

### Take us along

## 2005 CSBA An nouncement & Trade S



### School officials keep current

Superintendent John Casey reads the Weekly to (l-r) Assistant Superintendent Cindy Galbo, Trustee Gloria Fredette, Board President Steve Pulido, school district Director of Technology Gary Hicklin, Trustee Juanita Haugen and Assistant Superintendent Sandra Lemmons at the California School Board Association meeting in San Diego.

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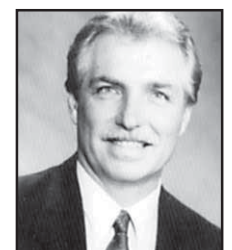
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5th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$2,264	\$1,842

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Fewer kids as baby boomers grow older

In a city like ours that is nearing a population of 70,000, the loss of a thousand or more in the school age group may not be a crushing blow, but it sure could have far-reaching implications. As our cover story reports this week, demographer Tom Williams of Enrollment Projection Consultants, a San Mateo firm that measures and projects student enrollments for a number of Bay Area school districts, including Pleasanton's, reports that elementary school enrollment will start dropping in the coming school years. Overall enrollment also will start declining after it peaks at 14,652 students in 2007 to a projected low of 14,057 at the end of his 10-year outlook in 2015. Although his long-range forecast is for a decline of about 450 students between 2010 and 2015, that's just an estimate. There is a broad range of possibilities in any 5-10-year time frame that could change the projection. A slight increase is even conceivable during those years. Williams says, however, that if there is a notable deviation from the projections, the more likely scenario is for lower enrollments.

The expected condominium and apartment complexes being considered for Hacienda Business Park and near the new West Pleasanton BART station that will soon be under construction may not be built until after 2015. The aging trends in existing housing could cause a more rapidly declining kindergarten total, with subsequent impacts on the enrollment in the other grades over time. First, of course, the decline would be seen at the elementary school level, but eventually in the secondary grades as well. Combining those possibilities could lead to an enrollment of as little as 13,100 in 2015, a reduction of more than 1,400 students from the current total.

Williams, who conferred with city and school district leaders and also walked the streets with parents and students as they headed to schools, said several factors are combining to cause the student enrollment decline in Pleasanton. First, a large and growing number of three-four-and five bedroom homes are occupied by "empty nesters," maturing couples whose children have graduated from high schools here and are now in college or working at their careers elsewhere. In many cities, parents welcome this "right of passage" opportunity to move out of their large homes to smaller, easier-to-maintain houses or to retirement homes they have purchased along the way. But not in Pleasanton. Homeowners like it here, their friends and churches are here, and because of Prop. 13, many of them have much lower property tax bases than their neighbors in the same-size homes who recently moved in. Even though their home may now have a market value of \$1-million-plus, they're still paying taxes based on the \$375,000 they paid for the home 20 years ago, plus a few percentage points added on to their tax bill since then. It just makes no sense to them to move to a smaller home or out-of-town, so they're not. With each decision like that, the bedrooms that once held 3-4 school age children, or still could if the house was sold to a younger family, remain childless.

Pleasanton also has a voter-mandated housing cap of 29,000 units, with only about 2,000 left to build. With city officials opposed to more large homes, it's expected that new construction will be small homes and apartments for owners and renters with few if any children. All this has widespread implications, not just for the school district and the number of teachers and facilities that it has, including the proposed Neal Elementary School, but also for pediatricians, children's dentists and retail stores that cater to the young. City programs operated by the Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee and the Parks and Community Services Department are focused on a growing youth population. As those numbers dwindle, Pleasanton may need fewer soccer fields and baseball diamonds, and more easily accessible pathways and park benches to serve a baby boomer population that will start to turn 60 this year. ■

## Guest Opinion

### Bring wireless downtown

by Steve Brozosky

My vision and goal is to bring wireless to the downtown area. My discussion with some members of the Pleasanton Downtown Association was about bringing wireless (Wi-Fi) there and not on a city-wide wireless plan as published last week (Pleasanton Weekly Editorial, "Think twice about wireless," Feb. 10, 2006). I want to thank my fellow council members in agreeing with me on a downtown wireless zone and accepting my proposal to make this a council priority.

Pleasanton's downtown is a community gathering place as well as a place where business people gather to discuss deals over lunch and dinner. A wireless zone would allow people in the downtown to use their computers whether they are sitting on a bench in front of the museum, at a coffee shop or in a restaurant. Other cities have done this with success. We have a great downtown but we need to continue to improve it.

Going a step further, we should consider bringing Wi-Fi to some of our parks. Instead of parents dropping off their kids at a sports practice, they can stay at the park, watch their kids, get some work done or even surf the net. Our youth could do study sessions in a park and still have full access to the Internet.

While bringing Wi-Fi to public areas of the city make sense, I do not feel that a city-sponsored wireless plan for the whole city does. Most of the residents of Pleasanton are wired for the Internet already. A city-wide wire-

less would be costly and would require upgrades to the hardware every five years or so. Let the wireless carriers compete against each other for technology of this magnitude to give us the best product. The government getting involved would certainly curb innovation. We would also become committed to this technology and it would end up being a cost to the taxpayers. It is also quite rare to see government do a better and cheaper job than the private sector.

Trying to provide wireless coverage to the entire city also has technical issues. We cannot even get consistent cell phone coverage throughout the city and Wi-Fi would be more difficult then cell coverage. How many of us have Wi-Fi in our house but cannot even cover our complete house?

I do not share the same concerns as the (Pleasanton Weekly) editor on security. If the government wants to eavesdrop on our communication, they can do it whether we have wireless throughout the whole city or not. Problems such as viruses and identification theft are no different whether you are on wireless or a wired connection to the Internet. You need to be careful and have proper virus detection whether you are on wireless or not.

The city should focus on services in our public areas and not compete with the private industry in our homes.

*City Councilman Steve Brozosky was first elected in 2002. He has extensive management and R&D experience in computer software and is a leader of the Abbie 4-H Club in Pleasanton.*

## Letters

### Haggerty 'failed miserably' at Happy Valley meeting

Editor,

The time for County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, his traffic engineers and Happy Valley Road property owners to have voiced their concerns with existing road conditions and safety issues on that segment of the Happy Valley loop was in 1998, during the Specific Plan EIR process. Having failed to do that then, another opportunity to do so was afforded them in 2002. As proponents of annexation, letter writers Mr. Smith (12/23/05) and Dr. Glafkides (12/30/05) had ignored that opportunity, and focused their pro-annexation rhetoric on subsidized sewer and water and failed to inform the Happy Valley community that in voting for annexation, Happy Valley Road would be widened and straightened.

Now, Happy Valley Road property owners, including Smith and Glafkides, are concerned with existing

road conditions. Smith and Glafkides, Supervisor Haggerty and his staff, have yet to show that conditions ignored in 1998 and 2002 are now different and warrant closure of Happy Valley Road.

In a disingenuous first effort to meet with the Happy Valley community, Supervisor Haggerty failed miserably to fully and fairly vet this issue with concerned residents and property owners. The meeting room's acoustics were beyond his (and staff's) control. However there is no excuse for failing to use a public address system. With little or no written information provided prior to the meeting's start, the situation was compounded by the inability for those present to hear staff's presentation. This certainly brings into question Haggerty's agenda. Let's hope Haggerty changes his next step from Board of Supervisor approval to holding real public meetings with the Happy Valley community.

*Vanessa Kawaihau  
Sycamore Road*

# School Crunch: is it ending?

Projections show primary grade enrollment dropping; upper grades to follow

by Jeb Bing

**E**nrollment in Pleasanton elementary schools is expected to drop slightly in the 2006 school year that starts next August in a declining trend that will affect all schools over the next 10 years.

By 2015, according to a new study by school demographer Tom Williams, total enrollment in Pleasanton public schools will decrease by 461 students to 14,057, compared to 14,518 who were registered as of Oct. 1, 2005 for the current school year.

Although enrollment has seen several dips in recent years in elementary schools, Williams does not forecast any rebounds—as happened this year—with the district’s nine elementary schools projected to shed 271 students by 2015 to a total of 5,783, compared to the 6,054 enrolled today.

“It’s clear that unless people moving into Pleasanton have children in the middle school and high school age groups, we will start losing enrollment in those schools, too,” said Rich Puppione, Senior Director of Pupil Services for the Pleasanton district. “This is the first long-range trend line that shows enrollment peeling off.”

Williams projects enrollment in grades kindergarten through fifth to drop by 14 students by Oct. 1, the date he uses to measure current-year figures, and then to steadily decrease in each of the next 10 years. The city’s three middle schools also will see an overall enrollment decline over the next decade, but in a seesaw fashion that will find enrollment both up and down when compared with the previous year. The projected peak is expected to total 3,528 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students in the 2008-09 school year. Current enrollment, again as of last Oct. 1, totals 3,490 students, and Williams shows it dropping by at least 152 students to 3,338 by Oct. 1, 2015.

High school enrollment, which currently stands at 4,974, will peak at 5,143 in the 2009-10 school year, dropping steadily after that to 4,936 in 2015, 38 students fewer than today’s enrollment.

Williams said the projected 461-student enrollment decline over the next 10 years is “slight” in a district that currently serves 14,518 students. However, the projected continuing downward trend is the first for Pleasanton schools that have consistently seen annual increases. Further, he noted that with Pleasanton nearing residential build-out because of a voter-mandated 29,000 housing unit cap approved in 1996, there are only 1,500 to 2,000 homes and apartments left to be built. Because of City Council and Planning Commission preferences that favor limiting most of any permitted new construction to smaller homes and apartments, with a majority in the so-called affordable-priced and senior citizen categories, the larger homes that generate large family occupancy won’t fill the

gap of the decline in school-age children in current years. His survey shows that a higher percentage than older couples in Pleasanton, whose children have moved on to college and careers, are staying in their three, four or five room homes as “empty nesters” because they want to continue to appreciate in value. All this could change, Williams told the Pleasanton City Council could decide to allow more large-home construction. Or more affordable apartments and townhomes in various parts of the city could include three bedrooms that would be priced to appeal to families with school-age children.

## But probably not before 2015

“The more likely scenario is for lower enrollment than stated in his report. “The expected condo and apartment construction in the Hacienda Business Park and by the (new) Walnut Grove BART station may not be built until after 2015.”

“Meanwhile, the aging population trends in existing homes could cause a more rapidly declining kindergarten to second grade enrollment in other grades of schools,” Williams explained. “Combining those possibilities could lead to a total enrollment of as little as 13,100 in 2015. That would be a drop of over 1,400 students from the current total.”

This is the sixth consecutive year that Williams’ Enrollment Projection Consultants of San Mateo, Calif., has reported Pleasanton’s school population trends. The firm has conducted these detailed studies on a contract basis for school districts throughout the Bay Area and has a reputation for accurate projections.

Williams’ projections show the largest enrollment drop will start in the coming school year at the elementary school at Walnut Grove, with a current enrollment of 709, will drop to 677. The five fifth grades now at Walnut Grove that serve 709 students will be cut back to three-and-one-half fifth grades with 677 students. Another historically large school, Donlon, will lose 25 students, dropping from 701 to 677. Donlon will operate at less than planning maximum capacity for the first time in years, with the district’s planning capacity at 750 students and at 698 for Walnut Grove. Those schools will continue at least through Oct. 1, 2009, where Williams



Projected district October enrollment, 2005 to 2015				
Enrollment Subject	Total Students by Grade			District Total
	K-5	6-8	9-12	
<b>Actual on October 6, 2005</b>	<b>6,054</b>	<b>3,490</b>	<b>4,974</b>	<b>14,518</b>
Projected for October 1, 2006	6,040	3,477	5,125	14,642
Projected for October 1, 2007	6,003	3,508	5,141	14,652
Projected for October 1, 2008	5,984	3,528	5,119	14,631
Projected for October 1, 2009	5,976	3,474	5,143	14,593
Projected for October 1, 2010	5,980	3,407	5,115	14,502
Projected for October 1, 2011	5,916	3,422	5,109	14,447
Projected for October 1, 2012	5,883	3,424	5,075	14,382
Projected for October 1, 2015	5,783	3,338	4,936	14,057
Change in One Year, to Oct. 2006	-14	-13	151	124
Change in Three Years, to Oct. 2008	-70	38	145	113
Change in Five Years, to Oct. 2010	-74	-83	141	-16
Change in Ten Years, to Oct. 2015	-271	-152	-38	-461

Note: Figures cover all students that can be counted in district CBEDS reports, including SDC & home school.  
Source: Pleasanton Unified School District

Teenagers jam the walks in front of Amador Valley High School after classes ended last Friday. Amador Valley’s current enrollment of 2,450 will rise to a peak of 2,776 next year before slowly tapering off. By 2015, total enrollment at Amador Valley, Foothill, Village and Horizon high schools is projected to drop below the 5,000 mark to 4,936 students.

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projections end, with Donlon expected to serve 633 students for a total drop of 68 students, and Walnut Grove expected to serve 642, for a total drop of 67.

### Why the decline?

Principal Bill Radulovich of Walnut Grove said some of his school's enrollment decline can be attributed to out-of-neighborhood students who were sent there because their home schools were too crowded. A total of 22 came from Hearst Elementary, a number that will now be returning to Hearst, where boundary changes have realigned home school districts.

Walnut Grove also is the district's only elementary school that offers a Discovery program, a special multi-class program started at Walnut Grove and open to others in the district if space is available.

Other schools also will see shifts in their enrollments, but for different reasons. Hearst Elementary, built to handle 600 students, now serves 748. Located at the center of high-growth family housing developments on the Bernal property, the school's enrollment is expected to peak at 780 next year. Even with the completion of Greenbriar Homes and KB Home projects, the high enrollment will continue through 2009 unless redistricting plans by the school district stem the increases.

Another high-enrollment school, Valley View Elementary, which also has a district-"planning capacity" of 600 students, now serves 803 and could continue adding students to reach a projected peak of 826 in 2008. Besides serving many students from the Ruby Hill neighborhood, Valley View also is home to the district's popular and only dual-emersion foreign language program available to any student in Pleasanton from kindergarten through fifth grade.

"Planning capacity differs from the interim operating capacity at each school because some sites may have portables on top of former playground areas or parking lots while other schools may have capacity to handle additional classrooms," Williams said.

Puppione said he completed school assignments for the district's 14,614 students projected to attend Pleasanton schools in the coming year, including approving 400 requests by students to attend a school outside of their home school boundary.

"Parents and their students seek different schools for a variety of reasons ranging from after-school child care locations, car pooling arrangements, or because the parents went to that particular school," he said. "We're fairly liberal with those requests as long as people get them in this month. After February, we've made our classroom space and teaching assignments and it's difficult to accommodate any more requests." ■



Job Bing

# JADE FON

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"Lime Point Lighthouse"



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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, February 21, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal

- Review of Current Status and Funding Recommendations for Construction of Alviso Adobe Community Park Project
- **PUD-49, SilverStone Communities**  
Application for PUD rezoning and development plan approval for a 45-unit residential condominium development on an existing 2.76-acre vacant lot located at 3909 Vineyard Avenue. **Consider a Negative Declaration prepared for the project.**
- Establish a Blue Ribbon Committee to Develop a Traffic Calming Plan for the Happy Valley Area and Identify Happy Valley Bypass Road Options

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 22, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal

- **Review and Consideration of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Bernal Property Phase II Specific Plan and the Bernal Community Park Master Plan**
- **Public Facilities Element of the General Plan**  
Review and provide comment on a Draft Public Facilities Element of the General Plan.
- **PRZ-13, City of Pleasanton**  
Consideration of amendments to Chapter 17.50 of the Pleasanton Municipal Code incorporating "green building measures" for new residential development projects.

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

- City Council and Economic Vitality Committee Joint Workshop. February 28, 2006
- City Council and Planning Commission Joint Workshop. March 1, 2006
- Human Services Commission March 1, 2006

### Crime Prevention Tip:

#### Protecting Your Private Information

1. When using credit cards, do business only with known companies.
2. Do not respond to e-mails asking you to update your account information. Call the company directly to make any changes that you initiate.
3. If you receive pre-approved credit card offers, shred them before throwing them away.
4. Shred any paperwork with personal information or account numbers.
5. Use passwords that are unique, not your name or your child's name. Memorize these passwords and change them regularly.
6. Get a copy of your credit report annually, and review it for any irregularities.

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

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, including any agenda amendments, please visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

# Community Pulse

## Police Bulletin

### Laptop stolen from office

A laptop valued at \$1,500 was reported stolen from the Kaiser Permanente administrative offices in the 4400 block of Hopyard Road on Feb. 7. The laptop was licensed out to an employee who left it in her unlocked office on the night of Feb. 6, returning in the morning to find it and its power cord missing. Other employees and Kaiser security did not see anything and there are currently no suspects, police said.

### Car damaged, jacket stolen

A jacket valued at \$500 was stolen from a vehicle parked in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive Feb. 9 between 7:15 a.m. and 8 a.m. The victim parked his car and locked it in a parking lot, but when he returned the rear window had been smashed and his jacket, which was on the backseat, was gone. The car was still locked and the alarm had been activated, police said. There were no witnesses and currently police have no suspects.

## Police Report

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

### Feb. 6

- Theft: 2
- Burglary: 3
- Assault:  
- 6:12 p.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue  
- 6:26 p.m. in the 340 block of St. Mary Street

### Feb. 7

- Theft: 9
- Burglary: 1
- DUI: 1
- Domestic violence:  
- 8:48 p.m. in the 5900 block of Corte Arboles

### Feb. 8

- Theft: 5
- Vandalism: 1
- Burglary: 3
- Possession of a gun:  
- 6:56 p.m. at the intersection of Tulipwood Circle and Muirwood Drive

### Feb. 9

- Theft: 1
- Burglary: 2
- DUI: 2

- Miscellaneous sex crimes:  
- 2:16 p.m. at the intersection of Navajo Court and Santa Rita Road

### Feb. 10

- Theft: 8
- Vandalism: 1
- Burglary: 1
- Assault:  
- 2:30 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road
- Domestic violence:  
- 9 p.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road

### Feb. 11

- Theft: 1
- Burglary: 2
- DUI: 1
- Possession of marijuana:  
- 4:41 p.m. at the intersection of Ironwood Drive and Busch Road  
- 4:43 p.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane
- Possession of amphetamines:  
- 10:20 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

### Feb. 12

- Theft: 1
- Vandalism: 1
- DUI: 3
- Domestic violence:  
- 11:25 a.m. in the 7900 block of Foothill Knolls Drive

- 12:21 p.m. in the 4600 block of Cochise Court

## ACCIDENTS

### Feb. 8

- 3:55 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Neal and First streets
- 6 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Kolln Street

### Feb. 9

- 9:28 a.m. - Injury accident in the 1200 block of Hopyard Road
- 4:45 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Amador Valley High School

### Feb. 10

- 8:32 a.m. - Non-injury accident in the 3600 block of Camelot Court

### Feb. 11

- 2:20 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Ruby Hill and Piedmonte drives
- 12:17 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Old Foothill and Foothill roads
- 10:20 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Sycamore Road

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# Calendar

## Author Visit

### Bob Barner

Join Bob Barner, author of "To Everything," "Dinosaur Bones" and "Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!" 4 p.m., Fri., Feb. 17 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. All ages welcome. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

### James R. Smith

Meet James R. Smith, author of "San Francisco's Lost Landmarks," 7 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 23 at San Ramon Bay Books, 2415 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Call 855-1524 to RSVP.

## Book Clubs

### Political Book Group

The Political Book group will meet from 7-9 p.m., Tues., Feb. 28 in Livermore Library's board room, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore to discuss "Imperial Ambitions" by Noam Chomsky.

### Someone Not Really Her Mother

Discuss "Someone Not Really Her Mother" by Harriet Scott Chessman 7 p.m., Tues., Feb. 21 at Bay Books, 5698 Stoneridge Dr. Call 460-3213.

## Civic Meetings

### City Council

The council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month in the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Feb. 21.

### School Board

The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Feb. 28.

## Concerts

### Inspired by Magic

Cellist James Jaffe, winner of the Diablo Symphony's young artist competition, will perform 2 p.m., Sat., Feb. 18 at Dean Leshar Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$12, \$20 and \$22 available at the center ticket office. Call 943-7469 or visit [www.dlrca.org](http://www.dlrca.org).

## Events

### American Discovery Trail

Learn about Ken and Marcia Powers' American Discovery Trail from 7-9 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 23 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3405.

### Crab and Pasta Feed

The CCEF and LVCS presents a crab and pasta feed for the 21 and older crowd to benefit the Livermore Valley Charter School children from 6-11 p.m., Fri., Feb. 24 at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Cost is \$35 or ticket/raffle combo is \$50. Call Denise, 455-8741 or e-mail [PTO@lvcs.org](mailto:PTO@lvcs.org).

### Professor Smart visits the Amador Theater

Professor Smart will perform his Big Energy Show 7 p.m., Wed., Feb. 22 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Learn the types of energy and observe waves, magnets, levers and cranes. Admission is free. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

### Thomas Coyne Winery

Visit the Historical Tasting Room from noon-5 p.m., Sat-Mon, Feb. 18-20 at Thomas Coyne Winery, 51 E. Vallicetros Rd., Livermore. Fine fruits and cheeses will be served. Call 373-6541.

## Weekend Preview



### Anderson-Siperashvili Benefit Concert

Internationally-known pianists Mark Anderson and Tamriko Siperashvili will perform their 10th annual benefit concert for the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council's Arts in Schools program 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Amador Theater. Since marrying in 1993 and settling in Pleasanton, the couple has performed around the world, recorded a CD and recently opened the Anderson-Siperashvili Music Academy in Pleasanton. Tickets to their annual concert are \$15, \$20 and \$25 and may be purchased online at [www.civcartstickets.org](http://www.civcartstickets.org) or by calling 931-3444.

### Transamerica Bicycle Adventure

Join Rose O' Brien and Janis Turner in recapping their 60-day and 3,851-mile cycling adventure from San Francisco to Virginia Beach, Virginia 7 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 23 at Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. Call 423-9838 or e-mail [cmatarzzo@earthlink.net](mailto:cmatarzzo@earthlink.net).

### Voter Fraud/Voter Integrity

San Ramon Valley Republican Women will host a luncheon with E. Orlean Koehle, State President of Eagle Forum of California, at 11:30 a.m., Tues., Feb. 28 at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$22. Call 837-6253 or e-mail [rrlindz@aol.com](mailto:rrlindz@aol.com). RSVP by Thurs., Feb. 23.

### Winemaker Dinner

Enjoy a Tenuta Vineyards five course Winemaker Dinner for \$65 at 7 p.m., Wed., Feb. 22 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Reservations required. Call 846-8106 or visit [www.PleasantonHotel.com](http://www.PleasantonHotel.com)

### Word for Word

The Pleasanton Library is hosting a performance of the San Francisco Professional Theatre Company, "Word for Word" 3:30 p.m., Sat., Feb. 25 at 400 Old Bernal Ave. This program is suitable for ages 12 and up. Admission is free. Call 931-3404.

## Exhibits

### Jade Fon Art Exhibition

Studio 7 Fine Arts will be hosting an opening night reception for the Jade Fon Art Exhibition from 6-9 p.m., Sat., Feb. 25, 77 W. Angela St. Call 846-4322.

## Film

### 1950s Film Classic

The Pleasanton Library presents a 1950s film classic about alienated youth featuring James Dean and Natalie Wood 1 p.m., Tues., Feb. 21 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free. Call Janice, 931-3400, ext. 37.

### Living the Dream

A series of films and discussions examining the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be viewed 7 p.m.,

Fri., Feb. 17 and 24 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free. Call 931-3405.

## Fundraisers

### Bingo

Choice for Children Education Foundation hosts an afternoon Bingo at 4 p.m., every Sunday at Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Win prizes and enjoy free coffee and bagels. All proceeds go to the Livermore Valley Charter School. Call Maria, 201-3422 or e-mail [ccef@lvcs.org](mailto:ccef@lvcs.org).

### Caribbean Night 2006

The Pleasanton Middle School Parent Faculty Association is hosting "Caribbean Night 2006" from 7-11 p.m., Fri., Feb. 24 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Tickets are \$50 and includes dinner, dancing, raffles, silent and live auctions, and Monte Carlo gaming. All proceeds benefit student programs. Donations greatly appreciated. Call 426-4390.

### Communities in Harmony

Tri-Valley YMCA has launched the 2006 Annual Partner Campaign running until Mar. 2006. Proceeds will be used for scholarships and program support for various Tri-Valley YMCA programs in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin. Call Kimiko, 475-6110 or e-mail [kleong@ymcaeastbay.org](mailto:kleong@ymcaeastbay.org).

## Health

### Health Open House

Health open house, designed to educate the community about health concepts and practices, will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Tues., Mar. 7 at 21 Minute Fitness, 21310 San Ramon Valley Blvd., #6, San Ramon. Call 847-2095.

### Improve Your Life and Well-Being

Andrea Charlton, D.C., an upper cervical chiropractor, will give several seminars in February on practical steps to improving your life and well-being. Feb. 27 will cover safety. All seminars are at 7 p.m. at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 847-2095.



## The Bliss Show

Friday, March 3, 2006

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**Pleasanton  
Real Estate News**



by  
Gerarda  
Stocking

**TWO MYTHS  
ABOUT HEAT**

At least two odd myths persist about keeping our homes warm. Trouble is, they're old wives' (or husbands', as the case may be) tales that can cost a sizable sum on your energy bill.

Myth #1: Some people insist that you will use less heat and save more money if you leave your thermostat at one temperature night and day.

Though there may be a vague amount of common sense to such an idea, it is simply untrue. It takes far less energy to warm your home in the morning, having allowed your rooms to settle to a lower temperature in the night. You can go to the bank with this one.

Myth #2: You will get your home—or one room, like your bedroom, perhaps—warmer faster if you turn the thermostat up well beyond the temperature you want to achieve. If you want to heat a room to about 70 degrees, in other words, you can do so more quickly by moving the thermostat up to about 90 degrees.

Again, there is an odd common sense quality to this notion, but it is completely wrong. The room will heat to 70 just as quickly either way, but setting the thermostat at 90 degrees almost always sends your energy use beyond what you would have otherwise needed, and very often leaves you with a room—or house—you need to cool a bit. For assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

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**Mental Health & Wellness  
Education**

Be informed about healing yourself and transforming systems of care for yourself, family, and your community from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., Feb. 25 in CSU East Bay's theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. Call Melany, (510) 885-4710.

**Fourth Annual Youth Music  
Festival**

City of Pleasanton Civic Arts is hosting the Fourth Annual Music Festival at 8 p.m., Fri., Feb. 24 at the Amador Theatre, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Advance tickets are \$7, \$10 at the door. Call 931-5353.

**Kids & Teens**

**Cub Scout Pack 901 Blue & Gold  
Ceremony**

Cub Scout Pack 901 will be celebrating their anniversary of scouting with a potluck event 6:30 p.m., Fri., Feb. 24 at Alisal Elementary School, 1454 Santa Rita Rd. Call 974-4170.

**Lectures**

**A Master's Seminar**

Jue's Taekwon-Do is hosting a seminar by Grandmaster Choi Jung Hwa, President of the International Taekwon-Do Federation from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., Feb. 18 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Fee is \$125. Registration forms available at

Jue's Taekwon-Do, 5460 Sunol Blvd., Suite 8 or visit [www.juestdk.com](http://www.juestdk.com). Call 484-0308.

**Papier-Mache Wimsy**

Learn armature/form construction, painting/finishing and other techniques that will spark your imagination and encourage your creativity from 2-4 p.m. every Tuesday at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Ave. in room 207. This class is free. Bring newspaper, roll of 1" masking tape and two wire coat hangers. Call 935-8972.

**Women-to-Women Business  
Development**

ABWA Express to Success Network is presenting guest speaker Melinda Evett of Melinda's Office Works 6 p.m., Tues., Feb. 21 at Four Points Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Rd. Cost is \$5 for nonmembers, free for members. Call 788-3037 or visit [www.expresstosuccess.org](http://www.expresstosuccess.org).

from Feb. 17-Mar. 18 at Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets range from \$25-36. Call 943-7469 or visit [www.dloc.org](http://www.dloc.org).

**Scholarships**

**2006 DECA**

For Seniors only, must be a DECA member. There are various scholarships offered by DECA sponsors. Please see DECA scholarship book for requirements and scholarships. Visit [www.deca.org](http://www.deca.org). Deadline is Fri., Feb. 17.

**Amador Valley PTSA**

Twelve \$500 scholarships are available to Amador's PTSA seniors. Based on essay, extra-curricular involvement, community service, honor/awards, GPA, ACT or SAT scores and work experience. Financial need is not considered. Visit [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).

**LPD AAUW Local Scholarship  
Foundation**

The Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch of the American Association of University Women is accepting applications from local university women for \$500-\$1500 scholarships. All application documents must be post marked by Mar. 15. E-mail [devon@smalltownusa.net](mailto:devon@smalltownusa.net) or mail to LPD AAUW Local Scholarships, 6128 Hansen Dr., 94566 for an application.

**PTSA Scholarship**

Must be a member of Amador's PTSA and high school senior to qualify for a \$500 scholarship recognizing volunteer service in school and the community. No GPA requirement. Must write an essay and provide two reference letters. Visit [www.capta.org](http://www.capta.org).

**Tri-Valley Retired Educators**

Four \$1,000 scholarships are offered to high school graduating seniors, Las Positas and Cal State East Bay students who are residents of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin and are planning a career in education. Applications due by Fri., Mar. 3. Visit the scholarship links on Las Positas and Cal State East Bay's website.

**Spiritual**

**Community Bible Study**

An interdenominational bible study invites women in the community to a study of Ephesians from 9:30-11:30 a.m., every Thursday until May 18 at 4300 Mirador Dr. Childcare available. Call 820-3481.

**Tri-Valley Unity Church**

Tri-Valley Unity Church will meet until further notice at 10 a.m., every Sun. at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Worship service and children's school will be offered as well. Call 829-2733 or visit [www.trivalleyunity.com](http://www.trivalleyunity.com).

**Volunteering**

**Senior Center Volunteers**

The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., has an array of daytime volunteer opportunities available to adults of any age including receptionist, bingo caller, teacher's aide and lunch program assistant. Call Raymond Figueroa, 931-5366.

**ValleyCare 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 RCJL**

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

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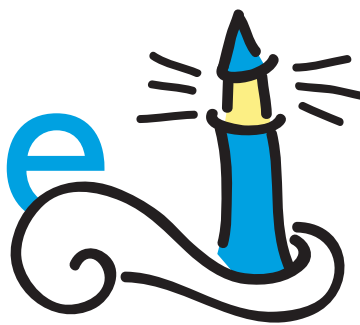
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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

Chronic Pain Support Group

### Construction2006

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### \* DEADLINE \*

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**Tuesday 11:59 PM**  
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### Setting Limits and Gaining Cooperation Grace Manning-Orenstein, PhD

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**Bekky Hopkins, RADD Program, c/o Gingerbread Preschool, 4433 Black Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566**

**REPORTER**  
The Danville Weekly has an opening for a general assignment reporter to cover news and write feature stories about the communities of Danville, Alamo, Diablo and Blackhawk. Journalism degree and some experience preferred. The Danville Weekly is part of Embarcadero Publishing Co.; our compensation package includes full medical/dental benefits and a 401(k) plan. Send resume and writing samples to: [editor@DanvilleWeekly.com](mailto:editor@DanvilleWeekly.com) or **315 Diablo Road, Suite 100, Danville CA 94526. Call (925) 837-8300**

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2) Case Mgr. for shelter. Homeless & DV exp req. BA, 1 yr exp. \$14-16/hr. EOE. Spanish helpful. Resume to TVH, 3663 Pacific Ave, Livermore, CA. 94550 or FAX (925) 449-2684

**SOCIAL SERVICE -** Dir DV Services. Full time. MS/MSW req/ license helpful. Mgmt of shelter and services. Sal \$39,520 - \$43,680 + ben. EOE. Resume to TVH; 3663 Pacific Ave; Livermore, CA 94550 or fax (925) 449-2684.

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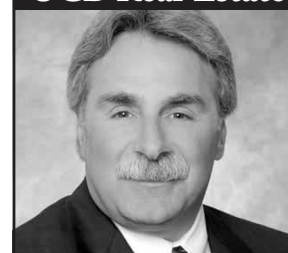
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**THE PANDA**



# Dining Out

## American

**Chicago's Metropolitan Deli**  
 6003 W. Las Positas Blvd. & Hopyard, Pleasanton, (925) 462-1678. 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 remodeled 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) 734-0307. 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 downtown Pleasanton on Main Street, Vic's delivers a starry mix of American food, fast service and a bustling, cheery atmosphere. Owner Vic Malatesta has teamed his love of sports with his passion for good food to create a solid dining experience with a local sports theme. Open daily 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Evening banquets/day-time catering.

## Brewpub/Alehouse

**The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill**  
 3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, the Hop Yard offers 30 beers on tap and a variety of great food, everything from finger food to full blown meals. Ask about new banquet menu.

## Catering

**Fontina's Catering**  
 349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, (925) 462-9299. The seasonal tastes of Fontina's award-winning menu can now be custom delivered to you - direct to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a newly expanded vegetarian menu. Let Fontina's Ristorante bring "the taste of Italy" home to you soon. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert, or we'll take 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

## Continental

**Barone's**  
 475 St. John St., Pleasanton, (925) 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant. Innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees. Outdoor dining. Open for dinner seven nights, lunch Monday-Friday. Live music Friday and Saturday evenings. Full bar. Banquet

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## Dining Out

facilities, rehearsal dinners, special events.

### 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 on Friday and Saturday evenings. We have banquet facilities available with wireless Internet for parties up to 70 guests. The place to meet your friends!

### Japanese

#### Hasegawa Japanese

4855 Hopyard Road, across from Chili's Grill, (925) 734-0996. Japanese owner Kazutoyo "Joe Cool" Hasegawa has 26 years experience as a Suchi 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.

#### Little Caesars

2889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, (925) 417-8880. Feeling hungry on

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Capacity 55 people!**

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Lunch or Dinner • Wine Bar  
Banquets & Rehearsal  
Dinners*

3037-G Hopyard Rd.  
(Hopyard Village Shopping Center)  
925-485-4500  
www.GarlicDiPasta.com

**NOTICE OF LAND USE JOINT WORKSHOP NO. 6  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
AND PLANNING COMMISSION REGARDING THE  
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**



The City Council and Planning Commission will receive input on preferred land uses and/or development policies for several properties on the west side of Pleasanton and in other locations. These include hillside properties along Foothill Road, property adjacent to the future West Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station, property at Foothill Road and Stoneridge Drive, property at the end of Valley Trails Drive, and property currently developed as the Goodnight Inn on Santa Rita Road.

The Workshop is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 1, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Pleasanton City Council Chambers located at 200 Old Bernal Avenue. All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in the workshop.

If you should have any questions, please contact Janice Stern, Principal Planner, by phone at (925) 931-5606, or by e-mail at [jsstern@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:jsstern@ci.pleasanton.ca.us).

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Kazutoyo "Joe Cool" Hasegawa  
Japanese Owner/Chef



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Wood Family Vineyards  
Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>*

OR

*Grgich Hills Cellar  
Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
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**Dining Out**

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**Vinny's 2 Go!**

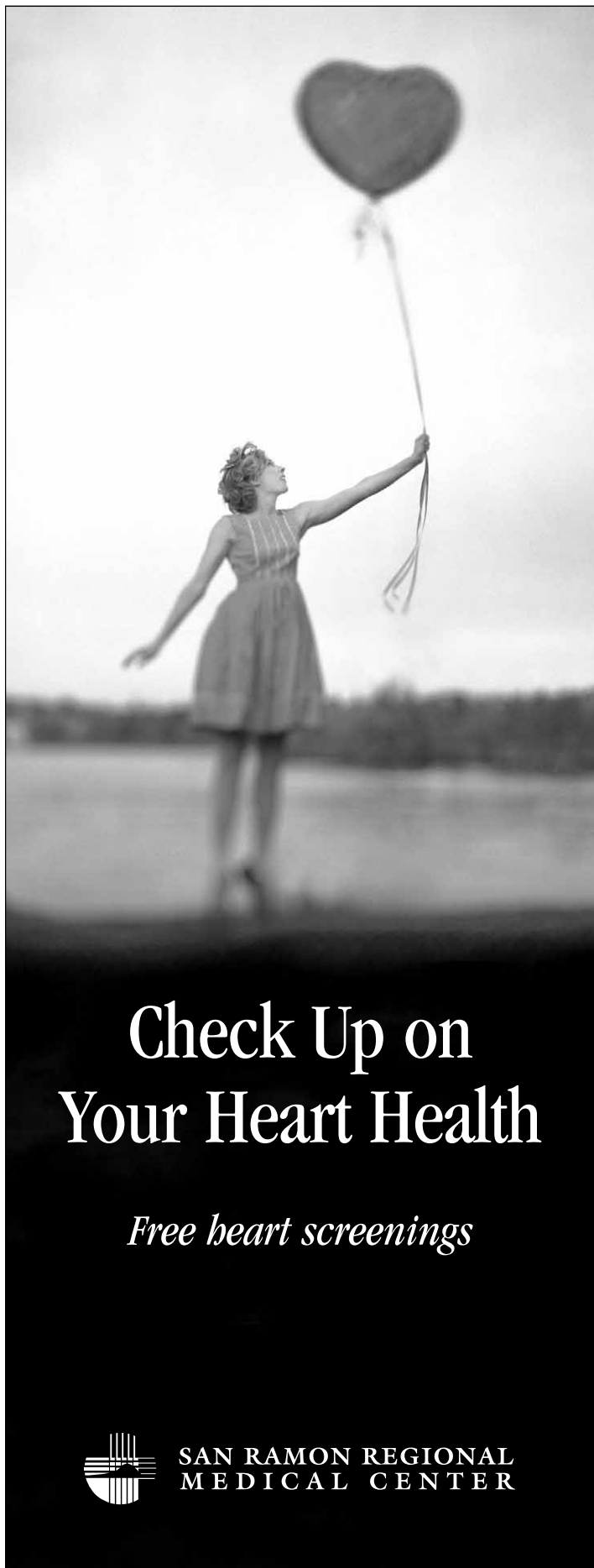
4001-5 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 463-0280. Vinny's 2 Go! is the Rose Pavilion's newest authentic Italian pizzeria. Lunchtime favorites include New York pizza slices, meatball sandwiches and the popular Mona Lisa panini. Savory Meals 2 Go and fresh cannoli are available for fast pickup. Catering is offered for special occasions and office luncheons. Visit

Vinny's 2 go! for quality, freshness and great taste!

**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](http://www.thewinesteward.com), for details.



**Check Up on  
 Your Heart Health**

*Free heart screenings*

In celebration of the American Heart Association's "Go Red" campaign, you are invited to Check Up on Your Heart Health. Come to San Ramon Regional Medical Center for heart screenings. Heart disease is the number one cause of death. We encourage you to make positive lifestyle changes to help reduce your risk of heart disease. This screening is a first step to help you identify your risks. The next step is to schedule an appointment with a physician for a clean bill of health. Our doctors will be available to discuss your screening results, and our staff will introduce you to our hospital services. Screenings will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Free Preventive Health Screenings**

- Cholesterol (total) screening\*
- Blood pressure screening
- Body mass index calculation
- Computerized body fat analysis

\* Fasting recommended, but not required

**Saturday, February 25, 2006  
 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

San Ramon Regional Medical Center  
 South Conference Center  
 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon

No reservations. For more information, visit [www.sanramonmedctr.com](http://www.sanramonmedctr.com) or call **925.275.8230**.



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