

PLEASANTON WEEKLY


Vol. VII, Number 28 • August 4, 2006

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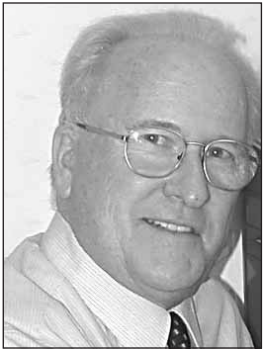
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

18-year-old flies solo across country

Ryan Williams has spent much of the summer doing what other June graduates from Foothill High School do before heading for college: hanging out. Except Ryan did part of it in Canton, Ohio, where he saw former classmates and family friends he knew when he and his brother, Christopher, and their parents, Michelle and Pete Williams, lived there six years. He made the trip in the family's Cessna 150, which Ryan and his father keep at Livermore Airport and use for pleasure flying. Pete Williams is a 33-year veteran pilot in the corporate aviation industry, now working for TAG Aviation that manages company flights around the world. Some days he's flying executives to Washington; recently he flew several to Asia, picked up others and eventually flew to Europe and around the world before heading back home in Pleasanton.

Like father like son, Ryan plans on a career as a pilot, and flying solo to Ohio gave him an opportunity to use the many skills he has learned in the cockpit—and then some. Carefully charted, as pilots do, he mapped every airport along the roughly 2,300-mile route, flying along Interstate 80 out of Livermore, staying about 3,000 feet above Lake Tahoe and maneuvering through wide mountain passes as he crossed the Sierras and the Rockies. Ryan knew that interstate highways, although looking like an attractive way to cross mountains, don't always follow the lowest elevations and sometimes squeeze through cut cliffs where no pilot wants to find himself.

Although skilled on instrument, nighttime and all-weather flying, Ryan has learned to be cautious in the air, which is why his parents approved of the Ohio trip. But thunderstorms hit as he traveled east, causing him to take six days to reach the Greater Akron Airport, and adding to his flight time and fuel costs on several legs of the trip. The 150 holds only 22 gallons of aviation fuel, which cost about \$50

for a fill-up, and with winds sometimes reaching 30 knots and the plane capable of roughly 100-110 at cruising speed, Ryan was often going slower than the cars on the interstate below. The fuel gauges on the 150s are also notoriously bad, so pilots count their fuel consumption in the hours in the air, or about three hours for Ryan's plane. As he skirted around the storm clouds, he often had to land at different small airports and to bed down at nearby motels for the night.

Coming back was no better. Although the skies were clear, Ryan ran into a problem that is every pilot's concern whether flying a big jet or a single-engine Cessna. High temperatures and high altitudes don't mix well for aircrafts, which is why higher elevation cities, such as Denver, or often hot cities, such as Phoenix, have especially long runways, so that departing aircraft can take off safely. Ryan was with his friends in Canton during the hot days a week ago when temperatures in Pleasanton set records. But as he left Canton and headed west, our heat started moving east, catching him in Wyoming, where it made him rev up the engines to maintain altitude over the hills and mountains. It also consumed more fuel, so that a charted stop in Denver had to be moved back to Elko, Nev., which is where I caught up with Ryan last Sunday night. Fortunately, the temperatures dropped Monday morning so that he could make his way to Lovelock to refuel and then over the Sierra tops to Livermore, where his mother, a special ed teacher at Hart Middle School, breathed a sigh of relief that her 18-year-old son was home. On Aug. 24, the family will leave—by car, this time—to take Ryan to Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz., where Ryan plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science. If all goes well, we may someday hear Captain Ryan Williams calling us from the cockpit to report that we'll have a smooth, on-time flight. ■

About the Cover

Pleasanton may have a reputation as a family-town, but there are still many singles living here. From divorcees to young professionals, the town is full of singles looking to meet others and have fun. But where do they go? Cover design by Jason Lind.

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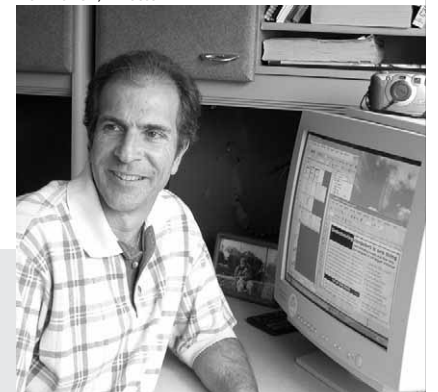


Gunk

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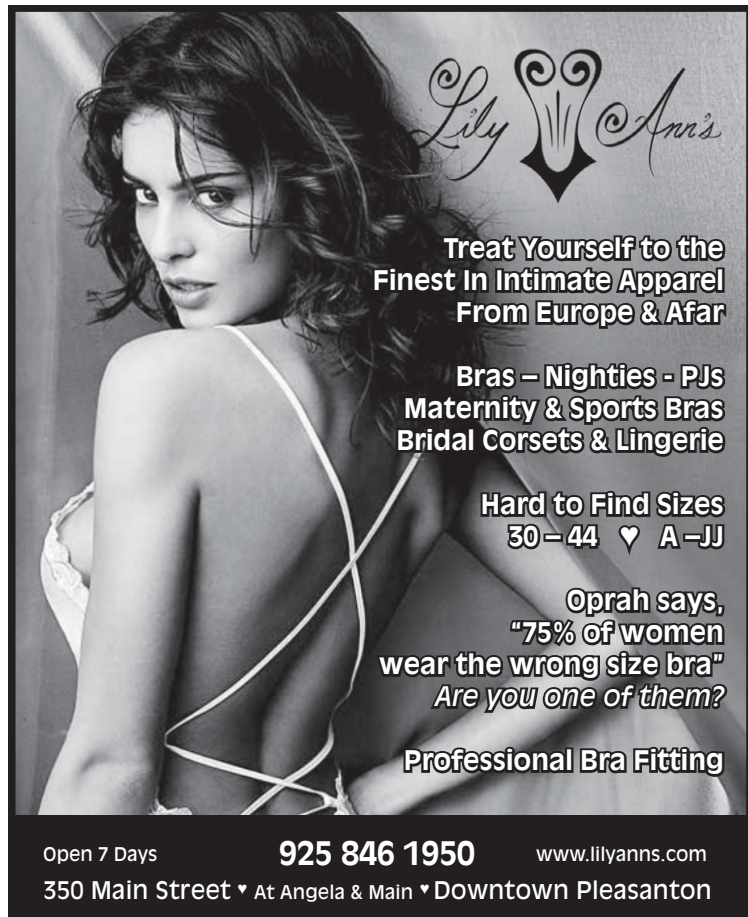
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Streetwise

Q: Would you like to see
a Home Depot built
at Bernal and Stanley?

Asked around town



Elaine Marchant Panwar
Homemaker

We already have a Home Depot in Pleasanton, on the other side of town. I would like to see some of our open space used for more parks. The traffic in that area is already terrible. So, no I am not in favor of the idea.

Richard Mengelkoch

Urban archaeologist

A Home Depot close by would be great. We repair antiques and after losing the hardware store downtown, we drive a long way to get parts. Anything that brings more business to this area will benefit us all.



Bonnie Remgio
Antique Dealer

I think it would be a good idea. The Vineyard Avenue area continues to be developed and a large hardware store would be useful. My only concern might be traffic, but it is mainly at commute time, otherwise it is pretty un-congested.

Deanna Sanchez

Homemaker

I'm all for bringing in new jobs, but I am not sure another large company like Home Depot will be good for the community. One of the things we love about Pleasanton is the small town feel, knowing your local shop owner. The big chain businesses just don't belong here.



Tom Meyers

Clerk at True Value Hardware

I am against the idea. A Home Depot in the center of downtown will create huge traffic problems. We already have a Home Depot. People complain that they can't get any help or they don't carry what they want. Let's keep Pleasanton about small, family-owned businesses where you can still get good customer service.



Emergency

It's an Emergency!

For 45 years, ValleyCare has provided emergency care to local residents, visitors, employers, commuters and those without means to pay. At the crossroads of two major interstate highways, ValleyCare began emergency services at ValleyCare Medical Center in 1991.

With the explosive growth in the Tri-Valley, ValleyCare's emergency visits have doubled, from 13,000 to 26,000. County and State emergency planners say our area needs a 10,000 square foot emergency department. Today, ValleyCare operates with 4,000 square feet.

**\$6.7 Million Needed
to Expand ValleyCare ER**

ValleyCare Foundation has launched a capital campaign to raise \$6.7 million towards the expansion of the ER, which includes 23 treatment areas (compared to 12), a waiting area with seating for 30 (compared to 10), two triage areas and private registration stations.

If you can help, please contact Vice President Ken Mercer, ValleyCare Foundation at 925-373-4566.



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Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Comfort pack donation drive

A Military Appreciation Day donation drive, sponsored by Operation: S.A.M. (Supporting All Military), will be held at Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Dr., Pleasanton, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 5.

The drive is collecting various products to put in comfort packages that Operation: S.A.M. will pack and ship to U.S. deployed military serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. A drive-by drop-off point will also be available.

Lobster Bake

Pleasanton resident Dale Vaughn-Bowen is holding an informal Lobster Bake on Aug. 12 from 6-9 p.m. to celebrate the 23 awards won by her Crooked Vine and Stony Ridge wineries.

For \$75, guests can enjoy two glasses of the award-winning Stony Ridge wine and an assortment of seafood. Tickets are available by calling the winery at 371-8156 or by visiting the tasting room during regular business hours, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays.

Sister city BBQ

The Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association is hosting its annual barbeque fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 12, from 5:30-11 p.m. at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds "Ivy Glen" area, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door and \$240 for a reserved table for eight. Tickets are available at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters St. and the Pleasanton Downtown Association, 830 Main St., Ste. A. Call Alice Pryor, 462-5786 or Jorge, 462-6723 for tickets or more information.

A-bomb survivors demonstrate

A survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Keiji Tsuchiya, will speak at an Aug. 6 rally in Livermore to mark the 61st anniversary of the event.

Demonstrators plan to gather at the corner of Vasco Road and Patterson Pass at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory at 8 a.m. for speeches and ceremonies and will march to the laboratory gate at 9 a.m. for a nondenominational ceremony.

The rallies are linked to events at nuclear weapons sites across the country. Information about the effort is available at the Web site www.august6.org.

Local environmental group challenges Pombo

Pleasanton-based group gives letter requesting town hall meeting

by Elizabeth Campos Rajs

Citing growing concerns about Congressman Richard Pombo's (R-11) position on environmental issues, as well as allegations of misspent campaign funds, a group of constituents is challenging Pombo to explain himself in a town hall meeting.

At a small press conference in San Ramon's Central Park on Tuesday, Peter Petroski of Danville, Norm Rhett of San Ramon and a handful of supporters said they represent more than 100 constituents from Danville to Lodi who signed a letter calling for Pombo to meet with them in August during the congressional recess to answer their questions.

Standing alongside a poster-size copy of the letter, Petroski and Rhett said specifically, they want to hear from Pombo about why he supports opening up the California coastline

to offshore drilling, how he justifies paying more than \$450,000 of campaign funds to his wife and brother for "consulting fees," and why he continuously works to "weaken our environmental protection and conservation laws," among other issues.

"I'd like Mr. Pombo to come and discuss these issues with us," said Petroski, a lifelong Republican who voted for Pombo in the last elec-

tion. His increasing concern about Pombo's position on environmental issues led him to support former Congressman Pete McCloskey's failed bid to unseat Pombo in June. He's now supporting Pombo's opponent Jerry McNerney in the Nov. 7 general election.

"This is an important election," Petroski said. "It's time to get involved. Mr. Pombo is not just a

congressman. He's a representative, and he should be representing the people who elected him."

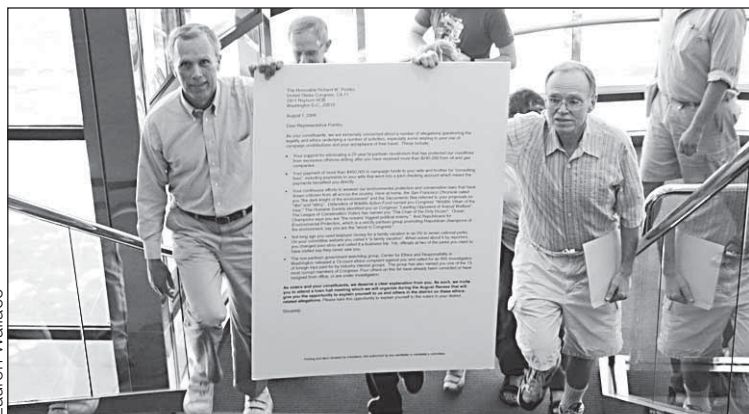
Pombo's district stretches across four counties—Alameda, San Joaquin, Contra Costa and Santa Clara—and includes part of Pleasanton.

Rhett said his growing concern over what he sees as Pombo's "abuse of office and the power voters have given him" are what drew him into the current effort to meet face to face with Pombo.

"We think Congressman Pombo has a lot of explaining to do to his constituents," Rhett said.

About 10 people attended the press conference Tuesday in San Ramon, which was organized by the Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund at the request of Petroski and Rhett. Defenders of the Wildlife Action Fund is running an independent campaign against Pombo, said spokesman Ed Yoon.

After the brief press conference,



Peter Petroski (left) and Norm Rhett (right), along with other supporters, carry a constituent letter to the San Ramon office of Congressman Richard Pombo.

(continued on page 8)

Pleasanton parties for National Night Out

Neighborhoods get together in stand against crime

by Rebecca Guyon

People across Pleasanton fired up their grills or got out their ice cream scoopers Tuesday night as the city took part in the 23rd annual National Night Out. The event, part of the Neighborhood Watch program, is designated as a night for neighborhoods to get together, have a block party and take a stand against crime.

"It is about going out and unifying as a community and neighborhood against crime and drugs, so it's important for us to be part of it to support our neighborhoods and

community efforts," said Officer Penelope Tamm, who organizes the event for the police department.

This year, 24 neighborhoods in Pleasanton held National Night Out parties, with events that ranged from holding barbecues to ice cream socials to dessert potlucks. Some parties had as many as 20 or more households taking part, while others held more intimate gatherings of five or six homes, Tamm said. Officers from the Pleasanton Police Department visited every

(continued on page 6)



Officer Kenny Baxter deputizes Joshua Ng, 5, at Harvest Valley Church during the Valley Trail Home Owners Association's National Night Out block party.

Veterans Memorial Hall renovations kick off today

Cornerstone ceremony is the beginning of year-long project

The city commenced renovations on the Veterans Memorial Building today with a cornerstone ceremony celebrating the project. The ceremony, held in front of the building located at 301 Main St., included a ceremonial removal of the building's cornerstone, which was placed on the facility when it was dedicated in 1932.

"It will be a ceremonious removal—we've been digging at it all week to get it out," joked Eileen Morley Hofstadt, city community services manager.

Mayor Hosterman spoke at the event, and representatives from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6298, American Legion Post 237 and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary were scheduled to attend. VFW, the Auxiliary and the American Legion all use the Veterans Building for group activities and will be relocated to the Regalia House, 4133 Regalia Ct., during the year-long renovations. The groups moved into the new facility on Monday.

Renovations to the Veterans Building have been in the works for six years, getting stalled last year when the city considered installing a public restroom in the building, something the veterans who use the facility fought against. With the restroom now planned for Delucchi Park instead, the project was ready to

move forward and was named a top priority by the City Council at the end of 2005.

The \$4 million renovation—\$4.5 million when factoring in additional architectural design costs—will preserve the building's exterior appearance, while restoring interior features needed to make the building a functional space. Restrooms, lighting, fire protection and security systems and air conditioning and heating systems will all be added during the renovation, while maintaining the building's historical integrity. The building will also be seismically strengthened and the roof will be repaired and replaced using existing tiles. Additionally, all entrances will be equipped with ramps, making them accessible for people in wheelchairs.

The renovation is expected to be completed by August 2007, which also happens to be the building's 75th birthday. The city plans to hold a rededication ceremony and a birthday party at that time.

The building was designed in 1932 by Henry H. Meyers, one of the Bay Area's most important early architects, and is one of 10 such buildings in Alameda County. It was operated by the county for 60 years until the property was transferred to the city of Pleasanton in 1997.

—Rebecca Guyon

National night

(continued from page 5)

party, meeting with neighbors and sharing in the fun.

"It's a great way for the department to interact with the community and meet with people we don't see everyday," Tamm said.

Police Chief Tim Neal also visited different parties around town, as well as city officials such as Mayor Hosterman, City Manager Nelson Fialho and several City Council members.

Almost 90 percent of the Pleasanton neighborhoods holding National Night Out block parties have done it in years past, Tamm said. Hacienda Mobile Park, a mobile home park for seniors located on Vineyard Avenue, held one of the city's largest parties. That neighborhood consistently has large turn-out every year, Tamm said.

Carol Zedlitz has planned a National Night Out party for her neighborhood on Gate Tree Circle for the past five years. This year, the neighbors plan on having a barbecue potluck.

"We do it because it's a good way for our neighbors to get to know each other," Zedlitz said.

There are also some newcomers to the party this year. Carrie Queen organized a National Night Out block party for her neighborhood on Harvest Road for the first time this year. Queen, a Pleasanton resident for three years, said she had wanted to hold a block party for some time and thought National Night Out was a good chance to finally do it.

"It's hard to plan a block party, so when I saw the National Night Out, I thought it was a perfect opportunity to get everyone together," said Queen, who hosted the party, an ice cream social, for her neighbors in her driveway.

In fact, while the goal of the night is to take a stand against crime, the biggest benefit is that neighbors get to know each other and have a good time together.

"It's an opportunity for Neighborhood Watch programs to get together and another opportunity for them, if new people have moved in, to get to know them, and spend time as a neighborhood talking and socializing," Tamm said. ■

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School Resource Officer Van Rader retires

Sgt. Brian Laurence also changes post at end of the year

by Rebecca Guyon

School Resource Officer Van Rader retires today after 31 years of police work. Rader, the SRO for Foothill High School, took that position in January 2000 when the Pleasanton Police Department first implemented the SRO program.

"Van has been utterly fantastic," said Pleasanton Police Chief Tim Neal. "I wish I could clone him. He defines the ideal resource officer."

The SRO program started in Pleasanton six years ago after the department received a federal grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing titled Cops in Schools, Neal said. The idea was to have two police officers assigned to both high schools to address any safety concerns on campus and to help build a positive relationship between youth and police. When Neal joined the department around

that same time, he was tasked by the City Council to make improving police-youth relations the number one priority. In answering that call, Neal established the Youth and Community Services Department, which includes the SRO program.

"The SRO program has been one of the most successful things we've done in terms of addressing both purposes: safety on school campuses and tremendously improving the rapport with teens of the community," Neal said. "By putting a human face on a police officer, the students realize we're just regular people tasked with a



Police Officer Van Rader

difficult job, but we're doing it on their and their parents' behalf."

Rader first got his taste for police work as a student in a police explorer program in Mississippi, where he lived before moving to Pleasanton with his family, although he grew up in Missouri. At the age of 21, Rader became a reserve officer with the Pleasanton Police Department, a position he held for six years. After transitioning into a fulltime officer, Rader held a variety of special assignments including SWAT, bicycle patrol, special investigations unit and working with canine officers. He became the first SRO for Foothill and joined Officer Scott Rohovit, the first SRO for Amador Valley High School, as the inaugural officers in the program.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the job Scott and Van did getting the SRO program started," said Sergeant Brian Laurence, who

leads the Youth and Community Services Bureau. "When you have good people who work with you, you feel like they're the ones who carry the bureau."

In 2005, Officer Mike Steiner took over for Rohovit as the SRO for Amador and currently holds the position. This change was made because the department rotates officers' special assignments every four years, Neal said. With Rader now retiring, Officer Eric Silacci will take over as SRO for Foothill.

Rader said he is looking forward to retirement and spending more time with his own children, a twin boy and girl, 17, who are seniors in high school. Although, he said, he will miss his work at Foothill.

"We have a great bunch of young adults in this community, and I will miss working with them and

(continued on page 8)

One last high school graduation

District holds ceremony for students who completed exit exam, summer school

High school graduation robes and hats may seem out of place in the middle of summer, but not last week as the district held its final graduation ceremony of the school year for students who just passed the California State Exit Exam and students who completed the credits needed to graduate through summer school. Twenty-three students were awarded their diplomas at the ceremony held at Harvest Park Middle School last Friday.

"We finally made it," said Alexandria Harper, a senior graduating from Amador Valley High School, as she addressed her class. "It took us a little longer, but we're here."

As of June, there were nine students in the district who had not passed the

state exit exam, but had met the district's graduation requirements. Students in this position retook the test in May and four passed the test, earning their diplomas.

"We're just so thrilled and excited for them," said Director of Secondary School Curriculum Dianne Howell, who was active in working with students who had not passed the state exit exam. "It's a tribute to the students, and to the teachers who worked with them and supported them. This is a very meaningful ceremony for these students who persevered."

The five students who did not pass the exit exam received Certificates of Recognition from the district, showing they had met the district's

standards. One student plans on retaking the test in November in hopes of earning a diploma.

In June, there were six students in the district who had not passed the state exit exam and also did not have enough credits to graduate. Of those students, two passed the test during the May administration and completed the necessary credits in summer school, earning their diplomas.

Arturo Desiderio of Amador was one of those two students, and he attended the graduation ceremony along with his family.

He said he was "mostly happy" to earn his diploma through his aunt Maria Basilio who interpreted for him. Desiderio plans to attend Las Positas College in the fall where he

wants to study architecture.

The majority of Friday's graduates had previously passed the exit exam, but needed to attend summer school to complete the district's credit requirements.

Of the 23 graduates, 19 attended the ceremony along with nearly 100 family and friends. Fourteen graduates were from Amador, seven from Foothill and two from Village.

"Today is a happy day for all of us," said John Dwyer, principal of summer school and vice principal at Foothill, to the audience. "It's such a mix of emotions ranging from the joy of success, to relief at finishing at last ... Congratulations go to the parents, the teachers and, of course, the students."

—Rebecca Guyon

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

PART OF THE HOUSE

When you buy or sell a home, what determines whether the chandelier in the front hall stays in the house or moves with the sellers to their new house? What is legally part of the house, and what is not?

If it is part of the house, it is generally a fixture. Thus, it is usually attached in some way, and removing it would leave an obvious absence from the home. Some sellers, remarkably, have unscrewed all light bulbs on moving day, leaving their buyers with a very dark home, indeed. Light bulbs, like the chandelier in the entryway, are fixtures. So is a fireplace screen that was custom-designed to fit an unusual fireplace.

But things get a little murkier when we consider pillows (not fixtures) that are designed to match curtains (fixtures). For this reason, it's very important to detail in a purchase contract exactly which items are to stay with the home and, for the sellers, which items they can take. You might be surprised to know how many transactions have almost exploded at the last minute because the sellers assumed they could take that chandelier (which, after all, has been in the family for three generations) to their new home and the buyers assumed they would take possession of the beautiful light fixture.

As has been said in another of these columns, "If it isn't in writing, it isn't." Make sure such items are handled in the contract and openly agreed to. For expert help call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications to fill vacancies on the following commissions or committees for the terms indicated:

CITY OF PLEASANTON COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEE (FOUR-YEAR TERMS)

- * Housing Commission, Alternate Member * Library Commission, Alternate Member
- * Economic Vitality Committee, At-large Member * Economic Vitality Committee, Residential Builder Representative

REGIONAL COMMISSIONS/BOARDS

- * Alameda County Housing Commission, Pleasanton Representative, Term: September 2006-December 2007
- * Tri-Valley Conservancy, Pleasanton Representative, Four-year term

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than **5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006**. Postmarks are not accepted.

Interviews will be held the week of September 11. Applicants will be notified regarding interviews and the selection process once the filing period is closed.

YOUTH MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE NOTICE OF VACANCIES

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications for 8 members to serve the Pleasanton Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee. The 8 members will be appointed by the City Council and the Pleasanton Unified School District Board. This is a non-paid position.

The purpose of the Committee is to implement the goals and objectives of the Youth Master Plan of Pleasanton such as: the Youth Center, Ptown411 web page and Youth-related workshops and events. The Plan focuses on providing services to youth throughout the community. Specifically it addresses issues of programs and activities, health and wellness, childcare, jobs, leadership, and communication amongst children, youth and families. The Committee is comprised of representatives from various community organizations, schools, and businesses.

The Task Force is comprised of 30 members. There are currently vacancies for the following representatives:

- 2 At-Large Parent Representatives - one representative from a pre-school and one representative from a middle school
- 1 Health and Crisis Representative
- 1 Non-Profit Agency Representative
- 1 Senior Citizen Representative
- 1 Alternate Representative from Amador High School
- 1 Youth Representative and 1 Alternate from Village High School
- 1 Youth Representative from Hart Middle School
- 1 Youth Representative from Pleasanton Middle School

It is anticipated that the YMPIC Committee will meet at least monthly for the purpose of implementing these projects. Committee members will be appointed for a one-year term initially.

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than **5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006**. Postmarks are not accepted.

Retire

(continued from page 7)

being part of what happens at the schools," he said.

The Youth and Community Services Bureau will see more changes at the end of the year as Laurence wraps up his assignment as the division head and will go back to patrol. Laurence, who has led the division since it was founded, had already extended his assignment an extra six months.

Pombo

(continued from page 5)

Rhett and Petroski—with two television cameras and a newspaper reporter in tow—delivered the letter to Pombo's San Ramon field office.

James Ottem, East Bay director of Pombo's San Ramon office, accepted the letter and said he would check the congressman's calendar regarding the town hall meeting.

Petroski said he wants to meet with Pombo in August so there is more opportunity to actually talk about the issues before the full election campaign gets underway.

"We can't wait until October. That's when the hit pieces come out. You can't have a discussion then," he said. ■

"From the very beginning, Brian was part of the energy that advanced the organization," Neal said. "From the founding of the Explorer Program to establishing the SRO program, I give him tremendous credit in getting those key activities off the ground."

The Youth and Community Services Bureau oversees many programs in addition to the SRO program, such as the DARE program, Teen Police Academy and the Parent Project classes, a series that started in 2005 to help parents

of wayward adolescents learn how to handle and help their children.

"It really has been a group effort with all the folks in the bureau," Laurence said. "I've been fortunate to work with six very talented people. They're the ones who make this bureau successful. They're the ones with the passion to work with community and youth."

As of now the department has not appointed anyone to replace Laurence, but there are several people interested in the position, Neal said. ■

Take Us Along



Weekly sailing

Amador Valley High School student Randi Olson keeps up with local news while sailing on Lake Superior at the sea cave in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

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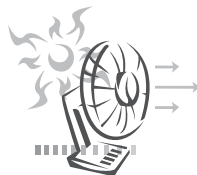
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Opinion

Editorial

District says goodbye to Gulek

Cengiz (James) Gulek will leave his distinguished post as Director of Assessment for the Pleasanton school district next week to tackle expanded and different challenges as an assistant superintendent of the Long Beach school system, the state's third largest. He'll be missed, and we join with the community in thanking him for helping to move Pleasanton into the top tier of school districts in both California and the country.

Born in the small town of Edirne, Turkey, just 10 miles from the Greek border where his mother Zehra still lives, Gulek worked hard to excel in what was a somewhat-poor school district, eventually making his way to Bosphorus University in Istanbul, where he did his undergraduate work and earned a master's degree. In 1994, he was accepted to undertake a special program for a doctorate degree in his specialty of Educational Research Measurement and Evaluation at the Boston College, becoming its first Turkish international student in the program. His good fortune continued when his name was chosen in the U.S. government's annual lottery, allowing 55,000 on temporary student visas to stay here permanently. In 1999, with his Ph.D. in hand, Gulek took a job as supervisor of assessment, research and accountability with the Sun Prairie, Wis., school district, and, after a couple of cold, snowy winters, applied for and received the position he now holds with the Pleasanton district. In 2003, teachers and administrators cheered as Gulek became a U.S. citizen, with his decorated office still bearing some of the red, white and blue materials he was given. At the same time, he changed his first name to James, completing the Americanization of this Turkish immigrant.

Now he's leaving, having worked with Supt. John Casey to put a state-of-the-art Data Resource book together that is the envy of school districts throughout the state, and serves as a major resource for administrators, principals, teachers and even parents and students on the effectiveness of programs in the district and curriculum changes needed to continually improve the scores of the many different kinds of tests given to students from kindergarten to the senior year in high school. Better results because of class-size reduction in K-3 in our elementary schools has given Gulek the data he needed to introduce those smaller sizes in the 8th and 9th grades so that students could concentrate on better achievement in algebra, math and language arts. The fact that 99 percent of last June's graduating class passed the new state exit exam reflects on the resource tools Gulek provided teachers and administrators.

Gulek often uses the word "stakeholders" to refer to those he serves, which includes everyone who works for the school district, serves on the school board and its many citizens committees, students and especially parents. Much of his work can be seen on school Web sites where academic achievements can be checked.

Unfortunately for California schools, there are few positions like the one Gulek holds, and which Jim Rallis, former Coordinator for Special Projects, will now assume on an interim basis. Other districts with limited resources couple the work Gulek does with other administrative functions, significantly watering down the difficult, analytical time needed to perfect a Data Resource document. Gulek will now take his skills to Long Beach, a more diverse district with 93,000 students, where he will direct 17 administrators as the Assistant Superintendent of Research, Planning and Evaluation. He sees it as an opportunity to take his skills to the next level and to help the many in the Long Beach district whose family incomes and educational training are so much like he remembers himself back in Edirne, Turkey. We wish him and his successor Jim Rallis all the best. ■

Correction

The letter "How to ease traffic" by Robert S. Allen from the July 7, 2006 issue incorrectly read, "Stop the East Bay HOV project." It should have read, "Stop the eastbound HOV project."

Letters

Editorial misleading

Dear Editor,

You completely misrepresented my statements and position on the medical marijuana issue in your July 28 Editorial ("Just say no to marijuana drug dispensaries"). I made no statement about minors illegally obtaining cigarettes, nor was my comment about alcohol remotely central to my argument to obtain more information before instituting an outright ban on dispensaries. I did not say that either of these circumstances warrants Pleasanton legalizing marijuana dispensaries as you insinuate in your column. I suggest that you watch the replay on Channel 29 if you want to understand what I said, why I think this is an important issue to many folks in need of treatment and why I feel more information is needed before we take any next steps in this regard. I would also ask that you report the facts accurately in your paper—it's your duty as a journalist and to your readers.

I realize that politics makes it onto the editorial pages of newspapers, and that's okay. But this year's election in Pleasanton is already shaping up to be more about personal attacks than it is about issues. Literary license is one thing, but let's at least keep the debate honest.

*Matt Sullivan
Vice Mayor, Pleasanton*

Roundabouts necessary

Dear Editor,

When I was very young, driving down a street in San Francisco, I drove up on a roundabout that they'd just recently installed. I was very embarrassed because I knew I was not paying attention and driving too fast. I remember feeling guilty and ashamed that so many of us drove so fast that the neighborhood felt compelled to install those things.

Something I've noticed is that very often the people who make a big deal about how patriotic they are (American flag magnets on their cars, etc.), who consider themselves such sterling citizens, are, coincidentally, the same ones driving 50 mph in our 25 mph zones, flattening squirrels in their paths. I've come to view these folks as afflicted with a sort of disconnect from reality ... The flag represents all they need do to be a citizen; this mindset also absolves them of the responsibility to drive the speed limit. It must be nice to live in that cloud.

Nevertheless, I'm glad that others have written to this paper, questioning the judgment of city officials who would spend so much money catering to these "special cloud dwellers" who don't want to play by the rules. The folks on our City Council who voted to spend all that money to remove something they just recently installed to slow down traffic didn't care about wildlife or young children who might be playing nearby and walking onto that road. When Ruby Hill residents snapped their fingers, those Council members jumped. It's nice to have such clout. Now they can go back to zooming around in the clouds, flattening squirrels.

*Paulette Kenyon
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Looking for love in Pleasanton

What do singles do in this family-focused town?

It's a few minutes past 7 p.m. on a Tuesday evening at the Pleasanton Hotel lounge, and people are streaming into the small bar space.

"I guess we should get up and mingle," said one woman to her two female friends as she looks around the room for someone to approach. "That's what we're here for after all." The women join the crowd and soon blend into the group of men and women going through the typical get-to-know-you-routine of asking, "So what do you do?" and "Where do you go for fun?"

Normally, the lounge wouldn't be so busy on a Tuesday night, but this night the Society of Single Professionals, a nonprofit organization that hosts single events across the Bay Area, is hosting a "singles mixer." The event is open to any professional adult willing to pay \$10 at the door, although the crowd is mostly middle-aged or older. Many Pleasanton residents, as well as singles who traveled from as far away as Benicia, were at the event.

"I came because I want to try to meet new people and gain more confidence with dating," said Marla, a Pleasanton resident at the mixer who did not want to give her last name. She has been divorced for two years and was separated from her husband 18 months before that.

In fact, there are many singles like Marla in Pleasanton. Although the town may be known as a community focused on family, as families change, usually through divorce, many adults find themselves newly-single and living in Pleasanton.

"One reason the singles ministry was started at the church was because there are so many singles in the area," said John Argo, pastor for singles and men at Valley Bible Church.

Through the church, Argo organizes many singles events that can range from going out to dinner to trips to Yosemite. The group tends to be older singles who have been previously married, and most have children, Argo said.

Along with older divorcees, there is also a large group of singles in Pleasanton who are in their late 20s and early 30s and have never been married, said Bill Corbin, the pastor for the Next Generation, a group for young adults through Valley Community Church.

"It's a real mix," Corbin said. "We get a lot of professional, young adults who are single post college and haven't gotten married yet, or some who may find themselves single again...There's a significant number of singles in the Valley, and there's a significant number of people moving into the Valley who are going to be single."

Whether never married or divorced, singles in all age groups face similar problems when trying to date in Pleasanton. The common complaint is that there's nowhere to go to meet people.

"It's a very family-oriented town, so it's hard to meet people, especially if you're over 40," Marla said.

Single Tyler Moxley, 23, echoed these same thoughts, except he saw it as a problem for the younger generation.

"It's definitely not a town for young people," Moxley said.

When looking for ways to meet friends, and potential dates, Moxley said he usually mingles through activities at his church, Valley Bible, and frequently hangs out with his friends at the Hopyard Grill. But, he added, the town shuts down early, so people who want to stay out late often head to other cities such as San Jose, Walnut Creek and San Francisco, where the nightlife options are more abundant. That's not to say Pleasanton doesn't have a few night spots. Taqueria El Balazo, the Hilton Hotel and Aura Nightclub all stay open late, offering singles of any age a place to meet others.

Of course, singles don't have to go out at night to find members of the opposite sex and, for singles with children, it might not even be a viable option. That's why many people said they looked for potential dates through their already established social circles.

"I usually date people I meet through friends and work," said Steve Blaney, 42, who has been separated from his wife for two years. While

Blaney was content with this, Corbin said many singles find the prospect of dating someone from work "scary."

"If it doesn't work out, it can be awkward," Corbin said.

Becky Carter, a 20-year Pleasanton resident who divorced from her husband in 1994, said she recently went on a date with one of her former neighbors. They stayed connected through their children's shared activities, and when Carter needed someone to join her on her company's rafting trip, she gave her friend a call. Having so much fun together, they decided to go out again on another rafting trip, this time with the just the two of them.

Internet dating is also a possibility for singles in Pleasanton. A quick search on popular dating site Match.com showed nearly 100 singles, both men and women, in the Pleasanton area alone and even more when expanded to the Tri-Valley. Even Craig's List has personal ads for the Dublin/Pleasanton/Livermore area, and a new singles dating Web site, www.PleasantonSingles.com has also sprouted up. The company that runs PleasantonSingles.com also has the same site set up for many cities around the Bay Area all the way through Southern California.

There are also social groups that are specifically focused on singles, such as the already mentioned singles ministry at Valley Bible. Crossroads Fellowship in Livermore has a very large singles network and provides groups for singles of any age, as does Cornerstone Fellowship. Outside of the church, Bota Baggers Ski Club is a singles group based in the Tri-Valley that, despite the name, offers singles activities all year round.

But, the best way for singles to meet someone is to just take part in activities they're interested in, said Blaine Carman, a marriage counselor from Sunol who has held singles workshops in Pleasanton.

"There's the whole bar scene, but I'm not so much an advocate for that as for meeting singles in normal situations," Carman said. "Do what you love and you'll meet people who like to do what you like."

Simply getting out of the house can be a challenge in and of itself. As most Pleasanton singles are working adults, and some with children to care for, it can be hard to find the energy at the end of the day.

"They work all day, they're dead tired when they come home, so it's hard to find that connection in the community," Argo said.

Staying busy with work means some singles don't even have a moment to think about dating.

"I stay busy during the day," Moxley said. "I usually don't leave work until 7 p.m., so there's not a whole lot of time to ponder why I'm not dating."

One of the biggest problems singles in Pleasanton face may not necessarily be meeting people or finding time, so much as feeling confident in their singleness.

"In our culture, there's a lot of pressure that, if you're 28 or 30 and single, that there's something not quite right with you. Part of what we're trying to do in our more overtly religious church activities is convey a sense that you don't have to feel that pressure. It's perfectly okay to be 28 and single," Corbin said.

Argo pointed out that often times in society we view being single as problem that needs to be fixed by being coupled, but that's not the case. In fact, he said there are many advantages to being single.

"You have freedom of scheduling, the majority of singles are more financially sound, you have time to work with other people, and I find many singles have a greater sense of adventure," Argo said.

While it is natural to want companionship, there's nothing wrong with being single and taking time to explore one's own passions without a partner.

"For any singles out there, they should be encouraged to stand pat where they are, take full advantage of being single and enjoy it," Argo said. ■



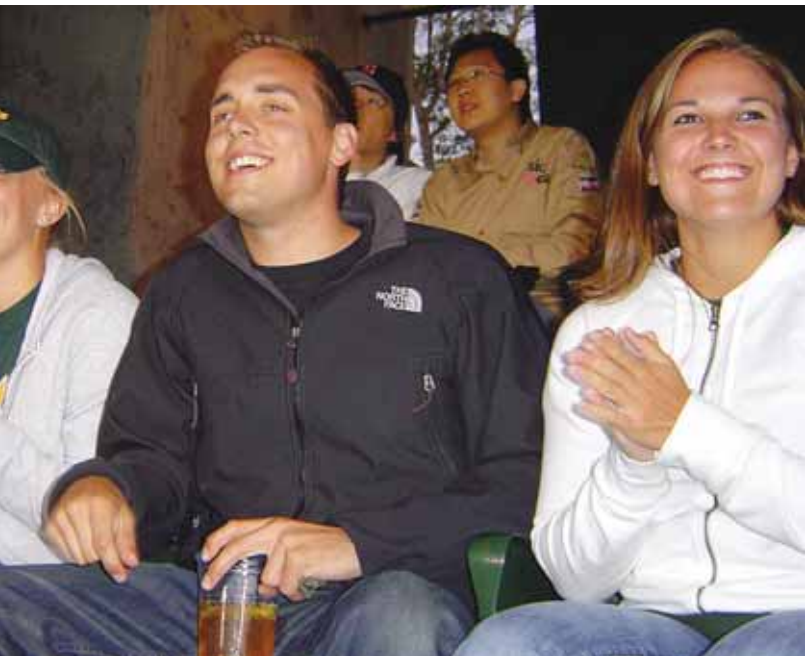
Younger Pleasanton singles like (l-r) Luke and Tom Le...



Garrett Heinz (l-r), Terry Zak and Tom Le...

anton

by Rebecca Guyon



Courtesy Tyler Moxley

... Peterson, Amy Worgull, Tyler Moxley and Katie Perry look for entertainment
... the group went to an Oakland A's baseball game.



Rebecca Guyon

...skoear get to know each other at a singles mixer held at the Pleasanton Hotel.

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, August 7, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal

- Review and Preliminary Approval of Award of Excellence for "Bucket of Bolts"
- FY 2005/06 City Grant Mandatory Final Performance Report Review
- Consideration of Rescheduling September Commission Meeting due to City Holiday

Planning Commission

- The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 9 has been cancelled. The next scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be held on August 23.

Library Commission

- The Library Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 10 has been cancelled. The next scheduled Library Commission meeting will be held on September 14.

Parks and Recreation Commission

- The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 10 has been cancelled. The next scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for September 14.

Future Meetings

- The City Council will meet again on August 15
- The Youth Commission does not meet during the months of July and August and is scheduled to meet again on September 13.
- Housing Commission - August 17

GENERAL INFORMATION

A General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006 for the following officers:

For Mayor

For Two Members of the City Council

The nomination period opens Monday, July 17, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. Nomination Papers are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, through Friday, August 11, 2006. Please call 931-5027 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, for more information or to schedule and appointment.

If Nomination Papers for an incumbent officer of the City **are not** filed by 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 11, 2006, the Nomination Period will be extended until Wednesday, August 16, 2006 at 5:00 p.m., **for non-incumbents only.**

While appointments to take out and/or file nomination papers are not required, they are strongly encouraged.

For more information, questions, or to schedule an appointment, please contact the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

**ALL 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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin Vandalism and grand theft in Ruby Hill

Various pieces of woodwork were vandalized at a Ruby Hill residence, along with an estimated \$10,000 worth of stolen appliances, police said.

Randy McCoughan, builder and owner of the residence under construction, reported the crime last Saturday. The residence, which is located above a fairway with other houses under construction, was open on Saturday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for various contractors to do their jobs.

The suspect made deep gouges in wood panels in the den, the bathroom wall next to the exercise room, in the cabinet doors of the dining room, and a two-foot long, deep scratch on the entry door, according to police. The decorative wood mantel was also separated from the base and damaged, reports showed.

McCoughan also said he noticed that numerous new appliances stored in the west garage were missing. He doesn't know when the theft occurred, and he'll have to do inventory on appliances that are not currently installed, police said.

McCoughan said he discovered the vandalism

when a new buyer told him that he visited the home on Sunday and he saw the damage. When they entered the residence, a worker was leaving and said his name was "Mario." McCoughan told police that he did not have a Mario working for him and that further information will be needed in order to contact the suspect. There are no other suspects at this time.

Burglary at Prudential California Realty

Two Dell laptop computers were reported stolen Friday, July 28, from Prudential California Realty, 5724 W. Las Positas Blvd., police said.

Police believe the suspects made a three-foot by three-foot opening in the double-paned, tinted glass on the north side of the building by breaking the window, using two river rocks.

Human Resources Director Jennifer Bolduc told police that the laptop computers were taken from two different offices. The building has four suites located next to an empty building. The suspect had to climb a five-foot wood fence to enter a secluded courtyard with minimal lighting, police said. The suspect did not enter the main body of the office, reports showed.

The loss totaled \$2,700 with damages amounting to \$800, police said.

Police Report

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

July 24

- Theft: 6
- Vandalism: 1
- DUI: 2
- Counterfeiting:
 - 4:22 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street

July 25

- Theft: 1
- Vandalism: 1
- Contempt of court:
 - 4 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Assault:
 - 10:29 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

July 26

- Theft: 2
- Vandalism: 2
- Burglary: 1
- Found property: 1
- Assault: 2
 - 12:26 a.m. in the 3100 block of Cranwood Court
 - 9:39 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue
- Possession and sale of drugs:
 - 11:52 p.m. at the intersection of

Chabot and Owens drives

July 27

- Theft: 2
- Vandalism: 3
- Found property: 4
- Possession of marijuana:
 - 1:40 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road
- Possession and sale of drugs: 2
 - 3:10 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road
 - 12:55 p.m. in the 300 block of Warner Avenue
- Restraining order:
 - 9:45 a.m. in the 1600 block of East Gate Way
- Assault:
 - 12:09 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street
- Prowling:
 - 3:04 p.m. in the 1000 block of Harvest Circle

July 28

- Theft: 2
- Vandalism: 2
- Burglary: 1
- Found property: 2
- Annoying phone call: 1
- Child Abuse: 2
 - Noon in the 5300 block of Case Avenue
 - 2:55 p.m. in the 6700 block of Paseo San Leon

- Contempt of court:
 - 7:15 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue

July 29

- Theft: 1
- Vandalism: 3
- Burglary: 1
- Found property: 1
- Assault:
 - 3:46 a.m. in the 4600 block of Carson Court

July 30

- Theft: 4
- Vandalism: 1

ACCIDENTS

July 24

- 5:27 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue

July 25

- 8:48 a.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Stanley Boulevard
- 1:23 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the Stoneridge Drive intersection

July 28

- 6:34 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Spring and First streets
- 6:37 p.m. - Non-injury accident at the intersection of Stoneridge and Franklin drives

Obituaries

Demo and Angela Andora

Demo and Angela Andora died together on July 6. He was 85 years old and she was 86.

Both were born in Italy, and he was a member of the I.L.W.U. Local 34.

They are survived by sons

Stelvio Andora of Pleasanton and Roy Andora of Tracy; daughter Barbara Rocha of Manteca; her sister Amelia Vanzo of Italy; and 10 grandchildren.

Services were held at Machado's Hillside Chapel in Hayward.

Alejandra G. Montiel

Alejandra "Ally" Montiel died July 6 at the age of 22.

Born February 1, 1984, in San Francisco, she worked as a dental

assistant and she loved her dog "Piggy."

She is survived by parents Carlos Montiel of Fremont and Debbie Rosa of Pleasanton; brother Nathaniel Montiel and sister Elizabeth Montiel both of Fremont; grandparents Charles Rosa of Chico and Vincent Montiel of Fremont; and numerous uncles and aunts, cousins and friends.

Services were held at Fremont Memorial Chapel.

Calendar

Author Visits

Connie and Allen De Grange
Connie and Allen De Grange, authors of "A Place Called Sunol," will be at Museum On Main, 603 Main St., 7 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 17. Admission is \$5 for museum members, \$10 for non-members. Reservations are requested. Call 462-2766.

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, 555 Main St. Call Sadie, 846-1658.

Political Book Club
Political Book Club meets at 7 p.m., the fourth Tuesday monthly at the Livermore Library, 1000 S. Livermore Ave. For the month of August, read "How Would a Patriot Act?: Defending American Values From a President Run Amok," by Glenn Greenwald. Call 462-7495.

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 Aug. 15.

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 Aug. 17.

Library Commission
The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Aug. 10.

Planning Commission
The commission meets 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Aug. 9.

School Board
The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly in the district office board room 4665 Bernal Ave. The school board will not meet during the summer months. The next meeting is Aug. 22.

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 through Sept. 1 at Lion's Wayside Park, First and Neal St. Call Nickie, 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Events

August Mixer
The Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and the Pleasanton Downtown Association presents "August Mixer" from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wed., Aug. 9 at Barone's Courtyard, 475 St. John St. Admission is \$5. Call 846-5858 or visit www.pleasanton.org.

California State Fair
The California State Fair runs from Fri., Aug. 11 through Mon., Sept. 4 at Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento. Call (916) 263-3000 or visit www.bigfun.org for ticket information and hours of operation.

Chamber Golf Outing
Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Golf Outing Mon., Aug. 21 at Ruby Hill Golf Club. Register by Aug. 14. For more information visit www.pleasanton.org or call Wendy, 846-5858.

Weekend Preview



'Diverse Directions'
This painting, "Autumn Textures," by Denise Oyama Miller is one of the pieces featured in "Diverse Direction," a new show of artwork by a group of award-winning women artists in the East Bay. Alexander's Main Street Gallery and Artists 7 will be putting on the show from Aug. 5-20, with a reception scheduled for Aug. 5 from 4-7 p.m. Alexander's Main Street Gallery is located at 610 Main St. in Pleasanton and is open Mon.-Fri. from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. from noon-4 p.m. Call 846-6015.

CVB 11th Annual Meeting & Membership Luncheon
The Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau will be hosting its 11th annual Meeting & Membership Luncheon 11:30 a.m., Thurs., Aug. 17 at The Bridges Golf Club, 9000 S. Gale Ridge Rd., San Ramon. Call Alison, 846-8910 or e-mail alison@trivalley-cvb.com.

Design4Living Women's Conference
Design4Living Women's Conference, featuring Point of Grace in concert, will be held from 6:30-10 p.m., Fri., Aug. 11 and from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., Aug. 12 at Cornerstone Fellowship, 348 N. Canyons Pkwy., Livermore. Cost is \$78. Call 447-3465 or register at www.cornerstoneweb.org.

Fisher-Price Play Space and Power Wheels
Fisher-Price Play Space and Power Wheels Weekend will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat., Aug. 5 and Sun., Aug. 6 at the San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Rd., San Francisco. Call Alexander, (415) 753-7165 or visit www.sfzoo.org.

Matt Miller to Read at Century House
Century House Poetry Reading, sponsored by city of Pleasanton Civic Arts, will feature award-winning poet and teacher Matt Miller from 1-3 p.m., Sun., Aug. 6 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Rd. Admission is \$5. Call Michelle, 931-5350.

Music and Stories with Uncle Eye!
Join singing storyteller, Ira Scott Levin for "Uncle Eye and the Rubber Chicken of Freedom!" 1 p.m., Aug. 5 at the Pleasanton Library. Call 931-3400, ext. 8.

No Nukes! No Wars!
Tri-Valley CAREs will have a morning of music and speakers featuring a Japanese Hibakusha, an atomic bomb survivor, 8 a.m., Sun., Aug. 6 at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab on the corner of Vasco Rd. and Patterson Pass Rd. Call 443-7148 or visit www.trivalleycares.org.

Silver Oak and Rombauer Winemaker Dinner
The Silver Oak and Rombauer Winemaker Dinner will be held 7 p.m., Wed., Aug. 9 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Cost is \$120 plus tax and gratuity. Call 846-8106.

Speedway
Make cars and airplanes, design a balloon rocket car, play a race car game and eat checkered flag cookies from 1-4 p.m., Sun., Aug. 13 at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk Plaza Cir., Danville. Call 736-2277.

Summer Open House
Thomas Coyne Winery is hosting a Summer Open House from noon-5 p.m., Sat., Aug. 19 and Sun., Aug. 20 at 51 E. Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Call 373-6541 or visit www.thomascoynewinery.com.

Summer Series Under the Stars
The Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center presents "Summer Series Under the Stars," 7:30 p.m., Sundays Aug. 6 and 13 at the Alameda Fairgrounds Amphitheater, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors and children 8-12, and free for children 7 and younger. Call Jamie, 373-6100.

Exhibits

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.

Summer Show
View artwork by the Las Positas College Art Club throughout August at the East Bay SPCA, 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Call Jennifer, 485-5215.

Wine Country Wildlife Art Show
Kathleen Hill's work will be on display from Tues., Aug. 1 through Wed., Aug. 30 at Wente Estate Winery, 5565 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Artist's Reception will be held from 1-3 p.m., Sun., Aug. 6. Call Kathleen, 373-0860.

Fundraisers

16th Annual Day in the Park
The Taylor Family Foundation, a camp for children with chronic and critical illnesses, is hosting its 16th annual Day in the Park on Sun., Aug. 27 at Camp Arroyo, 5555 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. Ninety percent of the proceeds will directly fund and facilitate the operation of Camp Arroyo. Call June, 455-5118 or visit www.tfff.org.

Sister City BBQ Fundraiser
The Sister City BBQ Fundraiser will be held from 5:30-11 p.m., Sat., Aug. 12 at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds "Ivy Glen" area, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door and \$240 for a reserved table for eight. Tickets are available at the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters St. and the Pleasanton Downtown Association, 830 Main St., Ste. A. Call Alice, 462-5786 or Jorge, 462-6723.

Lectures/ Workshops

B2B Power Exchange
B2B Power Exchange presents "Leads Group for True B2B Business Developers" from 7:45-10 a.m., Thurs., Aug. 17 at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Dr., Dublin. Cost is free for members, \$40 for non-members, and \$30 if purchased by Tues., Aug. 15. Breakfast is included. Call 201-3410 or visit www.b2bpowerexchange.com/dublin.htm.

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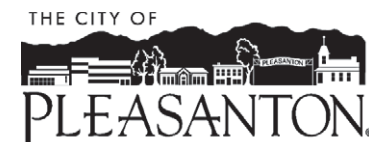


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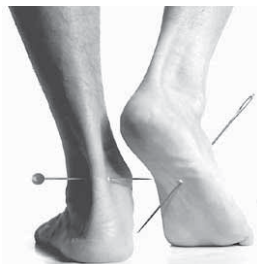
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Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m.-noon every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Class is free. Bring fabric scraps, a yard of unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins. Call 935-8972.

Child Care Initiative Project

Licensed and license-exempt child care providers are encouraged to participate in the CCIP project to receive technical assistance and support, free training and support materials, and more. No cost for this workshop. Call Donnamarie at 249-3923.

Free Employee Training for Tri-Valley Businesses

This free on-going workshop includes learning how to choose child care, parenting skills, child development and work/family balance. Call Kim, 249-3940.

Market Research and the Marketing Plan

Technology Ventures Corporation presents "Market Research and the Marketing Plan" from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wed., Aug. 16 at CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Dr. Cost and registration is free. Call 960-1600 or visit www.techventures.org. Sign up at www.123signup.com.

NAMI

NAMI Tri-Valley monthly education meeting presents Po Wang., M.D., from 7-9 p.m., Mon., Aug. 7 at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. E-mail Krista at trivalleybiopolar@hotmail.com, Marsha at marsha_mci@comcast.net or visit www.namitrivalley.org.

Out of the Swamp

Diablo Valley Women in Business presents "Out of the Swamp" from 7:30-9:30 a.m., Fri., Aug. 11 at Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville. Cost is \$25 for members,

\$40 for non-members and \$30 for first-time guests. Call 866-0260 or visit www.dvwb.org.

Papier-Mache Whimsy

Learn techniques that spark your imagination and encourage creativity 2-4 p.m. every Tuesday at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Ave., room 207. Bring newspaper, roll of 1-inch masking tape and two wire coat hangers. Call 935-8972.

On Stage

All's Well That Ends Well

Valley Shakespeare Festival presents "All's Well That Ends Well" 7:30 p.m., Thurs., July 13 through Sat., August 5 at Retzlaff Estate Winery, 1356 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. General admission is \$30. Call (800) 838-3006 or visit www.valleyshakes.org.

The Imaginary Invalid

Las Positas College presents "The Imaginary Invalid" at 6:30 p.m., Aug. 5, 6, 12 and 13 at Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Rd., Livermore in the Performing Arts Patio, building 800. General admission is \$10, \$7 for students and seniors. Call 424-1812.

Political Notes

Happy Valley Blue Ribbon Committee

The Pleasanton Happy Valley Blue Ribbon Committee will meet at 7 p.m., Thurs., Aug. 10 and Sept. 14 at Faith Chapel, 6656 Alisal St. The public is invited to attend. Call Lorie, 931-5006.

Seniors

Rosicrucian Museum and Planetarium Trip

Take a trip to the Rosicrucian Museum

and the Planetarium in San Jose on Thurs., Aug. 10. Depart from the Senior Center at 11 a.m., 5353 Sunol Blvd., and return at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$33 for residents, \$36 for non-residents. Lunch is not included. Call 931-5365.

TV30

ValleyCare

Marcy Feit, ValleyCare Health System CEO, and Tom Vargas, Chairman of the Board, will do a year end wrap up at 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Sat., Aug. 5 and Sun., Aug. 6 on channel 30.

Your Schools

Join Myla Grasso for a look into Pleasanton Schools at noon, Sat., Aug. 5 and Sun., Aug. 6 on channel 30.

Volunteering

Tri-Valley Haven

Tri-Valley Haven provides services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and homelessness in the Tri-Valley and needs volunteers to help with childcare, answer the crisis line and assist clients with restraining order paperwork. Training starts at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday. Must be at least 21 years old. Call Melissa, 449-5845, ext. 111 or e-mail melissa@trivalleyhaven.org.

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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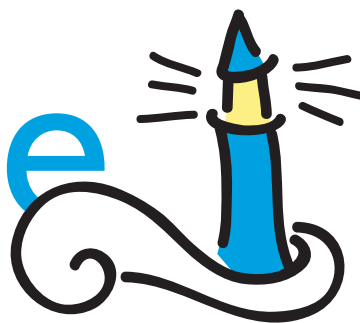
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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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Jeep 1996 Grand Cherokee Limited 4x4 - \$5800

Kawasaki 2003 Ninja ZX12R - 3400

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Pottery Barn crib bedding: quilt, dust ruffle and floral print sheet. \$25.00

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Wingback recliner, burgundy leather. Good cond. \$100 925-846-8988

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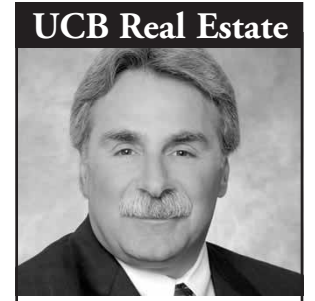
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Pet of the Week
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has short legs, a long
body and a big heart! Sam
is 7 years old, neutered
and weighs 28 pounds. He
loves treats and long
walks, a good combination
for keeping in shape. Sam
(pet #63196) is friendly
and active. He enjoys
socializing with people
and with most other dogs.
Sam is available for adop-
tion at the East County
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Gleason Dr., Dublin, open
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THE PANDA

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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!

Jim's Country Style Restaurant

5400 Sunol Blvd., next to Raley's, Pleasanton, (925) 426-7019. Loved by locals and famous for its ranch-style omelets and large portions, Jim's serves up the country-style fixings from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. So if you're in the mood for chicken-fried steak, an omelet, a stack of pancakes, a deluxe sandwich or just a good old-fashioned burger, you won't be disappointed. Jim's friendly staff invites you to drop in and say, "Howdy!"

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.

Swensen's

1991-A Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 426-1266. Swensen's Ice

Cream has called the Bay Area its home since 1948. Known for its delicious ice cream, smoothies, burgers, sandwiches, pho beef noodle soup and BBQ chicken, beef and pork over rice. Open 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Monday.

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/daytime 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.

California Cuisine

Silver Palate Restaurant

680 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, (925) 417-5900. Silver Palate's menu is based on a concept of wholesome cooking, using the most natural ingredients available. The ambiance of this restaurant evokes the light-filled expanse of a European marketplace, while the outdoor patio captures the best in al fresco dining. Choose from a wide selection of flavorful entrees and side accompaniments ... among them risottos, specialty soups, Kobe beef burgers, wild salmon, Organic Sonoma Mix salads and handcrafted desserts. Country Brunch Buffet every Sunday. Open seven days a week.

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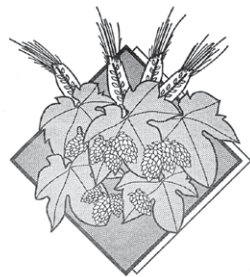
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Dining Out

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).

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, (925) 846-5251. Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987. Friendly service, delicious food, great prices. Lunch specials from only \$5.25.

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 facilities, rehearsal dinners, special events.

Indian

Chef India Cuisine

5100 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, (925) 463-8773. Newly arrived in Pleasanton, its lunch buffet features over 25 items on every week day. They have a special Brunch buffet on every Sat. and Sun. which features more than 30 items. The dinner menu is extensive with many authentic Indian dishes to choose from, along with a full bar and large dining facility. Chef India invites you to hold your banquet with them. Conveniently located near the corner of Hopyard and Owens (next to Chevron) with plenty of parking. Check their website www.chefindia.com for details.

Gold Indian Cuisine

824 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 600-0202. Popular Livermore restaurant has opened a second location in downtown Pleasanton, presenting delicious North Indian food, seasoned to your taste: mild, medium or hot. Fresh menu daily. Parking in rear. Patio dining. Open for lunch 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Dinner seven days a week, 5-10 p.m.

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

Japanese

Hasegawa Japanese

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Japanese owner Kazutoyo "Joe Cool" Hasagawa 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.

Dining Out

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 a low budget? Original round large Pepperoni Pizza only \$5 every day, eight pieces of our famous crazy bread w/sauce \$1.99, 10 delicious Caesars wings only \$5. Look for other coupon specials in the dining section weekly. Hot-n-ready Pizza, all day, every day!

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!

Sandwiches/Deli

Togo's

3120-D Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, (925) 846-8646; 5556-A Springdale Ave., Pleasanton, (925) 463-3090. 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

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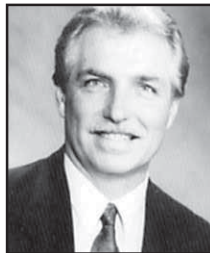
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