

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

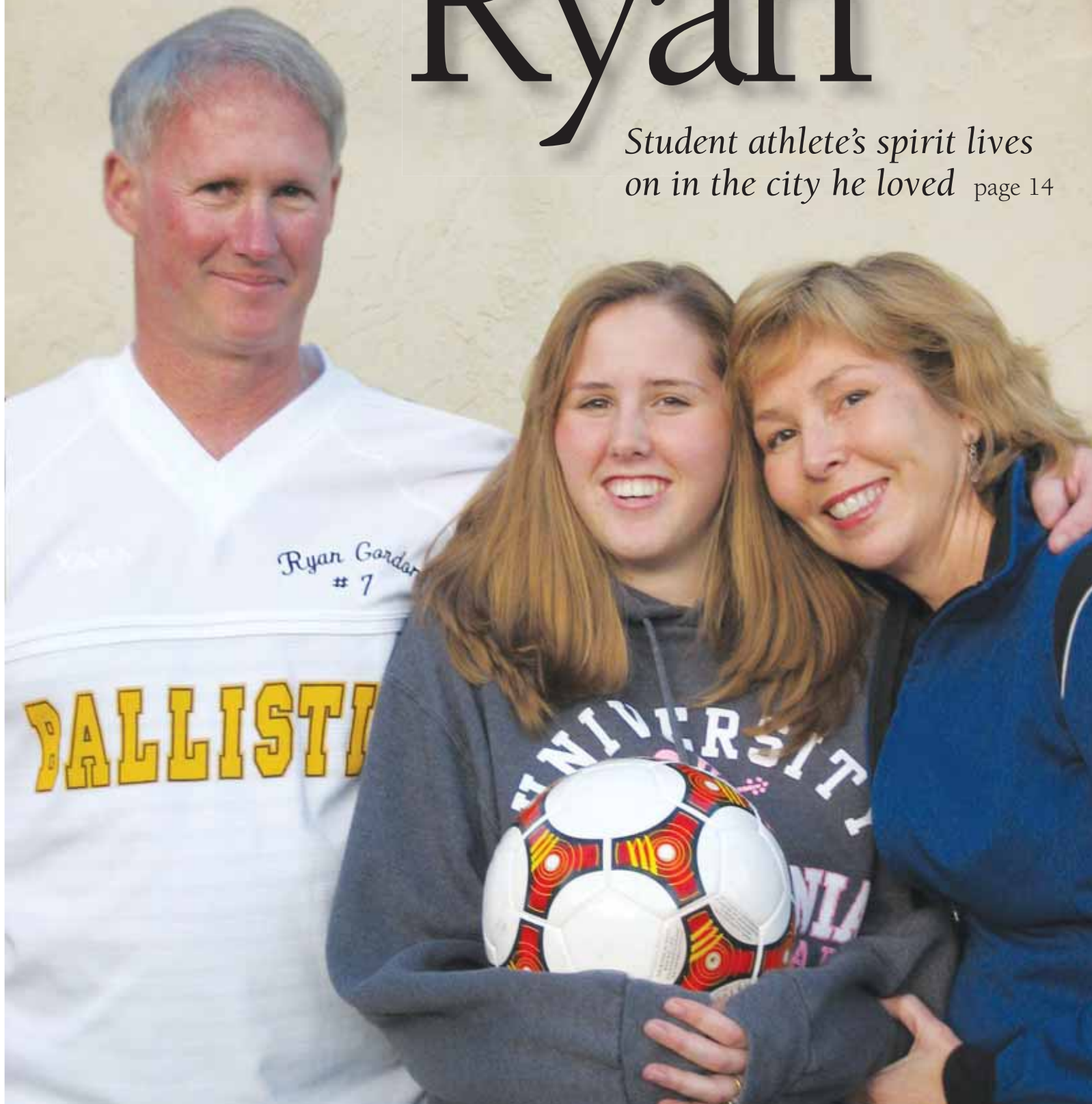
Vol. IV, Number 51 • January 12, 2006

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It's all about Pleasanton

Remembering Ryan

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on in the city he loved* page 14



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600-2030



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600-2005



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Sandy Hermann
600-2028



Diane Koizumi
600-2010



Joan Leavitt
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Brad Loudon
600-2021



Marion Martini
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David McPherson
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Dana Mesarchik
600-2004



David Mladinich
600-2008



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600-2014



Terri Terriquez
600-2025



Tom Vinson
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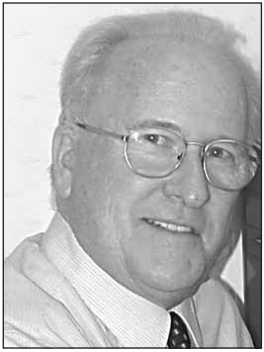
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

After 4 decades of police work, it's off to Baja

Community Service Officer Angie Calija was given a motorcycle escort Tuesday from her home on Palomino Drive to the Pleasanton Police Station where she turned in her uniform and officially retired after more than 33 years on the job. Her friends both on the force and many she had worked with earlier turned out for the celebration, including Chief Tim Neal who drove her to work and is also retiring, himself, in a few weeks. An extra bonus was a police chorus singing "Happy Birthday," since Tuesday was also Calija's 55th birthday.

She started working for the department in July 1973, just three years after graduating from Amador Valley High School, and first as the city government's main switchboard operator, which was handled by the police, and then to key administrative positions throughout the department. Many of us saw Calija in her police three-wheel golf cart-like vehicle that she drove up and down Main Street marking bumpers and tires and then writing tickets to those who over-stayed their two-hour limit. If she knew the driver and saw you in a store or coffee shop, she'd wave to you to come out and move the car instead of giving a ticket.

Calija's duties took her from the switchboard (or PBS system) to report writing as complaints came in to interim dispatcher and to crime scene investigator, where she would help regular officers dust for fingerprints and categorize evidence. Although born here with a Mexican heritage, her near fluency in Spanish made her an asset when a police translator was needed. In the early years of her career, when there were few on the force and almost no women, she also accompanied and even searched female prisoners taken to the county jail. Among the highlights of a career that spanned

four decades was a chance to serve on special security details when political leaders came to town. When President Bill Clinton was here for a Labor Day Democratic Party rally at the Fairgrounds, she worked with Secret Service agents and others at the city's Operations Center, where the presidential limousine was secured for the night, and even had a chance to sit in it as an agent took her picture, a photograph she cherishes to this day.

Calija was born in Pleasanton, one of two girls and eight brothers in the family of Linda and Ellis Calija, who worked the fields at the Busch family ranch off Mohr Avenue and Busch Road. Her mother died last November; her father, now 94, has lived here since 1945 and can describe, name and talk about people and events as if they took place yesterday.

Angie plans to keep her townhouse at the corner of Bernal and Palomino, but will leave in a few days to inspect and then furnish a new second home she is building 25 miles south of San Felipe on the east coast of Baja and right on the Sea of Cortez beach. She designed it herself, a solar-powered house that features a great room and floor-to-ceiling expanse of windows looking out to the sea, two bedrooms downstairs, and a 28-by-28-foot master bedroom on the second level also facing the sea. She's not the only one who's anxious for the home to be completed. Holidays in her large family usually bring 40-50 together from around Northern California. She expects they'll make the 12-hour drive shortly and she's already invited her fellow officers from the Pleasanton force to come and visit. I have an invitation, too, and a son who frequently pilots a plane to San Felipe, so watch for a column soon from Angie Calija's great room on the Sea of Cortez. ■

About the Cover

Curt, Valarie and Alicia Gordon turned grief into action, keeping the memory of Ryan alive in Pleasanton. Photo by Jeb Bing.

Vol. VII, Number 51

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Love Lines

Surprise a special Valentine with a personal "Love Lines" in our February 9th issue of the Pleasanton Weekly

The deadline is noon February 5th

Form your message and e-mail to Lovelines@pleasantonweekly.com or fax 600-1433

Be sure to include your name and a daytime phone number so we may contact you for payment information.

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For more information, call **600-0840**



Who are these Young Men?

Elder Hansen
Elmo, Utah

Elder Henry
New Orleans, Louisiana



You have probably seen the Missionaries with their white shirts and bikes before. They are representatives of THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (NICKNAMED MORMONS). They are 19-22 year old young men (and women) "volunteers". They're here in Pleasanton for 4-6 months at a time during their full time two-year mission service. They are two of over 52,000 worldwide missionaries.

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THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Streetwise

Q: According to the State Finance Department, more Californians are moving out of state than those moving here. What do you think about that?

Asked Downtown



Ewan Ferguson
Business Analyst

I think it is due to the cost of living in California. People move in to take the high paying jobs in the tech and bio markets. Those who have lived here are selling their homes and moving somewhere more laid-back or moving inland where there cost of living is cheaper.

Tim Kennedy
Packaging Engineer

I think it is unfortunate that living conditions in California are discouraging people from staying here. It is the cost of housing. I have two daughters just out of college, starting their lives. I can't see how they will ever be able to afford a home in California.



Megan Cooper
Bio-Scientist

The high cost of living here prohibits most young people from feeling like they will ever be able to afford a house. Most of the people I work with feel the same way. It's a shame!

Samantha Bayle
Accounts Receivable

It makes sense. My husband and I are trying to save money to buy a house. To purchase a \$1 million home, you need \$100,000 down—that's a lot of money to come up with. I've lived in other states. You can buy a home and property for the price of a down payment here. No wonder people are leaving.



Michael Svihura
Software Engineer

I don't think it's a bad thing; it gives us a chance to catch up on infrastructure, instead of our population growing out of control. People are moving out because it is expensive and the jobs are perhaps not plentiful.

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Newsfront

News Digest

New OHK board member

Rev. Ronald Culmer of Dublin joined Open Heart Kitchen's board of directors Jan. 2. The Rector of St. Clare's Episcopal Church in Pleasanton since 2004 is also a board member of Axis Community Health Care, the Pleasanton Community Counseling Center and the Pleasanton Community of Character Coalition.

Christmas tree pickup

Pleasanton Garbage Service will collect Christmas trees starting at 5:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 13. Trees must be cut in half and must be out on the curb with the garbage.

LVCS open enrollment

Livermore Valley Charter School's (K-8) enrollment for the 2007-08 school year is open through Feb. 28. An enrollment form can be obtained at <http://lvcs.org> or by calling 443-3862. Once completed, the form (one per child) can be submitted by e-mail or mailed to: Livermore Valley Charter School, 543 Sonoma Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550, Attention: Admissions.

Health care seminar

The League of Women Voters is holding an informational seminar about the state's single-payer health system proposal by Sheila Kuehl that would provide health care for all Californians. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 20 at the Pleasanton Gardens Senior Center, 251 Kottlinger Dr. The brown bag lunch meeting with speaker Pat Snyder of the League's California Health Care committee is open to all. For more information, visit www.onecarenow.org.

Concannon benefit dinner

"Rocks, Wines & Valentines," a sumptuous four-course gourmet Concannon Winemaker Dinner, benefiting the Museum On Main's Pleasanton Exhibit Room, will begin with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main Street. Included in the festive evening will be a "two-bit" auction and a talk by Jim Concannon on the history of the Concannon Winery and valley winemaking. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$750 for a table of eight. Call the museum at 462-2766 to make a reservation by Feb. 3.



Members of the Foothill High School boys varsity basketball team carry their teammate Kyle O'Connor's casket Saturday into the parish hall of St. Augustine's for his funeral Mass.

Police officer, employees honored for service

Angie Calija retires after 33 years

by Emily Atwood

Officer Joe Leonardo was named 2006 Officer of the Year by his peers in the Pleasanton Police Department. Joining the force in August 1989, Leonardo currently serves as a patrol officer, leader of the SWAT team and Explorer Program coordinator.

Police Chief Tim Neal said Leonardo is a formal and informal leader in the department. He is known for his tremendous work ethic and friendliness and others often come to him for advice and counsel.

Neal, who has received the award in the past, called the honor a "rare distinction."

"For anyone to be singled out among so many is an honor," he said. "It's one of 87 officers in this case, but it may as well be one of 1,000."

One of two co-recipients of the 2006 Non-Sworn Employee of the Year was Animal Services Officer Roy Ficken. Ficken has worked in the department since 1983 and has built a reputation as a team player. Though his primary responsibility is in Animal Services, he can be found all over town.

"You find Roy everywhere," Neal said. "Downtown on First Wednesday, in schools with his K-9 partner and companion Gandalf, in our Citizens Academy ... everywhere."

Most recently he even helped count cars and keep statistics at the DUI checkpoint. Neal even recalled Ficken's request of a bee suit to help residents safely get rid of nests without paying large fees to professional bee keepers. With Ficken's urging, the department was also one of the first to

Police: Driver doesn't appear to have been under the influence

Hundreds come out to remember 16-year-old Foothill basketball player killed in crash outside DMV

by Janet Pelletier

Pleasanton police don't believe the 16-year-old Stockton boy who was driving a car that crashed through a cinderblock wall behind the DMV office was under the influence of alcohol.

The crash occurred just before midnight Jan. 2. The driver was carrying two passengers, a 16-year-old Redwood City boy who had minor injuries and 16-year-old Foothill High School student Kyle O'Connor, who later died at Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley where all three boys were taken.

Sgt. Michael Collins said the driver was given a preliminary test, similar to a breathalyzer, called a

PAS (preliminary alcohol screening), and it indicated that no alcohol was in his system at the time of the crash. Toxicology tests for alcohol and drugs have not come back yet.

"At this point in time, we're still waiting for toxicology reports and there haven't really been any new developments," he said. "Neither one of them (the driver or the Redwood City boy) tested positive using a preliminary alcohol screening device."

Collins said the cause of the collision appears to be speed and distraction.

"It looks like he may have been trying to change a CD in the player—that's what he told us," Collins said.

He said the driver was going an estimated 50 to 55 miles per hour when trying to negotiate a sharp left turn in the road on West Las Positas, where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour.

Collins said it appears the driver will be charged for violating rules against driving with other 16-year-olds without an adult 25 and older.

"That was a recommendation in the report because he had had his driver's license for less than a year," he said. "He had gotten his license in February 2006."

By state law, drivers under 18 years old who are driving pas-

(continued on page 9)

Boat show continues at the fairgrounds

Largest boat show in Northern California featuring 1,000 boats and yachts

The biggest boat show in Northern California continues this weekend at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Nearly 1,000 boats and yachts ranging from 7 to 70 feet long as well as marine accessories, ski and wakeboard accessories, fishing and boating seminars, debuting boats, a classic wooden boat display, music and wine tasting are in the sched-

uled lineup tomorrow and Sunday. In its fifth year, the 2007 Northern California Boat Show presented by the Northern California Marine Association (NCMA) will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. tomorrow and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday before it sets sail from Pleasanton. Admission to the show is \$10 for

(continued on page 10)



A 59-foot Carver Marquis from D'Anna Yachts is one of 50 yachts that will be displayed at the 2007 Northern California Boat Show, which continues through this weekend at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Planning Commission reviews sports courts

Item will be brought back to commission in coming weeks for further discussion

by Janet Pelletier

The city of Pleasanton is looking to put rules and regulations in writing regarding sports courts in people's back yards. Things such as basketball hoops in a front driveway or backyard are a common sight in neighborhoods here.

According to city planners, most areas of the city don't have specific court regulations, or have vague ones at best. After comparing what other cities have for rules, including Lafayette, La Canada, Flintridge, Yorba Linda and Santa Barbara, the city drafted language that would clarify the existing regulations, ensure that sport courts can be approved quickly and administratively and make sure they have a minimal impact to neighbors and the environment. The planned communities of Kottinger Ranch, Ruby Hill and homes in the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan already have their own rules pertaining to sports courts.

One resident who attended the Dec. 29 Planning Commission meeting on the item said his neighbor has a basketball hoop that invades his privacy and blocks his views from his home—a common concern that has been voiced to the city.

The sports court regulations affect permanent equipment such as tennis, basketball and racquetball courts in private residences; not the commonly seen portable basketball hoops in front yards. Hoops located above a garage or in the front yard are allowed and an application won't be required to play sports between the front property line and the equipment, according to a staff report.

Looking to the city's parks regulations, permanent courts with lights must turn off electricity at 10 p.m. The lights are allowed to spread up to a 5-foot candle of light onto adjacent residential properties.



Brian Schulze, 13, (in red) and friend Kyle Maraschin, 12, (in stripes), ride their bikes with some friends in Schulze's driveway on a recent day off from Pleasanton Middle School. Portable basketball hoops, such as the one seen behind the group of boys are a common sight around Pleasanton.

The staff report pertains only to residential sports courts, not those in parks. As proposed in the report, any resident who wants to build a sports court in their backyard must fill out an application with the city. If they plan to install lighting to a personal court, they will also be required to submit a photometric foot candle diagram demonstrating that no light will shine onto the surface of neighboring properties. Lighting would be required to be turned off between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. and cannot be taller than 15 feet.

The commission plans to review these rules and regulations at a future meeting before anything is set in stone.

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(CSO)—a job filled by some of the hardest workers in the force, according to Neal. CSOs respond to all accidents and take reports if there are no injuries, direct traffic and tend to the injured. They also serve crime scene investigators with such tasks as gathering DNA and gunshot residue. Like the popular TV show characters on “CSI,” Pleasanton’s CSOs are equipped with state-of-the-art technology like laser and ultra-violet fingerprint detection equipment.

Calija’s honor came just in time, as Tuesday marked her 55th birthday and her last day of work before retiring. A police motorcade escorted her to the department that morning, where she was greeted with applause, hugs and a serenade of “Happy Birthday.”

Perhaps the most moving tribute to her service is the volume of commendations and thank you letters received from her 33 years of service.

“Certainly [she has] the most thank you letters I have ever seen in a police employee’s personnel file,” Neal said. “She is one incredible professional—and one kind and caring human being. We will never have another Angie Calija.” ■

Emily Awwood

Police Chief Tim Neal escorts retiring Community Service Officer Angie Calija to the Pleasanton Police Department on her last day of work Tuesday Jan. 9, where a group of officers and co-workers sang “Happy Birthday.”

Officers

(continued from page 5)

equip animal services officers with tranquilizer guns.

Neal said Ficken is an advocate for animals who has a “no-nonsense approach” to those who neglect their pets.

“If a dog is man’s best friend, then Roy is a dog’s best friend,” he said.

Typically the department only chooses one recipient for each award, but a special exception was made for most-senior employee Angie Calija.

Often referred to as the “face of the police department,” Calija began working with the force at the age of 21. Since then, she’s worn many hats: meter maid, office assistant, police assistant, parking control officer and interim dispatcher.

Her title as of 1988 is Community Services Officer



Angie Calija



Joe Leonardo



Roy Ficken

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Double trouble: don't get caught speeding on Vasco Road

Popular cut-through designated double fine zone

Those who travel along Vasco Road, which stretches from Livermore up to Brentwood, could now face double fines for traffic violations.

Alameda County, in partnership with Contra Costa County, successfully advocated for the designation of the popular shortcut people take to avoid interstates 580 and 680 as a Safety Enhancement Double Fine Zone. Through State Sen. Tom Torlakson's Senate Bill 3, the state legislature has designated Vasco Road as such, affecting the 19-mile stretch of road between 580 in Livermore and Walnut Boulevard in Brentwood.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty, who represents Livermore on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, has supported Torlakson's efforts to adopt the legislation for years.

"We have been extremely concerned about the number of serious accidents caused by heavy commuter traffic, speeding and reckless motorist behavior resulting in several fatalities and injuries along this roadway over the past few years," Haggerty said. "I believe that this designation will be an effective tool in managing traffic on this inter-regional road."

Crews from the county public works agency began installing traffic signs with the new designation on Monday. The California Highway Patrol will be the primary agency patrolling the area and will be enforcing the designation immediately, according to Art Carrera, road manager for the public works agency.

—Janet Pelletier

The Pleasanton Downtown Association presents

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Downtown Pleasanton

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Tickets are available for purchase in advance at the following locations:

- Rose Hotel, 807 Main St.; Clover Creek, 670 Main St.;
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Business in Brief



Pure Girls expands to older teen audience

Pure Girls, a downtown boutique providing fashion, party packages and other services for girls, is expanding its 'tween (ages 6-12) business focus to offer new services and products geared toward older teens.

A manicure/pedicure lounge inside the store on Main Street will offer teens a place to socialize with girlfriends. Girls can schedule a mani/pedi party for up to nine friends. The pedicure lounge is equipped with iPod chairs and custom-ozonated baths. Junior clothing will also be added for sale in early spring.

Another new addition is pre-dance "beauty prep parties" that will be held on the day of Amador Valley and Foothill high school dances, such as homecoming, junior prom, senior ball and Sadie Hawkins. Those who reserve a spot will have their hair styled and will receive manicures and pedicures for a discounted price. Girls must bring a student ID or dance ticket. Pure Girls has also started offering Co-ed Teen Dance Parties for up to 25 teens on Friday and Saturday nights, including a dinner and DJ. A kick-off party to introduce the

new services will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 21. For more information, call 485-4380.

Pleasanton orthodontist celebrates 35 years

Pleasanton Dr. Ford Roberts recently celebrated his 35th year providing orthodontic care at his office on 1472 Cedarwood Lane.

Honeywell to install solar panels to PUSD schools

Minnesota-based Honeywell was awarded a contract from the Pleasanton Unified School District for a solar energy project—one of the first of its kind for a K-12 school district in California.

Under the agreement, Honeywell will install, own and maintain solar panels on seven district buildings and sell the electricity the panels produce to the district at a price below its current utility rate.

"As caretakers of the public's money, our district always is exploring new ways to be more efficient," said Larry Lagatta, director of maintenance and operations for PUSD, which serves 14,600 students.

The solar technology is expected to supply 20 percent of the district's electricity and save an estimated

\$2.5 million in energy costs over the course of the 20-year contract. The district is also working with Honeywell and the National Energy Educational Development (NEED) to create curriculum that teaches students about the solar panels and other energy-saving measures.

AlarmPoint Systems maintains aggressive sales growth

Pleasanton-based AlarmPoint Systems announced recently that the company exceeded expectations for booked sales in the third quarter of its fiscal year, with a 21.6 percent bookings increase over last quarter and a 73.4 percent increase in bookings compared to the same quarter the prior year.

AlarmPoint is an enterprise-notification and event resolution platform that centralizes all system events through easy and repeatable processes.

Avanquest Software introduces new product

Pleasanton-based Avanquest Software, a leading developer and publisher of business and consumer software for the global PC market, recently introduced System Care

(continued on page 10)

Crash

(continued from page 5)

sengers also under 18 must drive with someone 25 years or older for the first year. Also under that law, they cannot drive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. The accident occurred around midnight.

Dressed in black button-up shirts and ties and with many of their heads bowed, members of the Foothill High School boys varsity basketball team carried Kyle O'Connor's casket into the parish hall of St. Augustine last Saturday for his funeral Mass. Hundreds gathered at the church where the 16-year-old was baptized and attended services to remember his life.

Basketball players were too distraught Monday to play their EBAL opening game against Monte Vista High School in Danville and the game was cancelled. Monday was also their first day back at school after being off last week for winter break, when the accident occurred.

Their Wednesday game at home against Granada High School of Livermore was scheduled to be played.

Thinking about a new sales career? Let's talk.

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

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

Gina Allen
President/Publisher
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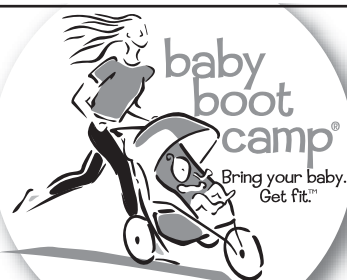


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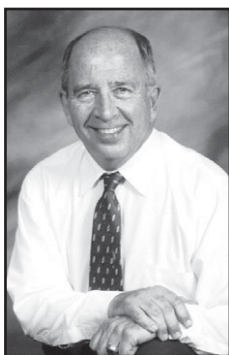
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REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

Diana Korpi



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Homebuyers are increasingly concerned about the rising cost of energy. It is common for buyers to ask about utility costs and the energy efficiency of a home when they are considering buying it. One way to reduce energy costs is as simple as changing your light bulbs—from standard ones to compact fluorescent bulbs that are designed to fit most standard light fixtures and lamps.

The initial purchase price of compact fluorescent bulbs may seem a little steep—they average between \$13 and \$20 per bulb -- but they last at least 10 times longer than a standard light bulb and will reduce your energy bills significantly. Manufacturers estimate that during the life of a single fluorescent bulb you will reduce your electric bill by over \$40. As an added bonus, the elec-

tric company will be able to reduce carbon dioxide emission by approximately half a ton per replacement bulb. Compact fluorescents don't work with dimmer switches, and if used outdoors, you should make sure that the fixture is well ventilated and protected from rain.

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

THE REMARKABLY FLEXIBLE HELOC

A HELOC, of course, is not some strange creature like, say, a prehistoric winged dinosaur. It's a home equity line of credit, and it is so extremely relevant to many of today's financing needs that we doubt it will ever become extinct.

HELOC programs vary in nature, but the first thing you should know about these loans is that they work very flexibly to allow you to achieve your financial goals. Let's say you want to draw some money from your equity to pay part of the college expenses of one of your children. Not only can you take out the HELOC now and not make any loan payments (except, possibly, certain origination fees) until you've actually drawn out some money, you can often also make your own choices about how large your monthly payments will be. Generally, you must cover the interest amount, but you will usually be able to decide for yourself how much of the loan balance you wish to pay down.

Most HELOC programs, at some point, automatically convert the remaining loan balance to a lump sum that must be repaid and cannot be added to. But there are no surprises here. You can map out your monetary needs, send your child to college, and pay down the loan as you are able to. In effect, it is a customizable loan program which you can adapt specifically to your needs and wishes.

As we have noted elsewhere, a HELOC is often a great device to use when you want to secure the purchase of a home before the sale of your prior home has been completed. Indeed, there are more potential beneficial uses of the HELOC program than can be imagined. And they all rely on one crucial fact: Your home is increasingly at the center of your financial life. Need assistance? Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Business

(continued from page 9)

Professional, an all-in-one solution that not only simplifies PC network setup and management, but also provides PC security, system diagnostics and repair. Complete with a five-user license, a single copy can protect up to five networked homes or business computers for \$49.95.

Trapeze Networks aids Gulf Coast relief workers

Relief workers in the Gulf Coast region will get some relief of their own from Pleasanton-based Trapeze Networks. The wireless networking business announced recently that several hundred volunteers housed at the Southwest Louisiana Volunteer Coordination and Housing Center and Camp Hope will be able to have 24/7 mobile access to the Internet via wireless networks donated by Trapeze.

SLVC, located in Lake Charles and Camp Hope, located in Violet in St. Bernard Parish, provide lodging for volunteers who are helping rebuild homes destroyed during hurricanes Katrina and Rita in late 2005. Volunteers coming in from other areas will be able to stay connected with their families, friends, employers and other contacts using Wi-Fi -enabled PCs and laptops anywhere in the facilities.

"The volunteers' work can be long and exhausting in the southern heat and humidity," said Billie Jean Bauer, director and co-founder of Partners in Prayer and Service, which teamed with United Way of Southern Louisiana to establish SLVC. "So it's important for them to stay in touch with family and friends."

Ross Stores reports gain of 2 percent

Ross Stores, based in Pleasanton, reported that sales grew 8 percent to \$729 million for the five weeks ending Dec. 30, compared to \$672

million for the same time period a year prior. December comparable store sales grew 2 percent on top of a 6 percent gain in the prior year period.

For the eleven months ending Dec. 30, sales also rose 11 percent to \$5.1 billion, compared to \$4.6 billion for the same time period in 2005. Comparable store sales for the same year-to-date period rose 4 percent on top of a 6 percent gain in the prior year.

"The Mid-Atlantic, the Southwest and Texas were the best performing geographic regions, while shoes remained the strongest merchandising department during the month," said Michael Balmuth, vice president, president and CEO of Ross. "Looking ahead, we continue to project same store sales gains of 1 percent to 3 percent in January."

Robert Half reports on Bay Area CFOs

Pleasanton-based financial staffing firm Robert Half International reports that 5 percent of chief financial officers in the Bay Area expect to add staff during the first quarter of 2007 and 4 percent anticipate reductions in personnel, according to the most recent Robert Half International Financial Hiring Index. The net 1 percent increase is down three points from the fourth-quarter 2006 forecast. The majority of respondents, 90 percent, foresee no change in hiring in the first quarter. The local results reflect a two-quarter rolling average based on the responses of 200 CFOs from a random sample of companies in the Bay Area with 20 or more employees; 1,400 CFOs were questioned for the national data.

"Employers in the San Francisco Bay Area expect more conservative hiring activity in the first quarter," said Robert Half CEO Max Messmer. "However, competition remains strong for highly skilled accounting and finance professionals in a number of specialties, including staff and senior accountant and internal auditor."

Fairgrounds

(continued from page 5)

adults, and free for children 15 and under with a paid adult. Parking is \$8. A \$2 off coupon is also available from the NCMA Web site, www.ncma.com.

Among the water vessels on display include 300 fishing boats, 150 wakeboard and ski boats, 50 yachts to 60 feet long, patio boats, canoes, sailboats and high performance race boats.

A 'wakerail' demonstration with pro wakeboarders, a 'Taste of the Delta' exhibit with wine tasting and fresh and saltwater fishing seminars taught by experts is also expected to reel the crowd in.

The fairgrounds will also welcome another show from Jan. 26 through Feb. 4. The 2007 Manufacturer's

RV Show, presented by GoodTimes Promotions, will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 28 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 4.

One of the largest indoor shows on the West Coast, the RV extravaganza will feature more than 100 RV manufacturers and lines, new 2007 models and participation from more than 20 RV dealerships.

Some of the types of RVs include motor homes, travel trailers, fifth wheels, cab-over campers, camper trailers, toy haulers and high-end models. Manufacturers include Forest River, Monaco/Holiday Rambler, Keystone and Airstream among others.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors ages 62 and older and free for children 6 and under. Parking is \$8. For more information and a \$2 off coupon on adult admission, visit www.rvshow.net.

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Take Us Along



Brave souls

Looking for some encouragement before zipping along a 200-foot high cable, (l-r) Randy Bowman, Guide Mike, Wendy Vandam, Jeff Durban and Janine Becker turn to the Weekly before taking the plunge. The Pleasanton friends went on this adventure at Princeville Ranch Adventures on the island of Kauai.



Weekly means romance

Greece isn't just for honeymoons—it' s a great spot for anniversaries, too. At least, that's according to (l-r) Nancy and Steve Biro, Sharlene and Marc Reisfelt and Lynda and George Karpaty who celebrated their 10-, 20- and 25-year anniversaries, respectively, on Hydra, one of the Cyclades islands of Greece. And of course, reading the Weekly made it all the more romantic.



Weekly dipped in chocolate

Pleasanton resident Aaron Wong, 8, shares his Weekly with his cousin Dylan Labosky, 16, before visiting Chocolate World in Hershey, Penn.



Bundle up in Russia

Doris George reads the Weekly on a cold May—that's right May—day in Petropavlovsk, Russia on the Kamchatka Peninsula where the last stretch of unspooled Siberia is located. On May 10, when George took the photo, it was 37 degrees, she reports. Too bad the Weekly she's reading doesn't provide insulation.



Fishin' for a story

Taryn and Jack Kay read the Weekly in Seattle before continuing on a cruise to Alaska.



Don't get lost

Once Margaret and Alan McGee found their way around Corleone, Sicily, they decided to take out their trusted Weekly for some reading.



It's a little 'Chile'

Cecily and Henry Person took a break from driving through Pucon, Chile to read the Weekly.



Living in a castle

Parents George and Tammy Almeida and their sons Jason and Kevin enjoy reading the Weekly while visiting the Palace at Sintra in Portugal.

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Opinion

Editorial

Should the school board appoint or elect its members?

There's good news for the Pleasanton school board. With long-time school activist Jill Buck the former lone applicant asking to be appointed to fill a pending vacancy on the board, four more stepped to the plate this week as of press time. The deadline to file is 4:30 p.m. today. They are Jennifer Carolan, Robert Gehl, Chris Grant and Marti Scalise. Coincidentally, this is the same number that applied two years ago to fill the seat vacated by Trustee Gloria Fredette, who resigned mid-term. Jim Ott was chosen to take her seat. Seeking election to the position last Nov. 7, along with veteran board member Patrick Kernan, who was seeking re-election, no one contested their bids with the result that they were declared winner by default.

Today's deadline is for applicants who want to succeed Trustee Steve Pulido, an attorney and former board president, who has resigned effective Feb. 2 to accept Gov. Schwarzenegger's appointment to an Alameda County Superior Court judgeship. The school board, as it did before appointing Ott, will review the applications, make sure candidates are qualified in accordance with state laws and then interview those eligible. The board is expected to announce its decision at either a special meeting planned for Jan. 30 or at its regularly-scheduled meeting Feb. 6.

We have no quarrel with any of the candidates or, so far, with their qualifications to serve on the school board. Still, we think voters and taxpayers should question the decision by the current board to once again appoint, instead of publicly electing, a successor for Pulido. This would be the second consecutive appointment to fill a board seat. Given the lack of a public vote on Nov. 7, there's even a question if Kernan was actually re-elected, since there was no election.

The school board has a history of appointing members to the board where there's a vacancy and they, including Kernan, often go on to seek election to the post with all of the advantages that incumbency brings to a political race. When the school board selects a trustee, its members may consider how comfortable they will be in working with the applicant or even if the applicant's views on issues facing the district—such as the need to build a 10th elementary school or a third high school—agrees with theirs. These are issues and views that would be aired publicly in a school district election.

The Pleasanton City Council, in its wisdom, decided several years ago that it would always pay the \$100,000-plus to hold special elections if a vacancy occurred between regular municipal elections, which, like the school board's, are held every two years. While appointments to the council could save taxpayers' money—as well as the cost to candidates who would vie for election—the council determined that these special elections are part of the cost of a democracy, or simply paying for the cost of doing business the right way.

That said, we share the school board's concern that spending \$100,000 or more on a special election may take money away from schools and academic programs when the trustee they appoint can seek voter approval at the next regularly scheduled election, which in this case, will be November 2008. With no term limits for school board members, compared to an eight-year limit for City Council members, an appointment with the likelihood the incumbent will be elected later needs careful consideration.

Also relevant is the poor health of school board President Juanita Haugen. Should she be unable to complete her term, the board's precedent would be to appoint another member, with a majority on the board having never been elected to serve in those positions. That's not a good scenario for voters, taxpayers, teachers or our children.

Letters

Trails in open area a fire danger

Dear Editor,

We are opposed to any trails or access due to the fire danger.

There have been many fires on the hills in the open space in the past several years. One was particularly problematic for Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department a year ago in September 2005 as it started in the open space and raced towards homes on Smallwood Court. While LPPFD has several four-wheel drive tankers staged in nearby fire stations, they could not get to most fire areas, mostly due to the slope of the hillsides and other logistics, per the fire captain on duty at the time. Their only option was to string hoses from hydrants on the Smallwood Court.

More recently, there was a fire off Hearst Drive the night of July 4, and one in the early hours of July 5 on Smallwood Court. Representatives of LPPFD have told us about the difficulty they could face if a fire started in one of the ravines in the open space, where the trails are proposed.

Fire danger to the nearby homes is a constant threat, but is especially heightened in the dry season. Compounding matters is the direction of the wind at this time, flowing from east to west from the open space to the homes in the area. A staging area with trails will attract not only those conscientious residents but also those less so. Our younger generation will soon discover the discreetness of these trails and will be frequently visiting them to do what many young kids do. All it will take is one discarded but lit cigarette on the dry grass and poof...LPPFD has more than they can handle.

While all of us Pleasanton residents appreciate open trails, it is

just too dangerous a proposition to some of us fellow residents to have this area opened up.

*Greg and Sherry Albin
Pleasanton*

Obey license law

Dear Editor,

I want to offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Kyle O'Connor, the Pleasanton teenager who was killed Jan. 3 in a single-car accident. Kyle's high school classmates are understandably disturbed by what has happened. Our community is saddened that yet another Pleasanton teenager has died in an auto accident. What can be done to prevent more such deaths? A good place to start would be for novice drivers to abide by their license restrictions. Three community groups can work to make this happen.

Novice Drivers: The next time you are ready to violate your license restrictions, think instead about Kyle O'Connor. Even by being an underage passenger with a novice driver, you are contributing to the violation of that driver's license restrictions.

Parents: Do not allow your children to violate their license restrictions. Failing to support or turning a blind eye to the law jeopardizes novice drivers, their passengers and others.

Pleasanton police: Aggressively enforce the license restrictions for novice drivers. The department sets up sobriety checkpoints. You can do the same for license checks. It can be done in such a way that it is not discriminatory. If you doubt the value of such a program, answer this question: What has caused more traffic fatalities in Pleasanton in the past three years, drunk driving or single car accidents with teenage occupants?

*Jeff Narum
Pleasanton*

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Curt and Valarie Gordon sit with Oakland artist Dmitry Grudsky, who cut and laid each tile to create the colorful memorial mosaic bench at Val Vista Park called Ryan's Bench.



Foothill and Amador Valley alumni gathered for a soccer game on Dec. 30. The game now raises money for the Ryan Gordon Memorial Scholarship.

Ryan Gordon
accident

Soccer scholars

Soccer was an integral part of Ryan's life. He played for BUSC for 12 years and a few years at Foothill. It was probably in high school that many knew him.

"He had more friends than any I've ever seen," Curt Gordon said. "He touched more people's lives than most people I know."

His claim to Foothill soccer fame came in his senior year when he scored a goal against hometown rivals Amador Valley. He was named MVP of the game.

Foothill head soccer coach Chuck Gordon, BUSC coach Bob Moss and Foothill coach Kevin Johnson came to the Gordon family. They proposed the idea of a scholarship in Ryan's name. Thus, the Ryan Gordon Memorial Scholarship was created.

The \$1,000 award benefits a senior player on the Foothill boys or girls soccer team who wants to play soccer in college. The Gordon family has received about 100 applications over the soccer season. The winner is announced at the annual Foothill awards night.

There have been five recipients of the scholarship in three years—three receiving a \$750 award in their first year. Past scholarship winners attended Oregon State, Harvard, USC and the University of Oregon.

In order to make the scholarship sustainable, the group planned to raise \$25,000. They held fundraisers, washes and manned booths at community events, but then came the idea for an alumni game.

Alumni games

More than 120 alumni, several of whom played with Ryan, came to the Foothill soccer field on Dec. 16, 2004 for the first-ever Ryan Gordon Alumni Game. Players all the way from the '70s came to battle cross-town rivals. The gate receipts, players' fees and other contributions brought in \$9,700—a total of \$27,700 towards the memorial scholarship.

With the scholarship funded and the game in full force, the event is now in full force today, raising money for both soccer and other programs. In fact, Curt said that when he was on the junior varsity team, they had to me-down uniforms. Proceeds from the game have funded new uniforms. More than 220 alumni have participated in the game, which have raised about \$25,000 in three years.

"Players like the reunion aspect," Curt said. "Being that with more young and competitive players, fewer older alumni are coming, we have kids coming from around the world. The games are very professional. The scoreboard going and an announcer shouting back and forth between [playing at] Santa Barbara and Foothill."

Looking toward the future of the scholarship, Curt said they'll definitely continue as long as there are soccer players.

Remembering Ryan

Student athlete's spirit lives on in the city he loved

by Emily Atwood

Police knock on your door in the middle of the night. Your child was involved in a terrible and fatal accident. In a shocking moment, the glimmering future of your recent high school graduate is gone.

That's what the Gordon family was left to deal with July 29, 2003. Curt and Valarie's son Ryan died in a boating accident weeks after graduating from Foothill High School.

The all-around athlete was a forward on the varsity soccer team, but also was on both the Ballistic United Soccer Club and Del Prado Stingrays Swim teams. He planned to continue playing soccer with some of his Falcon teammates at Santa Barbara City College.

So how does a family cope with the shocking absence of a son? With the help of close friends, the Gordon family took action.



...er for the fourth annual Ryan Gordon Alumni Game for soccer programs at both schools.



...yan Gordon, pictured with his dog Clancy, died in a boating accident shortly after graduating from Foothill High School in 2003.

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interest. This year's game was held Dec. 30, a time they thought alumni would be home on vacation. Yet, many were vacationing elsewhere, so finding the perfect date still remains a challenge. They are also considering adding a game for the "seasoned" alumni, who have been few and far between as the competition intensifies.

Both the scholarship and the alumni game keep the Gordons busy most months of the year and they're glad to be a part of it.

"Every parent's concern is that their child won't be forgotten," Valarie said. "[The games are] a tribute to Ryan and that's really special. And it's for a good cause; I love that. When we get together with those friends, it's that they remember Ryan and that makes me feel like he won't be forgotten. It's one of the joys of our lives."

Ryan's bench

While soccer and other sports were a passion, Ryan also loved Pleasanton. That's why the Gordon family was approached by family friends, the Testas, who thought he should be remembered through an art piece at a local park.

"He was very much a part of the community and had a real love for this area," Valarie said. "People came up to us and said they wanted to remember Ryan in this way. It's important to acknowledge that he was here, but also that he's left some large footprints in Pleasanton."

A colorful mosaic bench was designed by Dmitry Grudsky, an Oakland artist originally from Moscow, and installed at Val Vista Community Park. The curving bench features hand-cut and laid mosaic tiles depicting some of Ryan's favorite things: soccer, bike riding, Dr. Pepper, rollerblades and more. The wavy backrest even mirrors another favorite of Ryan's, the Pleasanton Ridge off in the distance.

About 300 people came to the dedication of Ryan's bench, which was installed about a year ago. Though it took more than two years for the idea to come to fruition, the family is very grateful to have a spot to go to remember their son and the things he loved. The Gordons visit the colorful memorial often, and it even serves as the turn-around point for Valarie's bike route.

Almost four years later

While these various tributes to Ryan keep the family busy, they have also helped them cope with their loss.

Curt didn't find much solace through bereavement groups. Instead, you can often find him watching scholarship applicants at games or at practices, and doing

much of the work organizing the alumni games. Being involved in local sports was natural for him, as he had coached many of Ryan's teams over the years. He also turned to marathon biking—clocking more than 19,000 miles since 2004.

Valarie, on the other hand, felt safe to express her grief through bereavement groups. She first started with a group at Hope Hospice and then was introduced to the group at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. It was there she became a bereavement minister and helped many others deal with the loss of a loved one.

"At the time I lost Ryan, I didn't think anyone else knew what I was feeling," she said. "I found that we all deal with grief in different ways. [Curt] needed to go out and do all these activities. For me [the bereavement groups] gave me my outlet."

Ryan's sister Alicia, now 19, was only 15 when he died. At that time, she had only known a brother who teased her mercilessly; they hadn't bonded as adults, Valarie said. During the tough times, she focused on being a "model child."

Getting good grades paid off and she now attends UC Santa Barbara, where Ryan had dreamed of attending and would probably have been graduating from this year. There, she's enrolled in outdoor and intramural soccer and

(continued on page 16)

Dear Ryan,
One memory I cherish is a weekend we spent in Santa Barbara with you, helping to arrange for your apartment as you took the entrance exam, and we had some time to rent bikes and tour for a few hours. You and Curt rented road bikes, and I thought a one speed cruiser would be more my style. As we cruised around the coast, enjoying the beach, watching the surfers, we came upon a particularly difficult hill. Curt was barreling up at his usual full-on sprint and I was struggling to keep up. You rode up behind me and helped to push me up the hill, cajoling me to catch Curt... I thought at the time how grateful I was to have such a sweet kid.
Love forever,
Mom

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Cover Story

Ryan

(continued from page 15)

frequently plays with people from Foothill. And though she doesn't have Ryan to guide her around the campus, his Foothill friends have stepped in as big brothers.

"I had a hard time starting my second year at Foothill after we lost Ryan, but we came together as a family to move forward," Alicia said. "We're a very close family and it was hard to leave for college last September."

Alicia, who returned to Santa Barbara last Sunday, said she sees her parents frequently when they come down to watch her soccer games and when she comes home for long weekends. With 14 at the school from her 2006 graduating class at Foothill, it's not hard to catch a ride to Pleasanton.

The Gordons may have lost a son, but it is his friends who have helped fill in the gap. Many frequently call or stop by. The Gordons recently had about 15 of his friends over for dinner around the holidays.

"The kids have been a huge part of the support," Valarie said. "I hear from his friends fairly often. They'll call and say, 'I just had a beer and thought of him and wish he was here with me.' Those rites of passage are so important and they still come back to me and include me in them. They even call on Mother's Day. It makes me feel warm and fuzzy that people remember him."

One friend, Kevin Lauricella, has stayed especially close. With several of Ryan's school expenses already paid for, Curt and Valarie decided to help Lauricella by funding his first year at Santa Barbara City College. There, he studied business management, which now serves him as a mortgage broker in Portland. He still keeps in touch with the family, most recently spending some time with them at Thanksgiving.

"They're a very close family; a strong family that did everything together," he said. "I went on many trips with them to their cabin and Curt was always involved with Ryan."

Though Ryan was a great athlete, many remember him as the guy you always wanted to be around.

"Ryan was one of those people who always made you laugh," Lauricella said. "Wherever he went, everybody would always end up having a good time. You really can't say enough about him."

While he had a great sense of humor, his mother remembers him as a very kind and loving kid.

"He would listen and reach out and hug you," she said. "I remember even when he was 18 and getting in trouble and sitting on my lap. He was a handful, but he was hard to be mad at."

For the Gordon family and his close friends, remembering Ryan is just as much about the future as it is the past.

"It's really easy to long for his touch, voice and smile," Valarie said. "I also realized that today is what he lived for. That's what we have to live for and that's what we embrace." ■

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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, January 16, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal

- **Public Hearing:** Consider recommendations for use of Citizen's Option for Public Safety Program (COPS) appropriation and adopt a resolution approving expenditures from the State of California COPS program funds
 - **Public Hearing:** PAP-102, Pleasanton Village Association/Rohit and Sonia Gupta, Appellants PDR-561/PV-158, John Miller Architects/Saint Elizabeth Seton Church) Appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of the applications for: (1) design review approval to modify the Saint Elizabeth Seton Church Master Plan to construct an approximately 22,296-square-foot parish center building with gymnasium and related site improvements on the existing Church site located at 4001 Stoneridge Drive; and (2) a variance from the Municipal Code to allow the proposed parish center building with gymnasium to be approximately 34 feet tall, where 30 feet is the maximum height limit allowed. Zoning for the property is Agriculture
 - Status report on the General Plan update and discussion of the Draft Community Character Element of the General Plan
 - Review of the updated draft Financing Plan for Vineyard Avenue Corridor Infrastructure Improvements
- Approve plans and specifications, review bids and award contract to Gateway Pacific Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$231,312.00; for Turnout No. 6 Improvements and award contract to JBM Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$1,785,700.00 for the Vineyard Avenue Booster Pump Station and approve contingencies for both projects to cover construction management, soils/materials testing, landscaping and construction contingencies for these facilities.
- Review of the Draft Housing Needs Allocation Methodology for 2007-2014

Library Commission

Thursday, January 18, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Pleasanton Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal

- Review and Consider Library Technical Study

Housing Commission

Thursday, January 18, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal

- Recommendation Regarding Proposed Affordable Housing Plan for the Oak Grove Project (Hearst Drive)
- Update Regarding the Public Advocates Law Suit
- Recommendation Regarding the Condominium Conversion Ordinance
- Update Regarding Expiration of Below-Market Rental Agreements

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, January 18, 2007 @ 7:30 a.m.
City of Pleasanton Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

- **Regency Centers/Home Depot Project**
Presentation of proposed Home Depot project by Pete Knoedler from Regency Centers
- **Draft Economic Development Strategic Plan**
Review of draft Economic Development Strategic Plan

TV30 At-Large Representative Recruitment

TV30 Board of Directors is now accepting applications for an at-large member. This is a non-paid position.

Tri-Valley Community Television is a California non-profit public benefit corporation under Internal Revenue code section 501(c)(3). The corporation is governed by a seven member Board of Directors comprised of four citizen volunteers appointed by the cities of Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton and San Ramon and three at-large representatives selected by the Board. Approximately 66% of the \$651,000 operating budget for fiscal year 2006-07 is appropriated by the four cities from revenue generated through cable television franchise fees. The balance of revenue is derived from production fees, grants, and sponsorships and underwriting.

Applicants must reside within the viewing area of Tri-Valley Community Television and be able to view Tri-Valley Channels 28, 29 and 30. An at-large member is appointed for a two year term. The Board of Directors meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are currently being held at Dublin City Hall.

Applications are available at the Pleasanton City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton, on the City's website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us or at the TV30 website at <http://tv30.org/boardapp.asp>

For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk (925) 931-5027. Applications must be received no later than Friday, January 19, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.; postmarks are not accepted. Applicants will be notified regarding interviews and the selection process once the filing period is closed.

**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

Police Bulletin

Drug house condemned

After seven people were arrested in late December for drug and child endangerment charges, a city building inspector and the Assistant Fire Marshal from the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department condemned 3517 S. Glacier Court Jan. 4 for numerous health and safety violations. The Livermore-

Pleasanton Fire Department said the house was deemed unsafe to occupy after finding improper construction blocking exits, a lack of a fire wall between the house and storage area, and large amounts of clutter. Gary Soffer, the homeowner, will be able to live in the house after he gets a permit from the city and presents a plan to repair the house to the building and fire departments.

Police Report

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

December 30

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 1:29 a.m. at the intersection of Apache Drive and W. Las Positas Blvd.; strong arm robbery
 - 2:04 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth over \$400
 - 5:51 p.m. in the 4000 block of Blacow Street; identity theft
 - 7:15 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting, worth \$200-400
- Vandalism:
 - 1:15 p.m. in the 6800 block of Calle Altamira; residential, worth less than \$1,000
 - 3:53 p.m. in the 4300 block of First Street; worth \$1,000 or less
 - 9:45 p.m. in the 1600 block of Ramblewood Way; residential, worth \$1,000 or less
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:20 a.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and W. Las Positas Boulevard; possession/sale of marijuana
 - 12:52 a.m. at the intersection of Calle Reynoso and Via San Blas; possession of alcohol by minor
 - 8:55 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; possession of marijuana while driving
 - 9:21 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; possession of synthetic drugs
 - 2:15 p.m. in the 3000 block of Mall Lot; public drunkenness
 - 2:59 p.m. at the intersection of Neal and First streets; public drunkenness
 - 3:30 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Black Avenue; public drunkenness
 - 5:20 p.m. at the intersection of California Avenue and Nevada Street; possession of paraphernalia
- Assault:
 - 11:08 a.m. in the 3500 block of Yellowstone Court

December 31

- Found property: 2
- Vandalism:
 - 7:42 a.m. in the 7400 block of Highland Oaks Drive; vehicular, worth \$1,000 or less
 - 9:31 a.m. in the 5800 block of Valley Avenue; public, worth \$1,000 or less
 - 9:59 a.m. at the intersection of Koll Center Parkway and Valley Avenue; public, worth \$1,000
- Vehicular burglary:

- 8:39 a.m. in the 4400 block of Clovewood Lane; worth over \$400
- 11:24 a.m. in the 5000 block of Muirwood Drive; worth \$50-199
- Possession of cocaine:
 - 1:53 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- Assault:
 - 1:57 a.m. in the 600 block of Peters Avenue
- Public drunkenness:
 - 5:37 p.m. in the 2100 block of Stoneridge Mall Avenue
- Possession of marijuana:
 - 8:00 p.m. at the intersection of Ensenada Drive and Arroyo Court

January 1

- DUI: 2
- Theft:
 - 2:00 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-200
 - 3:00 p.m. in the 5900 block of Arthur Drive; identity theft
 - 3:37 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 5:47 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; from building, worth \$50-199
- Vehicular vandalism:
 - 5:46 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive; worth \$1,000 or less
 - 7:03 p.m. in the 6800 block of Santa Rita Road; worth \$1,000 or less
- Unauthorized entry:
 - 8:31 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive
 - 3:05 p.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue
- Stolen vehicle:
 - 6:47 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive

January 2

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 9:08 a.m. in the 600 block of Oak Circle; from vehicle, worth \$50-199
 - 10:30 a.m. in the 6900 block of Koll Center Parkway; stolen truck
 - 12:50 p.m. in the 5500 block of Blackbird Drive; identity theft
 - 2:09 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall; shoplifting, worth \$50-200
 - 3:50 p.m. in the 3500 block of Gresham Court; identity theft
 - 9:21 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; shoplifting, worth over \$400
- Vandalism:
 - 9:34 a.m. in the 4900 block of Pleasanton Avenue; vehicular; worth \$1,000 or less

- 8:37 p.m. in the 4600 block of Cochise Court; residential, worth \$1,000 or less
- Burglary:
 - 8:30 a.m. in the 3500 block of Bernal Avenue
- Public drunkenness:
 - 1:00 a.m. at the intersection of Pleasanton and Bernal avenues
 - 4:39 p.m. at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Arlington Drive
- Possession of paraphernalia:
 - 10:06 a.m. in the 4300 block of Second Street
- Assault:
 - 11:07 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

January 3

- Theft:
 - 8:34 a.m. in the 4900 block of Pleasanton Avenue; stolen vehicle
 - 2:30 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue
 - 3:30 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; forged checks
 - 4:00 p.m. in the 30 block of California Avenue; vehicle parts, worth over \$400
- Public vandalism:
 - 9:53 a.m. at the intersection of Koll Center Parkway and Valley Avenue; worth \$1,000 or less
 - 3:27 p.m. at the intersection of I-580 and Santa Rita Road; graffiti
- Sex with a minor:
 - 2:57 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley and Stanley boulevards
- Public drunkenness:
 - 7:38 p.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive
- Possession of marijuana:
 - 10:40 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vine Street

January 4

- DUI: 3
- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 2:30 p.m. in the 4100 block of Mohr Avenue; from vehicle, worth \$50-199
 - 3:00 p.m. in the 300 block of Main Street; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 3:25 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
 - 4:56 p.m. in the 6100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; shoplifting, worth less than \$50
 - 5:47 p.m. in the 8300 block of Regency Drive; identity theft
 - 6:00 p.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court; identity theft
- Vandalism:
 - 6:59 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street; worth \$1,000 or less

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Transitions

Obituaries

Kyle Joseph O'Connor

Kyle Joseph O'Connor died Jan. 3 at the age of 16.

A native of Newton, Mass., he lived with his family in Pleasanton for the past 15 years. He attended Lydiksen Elementary School, Hart Middle School and was a junior at Foothill High School, where he was on the boys varsity basketball team.

His passions were weightlifting, being with friends and his beloved dog, PIP. He also attended St. Augustine's Catholic Church. He was an incredible young man who enjoyed life and was loved by many.

He is survived by his parents Stephen and Linda of Pleasanton; brother Sean of Pleasanton; and grandparents Cynthia O'Connor of St. Petersburg Beach, Fla., and Mark and Laura Egebrecht of Norton, Mass.

Visitation and a vigil were held Jan. 5 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. A Mass was held Jan. 6 at St. Augustine's Catholic Church and burial followed at St. Michael's Cemetery in Livermore.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to be made to Foothill Athletic Boosters, Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

Alice "Sally" Ronan

Alice "Sally" Ronan died Jan. 1 in Pleasanton at the age of 89.

Mrs. Ronan was born April 27, 1917 in Chicago. She lived in Woodstock, Ill. for 35 years and Alameda for 11 years before moving to Pleasanton six years ago. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Northern Illinois University and was an elementary school principal. She also loved traveling.

Mrs. Ronan is survived by her son Joseph (Colleen) Ronan of Pleasanton; brother Robert Heisey of St. Charles, Ill.; and grandchildren Katie and Patrick Ronan of Pleasanton.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Joseph E. Ronan and her sisters, Lorraine Lammers and Edna Pell.

A Mass was held Jan. 5 at St. Augustine's Catholic Church followed by a burial service at St. Augustine's Cemetery. Arrangements were handled by Graham-Hitch Mortuary of Pleasanton.

Births



Mark Morello

Best possible 'get well' gift

Pleasanton school board president Juanita Haugen was at John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek for a scheduled radiation treatment in her battle against cancer when she got word that Holly Morello, the youngest of her four daughters, was headed for the same hospital to give birth.

So Haugen was standing by as Holly, her husband Mark and their new-born son Giovanni Sebastian Morello were brought from the delivery room to a visitor's area where "Grandma Juanita" was anxiously awaiting to see her first grandchild.

Giovanni Sebastian was born at 9:17 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5 weighing in at 7 pounds, 3 ounces. The Morellos live in Brentwood.

December 11

Brenda & David Le Count, a girl

December 12

Emmeline & Ed Chen, a girl

December 16

Suchitra Kandhi & Satheesh Muppana, a girl

December 18

Bonnie & Dennis Lee, a boy

Jennifer Natsch-Jensen & Kent Jensen, a boy

December 19

Tamela & Juan Guerrero, a girl

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Sports

Amador sweeps Foothill in alumni game

\$4,500 raised for both schools' soccer programs

For the second year in a row, Amador swept the women's and men's Ryan Gordon Alumni Soccer games. The Amador women won 5-1 and the Amador men won on penalty kicks (4-3) after regulation ended tied 2-2.

Scoring for the Lady Dons were Beverly Mayer ('04, three goals), Kaitlyn McDonald ('00) and Julie Solano ('93). Valerie Mayer ('02), Ashley Kenitzer and McDonald added the assists. Kim Patrick ('99) scored the lone goal for Foothill. Amador goalie Erin Murray ('04) had eight saves.

Brian Cox ('00) and Tim Foley ('00) scored for the Amador Men while Kyle Crain ('06) had two goals for Foothill. Nick Winslow assisted on the Cox goal. Boomer Cruz ('06) assisted on one of the Crain goals. Rob Flores ('96) was outstanding in goal for the winners. Brad Googins ('87) was also superb in goal for Foothill.

BUSC and Rage provided the halftime entertainment. BUSC U12 boys played the Rage U13 girls during the half of the women's game and BUSC U11 boys played the Rage U12 girls during the half of them men's game. The scores were 0-0 and 1-0 respectively.

Eighty players from the 70s, 80s, 90s and 00s played in this year's games, which alternate between the fields at Amador and Foothill High schools. (This year the games were at Amador.)

This was a community effort as several people helped make the games possible. Volunteers and coaches from each school helped organize the event by staffing the snack bar, announcing the game and handling tickets. Pleasanton Referees Association officiate the games. The youth players even acted as ball girls and boys.



A total of \$4,500 was raised at this year's Ryan Gordon Alumni women's and men's soccer games, where Amador swept Foothill.

This year, \$4,500 was raised towards soccer programs at each school. Through four years, more than \$25,000 has been raised. All-Star Sports provided the jerseys and the Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill donated funds from earnings made at the postgame gathering. ■

Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

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Calendar

Auditions

Playhouse West Academy Winter Session

The Playhouse West Academy is holding interviews for winter quarter acting classes beginning the week of Jan. 24. The Academy will be offering professional in-depth training for beginning, intermediate and advanced students in stage and film acting for adults ages 15 and older. Playhouse West Kids, ages 7-13 will also be holding its winter session. Tuition for

an 8-week session is \$235 for adults, \$295 for children. Classes are held at Playhouse West Theatre, 1345 Locust St., Walnut Creek. Call 943-6464.

'Survivor' Casting Call

CBS 5 is holding an open casting call for the reality TV show "Survivor" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 20 at Metro PCS, 900 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco. Call (415) 765-8788 or visit www.cbs5.com for more information.

Valley Concert Chorale

Valley Concert Chorale will hold auditions by appointment for experienced singers Jan. 15 and Jan. 29. The

Chorale is looking for singers who enjoy performing a wide range of music from classical to contemporary, folk to jazz. Call 426-4205 to schedule an appointment.

Youth Music Festival

Auditions for the Fifth Annual Youth Music Festival are scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m., Jan. 25 and 30 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal and instrumental ensembles age 18 or younger may audition. Rock bands are not included in the festival. Auditions are by appointment only. Contact Mark Duncanson at 931-3481 or e-mail at mduncanson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us for more information.

Author Visits

Founder of Salon.com Speaks

Scott Rosenberg, founder of Salon.com, will present his new book "Dreaming in Code: Two Dozen Programmers, 4732 Bugs, and One Quest for Transcendent Software" 2 p.m. Jan. 21 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.

Friends Read 'One Poem at a Time'

Friends of former Pleasanton Poet Laureate Charlene Vilella will read from her book "One Poem at a Time" 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. The book is a collection of poems published posthumously and chronicles Vilella's battle with cancer. Call Cynthia Bryant, 398-8846 for more information.

Local Writers Read at Borders

Pleasanton Poet Laureate Cynthia Bryant and local poet, essayist, and food and wine journalist Deborah Grossman will read from their current publications from 3 to 5 p.m. Jan. 28 at Borders, 4574 Rosewood Drive. The reading kicks off Borders' Local Author Series. Call 227-1412 for more information.

Persian Author Visits Library

Dr. Persis Karim will present her anthology "Let Me Tell You Where I've Been: New Writing by Women of the Iranian Diaspora" 2 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Pleasanton Public Library. She will be joined by authors Tara Fatemi, Esther Kamkar and Sanaz Nikaein. Admission is free. Visit www.persiskarim.com to learn more about the author. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405, for more information.

Book Clubs

Great Books

The Great Books book club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.

Great Books of Pleasanton

The Great Books of Pleasanton book club meets at 7:30 p.m., the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie, 846-1658.

Mother/Daughter 5-7 Grade Book Club

The Mother/Daughter 5-7 Grade Book Club will meet 4 p.m. Feb. 9 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.

Weekend Preview



Eric Wood

'Once Upon a Mattress' opens tonight

Sir Harry (Robert Sholty) and Lady Larken (Julie Dahms) are in love, but have troubles ahead in the musical "Once Upon a Mattress" opening tonight at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. The Pleasanton Playhouse presents this fanciful musical 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Jan. 28. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors 60 and older, and \$20 for juniors 18 and younger. Call 462-2121 or visit www.pleasantonplayhouse.com for tickets.

The Pleasanton Weekly is looking for a Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

Summary of the Position

We are looking for someone with a pleasant disposition to join our fabulous team. If you are interested and have proven clerical skills, a strong command of the English language, proficiency with Microsoft Word and data entry experience, contact us to learn more about the position.

Job Duties

The Receptionist/Administrative Assistant is the face and voice of the paper serving as the initial contact with our customers both in person and over the phone; assists in referring customers for assistance and scheduling appointments as needed; and ensures that all supplies and equipment for the office are available and in working order.

Job Requirements:

- Previous clerical experience including interaction with customers.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Word and data entry.
- Pleasant disposition
- Strong command of the English language.
- Ability to work calmly under deadlines and changing priorities.
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Send resume, cover letter and salary requirements to gallen@pleasantonweekly.com by Jan. 15. No calls. EOE.

PLEASANTON
WEEKLY

Mother/Daughter Teen Book Club

The Mother/Daughter Teen Book Club will meet 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17 to discuss "King Dork" at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.

Political Book Club

The Political Book Club meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday monthly at the Livermore Library, 1000 S. Livermore Ave. Call 462-7495 or visit www.trivalleydems.com for more information.

Civic Meetings

City Council

The council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 16.

Housing Commission

The commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 18.

Human Services Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Feb. 7.

Library Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at

Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 18.

Parks & Recreation Commission
The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Feb. 8.

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 Jan. 24.

School Board

The board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly in the district office board room 4665 Bernal Ave. The next meeting is Jan. 17.

Youth Commission

The commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The next meeting is Feb. 14.

Classes

International Folk Dancers

The Del Valle International Folk Dancers welcome beginning and experienced dancers for Balkan, Israeli

(continued on page 21)

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Calendar

and other world dances. Weekly classes meet from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the upstairs studio at Triple Threat Performing Arts, 315 Wright Brothers Avenue. Cost is \$4. Call George Pavel, 447-8020.

Widow/Widowers Grief Recovery Class

This 10-week class for widows and widowers focuses on finding hope and providing support for successful ways to process this significant life event. The course is open to all widows and widowers. Winter enrollments are now being accepted. Pre-Registration required. The workbook is \$5. Classes are held at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Call Linda Husted, 833-9013. Call Merrilee Harter Mitchell, (510) 482-5296 for a complete list of meetings in the East Bay Area.

Women and Money

Pleasanton USD Adult Ed presents "Women and Money ... Reach your Potential" with Christina Ahlstrand, CFP at Village High School, Rm. 701, 4645 Bernal Ave. The class meets three times from 7 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$45. Pre-registration is required. Call 426-4280 or visit <http://pleasanton.k12.trivalley.com>.

Clubs

Amador Valley Toastmasters

Amador Valley Toastmasters meets every Thursday morning at 7 a.m. at Mimi's Cafe Restaurant in the Hacienda Crossings Shopping Center, Dublin Blvd. and Hacienda Drive, Dublin. Contact Mark Triska, mtriska@colliersparrish.com or 227-6210 for more information.

American Legion Post 237

American Legion Post 237 meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday monthly at the Regalia House, 4133 Regalia. Call Rene, 846-7532, or Dan, 846-7320.

Boutique Textile Art

Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m. to 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.

Concerts

Foothill Winter Chorale Concert

The Foothill High School Winter Chorale Concert--featuring the concert choir, jazz singers, women's choir, men's ensemble and chamber singers--will be 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. Tickets are \$5 general, \$3 students/seniors. Contact JoAnn Koobatian, 461-6600 or jkoobatian@pleasanton.k12.ca.us for tickets.

Red Priest Performs

Red Priest, a baroque quartet, will perform 8 p.m. Jan. 27 at First Presbyterian Church, 2050 Fifth St., Livermore. The event is sponsored by Del Valle Fine Arts. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$16 for seniors 62 and older or full-time students. Tickets are free for children and students through high school. Call 447-2752 or 443-5470 for ticket information. Visit www.delvallefinearts.org.

Events

"Claws for Paws" Crab Feed

The Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) hosts the second annual fundraiser "Claws for Paws" Crab Feed from 6-10 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The event, which includes dinner, entertainment and a silent auction, will raise funds to help with the rescue of countless animals. Tickets are \$45 per person. For tickets go to www.

(continued on page 22)

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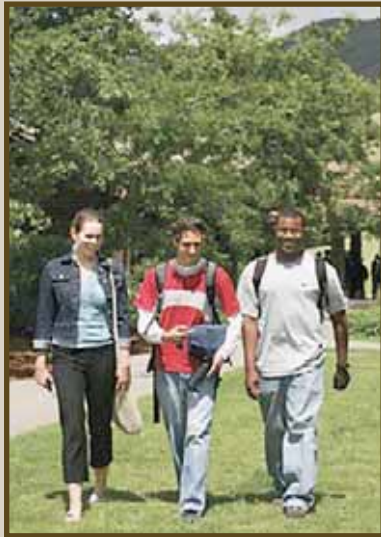
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Funeral for a Gangster

The Pleasanton Hotel is hosting "Funeral for a Gangster," a mystery dinner theater event where participants attend a "memorial service" for Vito "The Gut" Marzetti and attempt to solve the mystery. Cost is \$60 and includes a three course dinner and four course act. Call 846-8106.

Towne Center Celebrates Anniversary

Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., celebrates its ninth anniversary from 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 20 with refreshments, prizes, special author visits and a 10 percent discount on all merchandise.

Wine Release at Mitchell Katz

Mitchell Katz Winery at Ruby Hill, 1188 Vineyard Ave., is hosting a wine release event for its 2003 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon and 2005 Sangiovese-Crackerbox Vineyard from noon to 5 p.m., Feb. 3. Cost is \$15 per person. Call 931-0744 or visit www.mitchellkatzwinery.com for more information.

You Call This Jewish Food?

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews hosts a series of dining events called "You Call This Jewish Food?" starting Jan. 13. There will be five monthly dining-out events held the second Saturday of the month, each focusing on the Jews

of a country or region. The series begins with the Jews of Central Asia with a dinner at the Royal Afghan in Dublin. Cost is \$20 and reservations are required. Call 461-1694 or e-mail CulturalJews@aol.com.

Exhibits

Dee Haag at WaMu

Local artist Dee Haag's work is on display now through the end of January at Washington Mutual Bank, 561 Main Street. Haag's work is a variety of original landscape watercolor paintings. The public is invited to view her work during regular bank business hours.

Local Artists Display Work

The Pleasanton Art League Public Art Circuit has made its fall rotation. New pieces by local artists can be viewed at the Pleasanton branch of Bank of America, Keller Williams Realty and Towne Center Books, all on Main Street; the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce on Peters Avenue; and R.E. Realty Experts on Hopyard Road. For additional locations, call Lisa Davis, 518-4436.

Music in the 1890s, 1920s and 1940s

"Music in the 1890s, 1920s and 1940s" is on display at the Museum

(continued on page 23)

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Calendar

On Main, 603 Main St., now through mid-April. The exhibit highlights the history of music in the three eras that produced important musical styles and artist songs and includes sheet music, clothing and instruments. Admission to the museum is a \$2 requested donation. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org for more information.

Up Close and Far Away

Worthington Gallery West is hosting "Up Close and Far Away," a group show featuring landscapes and still lifes by artists Uwe Bangert, Seamus Berkeley, Klaus Fussman, Tricia Leonard, Marc Velten and more. The show opens Jan. 27 with a free reception from 5 to 7 p.m. and closes Mar. 3. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com for more information.

Film

Heroes and Villains

Las Positas College and the Pleasanton Library present "Heroes and Villains: A Classic Film Series," at 7 p.m., every first Thursday monthly until June 2007 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free. Call Penny, 931-3405.

Fundraisers

Bingo

Choice for Children Education Foundation hosts Bingo at 4 p.m. every Sunday at Bingo Ranch, 3070 Pacific Ave., Livermore. All proceeds benefit Livermore Valley Charter School. Call Maria, 201-3422 or e-mail cccf@lvcs.org.

Donate Life Tennis Tournament

The California Transplant Donor Network is hosting the first Donate Life Tennis Tournament from noon to 8 p.m. Jan. 24 at ClubSport Pleasanton, 7090 Johnson Drive. Funds raised will help spread information about the importance of being an organ donor. Entry fee is \$75. Contact Cathy Olmo, (510) 251-7001 or colmo@ctdn.org for more information.

Recycle for Breast Cancer

Recycle electronics, empty ink jet and toner cartridges to support the fight against breast cancer. Free pick up, drop off, or prepaid envelopes and shipping labels available. Call Larry, 735-7203 or e-mail larry@recycleforbreastcancer.org.

Health

Dublin Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jan. 20 at St. Raymond's Church, 11557 Shannon Ave., Dublin. Call the Parish office, 828-2460 or Bob Rawlings, 828-7727 to schedule an appointment.

Exercise Class

The Pleasanton Department of Parks and Community Services offers a month-to-month fitness class in the morning and Exercitement Fitness class for those ages 13 and over in the evening at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost varies from \$3 to \$4.50 per class. Registration required. Call 931-5365 for 50 Fitness Plus and 931-5340 for Exercitement Fitness.

Laughter Yoga

Laughter Yoga classes are held from 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. All ages welcome. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors. Call (510) 390-4105 or visit www.laughinglydia.com for more information.

Reiki Workshop

Reiki is a gentle and non-invasive Eastern tradition used to channel energy for self-care, stress reduction and healing. This class teaches how to give Reiki to yourself and to others. This is a four-session class facilitated by Gisela Mehta that meets Jan. 16

and 30 and Feb. 13 and 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. This class is specifically for cancer patients, their families and friends and is free. Reservations are required. Call 933-0107.

Holiday

Outdoor Ice Rink

Downtown Walnut Creek opened its annual outdoor ice skating rink, scheduled to run through Jan. 15, 2007. The rink is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Mon.-Thu.; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sun. Cost is \$11, including skate rental, Mon.-Thu. and Fri. until 5:30 p.m.; weekends are \$10, plus \$5 skate rental. Call 935-SNOW or visit www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com for more information.

Kids & Teens

Free Beauty Workshops

Pure Girls, 660 Main St., is hosting free beauty workshops from 4 to 5 p.m. Jan. 17, 24 and 31 for girls ages 10 and older. The series, called "Beauty Resolution Workshops for Tweens," will feature a different topic each week, including hair, style, skin and nails. Call 485-4380 to reserve a space or for more information.

Lectures/ Workshops

Art Collecting 101

Claudia Hess, owner of Worthington Gallery West, will teach "Art Collecting 101," a workshop for those trying to get into art collecting, from 3-4 p.m., Jan. 20. Topics covered include where to start, art as an investment, getting children to start collecting and how to sell your old collection. Admission is free. Worthington Gallery West is located at 739-J Main St. Call 485-1183.

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, 249-3923.

Dr. B's 'Buzz on Sports'

Dr. B. George Baljevich, of TV30's "Let's Talk Sports," will give the "Buzz on Sports" at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Dr. B's guest speaker will be Greg Krage, an Amador Valley High School graduate and former NFL football player. This lecture is the first in the ongoing Ed Kinney Lecture Series. Reservations are requested. Admission is \$5 for museum members, \$10 for non-members. Call 462-2766.

Dream Crafting

The California Writers Club is hosting a two-hour intensive workshop led by author Maureen Biro entitled, "Dream Crafting: A Writer's Guide to Understanding and Utilizing the Power of Dreams" from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Jan. 20 at Girasole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Road. The cost is \$18 for CWC members, \$30 for non-members. Reservations are necessary. Contact Fred Norman, fnorman300@aol.com for more information or visit www.trivalleywriters.com.

Entering the Entrepreneurial World

Technology Ventures Corporation is hosting "Entering the Entrepreneurial World," a workshop to learn what it takes to start a technology company, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Jan. 17 at the CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive. The event is free. Call 960-1600 or e-mail tvc.ca@techventures.org. Visit www.techventures.org.

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.

Inner and Outer Peace Through Meditation

Dr. Marshall Zaslove, a Board certified psychiatrist, author and meditation practitioner for over 30 years, will offer simple meditation techniques and demonstrate practical methods of controlling and befriending the mind for better meditations and health benefits 2 p.m., Jan. 14 in the Pleasanton Public Library meeting room, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free. No registration required. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405.

Japanese Maple Pruning Classes

Western Garden Nursery is offering free Japanese Maple pruning workshops 10 a.m., Jan. 27 and 1 p.m., Jan. 28. Classes are held at Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave. Call 462-1760.

Rose Pruning Classes

Western Garden Nursery is offering free rose pruning workshops 10 a.m., Jan. 13 and 1 p.m., Jan. 14. Classes are held at Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave. Call 462-1760.

True B2B Business Developers

B2B Power Exchange hosts "True B2B Business Developers" from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Jan. 18 at Mimi's Cafe,

(continued on page 24)

Informational Tours

Jan. 17 - Wed.

Feb. 1 -Thu.

[Kindergarten]

Feb. 15 - Thu.

Mar. 21 - Wed.

4:30PM; RSVP

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Seniors

Bingo

Play Bingo 12:30 to 3 p.m. on the first, third and fifth Monday monthly and 1 to 3 p.m. every Friday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Game cards are 50 cents. Call 931-5365.

Day Trippers Oakland Tour

Day Trippers is leading an Oakland outing for seniors, traveling to Jack London Square for lunch, then on to the USS Potomac and the Pardee Home of Oakland for docent led tours. The tour is from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Jan. 24 and leaves from the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$33 for residents, \$36 for non-residents. Lunch is not included in cost. Call 931-5365 for more information.

Emotional Wellness Group

Learn more about depression, anxiety, and how medications and alcohol may affect emotional well-being at 2 p.m. every other Thursday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Charlene or Jode, 931-5382.

Friday Night Dance

Join the crowd for ballroom dancing once a month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Advanced tickets are \$7 for residents, \$8 non-residents, and \$8 for residents, \$9 non-residents at the door. Singles welcome. Reservations recommended. Call 931-5365.

Internet Access Workstation

The Internet workstation is available 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon most Saturdays at the library section of the Pleasanton Senior Center. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Luncheons

The Dublin Senior Center hosts special themed luncheons on the second Thursday monthly at the Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. The luncheon fee is \$6.50 for residents and \$7.50 for non-residents and includes special entertainment. Call 556-4511 or visit www.ci.dublin.ca.us. Reservations needed by the Friday prior to the luncheon.

Movie Madness

Seniors are invited to watch free movies on the big screen at 1 p.m. on the first and third Mondays monthly at

(continued on page 24)

On Stage

Once Upon A Mattress

The Pleasanton Playhouse presents the musical "Once Upon A Mattress" 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m., Sundays through Jan. 28 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors age 60 and older, and \$20 for juniors 18 and younger. Call 462-2121 or visit www.pleasantonplayhouse.com for more information.

Political Notes

California Retired Teachers Association Meeting

The California Retired Teachers Association Tri-Valley Division #85 will hold a luncheon meeting 11:15 a.m. Jan. 16 at The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Hall (IBEW), 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. The cost is \$11. Guests are welcome. Call 373-8254 for more information.

Nonviolence Rally to Honor Dr. King

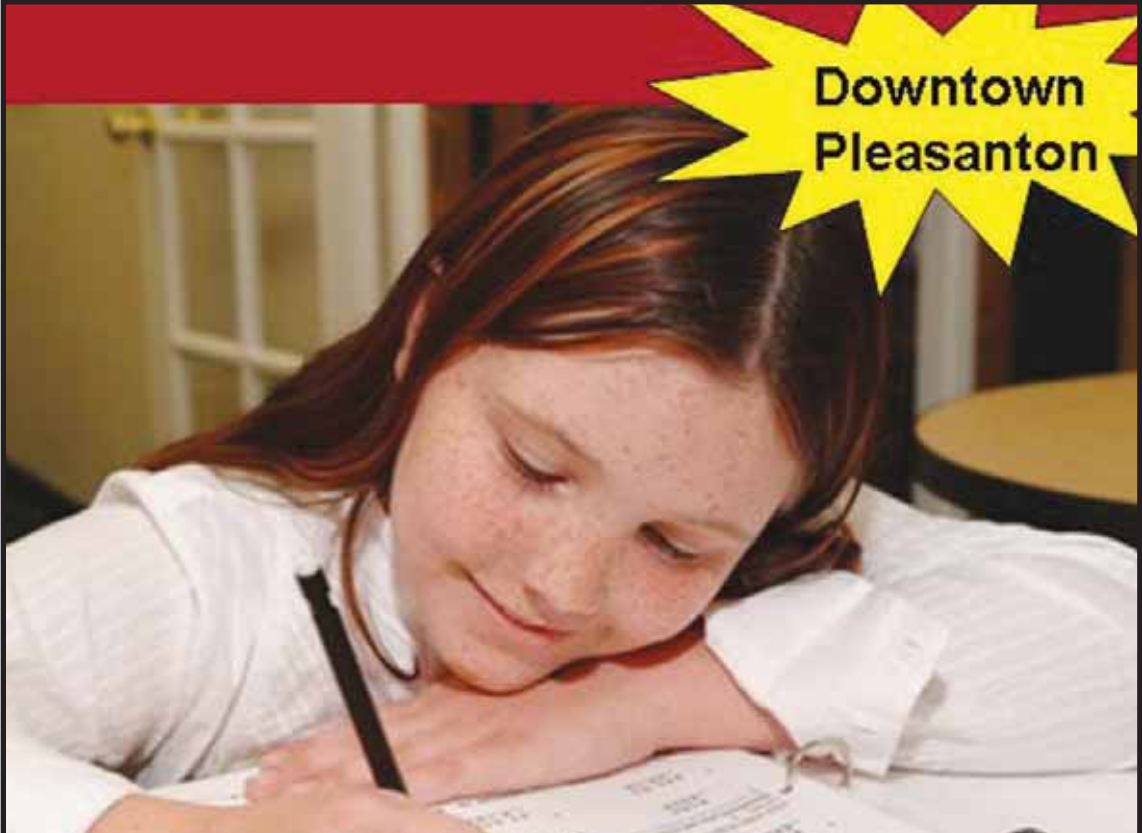
Tri-Valley CAREs is hosting an anti-war rally and march from 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 15 starting at United Christian Church, 1886 College Ave., Livermore and marching through downtown Livermore. The event will start with a rally at 10 a.m., followed by the march at 11 a.m. and an anti-war vigil at noon. The event, held on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, is meant to honor his legacy of nonviolent action to create change. Call 443-7148 for more information.

Recreation

Enrichment Classes

Pleasanton Parks and Recreation offers enrichment classes ranging from art, aquatics, sports, health and cooking at 200 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-5340 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/parks.html.

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|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Wednesday, January 17 | 7:00pm | 3 years - 5 years |
| Thursday, January 18 | 7:00pm | Grades 1 - 3 |
| Tuesday, January 23 | 7:00pm | Grades 4 - 5 |
| Thursday, January 25 | 7:00pm | Grades 6 - 8 |
| Wednesday, January 31 | 7:00pm | 18 Months - 3 years |
| Thursday, February 1 | 5:00pm | Kindergarten |

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Paratransit Service

The paratransit service provides door-to-door bus service to seniors 65 and older, and individuals with disabilities of any age and is available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday. Call 931-5376.

Personal Computers Group

Meets 10 a.m. to noon the fourth Thursday monthly at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 non-residents. Call 931-5365 or e-mail please-nior@yahoo.com.

Senior Dinner

Open Heart Kitchen provides seniors 60 years and older with an evening meal from 4 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday at Ridge View Commons, 4200 Case Ave. Suggested donation is \$3. Call 484-5131 for reservations.

Senior Lunch

Spectrum Community Services provides seniors 60 years and older with a noon meal at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Suggested donation is \$3.25. Call 931-5385 for reservations.

V.I.P. Senior Club

The Pleasanton V.I.P. Senior Club meets the second and fourth Monday monthly from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The second Mondays are business meetings and the fourth Mondays are social meetings. Snappy Cafe serves lunch at noon with a \$3.25 donation. Reservations for lunch must be made by the Thursday before each meeting by calling 931-5385 or call Verla, 846-2992.

Spiritual

12 Steps Through Psalm 23

This 12 Step group discusses how Psalm 23 can help with codependency, addiction and other problem behaviors. This on-going women's group meets Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. at R-Quest, 40 California Ave., Ste. B. Visit www.rquest.org or call 426-0501, ext. 21 for more information.

Eckankar Worship Service

Eckankar worship services are held 11 a.m. the third Sunday monthly at Four Points Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road. Call 994-0118 for more information.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God

Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m. and Children's Church Program (ages 3-12) at 11:15 a.m. Singles & Young Married Home Bible Study meets at 7:30 p.m., Mondays. Women's Bible Study meets at 10 a.m., Wednesday evening programs; Choir Practice, Boys and Girls Mission Crusade Club (grades K-5th grade) 7 p.m. Call the church office, 846-8650 for information on any ministry.

Tri-Valley Unity Church

Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at 10 a.m. every Sunday 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.

Sports

Sea Devils

The Tri-Valley Sea Devils team is looking for year-round swimmers. Call Hope, 469-8495.

Support Groups

Al-Anon and Al-a-teen

Al-Anon is a Tri-Valley support group for family and friends of alcoholics that meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Sunday at San Ramon Presbyterian

Church, 12943 Alcosta Blvd., upstairs in the Kindergarten room. Call 277-7661 or visit www.ncwsa.org.

Auto Immune Support

The group meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Call 848-5020.

Bereavement Support Group

This group of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton meets at 7:30 p.m., the second and fourth Thursdays monthly, and is for anyone of any faith at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Call Mary, 846-5377.

Bipolar Support Group

The Tri-Valley Bipolar Support Group, which provides peer support for people with mood disorders, meets 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. every Wednesday at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. Call 560-0842, e-mail trivalleybipolar@hotmail.com, or visit www.namitrivalley.org.

Narconon Arrowhead

Narconon Arrowhead offers free addiction counseling, assessments and referrals to rehabilitation centers nationwide. Call (800) 468-6933 or visit www.stopaddiction.com.

Newcomers to Al-Anon

This group, for those who are new to Al-Anon and anyone who is affected by someone else's drinking, meets 7 to 7:55 p.m. Thursdays at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Room H, Dublin. Call 277-7661.

Operation SAM

The group, offering emotional support to families with loved ones in the military, meets at 7 p.m., the second Monday monthly at the Livermore Police Station, 1110 S. Livermore Ave. Call Kristin, 443-7841.

Overeaters Anonymous

Meetings are held from 7 to 8 p.m., Thursdays at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. Call Lisa, 931-0994.

Parents of Alcoholics

Parents of alcoholics are welcome to join this Al-Anon group that meets 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sundays at CalFed Bank, 3101 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call 277-7661.

Parents of Children with Autism

For parents of children with autism in the East Bay, this group uses e-mail-based discussions for parent-to-parent support. Visit <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/eastbayautism> to join. E-mail autismtrivalley@yahoo.com for questions.

Parents of Diabetics

The POD Squad, a support group for parents of diabetics, meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. the third Wednesday monthly, September-May, at the Laguna Oaks neighborhood clubhouse. Call 461-1170 or visit www.podsquad.com.

Parents of Special Needs Children

Receive and give support with other Pleasanton parents in an e-mail-based discussion. Visit <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/pleasantonspecial@yahoo.com> for questions.

Parkinson's Support Group

The Parkinson's Network of Mount Diablo and the city of Pleasanton co-sponsor a support group for the Tri-Valley area from 10 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday monthly at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5366.

Pleasanton Senior Grief Group

Not limited to seniors, this group is open to all grief issues. It meets from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Fridays at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5366.

Prostate Cancer Support Group

Men with prostate cancer and their families are welcome to Man to Man, a support group that meets from 7:30 to 9 p.m., on the second Tuesday monthly in the West Day Room in the south building at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 7777 Norris Canyon Road. Call 933-0107.

Prostate Cancer Survivors

Tri-Valley Us Too, a support group for prostate cancer survivors, invites husbands and wives to its meetings held at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at the Kaiser offices, 7601 Stoneridge Drive. Men are also invited to meetings held at 7:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the same location. Call 846-7460.

R-Quest

R-Quest is a counseling agency for early recover education that serves to help teens and adults overcome addiction to alcohol, drugs, eating disorders or mental health issues. Youth and adult intervention is available. Located at 40 California Ave., Suite B. Walk-in's are welcome. Free alcohol screening. Call 426-0501 or visit www.rquest.org.

Survival to Recovery

The focus of these meetings is for persons who grew up in an alcoholic home or who were affected by the drinking of one or both parents. The group, a part of Al-Anon, meets from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the St. Phillips Lutheran Church, 8850 Davona Drive, Room 10-A., Dublin. Call 277-7661.

Temporary Restraining Order Clinic

This clinic is for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault and meets 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Mondays at 4471 Stoneridge Drive, Ste. A and 2 to 4 p.m., Thursdays at 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Call Michael, 449-5845, ext. 110.

'When Mom or Dad Has Cancer' Workshop

This workshop is open to school-age and teens. Parents meet concurrently. It is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 13 at The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Ave., Walnut Creek. The workshop is free but reservations are required. Call 933-0107.

Volunteering

Alameda County Community Food Bank

Volunteers are needed to staff the Emergency Food Hotline from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Food sorters are needed to sort, screen, box and shelve donated food from 8 to 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Individual volunteers need to attend a 50-minute orientation held 1 p.m. every Wednesday at the food bank. Call (510) 834-3663 or visit www.accfb.org.

Community Service for Teens

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

Foster Homes Needed

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

Hats Off America Needs Volunteers

Hats Off America, a nonprofit organization that raises money for families of soldiers who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, is in need of volunteers to help at fundraising events held throughout the year. Events include a Casino Night in April; Muscle Car, Hot Rod & Art Fair in May; and the Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk in February, September and November. Call Sparky George, 855-1950 for more information.

Jewish Community Federation

Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay offers opportunities to volunteer within the community, such as serving meals, tutoring children, and serving on Jewish agency committees or boards. Call (510) 839-2900, ext. 261.

Open Heart Kitchen

If you love to cook and have a passion to end hunger, volunteer at Open Heart Kitchen, the Tri-Valley's only free hot meal service for the needy. There are many volunteer opportunities for teens and adults. Call Dianne, 580-1619 or e-mail dadamson@open-heartkitchen.org.

Saturday Food Sorting

The Alameda County Community Food Bank needs volunteers to screen, sort, box and shelve donated food from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Jan. 6 and 10, Feb. 3 and 24 and March 10 and 24. Call (510) 635-3663, ext. 308 to sign up.

Shepherd's Gate

Volunteer at Shepherd's Gate Shelter, 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore or their thrift stores, 7381 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin, and 1362 Railroad Ave., Livermore any time Monday through Friday. Call Lyn, 443-4283, ext. 217.

The American Cancer Discovery Shop

The American Cancer Discovery Shop needs volunteers any time from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, or from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday. Call 462-7374.

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. Volunteers must be at least 21 years old. Call Melissa, 449-5845, ext. 111 or e-mail melissa@trivalleyhaven.org.


TVAR Volunteer Orientation

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue offers volunteer orientations on the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of every month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin. For more information, contact Cathy Bergren at calico-cathyb@yahoo.com or 426-2472.

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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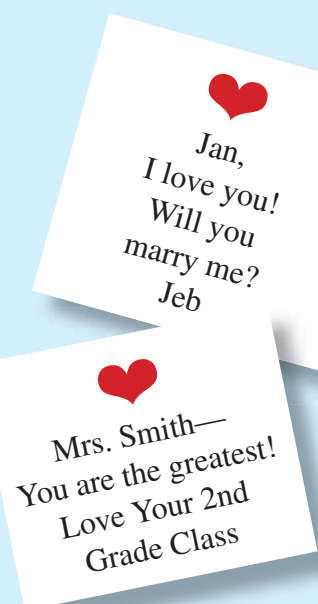


Surprise a special Valentine with a personal "Love Lines" in our February 9th issue of the Pleasanton Weekly. The deadline is noon February 5th.

Form your message and e-mail to LoveLines@pleasantonweekly.com or fax 600-1433

Be sure to include your name and a daytime phone number so we may contact you for payment information.

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 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.

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.

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

Continental

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Dining Out

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India

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.

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 restau-

rant by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. Located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

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Japanese

Ume Sushi

4855 Hopyard Road #7 in Gateway Square, (925) 734-0996. Acclaimed chef David Win brings delicious Japanese cuisine to Pleasanton at an affordable price! Daily Fresh Fish Delivery. Teriyaki & Tempura. Open Monday-Saturday, closed Sunday. Lunch: 11:30-2:30; dinner 4:30-9:30, Sat until 10 p.m. Party platters available. Visit our website: www.umesushi.com.

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

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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, meat-ball 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.

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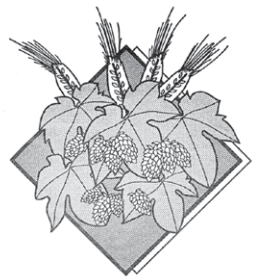
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