

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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It's all about Pleasanton

Our man in Washington



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in Congress** page 12

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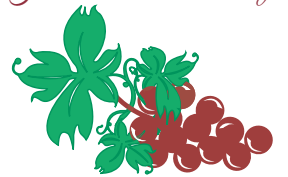
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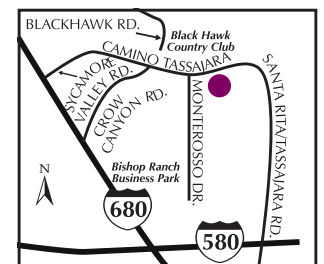
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

For Norman, it's about ending carnage in Iraq

Those of us who attend City Council meetings regularly or watch the proceedings at home on TV30 have seen military veteran and long-time peace activist Fred Norman pleading for the local lawmakers to "do something" about the war in Iraq. Norman, now 70, spent 10 years in the military—five in the Marines and five in the Air Force. He's no anti-war zealot and supported the U.S. and allied invasions of Afghanistan after 9/11, and still does, although he'd like to see more focus on riding the country of terrorists. But he opposed the invasion of Iraq from the start, believing that President Bush, with Congressional backing, made the decision for all the wrong reasons. He's written countless letters to California's representatives in Congress and newspapers and has joined in local demonstrations to get our troops out of Iraq.

For health reasons, he hasn't joined anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan or marched in Washington, so he's doing what he can, trying to convince our City Council that it can "do something, whether it's to send a statement to Congress or, at the minimum, at least offer a minute of silence to reflect on the Iraq situation at the start of every meeting, much as it does in asking everyone to join in the "Pledge of Allegiance." With the council reluctant to join in, Norman, with his wife Cathe sitting beside him, has attended every council meeting since last September to address the council, using one minute of his five minutes of allotted public speaking time to offer the minute of silence the he'd like the council to do. With the election last November of Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who has praised Norman for his thoughtfulness, Norman's persistence has paid off. At the council's meeting on Feb. 20, City Manager Nelson Fialho will present proposals for a community meeting that will give the public, including Norman and council members, an opportunity to express their views on what the

council can or should do, if anything, with regard to Iraq.

Of course, there's risk from Norman's viewpoint that a majority of speakers at a community forum may favor the war in Iraq, or will tell the council to do nothing. After all, nearly half of all voters who cast ballots in Last November's municipal election, supported former Councilman Steve Brozovsky for mayor. He argued that public concerns over the Iraq war and other global issues should be addressed by elected federal representatives, not the Pleasanton City Council that already has a full plate of local issues to handle. But the applause Norman has been receiving after his five minute presentations indicate that he may have strong public support. Even better, from Norman's point of view, would be for the Pleasanton council members to convince their counterparts in Livermore, Dublin and San Ramon to also make a Tri-Valley resolution that would generate greater attention.

In the Air Force, Norman was a navigator on a B-47 bomber, part of the Strategic Air Command. His crew's mission was to drop the hydrogen bomb his plane was carrying on Vladivostok if the Soviet Union was detected launching an unprovoked attack on the U.S. One day his unit was scrambled to launch the mission from its base in Guam, only to be turned back when the U.S. radar defense command realized the blips they had spotted were from moonbeams bouncing off the Arctic ice. That got Norman, then in his 20s, thinking about mistakes countries can make that could lead to war and widespread, unnecessary deaths. He views the Iraq war as one of those mistakes. Next Tuesday, Norman will be back at the City Council meeting, prepared to offer his minute of silence if no one on the council does it first. Either way, it will give all of us another minute to pause to think about what's happening in Iraq. Doesn't seem like enough time, does it? ■

About the Cover

Joining House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congressman Jerry McNerney at his swearing-in ceremony are (from left) San Joaquin County Latino leader Stella Lopez, twin brother John McNerney, sister Kathleen McNerney, son Greg McNerney, Pelosi, San Joaquin Labor Council secretary-treasurer Sandy Carter, wife Mary McNerney, son Michael McNerney, Rep. McNerney, San Joaquin County Longshoreman Gene Davenport and daughter Windy McNerney.

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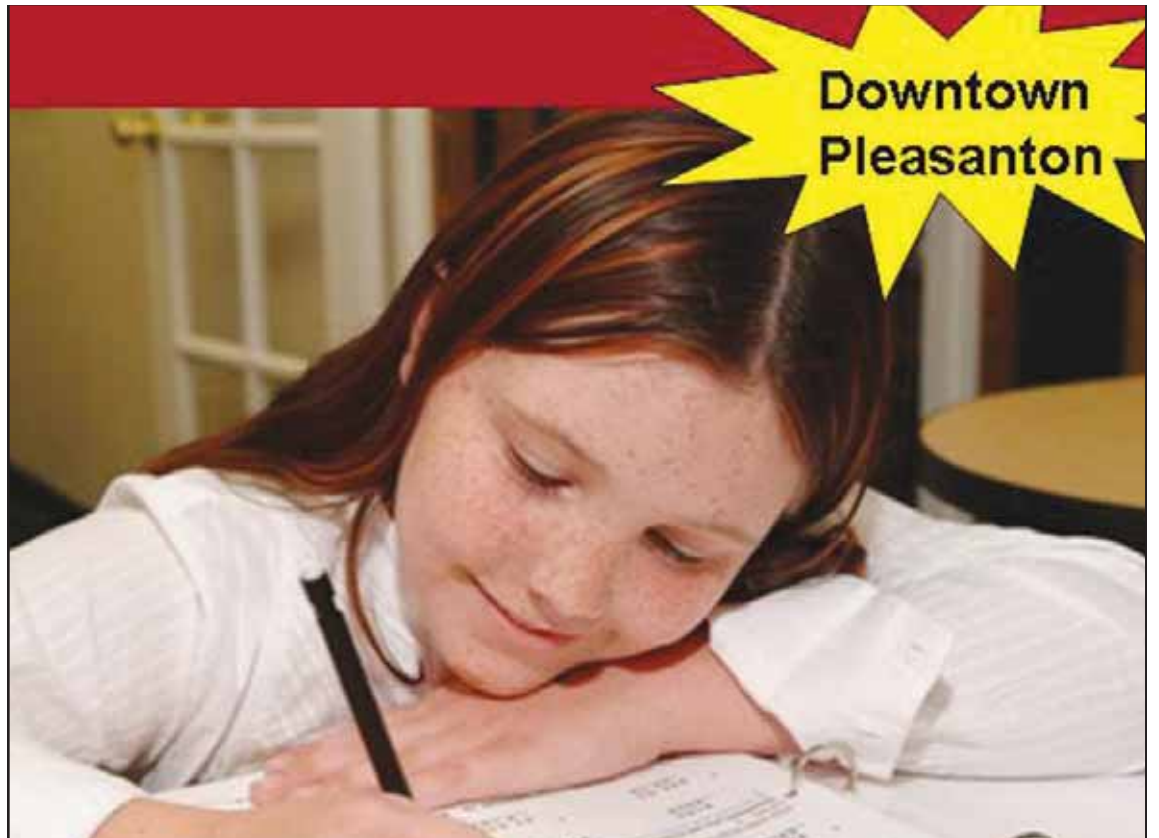
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Streetwise

Q: What do you think about the new minimum wage increase?

Asked Downtown



Tim Matthies

Director of Purchasing

I think the increase is a good thing for the state of California. In general, the minimum wage has been too low for too long. It hasn't been adjusted in years and has certainly not kept up with inflation and the cost of living.

Pat Buckley

Manufacturing

It has no bearing at this point. No one I know makes minimum wage and no company can survive employing minimum wage workers; you've got to pay to get decent help. I doubt it will have a deep impact for anyone.



Scott Breisch

Nursery Grower

The economy needs to have a base dollar and we need to insure that the products based on that increase go up, too. The quality of people's lives will not be affected by the change; they will just pay more for the goods and services they receive. We all will. The government and insurance companies are the only true beneficiaries.

Sarah Faulkner

Picture Framer

It's a good idea. People are trying to make a living. Even with the increase, people can't afford to rent an apartment and can barely pay their bills. At least it's something—certainly it isn't close to being enough—but it's a bit more.



Caroline Auster

Graduate Student

I think it's pretty sweet. I would have appreciated an extra 75 cents an hour when I was working during high school. As for the folks trying to scrape out a living, every little bit helps.

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Tip-A-Cop

The Pleasanton Police Department will hold "Tip-A-Cop" from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 8 at Chili's Restaurant at 4801 Hopyard Road. Off-duty officers will serve patrons and assist the wait staff at the event. All "tips" will go directly to support the Tri-Valley Special Olympic athletes.

Carden West School open house

Carden West School has scheduled an open house from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at 4576 Willow Road in Hacienda Park. The event is during open enrollment for the 2007-08 school year and provides an opportunity for people to talk with teachers, parent volunteers and administrative staff, and view student work. Parents of prospective students may also tour the school any Tuesday or Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to noon, however, advance notice is requested. For more information, call 463-6060 or visit www.cardenwest.org.

Magic of Music

Amador Valley High School's three concert bands, two jazz bands, winter percussion and colorguard present its major fundraising event, the third annual Magic of Music. The black-tie event on March 31 includes a seated dinner with wine, live and silent auction, martini bar, and dancing to the sounds of the Amador jazz bands. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased by calling Paulette Callahan at 846-8957. For information call Dianne Jones at 426-5662 or Jon Grantham at 462-6196.

Huntington Learning Center open house

The Huntington Learning Center is celebrating 20 years in Pleasanton with an open house and anniversary party from noon to 3 p.m. Feb. 3 at 4855 Hopyard Road at Stoneridge Drive. Activities include birthday cake, an iPod Shuffle drawing, art activities, storytime for little ones, homework tips and more. The public is welcome; call 463-2334 for more information.

LPC science bowl

Eighteen high school teams will compete Feb. 3 at Las Positas College in one of the 64 regional competitions where teams hope to advance to the national level hosted by the US Department of Energy. Students will face off in morning round robin elimination matches with final rounds leading to a winner following lunch.

Amador teen going to Grammy festivities

High school student chosen to play baritone sax with peers from across country

by Janet Pelletier

In less than a week, Amador Valley High School student John Palowitch will embark on an all expenses paid trip to the Grammy festivities to perform with notable jazz artists and high school musicians from across North America and possibly hob knob with celebrities at a post Grammy party.

Palowitch, 16, was one of 30 students chosen from 14 different states by the Grammy Foundation to participate in the 2007 Gibson/Baldwin Grammy Jazz Ensembles. The recognition includes practicing and performing at the various events in the days leading up to the big award show in Los Angeles Feb. 11, including performing to audiences at Catalina's Jazz Club Feb. 7 and the Vic Feb. 9. As a grand finale, he will perform at the Grammy after party following the award show.

"Those who were chosen will form three ensembles: an eight-voice choir, 18-piece big band and a four-piece combo," said David Sears, senior director of education programs for the Grammy Foundation.

The honor was a pleasant surprise, the high



Sixteen-year-old John Palowitch practices the saxophone at a practice with the Amador High School Jazz Band last week. Palowitch will travel in less than a week to the Grammys.

school junior said.

"I didn't know until I walked into my house

and there was a big surprise party for me," he said. "I was elated. I actually never expected to make it. Partly it's just me and partly I just know how hard it is to make it. I was really, really happy."

While John's instrument of choice is the alto sax, he'll be playing the baritone sax during the trip.

He credits his parents as well as personal music teacher Daniel Zinn for not only telling him about the Grammy Foundation, but encouraging him to apply for the Jazz Ensembles.

"I was motivated primarily by my teacher and my parents who insisted that I practice," he said. "I practiced a lot and it was stressful at times."

He said he would like to have a career in music performance or education.

The Grammy after party, where he will get to play alongside notable jazz artists such as James Moody and Phil Woods, is what John's looking forward to the most.

"I get to play with Phil Woods. He's another artist I listen to so I'm excited about meeting him," he said.

(continued on page 7)



Outgoing Trustee Steve Pulido (right) shakes the hand of the newly-appointed Trustee Chris Grant. Pulido will be sworn in as a judge today and said the district will be in "wonderful hands."

Kaiser VP Chris Grant appointed to school board seat

Board divided over frontrunners Grant and Jill Buck

by Emily Atwood

Pleasanton resident Chris Grant said he is ready to "roll up my sleeves and get to work." The vice president of corporate development and investments for Kaiser Permanente and father of three was appointed to the school board at a special meeting Tuesday night.

Former school board president and future Alameda County Superior Court Judge Steve Pulido helped name his successor along with trustees Pat Kernan, Jim Ott and Kris Weaver. Board president Juanita Haugen participated via phone as she is undergoing cancer treatment.

The board interviews were the final step in the application process, which included

filling out a formal application and a preliminary screening by a panel made up of members from the community.

With Cisco Systems engineer Joseph Russo dropping out of the race, seven applicants were interviewed Tuesday night: Robert Gehl, Marti Scalise, Stephen Page, Shirley Herrera, Corine Fanene, Jill Buck and Grant. Each candidate was given 15 minutes to answer questions from board members. Trustees then announced their top choices, unanimously choosing Grant and Buck. Gehl and Scalise were also named top choices for further questioning, while Ott gave special mention to Fanene and Herrera.

Lary Aladeen, president of the Association of Pleasanton Teachers, urged the board before its vote to "consider not just philosophical points

(continued on page 7)

Construction on ministry building, youth center to begin in October

Project approved 5-0 by Planning Commission despite some neighbors' protests

by Janet Pelletier

After more than a year-long delay, Trinity Lutheran Church expects to begin construction on its new project this October. The project is the last of three Pleasanton church's bids to build new facilities. Following recent approvals for Pleasanton Presbyterian and St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic churches, Trinity cleared its final hurdle Jan. 24 when the Planning Commission voted 5-0 to approve its plans.

An 8,110-square-foot ministry building will replace what the church has had in the form of a temporary structure on its property, housing Sunshine Preschool. In addition, a 3,108-square-foot youth center will be built on the south side of the church property, fronting 1225 Hopyard Rd. Additional parking will be added to provide 122 on-site spaces as well as landscaping improvements.

Church officials have been looking to move forward on the project, which is part of a master plan, for some time.

"We're very, very pleased," said Trinity Pastor David Beard, who looked a little surprised and relieved right after the vote was taken by the commission. "It's been a long, long time."

The construction is estimated to cost \$2.3 million but could cost more as construction prices continue to escalate.

"We were expecting to get started last October, but now it looks like it will start this October," Beard said, adding that getting building and construction permits would be applied for in the interim.

A total of \$1.3 million has been raised by the

(continued on page 9)

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

THANK YOU

Just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind comments regarding these columns. The main reason these columns exist is to help you understand the increasingly more complicated nature of real estate financing and, hopefully, to help you save money, and make some, in the process.

There is a strange belief, widespread in many businesses, that the person doing the business is best off if his or her clients know very little about it. In real estate finance, that couldn't be farther from the truth.

Surveys find that the more homeowners know about real estate financial transactions, the more likely they are to get the help of a financial professional and to make the most of their purchases and sales, because they know the right questions to ask. It's a "win-win" situation!

So, with your input, this column will continue to inform you of the ever-changing world of real estate finance. Please let us know the topics you'd like to have us explore in the future and, if you have any questions, please call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

One Wednesday too many

Companies volunteer during "Fifth Wednesday Evening"

by Rebecca Guyon

For Open Heart Kitchen, the only local nonprofit that provides hot meals to people in need throughout the Tri-Valley, an extra week in the month can be a problem.

"We serve hot meals in Livermore and Pleasanton Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and certain times of the year when there's a fifth Wednesday, Tuesday, etc., we don't have our regular volunteers who come in, so we often find ourselves campaigning to get volunteers for that fifth Tuesday or Wednesday," said Carol Beddome, executive director for Open Heart Kitchen.

In order to fill that need, Open Heart started "Fifth Wednesday Evening," a volunteer program where companies, faith-based groups, high school leadership organizations and others organize their members to volunteer that extra day in the month. Developer Lennar Homes signed up to volunteer the fifth Wednesday on Jan. 31.

"I think it is phenomenal what they're doing," Beddome said. "I went to a luncheon a year ago at Lennar Homes and I was moved to tears to be in the presence of a company with employees that care so much about the community they work in."

Other companies participating include Starbucks, Chevron, AAA, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory.

"There's a trend where companies are really pushing employees and encouraging employees to volunteer time for local nonprofits in communities they work," Beddome said.

Each week, Open Heart Kitchen counts on more than 130 volunteers to prepare and serve more than 2,500 nutritious meals for needy children, seniors, families and individuals without charge.

It serves hot meals 4:30 to 6 p.m. Fridays at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd.; noon to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Livermore Ave.; and 4 to 6 p.m. Thursdays at Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 460 North Livermore Ave. Additionally, the kitchen prepares hot dinners for senior citizens 62 years or older from 4 to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at Ridge View Commons, 5200 Case Ave. For more information, visit www.openheart-kitchen.org. ■

Student artists advance to state level

The Peralta District PTA, representing Alameda County, announced the winners of the district-level Reflections Arts Recognition program. Students in the district submitted 2,039 entries depicting their favorite place, of which 22 were sent to the California State PTA for judging.

Seven of those works were created by Pleasanton students. Primary level winners were Mohr Elementary School student Vincent Tantra in film and Vintage Hills Elementary School student Jenilee Chen in musical composition. Intermediate level winners were both from Mohr: Anuja Joshi in visual arts and Christine Xu in musical composition. Harvest Park Middle School students Mari McCoy-Thompson (literature) and Amanda Wu (visual arts) were the Middle/Junior level winners. And Amador Valley High School Max Loh won for musical competition in the senior level.

State winners will be announced at the California State PTA Convention May 3-6 in Sacramento.

The Reflections program provides K-12 students the opportunity to express themselves through art. —Emily Atwood

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School Board

(continued from page 5)

of view of the candidates, whether they perhaps agree with your personal mentality, but also consider the consequences of fairness, communication and concern for all the stakeholders in this district."

Those who spoke in favor of Grant said their positive experiences in dealing with him would prove valuable on the board.

One woman voiced her concern about Buck's political future, in reference to her failed attempt for the 18th District Assembly, saying Buck could also be appointed, if not elected, to a Sacramento.

As the board narrowed its choices down to Grant and Buck for further questioning, those aimed at Buck included her future political aspirations--a public concern voiced at the meeting and through e-mails to board members--as well as her thoughts on the addition of Neal Elementary School and her ability to be a team player.

Addressing Buck's political aspirations, Pulido called the criticism "insulting." He compared the situation to leaving his family law practice for a judgeship.

"Everybody has the right to do as they please and to strive for different positions if they so choose" he said. "It's a part of life. Who knows what Jill's future plans are? I know that she would never just apply to the school board as a stepping stone, and none of you (candidates) would do that, I hope."

Grant was also dealt a tough question when asked why he didn't run in the school board election against Kernan and Ott in November.

"I've always been interested in this position because I believe schools are the cornerstone of the community," he said. "I elected not to run because I looked at the current board and candidates and I had a very high degree of confidence."

Both candidates were also asked about their stance on a parcel tax that would pay for school improvements. Buck replied that she was neither for nor against, and didn't think that anyone should decide until there was an investigation into the need and the community's stance. Grant said a feasibility study should be taken first and the board should be prudent in budget spending, even if that included re-evaluating current expenditures that were not fulfilling intended goals.

In the end, it appeared Buck's national perspective gained through her Go Green Initiative and Grant's extensive research into the current needs and successes of the school sites made them the frontrunners.

The board's votes were tied--Ott and Weaver voting for Grant, Juanita and Steve voting for Buck--when it came time for Kernan to give his vote. Yet he described his vote as "easy," saying he would bet that both applicants would be on the board within five years.

"I'm going to give the nod to Chris for one reason," he said. "In order for the district to grow, Chris will push us, maybe more than we want."

On her decision to vote for Grant, Weaver considered the public feedback she received prior to the interviews. Although she stressed that the decision was not made before the interviews.

"I keep changing my mind back and forth," she said. "I thought I knew where I was through reading things ... with Jill there is controversy, we got a lot of positive e-mails, but also negative. ... I encourage Jill with all my heart to step forward in any future election. With the kinds of things that are out there, let's let the community decide."

As Pulido will be sworn in as judge today, Grant's first appearance as a board member will be at the Feb. 13 school board meeting.*

Grammy

(continued from page 5)

The Grammy Foundation was established in 1989 to cultivate the understanding, appreciation and advancement of the contribution of recorded music to American culture. The foundation works in partnership year-round with The Recording

Academy to bring national attention to the impact of music and arts education and the urgency of preserving cultural heritage. The Jazz Ensembles was first started in 1992.

Amador will also receive a free year's subscription to SmartMusic, a music practicing tool and a professional cymbal from Zildjian as part of John's honor. *

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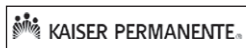
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Business in Brief

Electric car dealership opens in East Bay

A grand opening celebration will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 10 in Alameda for a new electric car dealership.

Called O'Connell Electric, the dealership located at 1537 Webster St., will sell a full line of ZAP (Zero Air Pollution) electric cars. The initial line, the Xebra car, can travel from 25 to 40 mph on one charge, using no gasoline. The fuel economy is estimated to be 3 cents a mile, according to Mike O'Connell, managing partner of O'Connell Electric. The car will retail for about \$10,000 and a truck line of the Xebra will retail for \$11,000. The grand opening festivities will include refreshments and demonstrations. For more information, visit www.zapworld.com or call (510) 865-7255.



and stager and Sudra, a member of IRIS (Interior Redesign Industry Specialists), can transform a home in one day, either for sale or just for redesign purposes.

"With today's high home prices, many people want to stay in their homes rather than trade up or move to another community," Roy said.

"Yet they may be bored with the way their house looks but want to avoid the expense of a remodel or purchasing new furniture," added Sudra.

Their services can include decluttering, rearranging furniture, art and accessories and using items that have been in storage. For information, call Roy at 209-8029, by e-mail: letspretend@comcast.net or Sudra at 389-1645, e-mail: yasodra@hotmail.com

Reliv International's Hill-Sapp named Woman of the Year

Pleasanton-based Express to Success Network has named Nancy Hill-Sapp of Reliv International as its 2007 Woman of the Year. Every year, at this time, affiliates of the American Business Association choose a woman in their respective ranks for the honor.

Hill-Sapp is an independent consultant for Reliv, is considered a true team player who successfully juggles her roles as board member, businesswoman, wife and mother with grace and tenacity. In her position as director of membership, she avidly welcomes new members and encourages their professional growth within the network. She was honored along with other Bay Area Woman of the Year recipients Jan. 14 at the Bay Area Council meeting.

Home redesign business opens in Pleasanton

DECO Home Design, an interior redesign business, recently opened in Pleasanton.

DECO offers a twist on interior design and home staging. Co-owners Laura Roy and Sheri Sudra use the homeowner's own furniture, art and accessories to create a peaceful, inviting home reflecting the homeowners' personality and taste. Roy, a certified interior designer

Pleasanton chiropractor offering services for food

Pleasanton chiropractor David De Bonis is sponsoring Valentine's H.O.P.E. Day, a benefit for the Alameda County Community Food Bank. De Bonis will donate his chiropractic services in exchange for donations of non-perishable food.

"H.O.P.E. is an acronym which stands for Helping Other People Eat," De Bonis said. "H.O.P.E. Day will help fill a critical void in food deposits which often fall dangerously low in the winter months."

The event is co-sponsored by the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce and Zzippes of Pleasanton. Donations of non-perishable food-canned fruit, vegetables and meat, pasta and canned sauce, rice, beans, peanut butter, nutritious cereal and powdered milk--can be made at De

(continued on page 9)

WOMEN AND HEART DISEASE FREE EDUCATION SEMINAR



Speaker: Anthony Musni, M.D.

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2007

Time: 7-9pm

Because their symptoms differ from men, more women die from a heart attack than men because they don't recognize the warning signs. Come learn about signs and symptoms, risk factors, the latest treatment options and how to take care of your heart.

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Trinity

(continued from page 5)

church so far. Completion date is estimated for summer or fall 2008.

The project's approval didn't come without protest neighbors of the church complex.

Thomas Milos, who lives on Golden Road, which borders the west side of the church property, told the commission before their vote that he and his neighbors' concerns were being misrepresented.

"We've been represented as this group of whining individuals," he said. "None of us object to the church's plans," Milos said, adding that he is mainly concerned about traffic flow.

"That pattern is crazy," he added, in reference to the flow of cars going in and out of the Trinity parking lot, transporting children to and from Sonshine Preschool.

Those who spoke in opposition said they didn't mind people who use the church facilities parking on the street in their neighborhood; having a larger parking lot at the

church exacerbates the current traffic problem of getting in and out of it, they said.

Golden Road resident Mike Serrano described the parking lot at peak hours as a "traffic free-for-all."

Many who were against the construction said there are too many activities at the church and people attending them don't carpool.

"This is a bustling business," said Fred Martin.

One point of discussion centered around the 1999 version of the church's master plan. While a master plan had been approved by the city in 1967, the 1999 plan, which is different, doesn't have any record of city approval.

City staff couldn't explain the reason for that. Some project opponents offered that Planning Commissioners back then may have not approved of the plan, leaving the document without a date stamp.

Those affiliated with the church spoke highly of the plans and said they've made numerous attempts to reach out to the neighborhood.

"Trinity has been a good neighbor for 38 years," said David Faustina,

who is a youth leader at the church. "We have listened to people's concerns."

Faustina said the youths he works with are in need of the new facility, currently having to share space and move furniture back and forth when they have their meetings.

"The youth want a space of their own," he said.

Jennifer Berrigan said the church needs the new facilities if it wants to retain its staff and teachers, which are very important to the ministry.

"It would be real nice if we could get a real building," she said. "Everybody's been really nice calling it a temporary structure—it's a trailer.

"If it was in tornado alley, it wouldn't be here anymore," she deadpanned.

Anyone wishing to appeal the approval to the City Council has until Feb. 8, according to Maria Hoey with the city planning department. Hoey said a couple people have "expressed interest in filing an appeal." As of press time, no one has done so. ■

Biz briefs

(continued from page 8)

Bonis' office located at 4625 First St., Ste. 100 from Feb. 12-16. In exchange for the food, all chiropractic services, including consultations, exams and adjustments provided on Feb. 14 will be at no charge. New and existing patients are welcome. For information or to schedule an appointment, call 223-7143.

New women's shop downtown to open in spring

A new women's clothing boutique, called the Sugar Shack, is planned to open its doors at 350 Main St., Ste. E, this spring. The Sugar Shack will carry fun, hip, casual and upscale clothing, according to co-owners Theresa Hernandez and Tamara Bohlen.

Trapeze ranked leader in wireless LAN security

Trapeze Networks announced that ABI Research, a leading provider of the technology market analysis and research, ranked Trapeze as the leader in wireless local area network (WLAN) security. Following a rigorous evalua-

tion of the top 11 WLAN vendors globally, ABI Research determined that Trapeze delivers the strongest WLAN security offering on the market. Trapeze was evaluated on 11 major criteria: authentication, endpoint security, management, site planning, vision, availability and resiliency, partnerships, certifications, intrusion detection, product integration and pricing.

Roche submits West Nile Virus test to FDA

Roche Diagnostics announced that it has submitted its biological license application for the cobas TaqScreen West Nile Virus Test to the United States Food & Drug Administration. The test is designed to detect West Nile Virus in donated blood and plasma. The FDA will review the application to determine whether the test can be marketed in the U.S. The virus is transmitted to humans most commonly through mosquito bites, but can also be transmitted by transfusion of infected blood or blood products.

"We are very pleased to have worked closely with 14 U.S. clinical trial sites, which screen blood from a network of more than 100

donation centers, to address this important public health concern," said Daniel O'Day, head of Roche Molecular Diagnostics, the business area of Roche Diagnostics which developed the test.

WANdisco names president, CEO

WANdisco, a world leader in real-time multi-site development solutions, announced that David Richards has been appointed the company's president and chief executive officer. Richards comes to the position with 15 years of technology and operational expertise at fast-paced global technology companies, including NetManag5e, NEC Corporation, Librados, Insevo, Mitsubishi and General Electric.

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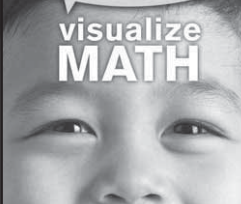


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Take Us Along



Bend it like Weekly

The Lewis family, (l-r) Mary Anne, Mark, Ben and Charlie, love soccer so much that they went to Berlin during the 2006 World Cup. Of course, they also love the Weekly so much that they had to bring the paper with them. Here they read the Weekly in front of the Berliner Dom.



Law abiding Weekly

Doris Slater and daughter Kristina Ballal enjoy the sights of London and the Weekly during a week-long review of London Legal.



What a business trip

HortScience, Inc., a horticultural consulting firm started in Pleasanton, must be a nice place to work—the company took all its employees and their spouses on a trip to Assisi, Italy for a week of education and sight-seeing. Pleasanton residents Jim Clark, Nelda Matheny and Michael Santos also were kind enough to bring their Weekly with them. Here they read the Weekly in front of the Roman Temple of Minerva.



Not just kindling

Vintage Hills Junior Girl Scout Troop 1019 wrap up their camping trip in Cazadero, Calif. by reading the Weekly.



Dancing in Las Vegas

Pleasanton residents (back row, l-r) Dannica Walker, Corina Cost, Emily Palange, (front row, l-r) Coco Bailey, Alyssa Greaney, Daniella Lyng and Lexie Martoglio, dancers with The Dance Center in Dublin, read the Weekly after winning many awards at the Hall of Fame National Dance Competition in Las Vegas.

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Opinion

Editorial

Spirit of open meetings fades with Oak Grove

We've been criticized loudly, and rightly so, for reporting in a news story last week on plans for the near-600-acre Oak Grove development in the southeast hills ("Parks group OKs Oak Grove homes, public trails," Jan. 26) that members of the Parks and Recreation Commission attended a private meeting of city officials, developers and others in advance of their vote to approve the project. That information came from a former elected official who was at the meeting, who now says that was wrong. No member of the commission was at the meeting nor were commissioners, the media or anyone else in the public invited to attend. However, Joe Jones was there. He's a member of the commission's ad hoc Trails Committee. There have been small meetings before between Kottinger Ranch homeowners who will be most directly affected by the Oak Grove project and Attorney Marty Inderbitzen, who represents the developers Jennifer Lin, Frederic Lin and Kevin Lin and James Tong of Charter Properties. In a recent meeting, for example, the developers agreed to close off access from Hearst Drive to the 497 acres of open space and trails that the Lin family plans to give the city in return for permits to build 51 luxury homes nearby. In fact, it was that decision at this neighborhood meeting that riled others in the community who said it would leave hikers, equestrians and even bird watchers with no viable access to the trails. The plan seemed doomed to defeat by Parks and Rec before it ever reached the Planning Commission, where it is now scheduled for a Feb. 14 public hearing.

So project proponents called for another meeting to revise the plan again. But this was no fireside chat among a developer and disgruntled neighbors. It was a large-scale meeting involving thought-leaders from across the Valley. Its closed doors smacked of secretive cigar-filled backrooms of the past where special interest groups made deals that benefited the few. Those at the meeting included Inderbitzen; Bing Hadley, president of the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association; City Manager Nelson Fialho; City Attorney Michael Roush; Planning Director Jerry Iserson; Jim Wolfe, Director of Parks and Community Services; Marion Pavan, city staff planner in charge of the Oak Grove project plan; Mike Regan and Jon Harvey, both of the Kottinger Ranch HOA; Dolores Bengtson, former director of Parks and Community Services; Becky Dennis, former councilwoman; Dick Quigley, chairman of the Vision 2010 Agriculture and Open Space Committee; David Lun, Vision 2010 Agriculture and Open Space Committee; Jocelyn Combs, former board member of the East Bay Regional Parks District; Rich Cimino, Audubon Society, and, of course, Joe Jones of the Parks and Recreation Commission's ad hoc committee. Although the meeting apparently didn't violate the Brown Act since no elected officials were there, it fell far short of the spirit of open meetings that Pleasanton has long fostered. We know that at least one deal was struck (or compromise reached, as one city official insists on telling us) and that was to make Hearst Drive the primary access route to the new hilltop park and trails. At the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, however, several homeowners said they did not know this agreement had been made, that they oppose it, and questioned if any traffic study has been made on its impact on Kottinger Ranch.

Compare the Oak Grove closed-door meeting to proceedings of the Happy Valley Blue Ribbon task force, which faces the daunting task of determining where a bypass road should be routed to the city's new public golf course. Everyone's invited to these city-promoted meetings and many come. It's democracy at its best. The same should have happened with the Oak Grove developers' meeting. At least then we and the members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, who approved at first glance the "compromise" plan that came out of that meeting, would have known what else, if anything was discussed and decided. ■

Letters

Oak Grove facts cleared up

Dear Editor,

As an attendee of the Jan. 8 Oak Grove trails and Jan. 11 Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, I would like to correct some inaccuracies in your Oak Grove article ("Parks group OKs Oak Grove homes, public trails," News, Jan. 26).

1. The purpose of the Jan. 8 meeting was for community trails advocates and representatives of the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association (KRHOA) to discuss their differences regarding access to the proposed Oak Grove development open space.

2. The Parks and Recreation Commission was not involved in the Jan. 8 meeting. Pleasanton City staff facilitated discussion between KRHOA representatives and trail advocates. This produced a new compromise proposal for access to the proposed Oak Grove open space. Staff then added this proposal to the other alternatives being considered by the Parks Commission at their Jan. 11 public hearing.

3. On Jan. 11, the Commission considered only alternative plans for open space above Oak Grove. They did not vote to approve 51 homes. The Parks and Recreation Commission cannot approve residential development!

4. The alternative commissioners selected was for one staging area (11 parking spaces) and one horse trough (good for dogs too), not multiple "staging areas," "parking lots," and "rest areas."

I sincerely hope Parks Commissioners and/or KRHOA representatives who so graciously agreed to meet on Jan. 8 will not experience any negative impacts from this article. As a trails advocate, I commend them and City staff for helping to forge a proposal in the best interest of Pleasanton.

*Becky Dennis
Former City Councilwoman*

No previous Oak Grove 'deal'

Dear Editor,

Your article ("Parks group OKs Oak Grove homes, public trails," News, Jan. 26) includes a statement that must be corrected. It implies a lack of integrity on the part of Park and Recreation Commissioners. The article stated a "deal" had been made at a meeting held prior to the Park and Recreation Commission meeting: "their decision had, for all practical purposes, been decided three days earlier when some commission members and city officials met." No Park and Recreation Commissioners or elected officials attended the meeting. There was no "deal."

Weekly staff know stakeholder meetings are key to preparing successful development plans. Oak Grove Alternative 4, which eliminates open space public amenities, is the direct result of meetings held between city staff, developer and Kottinger Ranch (KR) homeowners.

The meeting held prior to the Commission meeting was between city staff, the developer, KR homeowner representatives and open space advocates. It was scheduled to hear open space advocates' concerns. The meeting resulted in Alternative 5, which provides open space public access in the Oak Grove project.

Open space advocates' efforts to secure public access to Oak Grove have been open. They have appeared before the Park and Recreation, Planning Commission and the City Council. Presentations focused on the community value of convenient public access to the 497 acres of future public lands. It is not surprising the Commission choose Alternative 5 as it provides citizens increased recreational opportunities.

I regret the Weekly did not recognize the cooperation demonstrated by stakeholders in crafting a project alternative that met community need.

*Dolores Bengtson
Former Director of Parks & Community Services*

Commends McGovern's stance

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my appreciation to Cindy McGovern for being the only City Council member to come right out and say she is not in favor of holding a discussion of the Iraq war. I totally agree with her and do not feel the council should be producing resolutions about issues that are not official city business.

My son will be leaving soon for his second tour of duty in Iraq. The politicians in Washington bombard us enough with all their blustering, posturing and politicizing; we don't need it from our hometown folks too. It is so hurtful to the already stressed families of loved ones overseas, to have to listen to this constant war of words. The military personnel from Pleasanton need the support of their city and the City Council needs to work on the issues that will make the city a place they will want to come home to. We do not need a council that pits neighbor against neighbor.

JoAnn Weser, Pleasanton

Your Turn

The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Company to also publish it online, including in our online archives. For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at 600-0840.

Our man in Washington

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend

Pleasanton native Jerry McNerney takes the oath and the 11th District seat in the House of Representatives

by Jeb Bing



Jeb Bing

From soliciting votes at the Farmers' Market to becoming the first elected congressman from Pleasanton three years later, it doesn't get much more grassroots than that. Newly-elected Congressman Jerry McNerney, who describes himself as a Progressive Democrat, isn't about to forget or neglect his roots as he starts his second month representing the 11th Congressional District.

His is almost a David and Goliath story played out over two primaries and two general elections since he started campaigning in February 2004. A political novice who had never held an elected office, McNerney took on Republican Richard Pombo, one of the most powerful members of Congress. The Democratic Party largely ignored him in 2004 and many party leaders wanted to choose someone else this time around. But McNerney prevailed, defeating Pombo last November with 53 percent of the vote in a district where Republican voters outnumber Democrats 46 percent to 39 percent.

McNerney was helped by a Democratic sweep across the country both in congressional and state races, as well as an all-out effort by Democrats and several large special interest organizations to boot Pombo out of office. Already, potential opponents are lining up to challenge McNerney in 2008, which is keeping the freshman congressman focused on his 11th District constituents.

"So far, we've been able to wrap up our business in Congress Friday afternoon in time for me to catch the 7 p.m. flight home, and then I get back to Washington on a late flight Sunday or early Monday in time for any votes," McNerney said during a recent interview in his new district office at 5776 Stoneridge Mall Rd.

He'll be here next Saturday to officially open the office with his District Chief of Staff Erich Pfuehler and Office Manager Adrienne Brown. Those who want to join in the festivities should call Vicki at 737-0733 for information and directions.

McNerney, who lives on Menlo Court, made his decision to try for Pombo's seat just two weeks before the 2004 primary. He knew it would be a long shot, but Democratic Party leaders considered the six-term congressman from Tracy too entrenched and the district too Republican to spend hard-earned funds to challenge him.

"Actually, it was my son Michael, who was a second lieutenant in the Air Force, who talked me into running," McNerney said. "We were both concerned when we realized the Democrats had put up no candidate in the March primary to oppose Pombo. We both felt that wasn't right and that it was my responsibility as a citi-

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Jeb Bing

Top right, Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) is flanked on left by Mayors Marshall Kamena of Livermore and Mike Shimansky, Danville, and, on the right, by Mayors Janet Lockhart, Dublin, and H. Abram Wilson, San Ramon, at a meeting to discuss federal support for highway and local projects. Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman didn't make the trip. Top left, McNerney stands in front of his new District office on Stoneridge Mall Road. Lower photo, District Chief of Staff Erich Pfuehler discusses a constituent letter with McNerney.

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g out leaflets and making hun-
ds of phone calls. They worked to
least 10 percent of the number
stered voters who cast ballots in
vious 11th District election—
0—to write McNerney's name

McNerney regrouped with his sup-
porters to plan for another try in 2006.
First, McNerney had to fight off chal-
lenges from fellow Democrats Steve
Filson and Steve Thomas of Contra
Costa County, winning 52.6 percent
of the primary vote to become the
Democratic Party's candidate in the
2006 election.

“I had the support not only of my
party but also many other organiza-
tions that wanted Pombo out of office,”
McNerney said. “In this campaign,
where we were fighting corruption
in Congress and policies of the Bush
administration, we had strong sup-

He has also been given floor time
during legislative debates on renew-
able energy, transportation and the
environment. Last week, as a newly-
appointed member of the House
Water Resources and Environment
Subcommittee, McNerney introduced
his first bill as a member of the 110th
Congress, the Healthy Communities
Water Supply Act of 2007. He joined
U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-Walnut
Creek) in sponsoring the bill that
would authorize funds to increase use-
able water supplies.

“With parts of California experi-
encing one of the driest Januaries ever
and the impact on California's water
supply caused by rising global tem-
peratures, this will authorize critical
funds to develop alternative sources
of clean drinking water,” McNerney
said.

McNerney has also been appointed
to the House Committee on Veterans'
Affairs, the Committee on Science
and Technology and the Highways
and Transit Subcommittee. He said
he will work to secure funds to widen
Interstate 580 and extend BART far-
ther east, although not to Tracy, as he
was quoted as saying.

“That would be nice but quite a
reach,” McNerney said.

McNerney also was the first fresh-
man congressional co-sponsor on the
Clean Energy Act of 2007, a bill that
would repeal \$14 billion in subsidies
and tax breaks for large oil compa-
nies.

“As someone who has spent more
than 20 years researching the benefits
of clean energy sources, I know that
moving towards a sustainable energy
future is critical and will create good-
paying jobs and a more secure United
States,” McNerney said.

He is also opposed to sending more
American troops to Iraq, telling the
House that this “will significantly hin-
der our ability to effectively combat
the global terrorist threat.”

McNerney urged anyone in the
11th District to write him, read and
respond to his new blog, or call or
visit his district office in Pleasanton to
discuss their concerns and viewpoints.
His blog is available at www.jerrymcnerney.org.

port, many speaking opportunities and
funding from constituents throughout
the district and both parties.”

Even former Peninsula Congressman
Pete McCloskey, a Republican who
had unsuccessfully challenged Pombo
in the primary, offered his support to
McNerney.

Since his election, McNerney, 55,
who has a PhD in mathematics and
is considered the alternative fuels
expert in Congress, has been given
prime committee assignments by fel-
low Bay Area Congresswoman and
Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

*“In this campaign, where
we were fighting corruption
in Congress and policies
of the Bush administration,
we had strong support, many
speaking opportunities
and funding from constituents
throughout the district
and both parties.”*

—Jerry McNerney

ir Democratic primary ballots.
s that night showed McNerney
st, but it was so close that
ed for a recount. There were
a uncounted or missing ballots
tra Costa County to qualify him
official Democratic candidate.
November, again without
Democrats contributing to the
ign, McNerney lost, 61 to 39
t, with Pombo heading back to
nton for his seventh term in
ess.
wind energy entrepreneur
pecialist on alternative fuels,

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April 2 - May 3 (No classes 4/9-4/13)	May 5, 2007
May 7 - May 31	June 2, 2007

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, February 6, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Continued from January 16, 2007 – 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
- Continued from January 16, 2007 – Review of the updated draft Financing Plan for Vineyard Avenue Corridor Infrastructure Improvements
- Approve plans and specifications, review bids, and award contract for (1) the Vineyard Avenue Booster Pump Station (CIP No. 011023 P.S.) to JMB Construction, Inc. in the Amount of \$1,785,700 and (2) Turnout No. 6 (CIP No. 011023 T.O.) to Gateway Pacific Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$231,312 and approval of contingencies for these facilities
- Review and consider draft Economic Development Strategic Plan

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, February 5, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Discussion of Public Art Proposal for Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) wastewater treatment plant
- FY 2006/07 City Grant Quarterly Reports

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, February 7, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.

- Proposed Modification to Pleasanton Paratransit Service (PPS) Police regarding missed appointments
- FY 2006/07 City Grant Quarterly Reports
- FY 2006/07 Service Contract Quarterly Reports
- Commission Reorganization

Library Commission

Thursday February 8, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Pleasanton Library Community Room

- Library Technical Study

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday February 8, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Discussion of potential recreation related uses in the Staples Ranch area
- Update on Financial status of Callippe Preserve Golf Course
- Parks projects Quarterly status report for October, November and December 2006
- Community Services Quarterly Report for October, November and December 2006
- Parks Maintenance Division Quarterly Report for October, November and December 2006

Youth Commission

- The February 14 Youth Commission meeting has been rescheduled to February 21, 2007 7:00 p.m. at the Amador Recreation Center, 4455 Black Avenue.

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

The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, please visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Oakland Raiderette's car looted

An Oakland Raiderette reported a missing uniform, jeans, cosmetics, \$130 in cash, a camera and a FastTrak pass were stolen from her 2001 Honda Civic while she was at the Pleasanton Wal-Mart Jan. 26 for a calendar signing. She first noticed her FastTrak pass was missing from the windshield, but assumed she had removed it earlier, as she sometimes does. She left the parking lot to eat dinner at Hacienda Crossings in Dublin and then drove home.

When returning to her car at 11:30 a.m. the next day, she discovered the passenger-side door had pry marks and her items were missing. She believes someone watched her park around 6 p.m. and lock her car, knowing she was a Raiderette. She also thought the theft happened in the Wal-Mart parking lot, since that's when she noticed her FastTrak pass was missing.

The items were valued at \$1,579 and the estimated damage to the car was \$200. Anyone with information regarding these cases is asked to call Pleasanton Police at 931-5100.

Two arrested for auto theft

An off-duty police officer from a neighboring police department called the Pleasanton Police Department around 4:30 a.m. Jan. 26 to report a suspicious person near a vehicle in the Canyon Meadows condominium complex in northwestern Pleasanton. Police say the suspect appeared startled when he saw he was being watched, so he fled in a silver Honda Civic. The off-duty officer followed in his own car south to Muirwood Drive, where he lost sight of the Civic.

Responding Pleasanton police units checked the area and stopped the Civic near Muirwood and West Las Positas Boulevard. Police said numerous burglary tools and a large amount of mail and personal property were found inside the vehicle, which they determined were stolen from at least two vehicles in the condominium complex and in the Springhouse Apartments on Stoneridge Drive.

Sean Johnson, 26, of Hayward, and Tierney Villalobos, 21, of Union City, were arrested and booked at Santa Rita Jail. The case is being investigated.

Police Report

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

January 19

- *Found property: 1
- *Theft:
 - 9:45 a.m. in the 2400 block of Via de los Milagros; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 4:07 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; shoplifting, worth \$200-400
- *Public vandalism:
 - 9:46 p.m. in the 1000 block of Kottinger Drive; worth \$1,000 or less
- *Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:47 p.m. in the 100 block of Angela Street; amphetamine possession
 - 3:16 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; public drunkenness
 - 10:16 p.m. at the intersection of National Park Road and Sequoia Court; marijuana possession while driving

January 20

- *DUI: 1
- *Theft:
 - 3:20 p.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; bicycles stolen, worth over \$400
- *Vehicular vandalism:
 - 8:04 a.m. in the 3800 block of Florian Street; worth \$1,000 or less
- *Amphetamine possession:
 - 12:30 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- *Assault:
 - 1:20 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
 - 11:04 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive

January 21

- *DUI: 1
- *Found property: 1
- *Theft:
 - 1:41 a.m. in the 4400 block of Sierrawood Lane; stolen truck
 - 10:58 a.m. in the 1800 block of Sinclair Drive; stolen truck
 - 1:46 p.m. in the 5200 block of

Springdale Avenue; from vehicle, worth over \$400

- *Burglary:
 - 10:00 a.m. in the 1000 block of Heinz Ranch Court
 - 3:51 p.m. in the 1300 block of Safreno Way; from vehicle, worth over \$400
- *Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 2:45 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
 - 7:00 p.m. in the 5500 block of Spring House Drive; marijuana possession
 - 11:29 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Owens Drive; public drunkenness
- *Assault:
 - 3:02 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
 - 3:14 p.m. in the 3300 block of Stanley Boulevard
 - 10:09 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive

January 22

- *DUI: 1
- *Found property: 1
- *Theft:
 - 2:16 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; identity theft
 - 2:55 p.m. in the 5200 block of Case Avenue; identity theft
 - 5:59 p.m. in the 4800 block of Harrison Street; worth over \$400
 - 6:55 p.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; credit card fraud

January 23

- *DUI: 1
- *Threatening phone calls: 1
- *Theft:
 - 7:50 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
 - 8:28 p.m. in the 4800 block of Funston Gate Court; from vehicle, worth less than \$50
- *Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 2:15 a.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road; marijuana possession
 - 4:18 p.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue; alcohol possession by a minor

January 24

- *Theft:
 - 10:00 a.m. in the 46700 block of Crawford Street; identity theft
 - 12:00 p.m. in the 1200 block of Hearst Drive; stolen vehicle
 - 2:08 p.m. in the 1100 block of Quarry Lane; embezzlement
 - 4:26 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; worth over \$400
- *Vandalism:
 - 4:00 a.m. at the intersection of Ensenada Drive and Foothill Road; public, worth \$1,000 or less
 - 6:29 p.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; school, worth \$1,000 or less
- *Residential burglary:
 - 6:44 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue
- *Animal nuisance:
 - 12:20 p.m. in the 100 block of Trenton Circle

January 25

- *Found property: 1
- *Theft:
 - 1:20 p.m. in the 3900 block of Old Santa Rita Road; stolen truck
 - 7:15 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$200-400
 - 8:56 p.m. in the 10 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth over \$400
- *Vehicular vandalism:
 - 7:14 a.m. in the 7000 block of Valley Trails Drive; worth \$1,000 or less
- *Vehicular burglary:
 - 12:56 p.m. in the 2500 block of Secretariat Drive; worth \$50-199
- *Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 9:58 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; synthetic drug possession

ACCIDENTS

January 19

- *11:04 p.m. - Injury accident involving DUI at the intersection of Foothill and Dublin Canyon roads

January 22

- *2:38 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of I-580 and Hacienda Drive

Transitions

Obituaries

Wanda B. Martin

Wanda B. Martin died Jan. 10 at the age of 84.

A native of Waldron, Ark., Mrs. Martin was a graduate of Fairview High School in Witumica, Okla. She lived in Livermore, but was a former resident of Martinez, where she retired from the Martinez Unified School District as a supervisor of food services at John Muir School.

A longtime member of Valley Christian Center in Dublin, she enjoyed Bible study and church activities as well as sewing, hand work, gardening, travel, entertaining and her large family, which was the delight and focus of her life.

Mrs. Martin was preceded in death by her first husband of 34 years, Paul Elzy; her parents Clarence and Addie Garvin; four brothers; and three sisters.

She is survived by her husband of 29 years, Wyman Martin of Livermore; daughters Martha (Raymond) Perez of Martinez, Carolyn (Dave) Wooldridge of Pleasanton and Paula (Hugh) Jackson of Sherwood, Ore.; stepsons John (Donna) Martin of Morgantown, Idaho, and Steve (Donna) Martin of San Jose; stepdaughter Barbara (Warren) Vance of Santa Maria, Calif.; sister Hazel Williams of Bakersfield; 21 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Agnes Claire Stevens

Agnes Claire Stevens died Jan. 18 at the age of 90.

A Pleasanton resident, Mrs. Stevens was born Feb. 5, 1916 in

Machias, Maine. She was youngest of five children born to James Hanscom and Lucy Hennsey Hanscom. Always a warm and caring person, she embarked on a career as a registered nurse. She graduated from St. Raphael's College of Nursing in New Haven, Conn.

She came to California in her early 20s and never left. She started working at Highlands Hospital where she met an ambulance driver Horace James (Steve) Stevens, who would later become her husband of over 45 years. After the birth of her two children, Maryanne and James, she returned to work and finished her career at Providence Hospital in Oakland. She was a nurse for over 30 years and loved it. In her retired years, she and Steve liked to drive and sightsee, especially on the coast of California.

Mrs. Stevens is survived by

her daughter Maryanne Stevens Brester and son-in-law Robert; son James Stevens and daughter-in-law Debra; 16 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and best friend of over 50 years, Francis Davis.

She was preceded in death by her brothers William, James and Thomas, and her sister Mary.

A memorial service was held Jan. 26 at Jess C. Spencer Mortuary in Castro Valley.

Tonette D. Gomez

Tonette Gomez died Jan. 11 at the age of 47.

Born in Oakland in 1960, Mrs. Gomez lived in Pleasanton for 15 years before moving to San Ramon two years ago. She attended Cornerstone Fellowship and enjoyed computers and being outdoors.

She is survived by her mother

Barbara Ruiz of Dublin; daughters Lindsey, Kristen and Megan of Pleasanton; sister Robin Bishop of Dublin; nieces and nephews Benicia, Scott, Joseph, Leslie, Christopher, Jim, Alex, Selena and Christian.

Memorial services were scheduled for Jan. 27 at Cornerstone Fellowship in Livermore. Donations can be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society, 7000 Village Parkway, Ste. E, Dublin, CA 94568.



Informational Meetings

Feb. 15 - Thu.
Mar. 21 - Wed.
4:45PM; RSVP

Feb. 1 - Thu.

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Author Visits

Author Talk on WWI Mutiny

Robert Allen, author of "The Port Chicago Mutiny: The Story of the Largest Mass Mutiny Trial in U.S. Naval History," will discuss the topic of his book 2 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 846-8826 for book pre-sale information. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405 for more event information.

East Bay Poets Read at Century House

The Century House Poetry Reading series brings East Bay poets Susan Browne and Kim Addonizio from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 4 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. Contact Michelle Russo, 931-5350 or mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us for more information.

Book Clubs

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.

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 Feb. 6.

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 Feb. 15.

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 Feb. 8.

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 Feb. 14.

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 Feb. 14.

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

Belly Dancing Classes

The city of Dublin is offering women's belly dancing classes with 4-week sessions beginning Feb. 23 and Mar. 3. Level 1 class meets 10 to 11 a.m. and level 2 class meets 11 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$46 for a 4-week session. Call 556-4500 or visit www.dublinrecguide.com to register.

Can You Ever Retire?

The Pleasanton Adult School presents "Can You Ever Retire?" from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 13 and 20 at Village High School, Rm. 701, 4645 Bernal Ave. Cost is \$35 for two sessions. Pre-registration is required. Call 426-4280 or visit <http://pleasanton.k12.trivalley.com>.

Effective Discipline With Your Pre-Teen

Parent Educator and National Parenting Trainer Camilla Clarke leads this class addressing discipline issues related to pre-teens (children ages 8-12). The class meets from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Feb. 13 and 20 at Harvest Park Middle School, Room A4. Attendance is free. Call 426-4280 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted for more information.

Handling Sibling Rivalry

Parent Educator Janet Shurtliff presents "Handling Sibling Rivalry" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at Harvest Park Middle School, Room A2. Attendance is free. Call 426-4280 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted for more information.

International Folk Dancers

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

Planning For Career Success After High School Graduation

Julia Jones, career education specialist at Dublin High School, presents this class for parents looking for alternatives to the traditional 4-year college track for their high school student. Class meets from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Amador Valley High School Library computer room. Attendance is free. Call 426-4280 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted for more information.

The Parent Project

The Pleasanton Police Department and the Pleasanton Adult School are holding two classes of "The Parent Project: Changing Destructive Adolescent Behavior." One class meets on Mondays starting Feb. 26 and the other meets on Tuesdays starting Feb. 27. Both sections meet for 11 sessions once a week from 6 to 9 p.m. Class fee is \$95. A 10 percent discount for couples is available. Call 426-4280 or visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted for more information.

Weekend Preview



Century House poetry this weekend

East Bay Area poets Susan Browne and Kim Addonizio will read their works at the Century House Reading series from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. Pleasanton Poet Laureate Cynthia Bryant will host and an open mike will follow the event. Admission is \$5. Call Michelle Russo, 931-5350 for more information.

Clubs

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.

Everything Poetry

This poetry work-group meets from 9 to 11 a.m. the first Saturday monthly to critique poetry and the third Saturday monthly for a workshop pertaining to an aspect of poetry business at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Bring 10 copies of a poem. Call Michelle, 931-5350 or e-mail mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

Twin Valley Mothers of Twins

The Twin Valley Mothers of Twins club meets Feb. 13 at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, in Dublin. They provide support, information and friendship for mothers of multiples (Moms). Roundtable discussion dealing with parenting multiples from pregnancy and up, beginning at 6:30 p.m., is open to new and prospective members. The general meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Babies up to 8 months are welcome to the discussions, newborn and breast-feeding babies only at general meetings. Visit www.tvmtc.com.

Concerts

Classical Piano Concert

Mark Anderson and Tamriko Sipsrashvili will perform their annual two-piano benefit concert for the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Council's school program 8 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Visit www.civcartstickets.org or call 931-3444 to purchase tickets.

Fifth Annual Youth Music Festival

The Fifth Annual Youth Music Festival will be 8 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. Young artists ages 18 or younger will perform. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit www.civcartstickets.org or call 931-3444 for tickets.

Livermore-Amador Symphony

The Livermore-Amador Symphony will perform its second concert of

the 2006-07 season with conductor Arthur Barnes 8 p.m. Feb. 3 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors, and free for high school age students or younger. Visit www.livamsymph.org or call 373-6824 for more information.

LPC Early Music Concert Series

Las Positas College kicks off its second annual Early Music Series 7:30 p.m., Feb. 10 with Iranian-born harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani. The concert will take place in the LPC library. Other concerts are scheduled Mar. 10 and April 21. Tickets are \$40 for the three-concert series or \$15 per individual concert. Student tickets are \$12 for the series, \$5 per individual concert. Call Marilyn Marquis, 424-1209 for more information.

Pacific Chamber Symphony "Garden of Delights"

The Pacific Chamber Symphony presents "A Garden of Delights" featuring works by Beethoven, Brahms and the U.S. debut of two award-winning, young Russian pianists 8 p.m., Feb. 9 at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 Fifth St., Livermore. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth 18 or younger. Buy four tickets for \$75. Call 931-34444 to purchase.

Spyro Gyra

Jazz group Spyro Gyra will perform at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd., 8 p.m., Feb. 16. Tickets are \$25, \$30 and \$35. Tickets may be purchased online at www.civcart.org or by phone, 931-3444.

The Pleasanton Chamber Players

The Pleasanton Chamber Players will perform its first concert of the 2007 season, titled "2 To 4 Of-A-Kind," 3 p.m. Feb. 11 at Trinity Lutheran Church, at Hopyard Road and Del Valle Parkway. Admission is \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door and free for children. Tickets are available at Towne Center Books, 846-8826, and Ingram & Braun, 462-3667. Call 600-1331 or e-mail dominiquepiana@comcast.net for more information.

100 Years of Winemaking

Italian wine specialist Christina Rinaldi hosts a tasting of St. Michael and Sanct Valentin wines brought from the 100th anniversary celebration of the renowned St. Michael Eppan winery in Italy's Alto Adige region from 2 to 5 p.m., Feb. 10 at Gene's Fine Foods, 2803 Hopyard Rd.. Wines will be paired with Italian olive oil and cheeses. Tasting fee \$1. Call 846-8220 for more information.

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Pet of the Week



Meet Noelle

Noelle was found wandering in Livermore in January and she is a special needs kitty because she is blind. Noelle is an adult female, gray and white shorthair housecat who needs a quiet, indoor-only home because, in addition to being blind, Noelle is also de-clawed. Noelle enjoys being petted and she has fur as soft as velvet. For more information about Noelle (pet #F67284), visit the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin, open daily 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

Events

Amador Winterguard Show

Amador Valley High School is hosting its annual Winterguard Show 5:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in the Amador large gym, 1155 Santa Rita Road. More than 20 Winterguard Units from high schools in Northern California are expected to attend. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students 6-12 years old and free for children 5 or younger. Call Ginnelle Dowdy, 462-0793 or Jon Grantham, 461-6196 for more information.

Black History Month on the USS Hornet

The USS Hornet will present special exhibits and participatory activities highlighting the role of African-Americans in the military to commemorate Black History Month 1 p.m., Feb. 17. Visitors can participate in pilot mission briefings, witness aircrafts being lifted from the flight deck and sit in the cockpit of a fighter jet. Aircraft simulations will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$6 for children ages 5 to 17. A special price of \$20 for families of up to four people will be offered

(continued on page 18)

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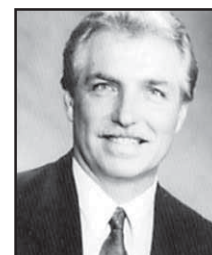
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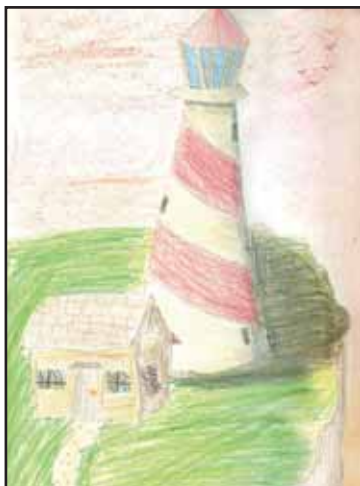
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that day. The museum is located at 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. Call (510) 521-8848 or visit www.uss-hornet.org for more information.

Garre Winery Valentine's Day Dinner
Garre Winery will serve its Valentine's Day dinner, accompanied with a live cellist, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Feb. 10 and 14. Tickets are \$108 per couple and include a complimentary glass of Red Velvet Port and dessert. Reservations are required. Call 371-8200 or visit www.garrewinery.com.

Huntington Learning Center Open House and Party
Huntington Learning Center celebrates its 20th anniversary with an open house and party from noon to 3 p.m., Feb. 3 at the center, 4855 Hopyard Rd. Activities include arts and crafts, storytimes, homework tips, prize drawings, the announcement of essay contest winners and an iPod shuffle prize drawing at 12:30 p.m. The winner must be present to the iPod. Call 463-2334 for more information.

Livermore Valley Wine Country Championship
Four-day passes for the Livermore Valley Wine Country Championship at Wente Vineyards are now on sale at Museum On Main, 603 Main St. The tournament will be held from Mar. 29 through April 1. Tournament passes are \$30. The event includes wine and food tastings, demonstrations and a tech exhibit. The museum receives half of every ticket sold. Call 462-2766 or e-mail valleymuseum@sbcglobal.net for more information.

McNerney District Office Reception
U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) will open his new 11th Congressional District office with a reception from 2 to 5 p.m. Feb. 10 at 5776 Stoneridge Mall Road, Ste. 175. Call Vicki at 737-0733 for information and directions.

Rocks, Wines and Valentines
"Rocks, Wines and Valentines," a four-course dinner presented by Concannon Winemaker to benefit the Museum On Main, is scheduled 6:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. Tickets are \$100 per person, \$750 for a table of eight. Reservation deadline is Feb. 3. Call the museum 462-2766 to make reservations.

Thomas Coyne Winery Winter Open House
Thomas Coyne Winery is hosting its winter open house from noon to 5 p.m., Feb. 17, 18 and 19 at the winery tasting room, 51 E. Vallecitos Rd., Livermore. Call 373-6541 or visit <http://thomascoynewinery.com> for more information.

Tri-Valley Chinese Culture Day
The Fourth Tri-Valley Chinese Cultural Day will take place from 3 to 10 p.m., Feb. 18 at the Amador Theater and Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. There will be a spring carnival, student shows, karaoke, vendor booths, art exhibits, games, raffles potluck and dumpling making demonstration. Tickets are \$15 per person and include free childcare from 7 to 10 p.m. Call 485-1880 for more information.

Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting
The Pleasanton Downtown Association is hosting its annual "Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting" wine stroll from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 8 at participating downtown businesses. The event begins at the Rose Hotel, 807 Main St. Tickets can be purchased in advance at The Rose Hotel, Studio 7, Clover Creek and the Pleasanton Downtown Association office for \$25. Tickets on the day of the event will cost \$30. All tickets must be redeemed for glasses by 7:30 p.m. the night of the event. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net or call 484-2199, ext. 4 for more information.

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.

Feb. 28 at Way Up Art & Frame, 1923 Second St., Livermore. See high-quality, hand-made sketch books including on-site drawings and paintings of various locations in the Tri-Valley and beyond. Call Thomas at 846-3691 or e-mail vinals37550@mypacks.net.

Luminescent Watercolors
Studio 7 Fine Arts opened its latest exhibit of 30 original watercolors and never-before-seen oil paintings by the late artist Hal Booth. The exhibit will run through Feb. 18. Studio 7 is located on the corner of West Angela and Main streets. Call 846-4322 for more information.

Fundraisers

Hats Off America Red T-Shirt Run
The sixth Hats Off America Red T-Shirt 10K Run/5K Walk will start 10 am. Feb. 10 at Sycamore Valley Park, 2101 Holbrook Drive, Danville., rain or shine. Entry fee is \$35. All runners and volunteers will receive a red T-shirt and barbecue lunch after the run. There is no entry fee for volunteers. HOA raises money for families of soldiers who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Contact Sparky George, 855-1950 or e-mail thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com to register of volunteer. Visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

Moment By Moment
Moment By Moment, a nonprofit organization that provides in-hospital photo sessions and resulting photographs for families of terminally ill children at no cost, is hosting a fundraising benefit from 6 p.m. to midnight Feb. 3 at The Bridges in San Ramon. Tickets are \$90 per person and include dinner, live music and dancing, as well as a live and silent auction. Visit www.momentbymoment.org or call Karen Henrich, 984-9454 for more information.

Pure Girls, ABWA Collect Donations for The Princess Project
ABWA Express to Success Network and Pure Girls are collecting new and nearly new prom gowns and fancy dresses for The Princess Project, a Bay Area non-profit that provides high school girls who could not otherwise afford them. The project's goal is to outfit 2,700 underserved girls for prom 2007. Donations can be dropped off at Pure Girls, 660 Main St., Feb. 10 through 23 during regular store hours. Dresses must be dry cleaned, on hangers and in good condition. Related accessories are also wel-

Exhibits

Landscape Sketching
Work by students of Monica Satterthwait's landscape sketching class at LPC is on display through

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Valentine's H.O.P.E. Day

Pleasanton chiropractor David De Bonis is donating his chiropractic services all day Feb. 14 in exchange for non-perishable food donations for the Alameda County Food Bank. De Bonis' services include consultations, exams and adjustments. Both new and existing patients are welcome. Food donations can be brought to his office from Feb. 12 to 16, 4625 First St., Ste. 100. Call 223-7143 to schedule an appointment.

Health

Blood Drive

Livermore Asbury United Methodist Church is hosting a Red Cross blood drive from 2 to 7 p.m., Feb. 16 at 444 East Ave., Livermore. Contact Tom Petty, 447-1950 or blooddrive@asburylive.org 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 Excitement Fitness class for those ages 13 and over in the evening at the Senior Center, 5355 Sunol Blvd. Cost varies from \$3 to \$4.50 per class. Registration required. Call 931-5365 for 50 Fitness Plus and 931-5340 for Excitement 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.

Kids & Teens

Flower Power at Pure Girls

Pure Girls is hosting a Flower Power event from 5 to 8 p.m., Feb. 8 for girls ages 5 to 11 at the store, 660 Main St. The event includes dinner, drinks and dessert. Parents can bring their daughters while they attend the Pleasanton Downtown Association Wine Stroll, also happening that night. Cost is \$35. If a girl brings a friend, she and the friend will get \$5 off admission. Call 485-4380 to reserve a spot.

Paws to Read

Winter sessions of Paws to Read will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. During the hour, children in grades first through fifth read to a therapy dog. On Feb. 13 event, the dogs will come in Valentine's Day attire. Call 931-3400, ext. 23 for more information.

Lectures/ Workshops

A Visit with John Muir

Former school teacher Frank Helling presents "A Visit with John Muir" 7 p.m., Feb. 15 at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St. Dressed as John Muir, Helling will recount the explorations and history-making of John Muir's life. Admission is \$5 for museum members, \$10 for non-members. Call 462-2766 for tickets or more information.

Employment Rights for Cancer Patients

Elizabeth Kristen, staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center, will present a free workshop about the different laws that protect people with cancer in the workplace from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 15 at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Admission is free but reservations are required. Call The Wellness Community, 933-0107 for more information.

Founder of Citizens for Ethical Leadership in Government Speaks

Dennis Wolfe, founder of Citizens for Ethical Leadership in Government, will be the guest speaker at the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated dinner meeting 6:30 p.m., Feb. 8 at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd. New members and visitors are welcome. Dinner is \$26 per person. Reservation deadline is Feb. 2. Call Karen, 846-2702.

Market Research and the Marketing Plan

Technology Ventures Corporation presents "Market Research and the Marketing Plan from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Feb. 14 at the Carr America Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Dr. Admission is free. Call 960-1600 or visit www.techventures.org for more information.

Pleasanton Special Group Seminar

The Pleasanton Special Group, a group of parents of special needs children, is hosting a seminar on the legal rights of special needs children and their families from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Tennis Club, 5801 Valley Ave. Susan Foley, an attorney experienced in helping parents of children with special needs, will present. RSVP by e-mailing firstsunrising@yahoo.com.

Target Your Market

Melinda Solomon, marketing manager of Diablo Publications, will present how businesses of any size can target their market during a lecture 7:30 a.m., Feb. 9 at The Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silverlake Dr., Danville.

Writing for the Web

The East Bay I.T. Group (eBIG) presents "Content is Kind: Writing for the Web" from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Feb. 7 at the San Ramon-Dublin Water Services District Board Room, 7051 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Cost is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members in advance. Each is \$10 more at the door. E-mail Kristen Kuhns, info@ebig.org for more information. Visit www.ebig.org to register.

Miscellaneous

Kittens Seek Foster Homes

The East Bay SPCA's Foster Care Program seeks foster homes for the upcoming kitten season. For more information, contact the East Bay SPCA at (510) 563-4632 or visit www.eastbayspca.org/foster.

On Stage

Sometimes We Need a Story More Than Food

Corey Fischer performs his award-winning one-man show "Sometimes We Need a Story More Than Food" 7 p.m., Feb. 7 at the Studio Theatre located on the California State University, East Bay campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. Admission is free and a reception will follow the show. Call (510) 885-3179 for more information.

Spiritual

Pathway Community Church Open House

Pathway Community Church, 3470 Fostoria Way, Ste. D, San Ramon, is hosting an open house 12:30 p.m., Feb. 11. Contemporary Worship Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Attendees can learn about the church's programs for elementary, middle and high school age groups, as well as programs for adults. Call 830-4722 or visit www.pathwaycommunitychurch.org for more information.

Tu B'Shvat Seder and Global Warming Talk

The Tri-Valley Jews is hosting a seder for Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish "New Year of the Trees" that has evolved into the Jewish Earth

Day, 10:30 a.m. Feb. 4 at The Bothwell Center, 2466 Eighth Street, Livermore. Following the seder, scientist Renee Tobis will discuss human impact on global warm-

ing and how to stop it. Cost is \$5 for adult non-members of TVCJ. Reservations are required. Call 485-1049 or e-mail CulturalJews@aol.com.

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Dining Out

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American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Vic's delivers a starry mix of American food, fast service and a cheery atmosphere. Owner Vic Malatesta teamed his love of sports with his passion for good food to create a solid dining experience. Vic's is open daily 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Evening banquets and daytime catering are available.

Bridges

44 Church St., Danville, 820-7200. Executive Chef Kevin Gin interprets California-American cuisine with European and Asian influences with expansive lunch and dinner menus. Add dessert, wine and cocktails and you have Bridges' casual fine dining experience. Visit www.bridgesdanville.com for event and private party details.

Asian-Pacific

Mahalo Grille

425 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-2800. Treat yourself to a taste sensation at Mahalo Grille featuring a variety of Pacific seafood, Hawaiian fresh fish and shell fish, and "Mahalo" signature selections. Also try our various vegetarian-friendly offerings, California wines and island cocktails. Visit www.mahalogrille.com.

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was voted best take out food by Pleasanton Weekly readers in 2006. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.



Brewpub/ Alehouse

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3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton,

426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food.†The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again.

(continued on page 23)

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Specials for the month of February...

FRESH OYSTERS ON THE HALF SHELL WITH SHALLOT MIGNONETTE

OYSTERS AU GRATIN ROCKEFELLER

CHOICE FILET MIGNON WITH AUSTRALIAN LOBSTER TAIL

CHOICE FILET MIGNON WITH ROSEMARY GARLIC GRILLED PRAWNS

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Catering

Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, 462-9299. Fontina Ristorante's award-winning menu can now be delivered to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a vegetarian menu. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert or 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987, it has friendly service, delicious food and great prices, including lunch specials from only \$5.25.

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.pandapleasanton.com

Willow Tree Chinese Cuisine

6512 Regional St, Dublin, 828-9111. Since 1978 Willow Tree has offered authentic Dim-Sum and banquet buffet cuisine. We prepare each dish with the freshest ingredients and are dedicated to hospitality. View our complete menu at www.willowtreerestaurant.com

Continental

Barone's

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant features innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees, outdoor dining, and a full bar. Barone's is open for dinner seven nights and lunch Monday through Friday, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Ask about our banquet facilities and special events.

Fusion

Oasis Grille

780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438. Visit downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination. Oasis features kababs, rice and vegetarian dishes, to name a few. Check out our updated wine and exotic cocktail menus. We also cater! Visit www.OasisGrille.com.

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials--including homemade soups, pastas,

seafood, chicken and veal--served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. We have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic fill this warm and friendly, classically "Italian" restaurant. Watch cooks hand toss dough at this Tri-Valley pizza Mecca. It's perfect for romantic couples and the entire family. Authentic Southern Italian cooking includes traditional dishes such as Veal Scaloppini, Lamb Osso Bucco and Scampi.

Garlic di Pasta

3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 485-4500. Garlic di Pasta was rated "A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic and voted the best Italian

(continued on page 24)

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

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DINNER: Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30
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Pleasanton Weekly's
BEST OF PLEASANTON
2006

Voted Pleasanton Best Takeout

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Rotisserie Chicken Tri-Tip	\$16.99
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2 pound	\$29.99
Slab-and-a-Half of Ribs	\$24.99
One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Chicken	\$30.99
Full Slab of Ribs & Whole Chicken	\$30.99
One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Slab	\$36.99

Sides
Small Side Salad, French Fries, Roasted Corn Salad, Potato Salad, Creamy Cole Slaw, Santa Maria Style Beans, Chicken Tortilla Soup

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734-0307
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