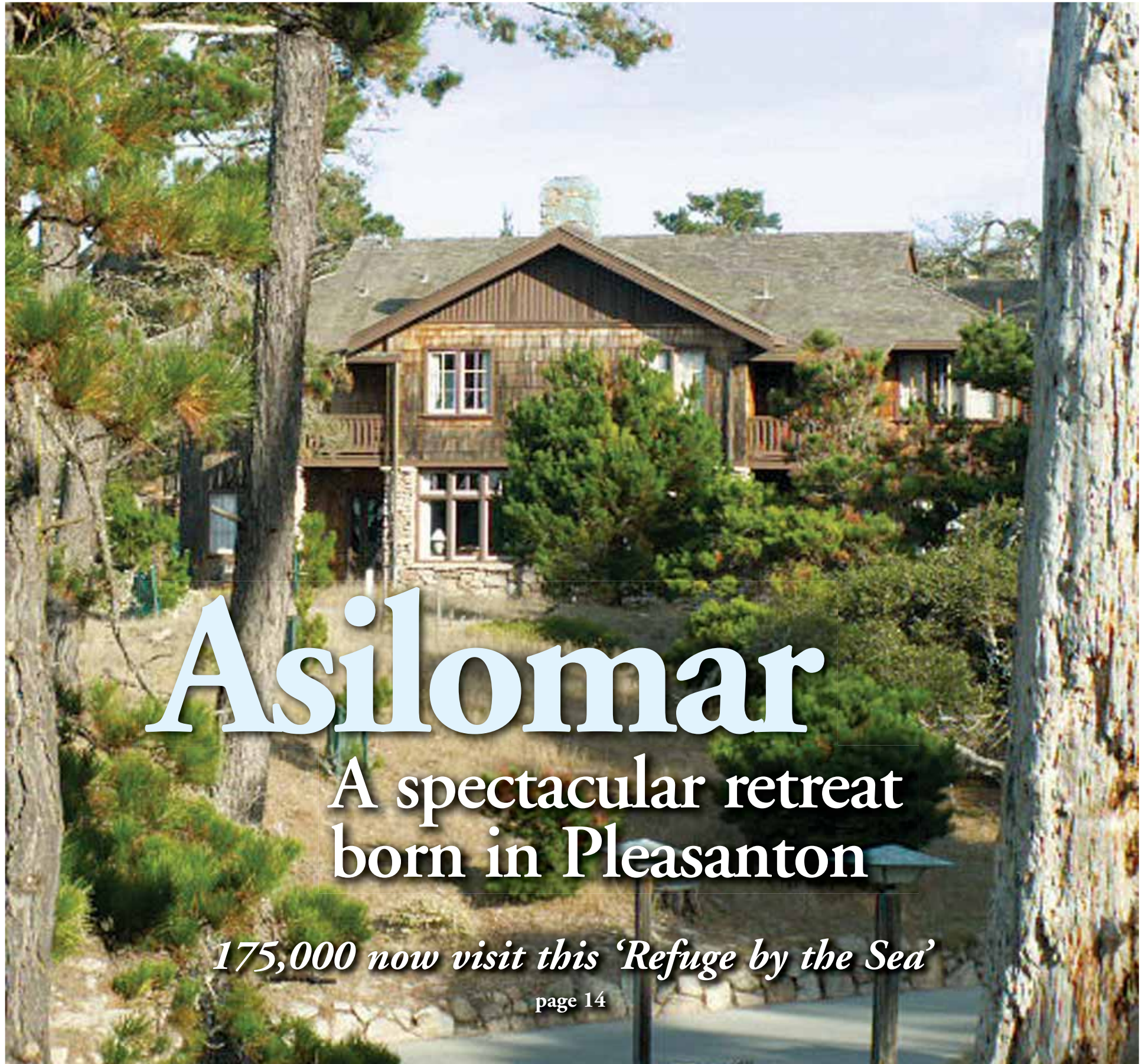


PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 3 • February 9, 2007

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INSIDE
this week

SWAT standoff
Police arrest parolee
at Pleasanton home
page 5

\$40K in ecstasy seized
Drug sold to Pleasanton
high school students
page 9

Love is in the air
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for Valentine's Day
Section 2

Home sales down 15%
But median home prices
rise 3.7% survey shows
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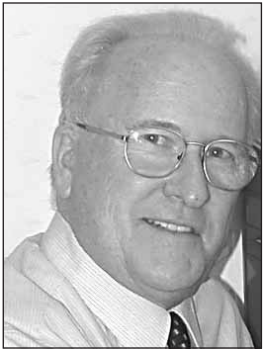
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Legislators hope to redistrict, change term limits

Barring any further off-the-cuff negative comments by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, California legislators seem optimistic that this could be one of their best years ever for bipartisanship actions on key issues affecting the state. Among these, redistricting and term limit adjustments, both which affect Pleasanton, a unique city for its 65,000-population size that has three separate State Assembly districts and two Congressional districts. Although U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney's 11th Congressional District represents most of the city, a northwestern portion is in Congressman Pete Stark's 13th. In state elections, particularly, Pleasanton voters find the most confusion, heading to the ballot box to vote for the Assembly person they favor only to find out they live in a different district. This was former Mayor Tom Pico's problem when he campaigned vigorously—and almost successfully—in 2004 for the Democratic nomination in the 20th Assembly District, which former Newark Mayor Alberto Torrico won. Voters went to the polls throughout Pleasanton to cast votes for Pico, but only the area east of downtown, including Vintage Hills and Ruby Hill, saw Pico's name on their ballots.

Legislators from both political parties at last week's 11th Annual Government Affairs Day in Sacramento talked about the problem, with Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez calling the current system "indefensible." He said the legislators should not "cherry-pick" their votes, but that changing the system is easier said than done. Redistricting is complex. Mapmakers need to consider the Voting Rights Act, communities of interest, boundaries and dozens of other issues. As it is, voters in Pleasanton could go to the polls and vote against all three of the Assembly members who represent us—Torrico in the 20th, Mary Hayashi in the 18th and Guy Houston in the 15th—and it most likely would make little difference in the outcome. In each district, the large voting blocs are in other cities: Fremont, Newark, Hayward, San Leandro, and the growing cities along Interstate 5, which is part

of Houston's district all the way to south Sacramento.

But as Nunez reminded us, California voters have said "no" nine times to repeated attempts to change the way legislative and congressional districts are designed. Voters don't want to get involved in the middle of partisan political fights on a complex and arcane issue they don't understand. They're not interested in becoming part of what they perceive is a partisan power grab and prefer the status quo. Still, with Senate Republican Leader Dick Ackerman (R-33rd) and Assistant Assembly Republican Leader Rick Keene (R-3rd) at his side, Nunez told editors and publishers at the California Newspaper Publishers Association meeting that they, along with Senate Leader Don Perata, believes the camaraderie and bipartisan spirit fostered by the governor make the time right for crafting an agreement later this year. They want to create a citizens' commission to draw the lines instead of letting politicians do the job, an effort which, if successful, would be based on the 2010 Census and take effect in the elections in 2012.

Responding to my question on term limits, Nunez said voters approved them to end an era when some legislators, including former Speaker and San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, seemed to stay in office forever. But the term limits voters imposed may need some adjustment, which the legislative panel said should be considered. As it is, you can hold an Assembly seat for three terms, or a lifetime total of six years, and a State Senate seat for two terms, or a total of eight years. Nunez suggests keeping the lid on total service, but allowing legislators to mix and match for the same total of 14 years. That could lead to more experienced members in the Assembly and Senate, where term limits often force officeholders to quit their posts when they're at their best in legislative work.

Both redistricting and term limit revisions could make those who represent Pleasanton more attentive to our local issues. ■



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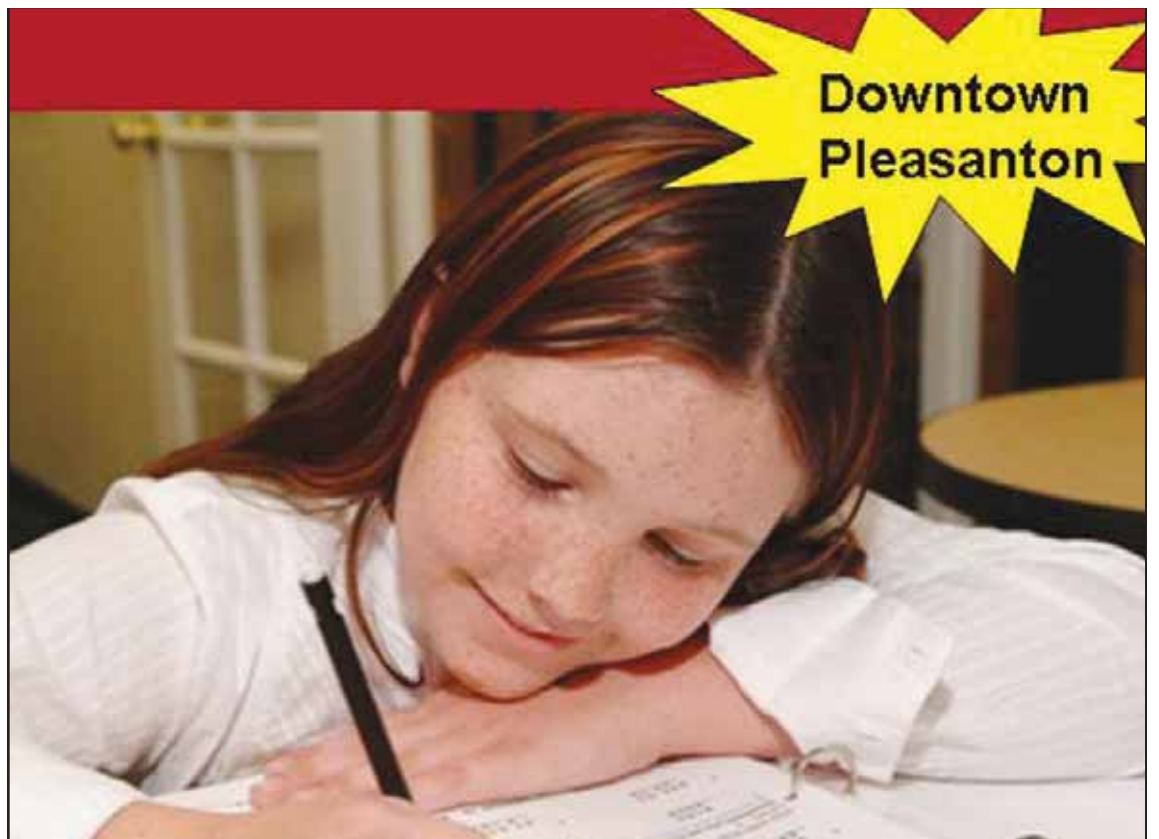
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About the Cover

The Visitors Lodge commands a hilltop view of both ocean and forest at Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove. Designed by Julia Morgan in 1917 for top officials visiting for the national YWCA, the interior of the historic building features redwood paneling and charming stone fireplaces.

Vol. VIII, Number 3

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Streetwise

Q: The new Microsoft Windows Vista came out on Jan. 30. Will you buy it?

Asked at Walnut Grove Elementary School



Stu Shader

Sales

Yes, I will. I will probably purchase it with a new machine for the household. The family control features and security are very important for me. I am excited about the product.

Bob Cilk

Realtor

The parental controls would be great. With four kids, it's tough to keep track of what everyone is doing. I understand it's very simple to navigate, which is a good thing. It's pretty new to the market, so we'll most likely wait for awhile before buying it.



Steven Molz

Wholesale Mortgage Broker

Yes, I am planning on purchasing it. For a guy like me that doesn't know a lot about computers, I like the idea that I can buy one thing and have it all right there at my fingertips. It sounds like this is a product that will last for years.



Stacy McGinty

Exercise Physiologist

We are thinking about it. I haven't heard too much, so I don't know the pros and cons. The latest technology makes things easier and more efficient, so we will most likely get it.



Joan Laursen

Mom

Yes, we will purchase it eventually. It will take a while to make sure it will work with all of our components. I think it will be much safer. Our computers won't be subject to so many viruses.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

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Newsfront

News Digest

Free career class for high school parents

Julia Jones, a career education specialist at Dublin High School, will teach a class geared for parents of high school students who are graduating. The class, sponsored by the Pleasanton Unified School District and Amador Valley Adult & Community Education, is for parents who are looking for alternatives to a four-year college. Participants will learn about alternative forms of training, specialty schools and paid apprenticeships. The event is being held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 22 at Amador Valley High School in the library computer room. To register, call the Amador Valley Adult School at 426-4280 or visit ww.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted.

Beth Emek hosting Jewish rock concert

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada St., will host a rock concert by the internationally-acclaimed Jewish rock band Dan Nichols & Eighteen on March 17 at 6:30 pm.

The concert is open to anyone interested. Advance ticket prices for reserved seating are \$36. General admission tickets for adults are \$18 in advance; \$20 at the door; \$16 for teens in advance and \$18 at the door; and seniors and youth (ages 3-12) \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Advance tickets must be purchased by Feb. 19 and reserved ticket sales end March 9.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.bethemek.org/dan_nichols or at the Beth Emek office. For more information, call 931-1055 or e-mail programs@bethemek.org.

February is American Heart Month

While February is mostly known for Valentine's Day, it is also the American Heart Association's American Heart Month. The AMA reminds the public to eat five foods that are good for the heart: legumes such as red kidney beans and white garbanzos, romaine lettuce, broccoli, red peppers and raisins.

Corrections

The Jan. 26 "About the Cover" incorrectly named the person pictured on the cover. It should have read Alissa Kruse.

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

Weekly launches interactive online edition

Town Square gives readers public forum

by Jeb Bing

The Pleasanton Weekly is launching today a new, lively, interactive online edition that will provide regular updates of news and features as well as an opportunity for readers to publish their own news, share opinions and engage in dialogue on local issues.

Local Headline News is where the newspaper's reporters and editors will post breaking stories and regularly update news stories that appear in the paper's popular print edition that is delivered each Friday to the Pleasanton community. Unlike other internet news sources that focus on global and national

news, PleasantonWeekly.com will adhere to the newspapers focus on Pleasanton with news, features and advertisements of primary interest to those who live, work and shop in Pleasanton.

A highlight of the new online

(continued on page 8)

District applies for community day school

Program would meet needs of continuation school students

by Emily Atwood

To address the needs of students enrolled at Village High School, the continuation high school in town, the Pleasanton Unified School District plans to submit an application for a community day school. With more ninth-graders enrolled than ever before, the district seeks to add the program which would increase educational hours and provide alternative learning methods and extra support for struggling students.

According to district documents, the Alameda County Office of Education identified the Tri-Valley as "having a gap in their ability to serve [expelled] students in Alameda County."

The only alternative community day school is the county day school in Hayward, which provides "educational opportunities for referred students, ages 12-17, whose behavior prevents them from being successful in traditional school settings in Alameda County," according to the school's Web site. For many, the distance from Pleasanton to Hayward is too far to be a viable option for students.

Diane Howell, director of secondary education at Village High School, said currently expelled students only have the choice of attending the opportunity program at Village. The community day school would give students another alternative.

The curriculum would use the same material as those in the comprehensive high schools, yet the methods of teaching would vary according to the needs of the students. The class size would also be smaller and would include career education.

Howell also said if the application and other details were in order that the program could start as soon as the second semester of this school year.

At the district's special board meeting Jan. 29, trustees agreed to have the district submit an application to the state Department of Education.

Trustee Kris Weaver said it was great and thought it would enhance the image at Village High School. Board President Juanita Haugen was also pleased with the program, adding that she hoped it would be added for the coming semester.

The biggest roadblock would be

(continued on page 9)



Harry Aruda

A SWAT team from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department prepares to enter a home on Bunker Lane in Pleasanton where parolee Forrest Chancellor was hiding after a police pursuit that began in San Ramon.

Parolee faces charges after SWAT standoff in Castlewood

San Ramon man led police on chase to Pleasanton home on Bunker Lane

by Janet Pelletier

A parolee who led police on a high speed car chase from his apartment in San Ramon to a standoff at a home in the Castlewood neighborhood of Pleasanton Wednesday could now be facing life in prison.

The incident began at 9:20 a.m. Wednesday when San Ramon police went to the apartment of Forrest Chancellor, 45, to serve a no-bail arrest warrant, according to Jimmy Lee, a spokesman for the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department.

The parolee escaped police and fled the scene in a truck, hit a police car and sped southbound on Interstate 680 with police in close pursuit. He exited the freeway at Sunol Boulevard and headed west toward Castlewood Golf Course. Chancellor then ditched the vehicle



Suspect 45-year-old Forrest Chancellor of San Ramon.

and fled on foot toward houses on Bunker Lane, west of Foothill

Drive. Authorities zeroed in on the neighborhood with the aid of two California Highway Patrol helicopters on a hillside overlooking the private golf course, focusing on one house in particular.

Police learned Chancellor was an acquaintance of an elderly woman who lived at the Bunker Lane residence, although the woman was not home at the time of the incident, according to Sgt. J.D. Nelson of the Alameda County Sheriff's office.

SWAT teams from the Alameda County Sheriff's Department forced entry into the house after several attempts to make contact with the suspect by phone.

"At that point, they made a secondary search, which is searching the attic and crawl spaces," Nelson explained. "Inside one of the closets is a little door that leads under

(continued on page 10)



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ValleyCare receives performance award

Honor recognizes excellence in industry health care

After a 50-page application and a seven-man team spent five days evaluating the inner workings of ValleyCare Health System, the Pleasanton hospital was recently honored with the bronze award for by the California Awards of Performance Excellence (CAPE).

Neil Sol, vice president of out-patient services, said the award doesn't have anything to do with anything clinical, rather it recognizes it as a quality performing institution.

“The application deals with everything about the company,” he said. “It deals more with processing, excellence among the staff, etc.”

(continued on page 8)

Pleasanton Chamber Players kick off season

'2 to 4 Of-A-Kind' features unusual pairings

This weekend, the Pleasanton Chamber Players will perform its first concert of the 2007 season, “2 To 4 Of-A-Kind,” at 3 p.m. Feb. 11 at Trinity Lutheran Church, at Hopyard and Del Valle Parkway.

The show features unusual instrumental groupings such as a cello quartet, clarinet duo and flute duo, as well as a voice and harp pairing.

Pleasanton cellists Lawrence Granger and Gay Hagen Dunn join forces with cellists Peter Bedrossian and Jim Aikin of Livermore, performing music by Bach and Romanticists Klengel and Fitzenhagen. Clarinetists Joseph Bonfiglio and Gary Sears will then perform works by Crusell and Mendelssohn with pianist Mary Martin and flutists Karen Stasko Veca and Teresa Orozco-Petersen will perform works by Kuhlau and Faure. Soprano Sarah Franklin and mezzo-soprano Lisa Scarborough pair up in song settings by Bellini and Offenbach, accompanied by harpist Dominique Piana. The vocalists will also sing works by Heggie in collaboration with pianists Priscilla Carter Granger and Lawrence Granger.

Tickets are available in advance at Towne Center Books, 846-8826, and Ingram and Braun, 462-3667. Cost is \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door and free for children. Senior group rates can be negotiated. Contact Dominique Piana, 600-1331 or dominiquepiana@comcast.net for more information.

—Rebecca Guyon



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Amador grad wins coveted George C. Marshall Award

Army ROTC student to attend national security conference in Virginia in April

by Janet Pelletier

When Matthew Macniak offered to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test that anyone wanting to join the military is required to take, he never imagined it would lead him into a career in the Army.

After all, the now 22-year-old candidly admits he was just trying to get out of school for four hours.

Fast forward to today, the 2002 Amador Valley High School grad and current senior at the University of Utah now plans to enlist for active duty in the Army and will travel to Virginia in April to attend a national security conference and accept the coveted George C. Marshall Award.

Named after former U.S. Secretary of State and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army George Marshall, the award is given to the most outstanding Army ROTC cadet at each university across the country that offers an ROTC program.

"It makes me feel good that the cadre of the officers in my battalion put me in the same ranks as (last year's winner from the University of Utah)," Macniak said. "I'm excited. There have been a lot of great opportunities that I've been given through ROTC."

Macniak's mother, Karen Kruse agreed.

"We're really proud of him. It's just been a real success story," she said.

When he embarks to Lexington, Va., Macniak will attend a conference and participate in discussions on such topics as peacekeeping, homeland security, the role of the military, media and the battlefield, terrorism warfare and officers' ethics and character. Some past speakers attending the event have included President George W. Bush and the Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker.

After taking the test that he didn't intend would change his life, Macniak learned when he was a senior at Amador that he had scored really well.

"I had recruiters calling me from all the military services," he said. "At that point I was still (waver-ing), but then Sept. 11 happened and I just wouldn't have felt right not joining."

His father and grandfather also served in the military and his older brother Joseph, 23, is an infantry soldier in the Army currently serving a year-long tour of duty in Iraq.

So at 17, after being accepted to the University of Utah, Macniak



Matthew Macniak, a former Amador Valley High School graduate, will accept the George C. Marshall Award in Virginia this April. The award is given to the most outstanding Army ROTC cadet at each university.

signed papers to join the Army Reserves, on his mother's condition that he attend the university and not sign up for weapons combat. Four weeks of basic training followed and five weeks into the first semester back at school, he was called up by the Army. It was February 2003, just a month

before the Iraq War began and Macniak was sent to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri to serve as a military policeman on the base. Instead of getting sent to the Middle East like he expected and hoped, he remained in Missouri for nearly a year, attached as active duty to the 163rd Military Police Company before coming back to Utah to catch up on school. Now a senior in college, Macniak is majoring in Spanish, looking to blend both his interest in the Army and the foreign language for a career path.

"I went on an exchange trip to Mexico City in high school and was encouraged by a teacher (Mrs. Henriquez) to apply for it," he said. "That's what sparked my interest in Spanish where it kind of clicked in my head that I could learn a language."

He said he's looking at going to grad school for international relations or, through the Army, work at an embassy in another country to act as a liaison between the U.S. government and that country.

Macniak said he plans to enlist in the Army.

"I graduate on May 4 and on May 5, I'll get commissioned to active duty officer," he said. ■

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ValleyCare

(continued from page 6)

It's the California version of the esteemed Malcom Baldrige National Quality Program award, which uses the same criteria and focuses on superior performance and continuous improvement in key business areas.

"We are very proud to have won a CAPE award and it is our first step in pursuing the Malcom Baldrige award," ValleyCare CEO Marcy

feit said.

While earning the bronze is an achievement, Sol said the award came with recommendations addressing areas that need improvement.

"The document wasn't substantial," he said, "but there are always things we could do better."

The CAPE award will be presented at the 13th annual conference and awards ceremony April 6 in San Diego. Twenty-two organizations and businesses will also be recognized.

—Emily Atwood

Online

(continued from page 5)

edition is Town Square. Readers can turn to Town Square to ask their neighbors for everything from information on affordable places to stay during their trip to Venice or to expressing their opinions on local, state, national and global issues. Worried about Global Warming, the War in Iraq, health care or how the new minimum wage could affect your business? Join the Town Square crowd for answers and commentary.

PleasantonWeekly.com is easy to find and requires registration. Town Square users must identify themselves and their neighborhood or school community and are encouraged, but not required, to use their full names.

Readers of the Weekly will be urged to respond to news stories, columns, editorials, movie and restaurant reviews, and all other articles found online or in the print edition. School sports teams and their coaches now have a place to post their scores and comment on games.

"In essence, Town Square turns everybody into potential publishers and makes it possible to communicate with community members openly and immediately," said Gina Channell-Allen, president of the Pleasanton Weekly. "If we miss a news story, hopefully someone alerts us to it via Town Square."

All postings to Town Square will be monitored by the staff of the Pleasanton Weekly and must adhere to guidelines. Users are asked to be respectful of others and to help create a thoughtful forum where divergent ideas can be expressed. ■

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Eileen Borton
600-2034



Rick Goss
600-2005



Yvonne Herbeck
600-2015



Sandy Hermann
600-2028



Diane Koizumi
600-2010



Joan Leavitt
600-2022



Brad Loudon
600-2021



Marion Martini
600-2026



David McPherson
600-2024



Dana Mesarchik
600-2004



David Mladinich
600-2008



Kim Pedersen
600-2014



Terri Terriquez
600-2025



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\$40,000 worth of ecstasy seized

Investigation began in June 2006 for largest bust in Pleasanton history

Pleasanton police joined with the Alameda County Narcotics Task Force (ACNTF) to investigate ecstasy drug sales in Pleasanton high schools. On Feb. 2, police seized nearly 4,000 ecstasy pills with an estimated street value of \$40,000, according to Sgt. Barry Mickleburgh of the Pleasanton Police Department. He also said it was the biggest ecstasy seizure in the history of Pleasanton.

An undercover investigation led to search warrants for homes in Oakland and Castro Valley. Carter Huynh, 20, and his girlfriend Thary Sen, 22, lived at the Oakland home and were arrested after allegedly possessing 3,000 ecstasy pills packaged for sale, cash and a ballistic vest. Donald Bai, 21, a resident of the Castro Valley home, was arrested after driving away from the Oakland home. Police said he had nearly 1,200 ecstasy pills, and detectives said they found more of the euphoric drug, an AR-15 assault rifle with a suppressor, 60 rounds of tracer ammunition, and a Glock 40mm pistol at his home. All were booked at the Santa Rita Jail.

The investigation originated in Pleasanton last June after police learned of a local drug dealer selling medical marijuana to high school students. That individual was arrested for possession of marijuana for sale, but a few months later police said the suspect and another person were apprehended after they were involved in the sales of ecstasy. Pleasanton detectives then assigned an undercover detective from the ACNTF, which resulted in the purchase of additional ecstasy from this group.

Police believe the original arrests in June were the result of a local drug dealer who sold medical mari-



Courtesy: Pleasanton Police Department

Ecstasy pills worth a total of \$40,000 that were being sold at Pleasanton high schools were seized in a bust earlier this week.



Carter Huynh (left), 20, of Oakland and Donald Bai, 21, of Castro Valley were arrested Feb. 2 on charges of possessing nearly 4,000 ecstasy pills.

juana to students and built a clientele to which he later offered ecstasy. The city of Pleasanton currently has a moratorium in effect banning

marijuana dispensaries. It is due to expire later this year.

—Emily Atwood

Day school

(continued from page 5)

the hiring of staff to support the program at this time of the year.

Funding for the program would not encroach on the district's general fund, as money comes from the state

according to student attendance.

The school received \$5,700 for each student attending school and an additional \$5,000 for those attending all six hours. Those funds would go toward counseling, teaching and support services. Howell said getting extra funds through attendance could be another challenge to the project, Rich

Puppione, senior director of pupil services, said that regular attendance is required to get off expulsion and in some cases, is required by the probation department.

"Even if we were encroaching a bit on the general fund," trustee Pat Kernan said, "this is a program we've been seeking for a long time." ■

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\$ Mortgage Matters \$

Fixed Option ARM Loan

If you have a monthly adjustable Option ARM loan, you probably have a panic attack every month you open your payment notice. The interest rates on these loans have increased significantly in the last two years because they adjust monthly. A 5% interest rate two years ago was over 8% today and is still on the rise. The reason for this increase is because Option ARM loans are tied to short term treasuries, which has gone from under 2% two years ago to 5% today.

Recently, mortgage lenders have devised a fixed rate version of the Option ARM loan. The fixed period ranges from 3 to 10 years with no interest rate increases during that period. This will provide you with the knowledge that your rate will be the same during the entire fixed period. As with all Option ARM loans, you will have three choices of payments each month: minimum, interest only or fully amortized. Keep in mind that if you make the minimum payment (which is approximately 1/2 of the fully amortized payment) you would have what they call negative amortization, which allows your loan balance to increase by the amount you don't pay.

In example, you have a \$2,000 full amortized payment and you pay the minimum payment of \$1,000, the difference is added to your loan balance. As with the adjustable Option ARM loans you can choose a different payment each month, but the fixed Option ARM your interest rate will not change, providing a stable and dependable situation for your budget.

It is difficult to provide a comprehensive comparison of loan choices in a few paragraphs. Every borrower has a unique situation and requires individual attention to work with their personal scenario. If you have questions about these or any other loans, please don't hesitate to call for a free consultation with no obligation.

Rick Kuhle is a mortgage broker with Diversified Capital of Pleasanton, with 27 years of experience in the real estate industry. If you have any mortgage questions or are interested in a refinance or purchase loan, please call him at:

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Standoff

(continued from page 5)

neath the house and the deputy saw that it was a little bit raised, it wasn't flushed, so he looked in there, didn't see anything initially and sent a canine in there and from there, the dog started barking."

Chancellor was apprehended without incident at around 3:30 p.m.

Lee said the suspect already has two prior felonies and this will be his third strike under California's three strikes law.

"This is the first time I've ever seen something like this," said Sid Darlington, who's in charge of outside services for the Castlewood Country Club, where law enforcement agencies set up their command post. "It's pretty obvious it's a serious situation."

Despite the serious nature of the incident, many continued golfing while the situation unfolded. The hill course of the golf course was closed off, but the valley course



Harry Arruda

A member of the county SWAT team practices aiming his rifle as he prepares to head out to the home.

was still open. Many golfers milled around the dining room inside the clubhouse and trains continued to pass through on the tracks that divide the golf course. Those who live in the Castlewood neighborhood were allowed to both leave the area and enter the area through police barricades on both Foothill Road and Castlewood Drive and Castlewood and Sunol Boulevard.

Castlewood Assistant Golf Pro Justin Wright said the last time a major police event occurred in the region was about 10 years ago when there was a murder-suicide at a house up the hill.

In all, Contra Costa sheriff's deputies, and members of the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department, San Ramon and Pleasanton police departments, California Highway Patrol and Alameda County Sheriff's Department SWAT responded to the scene.

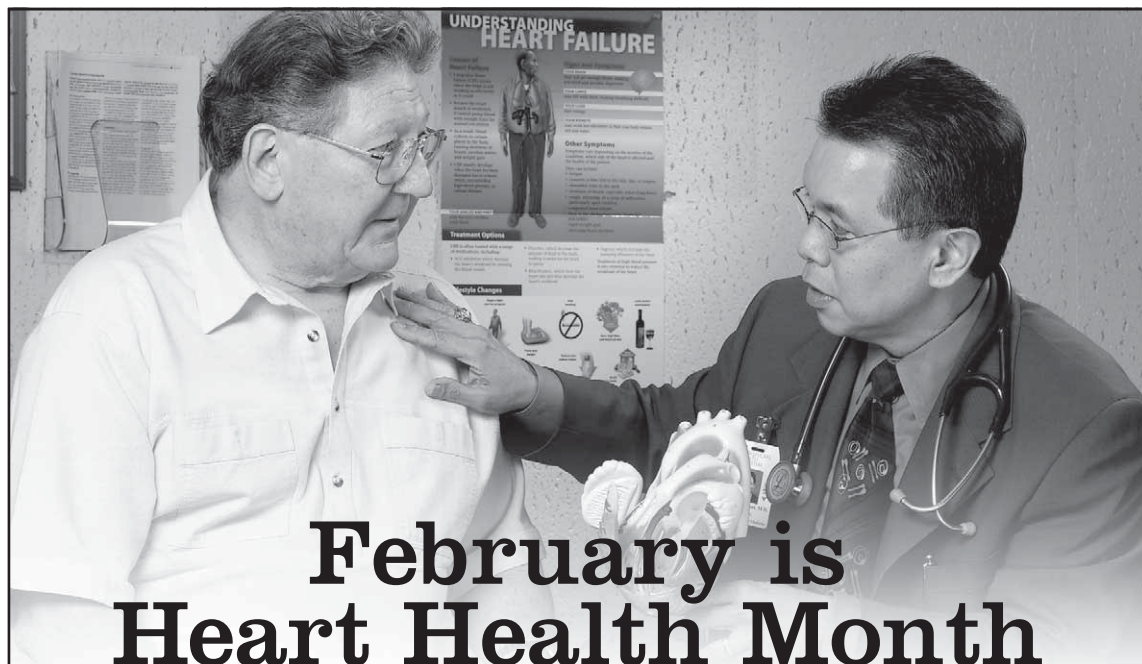
During the incident, Hearst, Lydiksen and Donlon elementary schools modified their lunch and recess breaks as a precaution, although "the situation was not perceived as an immediate threat" to any district schools, according to Myla Grasso, spokeswoman for the Pleasanton Unified School District. Foothill High School posted additional personnel outside the campus and Pleasanton Middle School also secured its campus perimeters, Grasso said. ■

Take Us Along



Harboring the Weekly

Sisters Stephanie and Michelle Jones read the Weekly in the Cannes Yacht harbor during an after-graduation trip through the Mediterranean. Stephanie graduated from Amador Valley High School and is one of the graduates on the cover of the Weekly she's reading.



February is Heart Health Month

Please join us for an open house in celebration of the opening of ValleyCare's Northern California Heart Center.

Open House

Saturday, February 10, 9am-2pm

Lobby, ValleyCare Medical Center, 5555 W. Las Positas, Pleasanton

- Tours of Open Heart Operating Room
- Cholesterol, Blood Pressure and Glucose Screenings
- "Ask the Pharmacist"
- Heart Healthy Eating
- 3D Cardiac Imaging Demonstrations
- Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehab Information

Free Education Seminars

Seminars on cardiovascular health will be offered every Tuesday in February, 7-9pm, ValleyCare Medical Center Cafe. For more information, visit valleycare.com or call 1-800-719-9111.



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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 14, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- **PCUP 188, Tao He/USA Wuchi Kung Fu Academy**
Application for a conditional use permit to operate a martial arts center for children and adults on Monday through Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in an existing building located at 5682 Stoneridge Drive, Suite B.
- **PUD 85-10-7M, Peter Shutts/Goble Family Limited Partnership II LP**
Application for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) Major Modification and development plan to demolish an existing drive through bank building and related site improvements and construct an approximately 1,530 square foot, one story commercial building in its place at the property located at 5765 Valley Avenue.
- **PUD 60, Christopher Andrews/Darrell Scherbarth**
Application for Planned Unit Development to subdivide an existing parcel into three lots to construct three custom homes at the property located at 2500 Vineyard Avenue, within the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan Area.

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

Monday, February 12, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m.
Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda.

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.

General Information

The Pleasanton Police Department will be holding its Spring 2007 Citizens Academy starting Thursday, March 8th through June 14th. The Academy is presented in 14 segments and will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30pm – 9:30pm with no class being held on April 12th to coincide with the School Districts spring break week.

The goals of the program are to create closer partnerships with the public, explain law enforcement procedures, and discuss the importance of public involvement in the policing process. Classes are primarily taught by Department personnel and cover a wide variety of topics including Community Policing, Patrol Procedures, Radio Communications, SWAT, Narcotics Investigations, Crime Prevention, Traffic Enforcement, K-9's, Evidence Collection, Use of Force Issues, Animal Services and the DARE program.

The program is open to adults only and attendees must live or work in the City to be eligible. Applicants are screened and must be free of any felony convictions, have no misdemeanor arrests within one year of application, successfully complete a background investigation check, sign waiver forms and be approved by the Chief of Police.

For anyone who might be interested in attending, applications are available at the front counter of the Police Department, by calling Sgt. Mike Tryphonas at (925) 931-5169, or by emailing me for a request at: mtryphonas@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

**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

Police Bulletin

Vehicle vandalisms, burglaries

Vehicular vandalisms and burglaries continue to plague Pleasanton, according to police reports. Most of these incidents occurred in the northern area of Pleasanton. Community Service Officer Shannon Revel said BB pellets may be to blame for

some of the vandalism incidents. Some of the cars being burglarized were left unlocked, while some car windows were shattered in order to gain entry. As in the past, police recommend locking vehicles and keeping valuables out of sight. If anyone has information regarding these incidents, please call the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100.

Police Report

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

January 27

- DUI: 2
- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Theft:
 - 9:08 a.m. in the 2500 block of Santa Rita Road; attempted to steal vehicle parts, worth \$400
 - 10:12 a.m. in the 4100 block of Alvarado Street; vehicle parts; worth under \$50
 - 4:22 p.m. in the 2000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth less than \$50
 - 7:51 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth over \$400
 - 8:43 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
 - 11:47 p.m. in the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; credit card fraud
- Public vandalism:
 - 5:31 a.m. in the 8500 block of Clubhouse; worth \$1,000 or less
 - 12:35 p.m. at the intersection of Koll Center Parkway and Valley Avenue; worth over \$1,000
- Burglary:
 - 9:06 a.m. in the 4700 block of Mason Street; vehicular, worth \$50-199
 - 10:54 a.m. in the 5700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; attempted
 - 3:14 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; vehicular, worth over \$400

January 28

- Forgery:
 - 1:40 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vehicular vandalism:
 - 9:10 p.m. in the 4800 block of Saginaw Circle; worth \$1,000 or less
- Assault:
 - 1:30 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 11:39 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Stanley Boulevard
- Explosives possession:
 - 9:07 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

January 29

- Found property: 2
- Theft:
 - 2:27 a.m. in the 6100 block of Corte Altamira; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 5:07 a.m. in the 1700 block of Courtney Avenue; stolen truck
 - 2:35 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; from vehicle, worth \$200-400
 - 4:00 p.m. in the 1000 block of Zinfandel Court; identity theft
 - 6:03 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-199

• Vehicular vandalism:

- 2:30 a.m. in the 4100 block of Payne Road; worth over \$1,000
- 2:30 a.m. in the 3900 block of Payne Road; worth over \$1,000
- 2:30 a.m. in the 4000 block of Dorman Road; worth over \$1,000
- 7:27 a.m. in the 4000 block of Suffolk Way; worth \$1,000 or less
- 8:48 a.m. in the 4300 block of Denker Drive; worth \$1,000 or less
- 9:00 a.m. in the 3600 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; worth \$1,000 or less
- 9:05 a.m. in the 8000 block of Regency Drive; worth \$1,000 or less
- 9:22 a.m. in the 4200 block of Sheldon Circle; worth \$1,000 or less
- 12:30 p.m. in the 4600 block of Mohr Avenue; worth \$1,000 or less
- 1:07 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; worth \$1,000 or less
- 6:15 p.m. in the 4800 block of Saginaw Circle; worth \$1,000 or less

• Public vandalism:

- 11:41 a.m. at the intersection of Main and Del Valle streets; public, worth \$1,000 or less

• Vehicular burglary:

- 5:34 a.m. in the 4100 block of Amberwood Circle; worth \$200-400
 - 7:43 a.m. in the 5500 block of Spring House Drive; worth \$50-199
 - 9:26 a.m. in the 5600 block of Spring House Drive; worth \$50-199
 - 12:06 p.m. in the 7500 block of Rosedale Court; worth less than \$50
 - 1:20 p.m. in the 2800 block of Camino Segura; worth \$200-400
 - 3:13 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; worth \$200-400
- ### • Residential burglary:
- 4:52 p.m. in the 7800 block of Marigold Court
- ### • Synthetic drug possession:
- 11:45 p.m. in the 3700 block of Old Santa Rita Road

January 30

- Theft:
 - 9:54 a.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; from building, worth less than \$50
 - 12:38 p.m. in the 5200 block of Case Avenue; identity theft
 - 2:06 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-199
 - 7:32 p.m. in the 2900 block of Liberty Drive
- Vehicular vandalism:
 - 7:00 a.m. at the intersection of Pimlico Drive and Thistle Way
- Burglary:
 - 12:42 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court

• Assault:

- 2:36 p.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard

January 31

- Theft:
 - 9:50 p.m. in the 7300 block of Shady Mill Lane; identity theft
 - 12:00 p.m. in the 1800 block of Sinclair Drive; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 1:24 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 2:28 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge mall Road; credit card fraud
 - 3:30 p.m. in the 4500 block of Gatetree Circle; credit card fraud
 - 4:45 p.m. in the 900 block of Kottinger Drive; credit card fraud
 - 6:10 p.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; from building, worth less than \$50
 - 7:10 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-100
 - 7:29 p.m. in the 2800 block of El Capitan; from building, worth less than \$50
 - 8:13 p.m. in the 4000 block of Alvarado Street

• Burglary:

- 8:12 a.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court

• Tampering with a vehicle:

- 3:46 p.m. in the 200 block of Rose Avenue

February 1

- Theft:
 - 9:01 a.m. in the 4100 block of Hopyard Road; from building, worth over \$400
 - 2:00 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; from building, worth \$200-400
 - 3:01 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$200-400
 - 3:23 p.m. in the 5900 block of Gibraltar Drive; forged checks
 - 3:29 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; credit card fraud
 - 7:01 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$200-400
 - 9:45 p.m. in the 4400 block of Del Valle Parkway; worth over \$400
- Vandalism:
 - 6:24 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; school
 - 6:55 p.m. in the 4500 block of First Street; residential
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 12:38 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; worth over \$400
- Public drunkenness:
 - 4:40 p.m. in the 600 block of Main Street

ACCIDENTS

January 27

- 5:20 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Valley Avenue

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President

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 19

Publisher

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

Assistant Editor

Janet Pelletier, Ext. 11

Staff Writer

Emily Atwood, Ext. 21

Rebecca Guyon, Ext. 31

Contributors

Cathy Jetter

Jerri Long

Elizabeth Campos Rajs

Joe Ramirez

Cybele Ryan

ART & PRODUCTION

Art Director/Operations Manager

Shannon Corey, Ext. 17

Assistant Art Director

Ben Ho, Ext. 20

Designers

Trina Cannon, Ext. 14

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ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager

Esmeralda Escovedo-Flores, Ext. 23

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BUSINESS

Ad Services

Sandy Lee, Ext. 16

Susan Thomas, Ext. 12

Business Associate

Lisa Oefelein, Ext. 26

Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 41

How to reach the Weekly

5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Phone: (925) 600-0840
Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:
editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:
sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:
ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Opinion

Editorial

Nordstrom expansion delay a concern for Stoneridge, Pleasanton

Nordstrom has postponed again its plans to build a new 144,000-square-foot department store in front of its aging facility at Stoneridge Shopping Center, citing uncertainties with the likely change in ownership of Stoneridge and its future expansion plans. The delay in building a new, updated and upscale store that was to open well before this year's Christmas shopping season, along with added retail stores and a movie theater to replace the old facility, couldn't come at a worse time for Stoneridge, the city of Pleasanton and Nordstrom, itself. Dublin is moving ahead at a rapid pace to add new retail stores both on Dublin Boulevard and across from Hacienda Crossings, where the Swedish furniture giant IKEA was supposed to go. That project by Blake Hunt Ventures, with better parking facilities than at the Hacienda center, will attract thousands more to this surging retail complex. Although there will be no department stores to compete with Penney's, Macy's, Sears and Nordstrom at Stoneridge, the smaller retailers in the Mall could suffer as rebuilding plans are delayed there. Down the freeway, Livermore also is moving forward on plans for an upscale outlet center on its side of El Charro Road at I-580, adding to the fierce retail competition already under way among the three cities.

Although two popular restaurants have recently opened at the Mall—P.F. Chang's and the Cheesecake Factory—it's the large anchor stores that draw the crowds and the heavy spenders. As more retailers open close by, shoppers may find they can satisfy their buying needs without a trip to the Mall. That's why it's important for Nordstrom to rethink its planning and start building, before its customer base finds other resources. Stoneridge is also a major contributor to the city's revenue base which is why city planners are anxious for Nordstrom to begin the project the city approved in late 2005. Besides the new department store, the Mills Group, the controlling owner of Stoneridge, was given approval to build a multi-story, 900-car parking garage on Stoneridge Mall Road next to the new Nordstrom with enclosed ramps between the two structures. The garage also would be close to the new West Pleasanton BART station that is scheduled to open in two years.

But Mills, the struggling shopping mall developer, is in financial trouble, facing bankruptcy. The company hasn't released an earnings report for more than a year and its chief executive officer retired. Even so, as the owner of 40 large-scale shopping malls, including Stoneridge, Hilltop Mall in Richmond and the Great Mall in Milpitas, its portfolio of properties in choice locations across the country, has attracted buyers. Last month, Mills agreed to be acquired by Brookfield Asset Management for more than \$1.3 billion. How that sale would affect Nordstrom's decision to delay its expansion plans at Stoneridge is not clear. Commercial property analysts expect that Nordstrom will not revisit its plans until that deal is closed sometime later this year. Then last week, Simon Property Group Inc., and Farallon Capital Management LLC teamed up to offer \$1.6 billion for the Mills properties. That alliance claims it would give Mills' shareholders payments at least six months faster than the Brookfield deal.

Analysts expect a response from Brookfield, although one securities broker said he didn't expect a bidding war. He believes the Simon-Farallon offer is closer to the estimate of Mills' value of between \$25 and \$45 per share. If that's accurate, we can hope for an expeditious sale and stockholder approval so that the work of rebuilding Nordstrom's Pleasanton store and expanding the Mall can get under way long before additional retail competitors open their stores in Livermore and Dublin.

Letters

Council should discuss war

Dear Editor,

Pleasanton's City Council must absolutely support discussion regarding the Iraq War. With 3,097 Americans dead, as confirmed Feb. 5, 2007 by the Department of Defense, every level of American government must continuously acknowledge and question the Iraq War and the lives lost as a result. Though it may be difficult for families of our military volunteers to constantly be subjected to such dialogue, I imagine indifference and negligence concerning the Iraq War would be much more hurtful. Pleasanton can most effectively provide support to our military by providing a forum where our community is encouraged to tirelessly question the worth of our troops' lives, our children's lives.

Megan Hosterman

War discussion not for council

Dear Editor,

I was pleased to see at the Pleasanton City Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 6, the many residents opposed to the council's idea of a public forum to possibly come up with a resolution for or against the War in Iraq. Seems like Mayor Hosterman and council members are trying to divide as well as speak for the community—well this should do the trick! If Mr. Norman and the mayor want to have a discussion/community forum about the war, it certainly should not be done in the City Council Chambers.

I appreciate that Mr. Norman allots one minute of his five minutes speaking time for a moment of silence to reflect on the war and our troops in harms way. Maybe he should spend the other four minutes thinking about what he is doing to the community of Pleasanton! But, as you said Mr. Bing, "Just doesn't seem like enough time, does it?" (Around Pleasanton, "For Norman, it's about ending carnage in Iraq, Feb. 2, 2007).

Dora Brogden

On behalf of Specialist Jessica Brogden

Stoneridge extension will be 'I-580 no. 2'

Dear Editor,

I applaud the decision to conduct a study showing probable traffic patterns throughout Pleasanton, should we choose to extend Stoneridge Drive. I predict that the study will show, once and for all, that extending Stoneridge Drive would be the equivalent of unleashing an I-580 #2 through our quaint town. I-580 East is now the second worst commute in the Bay Area. Supervisor Scott Haggerty, along with other politicians from cities east of Pleasanton, are scrambling to fix the I-580 gridlock mess because their constituents are tired of sitting in traffic.

Pleasanton is nestled in the L of two crowded freeways. Although it is our obligation to help find ways to keep the freeways moving, it is not our responsibility to provide arteries through our city to do so. The study may show a slight shift in traffic patterns on Valley Avenue. However, my guess is that it will show an exponential increase in additional cut-through traffic for the entire City from commuters currently not using Valley Avenue. We will be giving commuters a convenient way to "jump off" and "jump back on" the freeway (which Valley Avenue is not) to avoid the I-580 standstill. We need solutions for traffic problems within our City without giving freeway commuters even more access to our streets for cut-through.

This issue is not a debate between Stoneridge Drive and Valley Avenue residents. This study will provide basis for a unified stand from the entire city to say, "We will not tolerate" an I-580 #2 through Pleasanton.

Tracey Miller

Council's war debate questioned

The Pleasanton City Council wants to debate the Iraq war, as if it isn't already debated ad-infinitum. To what end? Whether or not one agrees with the policy in Iraq, the fact is that men and women are in harm's way. What has the Council done to support them? Has the Council done anything constructive to protect Pleasanton

citizens or prepare us, God forbid, for an attack here? I guess probably not. Instead, we'll listen to a bunch of isolationists, pacifists, appeasers, arm-chair quarterbacks, blame America first, and Bush haters vent their five-minute outrage over WMDs, Halliburton, torture, and big oil.

We'll probably get a non-binding resolution passed stating that the Council supports the troops (but not the war) and that America should withdraw now and talk to the bad guys. Then we can all go home and sit in our median-priced \$800,000 homes, turn on "American Idol" and feel good knowing that we've accomplished something. All the while, whether we stay or leave Iraq, whether we have a Republican or Democrat president or whether the Council passes resolution, the bad guys are still consistent and determined in their hatred and contempt for us and most experts agree a future attack on American soil is a certainty.

In 2006, 821 brave Americans were killed in Iraq. In 2005, 190,000 violent crimes and over 2,500 murders were committed in California alone. Where is the outrage over that? Maybe a resolution from the Pleasanton City Council can fix that, too.

J.L. Emmons


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.

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Abigail, Age 10
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The Mary Ann Crocker Dining Hall, completed in 1918, is the only Asilomar building that Julia Morgan designed with a single entry, centered on the front façade. Her other buildings have dual main entries located to the side, to create a more informal atmosphere. Mary Crocker paid for the dining hall and kitchen, and her family donated the original land for the YWCA conference center.

Asilomar

A spectacular retreat born in Pleasanton

175,000 now visit this 'Refuge by the Sea'

story and photos by Jerri Pantages

Had it not been for an untimely hotel fire and the extraordinary hospitality of Pleasanton's most famous resident, we Californians might have been deprived of one of our best state parks.

The year was 1912, and the national leadership conference for the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) was scheduled to be held at a hotel in San Francisco. When the hotel burned to the ground, the conference would have to be cancelled. The young Phoebe Apperson Hearst offered her home in the town of Pleasanton—now the site of Castlewood Country Club—as an alternative location. Some 300 delegates arrived at the estate, many of them probably traveling by train to the private railroad stop near the Verona bridge that was located along the frontage road between Interstate 680 and Interstate 580 Road.

To prepare for her many guests, Hearst enlisted one of her favorite architects, Julia Morgan, the same architect who later designed the ornate San Simeon estate for her son, William Randolph Hearst. In contrast to the grandeur that later became known as "Hearst Castle," Morgan designed wooden platform "tent cabins," with roofs made of striped canvas, such as might be used for circus tents. The structure was furnished with simple iron frames and built-in dressers. Mrs. Hearst was using the experiment to demonstrate how convenient it would be for the YWCA to have its own conference grounds.

In fact, it was Hearst's acquaintance with the YWCA and the Crocker family that led to the YWCA getting a large tract of seaside land donated adjacent to the town of Pleasanton (and now adjacent to Pebble Beach, at the north end of the famous 17-Mile Scenic Drive). Morgan was hired to design 16 rustic buildings over a 15-year period for the new conference grounds. In a contest to name the new camp, a University student suggested the name "Asilomar," which roughly translates to "refuge by the sea." This was the first conference facility in America owned by a woman. Among Morgan's more than 700 commissions during her career were several YWCA facilities in California, Utah and Hawaii.

From today's perspective, it may be difficult to appreciate the important role played by the YWCA in the life of women in America during the early part of the 20th century. Young women leaving rural communities for employment in cities could find safe, inexpensive housing at the YWCA. What's more, the Y provided job training opportunities and social and recreational outlets. At Asilomar, young women could learn to type, to drive a car, all good survival skills for those seeking economic independence. Student leadership conferences were held for college-age YWCA members to Asilomar from 1914 to 1916, and world and summer sessions were designed for 14-16.

Fast-forward to 2007, and Asilomar is a refuge for more than 900 conferences each year. Most people come there for conferences, but families and individuals are also welcome on a space-available basis, with reservations required 90 days in advance. More than 175,000 visitors visit Asilomar each year.

Anyone who has seen the spectacular setting of Asilomar would have trouble believing that, for a time, the property could find no buyer for the property. During the



The Phoebe Apperson Hearst Social Hall, paid for and named after Pleasanton's most famous resident, was built in 1913. Architect Julia Morgan used poured-in-place concrete for the foundations and exterior walls, creating an informal lodge feeling by concealing the concrete beneath a wood-and-stone exterior. All guests register here.



Since 1984, Asilomar State Park has worked to restore 26 acres of sand dunes to their natural condition. Cattle grazing, recreational use, and wandering hikers had reduced the dunes to stark areas with almost no wildlife and only sparse patches of non-native plants. Now guests use curving boardwalk trails to admire the dunes while protecting the ecosystem. Native plants have been reintroduced, and wildlife has returned.

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Depression

era, the YWCA needed to liquidate some of its assets. It hoped to sell Asilomar to an organization that would continue the goal of providing "a safe haven for people to exchange ideas and learn new things." When no such buyers appeared, the land was leased as a resort hotel, a training center for the National Youth Authority, and even for military housing during World War II. Pacific Grove residents organized a "Save Asilomar" committee in 1951 to help the YWCA find a buyer other than a private developer. The state parks system was interested in the beach property, but less so in the conference facility. Finally the state Legislature agreed to purchase the land in 1956 for \$350,000 with the stipulation that no state funds would be used to run the conference facility. The city of Pacific Grove agreed to make up any deficits.

Since that time, a new partnership has emerged: California State Parks works with Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts to successfully combine a state park with a conference facility.

"We have three things going for us: Location, history and affordability," said Patrick Sheridan, Asilomar Conference Grounds general manager for the past seven years. "This is such a unique property, and the fact that it's a state park means that the flora and fauna are protected. Visitors are intrigued by the history of this place, including the YWCA days and the historic buildings. Our fees are tied to the Consumer Price Index, which means they increase by only (that percentage) each year, making this one of the most affordable places to stay in the area."

Asilomar's success requires a delicate balance. "Our biggest challenge is to try to preserve and protect and at the same time make it accessible," Sheridan explained. "The business here is pretty important to preserving this property."

With some buildings nearly a century old, another necessity is continuous renovation. Currently renovations include increasing access for the handicapped.

"We are full 85 percent of the time," said Sheridan. "The challenge is to complete major upgrades while operating."

Among the many who have attended conferences at Asilomar are teachers, dancers (both Scottish dancing and square dancing), governmental agencies, religious groups and other non-profit organizations.

"Those who come once tend to come back," Sheridan said. "In fact, this fall will mark the 50th Asilomar conference for the California Math Council."

Added State Park Superintendent Allyn Kaye: "It's always a beautiful day here, no matter what the weather. One of the things I like best about Asilomar is that every week brings a new and interesting blend of different folks here. They share the same place, but they are passionate about different interests. This is a unique place, one that inspires thought and contemplation, and that is what draws people here from all over the world."

Just 102 miles southwest of where the prototype cabins were set up in Pleasanton, Asilomar has expanded from 30 to 107 acres, stretching from pine forests inland to white sand beaches at the Pacific shore. Eleven of the original buildings designed by Julia Morgan remain in use, and these plus the stone entrance pillars have been designated as a National Historic Landmark, comprising the largest collection of Morgan's Arts and Crafts style architecture.

Morgan was the first woman to receive an architect's

license in California. She had graduated from UC Berkeley as the only woman in the civil engineering program, and then became the first woman accepted to and graduated from L'École de Beaux-Arts in Paris, France, considered the most prestigious school of architecture in the world at that time. Morgan's work at Asilomar is noted for its use of natural local materials—wood and stone—and the way the buildings blend into the setting.

"Another thing I like is that women have been so integral to the creation and development of Asilomar," Kaye said. "It started with Mrs. Hearst, and she brought in Julia Morgan, then the YWCA took on the project."

An extensive effort is under way to restore the sand dune areas to their natural condition after many years of being trampled by unwary visitors and planted with non-native species. Guests now use boardwalks to tour the dune area, thereby sparing the vegetation and animal habitats. It is not unusual to spot deer, squirrels, or raccoons on the grounds. Harbor seals, sea lions and sea otters can be seen just off the shoreline, which is part of the National Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary.

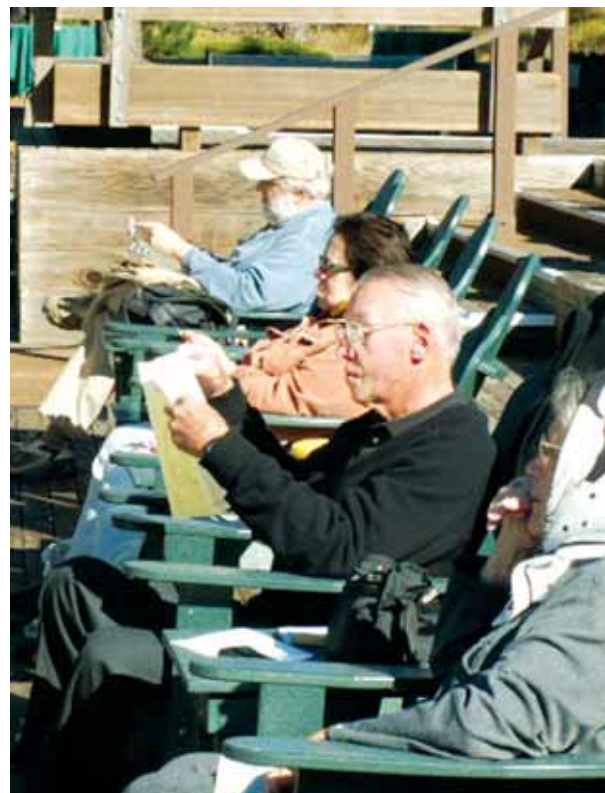
Locals and visitors alike partake of the annual Asilomar Thanksgiving feast. This past November, more than 1,600 meals were served during the afternoon and evening of Thanksgiving Day. The event sells out months in advance, with multi-generational parties of two to 42 gathering at the circular tables in the dining hall to enjoy the lavish buffet. Groups sign up for a specified time, then wait at the lodge

(with beverages and snacks provided) until they are called and escorted over to the dining hall. The atmosphere is very festive, with young children through great-grandparents enjoying visiting without having to do the kitchen work.

The three-sided platform tent cabins were long ago replaced. Lodging at Asilomar now ranges from charmingly rustic to upscale resort, most including scenic forest or ocean views. This is truly a retreat, with no telephones or televisions in the rooms to intrude on the calming effect of the natural surroundings. The conference grounds include a swimming pool, tide pools to explore and trails to hike. Bicycles may be rented. Overnight room rates of \$125-160 include a hearty breakfast served cafeteria-style in the large dining hall. Nearby Carmel-by-the-Sea, Pacific Grove, and Monterey offer restaurants, shopping, and tourist attractions such as the world-famous Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Lucky for Pleasanton residents, the Monterey Peninsula can be an easy day trip. However, by calling (831) 372-8016 or visiting the website at www.VisitAsilomar.com, that daytime exploration could be extended to include an overnight stay at Asilomar, the "refuge by the sea" that had its start here in Pleasanton.

Visitors can stop by the gift shop to rent earphones for self-guided audio tours of the grounds, including information about the architecture, history, flora and fauna. Ranger-led tours also can be arranged by calling (831) 646-6440. ■



Guests relax on the deck area outside Phoebe Apperson Hearst Social Hall, with ocean views in front of them past the meadow.

Asilomar at a glance

Size: 107 acres of coastline, sand dunes and forest

Location: Pacific Grove, California

Founded: 1913

Management: Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts in partnership with California State Parks

Accommodations: 313 standard and historic guest rooms available for groups and individuals. All have private baths; many also have fireplaces, patios and/or balconies.

Meeting space: 38 meeting rooms, totaling 31,000 square feet, from a 650-seat auditorium to conference rooms for 10.

Dining: Three meals served daily in the Crocker Dining complex. Breakfast is included in room price. Lunch and dinner may be purchased at registration. Catering is available.

Recreation: Heated swimming pool, bicycle rentals, volleyball, social hall with ping-pong, billiard tables, and grand piano; walking trails; self- or ranger-guided tours.

Park store: Offers snack and souvenir items, plus rental audio tour headsets.

Parking: Free self-parking for guests.

Reservations: 1-866-654-2878

Website: www.VisitAsilomar.com



The social hall, dining hall and chapel face onto a grassy meadow (left) that includes original stone benches plus wooden picnic tables. Recently added was an outdoor bonfire area that features a "smoke-free" natural gas firepit that can be reserved for evening gatherings. The boardwalk (above) leads to the beach, where visitors may spot sea otters, sea lions or even whales.



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Sports



Clatin Kuhns ('05), Marcus Sylva ('05), Dan Riddle ('03), Steve Mundt ('04) and Jimmy Parsons ('05), who are Amador Valley grads now playing for Sonoma, are the holding the trophy after winning West Coast Lacrosse League Championships last May at UC Santa Barbara.

Sports Digest

College lacrosse at Amador

Sonoma State's lacrosse team, No. 4 in the nation, will play against Santa Clara University at Amador Valley High School at 1 p.m. Sunday. Five Amador grads are on Sonoma's roster and Santa Clara has an Amador alumni and two Foothill grads. Admission is free and the snack bar will be open.

Tri-Valley Red Sox 14

In its first tournament as a team, the Tri-Valley Red Sox 14 demonstrated good teamwork and fundamentals while battling against some of

(continued on page 17)

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Sports digest

(continued from page 17)

the highest ranked competitors in Northern California. Despite losses to the NorCal Black Sox (1-11), the Headfirst Gamers Elite (2-4) and the SV Yankees (0-13), the Red Sox team displayed excellent pitching by Greg Shehtanian, Troy Stetson, Tyler Cook, Drake Rivenes and Nick Hilgen. Defense was in high gear with stunning catches by Aaron Hafford, Jack Pilling, Sean Gallager, Ryan Kochan and impressive double play action by infielders Taylor Menzel, Keaton Housman and Justin Brunnett. RBIs went to Jack Pilling and Aaron Hafford.

BUSC United defeats Livermore Eagles

The Pleasanton Ballistic United Boys U11 soccer team moved onto the quarter finals of the CYSA State Cup play by defeating the Livermore Eagles 3-0 in the 16th round. The strong United squad dominated ball possession. Goals were scored by Zane Manaa, Zac Landers and Alex Valencia. The United team reached the 16th round after pool play Jan. 21-22 in Hayward. The team got better and better each game, first tying Walnut Creek 2-2, then beating WCC Alliance Barcelona 1-0, then playing a near-flawless game against River City United Boca winning 5-0. The team will play in the quarter finals against the Merced United Lobos on Feb. 17 in Turlock.

Volunteers needed at Special Olympics

Amador Valley High School is hosting the Special Olympics once again and needs volunteers. The basketball event takes place at Amador (and PMS) March 30 and April 1. Track and volleyball events are scheduled for May 5 at AVHS and require fewer volunteers than the basketball tourney. Contact volunteer coordinator Kent Young at 413-0378 or zenkent@comcast.net.

Purple & Gold Gala

The 21st annual Purple and Gold Gala event benefiting Amador Valley sports will be held 6:30 to 11 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Palm Event Center. The event includes raffles and games, auctions and dancing. The appetizer table includes an Italian meat and cheese spread with assorted chips and breads, while dinner (served family style) features tri-tip sliced with mushroom cabernet, roasted chicken breast cacciatore, and penne pasta with pesto cream. To register for this event, click on the gala logo at www.amadorsports.com. Tickets are \$100 per person.

Prep Schedule

Boys basketball

Today - Foothill vs. Livermore, 7 p.m. at Livermore
 Today - Amador vs. San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m. at Amador
 Monday - Amador vs. Granada, 7 p.m. at Amador
 Tuesday - Foothill vs. Monte Vista, 7 p.m. at Monte Vista
 Wednesday - Foothill vs. San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m. at Foothill
 Wednesday - Amador vs. Cal High, 7 p.m. at Cal High

Girls basketball

Today - Foothill vs. Livermore, 7 p.m. at Foothill
 Today - Amador vs. San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m. at San Ramon Valley

Monday - Amador vs. Granada, 7 p.m. at Granada
 Wednesday - Foothill vs. San Ramon Valley, 7 p.m. at San Ramon Valley
 Wednesday - Amador vs. Cal High, 7 p.m. at Amador

Boys soccer

Today - Foothill vs. Amador, 5:45 p.m. at Amador Valley
 Wednesday - NCS Championships

Girls soccer

Today - Foothill vs. Amador, 5:45 p.m. at Foothill
 Wednesday - NCS Championships

Wrestling

Saturday - EBAL Dual Team Championship



Courtesy Alan DeClerck

Very Cool

Pleasanton's Sydney Ellis, 8, takes to the ice during last Sunday's match up at Dublin Iceland between the San Jose Jr. Sharks Girls Under-10s and the Tri-Valley Mites, which ended in the final score 3-3. "There were a lot of penalties for both teams early in the first period, but once the kids got settled into the rhythm of the game, it proved to be an exciting, evenly matched contest," said head coach Theresa Leslie. "Sydney has stepped up to the challenge of learning to play defense. She has worked hard on her skating and stickhandling skills and is developing into a physical presence on the ice. Her willingness to learn and improve make her a pleasure to coach." This is Sydney's first season with the Jr. Sharks girls program, which also has competitive teams for girls according to their age bracket up to under-19s and two adult womens divisions. The Jr. Sharks will be hosting the Women's USA Hockey Nationals on March 23-25 at Logitech Ice in San Jose. The 10U Jr. Sharks overall record so far this season is 6-4-2 in the Norcal conference.

—Shannon Corey



Robert F. Gray, MD, FACS

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Obituaries

Bernadine Williams

A memorial concert was held recently for Bernadine "Bernie" Williams at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Nearly 100 musicians from the Pleasanton Community Concert Band and surrounding band community, the Vintage Brass and the Vineyard Woodwind Quintet performed. Mrs. Williams, a musician herself and the wife of Pleasanton Community Concert Band Director Bob Williams, died on Christmas Eve. She was 67.

More than 250 people attended the memorial event, held Jan. 28, to celebrate her life. Mrs. Williams's son Paul Rose introduced each musical selection with a brief explanation of how the music related to her.

Mrs. Williams was born in 1936 in Harrisburg, Pa. and grew up in Steelton. She was an active horn player with the concert band, the Livermore-Amador Symphony Orchestra, Vineyard Quartet, Vintage Brass and the Pleasanton Playhouse in her 30 years of living in the Tri-Valley.

Vera Eberstein Montgomery

Vera Eberstein Montgomery died Jan. 18 in Tracy at the age of 92.

She was born March 26, 1914 in Chico, Calif. In her early years, Mrs. Montgomery worked for the government during World War II at Treasure Island, driving a laundry truck for the military.

Mrs. Montgomery lived in Pleasanton for more than 25 years, with 20 of those years spent working for the U.S. Postal Service. She loved to play bridge and belonged to many bridge clubs over the years.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, Michael and Debra Eberstein of Livermore, Danny Eberstein of Livermore, and Marianne Griffith of Tracy; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Stanley A. Erikson

Stanley Erikson died Jan. 20 at the age of 90.

Mr. Erikson was born in Jamestown, N.Y. on July 23, 1916, where he was a dairy farmer for 20 years. He retired from Crescent Tool Co. in Jamestown in 1977.

He lived in Pleasanton for 19 years and also at Bethesda Christian

Retirement Home in Hayward. While in California, Mr. Erikson was active in Bethesda Worship Services, Bible Study Fellowship and Church on the Hill in San Ramon. In Jamestown, he was an active member of the Christian & Missionary Alliance Church, served on the Boards of the Chaquuaqua County Bible Club Movement and Youth for Christ, and volunteered at the Union Gospel Rescue Mission.

Mr. Erikson is survived by daughters Julie (Hal) Nygaard of Pleasanton and Lynette Erikson of Fremont; granddaughter Laurel (Mike) Stiller of Eugene, Ore.; three great-grandchildren, Matthew, Caroline and Abigail Stiller of Eugene; and brother Harold (Dorothy) Erikson of Ashville, N.Y.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Evelyn.

Memorial services were scheduled for Feb. 3 at the Centerville Presbyterian Church in Fremont. A memorial service for Bethesda residents and staff as well as a private burial was also planned. Memorial donations can be made to Bethesda Christian Retirement Home, 22427 Montgomery St., Hayward, CA, 94541.

David D. Chisholm

David D. Chisholm died Jan. 22 at the age of 46.

A lifelong resident of Castro Valley, he worked as a custodian with the Castro Valley Unified School District for more than 26 years. He loved the outdoors, and was an avid camper and enjoyed traveling locally.

Mr. Chisholm is survived by his mother Dolores Chisholm of Pleasanton; brother and sister-in-law Tim and Pam Chisholm of Murphys, Calif.; sisters and brothers-in-law Arlene and Jynx Beebe of Fresno and Sue and Dennis Miller of Paradise, Calif., godmother Jackie Saley of San Leandro; seven nephews; four great nieces and great nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Denny Chisholm.

A celebration of his life will be held Feb. 10 at the Vineyard Mobile Villa's Clubhouse at 3263 Vineyard Ave. Donations can be made to Kaiser Hospice, 200 Muir Road, Martinez CA 94553.

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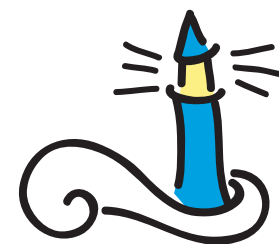
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Weddings

Heather & Kellen Smalley

After becoming engaged atop the Eiffel Tower, Heather Anne Halseth and Kellen Christopher Smalley were married Sept. 22 in the garden of the Palm Event Center at Mitchell Katz Winery with a candlelit reception following. The couple honeymooned in Cancun, Mexico and resides in Danville.

Heather is the daughter of Dave

and Nancy Halseth of Pleasanton and graduated from Foothill High School in 1996. Graduating in 2001 from UC Davis with a degree in technical business management, she now works as a Mervyn's men's distribution manager in Hayward.

Kellen is the son of Ty and Ann Smalley, who live in Davis. He graduated from Davis High School and graduated in 2003 with a degree in managerial economics. He also spent a year in South Africa as an exchange student. He is currently employed as a licensing and content relations manager at Fun Mobility, Inc. in Pleasanton.

Engagements

Trevor Luna

Lory and Jim Evdokimoff are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Claire Elizabeth, to Trevor Bruce Luna. Trevor proposed to Claire at sunset at Napili Bay in Maui.

Claire is a graduate of Amador Valley High School, class of 1997. Trevor graduated from Chester High School, class of



1998. The couple met in Maui while working in the restaurant business. They will be married at Palmdale Estates in Fremont, October 2007.

Births

The following information on Pleasanton births was provided by ValleyCare Medical Center.

December 26

Ineke & Scott Gentner, a boy

December 29

Erica & Daniel Starkey, a boy

December 30

Patricia & Edward Barton, a boy

Clare Margaret Alexander

Marshall and Melissa Alexander of Pleasanton welcomed their new daughter Clare Margaret to the world Dec. 28. She was born at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Deaths, Weddings and Births

are a free editorial service. Information should be submitted, typewritten or emailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to:

Transitions
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Or fax: (925) 600-9559

Or e-mail:
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Please include a contact name and telephone number. Not responsible for lost photos. Information how to send a photo digitally can be found on the Weekly's web site: www.PleasantonWeekly.com

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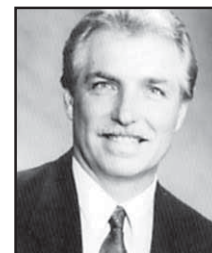
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See our calendar section on page 20

Calendar

Author Visits

Local Poet Reads at The Bookstore

Dave Douglas will read from his new book of poetry, "Retro," from 7 to 9 p.m. at The Bookstore, 2911 Hopyard Road, as part of the Third Thursday Poetry Reading series hosted by Cynthia Bryant. Douglas will sign books an hour before the reading at 6 p.m. Call 426-8255 for more information.

Civic Meetings

City Council

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

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 Mar. 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 Mar. 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 Mar. 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. 13.

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>.

Celebrate Renoir's Birthday

The Bothwell Studio celebrates Renoir's birthday with a lesson on Impressionism from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Bothwell Arts Center studio, 2468 8th St., Livermore. Admission is free, but bring your own painting supplies.

DivorceCare

DivorceCare, a nationally recognized seminar and support group for divorce recovery, will start a 13-week session Feb. 22 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. The seminars meet Thursdays at 7 p.m. Child care is provided through fifth grade. Call 946-6622 for more information.

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.

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.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilt Guild

The Amador Valley Quilt Guild will meet 1:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Featured speaker Melody Crust will speak about the process of choosing an appropriate quilt design. Call 454-1971 for more information.

Concerts

8th Annual Night of Jazz Fundraiser

California State University, East Bay is hosting its 8th Annual Night of Jazz Fundraiser directed by Dave Eshelman with special guests Shelly Berg and Gregg Field with shows at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., Feb. 26 at Yoshi's in Jack London Square, Oakland. Tickets are \$25 for the 8 p.m. show, \$15 for the 10 p.m. show. VIP tickets for a 6:30 p.m. reception followed by the 8 p.m. show are \$75. Call (510) 885-4089 or visit www.yoshis.com for more information.

Campana Jazz Festival

The 32nd annual Campana Jazz Festival will be held all-day Feb. 10 starting at 8 a.m. Twenty-four jazz bands from across Northern California compete in High School A, High School B and Middle School divisions. A pre-awards concert will be at 3:25 p.m. in the Amador Theater followed by the awards concert at 4 p.m. featuring the Amador High School Jazz Band. Admission is \$6 and provides access to all concerts. Contact Marilyn and Carl Palowitch, 426-7223 and marilynpalowitch@comcast.net for more information. Visit www.amador-band.org.

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 Road. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Visit www.civictickets.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 Road. Young artists ages 18 or younger will perform. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit www.civictickets.org or call 931-3444 for tickets.

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 Road, 8 p.m., Feb. 16. Tickets are \$25, \$30 and \$35. Tickets may be purchased online at www.civictarts.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 Road. Wines will be paired with Italian olive oil and cheeses. Tasting fee \$1. Call 846-8220 for more information.

Events

Fusion Fashion Show

Learn about traditional Indian fashion at the Fusion Fashion Show: East Meets West in Beauty and Style from 2 to 5 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405 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.

Livermore Chamber of Commerce Gala

The Livermore Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual gala 6 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. The event is open to the public. The chamber will announce the winners of this year's Community Awards at the event. Tickets are \$95 per person. Call 447-1606 to make reservations or for more information.



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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

MINIMIZING TAXES WHEN SELLING PROPERTY

An investment property, unlike a personal residence, doesn't allow for a \$250,000 exemption of gains from taxation (which is, for married couples filing jointly on the sale of a personal residence, a \$500,000 exemption). One way or other, you will have to pay the piper, though there are ways of minimizing and spreading the taxes over a series of years.

Trouble is, far too many clients call at the last minute, saying a sales contract has been signed on their investment property, and what can they do to avoid the tax bite? By then, sadly, there is little they can do. Given more time to put a favorable transaction together, there would be two strategies to consider.

First, you can engineer an exchange in which you end up with a rental property or properties that better fit your financial future. Indeed, you can exchange into a property that, after renting it out for a few years, you decide to move into and use as your retirement home.

Second, you can arrange an installment sale, carrying much or all of the financing and spreading the tax liability over the future years so that it doesn't swamp your next tax return.

One important point: It is always best to sit down with your tax advisor and real estate professional to map out your strategy for every investment property long before selling it—even before buying it in the first place. So call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

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 Exercitement Fitness class for those ages 13 and over in the evening at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost varies from \$3 to \$4.50 per class. Registration required. Call 931-5365 for 50 Fitness Plus and 931-5340 for Exercitement Fitness.

Laughter Yoga

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

Kids & Teens

Carden West Open House

Carden West School is hosting an open house from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at the school, 4576 Willow Road. Parents of prospective students may also tour the school any Tuesday or Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Advance noticed is required. Call 463-6060 for more information.

Expanding Your Horizons Conference

Registration is open for the Tri-Valley Expanding Your Horizons Career Conference in Math and Science for Middle and High School Girls happening Feb. 24 at the AT&T Administrative Center in San Ramon. The annual conference for girls in grades 6-12 from Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon school districts features hands-on workshops and career fair to encourage girls' interest in math and science and provide positive female career role models. Fee is \$20 and includes lunch. Call 422-2453 or visit www.lnl.gov/eyh/tv_eyh.html for registration information.

Island of the Blue Dolpin

Biologists Wayne and Karen Brown from The Ocean Adventure will showcase the marine life described in the children's classic, "Island of the Blue Dolphin," 2 p.m., Feb. 17 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Free tickets limited to children 6 years old and older will be available at the children's desk 30 minutes prior to the show. Call the children's desk, 931-3400, ext. 8 for more information.

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.

Before the Nukes

Charles Meier presents information from his book "Before the Nukes: The remarkable history of the area of the Nevada Test Site" 7 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Meier worked at the Nevada Test Site in the 1960s before working for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Visit www.lansingpublications.com for more information on the book. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405 for more information about the lecture.

Branding Lecture

ABWA Express to Success Network presents Liz Pabon, president and principal consultant of Head2Toe Consulting, who will discuss branding as an effective way to market your business and self from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Feb. 20 at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, 5115 Hopyard Road. Reservations are not required. Admission is \$5 for non-members, free for members. E-mail info@expresstosuccess.org or visit www.expresstosuccess.org for 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.

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 Drive. 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 Drive, Danville.

Taxes, Bookkeeping and Asset Protection Seminar

The National Wealth Network presents "Taxes, Bookkeeping and Asset Protection" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at the San Ramon Library, 100 Montgomery St., San Ramon. Admission is free, but registration is requested. Contact Mami, 855-3202 or mami@nwnngroup.com to register. Visit www.nationalwealthweeknetwork.com.

True B2B Business Developers

B2B Power Exchange hosts "True B2B Business Developers" from 8 to 10:30 a.m., Feb. 15 at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin. Cost is \$40 for non-members, free for members. Cost is \$35 is pre-paid the Tuesday before the event. Attendance is limited to the first 25 people. Call Chris Pareja, 201-3410 or visit www.b2bpowerexchange.com to register or for more information.

On Stage

Diablo Ballet Presents "Cinderella"

Diablo Ballet will present Nikolai Kabaniaev's "The Tale of Cinderella" 8 p.m., Feb. 18 at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. Tickets can be purchased by calling (510) 642-9988 or online at http://tickets.berkeley.edu.

Long Day's Journey Into Night

The San Jose Repertory Theatre will perform Eugene O'Neill's autobiographical play, "Long Day's Journey Into Night," Jan. 27 through Feb. 25 at the San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose. For a complete list of times and ticket prices, visit www.sjrep.com.

The Comedy of Errors

The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival will present "The Comedy of Errors" at the Pleasanton Public Library 2 p.m. Feb. 18. A Q&A session with the cast will follow the performance. Admission is free. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405 for more information.

The Fantasticks

The Pleasanton Playhouse presents "The Fantasticks" Feb. 16 through Mar. 18 at The Pleasanton Playhouse Studio Theatre, 1048 Serpentine Lane, Ste. 309. Shows are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors 60 or older and juniors 18 or younger. Call 462-2121 or visit www.pleasanton-playhouse.com to purchase tickets.

The Witness

Martha Boesing is performing her one-woman, one-act play titled "The Witness" 7 p.m., Feb. 10 at Lynewood Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Proceeds benefit Tri-Valley Haven's homeless services. Tickets are \$20. Call 846-0221 for tickets and information.

The Danville Weekly and The Pleasanton Weekly are sponsoring

"Publicity 101"

A seminar for non-profits that want to know how to publicize their organization. Attendees will learn: how to write a press release; what constitutes "news"; when to send information; how to take a photo for the newspaper; who to contact when you have a story idea. Staff members will be on hand to answer questions.

The free 90-minute seminar will be held on two dates in two locations to accommodate most schedules:

Thursday, Feb. 22

5:30 to 7 p.m.

**Danville Weekly office,
315 Diablo Road, Ste. 100, Danville**

Saturday, March 3

10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Pleasanton Weekly office,
5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100, Pleasanton**

Up to two representatives from the non-profit can attend. Register by calling 600-0840 and giving the representative's name, daytime phone number, and which location is preferred. Seating is limited.

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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.

(continued on page 24)

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470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at www.hopyard.com.

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).

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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.

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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

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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

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Informational

Meetings

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Mar. 21 - Wed.
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Feb. 1 - Thu.

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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.

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11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic fill this warm and friendly, 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.

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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 restaurant by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. We're located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

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215 Collectibles & Antiques

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220 Computers/Electronics

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