

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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It's all about Pleasanton



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Parent Project offers help for parents, troubled teens

Imagine teenagers who behave without arguing and you never having to raise your voice. That may be a dream too good to be true for both children and their parents, but it's worth a try and parents, teachers and coordinators are seeing good results in an adult education project called "Changing Destructive Adolescent Behavior." Held for the last 2 1/2 years, two new courses start this Monday and Tuesday and last through May 15. It's not too late to enroll and it might solve some serious problems you're having at home.

Teresa LeMay, who has nine years of teaching experience, and the Pleasanton Police Department's Community Services officer Penelope Tamm, teach the courses, which feature interactive workshops where parents of troubled adolescents can talk about their experiences and get help. In a two-page letter describing his experiences and result, one father who took the course last year said he detected significant and troubling changes in his young teenage daughter suddenly. Both he and his wife, who are divorced, noticed changes in her friends and not for the better, a behavioral attitude and then more significant issues that they learned were caused by substance abuse. In just a short time, this young girl went from a cute little angel to one who was demonstrating destructive adolescent behavior.

The couple enrolled in the Parent Project, the name which Amador Valley Adult Ed department chairwoman Pnina Tobin has given it, and help was on the way. The program gave them powerful and effective tools to deal with this most difficult and strong-willed daughter that allowed them to take back control of their family situation. As LeMay points out, these are not easy tasks. You start by not arguing, by going home and showing that you really love your child instead of screaming or disciplining them, as difficult as that might

be. Course materials, which detail the steps necessary to regain the confidence and love of your child, make arguing a dirty word. If you don't respond in kind to a child's nasty comment, they'll start seeing the difference. After all, if you can't argue with your parents, where else do you go to argue, LeMay asks, the bathroom mirror? After each class, parents sit down with each other and talk about what they tried, what worked and the progress they're making in improving the relationship with their teen.

Most important, LeMay says, is to know as much about your teenager as possible. You should already, of course, but most of us are busy working and handling household chores while the teen pretty much makes a life of his or her own. Even if you have the perfect child, stay alert. Talk to the teachers, read, discuss and help with the homework, check what he or she is watching on the computer, the kinds of music they listen to, the posters put on the wall. If there's a sudden change in any of these interests, get more involved. Ask yourself what you really know about your teen's friends and the parties they attend. Talk to other parents, drop in at the parties on the ruse of checking to see if they've got the extra set of car keys you're missing, watch for signs of substance abuse that can cause long daytime naps or inattentiveness. Rave parties and the euphoric drug ecstasy can be found even in Pleasanton. Just recently, two men were arrested for selling ecstasy pills to Amador Valley High students.

When we have a troubled teen or see some early school grade or attitude changes, it's usually hard to talk to neighbors or even family about your suspicions. That's why the Parent Project taught by Tamm and LeMay might be your answer—and solution. For more information, give Pnina Tobin a call at 426-4280. ■

About the Cover

Newly-elected Democratic Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi is taking the reigns of the 18th District, which covers a portion of Pleasanton. Among her priorities include numerous health care endeavors. Hayashi, who has an extensive career in the health care sector, aims to introduce legislation regarding suicide prevention and school-based health centers. Cover designed by Ben Ho.

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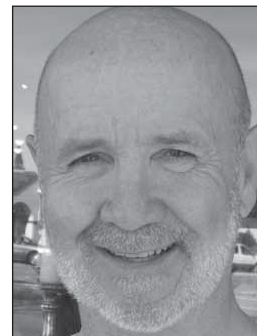
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Streetwise

Q: Should California move its primary election up to February next year?

Asked at the farmers' market



Dennis Leach
Semi-Conductor Industry

I'm ambivalent about it. If we move it up, what other states will follow suit? We keep getting earlier and earlier into the election process. I think it would be more beneficial if the primaries actually meant something. Right now, we're just jockeying for position.

Kathy Molinari

Retired

Absolutely, I think it should be decided by electoral votes. We are a huge state with tons of electoral votes. Smaller states, without as much representation, are deciding who gets on the ballot? It shouldn't be that way!



Bill Lueck
Farmer/Retired NFL Player

Definitely, a state like California, with one of the biggest economies in the country, should have more input. Why should smaller states like Iowa have the influence?

Art Perelgut

Sales

Yes, it shouldn't be a matter of competition; it should be a matter of fair representation based on the quantity of people that live in California versus the rest of the U.S. We actually need to have stake in the game. Now, as the primary progresses, most of the qualified candidates are neutered on the East Coast. Therefore, voters in California may not be represented.



Valerie Brosdal
Senior Program Manager

Yes, I agree. I think we haven't been involved enough in the outcome of the elections. I'd like California to have much more of an influence in what happens in these elections.

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Newsfront

News Digest

Excellence in Education Award

The community is encouraged to nominate a special teacher, administrator or staff of the Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) for the 17th annual Excellence in Education Awards. Nomination forms may be picked up at the front office of every PUSD school site and at the reception area of the PUSD office or can be downloaded at www.pleasantonpta.org and www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us. Nomination forms and required nomination letters must be sent together and received by March 23.

Stipends available for teachers

The Tri-Valley division (#85) of the California Retired Teachers Association is offering ten \$100 stipends to teachers in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore. A teacher must send a postcard or a 3-inch by 5-inch card with their name, address, phone number, e-mail address, number of years taught and what they plan to do with the money. The card must be received by March 1. No information will be shared. Send cards to Cathe Norman, 7986 Driftwood Way, Pleasanton CA 94588. For more information, contact Patricia Williams at 846-0211 or ralphpat@sbcglobal.net.

Tom Del Beccaro to speak in town

Tom Del Beccaro, the newly-elected Vice Chairman of the California Republican Party, will speak at 6:30 p.m. March 8 at the meeting of the Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated located at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road. New members and visitors are welcome. Call 426-1995 to reserve spots by March 2.

Sisters needed for breast cancer study

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is seeking 19,000 more women to join Sister Study, the largest research effort to find causes of breast cancer. Those encouraged to attend are women whose sister (living or deceased) had breast cancer, are between 35 and 74, have never had breast cancer, and live in the United States or Puerto Rico. For more information, or to enroll, visit www.sisterstudy.org or call 1-877-4SISTER.

Bowing to public pressure, council nixes Iraq War forum plan

Hosterman calls proposal too divisive, says 'It's time to move on'

by Jeb Bing

Bowing to public pressure, the Pleasanton City Council Tuesday scuttled plans to host, sponsor or even get involved in a community forum on the war in Iraq, a long-sought proposal of Councilman Matt Sullivan with the support of Mayor Jennifer Hosterman.

"We wanted this forum to be a valuable community resource addressing how to deal with the

war as it affects our community as citizens and our troops," Hosterman said at the opening of last Tuesday night's council meeting. "However, it is an idea that has divided our community. There has been much confusion over what the council actually agreed to. I am choosing at this time to not divide the community any further."

With that, the proposal that started long before Hosterman's reelection last November, had a quick

death, with Councilwoman Cindy McGovern winning unanimous support to kill the plan altogether.

The council's vote came within minutes of the meeting's opening and without a public hearing or any invitation to those in the packed council chamber to speak. Councilmembers gave their own views about the action and then moved on to other city business, including the usual time given for public comments.

If Hosterman hoped those in the room would put their prepared remarks against the war forum back in their pocket and leave, she was wrong. Nearly 20 speakers stepped to the podium over the next hour to make it clear the forum was a bad idea for the council to consider.

Dan Faustina, a November City Council candidate who narrowly lost to Councilwoman Cheryl

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Kevin Laue, a junior at Amador Valley High School, has played basketball since sixth grade and recently appeared in Sports Illustrated.

Amador athlete makes Sports Illustrated

Kevin Laue, 16, hopes to carry his love for basketball to UCLA

by Emily Atwood

Among the pages of Sports Illustrated, you'll find today's big names in sports: Peyton Manning, Carmello Anthony and Kevin Laue. The latter is not a professional, but Amador Valley High School's own varsity basketball player who was counted among today's greatest in the newest issue which hit newsstands Feb. 12.

The 16-year-old was given a rare honor even for those with multi-million dollar paychecks. The prominent feature by sports

writer Steve Rushin was titled with the headline "He's twice as amazing."

The sentiment came from his coach, Rob Collins, who told the magazine Kevin is "twice as amazing as anyone I've ever seen." It's a poignant statement when discovering the 6-foot, 10-inch-tall junior only has one hand. His left arm ends just after his elbow. Ask Kevin how it happened and he'll give you his explanation, per his mother's suggestion: it was the result of

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New Home Depot plans sidelined

Decision on extending Stoneridge Drive to Livermore must come first

Regency Center managers Tuesday withdrew "for the time being" their application to build a 200,000-square-foot Pleasanton Gateway retail center at the intersection of Bernal Avenue, Stanley Boulevard and Valley Avenue, across from McDonald's. The development would include a new Home Depot and Long Drugs, as well as a Starbucks coffee shop and other smaller retailers.

The delay was requested by Pete Knoedler of Regency and came as a surprise to Pleasanton officials who were geared up for a widely advertised public hearing on the project at Tuesday night's City Council meeting. As many as 200 protestors were expected at the meeting to voice their objections to building anything at that busy intersection that might increase traffic on Valley and Santa Rita Road, which pass alongside their neighborhoods.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said he was notified Tuesday by Knoedler that his firm was not aware of the strong opposition to more development in the area. He said the company would wait until traffic studies are conducted as part of a General Plan update that will also look at the impact on the Bernal-Stanley intersection if Stoneridge Drive is extended to Livermore, or if that plan is scuttled by the council, as most council members have said they intend to do.

An organization called Stop Pleasanton Gridlock sent e-mails to hundreds of homes in the Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road neighborhoods urging residents to go to last Tuesday's meeting to protest the Home Depot plan.

"This project will add to Valley Avenue about 100 more cars per hour on weekdays and about 166

cars per hour on quiet weekends," the unidentified e-mail author wrote. "This doesn't include the semi-trucks that will speed down Valley at all hours with deliveries. To knowingly add this kind of traffic to the most dangerous intersection in Pleasanton (Valley and Santa Rita) is a bad idea."

At Tuesday's council meeting, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said she was glad that the Home Depot issue had been taken off the table.

"The Regency folks didn't realize how important the discussion of the Stoneridge Drive extension is to this particular intersection in our city," she said. "They talked to Councilman (Matt) Sullivan, and once they were made aware of this, they were extremely generous to pull this item from our agenda tonight and give us the time to collect the data that we need in order to have this discussion publicly."

The project, planned for an empty, undeveloped 16-acre site zoned for commercial use has been proposed for more than a year. It was planned to include a second Home Depot for Pleasanton, adding to the 15-year-old store on Johnson Drive, a Longs Drugs store with the city's first drive-through pharmacy, Starbucks and other retailers.

It had already gone through a lengthy environmental review process and had been approved by both the city's Economic Vitality Committee and the Planning Commission. City staff also had recommended approval of the retail center in the report it prepared for the council's consideration last Tuesday. Much of that work may have to be re-done once new traffic information is obtained.

Home Depot officials earlier

(continued on page 7)



Jeb Bing

McDonald's restaurant can be seen in the distance at the Bernal and Stanley intersection across from a vacant 16-acre site where developers had planned a multi-million-dollar Pleasanton Gateway retail center, including a Home Depot.

Home Depot

(continued from page 5)

said they wanted to have the store built and operating before Lowe's, Home Depot's chief competitor, completed its new store across I-580 just off Tassajara Road in Dublin. Lowe's already has city approval and construction is under way.

Home Depot said it planned to upgrade and improve its 15-year-old store on Johnson Drive once the new store at Pleasanton Gateway opened, which it had hoped to do this summer.

The project was the latest in a number of plans proposed for the site since the property was purchased in 1986 by Pleasanton land developers Frank auf der Maur and Konrad Rickenbach. Those proposals were either rejected by city planners or the council or, in the case of the city's effort to find a large grocery company to build a supermarket on the site, were not successful.

Two years ago, a portion of the site was purchased by Congregation Beth Emek of Livermore, which built a synagogue on the southern portion of the property.

Knoedler and Don MacKenzie of Regency Centers and Home Depot representatives said the home improvement center needs a second store in Pleasanton to serve a growing number of customers who live on the east and south sides of the city, as well as customers in

Livermore, who now must drive across town to reach the Johnson Drive store.

Besides reducing cross-town traffic, they said added lanes, traffic signals and other improvements that will be made on Stanley and Bernal and paid by Regency Centers will keep the already-busy intersection at current levels despite more traffic headed to Home Depot. Right and left turn lanes will be added at Bernal-Stanley-Valley and a new signal will be installed at Utah Street on Bernal, across from the main driveway leading to the new retail center.

Regency plans to provide 702 parking spaces, 57 more than required by the city, although only 10 percent of those will be sized for compact cars. A survey showed more motorists drive larger vehicles to Home Depot to load purchased supplies.

Home Depot will await the completion of traffic studies along Santa Rita, Valley, Bernal and Stanley, which will be considered during the General Plan update now under way. A workshop on those studies is scheduled for late March, although it could be several more months before the council formally addresses the Stoneridge Drive extension issue, which could be a part of the final traffic decisions affecting those thoroughfares.

A new public hearing date on the Home Depot project has not been set nor had Knoedler indicated when he might ask for one.

—Jeb Bing

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War forum

(continued from page 5)

Cook-Kallio, said he had looked at a long list of priorities that were under consideration.

"It's clear that there's plenty of work to be done on the local front and that's good," he said.

Army veteran Doug Miller congratulated the council for removing the war forum from its agenda. Contradicting Hosterman's claim that many in the community had asked the council to consider it, Miller said he reviewed e-mails sent to city officials since last November and found only 11 dealing with the subject, and they were all opposed.

"I walked into the chamber tonight and found another 11 e-mails, all opposed to the forum," he said. "So I am assuming that's a 22-0 vote against that issue."

He also criticized Fred Norman, a 10-year veteran of the Air Force and Marines, for regularly going to council meetings to use one minute of his public comment speaking time to ask for silence in honor of those killed in Iraq since the previous council meeting.

"His focus is always on Iraq," Miller said. "All soldiers deserve equal recognition and I hope in the future he will be more inclusive, honoring those wherever they served and what they served for."

In his remarks, Norman thanked Councilman Jerry Thorne for his plan to honor a soldier from Pleasanton at upcoming council meetings.

"I applaud Councilmember Thorne on his idea of honoring a living soldier," Norman said. "But once again the Pleasanton City Council has refused a minute of silence for the American troops who have been killed while fighting for us in Iraq—41 since the last council meeting. Why do you refuse to honor them?"

"The minute of silence is not about the war in Iraq. It is not about the president. It is not about surges or cutting and running or Republicans or Democrats. It is not about you and it is not about me," he added. "It is about dead husbands and wives and mothers and fathers and sons and daughters and friends—American men and women who have been killed in Iraq and who deserve our respect. You will honor the living soldier, but not a dead one. I don't understand."

Kathy Dowding, who called her-

self "the voice in the minority," told council members that she was disappointed that they had dropped the war forum from their agenda.

"I'm very sorry that as a community we don't understand discussion and we believe that this forum was intended to be a debate," she said. "I understood that it was to be a discussion, a fact-finding effort and an opportunity for us as citizens to understand a little bit better what this war is about. It's apparent that it's not possible, and that deeply troubles me."

In her comments, Cook-Kallio said she was never in favor of having a forum on the Iraqi war in the council chambers, although she voted Jan. 16 for City Manager Nelson Fialho to present a series of possibilities for conducting that type of a forum elsewhere.

In his report, Fialho recommended holding the forum, if the council wanted to continue to pursue it, outside of City Hall and to let third party groups, such as McNerney, handle it.

"As a teacher, I've regularly been able to foster an environment to discuss a wide spectrum of political beliefs, allowing the 17-year-olds that I teach to express their various opinions and to disagree and yet walk out of the classroom with respect for their fellow classmates," Cook-Kallio said. "I am saddened that that could not happen here."

Councilman Sullivan, who first proposed the forum, said it was never intended to be a debate about the war in Iraq.

"It has always been about responding to members of our community in providing a forum for the expression of free ideas. I know this because I made the motion twice to provide our citizens with this opportunity.

"Unfortunately this has been distorted in the press and by some of its (the forum's) most vocal opponents," he added. "Unfortunately the City Council has been subjected to verbal attacks, harassment and abuse. We have seen public records requests for our e-mails and our phone records going back for two years in an attempt to dig up dirt. Our patriotism has been questioned.

"These tactics have nothing to do with honest debate of issues and only serve to put a chill on open discussions," Sullivan said. "I am convinced that this is coming from a very small number of individuals in our community but its implications loom large for our democracy." ■

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- Raging Waters
- Red Smoke Grill
- Rose Hotel
- Rustler's Rooste
- San Jose Sharks
- Sees Candies
- Six Flags Magic Mountain
- Sony
- Stacey's
- Strizzi's
- Sweet & Savory
- Taxi's
- Tommy T's
- Tomo Sushi Bar and Grill
- Towne Center Books
- Vic's All Star Kitchen
- Warriors
- Winchester Mystery House
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Athlete

(continued from page 5)

a struggle with a vicious bull shark on the big island of Hawaii in 1995.

The story could be believable when seeing his fighting prowess on the basketball court. The varsity starter leads the East Bay Athletic League with seven rejections a game, Sports Illustrated reports. In truth, Kevin was born with the partial limb.

The article came as a surprise to the Laue family. Kevin's mother Jodi said she expected a small mention in the back, not a full-page article on page 21 of the big Super Bowl issue. Since the article has come out, Kevin's become a local celebrity. He's spoken with several media outlets and was noticed at Red Robin and other places around town.

"I try to aim high and see what happens."

—Kevin Laue
Amador Valley
Varsity Basketball

Yet, for Kevin, the media frenzy isn't really a story of overcoming adversity, rather it speaks to his love of the game.

"I just like the sport," he said. "I like the team and the coach. [Playing basketball at Amador] has helped me get through some things."

Overall, his stats show he's a talented athlete who is determined to shine. And Collins doesn't see that fading any time soon. He tells the magazine Kevin could "absolutely" play in D-II or D-III. Kevin embraces those aspirations, saying he would love to play for UCLA.

"I try to aim high and see what happens," he said. "I'm trying to get an athletic scholarship."

Eventhough the team was knocked out of the NCS Championships in round one last Tuesday, an impressive season and a feature in Sports Illustrated is more than many high school athletes can boast to recruiters and college admissions directors. ■

Take Us Along



Luck for Lithuania

Fred and Bettie Badal read the Weekly in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. The couple took a vacation to Ireland before continuing on to Klaipeda, Lithuania to teach English.

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Dan Burns, Teacher, Los Gatos High School

March 10: Comets and the Stardust Mission: What's In Our Solar System's Freezer?

Hope Ishii, LLNL Scientist
Tom Shefler, Teacher, Granada High School

March 17: Accelerator Mass Spectrometry: How AMS Works in Biology and Health Care

Bruce Buchholz, Ken Turteltaub, LLNL Scientists
Bret States, Teacher, Tracy High School

March 24: Energy Crisis: Will Technology Save Us?

John Ziagos, LLNL Scientist
Dean Reese, Teacher, Tracy High School

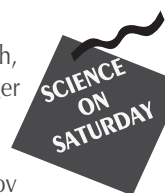
March 31: Driving a Rocket Fueled Car: 500 Miles at 400 Degrees Below Zero

Gene Berry, LLNL Scientist
Ken Wendel, Teacher, Tracy High School

All lectures are held at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton, at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Seating is first come, first served. No pre-registration. For directions see <http://education.llnl.gov/sos>



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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

RENTING VS. BUYING

Occasionally, articles about why we should consider renting instead of buying our homes start to pop up in the popular, and even in the financial, press. There are two circumstances in which such articles are valid.

First, if real estate values are falling, it may be better to be renting than owning an asset that is losing some of its value—just as it is generally better not to own shares of stock when they are on a losing streak. The problems with this point, however, are that real estate very rarely loses values and, even when it does, it regains its losses over time and continues to gain in value. It is rarely a great idea to move out of the home you own and into a rental because you think that property values may fall, both because it is a tremendous hassle and because it is very difficult to time such maneuvers accurately.

Second, if you clearly cannot handle the monthly expenses of home ownership, then you should build up your financial strength until you can. The main problem with this point, though, is that there is generally a great reward for stretching slightly beyond your comfort zone to purchase a home, as it is likely to appreciate in the future and become even more expensive to purchase.

The main argument in favor of buying, though—along with the pleasures of ownership—is the size of the check you will receive when you ultimately sell...and the preferential tax treatment your gains will receive. Do the math! For help, just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.geradastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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Opinion

Editorial

Will Home Depot really build another store here?

We hope Home Depot's crystal ball has a more optimistic view than ours when it comes to looking at future traffic conditions at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and Bernal and Valley avenues, where the home improvement center wants to build its second Pleasanton store. Otherwise, we're baffled as to why Regency Center, the development firm that was all set to seek final approval at a scheduled public hearing before the City Council Tuesday suddenly abandoned ship, saying they'll wait a few months before making their pitch. The developer has spent a year preparing its plans, with Home Depot architects already working on the unique "soft design" that the Pleasanton Planning Commission approved. Had it proceeded, and if it had won council approval as city staff had recommended, Home Depot, Longs Drugs, Starbucks and several other smaller retailers would be open this fall, generating holiday sales tax revenue for Pleasanton. Now the project is off the front burner, subject to gaining a place on a crowded council agenda later in the year and causing the city to prepare, print and distribute the voluminous documents associated with this proposal all over again.

Regency said it pulled the project from the council's agenda Tuesday after it realized that homeowners in communities along Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road were upset with the added traffic that Home Depot might bring to their already-crowded streets. Commuter traffic from Hacienda Business Park and motorists just seeking a cut-through escape from gridlocked I-580 often use Santa Rita and Valley. Cars are lined up a quarter of a mile on both streets during the peak evening rush hour as these drivers work their way south and east to the Valley-Stanley intersection and then on to Livermore and points east. That traffic has been there for years, is getting worse and won't change whether Home Depot is built or not.

A citizens' group opposed to Home Depot, called Stop Pleasanton Gridlock, claims that Home Depot will add 100 or more cars per hour on weekdays and 166 an hour on weekends on Valley, alone. If those figures are correct, we suspect most of the cars will be from their own neighborhoods since the marketing area for this second Home Depot stops at about Santa Rita. Customers from the other side will likely continue going to the existing store on Johnson Drive. Besides, Lowe's, Home Depot's major competitor, will soon open a new, upscale store off Tassajara just across I-580 in Dublin, which will attract some of those customers who might have used the new Home Depot if it had been built and opened on time.

Regency also wants to wait for a decision on extending Stoneridge Drive to Livermore. This has been on the city's General Plan for years, but it's unlikely to happen anytime soon. All but two of the current council members are opposed to extending Stoneridge and plan to delete it from the new General Plan that they are now updating. Traffic studies which Regency is waiting for may show a drop in rush hour traffic at the Santa Rita-Valley intersection, one of the most congested in the city. But to base your building plans on those projected traffic counts would be foolish at best unless Home Depot's crystal ball also reads that the Stoneridge Drive extension foes, both on the council and Planning Commission and in the Mohr-Martin neighborhood along Stoneridge, will OK the extension.

In the meantime, Regency may have fallen victim to one or two on the City Council who oppose big box stores like Home Depot, Costco, Target and Wal-Mart from the start, which is why these stores and Lowe's are building in Livermore and Dublin—and taking their sales tax revenue there. ■

Letters

City war discussions a waste of time

Dear Editor,

Discussing the Iraq War during a City Council meeting is not city business. It's a misappropriation of city officials' time and resources, which could be better spent on many other important matters such as finalizing the General Plan, dealing with ongoing planning issues/disputes, working on solving traffic and housing issues, etc. These are priorities that demand the Mayor's and City Councilmembers' full attention, time and efforts.

For those who insist on using a local, elective office as their "bully pulpit" to protest the war, I suggest they run for federal elective office in 2008.

I find the Mayor's and some City Councilmembers' partisanship distasteful. They should state their political party affiliations, instead of claiming to be "non-partisan." Whether the Mayor and City Councilmembers are in support of decisions being made in Iraq past, present, or future or not, it's not a matter of city business.

What's next? A discussion on abortion? How about Social Security and other U.S. entitlement programs? Who's next to approach the city next demanding a discussion forum on national issues like these? These types of issues with national implications are better addressed in the forum where they belong—the United States Congress.

Stop wasting my and other city taxpayers' local tax dollars.

Mark Priscaro, Pleasanton

Thanks to Hart volunteers

Dear Editor,

What prompted me to write this letter is the interaction I have had with the volunteer tutors at Hart Middle School, where I teach. First of all, I work with a group of devoted professionals, led by an outstanding, compassionate principal, Steve Maher. Along with my teaching colleagues at Hart, I have also had the pleasure of working with Christina Clark, a teacher who has poured her heart and soul into the Barton Reading and Spelling Program, a volunteer-based program that provides specialized, individualized instruction to intelligent students from elementary school through high school in the Pleasanton Unified School District. Christina has spent countless hours over the past several years training volunteers to work in the classrooms with students in need.

Finally, I want to thank the incredibly generous Pleasanton family who anonymously donated \$17,000 over the past three months to help support the Barton Reading and Spelling Program so that we could expand the program to serve more students. I am really inspired by these amazing individuals who have selflessly shared their time, money, or talents! They are making a very positive impact in young people's lives, and I want them to know how much they're appreciated. They are making a difference!

Inga Mannion

Teacher, Hart Middle School

Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 28, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

• **PCUP-187, Eileen Yang**

Application for a conditional use permit to operate an after school math tutoring facility for up to five children per session (kindergarten to 6th grade students) in an existing building located at 3037 Hopyard Road, Suite N.

• **PAP 103 (PV 140, Peter and Garrett Nowak)**

Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of a variance from the Pleasanton Municipal Code for a reduced side yard setback to retain an existing trellis/carport on the south side of the existing residence located at 3590 Glacier Court South.

Trails Ad-Hoc Committee

Monday, February 26, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

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

Parks & Recreation Commission

Workshop

Thursday, March 1, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave

- Discussion of Potential Recreational Amenities for the Proposed Staples Ranch Community Park

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**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

Laptop taken from construction site

At 7 a.m. last Friday, a woman reported a company laptop stolen from a construction site at 5860 Owens Drive. The woman, who is an employee of the construction company, said she last saw the computer on a table Feb. 15 at 5:45 p.m. Her boss confirmed it was there at 8:30 the same evening. A Pleasanton police officer reported no signs of forced entry, and a construction worker noticed the

access door was left unlocked. The loss was valued at \$3,200.

Purse stolen at In-N-Out

A Dublin resident dining at In-N-Out Burger at 601 Johnson Drive Feb. 11 left her purse on the table for 10 minutes. Upon returning to the table, the purse was missing. The loss, including her wallet, credit cards and a GPS device, was valued at \$2,680.

Police Report

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

February 11

- Found property: 2
- Theft:
 - 2:30 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$200-400
 - 6:03 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from building, worth over \$400
- Commercial burglary:
 - 12:13 a.m. in the 8500 block of Clubhouse

February 12

- Theft:
 - 9:20 a.m. in the 7100 block of Johnson Drive; vehicle parts, worth over \$400
- Residential vandalism:
 - 9:48 a.m. in the 3800 block of Stoneridge Drive; worth \$1,000 or less
 - 11:30 a.m. in the 300 block of St. Mary Street; worth \$1,000 or less
- Residential burglary:
 - 5:26 p.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:35 a.m. in the 6600 block of

Koll Center Parkway; public drunkenness
-2:05 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens court; under the influence of drugs
-10:31 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court; paraphernalia possession

February 13

- DUI: 1
- Theft:
 - 11:32 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth less than \$50
 - 4:05 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
 - 8:51 p.m. in the 200 block of Junipero Street; from vehicle, worth \$50-199
 - 9:31 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
- Lewd/lascivious acts in public
 - 5:21 p.m. at the intersection of Valley and Bernal avenues
- Assault:
 - 6:45 p.m. in the 3100 block of Tonopah Court

February 14

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 5:00 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$200-400
 - 8:00 p.m. in the 3600 block of Washington Street; from vehicle, worth \$200-400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 2:30 p.m. in the 5800 block of Valley Avenue; worth over \$400

February 15

- Threatening phone calls: 3
- Theft:
 - 4:00 p.m. in the 1000 block of Hometown Way; credit card fraud
 - 5:00 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive; from building, worth over \$400
 - 9:04 p.m. in the 100 block of Old Bernal Avenue; identity theft
 - 9:38 p.m. in the 3100 block of Paseo Robles; identity theft
- Vandalism:
 - 7:45 a.m. in the 4900 block of Hopyard Road; worth over \$1,000
- False evidence of age:
 - 12:14 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road
- Synthetic drug possession:
 - 11:42 p.m. in the 400 block of Division Street

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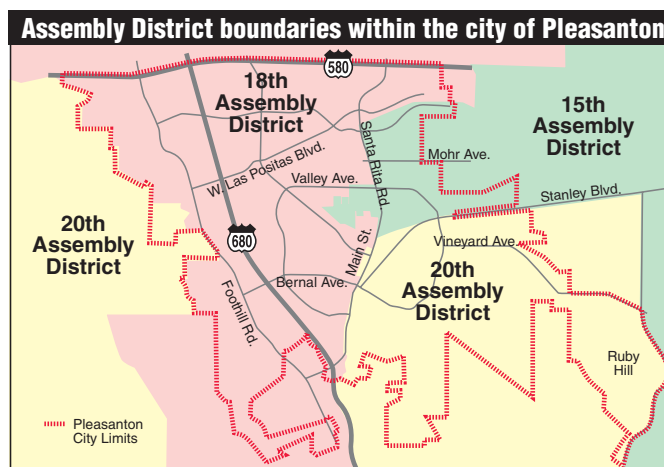


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Meet Pleasanton's newest assemblywoman

Castro Valley resident
Mary Hayashi takes
reigns of 18th

by Janet Pelletier



When you think of State Assembly districts in Pleasanton, think three. Since 1982, Pleasanton has been split into three Assembly districts, now represented by former Dublin mayor and Republican Guy Houston in the 15th, newly-elected Mary Hayashi in the 18th and Alberto Torrico in the 20th. Before 1982, the city was part of a single district that included Fremont, San Leandro and Hayward. When long-time Assemblyman Carlos Bee of Hayward died, Pleasanton City Councilman Floyd Mori was elected to fill his unexpired term.

With the rapid growth of cities within the district, including Pleasanton, as shown in the 1980 Census, new districts were created and Pleasanton, with its largely Republican constituency, became part of others that had more Democrats in the mix. As a result, Mori was the first and last State Assemblyman from Pleasanton. Former Mayor Tom Pico ran three years ago for the Democratic nomination in the 20th, but was defeated by Torrico.

Many voters in Pleasanton are unaware that their Assembly district is only a part of the city, since they vote only in one. More they should know: each of the three Assembly districts is controlled by the larger voter bases outside of Pleasanton, which means significance isn't placed on how those here vote except in very close races, which are more likely in the 15th.

Still, all three come to Pleasanton for political, social and, in Houston's case, family events. And plans for the coming year will have an effect on the community. A look at Pleasanton's newest Assembly member follows. This is the first in a three-part series.

On her first day as the new 18th District State Assemblywoman, Castro Valley resident Mary Hayashi was bombarded with 40 interview requests.

To summarize the past eight or so weeks, it's been a whirlwind for Hayashi, who embarked on her political career after winning the seat in November against Pleasanton Republican Jill Buck. Sitting in her predecessor and outgoing Assemblyman Johan Klehs' former office near Cal State East Bay in Hayward on a recent Friday (she's in Sacramento Mondays through Thursdays), Hayashi said that she is excited about prospects for the coming year.

"I can tell you this—this year we're going to have a health care plan signed," she said. "Some reform is going to be signed by the governor. This is going to be the year for health care. I'm just so excited because this is why I ran."

Before her foray into the political scene, Hayashi, the first Korean-American to be voted to the State Assembly, was involved in numerous health care endeavors. Most recently, she held an appointed seat on the Board of Registered Nursing. She also founded the Iris Alliance Fund which leverages resources for suicide prevention efforts, so it's only natural that one of her first pieces of legislation she has submitted to the Assembly is one that will establish a state Office of Suicide Prevention under the Department of Mental Health. Titled AB 509, the legislation was introduced to the Assembly last Tuesday.

"There are other states that have offices of suicide prevention but California does not," Hayashi said. "Suicide is the third leading cause of death for teens and, in California, we have 3,000 deaths caused by suicide. Just to put this into perspective, we have more people who die from suicide in California every year than the number of individuals who lost their lives in the 2001 terrorist attack."

A dedicated office that will coordinate mental health programs between agencies, school districts, parents, teachers,

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EVENTS

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Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi's office

Eighteenth District State Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi was sworn in Dec. 4 in the State Capitol. Hayashi has put forward a health care agenda, including legislation regarding suicide prevention and school-based health centers. She will host a health care town hall meeting at ValleyCare in Pleasanton on March 1.

and link services to children as well as adults who are in need is the goal, she

ce enacted, the office would establish an advisory committee of mental health professionals to conduct an analysis of available resources, identify people at risk of suicide and develop prevention training programs.

is going to save money in the long run because if we can reduce suicide attempts, that's going to save us money in hospitalization, loss in school time, loss in employment time," Hayashi said. "We lose productivity when our mental health issues go unaddressed."

Feb. 13, Hayashi introduced AB 1080 legislation that proposes to require the Department of Health Care Services to certify school health centers, which serve low-income, uninsured children, as primary health care providers. Under the legislation, school-based health centers would be able to bill the state department for Medi-Cal services. The legislation may be heard in the Assembly as March 16. She's received praise from the Pleasanton PTA on that.

Next month, Pleasanton will be on Hayashi's agenda with two different items.

March 1, Hayashi is co-sponsoring a health care town hall meeting in Pleasanton at ValleyCare Health System, 5555 W. Positas Blvd. The meeting, which starts at 7 p.m., will feature a presentation from ValleyCare President and CEO Jay Feit. Hayashi will also explain the health care bills she plans to introduce in the Assembly as well as give overviews of the Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez's-, Sen. Don Perata's- and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's individual health care proposals.

Hayashi said the purpose of the town hall meeting is to engage the public in discussion about their health care needs and to provide an opportunity for participants to give feedback.

On March 5, Hayashi will name Pleasanton PTA President Jamie Hintzke

as her "Woman of the Year." Hintzke will be honored in a special floor session in Sacramento.

Hayashi has also been given four committee assignments by Speaker Nuñez: the Business and Professions, Budget, Health and Revenue and Taxation committees. Hayashi was also appointed to Budget Subcommittee 4 on State Administration. She will also retain her seat on the Proposition 63 board dealing with funding mental health services, which she held before being elected. In addition to also naming Hayashi assistant majority whip to the Democratic Caucus, Nuñez also recently named her to the Mental Health Services Oversight Committee and Accountability Commission, where she will help advise the governor and legislature on mental health issues.

With all the craziness that comes with a high profile political career, Hayashi said her husband, who was a fellow running mate in the November elections, keeps her grounded.

Husband Dennis Hayashi, who practices law in Hayward, ran for a rare open seat in the Alameda County Superior Court, but lost to Pleasanton resident Sandra Bean. While Mary Hayashi said she wished Dennis would have won, it's actually a nice balance between the couple now.

"He understands what it's like to be a candidate, what it's like to be in public service," she said. "It worked out great because we're able to strategize together. We can share information."

Next in three-part series

Assemblyman Guy Houston, (R-San Ramon), doesn't have to look far to trace his roots in the Tri-Valley. The former Pleasanton resident, Dublin mayor and current Assemblymember serving his third and final term, has a long history here. Houston reflects on his public service and his effort, along with Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, to call for changes in voter-mandated term limits. ■

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Transitions

Obituaries

Alison Kathryn Pennisi

Alison Kathryn Pennisi died Feb. 14 at the age of 29.

Ms. Pennisi was born Aug. 30, 1977 at Valley Memorial Hospital in Livermore. She grew up in Pleasanton and was a graduate of Foothill High School. A perennial student, she attended Cañada College in Redwood City and was a longtime resident there.

Ms. Pennisi is survived by her parents Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Pennisi; fiancé Daniel Morgan; three brothers, Joseph and wife Lauren, Robert and wife Sandra, and Michael and wife Lindsey; niece Chloe; nephews Joey, R.J.

and Anthony.

A trust fund has been established in her name at The First Republic Bank. Three charities will be the recipients of any donations—South County Mental Health, Stanford-Packard Children's Hospital and San Mateo County Medical Center.

A memorial mass will be held 11 a.m. tomorrow at St. Augustine Catholic Church. A reception will follow at noon.

Isabel LaTorre

Isabel LaTorre died Feb. 19 in Pleasanton at the age of 87.

Mrs. LaTorre was born in Oakland Jan. 12, 1920. She lived in Livermore for 30 years, and was the former co-owner of Bellinas Restaurant in Pleasanton for 20

years. She enjoyed cooking and gardening.

Mrs. LaTorre is survived by husband Antonio of 59 years; son Peter LaTorre of San Ramon; daughters Christine Galysh of Waco, Texas and JoAnn Filiault of Manchester, Conn.; sisters Florence Wittmeyer of Santa Clara and Virginia Cassavant of Oakland; grandchildren Anthony Filiault of Manchester, Conn., John A. Galysh of Corpus Christi, Texas and Pamela T. Galysh of Farmersville, Texas.

A funeral mass and burial service were scheduled for last Thursday at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton, with arrangements made by Graham-Hitch Mortuary.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the American Cancer Society, 7000 Village Parkway, Ste. E, Dublin, CA 94568.

Births

December 31

Janice & Allen Jones, a boy

January 3

Tawny & Matthew Likeness, a girl

January 4

Mary & Robert Mutzl, a boy

January 10

Jillian Kalic & Robert Ragone, a boy

January 25

Racheal Knight & Ray Snider IV, a girl

Heather & Anthony Giustino, a girl

January 28

Tiffany & Ryan Perry, a boy

February 1

Lata Shree & Shashi Shahker, a girl

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DO "BABY BOOMERS" DRIVE REAL ESTATE BOOMS?

Some economists link the buying habits of "baby boomers" to the demand for homes in this country. Since most of the "boomers" have already bought their home, they conclude, the demand for housing is declining, along with the rapid appreciation in real estate during the last decade.

This argument presumes that the population will stabilize or decline as these potential buyers age and their children grow up. What is left out of such a picture is that the emerging real estate market is made up of people who are immigrating to this country. When these newcomers have achieved a stable income, they look for the best living situation they can find, often

preferring buying to renting.

Real estate continues to be an attractive investment opportunity. If you are sitting out the current market because you are afraid that the appreciation won't continue, you may want to re-think your decision. Today's market is providing opportunities for homeowners and smart investors from all over the globe.

If you or someone you know is thinking about buying or selling, contact Diana at ReMax Accord. Diana is committed to professional, attentive service to her clients - always willing to go the extra mile. When you deserve the very best, call 925-830-4764. www.dianahomes.com
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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Danville WEEKLY

Calendar

Calendar submissions

Beginning mid-March our printed calendar listings will be gathered from our online database. To make sure your listing is included, please visit www.pleasantonweekly.com to fill out a calendar submission form. Don't forget to include dates for publication in the paper. For questions, e-mail calendar@pleasantonweekly.com.

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.

Book Clubs

Great Books of Pleasanton

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

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 March 6.

Housing Commission

The commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday monthly at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. The next meeting is March 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 March 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 March 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 March 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. 28.

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. 27.

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 March 14.

Classes

Belly Dancing Classes

The city of Dublin is offering women's belly dancing classes with 4-week sessions beginning Feb. 23 and March 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.

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.

Handling Sibling Rivalry

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

International Folk Dancers

The Del Valle International Folk Dancers welcome beginning and experienced dancers from Balkan, Israeli and other world dances. Weekly classes meet from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the upstairs studio at Triple Threat Performing Arts, 315 Wright Brothers Avenue. Cost is \$4. Call George Pavel, 447-8020.

Investing During Turbulent Times

This class on Feb. 27 will discuss today's market and indicators you should look for when assessing market fluctuations. Learn strategies to help you survive market volatility and protect your retirement future. Instructor: Christina Ahlstrand, CFP® Course No. 256101. 7-9 p.m. \$25.00 Village High School, Room 701, 4645 Bernal Avenue. 925-426-4280. pleasanton.k12.trivalley.com

Planning For Career Success After High School Graduation

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

The Parent Project

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

Clubs

Horseshoe Pitching

The Horseshoe Pitching Club meets at 1 p.m. every Tuesday at Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Call Martha, 462-4283.

Ladies Choice Investment

Ladies Choice Investment meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday monthly to discuss educational stock selections and investments. Call Jeannie, 846-5106.

Weekend Preview



Jazz in the library

Jazz saxophonist George Brooks leads the George Brooks Trio, from 2 to 3 p.m. this Sunday at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The group will perform a selection of jazz standards and original compositions. Admission is free. Call Penny Johnson, 931-3405, for more information.

Mothers Club

The Pleasanton Mothers Club meets from 7 to 9 p.m. the third Tuesday monthly at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Drive, room C2. Call 927-2444, or visit www.pleasanton-mothersclub.org.

Mt. Diablo Rose Society

Mt. Diablo Rose Society meets from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. the second Wednesday monthly, except in December, at Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin. Call Pat, 846-4913.

Concerts

Eighth Annual Night of Jazz Fundraiser

California State University, East Bay is hosting its Eighth 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.

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.

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Fry Street Quartet

The Fry Street Quartet will perform 8 p.m. March 3 at First Presbyterian Church, 2020 5th St., Livermore as part of the Del Valle Fine Arts Classical Concert Series. General admission is \$18, and \$16 for seniors 62 or older and college students. High school students are free. Call 447-2752 or visit www.delvalle-finearts.org for more information.

Life is Grand!

Signature Properties presents "Life is Grand," a free concert from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Paramount Theater, 2025 Broadway Ave., Oakland. The event will include performances by Ben's Shaolin Kung Fu, Los Campos, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Ensemble and more.

Sunday Afternoon Musical

Clarinetist Joe Bonfiglio will play works of von Weber, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Gershwin 4 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 North Vasco Road, Livermore. No tickets, but there is a suggested donation of \$12 to \$20 per person, youth free. Call 447-6454 for more information.

'The Mikado' Opera Party

John Christopher Cellars, Retzlaff Winery and the Livermore Valley Opera will host a joint Mikado Opera Party featuring a wine tasting and heavy-appetizer party followed by the LVO's production of "The Mikado," an English comedic operetta in two acts, March 10. The wine tasting party is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Blacksmith Square, 25 South Livermore Ave. The performance will immediately follow the party at the Livermore High School Theater. 5:30 p.m. \$65 Blacksmith Square, 25 South Livermore Ave., Livermore. 456-9463. www.livermorevalleyopera.com, www.johnchristophercellars.com.

Events

Dreams Bridal Faire

Dreams Are A Wish Your Heart Makes presents the first-ever Bridal Faire March 4 at the Historic Pleasanton Hotel Victorian Room. Come see the best wedding professionals in the business! Thousands of dollars in door prizes! Enter to win the Grand Prize for Northern California: a free wedding! For tix call Sharon at 989-7242. 3:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. www.grapevideo.com.

Foothill Grad Night Tickets

Available Grad Night 2007 tickets are on sale every Tuesday and Thursday on Campus during lunchtime. Tickets are currently selling at \$135 per student but hurry before the prices go up! Also see website <http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill> and look under the Announcements/Activities section for information. \$135 Foothill Grad Night, Club Sport Pleasanton. 925 426-8602.

Livermore Valley Wine Country Championship

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

Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival Early Registration

Those interested in joining the Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival March 31 at the CarrAmerica Conference Center can sign up early and receive a discount on registration. Registration before March 3 is \$80 for adults age 20 or older, \$15 and \$25 for teens age 13 to 19 and \$15 for youth age 4 to 12. After March 3, cost is \$95 for adults, \$20 and \$35 for teens and \$20 for youth. Contact Michelle Russo, 931-5350 or mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us for more information. Visit www.pleasantonarts.org.

Purple and Gold Gala

The 21st annual Purple and Gold Gala

will be from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Palm Event Center. The event features dinner, raffles, live and silent auctions and dancing. All funds go toward Amador Valley High School sports. Contact Sandy Cleland, sleland@comcast.net or visit www.amadorsports.com for tickets.

Red Cross: Paint the Town Red Big Time Gala

The American Red Cross Bay Area invites you to Paint the Town Red ñ Big Time, an annual red tie gala benefiting local disaster preparedness and emergency response efforts. Includes dinner, award presentation, silent & live auction, entertainment & dancing. March 10. 6 p.m. Westin St. Francis, 335 Powell Street, San Francisco. 415-427-8170. www.red-crossbayarea.org

Exhibits

Annual Faculty Art Exhibition

California State University, East Bay annual Faculty Art Show Exhibition can be viewed for free from noon to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday until March 1 at the University Art Gallery in the Arts and Education Building on campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. Call (510) 885-3299 or visit <http://class.csueastbay.edu/artgallery> for more information.

Landscape Sketching

Work by students of Monica Satterthwait's landscape sketching class at LPC is on display through Feb. 28 at Way Up Art & Frame, 1923 Second St., Livermore. See high-quality, hand-made sketch books including on-site drawings and paintings of various locations in the Tri-Valley and beyond. Call Thomas at 846-3691 or e-mail vinals37550@mypacks.net.

Local Artists Display Work

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

Music in the 1890s, 1920s and 1940s

"Music in the 1890s, 1920s and 1940s" is on display at the Museum On Main, 603 Main St., now through mid-April. The exhibit highlights the history of music in the three eras that produced important musical styles and artist songs and includes sheet music, clothing and instruments. Admission to the museum is a \$2 requested donation. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org for more information.

Up Close and Far Away

Worthington Gallery West is hosting "Up Close and Far Away," a group show featuring landscapes and still lifes by artists Uwe Bangert, Seamus Berkeley, Klaus Fussman, Tricia Leonard, Marc Velten and more. The show closes March 3. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com for more information.

Film

Contra Costa International Jewish Film Festival

The Jewish Community Federation and Foundation presents the Contra Costa International Jewish Film Festival with two shows at the Vine Cinema, 1722 First St., Livermore. "The First Time I Was Twenty" will air 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 and "Live and Become" will air 7:30 p.m. March 1. Tickets are \$9 in advance, \$10 at the door. Youth ages 13 to 18 are free March 1. Call 943-5238 or visit www.jfed.org for tickets.

Heroes and Villains

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

The War Tapes

"The War Tapes," a film on what it's like to be a soldier in Iraq, will air for free or a \$2 donation 7 p.m. Feb. 24 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Meet and greet starts at 6:30 p.m. After the showing, there will be a short discussion about the movie. Call 462-3459 for more information.

Fundraisers

Bingo

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

Pure Girls, ABWA Collect Donations for The Princess Project

ABWA Express to Success Network and Pure Girls are collecting new and nearly new prom gowns and fancy dresses for The Princess Project, a Bay Area non-profit that provides prom gowns and accessories to high school girls who could not otherwise afford them. The project's goal is to outfit 2,700 underserved girls for prom 2007. Donations can be dropped off at Pure Girls, 660 Main St., Feb. 10 through 23 during regular store hours. Dresses must be dry cleaned, on hangers and in good condition. Related accessories are also welcome, but no make-up or shoes will be accepted. Call 485-4380 or visit www.princessproject.org for more information.

Recycle for Breast Cancer

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

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.

Free CPR Training

The American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter will hold its annual FREE CPR Preparedness Saturday, March 3, during Red Cross Month. Learn Adult CPR, care for choking victims, rescue breathing and disaster preparedness. There are two sessions taking place at 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. 8:30 a.m. FREE Acts Full Gospel Church, 1034 66th Ave, Oakland, CA. 1-800-520-5433. www.redcrossbayarea.org.

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.

Seminar on Advanced Treatment of Diabetes

Endocrinologist Mahmood Kazemi, M.D., and Chief Clinical Dietitian, Pam Wilson, M.S., R.D., will discuss Advanced Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes. What are some of the new oral medications, and which drugs can improve glycemic control? What are the risk factors and symptoms? Please register. March 8 7-8:30 p.m. no charge San Ramon Regional Medical Center, South Conference Room, South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon

Road, San Ramon. 925.275.8230. www.sanramonmedctr.com.

World School Free Seminars

World School of Massage will offer a free seminar for the general public from 3:30 to 5 p.m. March 8 called "Breast Health: Lymph Loving!" This stand-alone seminar will teach self-massage. Participants will leave with self-care techniques to use at home. 3:30-5 p.m. free World School, 699 Peters Ave. 925-461-2533. www.world-schoolmassage.com

Kids & Teens

Bilingual Storytimes

The Pleasanton Public Library will host a series of Spanish-English storytimes the first Wednesday evening of the month through April. The program lasts 30 minutes and is open to children of all ages. Admission is free. Call the children's desk, 931-3400, ext. 8 for more information.

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 Dolphin

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. Feb. 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. Call 931-3400, ext. 23 for more information.

Small Animal Field Day

Alameda County 4-H presents Small Animal Field Day with the theme "A Small Animal Musical" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in the Agriculture Building. There will be information and displays, photo and small animal dress-up contests and more. Call Donna Busch, (510) 538-8941 for more information.

Lectures/ Workshops

Child Care Initiative Project

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

Children of Alcatraz

Filmmaker Scott Cornfield will show and give a talk on his film "Children of Alcatraz" 7 p.m. March 15 at the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. Reservations are requested. Admission is \$5 for museum members, \$10 for non-members. Call 462-2766 for more information.

DivorceCare

DivorceCare, a divorce recovery seminar and support group, will meet 7 p.m. every Thursday through May 17 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. Child care is provided through fifth grade. Call 846-6622 for more information.

The Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews presents "The Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism" by Rifke Feinstein, executive director of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, 7 p.m., Feb. 23, 1817 Sinclair Drive. Shabbat potluck dinner will precede the presentation. Each person should bring a dish for eight people. Reservations are required. Call 485-1049 or e-mail CulturalJew@aol.com.

Live Music

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band performs at The Pleasanton Hotel Lounge on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Visit www.pleasantonhotel.com for a complete calendar of events.

The George Brooks Trio

Saxophonist George Brooks and his band The George Brooks Trio will play jazz standards and original compositions from 2 to 3 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Admission is free. Visit www.georgebrooks.com for more information.

Miscellaneous

Donate to Help Fight Cancer

Help fight cancer by donating new or gently used clothing and accessories, household items and furniture to the American Cancer Discovery Shop, 1987-A Santa Rita Road. Call 462-7374.

Excellence in Education Awards

Pleasanton PTA Council and PUSD present the 17th Excellence in Education Awards, sponsored by Steven M. Chew DDS. The community is invited to nominate a special teacher, administrator or staff of the PUSD. Applications can be downloaded at www.pleasantonpta.org. The deadline is March 23. 925-462-4891. www.pleasantonpta.org.

Family Read Night

Read stories and do crafts with the family at Family Read Night, offered in English and Spanish. Admission is free. Space is limited so registration is required. Call Donnamarie, 249-3923, for dates and locations.

Farmers' Market

Shop for fresh produce, flowers, and baked goods from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday on West Angela Street between Main and First streets. Call 825-9090.

Kittens Seek Foster Homes

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

Open Heart Kitchen

Open Heart Kitchen provides hot meals to the underprivileged from 4:30 to 6 p.m. every Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road; noon to 6 p.m. every Tuesday and Wednesday at Asbury United Methodist Church, 4743 East Ave., Livermore; and 4 to 6 p.m. every Thursday at Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 460 N. Livermore St., Livermore. Call Carol, 580-1616.

Poetry Open Mic

Beginners and long-time writers, bring up to 10 minutes of poetry to share for the open mic or listen to poetry from 7 to 9 p.m. every third Thursday monthly at Used and Rare Bookstore, 2911 Hopyard Road. Call Michelle, 931-5350 or e-mail mrusso@ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

TVAR Cat and Dog Adoptions

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts

dog and cat adoptions from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturdays at Pleasanton's Farmers' Market, First and W. Angela streets and noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays, excluding the fourth Saturday of the month, and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. at Dublin Pet Food Express, 4460 Tassajara Road, Dublin. Cat adoptions are held Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. at Dublin PetsMart, 6960 Amador Plaza Road, Dublin. Dog adoptions are from 1 to 4 p.m. the first and third Saturdays of the month and rabbit adoptions are from 1 to 4 p.m. the second and fourth Saturdays of the month also at Dublin PetsMart. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tvr.org for more information.

On Stage

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Amador Valley and Foothill high schools present "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" 7:30 p.m. March 15 through the 24 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$12 for adults and are available through www.civcartstickets.org or at the door the night of the event. 7:30 p.m. \$10 for students, \$12 for adults Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. www.civcartstickets.org.

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.

Russian-American Kids Circus The Russian-American Kids Circus will perform 7:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Young artists trained by veterans of the Moscow Circus will perform acrobatics, tightrope walking, juggling, unicycling and more. Tickets are \$14, \$18 and \$22 for adults, \$10, \$14 and \$18 for children. Tickets are available online at www.civcartstickets.org or by phone at 931-3444.

SUDS: A Rocking 60s Musical Soap Opera The Walnut Creek Crossroads Theatre kicks off its sixth season with "SUDS: A Rocking 60s Musical Soap Opera" running through March 31. The show is about a lonely Laundromat lass and the guardian angels who help her find true love with more than 50 well known chart-topping songs from the 1960s. Shows are 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays at the CTA Crossroads Theatre, 1277 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$24 to \$29. Call 944-0587 to purchase tickets or for more information.

Taming the Wild, Wild West in a Dress The Sunol Repertory Theatre presents "Taming the Wild, Wild West in a Dress or Let's Give the Villain the Slip" 8 p.m. March 10 through the 31 at the Sunol Glen School auditorium, 11601 Main St., Sunol. Tickets are \$12.50 and can be purchased at www.sunol.net or by phone at 862-0664.

The Fantasticks The Pleasanton Playhouse presents "The Fantasticks" through March 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.pleasantonplayhouse.com to purchase tickets.

Recreation

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

Scholarships

AAUW Local Scholarship The American Association of University Women Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch will award two or more scholarships between \$500 to \$1,500 each to students either currently living in Livermore, Dublin, Pleasanton or Sunol or graduating from a Livermore, Pleasanton or Dublin high school and have plans to complete a full course of study at an accredited four-year college or university. Deadline to apply is March 15. Contact Devon LaHar, devonlahar@gmail.com or 548-4333 for applications and further information.

ARTSFUND Grants program The Alameda County Arts Commission deadline for its ARTSFUND grants is Feb. 28. Organizations may be eligible for grants of \$1,000 each. Visit www.acgov.org/arts for application details and requirements.

Cash for College Workshops Bay Area Cash for College workshops are being held until March 2 in various locations across the Bay Area. Workshops aid families in successfully completing the financial aid process for college. Visit www.calgrants.org for a complete list of workshop locations. Call Jessica Johnston, (213) 996-3784 for more information.

Tri-Valley Macintosh Users Group The Tri-Valley Macintosh Users Group will award a \$500 scholarship to a high school senior graduating from high schools in Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and San Ramon. The scholarship will be awarded based on how creative the student uses a Mac to support his or her educational goals. Applications are available through high school counselors and are due by March 30. E-mail Izak Mutlu, imutlu@comcast.net for more information.

Tri-Valley Retired Educators Scholarship Tri-Valley Retired Educators is offering four scholarships worth \$1,000 to graduating high school seniors and Las Positas College and California State University, East Bay students who are residents of Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and Sunol and are planning a career in education. Applications for the scholarships are available at local high schools, LPC and CSUEB. Deadline is March 2. Contact Olive Egan Greene, 443-6097 or greegns@pacbell.net for more information.

Seniors

Bingo Play Bingo 12:30 to 3 p.m. on the

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

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

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

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

Luncheons The Dublin Senior Center hosts special themed luncheons on the second Thursday monthly at the Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd.,

Dublin. The luncheon fee is \$6.50 for residents and \$7.50 for non-residents and includes special entertainment. Call 556-4511 or visit www.ci.dublin.ca.us. Reservations needed by the Friday prior to the luncheon.

Movie Madness Seniors are invited to watch free movies on the big screen at 1 p.m. on the first and third Mondays monthly at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Popcorn and refreshments available. Call 931-5365.

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

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

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

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Senior Lunch

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

V.I.P. Senior Club

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

Spiritual

12 Steps Through Psalm 23

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

Eckankar Worship Service

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

Faith Chapel Assembly of God

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

Pathway Community Church

Pathway Community Church, 3470 Fostoria Way, Ste. D, San Ramon, hosts Contemporary Sunday Worship services 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. Call 830-4722 or visit www.pathwaycommunitychurch.com for more information.

Simpler Living Workshop

St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, is hosting a four-session workshop called "Simpler Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective" connecting faith and simplicity. The workshops are Wednesdays at 7 p.m. starting March 7. Classes are free, but participants will need a journal and a copy of the book "Simple Living, Compassionate Life: A Christian Perspective," which can be found at Towne Center Books on Main Street. Call 462-4082 for more information or to register.

Tri-Valley Unity Church

Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at 10 a.m. every Sunday at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Worship service and children's school will be offered as well. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Sports

AAU Basketball Tryouts Sixth grade boys/under 12 years old Tri-Valley Wildcats AAU basketball team is holding tryouts for its late Spring through Summer 2007 team. Tryouts are from 7 to 8 p.m. March 2 at Pleasanton Middle School. For more info: Mike at 925-413-1618 or Charles at sommerpr@comcast.net 7-8 p.m. Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. 925-371-6341.

Sea Devils

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

Support Groups

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group

The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 Stanley Blvd., Livermore. There will be no December meeting, but the group will reconvene in January. Contact Lorene Stack, 447-6158.

Men at Work

This Al-Anon group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays at the

Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call Tom, 417-7540.

Men's Support Group

Anthropos Counseling Center provides support for men to improve personal growth and change and become aware of emotional habits and attitude. Group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Friday, 326 S. L St., Livermore. Call 449-7925.

Military Group

Pleasanton Military Families, a support group for families of service members, meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday monthly, held at different group member's home. Call Chris, 730-1604.

Narconon Arrowhead

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

Newcomers to Al-Anon

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

Operation SAM

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

Overeaters Anonymous

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

Parents of Alcoholics

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

Parents of Children with Autism

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

Parents of Diabetics

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

Parents of Special Needs Children

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

Parkinson's Support Group

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

Pleasanton Senior Grief Group

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

Prostate Cancer Support Group

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

Prostate Cancer Survivors

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

to meetings held at 7:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the same location. Call 846-7460.

R-Quest

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

Sexual Assault Support Group

The Tri-Valley Haven offers a sexual assault support group for adult survivors of incest/molestation and survivors of recent sexual assault. The group meets every Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Pleasanton. Call Diane Ross, 449-5845, ext. 214 for more information.

Survival to Recovery

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

Temporary Restraining Order Clinic

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

TV30

Tri-Valley Sports Final This weekly show covers team and individual high school sports in the Tri-Valley. It airs on Channel 30 at 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hosts: Ian Bartholomew, Dr. B and Dennis Miller.

White House Chronicles

An interview and panel program focusing on national and international news with a sense of humor with hosts Llewellyn King and Linda Gasparello. The show airs noon Saturday, Sunday and Monday and 11 a.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday on channel 30.

Volunteering

Alameda County Community Food Bank

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

Community Service for Teens

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

Foster Homes Needed

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

Historical Performers

The Museum On Main is looking for people who will attend the museum's events, walk around the city and talk to visitors in the persona of someone living in the early 1900s. The museum will provide training, but is looking for

someone who has their own costume. Call Rebecca Bruner, 577-8802 for more information.

Jewish Community Federation

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

Open Heart Kitchen

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

Saturday Food Sorting

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

Saturday Salon The American Cancer Discovery Shop needs volunteers any time from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, or from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday. 7:30-9:30 p.m. No charge. Saturday Salon at 4th St. Studio, 2235 Fourth Street, Livermore. 925 456-3100.

Shepherd's Gate

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

Student Exchange Representatives

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs is looking for volunteers to serve as area representatives. Area representatives recruit and screen prospective host families, interview students to study abroad, and supervise visiting exchange students in their community. They are reimbursed for their expenses and are provided with some travel opportunities. Contact the regional office, (800) 733-2773 for more information.

The American Cancer Discovery Shop

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

The Princess Project

The Princess Project, a Bay Area nonprofit that provides prom gowns and accessories to high school girls who could not otherwise afford them, is looking for volunteers. The nonprofit organization is run entirely by volunteers and aims to have 300 volunteers this year. Visit www.princessproject.org for details.

Tri-Valley Haven

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

TVAR Volunteer Orientation

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

Volunteers Needed at RCJL

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

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Send a cover letter and resume to **Gina Channell-Allen, president / publisher, gallen@pleasantonweekly.com; The Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566 or fax to 925-600-1433.**

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Pet of the Week



Meet Babycake

She's snug as a bug in a rug while awaiting adoption at PetsMart in Dublin. Babycake is a 7-year-old, spayed female, coal-black shorthair housecat who is being cared for by a Tri-Valley Animal Rescue foster parent. Babycake is de-clawed, so she needs an indoor-only home and she would prefer not to have a dog as a roommate. Babycake is very affectionate and loves to cuddle. Babycake is vaccinated and she is Felv/Fiv negative. For more information about Babycake, call her foster mom Suzanne, 360-6764. Tri-Valley Animal Rescue (TVAR) holds adoption events on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. at PetsMart, 6960 Amador Plaza Rd. in Dublin, where you can meet adoptable cats that are in foster care. Visit www.tvvar.org.

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THE PANDA

Dining Out

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American

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

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

Asian-Pacific

Mahalo Grille
 425 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-2800.

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

Barbecue

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

Brewpub/Alehouse

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill
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426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

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
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Dining Out

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Panda Mandarin Cuisine

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

Willow Tree Chinese Cuisine

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

Continental

Barone's

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-

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

Fusion

Oasis Grille

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

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials--including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal--served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. We have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

Girasole Grill

3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton 484-1001. Girasole serves "Fresh Italian with a California Attitude" and features signature cuisine in a warm Tuscan villa setting. Experience Absolut! Prawns, Chicken Gorgi,

(continued on page 24)

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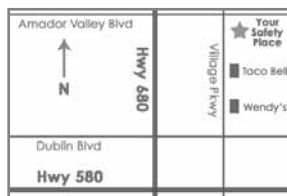
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11891 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, 828-9380. Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic fill this warm and friendly, cooks hand toss dough at this Tri-Valley pizza Mecca. It's perfect for romantic couples and the entire family. Authentic Southern Italian cooking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

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

Pastas Trattoria
405 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-2222. Pastas Trattoria has an elegant atmosphere and a one-of-a-kind menu. We feature steaks, seafood and our famous pasta, plus a superb selection of spirits and fine wines. Live music will jazz up your Friday and Saturday evenings. The banquet facilities have wireless Internet for large parties, up to 70 guests.

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4855 Hopyard Road #7 in Gateway Square, 734-0996. Acclaimed chef

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Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.
288 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-2520. Gay Nineties is family-oriented with an extensive menu, including our renowned pizza, Italian dishes, salads and sandwiches. We also have wine, beer, patio dining and games for kids. Come for groups, take out and call-ahead lunch orders. We're open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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