

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 7 • March 9, 2007

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

It's all about Pleasanton

The search for the missing

*Local couple lends plane, time
and counseling skills to search
and recovery operations*

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Free Workshop Reveals 7 Ways To Slash College Costs

A free workshop is being held for parents of college bound high school students at the Dublin Library 100 Civic Plaza March 13th and the Pleasanton Library 400 Old Bernal Ave. March 15 from 6:30 to 7:30pm. The workshop will focus on little-known ways of getting money for college, no matter how much income you make, or how good of a student you have.

The class will include such topics as how to double or triple your eligibility for free grant money, the secret to sending your child to a private or UC school for less than the cost of a junior college, and the single biggest mistake that 9 out of 10 parent make when planning for college.

The workshop is being taught by Len Dempsy a college planning expert. Seating is free, but limited to the first 25 people that call in. **To reserve a seat, call 925-218-0611.** Visit WWW.ADVANCEDCOLLEGEPLANNING.COM for more information.



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Enjoy your commute to work Monday—in the dark

If you like a little daylight with your early morning cup of coffee, plan to sleep in a bit later Sunday—and for the next several weeks, too. Daylight Saving Time comes three weeks early this year thanks to our Congressional leaders who think that we'll save energy by coming home from work when there's still a bit of daylight and make dinner by the glow of the setting sun. That means that at 6 a.m. Monday when many of us arise to get a head start on rush hour traffic or help the kids get ready for school (which will be like 5 a.m. was this morning), it'll be pitch black again. Just as we were beginning to enjoy some early daylight, Congress has told us to "spring ahead" at 2 a.m. this Sunday. By decree, we'll also be "falling back" a week later than usual, this year at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 4, again all in the spirit of saving energy. At least the fall extension make sense in that it gives Halloween trick-or-treaters an extra hour of late fall daylight to complete their door-to-door visits more safely. Candy manufacturers are happy. They've lobbied for years to have DST extended through Halloween.

Congress enacted the Energy Policy Act in 2005, contending that we're used to getting up in the dark anyhow and will now have the chance to enjoy more sunlight in the evening, take walks outdoors to stay healthy and get some outdoor projects started. Additionally, our lawmakers thought there might be emotional benefits since we typically feel better—or so they say—with more daylight. Since fewer lights will be turned on early in the evening, and with energy costs so high, we may even cut our electric bills, which could make everyone feel even better. Originally, the Policy Act was written to extend daylight time by two months, but some verbal opponents fought that drastic

of a change. Farmers say that DST has a negative impact on their livestock in general, reducing the production of milk, eggs and, we suppose, the number of farmers in the field at 7 a.m. or so when it's still dark.

There are other considerations which we'll have to wait to for. Railroads, including Amtrak trains, keep to their published schedules so, like the airlines, there should be no change in departure and arrival times. Except in Hawaii which doesn't recognize DST. Nor does Arizona, except on its large Navajo reservation, which moves to daylight time. Most television sets, computers and even many clocks now automatically adjust for daylight and standard time, although those manufactured before the law was changed two years ago might take three weeks to catch up this spring and another week to reprogram in the fall. Microsoft cautions that some of its older products, including Windows XP SP1 and Windows NT4 will require manual updates. Even in the banking industry, where ATMs time-stamp every customer transaction, not everyone is aware of the March 11 change. But if they managed their way through Y2K seven years ago, an early change to daylight time shouldn't be a problem.

History buffs might want to know that it was Benjamin Franklin who first proposed tinkering with the clock, but it wasn't until World War I that Congress actually implemented the change, although briefly. In 1966, Congress set daylight saving time to begin in April and end in October, but temporarily extended the period during the mid-1970s energy crisis. In 1986—20 years ago—Congress made the last change, setting 2 a.m. on the first Sunday in April to start daylight time and to end it at the same time on the last Sunday in October. Again, all in the interest of saving energy. We'll see. ■

About the Cover

Pleasanton residents Bridget and Mike Melson donate their time and resources to help search and recovery missions in California. Mike searches in his airplane, seen here housed at the Livermore Airport, and Bridget, a trained counselor, works with the family's on the ground. Photo by Rebecca Guyon. Cover by Ben Ho.

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Streetwise

Q: Do you think airlines should have a “Passenger’s Bill of Rights”?

Asked Downtown



Annette Lommerin

Stay at Home Mom

I absolutely believe they should. Airlines are a business and they have forgotten to put the consumer first. They have treated us like cattle and it is time that we stand up for ourselves.

Pat Landers

Nursery Manager

I am in support of as little regulation as possible. I think the economy will take care of it. If people don't like a certain airline's policies and customer service the public won't use them anymore.



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Sara Volking

Travel Agent

No, I don't think there should be a Bill of Rights. The airlines have already put many restrictions on passengers and people associated with the airlines. They would end up charging everyone involved in and using the industry more.



Angel Gonzalez

Army Officer

Most definitely. I think the airlines are discounting passengers' feelings and the rights that they have as human beings. Staying on an airplane for eight to 10 hours is just uncalled for. It is not just about getting the flight off the ground and being paid for that; it is about treating people with dignity.



Peter Goff

Tech. Consultant

In general I think most people should take pay attention themselves—sort of the “Caveat Emptor” philosophy. Consumers need to be aware, whether buying airline tickets or any other goods and services, that we have a choice in where we spend our money. The marketplace is a pretty good enforcer of good service.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Prom Possible

With prom dress donations not extending beyond San Francisco, Foothill High School's leadership class joined with Hayward Parks and Recreation to provide dresses for girls in the East Bay. Prom Possible seeks cash and gift certificate donations as well as dresses sizes 18 and up, but also necessary accessories: formal shoes, jewelry, wraps/shawls, etc. Donations may be dropped off at Foothill's main office.

Africa discussion

Tim Hunt, board chair for Heart for Africa, will discuss his 2006 trip and plans for 2007 mission trips in two meetings, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Sunday and from 7 to 8:30 p.m. March 15 at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Drive, Room 8. The meetings will feature video clips from Malawi and Kenya and are open to anyone interested in knowing more about Africa and how they may serve there in 2007. For more information or to reserve a space at either meeting, contact Hunt at huntenterprises1@comcast.net or 846-9274.

Transit Fair

Representatives from Wheels, Pleasanton Paratransit Service, BART, Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority, County Connection and the Pleasanton Police Department will present information from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 16 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. A corned beef lunch is also available, \$3.50 for seniors and \$5 for adults who make reservations by March 14. Call 931-5365 for more details.

Scholarship workshop

The Pleasanton Public Library is hosting a free workshop on how to get thousands of dollars for a college education at 6:30 p.m. March 28. College planning expert Len Dempsy will speak. Seating is limited, so please call 218-0611 to reserve seats. Visit www.advancedcollegeplanning.com for details.

Corrections

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



Juanita Haugen in 2005 (in striped shirt) with her daughters and sons-in-law (left to right) Heidi Haugen-Pearl, Chris and Heather Rizolli, Hilary Haugen and Holly and Mark Morello. Haugen died last Monday after a long battle with cancer.

City mourns school board president Juanita Haugen's death

1,500 from across U.S. expected to join in memorial service later this month

by Jeb Bing

Services are being planned for Pleasanton school board president Juanita Haugen, who died last Monday at Hacienda Care nursing home in Livermore. She was 69.

The Rev. Ron Culmer, rector of St. Clare's Episcopal Church where Juanita was a member, is coordinating the scheduling of the community service, which could take place March 17 or March 24. The family expects as many as 1,500 to attend and is working to arrange to use the sanctuary of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church at 4001 Stoneridge Drive, with tents and closed-circuit television units to be set up outside to accommodate the crowds.

(See www.PleasantonWeekly.com for updates.)

(continued on page 7)

Are you prepared for the big one?

Earthquake shakes up business at local safety store; Bay Area Red Cross reports busy start to year

by Janet Pelletier

While last week's earthquake didn't feel nearly as strong as the 1989 Loma Prieta one many may remember, it succeeded in rattling some people's fears.

The Red Cross Bay Area had already been reporting a busy start to the year—a 50 percent increase in local disasters, a cold weather emergency and national deployments to the Midwest to assist with winter storms. Then a landslide happened in San Francisco's North Beach, leaving 120 apartment dwellers homeless, and a 4.2-magnitude earthquake struck near Lafayette on March 1.

"We've been getting questions from people

on how they can get prepared after the quake and that's encouraging since we did a study last year that said that only 6 percent of people in the Bay Area were fully prepared for a disaster," said Paul Rose, a Red Cross spokesman.

The reason for that, Rose said, is because people have the mentality that a disaster isn't going to happen to or affect them.

"The USGS [United States Geological Survey] says there's going to be a major earthquake in the next 30 years—about 3,400 people dead, 16,000 people injured and 400,000 people left homeless," Rose said.

(continued on page 8)

Daylight-saving time begins

Set your clocks forward one hour at 2 a.m. this Sunday.



Switch your clocks an hour forward Sunday

Daylight Savings starts three weeks early this year

For the first time, the nation will spring forward three weeks early. Usually, we would be switching our clocks an hour forward around the beginning of April, but instead will observe the time change at 2 a.m. this Sunday.

It's due to a resolution Congress passed which went into effect this year in an effort to conserve energy and make more use of daylight.

While many agree it's a good idea, the early time change is raising concerns.

Just as the public was fearful over Y2K when the

(continued on page 6)

Amador Valley Community Park reopens

13-acre park now has better irrigation, grading and grass

by Emily Atwood

After nine months of construction, the Amador Valley Community Park on Santa Rita Road is complete.

Even though the fields are officially open, continued rainy weather may lead to closures for all city parks. This isn't the first time stormy weather caused problems for Amador Park. Rain was perhaps the biggest challenge in the renovation project, as it was the reason for a two-month delay after construction started in February 2006.

Even with the delays Michael Fulford, city landscape architect, said they finished just ahead of schedule on the park and just under the budget of \$375,000. The city approved the construction last August, but Fulford and others on the Park and Community Services staff decided to keep the fields closed until Feb. 20, when the fences went down.

"It's a big investment for parks," he said. "We kept the fence up to protect the investment. Now the fences are down and people are welcome to use it."

(continued on page 9)



Brian Klosterman, owner of Your Safety Place in Dublin, talks about the different safety supplies that are included in a four-person emergency preparedness kit.

McNerney joins Firehouse Arts Center board

Newly-elected Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) recently joined the Firehouse Arts Center Campaign Community Advisory Board Committee. The committee is dedicated to supporting the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation's efforts to fund the additional \$3.5 million needed for the new Firehouse Arts Center.

The center, due to open in late 2008, will feature a 240-seat theater, art gallery space, two large art classrooms and a grand lobby. It will be built where the historic fire station currently rests along Railroad Avenue. PCAF is a non-profit organization taking the lead role in fundraising for the construction of the center in downtown Pleasanton and for ongoing arts activities in the local community.

The Community Advisory Board Committee includes representatives from the business and arts commu-

nities, educational organizations and the city of Pleasanton. Other members include Pleasanton Unified School District Superintendent John Casey, City Manager Nelson Fialho, President of the Hacienda Business Owners Association James Paxson and Pleasanton Downtown Association Executive Director Christina Saldivar.

"We are thrilled to have the support of so many prominent community members for this important project for downtown Pleasanton," said Greg Reznick, president of PCAF. "These people share our vision for a new public arts facility that will enhance the vitality of downtown, provide economic benefits to our community, enhance arts education opportunities for our children and youth and provide local residents with a multitude of arts and cultural opportunities here in our own community."

—Rebecca Guyon

Clocks

(continued from page 5)

stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve 1999 meant the dawn of a new millennium, some are similarly worried that the three-week-early time change this spring will cause computer and electronic problems.

Computer or operating systems programmed before 2005 will be affected by this because they are set up to change the time on April 1—the old date when clocks were changed. To update those systems, they will need to be reprogrammed or "patched" in tech terms. Both Microsoft.com and Apple.com have downloads to do just that. The other option is just manually changing the time.

Fire safety officials encourage the public to use the clock shifts as a reminder to check the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

For more on the Daylight Saving Time, check "Around Pleasanton" on page 3.

—Janet Pelletier

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Haugen

(continued from page 5)

of Southern California and maintained a lifetime loyalty to her alma mater. It was at USC that Juanita was introduced to Gilbert Haugen, who became her husband.

Juanita and Gil moved to Pleasanton in 1970. She was best known for her role as a local school board member, first for Amador Valley Joint Union High School District, then—following the 1988 unification election—for Pleasanton Unified School District. Juanita was the longest-serving trustee in the history of the local schools, with her first term beginning in 1979. She was still in office at the time of her death.

Juanita received the 2005 Community Service Award from the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. Besides her school trusteeship, she was the founder of the Pleasanton Youth Collaborative; was one of the charter members of the board of directors for Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation; and founded the Pleasanton Community of Character Coalition. Juanita served on the Chamber's board of directors and also on the government relations committee.

On Dec. 9, 2005, the Pleasanton Weekly announced that Juanita Haugen had been selected as "Woman of the Year." Last Fourth of July, she was presented with the Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award.

Besides these local awards, Juanita was honored as the Association of California School Administrators "Friend of Public Education" for Alameda and Contra Costa Counties (1999); University of Southern California "Outstanding Alumni" (1997); Soroptomist International of Pleasanton "Woman of

Distinction" (1990); and California 15th Legislative Assembly District "Woman of the Year" (1989).

Always enthusiastic about lifelong learning, Haugen went from being a volunteer in her daughters' classrooms to being a respected voice for public education at the local, county, state and national levels. In 1997 she was elected president of the California School Boards Association (CSBA).

She was appointed by two governors to serve on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. She also served as president of California Suburban School Districts Association (1991-93). In 2005-06, she was president of the non-partisan California Elected Women for Education and Research, which promotes women in government.

At the national level, Juanita was one of three school board members elected to the board of directors of the National School Board Association (NSBA).

She was appointed by President Bill Clinton's Secretary of Education Richard Reilly as the only school district trustee to be a member of the governing board for National Assessment of Educational Progress. Juanita also was appointed by California governors to the Education Commission of the States, which serves in an advisory capacity for the national associations of state governors, legislators, and superintendents of public education.

Juanita's volunteer work also included serving on the boards of directors of Tri-Valley YMCA (since 1984), Classical Philharmonic, and Valley Community (now Axis) Health Care Center (1991-97).

She credited her student years at University of Southern California as shaping her for a life of community service. She pledged Alpha Omicron Pi sorority and served

on the student senate. Juanita was chairwoman of the USC Alumni Scholarship Committee in 1965 and has been an active participant ever since.

She is survived by her four daughters and sons-in-law: Heather and Chris Rizzoli of Livermore; Heidi and Bruce Peart of Davis; Holly and Mark Morello of Brentwood; and Hilary Haugen of Pleasanton, who is engaged to Jeffrey Dito of San Francisco.

Although she knew her cancer was terminal, she was determined to live to see her first grandchild born—and she did. Giovanni Sebastian Morello, son of Juanita's youngest daughter Holly and her husband Mark, was born Jan. 5 and was a frequent visitor to spend time with his grandmother during the last nine weeks of her life.

Other survivors include her late husband's sister and brother-in-law, Jeanne and Charles Bacon of Southern California, four nieces and many grand nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband of 29 years, Gilbert Haugen, who died in 1990. ■

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Now you can watch the Pleasanton council, even on vacation

New webcast makes home, office computers local 'watch'-dogs

by Jeb Bing

For the thousands of those who work in the private and public sectors in Pleasanton and yearn for a chance to see local government in action, that opportunity has arrived.

Last Tuesday, the Pleasanton City Council began webcasting its meetings on the Internet, using the video cameras already televising the meeting for TV30 community television to place the same video on the city's Web site. By logging on to www.pbtech.org/clients/pleasanton_cc/pleasantoncc03062007.html, viewers can access the Web

page that contains the video of the March 6 meeting, watch it from start to finish, or highlight segments of the meeting's agenda to see those proceedings. Just like TiVo or videotape recording, the video can be backed up, forwarded, paused or skipped. Unlike regular broadcasts, however, it can't be recorded, although those skilled with computers who have disk burners can download the video to their laptops and watch again.

The new system offers a second Internet means of keeping current on Pleasanton news, following the Pleasanton Weekly's launch last

month of its daily-updated online edition at www.PleasantonWeekly.com.

TV30 covers the meetings of the Pleasanton City Council and most of its workshops live and also rebroadcasts those meetings several times in the following week on Channel 29. It also offers its own webcasts of those meetings which, again, because they're on air, can be taped at home. However, unless viewers catch the Channel 29 broadcasts when they air, they have to wait until the next scheduled broadcast. The webcast isn't usually

available for a week or more after the meeting.

By webcasting its meetings, the Pleasanton council has also extended its coverage area to anywhere in the world that can log in to the city Web site. TV30, however, sends its signals through Comcast cable. If viewers aren't signed up for Comcast or live outside of its service area, they can't watch TV 30 or its affiliated channels 29 and 28. City Council meetings of the four cities are broadcast on Channel 29, with school board meetings broadcast on Channel 28. ■

Red Cross

(continued from page 5)

But after the recent temblor, some people have had "emergency" on their minds.

"It was right in the middle of the two strongest faults and for those people who said 'I have nothing to worry about'—there's a reason to get a disaster kit and get prepared," he said.

The Red Cross sells kits that contain the basics to keep a person sustained for 72 hours on the organization's Web site, www.redcross.org,

including one for \$50.

One local business is enjoying an increase in business after last week's quake—Your Safety Place in Dublin—which sells earthquake and other safety-related supplies.

"This is just the wake up call that people needed," said store owner Brian Klosterman. "Anybody who felt that quake was probably alerted pretty abruptly that we're living in earthquake country and it's something we need to pay attention to."

The store, located at 7197 Village Parkway, has been open 10 months—with its official opening on the 100-year anniversary of the

1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Klosterman had the idea for the store after searching for an emergency kit when all the Y2K buzz was going around.

"It took me a month, at least eight to 10 visits to stores, and even then I couldn't find everything that I needed," he said.

At Your Safety Place, kits for seniors, pets, the car, single-people and the family are offered, ranging from \$20-150. The best seller is the four-person kit for \$150 which includes a three-day supply of food and water (which has a five-year shelf life), a bucket that can become a toilet, blankets,

solar crank power flashlight, duct tape, cording, waterproof matches, ponchos, first aid supplies and light sticks.

"It's one of the cheapest forms of insurance," he said.

In addition to the retail operation, he said "road warriors" make contact with area schools, businesses and municipalities. He said the Pleasanton Police Department has purchased supplies from them as well as the city of San Ramon and Dublin and San Ramon school districts.

For more information, visit www.yoursafetyplace.com or call 829-0350. ■

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Park reopens

(continued from page 5)

The 13-acre renovation project included replacing the irrigation system, leveling out the field and adjusting the drainage. After that work was completed, the fields were reseeded with a slightly different variety of grass.

"When you first grow grass, it's delicate," Fulford said. "Even a casual game of soccer or baseball could damage it."

Next on the list of parks needing work are the new Alviso Adobe and Bernal Community parks. Both are in the final stages of planning and will soon be seeking price bids from contractors. Alviso Adobe, a project that has been in the works for about 10 years, is a 6.5-acre site that houses the oldest structure in Pleasanton. The park won't have a sports or playground area, but would instead "convey the historic flavor of Pleasanton," Fulford said.

Construction work for the Bernal park would be the first of many phases and would include three baseball fields (two of them light-ed), a children's play area, parking and restroom facilities.


Many city parks, including Amador, require reservations for sports activities and special use. To make reservations, call 931-5340. And to see when the city will give the OK for field use, call the Sports Field Weather Line at 931-5360. ■

Take Us Along



Weekly on ice

Madeline and Julia Weist read the Weekly as they enjoy a boat tour of the glaciers at Kenai Fjords National Park outside of Seward, Alaska.



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Opinion

Editorial

Juanita Haugen

Nov. 17, 1937 - March 5, 2007

Pleasanton and the education community have lost a tireless advocate for ever-better schools, teachers and curriculum in the death Monday of local school board president Juanita Haugen. A board member since 1979, she was re-elected repeatedly by an overwhelming majority of voters and served at least three terms as president, the position she held at the time of her death. Community leaders, teachers, school administrators, students and voters also supported her in 1988 when she led the referendum that unified the Pleasanton school district and again for two multi-million-dollar bond measures that provided the funds to expand, rebuild and improve the nine elementary schools, three middle schools and four high schools: Amador Valley, Foothill, Village and Horizon. A fiscal conservative who wasn't afraid to spend money when quality schools and education were at stake, she carefully guarded a reserve fund that paid off handsomely during the state budget crisis when other districts, which were less prudent, were forced to close schools, lay off teachers and even face bankruptcy.

A household name in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley, Juanita Haugen was equally well-known and praised in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., and in other states where her service and guidance on state, regional and national levels was well-documented. She was as comfortable lobbying for funds and better schools in the state Legislature and Congress as at school board meetings, where she brought to Pleasanton the visions of the very best school systems so that we could implement them here and join that exclusive group of top-performing schools and students.

Here's what a few others have to say about Juanita Haugen:

"Because Juanita had such boundless energy and passion about public education, she was involved with organizations and issues across the nation. What that provided for Pleasanton was a unique perspective. As we celebrated our successes and faced our challenges, we could always count on Juanita to provide us with the latest information and contacts. And she was able to keep up with the materials and issues the whole time (even in her final days)."

—John Casey, Pleasanton school superintendent

"Juanita was my mentor for many years and probably the reason I ran for the school board. Her involvement with children not only in Pleasanton but throughout the U.S. was an amazing commitment to kids. She certainly will be missed not only by the educational community in Pleasanton but all educators everywhere."

—Superior Court Judge and former school board member and president Steve Pulido

"Juanita was the closest to being the state's Ambassador of Education, if California ever had one. Every place that she went, whether it was to the state Legislature or at school board meetings or in classrooms, everybody recognized Juanita Haugen, admired and respected her and always paid close attention to her ideas and proposals because she was so good at what she did. She helped change a lot of laws in California for the better to make sure that school districts and school children throughout the state had the best curriculum and programs available."

—Buster R. McCurtain, former Deputy Superintendent of Pleasanton schools

"She was truly a model citizen who believed in her cause in life and pursued that goal to her last day. The city cannot let her passing go unnoticed, as her contributions to education in our city, our state and our nation have left a trail that can never be covered over or buried beneath the politics that have become so pervasive throughout the country."

—Peter Bailey, Happy Valley, former General Manager of the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Letters

Stoneridge extension would hurt city's businesses

Dear Editor,

The Weekly's editorial on Feb. 9 ("Nordstrom expansion delay a concern for Stoneridge, Pleasanton") hits the nail on the head regarding the need to protect our businesses at Stoneridge Mall. It correctly points out that a "fierce retail competition is already under way among Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore." This fact is one of a long list of reasons why the City Council should remove the Stoneridge extension from our city's General Plan.

The logic is simple—with the planned addition of the upscale outlet mall at El Charro Road in Livermore, the Stoneridge extension would give shoppers from cities to the north and west an easy way to avoid congestion on I-580 by cutting through Pleasanton to spend money in Livermore. That's right, Pleasanton tax dollars will make it easier for people, including our own residents, to shop in another city! Which begs the question, what is the real motivation for the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce's relentless support of the Stoneridge Expressway? That position is completely at odds with promoting businesses at our own mall.

Again, as the Weekly correctly points out, "As more retailers open close by, shoppers may find they can satisfy their buying needs without a trip to the mall." And of course, "Stoneridge is a major contributor to the city's revenue base." Clearly, less business at the mall means fewer tax dollars for Pleasanton. The Stoneridge extension is a perfect example of the law of unintended consequences. Unfortunately, if we make that mistake there will be no way to reverse the flood of negative impacts on our beautiful community.

Dan Maslana, Pleasanton

Buyers can't claim ignorance

Dear Editor,

In Janet Pelletier's "Gridlock: Can it be fixed?" (cover story, Feb. 16), it is twice claimed that "Many who live in the newer homes along Stoneridge said it [the Stoneridge Extension] was never disclosed to them when they purchased their homes." This has certainly not been my experience.

Back in summer 2000 when my wife and I were looking to purchase our first home, one of the many open houses we visited was one of these newer homes along Stoneridge Drive. Although it was seven years ago, I remember it clearly because we first learned about Pleasanton's plan to extend Stoneridge to Livermore from the realtor showing that Stoneridge house. I expressed surprise that she would divulge this information. It obviously detracted from the desirability of the property. She explained that she was obligated to make full disclosure and that buyers would have to sign a document acknowledging the general plan at closing anyway.

For the sake of argument, let us assume some Stoneridge residents purchased without any knowledge of the extension. Their claims can be easily verified by inspecting the packet of papers signed at closing. If there is no signed disclosure on official record where there should be, then I agree these residents have been wronged. But even then, I disagree with their apparent method of recourse. These aggrieved few should seek legal counsel and

(continued on page 11)

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
 Gerarda
 Stocking

EASEMENT BY PRESCRIPTION

An easement gives someone the right to use (or walk or drive across) a specific portion of your land. Someone can gain this right from you, record it in writing, and make sure that it "passes with the land" so that the next owner of the property will have to honor it.

Easements can also be created "by prescription." For example, a man who bought a home with a boat dock was astonished to find, when he took possession of the home, that a neighbor was using the dock. The neighbor claimed to have an easement right to use the dock, since...

1. He had been using it openly (the legal term is "openly and notoriously"—in this case, the prior homeowner had no need of the dock and told his neighbor he could use it).

2. The use had been continuous and uninterrupted for five years.

3. The use was "hostile" to the true owner, which generally means it wasn't in the owner's interest.

4. The use was exclusive.

5. And he used the dock under some claim of right (that is, he believed he had a personal right to use the property), especially as his use wasn't contested for five years and it in no way denied the owner his own customary uses of the property.

In cases where use is okay but the owner wishes to avoid an actual easement, the owner can simply post a sign that says, for example, "Okay to park and walk here but may revoke at any time," and record a Notice of Permission. Use is therefore never "hostile" to the owner and an easement cannot be claimed, even after five years of use. For more information call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Guest Opinion

2nd Home Depot not a good fit for Bernal-Stanley corner

by Nancy Allen

While I appreciate the Pleasanton Weekly's efforts to keep residents informed about the significant traffic issues currently before the City Council, I believe it is essential that the information we read is accurate. The Weekly's Feb. 23 article about the Home Depot project proposed at Bernal/St Stanley implied that only residents from the Valley Avenue/Santa Rita area are opposed to the proposed Home Depot. This is incorrect. The barrage of emails to the City Council came from residents all across Pleasanton. Our group, Stop Pleasanton Gridlock, represents residents from many neighborhoods (e.g., Vineyard, Downtown, Mohr, Hopyard, Valley, Bernal). Our goal is to educate the community about traffic-related issues and help find solutions to improve traffic across the city. Although the Weekly credited our group with generating such a large opposition to this project, the reality is that our group represents just a portion of the broad-based opposition to this project.



Pleasanton residents know that adding a "big box" retailer three miles from freeway access in the middle of neighborhoods is a drastic departure from city principles. All cities in our area with a Home Depot—including Pleasanton's existing store—have stores next to freeways and away from neighborhoods. This is no accident. Pleasanton's strategy of keeping commercial traffic on the periphery of the city and out of our neighborhood has been the guiding principle of our General Plan for more than a decade.

The reasons for opposing the proposed location are simple:
1. Semi-trucks—20 a day—deliver building materials. Pleasanton residents don't want semi-trucks barreling three miles through neighborhood streets at all hours. Home Depot acknowledges that they can't manage the routes of the trucks they do not own. They do *not* own 70 percent of the trucks.

2. Peak business hours of a Home Depot, which is in the building materials/construction industry, are during quiet weekends starting at 6 a.m. The 400 employees drive to and from work around the clock.

3. City documents report that the location will draw "cross-town" traffic and traffic from other cities impacting dozens of city streets. All 45 intersections documented in the city traffic report showed traffic increases, with several roads seeing increases of over 100 vehicles an hour on weekdays and an increase of nearly 200 vehicles an hour on weekends. In contrast, neighborhood shopping centers generally serve homes in just the nearby blocks.

My concerns and those of other city residents have nothing to do with the Stoneridge Drive extension or about disliking Home Depot. I like Home Depot and hope they continue to upgrade their existing Pleasanton store so they can stay healthy and successfully compete with the new Lowe's store that is being added. Their continued success is good for Home Depot and good for Pleasanton because it protects our tax base and provides a valuable service.

The singular issue Pleasanton residents oppose is the location: Locating a Home Depot in the middle of residential neighborhoods and away from a freeway is bad for the city whether or not Stoneridge Drive is extended. Let's not make a mistake from which we'll never recover. ■

Nancy Allen is a businesswoman and 20-year Pleasanton resident who heads a new grassroots organization whose Web site is www.stopppleasantongridlock.com. Its goal is to help find solutions for city-wide traffic congestion.

the Bay Area is constantly growing, especially the Tri-Valley. Do people not already cut through Pleasanton from I-680 by Castlewood Drive to I-580 by Santa Rita Road? No matter what is or is not done, people are still going to get off the freeway to find a shorter route. Creating a new "cut through" space may bring the same amount of commuters or more through Pleasanton, but it could also get them out of Pleasanton quicker due to the fact that congestion might ease up on I-580. We may be putting in another Home Depot, so why not go the extra mile and build an addition to an already crowded freeway?

*R. Jarrett
Pleasanton*

Letters

(continued from page 10)

explore remedies within the courts instead of hamstringing the entire city's plan for managing traffic flow.

Gary Kumpfert, Pleasanton

I-580 cut through would clear congestion

Dear Editor,

Why are people so afraid to make an "artery" through Pleasanton? I understand that traffic might increase and people have to be more cautious. But face the facts-

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They can confuse directions (right/left) or misread small words (the, he, is). Because these tasks are difficult for them, they tire easily while performing them and can develop avoidant techniques. This often causes people to assume that the child is lazy or has ADD/ADHD. Tutoring

can provide temporary relief and advance the child to the next grade; but, in the long run, it does more harm than good by giving parents a false sense of security. It delays him or her from receiving the right kind of help, which is desperately needed, and does nothing to fix the core cause of the problem, which will continue into adulthood if left untreated.



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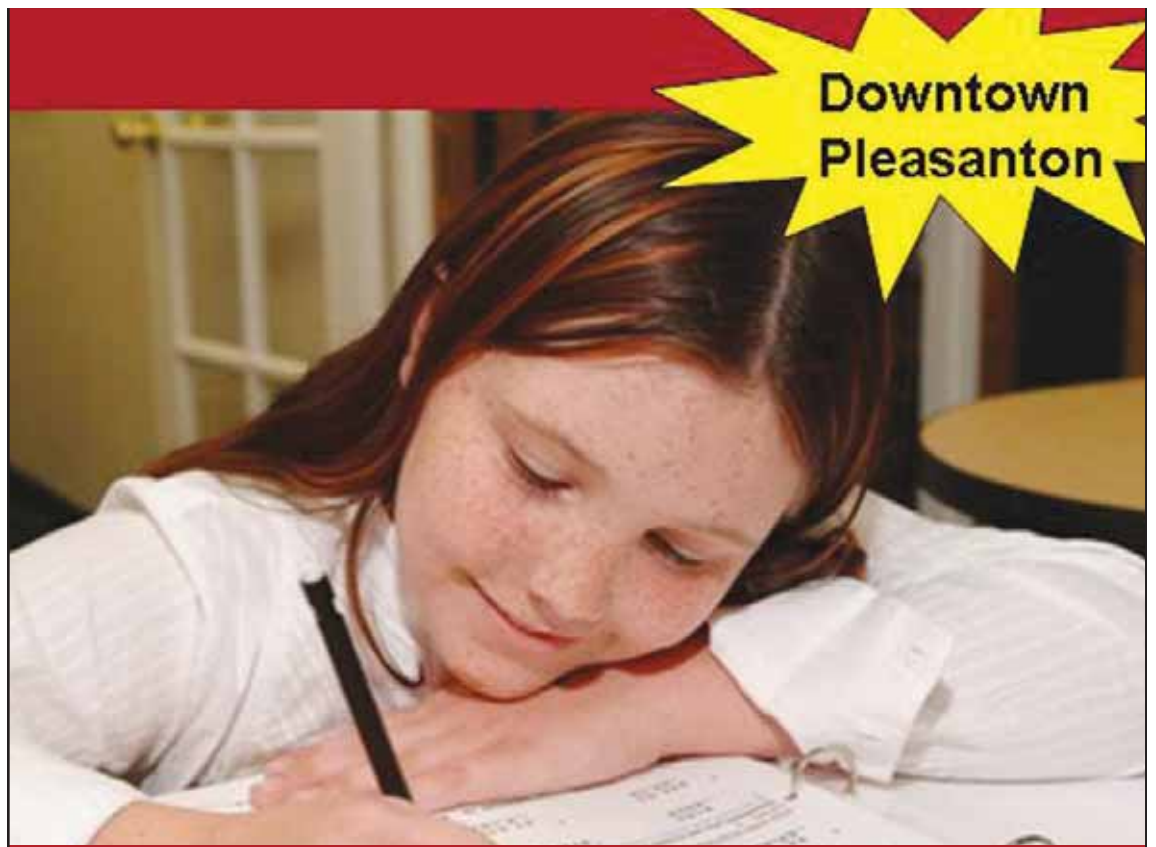
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With his pilot's license and own airplane, Mike volunteers on search and recovery missions around California.



For the past year and a half, Bridget and Mike have donated their time and resources to search and recovery operations for missing persons, also providing counseling services to families of missing persons.

Law enforcement can only look for a missing person so long before they need to turn the case over to another case, Mike explained. That's where other volunteers step in. They offer to conduct the search at no cost to the family using their own planes, cameras and any other equipment they have to find the missing. However, the sad part of these missions is that by the time the volunteers find the person, it's pretty clear that they are looking to recover the person rather than rescue a person.

"These are usually not rescues; this is more about family closure," Mike said.

That is why Bridget got involved. As a family counselor, she saw that she'd be able to help the families down at base while Mike was out in the plane searching for their loved ones.

"I got involved because we could see the need for counsel while he could do search and recovery," Mike said. "Helping missing teens is definitely on our hearts."

The couple's commitment started when they learned about Tim Miller at Texas Equine Search, a volunteer search and recovery team that has been active in cases across the country. Miller gained national attention through his work on the National Geographic case—the teenage girl who disappeared on a spring break trip in May 2005. When Mike saw Miller's work on TV, he thought he could help with search and recovery operations since he had a pilot's license and a plane housed at the Pleasanton Airport.

Mike called up Miller, saying if he was in California to give him a call, and a couple of weeks later Miller responded, asking Mike to help with a mission in the High Sierras. They were looking for a 64-year-old woman named Nita Mayo who had been missing on a hike.

"What really got me with Nita's case—she was my mom when she went missing—and I thought, 'That could be anyone's mom. That could be my mom. That could be anyone's mom. I would never give up looking for my mom. My mom went missing, so how could I not help find her?'" Mike said.

The couple went up to the High Sierras. Mike, using a regular 10 megapixel digital camera, shot photos out his window—something that wasn't a great idea at the time and doesn't recommend anyone else trying. Since that first mission, he has added a camera mount on the bottom of the airplane, so all he has to do is click a button and a photo is taken directly over the site—no better photo, as well as safety.

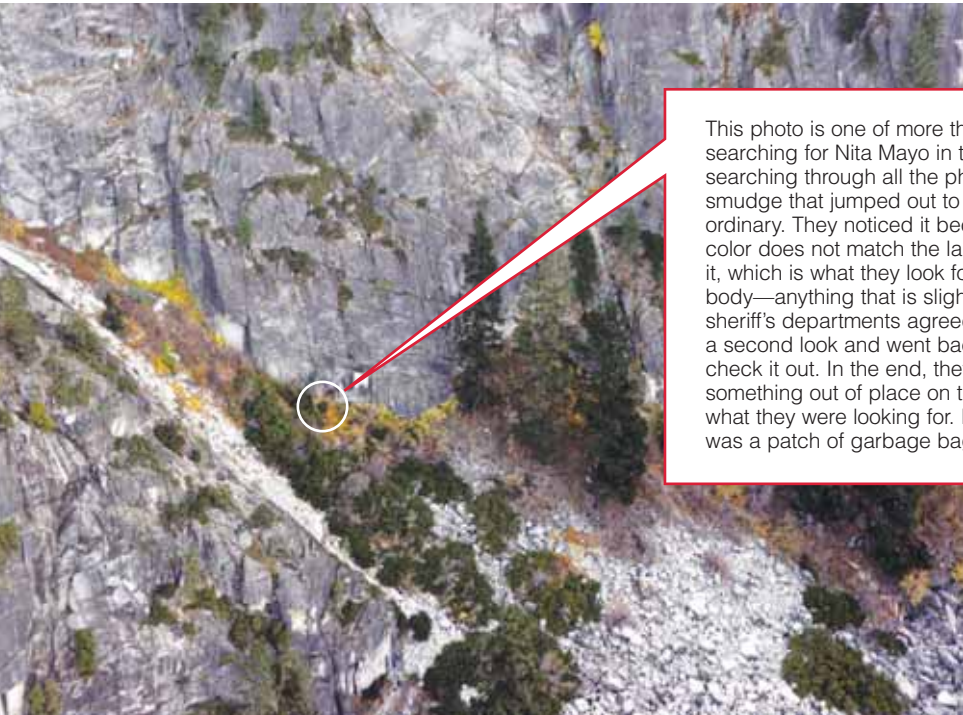
After taking hundreds of photos over the search area, the crew examines them on the ground, looking for any small irregularity in the photos.

The search for the missing

Local couple lends plane, time and counseling skills to search and recovery operations

by Rebecca Guyon

No one expects a loved one to go missing for any reason, so if it happens, the events that unfold are a shock. Most in this situation turn to law enforcement, and rightly so, but when the police have exhausted their resources there are groups of volunteers who keep the search going. Pleasanton residents Mike and Bridget Melson are two of these volunteers.



This photo is one of more than 200 Mike took while searching for Nita Mayo in the High Sierras. After searching through all the photos, it was this black smudge that jumped out to the team as out of the ordinary. They noticed it because the shape and color does not match the landscape surrounding it, which is what they look for when searching for a body—anything that is slightly out of place. Local sheriff's departments agreed the spot warranted a second look and went back to the cliffside to check it out. In the end, they were right—there was something out of place on the cliff, but it wasn't what they were looking for. It turned out the spot was a patch of garbage bags caught in the brush.

Mike Melson

t and Mike help search

spot of color or shape that seems out of place. This can be a painstaking process as the team looks at what appears to be the same photo again and again all to find what to the untrained eye simply looks like another random spot.

In the Mayo case, Mike found a small, black dot in a photo of the cliffside where Mayo was missing. The team showed the local sheriff's department and they agreed the spot looked out of place, so they went back up to the cliffside and searched the area. In the end, the spot turned out only to be a bunch of garbage bags caught in the brush.

To this day, Mayo has not been found, but Mike keeps looking.

"I still keep in touch with Nita's family, so does Bridget," Mike said. "I was just up there in December in the area she went hiking. I had some thoughts of what might have happened, and that's a year later. I made a promise to the family that we would never stop looking, as they won't."

One case that hit particularly close to home was just the second one the Melsons worked on where a 21-year-old man named Landon Orcutt left a suicide note indicating he had ended his life some where in Big Bear Lake, northeast of Los Angeles in the mountains. The couple went down to join the search with Mike physically searching the area with Miller and his crew and Bridget spending time at the base with the family.

"That's where my heart strings were pulled," Bridget said. Adding to the intensity of the experience, Mike and Bridget's 2-year-old son is also named Landon. After days of searching, the team eventually had to go home.

"We spent four or five days in Big Bear, did a lot of flying down there, hiking and spent days on the lake with guys from Texas EquuSearch, but there comes a point where you have to say we just can't do anything more," Mike said. "Tim Miller and I were standing on the dam of Big Bear Lake and we'd had a big group of volunteers that day, did a lot of volunteer searching of the areas, and we just stood there and knew it was time to be done. Tim looked at me and said 'This is going to be a tough one to call off because when we go home, there's nothing else for these people. We are the only hope they have and we're going to have to go home today.'"

All of Mike's search and recovery missions have a similar ending. Although the team gives a good effort, they have not found any of the people they've looked for. Others may get discouraged by these continually bleak outcomes, but the Melsons don't see it that way.

"Even more difficult than stopping is not being able to start," Mike said.

And even when the formal search has to be called off, that doesn't mean the Melsons stop supporting the families who are still struggling with their losses.

"The families keep in contact," Bridget said. "They still send us cards and letters. We're Christians, so it's also nice to pray. It feels like we're doing something."

Beyond the personal relationships they've developed, the Melsons were inspired, particularly by the case of Orcutt, to help prevent such sad endings for teens and their families by getting involved with prevention. The couple co-founded Trinity Life Solutions, a Christian-based counseling and life coaching center in downtown Pleasanton that offers a variety of counseling options for teens and their families.

"We work with teen groups to try to prevent these things from happening," Bridget said. "We work with at-risk families because we see the burdens of families with missing children, and we've seen some turn up deceased, and that's horrible. So together we said let's do this, let's help teens and young families."

Mike said his next and fourth mission will probably be joining Miller on a search for a 30-year-old woman who went missing in the deserts of Southern California. On his own, Mike has offered help to families in the Bay Area whose stories he's read in local newspapers, but most decline the offer.

"I have contacted families and offered to get involved on some case I find out about out here and usually the family's reaction is, 'Who are you and what do you want? You can't be offering to help without wanting anything in return.' Well, we really are," Mike said.

But still, Mike is undeterred. Both he and Bridget bring the kind of commitment and follow through to helping others as they do to their search efforts. When asked at what point do they leave a case and move on, Mike unflinchingly replied: "Until they're found." ■



Courtesy Mike Melson

Mike (left) works with Tim Miller (right) on searches. Miller travels to California to conduct with his business Texas EquuSearch.

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

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

- General Plan Draft Subregional Planning Element Review and consideration of the Draft Subregional Planning Element of the General Plan.
- PRZ 37, City of Pleasanton
Consideration of amendments to Chapter 18 of the Pleasanton Municipal Code to allow schools and tutoring and recreational facilities in various districts.
- Downtown Public Art Master Plan
Review and consideration of the Draft Downtown Public Art Master Plan.

Housing Commission

Thursday, March 15, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Presentation from Nonprofit Agencies and Recommendation to allocate Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME investment Partnership Program (HOME) Funds for Fiscal Year 2007 (2007-08)
- Recommendation regarding Proposed Affordable Housing Plan for the Ponderosa/Lehman Project
- Discussion and Recommendation regarding Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2007/08 through 2010/11
- Update regarding the City's Down Payment Assistance Program

Kottinger Place Redevelopment Task Force

Monday, March 12, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Discussion regarding the potential future renovation and replacement of Kottinger Place (240 Kottinger Drive) and Pleasanton Gardens (251 Kottinger Drive) Senior Apartments

Youth Commission

Wednesday, March 14, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Identify Priority projects for City Council consideration as part of the FY 2007/08 through FY 2010/11 City Capital Improvement Program
- Discussion regarding the book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens", by Sean Covey

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

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

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

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, March 15, 2007 @ 7:30 a.m.
City of Pleasanton Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Capital Improvement Projects
Presentation of proposed Capital Improvement projects by Assistant City Manager Steven Bocian
- Development Project Review
Discussion regarding criteria considered by EVC to review development projects
- Economic Development Strategic Plan
Review of Economic Development Strategic Plan and selection of strategies for EVC focus

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

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Burglary suspect arrested after chase

Pleasanton police arrested a 19-year-old burglary suspect last Monday. Upon returning home, a resident discovered the man inside his home in the 4800 block of Golden Road. After the man called the police, the suspect fled the house and through neighbors' yards before the police caught him on Black Avenue.

Other burglaries were reported to the police last week, including by a resident of Creekwood Court. A suspect allegedly entered the residence without force last Friday between 1 and 4 p.m. and took a computer and camera. The items were valued at \$2,910.

A home in the 4800 block of Sutter Gate Avenue was burglarized last Thursday between 9:10 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. Entry was made through a side window and jewelry, a video camera and checks were reported missing. The loot was valued at \$5,500.

Police Report

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

February 25

- Public drunkenness:
 - 2:35 a.m. at the intersection of Mohr Avenue and Kamp Drive
 - 2:40 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Stoneridge Drive

February 26

- Theft:
 - 2:23 a.m. in the 500 block of Peters Avenue; worth over \$400
 - 8:35 a.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 10:06 a.m. in the 70 block of Shore Drive; identity theft
 - 3:00 p.m. in the 7600 block of Canyon Meadow Circle; from vehicle, worth over \$400

- Public vandalism:
 - 1:09 p.m. in the 4600 block of Chabot Drive; worth \$1,000 or less

- Burglary:
 - 8:54 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; vehicular, worth over \$400
 - 5:30 p.m. in the 1200 block of Quarry Lane; commercial

- Display/use of a weapon at school:
 - 11:00 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

February 27

- Theft:
 - 7:55 a.m. in the 4200 block of Diavila Avenue; stolen vehicle
 - 10:06 a.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane; credit card fraud
 - 10:59 a.m. in the 2700 block of Laramie Gate Circle; from building, worth over \$400
 - 12:55 p.m. in the 6000 block of Gibraltar Drive; forged checks
 - 1:33 p.m. in the 3600 block of Portsmouth Court; false pretenses
 - 2:53 p.m. in the 3700 block of Pimlico Drive; residential burglary
 - 4:00 p.m. in the 600 block of Main Street; from building, worth over \$400
 - 6:45 p.m. in the 800 block of Independence Court; false pretenses
 - 8:25 p.m. in the 1000 block of Zinfandel Court; from building, worth \$200-400

- Burglary:
 - 2:35 p.m. in the 700 block of Vineyard Terrace; residential burglary
 - 7:48 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; from vehicle, worth over \$400
 - 8:00 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; from vehicle, worth over \$400

- Marijuana possession for sale:
 - 1:35 a.m. in the 6700 block of Santa Rita Road

- Assault:
 - 1:26 p.m. in the 5500 block of Sunol Boulevard
 - 10:13 p.m. in the 5300 block of Case Ave

February 28

- Theft:
 - 6:25 p.m. in the 3800 block of Appian Street; identity theft
 - 6:31 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; forged checks
- Assault:
 - 8:26 p.m. in the 4000 block of Pleasanton Avenue
- Disturbing the peace:
 - 10:26 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall; public

March 1

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
 - 1:47 a.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Sutter Gate Avenue; stolen vehicle
 - 2:22 p.m. in the 3200 block of Royalton Court; identity theft
- Vandalism:
 - 4:00 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; public, worth over \$1,000
 - 5:18 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; vehicular, worth \$1,000 or less
- Residential burglary:
 - 9:31 p.m. in the 3200 block of Omega Circle
- Unauthorized entry:
 - 8:00 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; commercial
 - 5:17 p.m. in the 4800 block of Sutter Gate Avenue; residential
- Public drunkenness:
 - 2:14 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

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Calendar

Author Visits

Author Amy Gorman at Worthington Gallery West

As a part of the Aging Artfully series, Worthington Gallery West presents author Amy Gorman's wonderful celebration of twelve remarkable women and their long-lived artistic creativity. The March 15 event includes a presentation, book signing and refreshments. The series includes 12 profiles of visual and performing women artists ages 85 to 105. 7-9 p.m. free Worthington Gallery West, 739 J. Main St., Pleasanton. 925-485-1183. www.worthingtongallerywest.com

Lisa Rovetch Visits Library

Children's author and artist Lisa Rovetch will visit the Pleasanton Library on March 23 as part of the library's Meet the Author series. Ms. Rovetch has written the Hot Dog & Bob books. 4-5 p.m. Free Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. (925) 931-3400 x 8.

Michael Chabon

Michael Chabon, two-time best seller author, will speak of his literary experiences. Chabon's first novel, *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, became a feature film. His second novel, *"Wonder Boys,"* was also made into a critically acclaimed film featuring actors Michael Douglas and Tobey Maguire. 8 p.m. Adult - \$25, \$30, \$35; Student - \$15, \$20, \$25 Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. (925) 931-3444. www.civictickets.org

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 7:30 p.m.

Civic Meetings

Housing Commission

The Pleasanton Housing Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. 7 p.m.

Human Services Commission

The Human Services Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. 7 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission

The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave. 7 p.m.

School Board

The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave. 7 p.m.

Youth Commission

The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. 7 p.m.

Classes

Art of Living

Pleasanton Public Library presents the "Art of Living"--a free Yoga and

Breath Workshop taught by an Art of Living teacher March 19. 7-8 p.m. free Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. 925-931-3405. www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library

Belly Dancing Classes

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

Papier-mache Whimsy Class

Worthington Gallery will host a two-day Papier-mache Whimsy class led by artist MJ Wilson March 24 and 31. The event is free, but reservations are required. Participants must bring a roll of 1-inch masking tape, a full newspaper, scissors and two wire hangers. Attendance both days is required. 2-4 p.m. Free Worthington Gallery West, 739-J Main Street, Pleasanton. 485-1183. www.worthingtongallerywest.com

Clubs

Boutique Textile Art

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

Everything Poetry

This poetry work-group meets the first Saturday of the month to critique poetry and the third Saturday for a workshop pertaining to an aspect of poetry business at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Bring 10 copies of a poem. 9-11 a.m.

Good News Bears

Be a part of providing comfort to children and adults by giving stuffed animals. Good News Bears meets at the Livermore Police Station. Join us

to see how you can provide "stuffed love" in our community. 6:30-8 p.m. Club dues: \$30 / year 1110 S. Livermore Ave, Livermore. 925-373-7982.

Hearing Loss Association of America

The Tri-Valley chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America meets March 15 at Valley Community Church. At the meeting, Cheryl Eiler of the Starkey Hearing Research Center in Berkeley, will be the guest speaker. Refreshments will be served. This meeting is open to the public. 7 p.m. Free Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway, Pleasanton. 925-455-6591.

US vs. BUSH author speaks

The public is invited by the Tri Valley Democratic Club to hear Elizabeth de la Vega speaking about her book "United States v. George W. Bush et al." an indictment of President Bush and his senior aides, a case for pre-war intelligence fraud to a grand jury. She was a federal prosecutor for over 20 years. 7-9 p.m. free IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. 925-831-8355. www.trivalleydems.com

Concerts

Glenn Miller Orchestra at USS Hornet

The Glenn Miller Orchestra is scheduled to perform big band and swing music onboard the USS Hornet Museum. The show opens at 7 p.m. with Singing Blue Star Moms performing a tribute to the Andrew Sisters and dance lessons provided by the San Francisco Jitterbugs. The Glenn Miller Orchestra goes on at 8 p.m. with dancing on three large dance floors on the enclosed, heated hangars. Period attire is encouraged. 7 p.m.-12 a.m. \$40 for general admission in advance, \$45 at the door, \$85 for Cabaret Reserved seating USS Hornet, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. (510) 521-8448, ext.282. www.hornetevents.com

(continued on page 16)

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Weekend Preview

A night at the Opera

The Livermore Valley Opera will open its performance of the Japanese opera "The Mikado" March 10 and runs through March 17 with Friday and Saturday shows. The poster for the show (above) was designed by Livermore artist Carolyn Lord and posters will be on sale for \$25 on opening night. Shows are at the Livermore Performing Arts Theater, 600 Maple St., Livermore. Tickets are \$25, \$30 and \$45 and can be purchased by mail, phone or at the theater the night of performance. Call 960-9210 or visit www.livermorevalleyopera.org for more information.



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Jewish Rock Concert

Congregation Beth Emek is hosting a rock concert by Jewish rock band Dan Nichols & E18teen 6:30 p.m. March 17. 6:30 p.m. \$36 for reserved seats; \$20 adults; \$18 teens; \$12 seniors and children ages 3 to 12; free for child Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada St., Pleasanton. 931-1055. www.bethemek.org/dan_nichols

Romantic Russia

The Pleasanton Community Concert Band's annual spring concert will feature the theme Romantic Russia. The band will play Rimsky-Korsakov's Clarinet Concerto, as well as work by composers Borodin, Kabalevsky and Tchaikovsky. 2 p.m. Free Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. 846-9497. www.pleasantonband.org

Three Tableaus of Faure

The Valley Concert Choral presents "Three Tableaus of Faure" 8 p.m. March 17 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore and 3 p.m. March 18 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. Faure's music was slow to gain recognition outside of France, but now he is recognized as one of the greatest French composers. The Valley Chorale is now in its 43rd season. 3 p.m. In advance: \$17 adults, \$14 seniors 62 and older; At the door: \$20 adults, \$17 seniors 866-4003.

Events

C-SPAN2 Book TV Bus Visits Pleasanton Library

The C-SPAN2 Book TV Bus will visit the Pleasanton Public Library on March 18. The Bus will offer tours of its video production studio and will interview San Francisco author Peter Y. Sussman. This free event should interest anyone with a love of authors, books and broadcasting. 1-3 p.m. Free Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. 925-931-3405. http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/library/programs-events-adult.html

CAMB Hosts Annual Mortgage Trade Show

The East Bay Chapter of the California Association of Mortgage Brokers is pleased to announce their Annual Mortgage Market Place. The event offers local mortgage professionals and lenders the opportunity to network and learn about the transitioning market as well as the latest industry practices. 1-6:30 p.m. \$25 per per-

son San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon. 510-206-2389.

Country Folk Art

Country Folk Art is coming to town! This ultimate craft show includes gourmet delights, shabby chic, jewelry, garden art and so much more. One paid admission is valid for show re-entry all three days and \$1-off admission discount coupons and times are available on our Web site. Adults \$7, ages 6-12 are \$2, ages 5 and under are free Alameda County Fairgrounds. www.countryfolkart.com

Foothill Grad Night Tickets

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 Web site http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill and look under the Announcements/Activities section for information. \$135 Foothill Grad Night, Club Sport Pleasanton, Pleasanton. 925 426-8602.

Iranian New Year

The Iranian-American Youth Group of Pleasanton celebrates the first day of Spring, Norooz meaning "new day" in Farsi, the Iranian New Year. This celebration includes: music, play, talent show, dance, craft. All are welcome to this Sunday event. 2-6 p.m. Free admission Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. 931-0203.

Irish Dance at the Library

The Pleasanton Library will host students from the Moore School of Irish Dance 2 p.m. March 10 for a free program celebrating Irish culture. The program is open to all ages and no registration is required. 2-3 p.m. Free Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. (925) 931-3400 x 8.

Pleasanton Chamber Tradeshow Mixer

Join us at Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel for the March Tradeshow Mixer from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 14. Enjoy delicious appetizers, beverages and networking! Register today for your company's exhibit space! General admission is \$10 due at the door. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$10 Sheraton Pleasanton, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton. (925)846-5858. www.pleasanton.org

Red Cross: Paint the Town Big Time Gala

The American Red Cross Bay Area invites you to Paint the Town Red 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.redcrossbayarea.org

Red Skye Release Party

Join Red Skye Owner and winemakers Mark and Betty Christopolous at Tesla Vintners Tasting Room. Red Skye will release their 2004 Ruby Hill Zinfandel. Taste Red Skye wines paired with various cheeses, and learn from the winemaker himself how to pair wine with cheese. free Red Skye Release Party, 5143 Tesla Rd, Livermore. 925-606-9463.

Road To Freedom

St. Clare's Episcopal Church hosts a festival service in celebration of Black history, faith and hope. Discover the powerful story of the African-American people and their journey from slavery to liberation through music and readings from both biblical and historical texts. 5:15-6 p.m. Free, donations gratefully accepted St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton. 925-462-4802. www.stclarespleasanton.org

Women's History Month at the USS Hornet

A celebration of Women's History Month will take place onboard the USS Hornet from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. March 17. Visitors will learn about the changing roles of women in the military. A panel of women pilots, space technicians and military veterans will give a special presentation at 1 p.m. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$14 for adults, \$6 for children ages 5 to 17 USS Hornet, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. (510) 521-8448, ext. 237. www.hornetevents.com

Exhibits

Discovery & Awareness

Alexander's Main St Gallery presents "Discovery & Awareness," an art exhibit with work by Sara Zimmerman. It opens from 4 to 7 p.m. March 3 and runs through March 17. Zimmerman's paintings encompass contemporary modernism and science illustration with a spiritual touch, depicting scenes and silhouettes of flowers, trees and fish. 4-7 p.m. free Alexander's Main St. Gallery, 610 Main St., Pleasanton. (925) 846-6015. www.alexandersmainstreetgallery.com

Melanie Lacki Exhibit at Studio 7

Fine Arts

Melanie Lacki creates watercolors with timeless appeal. See how her works harmoniously suffuse glorious light and vivid color at her exhibition through March 18. Free Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main Street, Pleasanton. 925.846.4322. www.studio7finearts.com

Film

1950 Movie Classic—Harvey

On March 20, Pleasanton Public Library's Mature Adult Program presents the film classic "Harvey" starring James Stewart, as Elwood P. Doud. Refreshments will be served. 1-3 p.m. free Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. 925-931-3400 ext 37. www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library

Mistaken Identity—Sikhs in America

Pleasanton Public Library presents guest speaker Kahmir Singh Shahi and the film "Mistaken Identity--Sikhs in America" March 17. 2-5 p.m. free Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. (925)931-3405. www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library

Fundraisers

A Taste of China

Enjoy a delightful, fun afternoon with lots of food and festivities in beautiful Ruby Hill featuring wine tasting and a demonstration by a professional chef on how to cook Chinese food at home. Adults only. Proceeds benefit Valley Dance Theater. 4-7 p.m. \$50.00 per person Livermore. 925-243-0927 for reservations. www.valleydancetheatre.com

Second Annual Mr. Amador Pageant

See Amador Valley High School's twist on a Miss America pageant showcasing male students in dance and talents, competing for the title of "Mr. Amador." All proceeds (goal of \$7,000) will be donated to the Oakland Children's Hospital. Come enjoy some laughs at this must-see event for a worthy cause! 7-9 p.m. \$7 at Amador activities office, \$10 at the door (Large Gym) Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. (925) 699-1824.

Spring 2007 Fashion Show

The AVHS Fashion Club will have a Spring 2007 Fashion Show March

11 in the Amador Theater. It will feature up-and-coming designers from the Bay Area and all proceeds benefit the Susan G. Comen Breast Cancer Foundation. 2-3:15 p.m. \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door. Amador Theatre, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. (925)931-0628.

Health

"Foot Freedom: My Feet Are Healthy"

On Wednesday, March 21st from 12:30 - 2:00p.m., World School presents "Foot Freedom: My Feet Are Healthy". Attendees will learn daily self-care and specialized foot self-massage techniques. This class offers a chance for participants to give well-deserved attention to their feet. 12:30-2 p.m. FREE World School of Massage, 699 Peters Ave., Pleasanton. 925-461-2533. www.worldschoolpl@yahoo.com

American Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross is holding a blood drive March 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Eden Medical Center, 20103 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley. Call (510) 1234 or e-mail www.BeADonor.com (code: EH) to schedule an appointment. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Eden Medical Center, 20103 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley. (510) 594-5204. www.BeADonor.com

Kids & Teens

Girl of the Month Nominations

Pure Girls--a boutique providing fashion, party packages, and salon beauty services for girls of all ages--seeks nominations for Pure Girl of the Month, one of the ways the business recognizes the achievements of girls. To nominate please include the girl's name, age, phone number and accomplishment. free Pure Girls, 660 Main Street, Pleasanton. 925-485-4380. www.puregirlsclub.com

Irish Dance Celebration

The Pleasanton Library will resound with the sound of tap as the flashing feet of students from The Moore School of Irish Dance perform March 10 as part of the library's series, Dance & Sing Around the World! Adding to the festivities will be Irish songs. 2-3 p.m. Free Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave, Pleasanton. (925) 931-3400 x 8.


Pre-Dance Beauty Prep Parties

Pure Girls will have pre-dance Beauty Prep Parties on Fridays in March so girls can get ready for the school dances. Girls will need a student ID or ticket from the school hosting the upcoming dance. Girls will receive 20 percent discounts on all beauty services and products. Reservations recommended. 3-7 p.m. Pure Girls, 660 Main Street, Pleasanton. 925-485-4380. info@puregirlsclub.com

Lectures/ Workshops

Africa Discussion


Tim Hunt, board chair for Heart for Africa, will discuss his 2006 trip and plans for 2007 mission trips in two meetings. Hunt currently serves as chairman of the board of Heart for Africa, a faith-based organization that is focused on bring hope to Africans through improving food supplies with backyard gardens, providing safe housing for orphans and through broad-based support for education, both basic instruction and specific curriculum to deal with AIDS. An estimated 75 percent of teen-aged girls in sub-Saharan Africa do not know what the AIDS virus is transmitted by sexual activity. Heart for Africa has partnered with two children's homes in Swaziland, a small country surrounded on three-sides by South Africa. Mission trips will also go to



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environmentalist and
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Rolling Stones

- Speaking on the Future of American Forests
- Performing his solo music

Ending with a book-signing reception



15th Anniversary Celebration
March 15, 2007 7:30 p.m.
Castro Valley Center for the Arts
19501 Redwood Road, Castro Valley
Purchase tickets at
www.cvartsfoundation.org
adults \$26. Seniors \$22. Students \$12

Malawi to work in the very poor rural villages and to Kenya to work in a very poor area located about 60 miles from the capital of Nairobi. There are two meetings: noon March 11 and 7 p.m. March 15. 12-1:30 p.m. Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Drive, Pleasanton. 846-9274.

Avoid Mistakes in Growing Revenues

The March 12 session covers an understanding of 10 factors that drive revenues and revenue growth, and over a dozen common revenue-growing pitfalls to avoid. 6:30-9 p.m. \$10 pre-registered, \$15 early; \$20 at the door - Free for members. Crown Plaza Hotel, 11950 Dublin Canyon Road, Pleasanton. <http://www.ebig.org/sig/sig.aspx?SIid=23&EventID=830&old=&eventdesc=all>

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

Eliminate Credit Card Debt

Cheri Keefe of Residential Pacific Mortgage is hosting a free seminar titled "Build Your Financial Future by Eliminating Credit Card Debt" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 21 at 30 W. Neal St., Ste. 105. Learn statistics about credit card debt, facts about zero percent offers, key signs to recognizing when you're in too deep and how to maximize cash flow using home equity. RSVP requested. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free 249-3433.

Phoebe Apperson Hearst Lecture

Kathleen Cha will give a presentation on the outstanding contributions by Phoebe Apperson Hearst to Pleasanton and California at the museum March 18. 2-4 p.m. \$5/\$10 Museum On Main, 603 Main Street, Pleasanton. 925-462-2766. www.museumonmain.org

When Mom or Dad Has Cancer

School-age children can participate in fun, creative activities to help them express themselves while teens have a group where they can discuss concerns. Parents meet concurrently. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. None The Wellness Community, 3276 McNutt Avenue, Walnut Creek. (925) 933-0107. www.twc-bayarea.org

Live Music

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band

Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz Band appearing at The Pleasanton Hotel the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Playing New Orleans traditional jazz (and music from the 1920's, 30's and 40's)-- for listening and dancing. 7:30-9:30 p.m. No Cover Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main Street, Pleasanton. 510-825-0746. pleasantonhotel.com

Dan Nichols Band in Pleasanton

Congregation Beth Emek is hosting a rock concert by the internationally-acclaimed Jewish rock band Dan Nichols & E18hteen at 6:30 p.m. March 17. Tickets can be purchased on line or at the Beth Emek office from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. 6:30-9 p.m. \$18 - \$36 Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Street, Pleasanton. 925-931-1055 x11. www.bethemek.org/dan_nichols

Miscellaneous

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 for the award. Applications can be downloaded at www.pleasantonpta.org. The deadline is 3/23/07.

925-462-4891. www.pleasantonpta.org

Kittens Seek Foster Homes

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

On Stage

Best of San Francisco Comedy

The evening will include 2003 Competition Finalist Rob Little, who has appeared at numerous clubs, films and videos, and on national television commercials and programs. Appearing with Little will be Drake Witham, a surprise host and a special guest. This show is appropriate for adult audiences. 8 p.m. \$15, \$20, \$25 Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. (925) 931-3444. www.civcartstickets.org

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, Pleasanton. www.civcartstickets.org

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. 8 p.m. \$12.50 Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol.

Scholarships

Kohl's young volunteer scholarship

Adults have until March 15 to nominate young volunteers for Kohl's Kids Who Care scholarships. The online nomination process is easy and could win volunteers ages 6 to 18 one of many \$1,000 and \$5,000 scholarships.

Seniors

Computer Classes for Seniors 55+

The Pleasanton Public Library offers computer classes for mature adults. Join us to learn to surf the internet and send email. Absolute beginners welcome. The second Tuesday of month is Beginning Internet, the third Tuesday of month is Beginning Email, and the fourth Tuesday of month is Advanced Email. 9-10 a.m. free Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton. 925-931-3400 ext 21.

Pleasanton PC Users Group

The PC User Group meets monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month at 10 AM at the Pleasanton Senior Center. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. The usual Senior Center charges apply, \$1.25 for Pleasanton Residents, \$1.75 for all others. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd, Pleasanton. 925-931-5365.

Transitions Support Group

Are you, or someone you know: 60 or older and living in Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore or Sunol? Looking for a warm and supportive environ-

REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

Diana Korpi



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 ReMax Accord



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7. Design a plan that will help secure your financial independence and that of your family.

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2007 LECTURE SERIES SCIENCE ON SATURDAY

By Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

COMETS AND THE STARDUST MISSION

WHAT'S IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM'S FREEZER?

By Hope Ishii, LLNL scientist;
and Tom Shefler, teacher, Granada High School

March 10, 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.,
Amador Theater, Pleasanton

NASA's Stardust mission traveled to a comet, flew through its tail and returned to Earth last year with real comet dust for researchers to study. Now, astronomers, physicists, chemists, materials scientists and computer scientists are doing some detective work. In this lecture, we will look at how comets formed, their role in the Earth's history and the clues we are finding about what happened over 4 billion years ago.

Science on Saturday is a five-week series of free lectures for middle and high school students. The program runs March 3 - March 31.

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>



Contact:
Richard Farnsworth, LLNL,
farnsworth1@llnl.gov



UCRL-BR-228350

Calendar

ment to connect with others? In need of a place to share, support and reminisce? Join the Transitions Support Group. 2:30-4 p.m. Free Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. (925)931-5379.

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group

A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones. Facilitated by The Wellness Community. 2-4 p.m. None Valley Care Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Boulevard, Suite 270, Pleasanton. (925) 933-0107. www.twc-bayarea.org

Domestic Violence

A Domestic Violence support group is being held at Tri-Valley Haven for Women in Livermore every Wednesday evening. Survivors will be able to address issues of abuse in relationships. 5-6:30 p.m. \$40 for every eight weeks, or based on a sliding scale. Tri-Valley Haven, 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore. 925-449-5845 x202.

Volunteering

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

Pet of the Week



Catherine Rush

Wild Thing!

Willy is a 5-month-old, black and white, hound/Labrador mix pup with loads of energy. He and his three sisters, named Nilly, Dilly and Dally, form "the wild bunch" at the animal shelter and they are all lots of fun. These pups are all very friendly and willing to please. Like all puppies, they need training and lots of love. Willy and his sisters love to socialize. Visit them at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

Blvd., Dublin, and 1362 Railroad Ave., Livermore any time Monday through Friday. 443-4283, ext. 217. www.yahoo.com

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. 462-7374.

TV30

Community News

Community News focusing on the Tri-Valley. Live at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday with repeat broadcasts airing at 7, 9 and 11 p.m.

Growing Old in a New Age

"Growing Old in a New Age," the award winning hour-long Annenberg series, explores what it is like for seniors to grow older in today's world.† This show airs on Channel 30 at 1 p.m. Monday through Friday and every night at 8 p.m. 1 p.m.

Tri-Valley Sports Final

Tri-Valley Sports Final. This weekly show covers team and individual high school sports in the Tri-Valley. It airs at 7 and 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday on Channel 30. Hosts: Ian Bartholomew, Dr. B and Dennis Miller. 7-10 p.m. Pleasanton. (925) 462-3030.

White House Chronicles

"White House Chronicles," an interview and panel program†focusing on national and international new with a sense of humor and led by hosts Llewellyn King and Linda Gasparello, airs Saturday, Sunday and Monday at noon and 11 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

* DEADLINE *

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9,000. Manual, V-6, low miles, clean. 510-299-3572

Mercedes-Benz 2003 E Class E500 - \$29,895

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 3231 Vineyard Avenue, March 17, 2007, 8-4
Moving sale. Hacienda Mobile Home Park, Space #60. Furniture, small appliances, household items, tools, etc.

Pleasanton, 5144 Independence St, Sat 3/10, 8-11

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Blue Delft pitcher - \$59

Coffee Mill, Pepper Mill & Spice - \$89

Garantied Forged Grinder - \$39

220 Computers/ Electronics

4 LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM - \$59

Brookstone Sound Machine - \$10

DSL ROUTER ETC. - \$20

Misc. Computer Accessories - \$8

PROJECTOR, TEL & COMPUTER STUFF - \$20

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240 Furnishings/ Household items

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Dining Out

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American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Vic's delivers a stary 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

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food.†The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again.†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

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

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since

(continued on page 23)



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Dining Out

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

Continental

Barone's

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

Fusion

Oasis Grille

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

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

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

Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

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

Veal Scaloppini, Lamb Osso Bucco and Scampini.

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.

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, Salmon Provencale, our daily fresh catch and savory steaks, and our infamous Scoozzi! We have two private banquet rooms and a great bar. Visit www.girasolegrill.com.

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(continued on page 24)

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Japanese

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4855 Hopyard Road #7 in Gateway Square, 734-0996. Acclaimed chef David Win brings delicious Japanese cuisine to Pleasanton at an affordable

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Pizza

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\$ Mortgage Matters \$

Interest rates, which way will they go?

As we start the New Year, many of you may be wondering what will happen with interest in the coming months. The answer is that *nobody* knows the answer with authority, but I am willing to give you some insight as to where I think they are headed.

The Federal Reserve has increased the “federal funds rate”, which affects the prime rate, thirteen times, from 1% to 5.1/4% in the last two years. This is done to keep the economy from getting too strong and not allowing inflation to rise to an unacceptable level. Presently it appears that the Federal Reserve is finished increasing the rate and could begin reducing it by the middle of 2007. That process would begin because the economy is showing signs of slowing, especially in the manufacturing sector, and inflation is staying within acceptable levels.

What does all the mean? That we should see at least stable interest rates with a possibility of lower rates by the third quarter of 2007 with upward and downward fluctuations intermittently during this period. Outside factors could affect this scenario, such as a strong hurricane season or a negative geo-political environment of which either event could push oil prices higher than anticipated and reignite inflation.

That's the way I see it.

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

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