

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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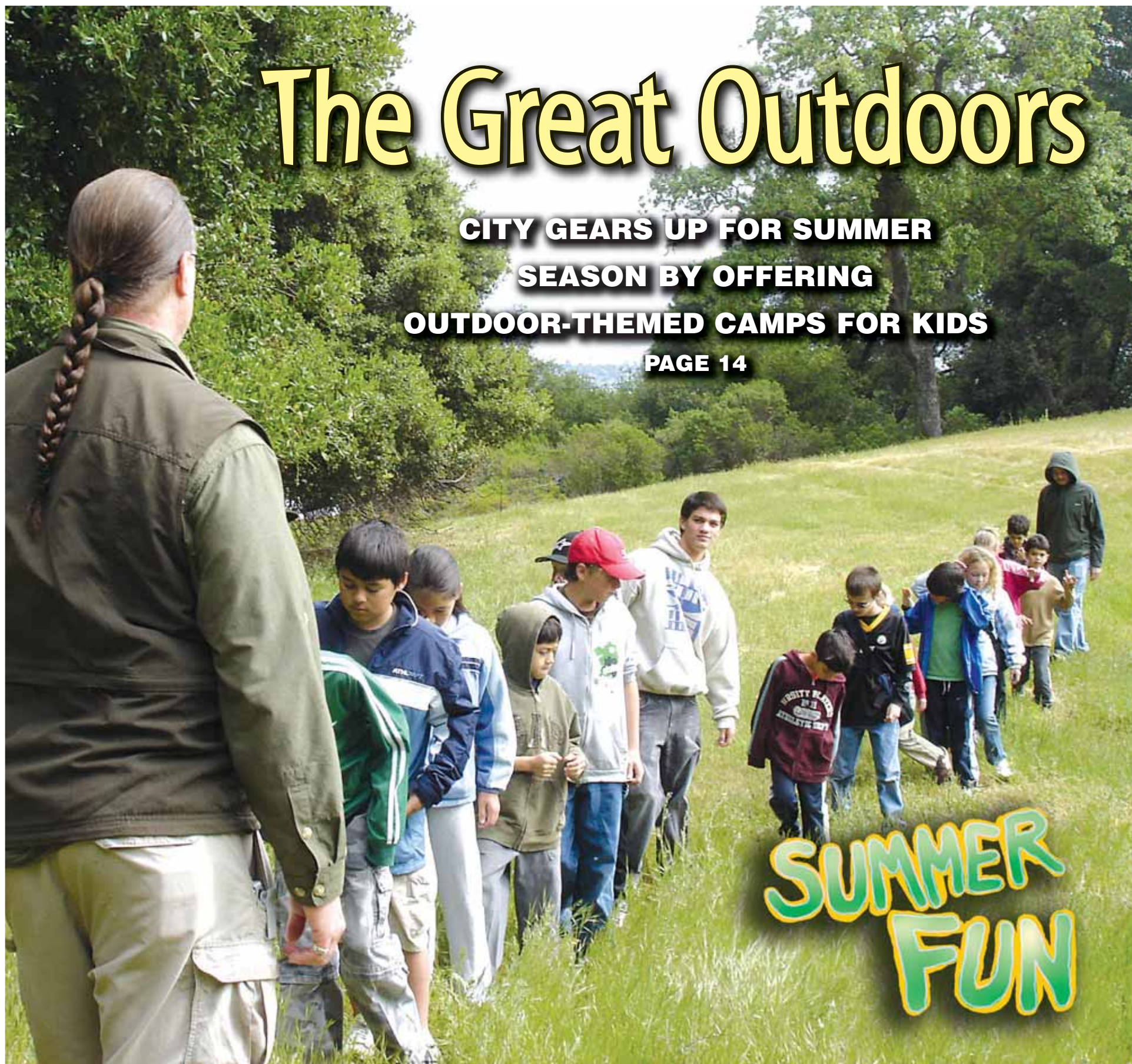
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this week**

Feud still brewing

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Childcare trend

Some families choose au pairs over nannies, daycare
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Devils take state

Tri-Valley hockey team fought hard for champ crown
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Amador's civics team: Poised to lead

If anyone's concerned about the leadership skills of the next generation now making its way through high school, they should see and listen to the skills, professionalism and talents being demonstrated right now by California's championship competition civics team from Amador Valley High School. This group of 30 top students is in Washington, D.C. today preparing for the "We the People..." national competition that starts tomorrow. Competing against 49 other state champions and a civics team from the District of Columbia, Amador will field tough questions from panels of judges and other national experts on the country's Constitution and Bill of Rights. This will be the culmination of a year-long effort to become engrossed and conversational about what the Founding Fathers decreed at America's birth and how they might apply the 218-year-old Constitution and its values to today's arguments and issues.

After a series of presentations before the judging panels, Amador, along with the other teams, will learn Sunday night if they made the final cut. If so, it's on to the crucial presentations once again on Monday, with the new national champion to be announced at a dinner Monday night. Thanks to Amador senior Darylen Terry, one of the 30 students on the Dons' competition civics team, we'll keep up with the group's progress as she files regular reports from her laptop. We'll post these on our online newspaper, www.pleasantonweekly.com.

Several hundred of us—parents, teachers, school board members and students—joined Terry and her classmates last Monday at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church for the group's final dress rehearsal. Applause and cheers followed each of the three formal four-minute presentations, followed by a six-minute questions and answer session by each of the five-member teams. Here are just a few of the issues they dealt with:

- A leading scholar claims that due

process of law is the most important and influential term in America. Describe how the protections of the Bill of Rights have been developed and expanded. What rights does the Bill of Rights protect? The principle that the sphere of religion and government are to be kept separate is a proposition as easy to state as it has proved difficult to apply. What's your opinion?

- What are the roles of the citizen in American democracy? And which aspects of our constitutional democracy have been the most influential in other countries?
- What are the philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system?
- What values and basic features of constitutionalism were found in the governments of the colonies?

This group of 30 seniors spent more than 15,000 combined hours of study and preparation leading up to tomorrow's competition. Taught by veteran teacher Brian Ladd, the Competition Civics class is only taught in the fall semester at Amador, although it's a year-long course at many other high schools. That meant that study and practices since January have been on their own at home, in after-school meetings with Ladd and on weekends.

This year's "We the People..." team won the state championship in Sacramento Feb. 9, becoming the eighth team in the school's history to qualify for the national competition. In fact, Amador is becoming one of the better-known high schools in the prestigious annual academic competition on the U.S. Constitution. As California's champions, Amador teams competed in the finals in Washington in 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000 and 2004. In 1995, Amador won the national championship and last year, under Ladd, a social studies teacher for the last 17 years and last year's Teacher of the Year, Amador finished second.

With camera in hand, I was at Amador at 6 a.m. Wednesday with many others for a cheerful and hopeful sendoff as they seek the championship this year. ■

About the Cover

City Program Naturalist Eric Nicholas leads a group of campers up a deer path at Augustin-Bernal Park last Saturday for an outdoor preparedness class. The most anticipated camp he will lead this summer is the Ridge Runners Day Camp, which is back this year after a brief hiatus. The city will offer a number of outdoor activities this summer taught by Nicholas. Photo by Janet Pelletier. Cover by Ben Ho.

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Streetwise

Q: How should parents act when watching their children's sports activities from the sidelines?

Asked Around Town



Fred Perez

Self-Employed

Parents should support and root for their kids. They should keep it positive and not yell at the coaches. I see a mix on the sidelines, a lot of positive but some negative too.

Keaton Housman

Student

Most parents are pretty good about it. Sometimes they yell at the coach and players. When parents yell, it's a big pressure on the kids. Sometimes they may play harder, but it's embarrassing to hear your parents hollering at you from the sidelines.



Michele Mole

Stay At Home Mom

I think parents should support their kids but let the coaches do the coaching. My eldest son is a referee, so I am very aware of how people talk and act on the sidelines. The kids are all doing the best they can—players and referees. For the most part everyone is respectful.

Aimee Ryan

Student

Some parents are out of control, yelling from the sidelines, coaching from the sidelines and coaches don't like that. It's really confusing when people on the sidelines are yelling instructions at us. They need to keep their comments to themselves. Personally, I'd rather have them be quiet and let the coaches do their job.



Jimmy Rhoades

Student

For basketball it is usually quiet. Sometimes there is an occasional yeller. It's okay if the coach is yelling but when parents do it it's annoying. Most of the time they have no idea what they are talking about. I'd rather get instruction from the coach than hear spectators on the sidelines.

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Library to close for renovations

The Pleasanton Public Library will close for minor renovation May 2 through 4. The children's department shelving will be redone and expanded in a more customer-friendly pattern. There will also be new carpet installed in the lobby, energy efficient light bulbs added, a mural painted and artwork added to the children's section.

Art Made Easy

Students in Pleasanton's Parks and Community Services Art Made Easy class, taught by Charlotte Severin, are showcasing their third annual art exhibit from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 30 to May 4 at the Pleasanton Senior Center lobby, 5353 Sunol Blvd. An opening reception will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. April 30. It is free and refreshments will be served.

Valley Humane Society re-Opens doors

The Valley Humane Society, now located in an interim 2,100-square-foot modular facility in the Stanley Business Park at 3670 Nevada St. in has been issued by the city its nonprofit organization temporary occupancy permit. The permit allowed the humane society to open its doors last Wednesday. Regular operating hours will be Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

San Ramon Regional honors volunteers

San Ramon Regional Medical Center honored its volunteers with a recognition luncheon recently during National Volunteer Week. The group of 38 included four from Pleasanton: RoseMarie Dix, 100 hours; Donna Crawford, 250 hours; Virginia Beaty, 1,000 hours and Savita Gupta, 1,500 hours.

Artists Flea Market

The Pleasanton Art League is sponsoring the Artists Flea Market, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 5 at DeLucchi Park, First Street at Neal Avenue in downtown Pleasanton. Find new and used art supplies and equipment and discounted artwork. Artists wishing to have a booth space are encouraged to contact Dorothy Maestas at 846-6726 or Nancy Thompson 634-3003. Booth spaces are 10' x 10 with a \$25 fee. You need not be a PAL member to have a booth.

Stoneridge Drive debate packs Civic Center meeting

But after 5 hours, most views appear unchanged

by Jeb Bing

Opponents and supporters of a longstanding and controversial city plan to extend Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road and Livermore squared off verbally before a joint meeting of the Pleasanton City Council and Planning Commission Tuesday. The near-five-hour-long meeting ended much the way it started, with both sides holding to their positions.

Next Tuesday, when the council holds its regular meeting, many of the same commentators are expected back to air their views. At that meeting, the council is expected to make

a decision whether to keep the plan to extend Stoneridge in the new General Plan it is updating, or take the plan out altogether as a majority on the council would like to do.

Stoneridge Drive was built as a major cross-city street when Hacienda Business Park was developed, with an overpass at I-680 to reach Stoneridge Shopping Center. Later, state funds were used to build a full freeway interchange, and in 1990 Stoneridge was extended east of Santa Rita Road to allow for the Mohr-Martin home development. It replaced West Las Positas Boulevard as the city's planned east-west thoroughfare, with sound walls to protect residential areas and designed to accommodate six lanes of traffic.

But, as a speaker pointed out Tuesday, major

changes occurred. The homes were built before the roadway was completed to El Charro and mounting traffic congestion on I-580 added to the fears of new residents and some city officials that commuters would use Stoneridge as a substitute roadway, cutting through Pleasanton between the congested freeways.

Almost lost in Tuesday night's discussion were details in a voluminous traffic study prepared by Traffic Engineer Mike Tassano. At the council's request, Tassano, along with the traffic consulting firm of Dowling & Associates, spent months "modeling" traffic volumes on city streets and intersections to see how they might be affected if Stoneridge was extended.

(continued on page 9)



Livermore-Pleasanton firefighters remove an "injured" passenger from a mock crash Tuesday morning adjacent to Amador Valley High School on Del Valle Parkway. The crash was a staged part of the "Every 15 Minutes" anti-DUI program.

Crash simulation gives teens dose of reality

Mock car accident part of anti-DUI program "Every 15 Minutes"

by Emily Atwood

Emergency vehicles were rushed to a crash site at the side entrance of Amador Valley High School on Del Valle Parkway at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday. The crash was a staged part of the "Every 15 Minutes" anti-DUI program,

which derives its name from the frequency at which a person is killed in an alcohol or drug related collision in the United States. It's designed to teach young adults about the dan-

(continued on page 11)

Brozosky appointed to school board

Trustees choose candidate who won't run in November 2008 election

by Emily Atwood

After interviewing four candidates at last Tuesday's regular meeting, the school board whittled down the group of applicants to Steve Brozosky and Clark Gunson before selecting Brozosky to fill the empty seat.

Promising not to run in the November 2008 election, Brozosky said filling the seat for the remainder of late school board president Juanita Haugen's term would provide a fair election.

(continued on page 6)

Delta pump shutdown would affect water supply

Judge imposes 60-day time limit; Zone 7 hopeful issue will be resolved before deadline

by Janet Pelletier

In less than 60 days, pumps that supply Pleasanton with water could be shut down, forcing imminent cutbacks in usage. But Zone 7 Water Agency officials say the agency remains hopeful and believes the legal matter will be solved within that timeframe.

For months, there's been a legal tangle over the operations of pumps at the Harvey O. Banks pumping station near Tracy. The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance filed a lawsuit some time ago claiming the California Department of Water Resources wasn't complying with the state Endangered Species Act. They said fish such as smelt and salmon were being killed by the pumps. The state department is required to have permits under the act to kill the fish.

As recent as April 18, an Alameda County

(continued on page 10)

Tri-Valley Haven to end partnership with homeless outreach mobile clinic

Executive director says new federal reporting rules jeopardize safety, confidentiality of victims

by Janet Pelletier

It's not uncommon for abusers to hunt down their victims after they've escaped, searching for their car parked on city streets.

And a guideline that requires homeless shelters receiving federal funding to report personal information about victims who come for a bed to sleep on doesn't sit well with Tri-Valley Haven Executive Director Ann King.

That's why the shelter which serves victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault is ending a partnership with the HOPE (Homeless Outreach for People Empowerment) mobile clinic that provides medical, mental health and social services in the Tri-Valley.

HOPE is funded primarily by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, which has a homeless database.

Started in a few cities in 1999, the database aimed to gather more information about the homeless population. According to the HUD Web site, its implementation "presents communities with an opportunity to re-examine how homeless services are provided in their community, and to make informed

decisions and develop appropriate action steps. The implementation of a homeless management information system will allow community stakeholders to build new alliances, to strengthen services, meet consumer needs in a more streamlined manner and obtain information to guide future planning."

While she said it sounds like a positive effort, King said she's concerned about repercussions for people who go to Tri-Valley Haven and give out their personal information.

"It's way too risky for battered women," she said. "Given our experience with batterers, some will comb the city looking for a car night and day until they find it. Some will call schools nonstop until they find where their kids are registered. The persistence of trying to track down a battered woman has been well documented."

King said she finds it ridiculous that under the federal requirements, extensive information required for people seeking shelter is much more than what's currently required of a sex offender.

"If you've committed a sex offense and you've been convicted in court,

there's a page of information about you on a database," she said. "If all you do is lose your home and ask for shelter, there's eight pages, possibly 14, possibly more required under this guideline."

She's also worried that the information would fall into the wrong hands.

"Somebody will be killed," she said. "If battered women are entered and a woman is found because somebody had access to the database, her very life is at risk."

HUD officials have said that the only people who will have access to the database are social service providers who have been trained on the system. King said the department hasn't specified whether others such as members in law enforcement will have access.

"The domestic violence rate of people who are in relationships and in law enforcement is 40 percent," she said. "Social workers batter, counselors batter, preachers batter. Some very noble appearing professions will have people within them who batter. It crosses all economic and professional realms."

There is also a concern that the database could be hacked into. ■

School

(continued from page 5)

Trustee Kris Weaver, the only elected member currently on the board, said she was aware of the concern regarding Brozosky and his past political activities. He was her lone choice at the end of the night, saying that the concern "hadn't crossed my radar."

Board member Pat Kernan decided to go with someone who promised not to run, in order to maintain a fair and even process. In the end, he chose his "forward future" pick of Brozosky over "safe pick" Gunson, saying "it was time for us to let Juanita go."

In addition to initially choosing Brozosky, trustees Jim Ott and Chris Grant chose Robert Gehl and Marti Scalise, respectively. While Gehl said he would agree not to run if asked, the board unanimously chose Brozosky.

Brozosky reassured the board

that his 18 months on the board would not be time wasted. He said that he could contribute to financing the master plan through his experience on the City Council. He was also confident in his ability to seek community input for the excellence study.

Ott brought up the concern over his ability to work on a team, something which came into question when he served on the council.

"I respect the entity of a board," Brozosky said. "There's nothing I can do to change some of that. I have good relationships with many people on the council. Things got quite contentious, and we worked with others to move things forward. And we can still work together on things."

As far as areas for improvement for the district's strategic plan, he suggested focusing on the students' life after high school graduation.

"I don't see anything in the plan that addresses vocational training," he said, adding that he would like to see measurable college and vocational success rates in the future.

Since the mayoral election last November, Brozosky said he has been busy with his software business. While he's unsure whether he'll run for City Council or mayor again, he said he will be focused on serving the community in other areas. ■

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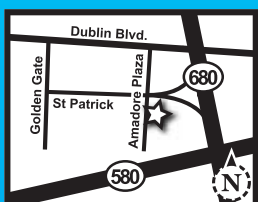
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Pleasanton Presbyterian breaks ground on new church

\$7-10 million project to be built in Ironwood community at Busch and Valley

by Jeb Bing

Parishioners of Pleasanton's oldest church, Pleasanton Presbyterian joined in a special outdoor service last Sunday to break ground for their new \$7-10 million church and classroom buildings at the corner of Busch Road and Valley Avenue.

The Rev. Mike Barris, church pastor, said the groundbreaking culminated years of planning and fund-raising. The new facility will replace the church's current facility at 4300 Mirador Drive, where the church has been for the last 28 years and has sold to a Greek Orthodox church group.

In addition to Barris, speakers at Sunday's ceremony included Kile Morgan, chairman of Ponderosa Homes; City Councilman Jerry Thorne and other church and developer representatives. The church is being built on a 6-acre site that is in Ponderosa's new Ironwood subdivision.

The new church will include four buildings totaling just under 100,000 square feet of floor space, including a roof line 45-feet high, a three-story sanctuary, and other buildings planned for church activities for youths, seniors and



An artist's rendering shows what the new church facility for Pleasanton Presbyterian will look like.

its popular Kinderkirk preschool, which now serves more than 100 families.

A feature of the architecturally striking design will be a replica of the church tower from what is today a Baptist church at Neal and Second streets. That building, constructed in 1876, was the first Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, a congregation that had been organized the year before.

Its board member and chief fundraiser at the time was Joshua Neal, a Pleasanton pioneer for whom Neal Street is named.

"His challenge to church trustees was to build the entire church, including pews, for \$2,500," Mike Barris said. "Our congregation

used the Neal Street church for 103 years, from 1876 to 1979, before we outgrew it and built our current facility on Mirador Drive. Now we've outgrown that one."

For now, however, construction of the full complex will have to await the completion of the church's ongoing fundraising campaign. Until then, the Presbyterians will construct what's called a Sprung Instant Structure in which to hold their services and other activities, moving into the new facility early next year. The Sprung structure is a relocatable stressed membrane building made by a Utah-based company that was founded by Donald Allen Sprung in 1887. ■

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THE NEW VALUE FRONTIER



Main Street to be 'painted' purple

Banners help Pleasanton gear up for Relay for Life

by Emily Atwood

Joining with approximately 5,000 other cities across the United States, Main Street will be "painted purple" for the first time May 1 by the local Relay for Life team.

The group, which organizes the American Cancer Society (ACS) relay event to raise money for cancer research and education, will tie purple ribbons to trees and poles.

This isn't typically allowed downtown, according to Pleasanton Relay spokesman Brian LeBars. Yet City Manager Nelson Fialho gave the OK, and the group is proud to join in the national celebration.

"Paint Our Town Purple" is a new event in Pleasanton," said LeBars. "The purpose of the event is to honor those who have died from cancer and to reach out to those who are faced with this horrible disease and give them hope."

The purple ribbons will also help bring awareness to the Relay for Life event to be held July 28 and 29 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. For a full 24 hours teams of eight to 15 will take turns

walking or running laps around the fairgrounds, with each team trying to keep at least one member on the track at all times.

According to the ACS, the relay is much more than a walk around a track. "It is a time to remember those lost to cancer and celebrate those who have survived. It is a night for people who have shared the same experience to comfort and console one another."

LeBars wanted to be involved to help others and also to honor his mother and father, who are both cancer survivors.

"For me, [the purpose] is to bring the community together to support the cause, bring awareness to early detection, and support individuals and family members close to Pleasanton," he said.

Relay for Life is looking for volunteers to "paint and un-paint" downtown and for teams to participate in the July event. Contact Ronda Damon at 931-1255 or rdamon@micro-bench.com or LeBars at 484-5363 or brian@cirrusfinancial.com for information. ■

As diversity grows, Passport event expands

Third annual multicultural event comes to the fairgrounds Saturday

by Emily Atwood

In its third year, the "Passport to Pleasanton" celebrates the variety of cultures represented in the city from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. tomorrow at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

As diversity grows, so does the need for celebration space, according to Debbie Look, Pleasanton PTA Council vice president.

Only two years ago the event was two hours long with about a dozen booths. This year's performances, including music and dancing from all around the world, and exhibitions have moved to large venues within the fairgrounds to

accommodate the added attractions. Some European countries have been added this year.

"We had over 1,200 people attend this wonderful event last year," Look said. "This is a great way for families to experience the rich diversity of our city."

Participants will be able to taste foods, play games and participate in craft activities. Look said families enjoy the opportunity to try new things like getting a henna tattoo and learning to write their name in another language.

The event is free, with free parking at Gate 8. For more information, visit www.pleasantonpta.org. ■

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Emily Atwood

Main Street tour

The Pleasanton Downtown Association recently hosted a group of businessmen from Japan. Starting at the Pleasanton Hotel, the tour went through the shops and restaurants along Main Street. The group traveled all over the United States to learn more about downtown areas and was particularly interested in Pleasanton's Main Street that maintains the small-town feel.

17 nights of free concerts this summer

Alameda County Fair returns June 22, featuring SheDaisy, Boyz II Men, Herman's Hermits, Village People among acts

When the Alameda County Fair opens for business June 22, 17 nights of free summer concerts will be included in the lineup. The shows occur nightly at 6 and 8 p.m. at the fairgrounds' 3,000-seat amphitheater through July 8.

Some of this year's performers include country group SheDaisy, R&B group Boyz II Men, Herman's Hermits, the Village People and Grand Funk Railroad to name a few.

The first concert of the fair, on June 22, is titled "Original Idols Live!" featuring some of the biggest musical acts of the '60s and '70s including Bay City Rollers, Leif Garrett, The Cowsills, Merrill Osmond, Bo Donaldson & the Heywoods and emcee Barry Williams who played Greg Brady on "The Brady Bunch."

Country trio SheDaisy features songwriter Kristyn Osborn and sisters Kelsi and Cassidy. They perform June 23.

Boyz II Men is celebrating 15 years since the release of their debut album "CooleyHighHarmony." They are working on a new album to be released this year and will take the Pleasanton stage June 24.

San Francisco rockers New Monsoon blend world rhythms with vibrant percussion, acoustic and electric instruments. They perform June 25.

The Imagination Movers, described to be a collaboration of the Beastie Boys and Mr. Rogers, will perform on Kids Day at the fair, June 26.

Herman's Hermits, starring Peter Noone, will perform on Senior

Day, which is June 27. Part of the British Invasion that includes the Beatles and Rolling Stones, their first hit was "I'm Into Something Good," which reached No. 1 in the U.K. and No. 13 in the U.S. in 1964.

On June 28, Christian female group Point of Grace, which has sold 5 million albums and garnered two Grammy nominations, will perform.

The Jonas Brothers, led by 17-year-old Kevin Jonas and his brothers 13-year-old Nicholas and 16-year-old Joseph list such artists as the Ramones, Jackson 5 to the Modern Lovers as their musical influences. They perform June 29.

Popular R&B and funk group Con Funk Shun, which began in Vallejo and rose to fame in the '70s

and '80s, takes the stage June 30.

Disco group the Village People that created such well-known songs as "YMCA" and "Macho Man" will perform July 1. The band is known for its outrageous costumes as it is its music.

With a blend of blues, rock and Memphis soul, the Tommy Castro Band will entertain an audience on July 2.

Switching things up, local comedy trio Three Blonde Moms will induce laughter on July 3. They've performed at Tommy T's Comedy and Steakhouse in Pleasanton many times.

A Red, White and Blues Festival will be held on Independence Day, July 4.

Country artist Collin Ray, described as Nashville's go-to-guy for songs, will perform July

5 and satirical music comedians Williams & Ree will open for him.

The musical stylings of the Grand Funk Railroad will hit the fair July 6. The group, highly popular in the '70s, has sold more than 25 million records.

On July 7, R&B and soul singer Peabo Bryson, who won a Grammy for "Beauty and the Beast" with Celine Dion and another for "A Whole New World" (from the movie "Aladdin") will perform.

Rounding out the fair will be jazz artist Chuck Mangione, on July 8.

Concerts are free with fair admission.

For more information on the fair, visit www.alamedacountyfair.com or call 426-7600.

—Janet Pelletier

Stoneridge

(continued from page 5)

The report used traffic volume projection figures that would be likely in 2030 when Pleasanton is expected to reach residential build-out, along with neighboring cities, and planned improvements on the freeways and State Hwy. 84 are in place.

Tassano said that while an extended Stoneridge would certainly add traffic in the Mohr-Martin neighborhood, where it serves as a strictly local street now, there could be beneficial effects on roads and at intersections in other parts of the city, including the Santa Rita-Valley Avenue intersection, which is now one of the city's worst.

In any event, however, Tassano said that with continued housing growth in Pleasanton and adjacent cities, "traffic won't get any better, but we're working to see if we can keep it from getting even worse."

"Unfortunately, the traffic volumes we find in our city right now are probably the best they'll ever be," he said.

Of the 30 speakers in a packed council chamber of more than 250, who spilled out into adjacent Civic Center rooms where chairs and television monitors had been set up, about half spoke in favor of extending Stoneridge, the others against it. Those from the Mohr-Martin neighborhood showed their solidarity in opposing the extension by wearing red shirts.

Councilman Matt Sullivan said the Stoneridge Drive extension issue is "one of the most contentious he's seen in 15 years as a citizen activist, first in an opposition movement to building a freeway interchange at West Las Positas and I-680, later as a member of the Planning Commission and, since 2004, a councilman.

"I've seen a lot of issues in town that have split neighborhoods and people, with some being resolved in referendums but most ending

with some groups being unhappy," he said. "But I think this is the biggest from a community-wide standpoint."

Sullivan said he is likely to proposed Tuesday when the issue comes before the council again that the Stoneridge extension be kept in the new General Plan, but that a condition be included allowing its construction only after all regional traffic improvements are completed.

"Since whatever decision we make on this plan will likely be put to a referendum by the group that doesn't like it, I'd also like to see the council put the issue to a vote of the people first," he added. "That gives us a chance to write the ballot measure."

He would include the condition restricting the Stoneridge extension construction in the ballot measure.

But Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio objected. She said voters elected council members to make the tough decisions and that's what they should do.

"Anyone can stand in front of Safeway with a petition to sign calling for a referendum, but often people don't know what they're signing," she added. "I've had 344 emails on this issue and have read every one of them. What struck me most is that a large number of those who wrote that they want Stoneridge extended live in all parts of Pleasanton, so we have really engaged the community in a serious discussion."

Cook-Kallio said she will talk to residents on both sides of the extension issue, and will make her decision known at next Tuesday's council meeting. She said she opposes, however, Sullivan's plan to make any action on the extension conditional on regional roadway improvements.

"As a city, we have no control over regional and general highway improvements or no control over state funding," she said. "We shouldn't be tying a future council's hand based on our interest here today." ■

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Delta water

(continued from page 5)

judge finalized an order to shut off the pumps in 60 days. The only way to avert the shutdown is if the Department of Water Resources is proved to be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. It's been reported that the state department planned to appeal the court ruling.

But despite the severity of the ruling, Zone 7 Water Agency believes the issue will be resolved in time.

"We are hopeful that the pumps aren't going to be shut down, that some other solution's going to be found to solve the problem," said Zone 7 spokeswoman Boni Brewer. "We have been cognizant for some time about the need to sustain the Delta as a water supply and at the same time protect the ecological sensitivity."

The water agency, which serves nearly 200,000 residents in Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore, receives 80 percent of its water from the Delta. Twenty percent is drawn from an underground water basin and runoff water that's stored in Lake Del Valle.

"We're certainly disappointed in the court ruling," Brewer said. "We can say we're hopeful the Department of Fish and Game can in fact satisfy the court within the 60-day period, which means that the pumps that are already operated under the Federal Endangered Species Act is consistent with what would be required to protect endangered fish under the state Endangered Species Act."

If Fish and Game officials can show that the federal permits are consistent with state law, then the shutdown wouldn't occur, she said.

The threat of a shutdown comes at a time when the state has had less than average rainfall amounts. But past wet years have allowed the state to store water and it's not believed to have a major effect for this summer, when water usage is higher.



Jeb Bing

DC talk Members of Amador Valley High School's civics team taught by teacher Brian Ladd, spent Monday night practicing techniques before heading to Washington, D.C. to compete nationally. A total of 30 students will be attending the "We the People..." civics competition which gets under way Saturday.

"We believe without the court case, we would be in pretty good shape because in part, last year was so rainy that the state was able to store enough water from last year for Zone 7 to meet demands this summer," Brewer said. "Should we be entering a multi-year drought, like in the early '90s, in future years we would ask our customers to make a concerted effort to conserve water."

Zone 7, unlike other water agencies, does have an advantage.

"One of the reasons why we've been able to withstand drought is because of our underground water basin," Brewer said. "Most Bay Area water agencies don't have that. It's like a little bank account for us."

The basin, underneath the Valley, would also be utilized in the event the pumps at Harvey O. Banks are shut down. A minimal supply of surface water would be drawn from Lake Del Valle if necessary,

Brewer said.

"Depending on the summer temperatures and the water demand we could provide water throughout the summer but could be asking our customers to reduce use by maybe 20 percent," she said. "I don't think we'd be looking at a mandatory rationing. Should the shutdown extend beyond the summer, we could be looking at a 50 percent reduction in available supply and would ask the public for more drastic cuts in water use, with indoor use and health and safety issues taking the priority."

While this incident has raised some concerns, the water agency is being proactive so that this type of situation doesn't happen again.

"Zone 7 has been participating at the state level on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan that's been attempting to address some of these species issues on a broad widespread level so we can settle this once and for all," Brewer said. ■

Oak Grove hearing postponed

Planning projects not backlogged as previously reported

by Janet Pelletier

A public hearing on Oak Grove scheduled for last Wednesday's Planning Commission meeting was postponed by the city Planning Department.

Yellow cards were sent April 20 to residents who live near the project area to let them know of the continuance. Oak Grove is a project proposed in the southeastern hills above Kottinger Ranch and Vintage Hills that consists of the construction of 51 custom homes in exchange for the dedication of nearly 500 acres of open space to the city.

According to an email sent to Planning Commissioners the day before the yellow cards were sent out, Deputy Planning Director Donna Decker said staff requested the continuance because they were still trying to find answer to ques-

tions asked by speakers at a March 28 meeting. At that meeting, residents were asked to speak during a public comment session on the Oak Grove project. It was originally intended to be a hearing for the project where commissioners would decide whether to approve it, however, city staff didn't release the final documents on the project to the public within a 72-hour timeframe before the meeting. That's a requirement under the state's Ralph M. Brown Act, which stipulates regulations for city government.

No specific date has been scheduled for the Oak Grove project to come back before the commission for approval, although Decker said they are shooting for May 23.

It was reported at the commission's April 11 meeting that the commission would begin meeting weekly instead of bi-monthly to

get through more projects. In the same email sent to commissioners, Decker said there isn't a backlog of projects as was reported by city staff.

"There may have been a misunderstanding related to the projects waiting in the wings to get in front of the Planning Commission," she wrote. "We do have several projects that we will be scheduling at the next couple of hearings. The timing of getting to the Planning Commission has been compromised only due to the most recent influx of larger projects such as Staples Ranch EIR (environmental impact report) scoping session and the Oak Grove project."

The commission is expected to discuss the possibility of holding special meetings to hear those projects sooner, rather than begin holding weekly meetings. ■

Take Us Along



Vienna view Alexe Farol takes time out from her visit to the Royal Palace of Vienna to read the Weekly.

Heavenly reading

Amanda Jordan (center) enjoys reading the Weekly with her parents Patricia and Stephen atop Heavenly Valley at Lake Tahoe last Fourth of July weekend.



Ready to go underwater Steve and Regina Shapiro share the Weekly with their son David Marsh MM1(SS) in Galveston, Texas at the Commissioning of the USS Texas, the newest addition to the U.S. Navy's Virginia fast attack submarine fleet. David has been a nuclear technician for the Navy for the past six years.



Hawaii time

Ann, Rich, Richard and Lauren Blach enjoy reading the Weekly during a family trip to Maui.



Climb every mountain Jim and Wayne Keysor, Mark Watts, Rick Piras, Bob Parker, Rodney Jensen and Bruce Roberts read the Weekly after reaching the 14,410-foot summit of Mount Rainier in Washington state. Although the climb was challenging, the crew reports that the spectacular view made the effort worthwhile.



Italian holiday Marie, Michael and Bob Smochko read the Weekly while overlooking Florence, Italy during a family vacation.

Mock crash

(continued from page 5)

gers and consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

As 200 students looked on, the lifting of a tarp revealed mangled cars in a car accident in front of the Amador parking lot. "Danielle" burst out of her car with blood on her hands and tears streaming down her face. "Nicholas" had struck her car, leaving Danielle's passengers eerily still. Nicholas' passenger, however, lay motionless on the hood of the car after being projected through the windshield.

With sirens blaring, Pleasanton police officers and Livermore-Pleasanton firefighters raced to the scene. The story unfolded as Nicholas revealed he'd been drinking during the lunch break—the number of beers consumed rose from one or two to seven or eight upon an officer's repeat questioning and discovery of

beer bottles in the car.

Nicholas' passenger was pronounced dead on the scene while the two in Danielle's car were critically injured, one needing to be airlifted via the California Highway Patrol helicopter, which hovered over the school's parking structure.

Upon failing sobriety tests, Nicholas was handcuffed and taken away in the back of a police car. All the while Danielle sobbed in disbelief.

Actual Amador juniors and seniors were silent as they watched, often with mouths unknowingly agape. While some had trouble seeing and a handful of students needed unrelated real medical attention for dehydration being out in the sun, most students were attentive and moved by the mock accident scene.

A film crew was on site to prepare a video for a follow-up assembly Wednesday.

This is the sixth year that the Pleasanton Police Department has joined with the Pleasanton Unified School District to present the "Every 15 Minutes" program. ■



"Danielle" poses as an Amador Valley High School student who was just involved in a simulated deadly DUI-related crash. The fake accident was part of the "Every 15 Minutes" anti-DUI program.

Emily Amwood

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Opinion

Editorial

Why not 2 routes to golf course instead of a single bypass?

The City Council has endorsed a recommendation by its Happy Valley Blue Ribbon Committee to build a golf course bypass road on a newly-designated route that will use city streets instead of Alisal Street and Happy Valley Road, county thoroughfares that golfers now use. Although the proposal still must pass muster with an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and a majority of members of both the Planning Commission and once again the City Council before any roadway is built, the council seemed pleased that at long last a bypass road had been endorsed by a majority of property owners in the area. But was it?

The long-running dispute over the bypass road goes back to the Happy Valley Specific Plan in 1998 which included plans for the new Callippe Preserve Golf Course and new housing developments east of Alisal Street. But land in the hills far above Alisal proved to be too unstable for a roadway. The Blue Ribbon Committee, made up of residents, land owners and a developer, decided on a new route that takes the bypass on flatland much closer to Alisal, connecting Sycamore Creek Way to Westbridge Drive at the golf course, the roadway now used by golfers from Alisal and Happy Valley Road.

Still, no one except the council seems completely pleased with the new route proposed. To build it, the city will need to accommodate a bid by Greenbriar Homes for up to 79 new custom homes in return for funding most or all of the new bypass. Residents of these new homes, along with those from the 33 homes being built along the golf course fairways, would all funnel into Sycamore Creek Way, with Westbridge to be closed off at Alisal. Greenbriar also has plans for more homes in Lund Ranch 2, whose residents would use Sycamore Creek Way.

Homeowners from the Summerhill Estates and Bridle Creek subdivisions, who paid well over \$1 million for their new homes over the last few years, say they knew Sycamore Creek Way would have more traffic as new developments were built. But no one told them that it would become the main route to the golf course or that their city street would replace the county's road to Callippe that now serves golf course traffic. They call the Blue Ribbon Committee's plan unfair, pointing out that only one representative of their community was asked to serve on the committee, which they say included Greenbriar Homes employees, rancher Al Spotorno, whose land Greenbriar would develop, and a number of residents from the Happy Valley community. Even Councilman Matt Sullivan, in voting for the committee's recommended bypass route, acknowledged that the Sycamore Creek Way community should have had more representation and better notification of the committee's meeting. With lawsuits threatened and at least one already filed that could stall again the bypass road construction, why not leave the current roads to the golf course and adjacent homes—Alisal Street, Happy Valley Road and Westbridge Drive—open as they are now while also building the bypass road extension off Sycamore Creek Way that would lead to Westbridge? That would make traffic flow both more efficiently and equitably.

Guest Opinion

Time for Pleasanton to live up to its end of the bargain

by Naomi Jones

I am writing in response to Billy Otis's letter (Letters to Editor, April 20, 2007) "Triangle Traffic Committee Bullies Pleasanton". The Tri-Valley Triangle Traffic Committee has been working on finding solutions for traffic problems that concern not only our city, but the whole Tri-Valley area.



When they made the decision not to fund the improvements on Highway 84, they did so for the better of the whole county, not just one city or neighborhood. The only reason they had to play hard ball was because

Pleasanton leaders were not stepping up to the plate and taking their fair share of the deal. When our cities (Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore) got together back in 1996 to write a General Plan about how our streets and future development should be planned, they decided to do it in such a way that each city would take their fair share of traffic.

In recent years, Pleasanton, because of its position (between I-580 and I-680), has taken the brunt of "cut-through" traffic from people avoiding the highways and cutting through town to get to Livermore, Tracy and other towns further east. Livermore knew that they would eventually be connecting El Charro Road to Stoneridge Drive with plans for using it to get to ValleyCare Medical Center in case of an emergency. They made an agreement with Pleasanton

several years ago that Stoneridge would be their connection route to get people there on Los Positas Boulevard.

Our emergency personnel need to be able to get to those residents who live near the end of Stoneridge Drive where it dead ends, or to get to a car accident on I-580 that they could not get to if the section of I-580 between the Santa Rita exit and El Charro Road were blocked (for instance in an earthquake).

It's our turn to live up to our share of the bargain. I urge all of you to read the recent traffic study that was done on the Stoneridge extension. It looked at the impact of traffic in the city, as well as I-580 and I-680 with and without the extension.

The facts are "pleasantly" surprising. Not only does it show that putting Stoneridge Drive through

would be good for the already overloaded Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road, but it also shows approximately 8 miles of roads in several "residential" areas will benefit from reduced traffic.

I encourage you to go to the City Council meeting on May 1 when the council will make their final decision weather or not to keep it in the General Plan.

Naomi Jones has been a Pleasanton resident for 18 years and lives in Autumn Glen off Kolln Street and Valley Avenue. When her son, who now attends Harvest Park Middle School, was at Alisal Elementary, she worked with the city, police and the school district to develop a safer drop-off and pick-up plan and implemented a traffic safety valet program. ■

Letters

Corrections to bypass article

Dear Editor,

In your article "City Council OKs bypass road recommendation" (News, April 20), there are two significant errors at the end of the article that require correction because the information is wrong.

You quoted Councilwoman Cindy McGovern when speaking about the formation of the Blue Ribbon Committee as saying that "it was normal to have a developer

be a representative on a committee. It's their land, they should have a say-so." First of all, Mrs. McGovern was not speaking about Greenbriar, she was speaking about the Spotorno family as the land owner. Secondly, Greenbriar does not own that land—they merely have an option to buy the land from the Spotorno family. The Spotorno family still owns that piece of land that is in discussion for development and for the bypass road, and as owners of the land, the family has a right to be on such a committee. I suggest you go back and view the video if you don't believe me.

I also find it rather curious that you quote several speakers on the

issue, but you failed to include anything I said as a representative of the family as well as the wife of Al Spotorno.

*LaVerne Spotorno
Pleasanton*

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The Great Outdoors

CITY GEARS UP FOR SUMMER BY OFFERING OUTDOOR-THEMED CAMPS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JANET PELLETIER

City Program Naturalist Eric Nicholas shows eager students at Alisal Elementary School a red-tailed boa constrictor. Year-round, Nicholas often travels to schools in the district to talk about his job.

Not many people can say the outdoors is their office. But Eric Nicholas wouldn't have it any other way.

Named the city's program naturalist last October, the Livermore native will be leading the most popular kid's camp in the city. The Ridge Runners Nature Day Camp is back this summer after a brief hiatus.

City recreation supervisor Michelle Schmitt said the camp wasn't offered last summer because the city didn't have a program naturalist and was waiting for the right person to come along.

The camp began last year and was the most sought-after activity. "Ridge Runners Nature Day Camp allows 40 kids each week," Schmitt said.

For ages 6 to 10, the camp has two sessions of the camp during the month of August.

Transitioning from a former river rafting guide in Colorado and Arizona, Nicholas said, "Being on the river, you see the birds, plants there and the animals."

"It just seemed like I had to do it," he said of his new role.

Having grown up in the area, Nicholas is familiar with the local history and lore on Indian reservations in the Valley, making him a natural teacher of children's history.

"I played a lot of sports and was always outdoors, so I also constantly enjoy being outdoors and have so many memories."

And the many children are blessed to have a naturalist like Nicholas at Ridge Runners. The city is looking for notice and appreciation.

DOORS

SEASON

CAMPS FOR KIDS



structor at the school's Earth Week celebration recently. In addition to hosting several camps and classes

n in 1991 and continues to be one of the summer programs the city provides.

s is extremely popular," she said. "We h session and we usually max out most

1, there will be six different week-long mp from the end of June to the beginning

to the program naturalist role was fairly olas, who was a professional whitewa- for 10 years, taking groups out on the erican rivers.

rivers, I was interpreting—what kinds of were, identifying things for people," he

like the natural (no pun intended) thing becoming a naturalist.

up in the Amador Valley, Nicholas is surroundings. He also studied American servations. The Ohlone Indians settled king the East Bay their home. He often who attend his camps about the region's

in the creeks as a child," he said. "I'm ploring things. We are really lucky here eat hiking areas."

natural surroundings that Pleasanton is e the playground for children enrolled in he lesson of the camp is for children to iate nature that's practically in their back

yard.

"I will educate them about the wildlife, how to act around them," Nicholas said. "You want people to respect nature and not be discouraged out of fear of animals. People should feel lucky to see those types of things."

Nicholas is referring to such animals as rattlesnakes, wild turkeys, grey foxes, deer and mountain lions. Some recent mountain lion sightings in the past two months have reminded some residents that nature is indeed all around them.

Asked why he thinks there may be more sightings recently, Nicholas said Pleasanton has a combination of greenbelts and arroyos that attract the wildcats.

"We've also got a large population of deer, abundant plant cover, abundant corridors for them to travel through," he said. "It's just something that's going to develop because their population is growing all throughout California."

But that doesn't mean Pleasanton residents need to be frightened. The solitary animals are rarely spotted. In fact, Nicholas said he has yet to see one out on one of the many hikes he leads throughout the year. If someone does spot one on a hike, he would love for them to contact him to tell of their experience.

The different open space areas he takes children in the Ridge Runner camps are the Pleasanton Ridge, the Sunol Regional Wilderness Park, Shadowcliffs Regional Park and Augustin-Bernal Park.

As he sat on a park bench atop Golden Eagle Estates at

(continued on page 16)

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A camper taking the Outdoor Preparedness class last Saturday at Augustin-Bernal ducks underneath a large tree branch following a path made by deer. She's followed by the rest of the group, which partook in an exercise before the hike to learn how to listen for animals.

Outdoors

(continued from page 15)

Augustin-Bernal, he said being in the presence of nature is like opening a history book.

"If you were going to step back in time, Augustin-Bernal represents what it really would have looked like when the Ohlones were living here."

And that's the experience he tries to give to students in the camp. He doesn't just take them on a hike.

Instead, he starts by showing them a hideout of brush and bushes, pointing out where fresh deer hoof prints can be seen in the ground, where deer may have nibbled on low lying bushes and taking them on deer paths to help them imagine what the animals' daily activity is like.

"They leave these field trips knowing more than their parents about deer tracks," he said. "I'm making them deer naturalists. They're stewards of the future, of nature and of our parks."

He also shows the children plants that historically have been used for natural remedies. A bay leaf, for example, was used by the Ohlones to get rid of headaches and for first aid.

Soap root was also used by the Ohlones for a couple different things. Like its namesake, when the bulb of it is cut in half, a soapy-texture is created when using a knife to scrape the insides. The outside of the bulb, which has fine hairs, was often pulled and used for brush bristles, as a fish



Soap root was at one time used by Ohlone Indians for soap, brush bristles, fish poison and to start fires.

poison (attaching the hairs to fish's gills and suffocating them) or to start fires.

Sage, a common household spice, was often used as incense.

"At one time, a long time ago, this whole area was someone's grocery store," Nicholas said.

In addition to the Ridge Runners camp, he will also lead some other nature-related summer camps. "You Know Gecko?" is new this year for all ages. Participants will visit the Nature House to interact with the green lizards. "Who's Who in the Amphibian World?" is also for all ages where participants will learn about wet and dry amphibians and reptiles. "A Visit From Sea," for all ages, will feature lessons on underwater creatures such as microscopic monsters, crabs and a few other surprise guests. Fun for the whole family can be had with "The Image of Nature," where all ages

(continued on page 17)

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Campers of an outdoor preparedness class partake in a sensory exercise to help them hear animals out on the trails. One person stands in the middle of a circle, eyes closed, and has to point to the direction of another person chosen to walk toward the center.

Outdoors

(continued from page 16)

and youths with supervision can join Nicholas for a leisurely hike in Augustin-Bernal Park to the hilltop where all will share a potluck meal and take photographs.

Other new programs will be offered sooner than summer, in May.

"Saturday Striders" is for ages 12 and up. More advanced hikers can take a fast-paced hike off the beaten path. That session is from 10 to 11 a.m. on May

5 and costs \$10 for residents/\$13 for nonresidents.

Also on May 5, "Creepy Crawlers" will be held for all ages. Participants will learn about how flowers are pollinated, insects and arachnids and the environment they live in. That session will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. and costs \$14 for residents/\$17 for nonresidents.

Nicholas will also lead the Mature Adult Hikers Club for ages 55 and up on an exploration of hidden trails. That session is from 10 to 11 a.m. May 19 and costs \$8 for residents/\$11 for nonresidents.

The city's summer activity guide will be sent to residents the second week in May.

For more information about these programs, contact Nicholas at 963-5016. ■

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, May 1, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Provide direction on Preferred Circulation Network and Land Use Plan for the General Plan Update

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, May 2 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- FY 2006/07 Service Contracts Quarterly Reports
 - (1) Child Care Links
 - (2) Open Heart Kitchen
 - (3) Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley
 - (4) Spectrum Community Services, Inc
- Review and Approval of Draft FY 2007/08 City Grant Recipient Compliance Requirements and Funding Reallocation Plan
- FY 2006/07 City Grant Quarterly Reports

Future Planning Commission

Meetings

The Planning Commission will be holding two regular and two special meetings in the month of May. The regular meetings are scheduled for May 9 and 23 and the special meetings are scheduled for May 16 and 30.

General Information

www.TriValleyJobs.com

Would you like to work close to home? TriValleyJobs.com is a free website through which local employers from Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Ramon post job openings for Tri-Valley employees. As a prospective employee, on TriValleyJobs.com you can conduct custom job searches, broadcast your resume to local employers and sign up for instant email alerts any time a job that matches your interests becomes available. Employers, you can enter job information and even choose to be notified when job seekers search for positions in your industry or job category. This could be an opportunity to work for some of the best Bay area businesses right here in the Tri-Valley.

**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

Bomb threat at Home Depot

Around 3 p.m. last Sunday, a man called 911 saying, "I just put a bomb at Home Depot—hope you get there in time." The call originated from a pay phone located outside Home Depot at 6000 Johnson Drive and lasted only a couple seconds, police said.

Police units, including bomb detection K-9s, responded and spoke to the store's management. A decision to evacuate the building was made by Home Depot management and surrounding

businesses were notified. Due to the size of the building, additional assistance was requested from BART police and the Alameda County Sheriff's office; both of which sent bomb detection K-9s. The interior and exterior of the home improvement store was thoroughly searched and nothing suspicious was found, nor did the dogs alert handlers to any items. The store was reopened for business at approximately 6 p.m.

Anyone with information about the threat is asked to call police at 931-5100, referring to case number 07-12378.

Police Report

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

April 13

- DUI: 3
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 7:55 a.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; worth over \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 7:40 p.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue; marijuana possession
 - 9:50 p.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
- Switchblade knife possession:
 - 8:00 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street

April 14

- DUI: 2
- Theft:
 - 4:52 p.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive; from building, worth \$200-400
- Vandalism:
 - 12:39 p.m. in the 6800 block of Heath Court; vehicular, worth \$1,000 or less
 - 5:40 p.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court; residential, worth \$1,000 or less
- Assault:
 - 11:08 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue
- Public drunkenness:
 - 10:03 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive

April 15

- Threat by fear: 1
- Commercial robbery with a gun:
 - 2:10 a.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road
- Vehicular vandalism:
 - 2:12 a.m. in the 800 block of Montevino Drive; worth less than \$1,000
 - 4:30 a.m. in the 1100 block of Kottinger Drive; worth less than \$1,000

-12:41 p.m. in the 2400 block of Via de los Milagros; worth less than \$1,000

- Commercial burglary:
 - 6:10 a.m. in the 500 block of Main Street
- Domestic animal bites:
 - 10:31 a.m. in the 3900 block of Fairlands Drive
- Assault:
 - 12:57 p.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive
- Rape by force:
 - 6:10 p.m. in the 3100 block of Ruby Hill Drive

April 16

- Theft from vehicle:
 - 7:32 p.m. at the intersection of Vine Street and Birch Creek Drive; worth over \$400
 - 7:47 p.m. in the 4500 block of Mohr Avenue; worth \$50-199
- Public vandalism:
 - 7:58 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; worth less than \$1,000
 - 10:56 a.m. in the 3400 block of National Park Road
- Assault:
 - 8:15 p.m. in the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue
 - 8:36 p.m. in the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue

April 17

- Found property: 2
- Theft:
 - 2:24 p.m. in the 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from building, worth \$200-400
 - 6:01 p.m. in the 7100 block of Koll Center Parkway; from vehicle, worth \$200-400
 - 7:03 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shoplifting, worth \$50-200
- Vehicular vandalism:
 - 10:22 a.m. in the 3800 block of Kamp Drive; worth \$1,000 or less
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 1:01 p.m. in the 7500 block of Stonedale Drive; worth less than \$50

-4:03 p.m. in the 4200 block of Stanley Boulevard; worth \$50-199

- Public drunkenness:
 - 6:40 p.m. in the 5700 block of Hopyard Road
 - 11:09 p.m. at the intersection of Paseo Santa Cruz and Valley Avenue

April 18

- Found: 1
- Theft:
 - 10:25 a.m. in the 4100 block of Amberwood Circle; from vehicle, worth less than \$50
 - 3:16 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall; from building, worth \$50-199
 - 10:00 p.m. in the 1100 block of Harvest Road; false pretenses
- Abduction/kidnapping:
 - 5:01 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road

April 19

- Found property: 1
- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Theft:
 - 8:24 a.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive; credit card fraud
 - 10:49 a.m. in the 6600 block of Owens Drive; from building, worth over \$400
 - 8:15 p.m. in the 6100 block of Inglewood Drive; credit card fraud
- Commercial vandalism:
 - 7:45 p.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; worth less than \$1,000
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 4:09 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
 - 3:25 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; amphetamine possession
- Assault:
 - 10:10 p.m. in the 6200 block of Garner Court

Transitions

Obituaries

Elsie Salmi Leighton

Elsie Salmi Leighton died April 15 in Dublin at the age of 83.

Mrs. Leighton was born June 4, 1923 in Ballard, Wash. She lived in Escondido, Calif. for 15 years before moving to Pleasanton four years ago.

A secretary for Seattle Naval Yard in the late 1940s, she was also a secretary for the Alhambra High School English department for 15 years. She loved golf, tating and sewing.

She is survived by daughter Sirgie Leighton Potter and husband Bill of Pleasanton; brother Howard Salmi; sisters Ilmi Phillips and Ethel Dunkle; and two grandchildren, Nicolina and Robby.

She was preceded in death by her mother Lena, father Fans and sister Sigre.

A memorial service will be held in Seattle in June. Donations can be made to Hope Hospice or the Alzheimer's Association.

Edward P. McCrary Jr.

Edward P. McCrary Jr. died April 16 at the age of 78.

Born July 31, 1928 in Alamogordo, N.M., Mr. McCrary lived in Brentwood for 3 1/2 years before moving to Pleasanton two years ago.

He received an associate's degree from San Jose City College and served in the U.S. Air Force. He worked in field procurement with Bech Tel Corp for 18 years and loved model railroads and golf.

Mr. McCrary is survived by wife

of 54 years, Frieda McCrary; sons Edward and Frank (Patti); grandchildren Danny, Camie, Sean, Taylor, Trevor and Allison; great-grandchildren Maddalynn and Makayla.

A memorial mass service was scheduled for April 23 at St. Augustine Catholic Church. Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society, 7000 Village Parkway Ste. E, Dublin, CA 94568.

Charles Wesley Mann

Charles Wesley Mann died April 18 in Oakland at the age of 24.

Mr. Mann was born in Berkeley Sept. 26, 1982 and moved to Pleasanton at age 2. He attended Valley View Elementary, Vintage Hills Middle and Pleasanton Middle schools before graduating from Amador Valley High in 2001. He attended Brandeis University in Boston and graduated in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in economics and completed his master's degree in finance also at Brandeis. He also spent six months in Brazil at FGB, a program through the university.

Mr. Mann was an outstanding basketball player, was the captain of his high school team at Amador and played on his college team in Boston and Brazil. Most recently he coached his sister Michelle's basketball team, The Liberty, with Pleasanton Youth Basketball. He was also a member of the St. Matthew Baptist Church of Livermore.

He is survived by parents Michael Mann and Joann Daley of Pleasanton; sisters Jasmine and Michelle Mann; paternal grandmother Janice Mann of Virginia; and girlfriend Erica Richardson of Sacramento.

A quiet hour was scheduled for April 24 at the Chapel of Callaghan Mortuary in Livermore. Funeral services were scheduled for April 25 at St. Matthew Baptist Church in Livermore.

Richard O. Brierly

Richard O. Brierly died April 19 at the age of 66.

Born and raised in Oakland, Mr. Brierly was a 35-year Pleasanton resident. He served his country proudly in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne. He received his bachelor's degree from California State University Sacramento, then pursued his career with the Oakland Police Department for 21 years, retiring as a lieutenant.

After retiring from the OPD, he worked at the Alameda County District Attorney's office as an inspector for 12 years. He was affiliated with Le Soceite de Camraderie and the Oakland Police Officer's Golf Association. Mr. Brierly enjoyed golf and traveling in his free time away from the force.

He is survived by beloved wife of 39 years, Marilyn Brierly of Pleasanton; daughter Stephanie England of Pleasanton; son and daughter-in-law John and Denise Brierly of Manteca; sister Jackie Lindberg of Idaho; he was brother-in-law to Barbara and Tom Kugler of Alameda; he is also survived by grandchildren Jack, Emma and Stella Brierly, Haley England, and Kaela and Sydnee Canales; and many nieces and nephews.

A vigil was scheduled for April 23 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. A mass and burial were planned for April 24 at St. Augustine Church in Pleasanton and Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward.

Engagement

Carlene Mari Michelotti and Joseph Raymond Vaule

Carl and Sharrell Michelotti together with Raymond and Karen Vaule are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Carlene Marie Michelotti and Joseph Raymond Vaule. Carlene and Joseph will be united in marriage July 14.

Carlene is a 1988 graduate of Foothill High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1992 and teaching credential in 1995 from St. Mary's College in Moraga. Carlene is currently teaching third grade at Cascade View Elementary School in Snohomish, Wash.

Joseph is a 1994 graduate of Snohomish High School in Snohomish. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and teaching credential from Western Washington University in 2000. Joseph currently teaches fifth grade at Cascade View Elementary School.



Carlene and Joseph will be married at Villa Academy Sacred Heart Chapel in Seattle with a reception to follow at Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club. They will honeymoon in Hawaii and upon their return make their home in Mill Creek, Wash.



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NEW! Week 4 - **Computer IQ Booster** - will address three capabilities:

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Presentation Skills	7/23-7/27	8/6-8/10
Computer Booster	7/30-8/3	8/13-8/17

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Birth

Taylor Nichole Ormsby

Taylor Nichole Ormsby was born March 14, weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces, and measuring 19 inches long. She joined her proud big brother and sister, Connor (4) and Hannah (2). Her parents, Nichole and Erik, lived in Pleasanton from 1998 to 2000.



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Calendar

Auditions

Stupid Pet and Human Tricks CBS 5 is holding auditions for Late Night with David Letterman's Stupid Pet and Human Tricks from 1 to 4 p.m. April 28 at the San Jose Home Show, San Jose McEnery Convention Center, 150 W. San Carlos St. Free admission to the first 50 registrants. Visit www.cbs5.com/contests.

Author Visits

Sandy Tolan at the Pleasanton Public Library At 7 p.m. May 17, the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents journalist Sandy Tolan author of "The Lemon Tree; An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East." This book examines the Mideast conflict through the story of two people, a Palestinian and an Israeli, with claims to the same house in Ramla. Call 931-3405 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library.

Wal-Mart: Good or Bad for America? The Independent Institute, 100 Swan Way in Oakland, presents an Independent Policy Forum: Is Wal-Mart Good or Bad for America? from 6:30 to 9 p.m. May 8. The debate features Ken Jacobs (Chair, U.C. Berkeley Labor Center) and Richard Vedder (co-author, "The Wal-Mart Revolution"). Tickets are \$15 (or \$10 for members). Add "The Wal-Mart Revolution" for \$30 (or \$25 for members). Call (510) 632-1366.

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 at 846-1658.

Civic Meetings

City Council The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

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.

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.

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.

Planning Commission The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

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.

Weekend Preview



Quilt Show this weekend

The Amador Valley Quilters is hosting its 12th annual Quilt Show this weekend, April 28 and 29 in the Young California Building at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. More than 400 quilts will be on display, including works by featured artist Linda Schmidt, who designed the above quilt. The quilt will be given away as a raffle prize at 11 a.m. Sunday. The event also features vendors selling quilting supplies and hand crafted items. The show will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$6 to \$8. Children 12 years old or younger are free. Call 829-5768 for more information.

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

Instructed by Christina Ahlstrand, CFP, it meets from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 28 at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Avenue, room 701, and is \$35. Call 426-4280.

Classes

Acting Training Professional, in-depth training in acting for adults ages 15 and up will be offered by The Playhouse West Academy, 1345 Locust St. in Walnut Creek, Saturdays from 10 to 1 p.m. through May 26. Classes are for beginning, intermediate and advanced students. There will also be an on camera commercial class offered this quarter. Classes taught by artistic director Lois Grandi. The cost is \$235. Email playhousewest@sbcglobal.net, call 943-6464 or visit www.playhousewest.org.

Can you ever retire? This down-to-earth retirement planning workshop will help you clarify how much money you'll need and what to focus on before you retire so you can avoid unpleasant financial surprises.

Love and Logic: Early Childhood Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive in Dublin, presents a class called Love and Logic's Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun: Creating happy families and responsible kids from birth to six with practical tips, powerful tools and immediate results. It runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday from April 25 through June 7. It is \$25 per person. For more information and to register online, visit www.dublinvcc.org. Childcare provided. 7-8:30 p.m.

Women and Money—Reach Your Potential From 7 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday through May 1 this class meets at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Ave., Room 701. This course is designed to give women the skills to achieve financial well-being. Presented by Christina Ahlstrand, CFP and Guest Speaker: A. Mari Miller, Estate Planning Attorney. The cost is \$45 and pre-registration is required. Call

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Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters Silent Auction

This annual fundraiser is a great way for members to bring home "gently used" books, tools and notions or to rebuild their fabric stash. The event is from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. May 12 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

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 workgroup meets from 9 to 11 a.m. 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.

Good News Bears Be a part of providing comfort to children and adults by giving stuffed animals. Good News Bears meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Livermore Police Station, 1110 S. Livermore Ave. Join us on the third Thursday of the month to see how you can provide "stuffed love" in our community. Club dues are \$30 per year. Contact Jeanie Haigh at jhaigh@webbearings.com or 373-7982.

NARFE The Livermore Chapter 0397 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association meets at 12:30 p.m. the second Thursday monthly at Emil Villa's Restaurant at the corner of Pacific and S. Livermore avenues in Livermore. Call 484-0813 or 846-7167.

New Tri-Valley Homebrewing Club Want to meet other brewers and advance your brewing techniques? Mad Zymurgists of the Tri-Valley meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the second Thursday of each month. We welcome brewers of all levels of expertise, and have sponsorship from Hoptech in Dublin. See www.madzymurgists.org for more info and location of the next meeting.

Concerts

Brass Ensemble All-Russian Concert

Brazzissimo, a Bay Area virtuoso brass ensemble, will join the Diablo Symphony May 12 in a concert featuring classic Russian symphonic works. The program begins at 2 p.m. in the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$10, \$18 and \$20 and are available by calling 943-7469 or by visiting www.leshercenter.org.

Cantabella Children's Chorus Spring Concert Cantabella Children's

Chorus announces its 15th anniversary season with their Spring Concert, "15 years of Beautiful Singing" from 2 to 4 p.m. May 19 at Our Savior's Lutheran Ministry, 1385 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore. All alumni are specially invited to return and help celebrate and have the opportunity to share the stage with our two performing choirs. A \$5 donation is suggested. Contact Bee Chow at director@cantabella.org or 292-2663. Visit www.cantabella.org.

Cascada de Flores Come to the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 2 p.m. May 6 for an afternoon of music and dance for all ages. Enjoy Cascada de Flores, a professional music ensemble dedicated to the exploration, preservation and dissemination of Mexican and Cuban regional music and dance. Call 931-3400 ext. 27 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/library.

Pianist Chu-Fang Huang Del Valle Fine Arts concert series presents 23-year-old Chu-Fang Huang in concert from 8 to 10 p.m. May 5 at First Presbyterian Church, 2050 5th St. at L St., Livermore. He became the first Chinese pianist to win first prize at the prestigious Cleveland International Piano Competition in August 2005. Tickets are \$18, \$16 for seniors and high school students are free. Visit www.delvallefinearts.com for details.

Pleasanton Chamber Players

Premiere Pleasanton Chamber Players perform Memories of Music: Mozart, Holy, Tournier, Menotti and Golijov and world premiere of Fremont composer Helena Michelson's "... softly through the night... memories of music..." with strings, flute, clarinet, harp and percussion. The event is at 3 p.m. April 29 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hopyard Road and Del Valle Parkway. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, children 18 and under free. A pre-concert talk by a composer begins at 2:30. Call 600-1331.

Events

Adoption Faire at East County Animal Shelter

Attend an Adoption Faire at East County Animal Shelter in Dublin, 4595 Gleason Drive, from 1:30 to 5 p.m. May 5. Brought to you by Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, the faire includes a professional dog trainer on-site; low-cost spay/neuter certificates; three free dog training sessions and accessories to dog adopters; free goodie baskets to cat adopters; and free hot dogs for all. Visit www.tvr.org.

California Classic Alpaca Show

Over 400 alpacas and their owners will compete in a halter show from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 28 and 29 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. There will also be vendors selling alpaca-related products and educational displays for those people interested in becoming alpaca owners. This is a free event. Visit www.californiaclassicalpacashow.com.

First Wednesday Street Party

Enjoy this family Cinco de Mayo event from 6 to 9 p.m. May 2 in downtown Pleasanton with vendor and nonprofit booths, shops, businesses, restaurants, and wine and beer garden. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Foothill Grad Night Tickets

Available Grad Night 2007 tickets are on sale for \$150 each through June 13. Visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/foothill and look under the Announcements/Activities section for information.

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Benefit Show

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society presents a benefit show with Keith Varon, Wish Inflicted, Bray and Brittany Shane May 11 at Pier 23 on the Embarcadero in San Francisco. The doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. Ages 21 and over only, cover is \$10 at the door.

Mother's Day Champagne Brunch

Head to the wine country for Garre Winery's Mother's Day Champagne Brunch May 13 at 7986 Tesla Road, Livermore. Their chefs make omelettes to order, the buffet is filled with brunch favorites and the champagne is free flowing. A professional photographer will be on site and live violin rounds out the day. Tickets are \$35.95 per person, \$14.95 for children 4-10, \$29.95 for seniors 65+, and under 3 free. Call 925-371-8200 or visit www.garrewinery.com.

Muscle Cars, Hot Rods and Art Fair

Hats Off America presents the fourth annual Muscle Cars, Hot Rods and Art Fair from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 19 and 20 at the grass fields at the corner of Bollinger Canyon Road and Camino Ramon in San Ramon. This event is free and families, but not pets, are welcome. Proceeds benefit families of US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. For car display, booth prices or more information call Sparky at 855-1950 or email thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com.

OSH How-To Fair Home and Garden Show

The OSH How-To Fair Home and Garden Show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 5 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 6 features product booths, how-to and gourmet cooking demonstrations, celebrity appearances, and "Land of Fun" for kids. This event has free admission and parking and is located at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Visit www.osh.com.

Saturday Salon Fourth Street Studio, 2235 Fourth Street in Livermore, hosts a Saturday Salon every Saturday from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Everyone's a featured writer and has up to 10 minutes to present their work. Call 456-3100.

Sister City Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Pleasanton Tulancingo Sister City Association from 1:30 to 4 p.m. May 6 at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center, 4455 Black Ave. Admission is free, and food and sodas will be available to purchase from a local restaurant. There will also be an 8-piece mariachi band, piñatas for the kids, raffles, and more.

Exhibits

A Spring Celebration Celebrate Spring at Alexander's Main St. Gallery, 610 Main St. Meet artist Lina Liu at a reception from 4 to 7 p.m. May 5. The theme of this show is flowers. Also featured is artwork from nationally acclaimed artists Brian Davis and Leon Roulette. Call 846-6015 or visit www.alexandersmainstgallery.com.

Art Made Easy A community reception for the student exhibit, Art Made Easy, is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. April 30 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The art will be on display from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 1 through 3 and from 9 a.m. to noon May 4. Call 931-5340.

Bay Area Women Artists Artists Vanessa Barrett, Joanna Crawshaw, Toby Tover Krein, Cynthia Lait, Linda Ryan, Gail Ruvalcaba join for an art show dedicated to the lives of women of all ages. The show runs from April 28 to June 2 at Worthington Gallery West, 739 J Main St., with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. May 5. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallery-west.com.

Emerging Young Artist Exhibit

This is an art show of very talented Fremont/Newark area high school students of Dee Murphy and Keith Lark. Originals as well as prints, will be on sale and display for this show. The show runs through April 28 at Fremont Art Association Gallery, 37659 Niles Blvd., Fremont. Contact Dee Murphy at (510) 494-1515 for info.

Fremont Art Association Showcase Reception

Seventeen years ago, Rose Sexton was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, but she found a way to make the tremors work for her art, and is our featured artist for the Second Quarter Showcase from May 4 to 20 at the Fremont Art Association, 37659 Niles Blvd., Fremont. The reception is from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. May 6. Call (510) 792-0905.

James Leonard Exhibit

Studio 7 Fine Art's current exhibit features one of California's leading abstract expressionist painters. James Leonard works with acrylics on canvas using bold horizontal and vertical strokes and strong color to reach the viewer. The display runs through May 6 at 400 Main St. Call 846-4322 or visit www.studio7finearts.com.

Vineyards, Hills and Pathways of Stephen Sanfilippo

This showcase of Stephen Sanfilippo's vineyards, hills and pathways will include about 20 of his oils ranging from 8-by-10 inches to 24-by-36 inches. His work is on display from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through April 30 at Alexander's Main Street Gallery, 610 Main St. His work also at www.stephensanfilippo.com. Call 846-6015 or visit www.alexandersmainst-gallery.com.

Wine Tasting Party at Studio 7

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(continued on page 22)

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

INVESTING IN CONDOS

Condominiums have truly come of age. Long seen as the home choice for those who couldn't afford a detached, single-family residence, the many special qualities of condos have at last made them extremely attractive to many homebuyers. They have also become a great choice for those wishing a low-maintenance rental investment, since the outside of the unit—walls, roofs, and landscaping—is so often taken care of by the homeowner's association.

There is one big caveat, however. It's crucial, before investing in a condo, to read through the community's Bylaws and CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions) to make sure there are no rules that would make it impossible for you to rent out the unit you buy. You will want to do further research as well. Often, lenders refuse to finance purchases in a condo community if the number of renters in that community has risen above a certain percentage.

Once you are certain that you will indeed be able to rent out the condominium you are thinking of buying, the other major factor to consider is its location. Is it appropriate for vacation rentals? Or is it a more likely candidate for long-term rentals? Most important, is it close enough to home for you to be able to do the property management, maximizing your profits, or might it actually be more profitably managed by professionals? Get the answers to all these questions before buying; just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

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Calendar

enjoying wines from a variety of boutique wineries with Specialty French Appetizers from 7 to 9 p.m. May 5 at Studio 7 Fine Arts Gallery, 400 Main St. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door. Call 945-8340 or visit <http://winesocials.com>.

Film

The Take Movie Night At The IBEW presents "The Take" at 7 p.m. April 28 at 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. This film chronicles how factory workers in Argentina re-opened factories as collectives after the economy went belly up. A \$2 donation is suggested. Call 462-3459.

Plaza Circle, Danville. Be a part of "Carnaval," the world's most famous party! Cuisine by Scott's. The night features a floor show with Samba do Coracao, silent and live auctions, and dancing to the CoolTones. Tickets are \$85. Call 829-8770 or visit www.hopehospiice.com for details.

Wardrobe for Opportunity 12th Annual Spring to Success Luncheon Be inspired by our clients, impressed by our volunteers, and moved by our generous supporters at one of the East Bay's most memorable luncheon events. Wardrobe for Opportunity's 12th annual Spring to Success luncheon is from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 11 at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive. Tickets are \$80. Call 463-4100 ext. 11 or visit www.wardrobe.org/events.html.

Fundraisers

Empty Bowls Join us for an evening of nourishment as we help fill empty bowls in our community from 5 to 8 June 5 at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. This fundraising event is held in conjunction with National Hunger Awareness Day. Enjoy delicious soup, take home a hand-decorated ceramic bowl and bid in the silent auction. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$40 for families up to two adults and two children under 18. Contact Pam Gidwani at pgidwani@accfb.org or (510) 635-3663 ext. 328. Visit www.accfb.org.

Good Medicine 7 Piece Band @ Westover Winery At 4:30 p.m. June 3, Good Medicine, a 7-piece band, is playing at Westover Vineyards, 34329 Palomares Road, Castro Valley. Tickets are \$50 per car load (10 people max). Armadillo Willy's BBQ dinner is available for \$20 per person and three ribs, 1/4 chicken, BBQ beans, green salad, muffin and 1 non-alcoholic drink. Taste any five ports with glass for \$10. Call 426-0929 for more info.

Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 6, join us on a tour featuring 10 beautiful Pleasanton homes. Tickets are \$35 per person and are available at Feline Medical Center, Western Garden Nursery, Towne Center Books, Pleasanton; Armstrong Garden Center, Wild Birds Unlimited, Dublin; Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore. The tour benefits the Valley Humane Society. Email wendymcnelley@comcast.net for info.

Paint Our Town Purple Pleasanton's Main Street will be "painted purple" for the first time May 1 as a part of the annual Relay for Life. Volunteers are needed April 30 and May 4 to tie/untie the purple ribbons. Email brian@cirrus-financial.com for details.

Ship of Hope Gala Join us for "A Night in Rio de Janeiro," with emcee KPIX 5's Roberta Gonzales from 6:30 to 11 p.m. May 4 at the Blackhawk Museum, 3700 Blackhawk

Health

Breast Health: Lymph Loving! World School of Massage, 699 Peters Ave., will offer a free seminar for the general public from 4:30 to 6 p.m. May 1 called "Breast Health: Lymph Loving!" This stand-alone, free seminar will teach self-massage. Participants will leave with self-care techniques to use at home. Call 461-2533 or visit www.worldschoolmassage.com.

Foot Freedom: My Feet Are Healthy! From 4:30 to 6 p.m. May 10 the World School of Massage, 699 Peters Ave., will offer a free seminar for the general public called "Foot Freedom: My Feet Are Healthy." Patricia Cramer, the owner and founder of World School, teaches the seminar. This class offers a chance for participants to give well-deserved attention to their feet. Call 461-2533 or visit www.worldschoolmassage.com.

Spring Immunization Clinics For Children Axis Community Health free immunization clinics are open to Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care from 9 to 11:30 a.m. May 5 at 4361 Railroad Ave. Bring immunization records, insurance and income information. There is a fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755 for details.

Holiday

English Rose Offers Special Tea for Moms The English Rose Tea Room, 163 Neal St., specializes in pampering its guests. To offer local residents a way to thank their moms and give them extra love and care, the business is offering special Mother's Day Teas at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. May 12. The menu will include the usual traditional afternoon tea and special treats. Tickets are \$25 per person. Contact Lisa Binzoni at 462-6233.

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Kids & Teens

"Passport to Pleasanton"

Multicultural Festival Pleasanton PTA Council's third annual multicultural festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 28 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Families are encouraged to attend to experience live performances, taste food and play games representing cultures from around the world. Free admission and parking at Gate 8. Call 846-3257 or visit www.pleasantonpta.org.

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. Call 485-4380, email info@puregirlsclub.com or visit www.puregirlsclub.com.

Mother/Daughter Spa Event Bond and enjoy the Pure Girls Mother/Daughter Spa Event on from 6 to 8 p.m. May 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 26 or 2 to 4 p.m. May 27 at 660 Main St. Teens get a spa etiquette overview then both of you receive a free skin care review and spa escape before either a manicure or a pedicure. Call 485-4380 or visit www.puregirlsclub.com. The cost is \$59 per pair

Lectures/ Workshops

Creative Self-Promotion with a Positive Attitude Cindy Ng of Favorite Printing, an award-winning offset print shop, will be the special speaker at 11:45 a.m. May 8 at the East Bay's Communication Arts Network (CommArt), which meets at Mudd's Restaurant, 10 Boardwalk Place, San Ramon. Tickets are \$20 cash. CommArt meets the second Tuesday of each month at Mudd's from 11:45 to 1:30. call 462-8083 or visit www.commartnet.org.

Dealing with Change in the Wake of Cancer People with cancer and their caregivers experience many life changes upon diagnosis. The Wellness Community presents a free interactive multimedia presentation from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 17 at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W Las Positas Blvd.; which will help you more effectively manage change in your lives. Ways we cope and ultimately deal with our reactions to loss will also be addressed. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org.

Food Stamp Workshop Free food stamp enrollment workshops are offered monthly at the food bank office, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. April 30, bilingual food bank staff are available to help participants complete the food stamp application and will submit it to the food stamp office for them. Contact Liz Gomez at outreach@accfb.org or (510) 635-3663. Visit www.accfb.org for information.

HSA's (Health Savings Accounts) 101 Controlling health care costs is the no. 1 concern among employers for the seventh consecutive year. How is your company addressing this issue? Find out more from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 9 at HSA's (Health Savings Accounts) 101, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. The cost is \$30 for members, \$50 for non-members. Call (415) 291-1992 or visit www.nchra.org.

Leadership Event of the Year! The Influence Index, unprecedented in scope, brings captains of industry and leadership experts such as Ken Blanchard, Malcolm Gladwell, Tim Sanders, Terry Bradshaw, John C. Maxwell, and Mark Sanborn for training from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 11 at the Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive in Dublin. Tickets are

\$75.00 early registration, \$99.00 after April 27, or \$129.00 on the day of the event, if available. Information and registration online at www.dublinvcc.org.

NCHRA Tri-Valley: HSA's 101 Review basics and trends in health savings accounts at the Tri-Valley chapter of the Northern California Human Resources Association workshop from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 9 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Oakley. Earn 1 CPE credit and network with other HR professionals. Tickets are \$30 for members, \$50 for non-members. Call 809-3522.

Live Music

Lounge Entertainment The Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., hosts several acts in April. For a full list of performers, visit www.pleasantonhotel.com. Happy hour, featuring a \$2.99 bar menu, is available from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

Pleasanton Farmer's Market The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will be playing for your shopping enjoyment May 5. Director Bob Williams will strike up the band at 9 a.m. Featured in the music will be tunes celebrating Cinco de Mayo. In addition the band will play other tunes that are outdoor favorites. The market is located on Abbie and Main streets.

Posterboy The Pleasanton Public Library will be hosting a teen-only musical performance by local band Posterboy in the library's teen area May 5. Art by local high school students will also be on display. The program is free and open to teens ages 13 and up. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Artists' Flea Market The public is invited to the Artists' Flea Market from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 5 at DeLucchi Park, First Street at Neal in downtown Pleasanton. New and used art supplies, equipment and discounted artwork will be on sale. Everyone invited to check out the great bargains.

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.

Letter Carriers Food Drive Help stamp out hunger with the National Association of Letter Carriers' 15th annual food drive. Leave non-perishable food donations near your home or business mailbox for pickup on May 12 when your mail is delivered. Call (510) 635-3663 ext. 318 or visit www.acfb.org for information.

On Stage

Comedy of Errors The Livermore Shakespeare Festival presents "Comedy of Errors" July 12 to August 4 at the Retzlaff Estate Winery, 1356 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore. The Comedy of Errors is a robust comedy with two pairs of mix-matched twins, entwining desire with hi-jinks and past loss with present laughter. Tickets go on sale May 15; call (800) 838-3006. Visit www.LivermoreShakes.org.

Grease It's 1959 and Rydell High is filled with rebellious, thrill-loving students. Sandy Dumbrowski enters as the new girl in school, and it turns out that she and the leader of the Burger Palace Boys gang, Danny Zuko have had a brief love affair the over the summer. Will they find love? Presented by Pleasanton Playhouse, shows are at 8 p.m. April 20 through

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Saturday, May 5th
East County Animal Shelter (ECAS)
4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin
1:30-5:00 p.m.
Free hot dogs & soft drinks!
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Tri-Valley Animal Rescue
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Adopt a dog & receive FREE:
✓ Dog bed, leash & collar
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We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information contact Sue at (408) 202-6708 (c) or visit: www.tv-ar.org

"Cinco de Mayo" Celebration

Get Acquainted with our Sister City

- No entrance charge
- 8 Piece Mariachi Band
- Pinata Fun for Kids
- Food and sodas available to purchase from a local restaurant
- Information on Sister City
- Free Raffle Drawings

Sunday, May 6th
Pleasanton Aquatic Center
1:30-4:00pm

Bring Your Family for an Afternoon of Fun and Entertainment

Sponsored by
Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City

May 6 at Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors, \$20 for under 18. Call 462-2121 or visit www.pleasanton-playhouse.com for details.

Raising The Barre Valley Dance Theatre presents a mixed repertory at 7 p.m. May 26 and 2 p.m. May 27 at Livermore HS Performing Arts Center, 600 Maple St., Livermore. It's sure to delight audiences of all ages featuring two full-length ballets, *The Firebird*, a magical creature captured by a prince; and *La Boutique Fantasque*, a magical toyshop that comes to life. Also featuring scenes from *Romeo & Juliet*. Tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and ages 13 and over, free for children under 12. Call 243-0927 or visit www.valleydancetheatre.com.

Sondheim's "Putting It Together" Role Players Ensemble Theatre presents "Putting It Together," 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays from April 20 through May 12, at the Village Theatre, 233 Front St., Danville. Tickets are \$18-24, \$15 for groups more than 10; purchase tickets at www.villagetheatreshows.com, or call 314-3400. Visit www.danvilletheatre.com for more info.

Political Notes

Darfur Rally in San Francisco Human rights activists across the Bay Area are preparing to mark a grim fourth anniversary of the Darfur genocide with a major rally tied in with demonstrations worldwide. The San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition will gather April 29 at the San Francisco Civic Center Plaza at 4 p.m. Visit www.darfurfr.org.

Immigration Discussion Berkeley Professor, Dr. Irene Bloemraad will discuss immigration and social responsibility, at 10 a.m. May 12 at the annual meeting of the Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters. The public is invited for the discussion in the Community Room at the Livermore Police Station, 1110 South Livermore Ave. Immigration is the topic of the next LAV-LWV study group. Call 443-8683.

Iraq Peace Forum Seven diverse speakers headline a peace forum sponsored by Resolution Peace, a network of Democratic clubs and progressive organizations, from 1 to 4 p.m. May 12 at the IBEW Meeting Hall, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin. Diablo Valley College professor, Scott MacDougal will moderate the discussion. Panelists will take questions from the audience. Visit www.ResolutionPeace.org.

State Hunger Action Day Join the Food bank staff and the California Hunger Action Coalition for a day of legislative visits, briefing on current state hunger issues, testimony from grassroots groups, rallies and more from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 8. Buses to Sacramento leave from the Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. Contact

Betsy Edwards at advocate@accfb.org or (510) 635-3663 ext. 307. Visit www.accfb.org.

Recreation

One Year Anniversary Party at John Christopher Cellars John Christopher Cellars in Blacksmith Square is celebrating its first anniversary from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 5 and 6 at 25 S. Livermore Ave., Suite 103 in Livermore. Come enjoy wine tasting, grilled sandwiches by Blue Sage Catering, live music and local artists work on display, and more during the Wine Country Festival weekend in downtown Livermore. Email chris@johnchristophercellars.com, call 456-WINE (9463) or visit www.johnchristophercellars.com for details.

Scholarships

Amador Valley Athletic Boosters Scholarship Each year the Amador Valley Athletic Boosters provide three \$1,000 scholarships to senior athletes who have competed for Amador Valley High School for a minimum of two years. These are the Selway Presidents Scholarship, the Mano Service Scholarship and the Steve Mattos Memorial Scholarship. Participation in athletics or spirit is required. Criteria for the scholarship is the student's citizenship, leadership and service, as well as the parent's participation and service to Amador Valley High School, especially in athletics. The nomination must be by an AVHS Coach or a Booster Club member. See your team rep for a nomination form or email avboosters@comcast.net. Booster's Scholarship deadline is May 1.

Seniors

Computer Classes for Seniors 55+ The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., offers computer classes from 9 to 10 a.m. 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. Email mcorporea@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or call 931-3400 ext. 21 for details.

Long-Term Care Insurance Made Easy Long-term care insurance helps pay for the care you need when you can no longer care for yourself. It can protect your family's financial future and your own investments and savings. Join us as we explore this timely topic with Marcy Gutierrez, CASL, from 10:30 a.m. to noon May 8 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton. Activity fee is \$1.25 for residents, \$1.75 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Pleasanton PC Users Group The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. 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. Call 931-5365 or email pleaseni@yahoo.com for details.

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 environment to connect with others? In need of a place to share, support and reminisce? Join the Transitions Support Group meeting 2:30 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5379 for info.

Spiritual

Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality The First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, 2020 Fifth St., invites the public to a seminar and workshop titled "Jesus, the Bible and Homosexuality: Explode the myths, heal the church" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 28, with registration and coffee at 9:30 a.m. Dr. Jack Rogers, author and theologian, will discuss his book of the same name. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch and childcare. Call 4447-2078 for reservations and information.

Spring Tea Pleasanton Presbyterian Women will host a Spring Tea featuring Wanda Bistrow, a Christian dramatist, writer and storyteller. She will present "Whither Thou Goest" and "The Bible Story of Ruth and Naomi," with daughter Linda, who has composed special music. The program also includes a tea luncheon and door prizes from 1 to 4 p.m. May 5 at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church, 4300 Mirador Drive. Tickets are \$20. Call 846-7017 for reservations.

Tri-Valley Unity Church Tri-Valley Unity Church meets for Sunday service and children's school 10 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. There are ongoing classes and groups with Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Tri-Valley Unity Church Special Mother's Day Service Tri-Valley Unity Church will meet at Old St. Raymond's Church, 6600 Donlon Way, Dublin on May 13 only, for Mother's Day. Sunday service and children's school begin at 10 a.m. All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Sports

Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp Final applications are now being evalu-

Take Us Along



Catherine Rush

Kitten season

Are you interested in becoming a foster parent for a local animal rescue organization? This time of year animal shelters are preparing to care for everything from pregnant cats to orphaned newborn kittens in need of bottle feeding. Foster homes also provide care to kittens, like the ones pictured here, that just need a few weeks of foster care to prepare them for adoption. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, check out the Web sites of the following three local animal rescue organizations in the Tri-Valley area: Tri-Valley Animal Rescue, www.tvar.org; Valley Humane Society, www.valleyhumanesociety.org; and Tri-Valley SPCA, www.eastbayspca.org. Each Web site lists the organizations' requirements for volunteers and prospective foster families. Committed foster parents save lives and fostering can be a very rewarding volunteer experience.

ated for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. By invitation only, boys and girls ages 10 to 19 are eligible to apply. Players from 50 states and 17 countries attended the 2006 camp. There is also a summer camp for boys and girls ages 6 to 18 of all skill levels. Call (704) 373-0873.

Tri-Valley Cheer Sign-Ups Tri-Valley Cheer Xtreme is a competitive cheer program based in Dublin. If you are between the ages of 10 to 15, sign-ups for the upcoming 2007 season are at Frederiksen Elementary School, 7243 Tamarack Drive, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. the following days: April 25, and May 2, 9 and 16. Registration fee is \$50.00. Contact Carol at Mosescheer4you@aol.com or 216-6742. Visit <http://trivalleycheer.tripod.com>.

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones meets from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Valley Care Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Facilitated by The

Wellness Community. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org.

Cancer Support Group A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones. Facilitated by The Wellness Community. The group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twc-bayarea.org. 2-4 p.m. No Charge

Choosing to Heal Discover the 10 choices you can make and the 10 lies you must reject to open the door for healing. This life-changing small group will be given practical, Biblical counsel on how to move forward in life. The small group meets for eight weeks starting April 25 at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive in Dublin. Childcare is provided. Led by a trained counselor, the group is \$25 per person. Register online at www.dublinvcc.org.

Domestic Violence A Domestic Violence support group is held 5 to 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Tri-Valley Haven, 3663 Pacific Ave., Livermore, for Women in Livermore every Wednesday evening. Survivors will be able to address issues of abuse in relationships. The cost is \$40 for every eight weeks, or based on a sliding scale. Call 449-5845 ext. 202 for details.

East Bay Cancer Support Group The East Bay Cancer Support group is an independent, non-profit, non-

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sectarian organization serving cancer patients, caregivers and the bereaved at Faith Lutheran Church, 20080 Redwood Road, Castro Valley. All services are provided free of charge. For scheduled meeting times, please call (510) 889-8766 or visit www.ebcancer-support.org.

Grief Share Are you looking for community, understanding and support? If you have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. The grief support group meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. It is \$35.00, with scholarships available. Call 560-6202 or register at www.dublinvcc.org.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy support group's next meeting is at 10 a.m. April 24 at the Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. The group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesdays of each month. Peripheral Neuropathy generally presents itself as tingling, pain or numbness in the feet or hands. It is hard to diagnose and is common. All are invited to learn more about this disease. Call Lorene at 447-6158 or Ann at 443-4098.

Manspeak This weekly men's group meets 8 to 9:30 p.m. Monday nights at Kiva Counseling Group, 11740 Dublin Blvd., Suite 202 in Dublin, and is designed to create a community between men to resolve problems, form friendships, and understand and improve relationships. It provides a source of support for personal growth and change in a safe environment so we can become aware of our own emotional habits and attitudes. The cost is \$30 per session or \$100 per month. Call 485-9370 or visit www.kivaspirit.org for details.

Vision Support Group Individuals with low vision, and their loved ones, are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for low vision information, speakers, resources, discussions, and day trips. No reservations are required. Nominal fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

Volunteering

Alameda County Community Food Bank Volunteers are needed

to sort food, answer the food helpline and general office work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. Groups and individuals are welcome. Contact Charles Beyer at cbeyer@accfb.org or (510) 635-3663 ext. 308. Visit www.accfb.org.

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 at Saturday Salon at 4th St. Studio, 2235 Fourth St., Livermore. Email karenwrites@pacbell.net or call 456-3100.

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

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

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue Do you love animals? Become a volunteer or a Foster with Tri-Valley Animal Rescue. Orientations are held at East County Animal Shelter (ECAS) from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the second Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month. Registration is not required to attend the orientation. Call 803-7043 or visit www.tv-ar.org.

Volunteer Luncheon and Training The Museum on Main, 603 Main St., is hosting a volunteer luncheon and training session 11 a.m. May 9. RSVP by calling 462-2766.

TV30

"Ask the Doctor" LIVE Laser eye surgery and eye health is the topic for "Ask the Doctor" live on TV30 from 7 to 8 p.m. May 2. Ophthalmologists Todd Auken, M.D., and Todd Severin M.D. will answer questions. Viewers can phone in by calling TV30 at 462-3030. Sponsored by San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

"Let's Talk Sports" Las Positas College Basketball special with players and coaches and host George "Dr. B" Baljevich will air on Channel 30 April 17 through May 1 from Monday through Sunday at 2 and 6:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 11:30 a.m., 2, 4 and 6:30 p.m. Visit www.tv30.org.

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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 ate 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.

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.

California Cuisine

Stacey's at Waterford

4500 Tassajara Road, Ste. C., Dublin, 551-8325. We serve seasonal California cuisine using the freshest ingredients, with delicious dishes including seafood, pasta, meat, wood fired pizza and even vegetarian choices. Available for special events on Sundays. Visit www.staceysatwaterford.com.

Stacey's Cafe

310 Main St., Pleasanton, 461-3113. Located on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, Stacey's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, serving fresh California cuisine. Come as you are and enjoy our dining room, banquet room, outdoor patios and full bar. Visit www.staceyscafe.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 cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.pandapleasanton.com.

Willow Tree Chinese Cuisine

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

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

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

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern

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

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Dining Out

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Fusion

Oasis Grille

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

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

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

Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

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

La Vite Ristorante

3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 485-4500. La Vite Ristorante 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 at West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton, 484-1001. Girasole, a locally owned family business, is an award winning California style Italian restaurant. We feature signature cuisine such as Scoozzi, Absolut! prawns, chicken gorgi, spinach for Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood...just to name a few.†We are upscale, but California casual with friendly prices.

Pastas Trattoria

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

Japanese

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Main St., Pleasanton, 417-1224. Come downtown for fine dining and casual lunches in our outdoor patio. Our menu includes a variety of selections from classic tortilla soup and mole poblano to grilled salmon (a house specialty) and filet mignon with a spicy Chipotle Chile sauce. We also specialize in premium "sipping" tequilas and carry over 200 different varieties. Visit www.blueagaveclub.com.

Pizza

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288 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-2520.

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Casa Madrid in Pleasanton is open for dinner Monday through Sunday. Incorrect information was published in the Pleasanton Weekly's Dining Out Guide on April 13.

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