

# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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## GOING BONKERS FOR BUNKO



**Social dice game a hit in Pleasanton** page 24

### INSIDE

## this week

### Extension OK'd, for now

Council votes  
unanimously on  
Stoneridge Drive  
plans

page 5

### Underpass under way?

Unforeseen flood  
problems delay  
Valley Avenue  
construction

page 10

### Broken records

Foothill track  
team races in  
Sacramento

page 19

### Crafty carving

Local  
woodworker's art  
featured on Ellen

Section 2

### Subprime not sublime

Mortgage troubles  
continue to hurt  
housing market

page 38

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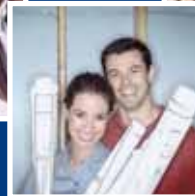
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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Hosterman feuds with other cities and loses

Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman stopped by my office the other day to bemoan the vote by the mayors of Livermore and Dublin and County Supervisor Scott Haggerty against her bid for funds to widen Hwy. 84 (Vallecitos Road) from south of Vineyard Avenue to I-680. At one time, she had their support, but the City Council's unwillingness to extend Stoneridge Drive to El Charro and Livermore has soured important regional cooperation, which Hosterman touted when she signed on to the new Tri-Valley Triangle Policy Advisory Committee just after she was elected mayor in November 2004. Pleasanton's role as a regional player bogged down almost immediately when Hosterman insisted that the long-planned and controversial extension was not something the Triangle Committee should deal with, as others on the committee said it should be. From the start, as I covered those committee meetings, it was a "them and us" situation with Mayors Marshall Kamena of Livermore, Janet Lockhart of Dublin and Haggerty arguing that Stoneridge, just as Dublin Boulevard and Jack London Drive from El Charro east into Livermore, is a key component in a regional transportation plan. Besides allowing local residents to drive between cities on these streets instead of the freeway, these roadways that are roughly parallel to 580 offer detour routes in the event of a major accident on 580.

Unfortunately for Hosterman—and Pleasanton's other delegate to the Triangle Committee, Councilwoman Cindy McGovern—the majority on the committee approved a multi-million-dollar plan for improving 680 and 580, including adding carpool and toll lanes, but voted down Hosterman's alternate plan that would support their plan but also add design work, funding and construction of Hwy. 84 improvements south of Pleasanton to I-680. That ended the Triangle Committee's work, which then took its recommendation to

the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, a joint-powers group whose board consists of Haggerty, County Supervisor Nate Miley, and all of the mayors of Alameda County cities, including Hosterman, Lockhart and Kamena. Hosterman, who hadn't attended a CMA meeting since her re-election as mayor last November, arrived late last week to appeal to the full CMA board to postpone its decision on the Triangle Committee's report until the City Council could look again at the Stoneridge extension. She lost again, big time, in a 17-1 vote (hers was the one vote).

Pleasanton officials have often had differences with neighboring cities, but we seem to have reached an historic low point today. Previous mayors and councils have criticized the high-rise, high density residential and commercial developments in Dublin and the zero-growth policies of Livermore that have denied developers the chance to build more affordable, workforce housing. Even personal relationships between Hosterman and the other mayors seem strained. A few months ago, the mayors of Danville, San Ramon, Dublin and Livermore traveled as a group to Washington, D.C., for meetings with Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and Representatives Ellen Tauscher (D-10th) and Jerry McNerney (D-11th). They asked Hosterman to join them, but she said no at the last minute, saying she was too busy studying for her state bar exams, even refusing their request that she appoint someone else to represent Pleasanton. Then last month, Hosterman and Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio made the same trip themselves, a move that added to souring relations.

The Pleasanton council's action last Tuesday to keep the Stoneridge extension in the city's new General Plan may help restore the regional good will we need here. Once that decision is firmed up, the CMA might take another look at Hwy. 84. It's too important of a project to get lost in political and personality clashes. ■

### About the Cover

There's no shortage of bunko teams in Pleasanton. The social game, played with three dice, is popular with mainly all-female groups, but there's also at least one couple's group in town. Players say they enjoy the game for its low level of difficulty and it's also an excuse to catch up with old friends once a month. Cover by Manuel Valenzuela. Vol. VIII, Number 15

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# Streetwise

**Q:** Do you think there should be labels for cloned meat and dairy products in grocery stores?

Asked Downtown



**Tracy Mattox**

Chemist

I think toying with genetic diversity over the long haul could be a bad idea. Animals become sick and get diseases. This has happened with bananas—they are only expected to be around for 10 years or so because there are no seeds, no genetic diversity. Short term, I don't see a problem eating cloned foods but long term it could be a problem.

**Eline Kaufman**

Loan Officer

I think they should definitely be labeled. We all like to know what we are eating. Everything else is labeled "organic," "fat content," etc. I'd like to have the choice of purchasing it or not. Whether it's right or wrong is not the issue. It's more about consumers having the choice.



**Rob Thomlinson**

Engineer

I believe they should be labeled. Consumers need to be given a choice. As far as whether or not I would eat cloned foods, I'd need to read more about it, but I believe I would.

**John Haley**

Software Engineer.

It doesn't bother me personally. There are people out there who disapprove ethically to cloning and they should have the right to know what they are buying. I don't have a problem eating meat from a cloned animal.



**Tony Kudron**

Manager

It doesn't really matter to me. A pig is a pig and a cow is a cow. If the original animal was healthy and disease free and didn't need to be labeled then I don't care about eating the clone. Cloning and genetic modification are two different things. Knowing your food is from a cloned animal should make no difference at all.

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour

Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour, benefiting the Valley Humane Society, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 6. The tour, rain or shine, will take participants to 10 outstanding and unique gardens at Pleasanton homes, where the love of gardens meets the love of pets. Non-refundable tickets at \$35 per person can be purchased at the Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada Street and other local locations. Call VHS at 426-8656.

### Lab physicist named to county's women's hall of fame

Lab physicist Hope Ishii has been selected to the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame as the 2007 Outstanding Woman in Science. Ishii was honored for research she performed as part of the Lab's Stardust team. The NASA Stardust mission was launched seven years ago to capture particulate materials from the comet Wild 2. These bits of dust offer a snapshot of the building materials available around the time that planets were forming.

### 2007 Crystal Apple Awards Ceremony

Youth from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Pleasanton and Dublin will host the fourth annual Crystal Apple Awards ceremony at 7 p.m. May 6 in the Pleasanton Stake Center at Valley Avenue and Paseo Santa Cruz. The Crystal Apple Award recognizes teachers and administrators who have a particularly strong influence on students in the development of positive moral values and character traits. This year's recipients are Colin Wenstrand and Chris Murphy from Amador High School, Lenni Velez and Tim Sbranti from Dublin High School, and Howard Gilliland and Mary Crawbuck from Foothill High School.

### Carden West summer camp

Carden West School is now enrolling students for Summer Camp 2007, from June 11 to Aug. 17. The camp will be held at the school campus, 4576 Willow Road in Hacienda Park, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. weekdays, and is open to children 18 months through fifth grade. The camp will combine academics, instructional programs, recreational activities and special events with a 1 to 4 teacher-student ratio. Call 463-6060 or visit [www.cardenwest.org](http://www.cardenwest.org).

## Stoneridge Drive extension gets council's conditional OK

*Lawmakers rule that regional traffic problems must be fixed first*

by Jeb Bing

In a move that many in Pleasanton would have found incredulous just a few weeks ago, the City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to keep the long-proposed extension of Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road and Livermore in the city's new General Plan.

While ending years of debate

over whether to keep the extension plan alive, the vote Tuesday was so complex that it's uncertain, if not unlikely, that the extension will be built anytime soon.

The vote, coming at the close of another four-hour meeting on the issue, was especially painful for Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and council members Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan. McGovern and

Sullivan promised in their election campaigns in 2004 to never allow the extension and, in fact, to take it out of the new General Plan. Hosterman said much the same when first elected to the council in 2002 and in her election and re-election campaigns as mayor in 2004 and last November.

Newly-elected Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio won election

to the board last November, telling constituents that she would have an open mind on the issue, but indicating that she might favor the extension. Councilman Jerry Thorne won the support of voters in the Mohr-Martin neighborhood off Stoneridge Drive—a community that has been fiercely opposed

(continued on page 10)



Congressman Jerry McNerney, (D-Pleasanton), stands with members of the Amador Valley High School civics team, including their teacher Brian Ladd on the steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Congressman McNerney's Office

## Amador civics team snags 2nd place

*Three days of simulated congressional hearings ends with award Monday in Washington, D.C.*

Amador Valley High School's competition civics team won the second place award Monday in Washington D.C., at the national "We the People" competition.

It was the second consecutive year that Amador topped all other championship teams from all other states but one, including the District of Columbia.

After three days of simulated congressional hearings, during

which students were required to apply constitutional principles and historical facts to contemporary situations, the class from Denver East emerged as the national champion. Amador and Grant High School from Portland took second and third place, respectively.

The announcement of the top three classes—as well as 18 winners in other categories—was made

(continued on page 7)

## Foothill principal named to key district post

*Kevin Johnson promoted to director of pupil services; succeeds Rich Puppione*

by Emily Atwood

Foothill High School Principal Kevin Johnson announced that he plans to take over the role of Senior Director of Pupil Services for the school district after Rich Puppione retires July 31. Pending approval by the school board May 8, Johnson will start at the beginning of the new school year, meaning the district must now search for a new principal.

Johnson has been the principal at Foothill since 1996 and has been with the district since 1984, working as a teacher, student activities director, dean and assistant principal at Amador Valley High School before becoming assistant principal at Foothill.

Puppione, who has been with the district for 30 years, is confident that Johnson will do well in the new role.

"I've worked with Kevin since he was a teacher and vice principal at Amador and a principal at Foothill," he said. "I think he's going to do a great job in pupil services because he grew up in Pleasanton, went to our schools and

that history is what's needed with our job. He's shown that he can make a decision and he can follow through with the regulations of the district."

Superintendent John Casey said the process of hiring a new principal for Foothill is under way and applications are due May 18. He also said it is pretty rare for there to be an opening for a new high school principal, since Johnson has been at Foothill since 1996 and Principal Bill Coupe has been at Amador Valley High School since 1998. The job requires four years of teaching experience and three years in administration. A master's or doctorate degree is a plus.

"We want somebody who can walk on water," Casey said. "It's a very tough job; an exhausting job. We need somebody who is a great communicator with the community and is available and visible, someone who can work with staff effectively to make critical decisions."

Applicants will receive two interviews, one of which will be a screening by a broad-based panel.

(continued on page 11)

## Cinco de Mayo celebration Sunday

*Community invited to have fun and learn more about sister city Tulancingo, Mexico*

The Pleasanton-Tulancingo Sister City Association is hosting a Cinco de Mayo celebration from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center, 4455 Black Ave.

This is the organization's first time throwing a Cinco de Mayo party, said Anne Richert, publicity director for PTSCA.

"Basically, we hope to make

people more aware of the sister city organization and what we have to offer," Richert said. "Some people commented that we don't do enough activities in Pleasanton with the sister cities, so this is something where people can just stop by and have fun."

The day will include an eight-piece mariachi band, piñatas for the

(continued on page 9)



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Emily Atwood

Livermore Police Sgt. Mike Mayberry, who graduated from Foothill High School in 1977, speaks with students about the life of a person in law enforcement at Foothill's 15th annual Alumni Career Day.

## 15th annual career day highlights variety of jobs

*From game designing to policing, high school students learn about life after graduation*

by Emily Atwood

Alumni gathered at Foothill High School April 20 to share with current students about life after receiving a diploma. The 15th annual career day brought experts representing a vast array of fields, from a creative director for a Web site to an environmental health specialist, and police officers to an Oakland A's sports writer.

A particularly notable presenter was Jenna Chalmers. The 1990 Foothill grad said she was into theater and band while in high school and always thought she would get a job making films. She never dreamed she would become a game designer for Electronic Arts,

based in Redwood City. While she played video games with her brothers growing up, she said she didn't play excessively.

"[Movies and games] are very similar," she said. "I got a job as a producer for gaming and found I had design skills."

Since then she's worked on popular games like 'The Sims' and is currently working with the top in the field on a new game called Spore.

She gave a behind-the-scenes view of the gaming industry and surprised students by revealing little known facts. Who is the target demographic? Not geeky teen

(continued on page 12)



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Brian Ladd

The civics students were able to visit with Congressman McNerney while they were in Washington D.C. for the "We the People..." competition last weekend. Ladd later accepted a plaque from McNerney honoring the team's accomplishment in winning second place.

## We The People

(continued from page 5)

at the awards banquet Monday evening before an audience of 1,500 students, teachers, coordinators, judges and other program participants. The winning class from Denver East was presented with an engraved plaque of the Constitution and each student was awarded a gold medallion.

The 30-member Amador class, which had spent over 15,000 combined hours of study and preparation for the competition, was presented with plaques of the Bill of

Rights and students were awarded silver and bronze medals. The seven high schools that finished the competition on fourth through 10th place received engraved plaques.

This is the eighth year that Amador competition civics teams have won state championships and competed in the national "We the People" contest. The school fielded teams in the nationals in 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000 and 2004. In 1995, Amador won the national championship last year and now again in 2007.

The team is coached by Brian Ladd, a social studies teacher for the last 17 years and last year's

teacher of the Year.

Members of this year's team were David Anderson, Adam Bacal, Olga Beltsar, Mika Bhatia, Yvonne Chi, Tyler Creighton, Aaron Diggins, Robert Doxey, Alexene Farol, Wesley Garwood, Alex Hall, Emma Holmquist, Lauren Ivey, Garima Kalra, Catherine Kennedy, Taylor Lane, Christopher Loncarich, Devin Maguire, Angelo Marcelino, Elena Moreno, Bianca Ponce de Leon, Prachi Priyam, Carl Schlachte, Carena Schmidt, Elizabeth Smutz, Darylen Terry, Linda Wan, Frederick Young and Allen Yu, Alex Zhu.

—Jeb Bing

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## Check mate!

At the Berkeley Chess School's eighth annual East Bay Elementary Chess Team Championship April 14 in Walnut Creek, Walnut Grove Elementary School's team placed fifth out of 22 school teams. Above are Walnut Grove's highest scorers Austin Kim, Adam Schmit, Kevin Wiener, and Glynn Williams. Other team members were Martin Grant, Brandon West, Brody West, and Brian Wiener. Walnut Grove began an after-school alliance with chess school three years ago. There are several schools in Pleasanton who run similar after-school programs, including Carden West and Donlon, Fairlands and Valley View elementary schools. The Pleasanton Recreation Department also offers chess classes taught by teachers from the Berkeley Chess School. Visit [www.berkeleychessschool.org](http://www.berkeleychessschool.org) for more information.



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*75,000 copies distributed to local hotels, airports, welcome centers, AAA offices, tradeshows, community events*

Hot off the presses is this year's Tri-Valley Convention and Visitor's Bureau 2007-8 visitor's guide.

In full-color and magazine style, the 56-page guide that's motto is "Stay. Play. Meet. Taste. Shop." showcases the Tri-Valley region and CVB members, including area hotels, wineries, golf courses, restaurants and retail shops. It also features expanded editorials, maps of golf and wine country, a meeting planner and dining guide, city highlights and a calendar of events.

This is the first year the guide has included the town of Danville, which is the latest city to join the

bureau. It also includes Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and San Ramon.

Copies of the guide will be distributed to local hotels, the Oakland and San Francisco airports, California State Welcome Centers, AAA offices, in CVB sales and media kits, information packages sent all over the world and at trade shows and community events.

The bureau has generated \$4 million in the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. They are located at 349 Main St., Ste. 203 in downtown Pleasanton.

—Janet Pelletier



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## Pleasanton Post Office asking for food donations

*As part of 15th Annual Letter Carrier's Food Drive, Alameda County Food Bank seeks 100,000 pounds*

by Janet Pelletier

As you browse the aisles of your local grocery store in the next few days, the Pleasanton Post Office is asking you to pick up a couple extra items for those in need.

The 15th Annual Letter Carrier's Food Drive will be held nationally on May 12. Thousands of Bay Area letter carriers will pick up more than just the mail as they travel about on their routes that day during the "Stamp Out Hunger" drive.

The drive is the nation's largest one-day effort. Postal workers will be collecting non-perishable food that people can leave beside their mailboxes. The summertime is when emergency food requests

increase dramatically, according to Judyth Collin with the Alameda County Community Food Bank, which will be the beneficiary of Pleasanton donations.

The food bank is hoping to receive 100,000 pounds of food this year. Last year, 95,000 pounds was collected in the county and more than 70 million pounds was collected nationwide.

Types of non-perishable foods can include nutritious varieties of canned vegetables and fruits, tuna, peanut butter, rice, dry beans and pasta. Carriers will also come to businesses on their routes.

"In Alameda County, one in three children is at risk of hunger," said

Suzan Bateson, executive director of the Alameda County food bank. "Low-income families are especially challenged during the summer months when their children don't have access to free or reduced-price lunches. We depend on the letter carriers' food drive to replenish pantries that are very depleted at this time of the year."

The drive is supported by the U.S. Postal Service, United Way, AFL-CIO Community Services network, Campbell Soup Company and America's Second Harvest.

Reminder cards will be sent to residents on May 10, according to Pleasanton Postmaster Gurjant Khosa. ■

## PPIE celebrates 20 years of enhancing education

*More than \$500,000 has been given to students, faculty through grants*

by Emily Atwood

During their 20 years in enhancing education, the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE) has given more than \$500,000 in grants to students and faculty. To celebrate the anniversary, PPIE thanked their benefactors at the annual Salute to Partnerships lunch last Wednesday.

PPIE joins together community and business with education to offer unique learning experiences to students in the Pleasanton Unified School District. It grew out of the district's concept of a business partnership program in 1985. Over the years PPIE has not only raised a lot of money, but has organized career days for the middle schools, facilitated excellence in education awards and presented the choices program for eighth graders, where community and business volunteers undergo training to

counsel students on making good choices.

Executive Director Debi Covello said the money given through grants comes from the group's fundraisers. A major one, she said, was the CEO dinner, where company leaders would receive tips for waiting on tables. For the last three years their culinary event has been a hit.

"In keeping with what we do," she said, "we partner a school principal with a chef and a business partner. Approximately 18 teams compete for a prize. People come and enjoy incredible food and wine, and jazz and auction activities. Last year we netted \$80,000 back to the schools."

It's the 17th year of the foundation's student grant program, and the second cycle of the 2006-07 student grant awards was recently announced. Seven students were chosen to receive up to \$2,500 for their project or activities. Each appli-

cant must have a teacher sponsor and the site principal's approval.

Niral Bhavsar of Foothill High School received \$500 towards the robotics and technology club. The robotics club at Donlon Elementary School wants to expand and needs educational kits and parts, so James and David Kozuch were given \$500.

Amador High School students Mike Chen, Caroline Hsia, and Trevor Landas were each awarded \$250 attend the DECA international competition in Orlando. Carl Schlachte and Elizabeth Smutz were given \$500 for the "We the People..." competition in Washington D.C. Rachael Kroneder is also an Amador student who received \$250 towards the school's job expo which provides students with summer and long-term job opportunities.

For more on PPIE and upcoming events, visit [www.ppie.org](http://www.ppie.org). ■

## Students asked to design logo

*Logo for Tri-Valley Youth Court will be used for envelopes, letterhead, business cards*

Attention budding artists and designers: The Tri-Valley Youth Court is looking for you.

The youth court is holding a contest for high school students in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin to develop a logo for the organization.

The logo will be used for enve-

lopes, letterhead and business cards among other items.

The court will begin sessions this fall at the Alameda County Superior Courthouse in Pleasanton. The courts will be run by youths under the supervision of adults. Cases will be limited to crimes not involving weapons or major violence.

Logo submissions must be made digitally and the deadline is May 21. For a list of all the specifications, visit [www.livermorespromise.org](http://www.livermorespromise.org) or call Kathy at 606-7564.

The winner will be announced at the end of the month. The prize also includes a check for \$250.

—Janet Pelletier

## Cinco de Mayo

(continued from page 5)

children, raffles, prizes and a variety of Mexican dishes available for purchase. Students who participated in the PTSCA exchange program will

also be there to share their experience and the community can learn more about all the activities the PTSCA hosts throughout the year.

PTSCA is expecting about 200 people to attend this free event and hopes families will come out to share the afternoon.

"It's a fun family afternoon activ-

ity and a way for people to learn more about the sister city organization," Richert said.

Call Pat Murray, 846-2673 for more information about the Cinco de Mayo event. Visit [www.ptsc.org](http://www.ptsc.org) to learn more about the PTSCA and Tulancingo.

—Rebecca Guyon

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# Flooding concerns delay Valley Ave. underpass opening

*Back-up pumps should make roadway ready for traffic this summer*

by Jeb Bing

The city's new \$5.3-million underpass that will connect a newly extended Valley Avenue to Sunol Boulevard at Junipero Street is all finished and ready to open.

There's just one problem: The underpass could flood quickly because of an unexpected seepage from underground water. Additional backup pumps are needed before the underpass can open.

City Engineer Phil Grubstick said the underpass was built with a system of pumps to handle flooding problems. But concerns grew after construction crews found underground water veins were closer to the surface than earlier test borings showed.

"As a result, the seepage could

be quite severe in certain weather and we want to put in a system of backup pumps in the event the main system goes out," Grubstick said. "That will take another two months at least before we can test the equipment and open the underpass."

Valley Avenue street signs are in place and a traffic light is ready to turn on at the corner of Case Avenue and the new Valley thoroughfare. When opened, Valley will connect Sunol Boulevard around the west edge of the Bernal property to Bernal Avenue at I-680, and then on to Stanley Boulevard at Bernal Avenue.

Valley Avenue will become one of the longest thoroughfares in Pleasanton, and will provide fairgoers with a new direct route to the

county fair this summer.

Along with the completion of Valley, construction will start this summer on three new baseball fields on the Bernal property, which will be accessed from Valley Avenue.

Parents and school students have been anxiously awaiting the completion of the Valley Avenue underpass since it will provide a direct route from homes in Bernal and in the Greenbriar homes west of I-680 to both Hearst Elementary and Pleasanton Middle School. As it is, bicyclists and pedestrians are now using the new Valley Avenue under the railroad tracks even though it is not open to vehicular traffic. The fencing has been opened and there are no signs prohibiting pedestrians. ■



All paved, striped and ready for cars, this new \$5.3-million underpass for Valley Avenue below the Union Pacific Railroad tracks seems to flood due to heavier ground seepage than expected. Its opening will await installation of back-up pumps that are now on order.

## Council

(continued from page 5)

to connecting Stoneridge to El Charro—in the special election he won in 2005, but was more agreeable to hearing all arguments as he led the ticket last November.

In the end, the council voted to:

- \* Keep the extension of Stoneridge Drive as a long-range plan in the new General Plan, just as it is in the 1996 General Plan, which is still in force.

- \* Word the final plan agreement so that the extension could be built only with the approval of the City Council and after regional transportation improvements have been made.

Less clear was the demand by some on the council that State Hwy. 84 be widened all the way from I-580 to the north to I-680 to the

south. The council agreed that an expressway-like improvement to Hwy. 84—which is Vallecitos Road south of Ruby Hill and Isabel Road from Ruby Hill to 580—could help reduce congestion at the 680-580 interchange and also decrease cut-through traffic on Pleasanton streets.

The Isabel improvements have been funded and work is under way to widen that roadway to four lanes from Ruby Hill to Stanley Boulevard, and later to six lanes to the 580 freeway. Funds are also allocated for a new interchange at 580 and Isabel. Funds also have been allocated and work is scheduled to get under way this summer on a truck-climbing lane on the uphill side of Vallecitos to the top of Pigeon Pass.

But the section of Hwy. 84 most critical for motorists is the two-lane roadway just off 680 and over Pigeon Pass. Traffic snarls there in both morning and evening rush

hours, and accidents have tied up the entire thoroughfare for hours.

Hosterman lost in her bid to the Tri-Valley Traffic Study Committee last month to make improvements to that section of Hwy. 84 a part of its regional improvement plans. Representatives on the committee from Livermore and Dublin, and County Supervisor Scott Haggerty, miffed that Pleasanton had not committed to building the Stoneridge Drive extension which they want, voted 5-2 against helping Hosterman on the Hwy. 84 proposal.

Instead, they adopted a regional plan that calls for carpool and toll lanes and other improvements on 580, 680 and other regional roadways. They then took their plan to the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, which accepted it in a 17-1 vote over Hosterman's appeal that it postpone taking any action.

Tuesday night's vote to keep the Stoneridge extension in the new General Plan was seen as a recognition that Pleasanton will need regional help in handling traffic in and around the city. The council's action, it was hoped, might persuade the CMA to reconsider its vote and put Hwy. 84 back on the schedule.

The argument against extending Stoneridge Drive to El Charro is the fear by residents in Mohr-Martin that their now dead-ended street will become a major thoroughfare for rush hour commuter traffic between 580 and 680. Although Stoneridge Drive was extended from Santa Rita Road in 1990 to allow the development of their community, residents there said they were never told that the street could become a major throughway.

Calling it the biggest decision the current City Council will make,

Sullivan said he personally agonized over voting to keep the Stoneridge extension alive. He pressed his colleagues unsuccessfully to tie its construction to not only regional traffic improvements but also to traffic surveys that would show they work.

"To build the Stoneridge extension now would be a recipe for disaster," Sullivan said. "I don't want to see regional transportation problems solved on our city's streets."

He urged the council to draft a ballot measure that would block the extension's construction until regional improvements are made, and then to ask for voter approval in November.

Cook-Kallio objected, saying that as elected officials, it's the council, not voters, who need to make tough decisions that benefit the community as a whole.

"To put this on the ballot would be divisive and split the community even more than it is now over this single issue," she said.

"We've had many public meetings," she said. "We're getting massive amounts of emails and my phone has been ringing off the hook. The public has weighed in over the course of years. We were elected to make decisions and this is one we should make."

McGovern said she has opposed the extension, but has changed her mind because of new information. She wants to make sure Stoneridge Drive stays primarily as a city street and not become an alternate route for freeway travelers.

She also opposed asking voters to decide the question in a referendum.

"What if we hold a referendum and 51 percent of the voters say yes and 49 percent don't want the extension built?" she asked. "Where are we then as a community?"

Hosterman said she, too, was changing her long-standing opposition to reluctant support. She said she views the construction of the extension as a bargaining chip that Pleasanton should hold on to until the regional transportation improvements it wants are in place. ■

## We need a graphic designer

The Pleasanton Weekly and the Danville Weekly is currently seeking a **Graphic Designer** to help produce our Tri-Valley community newspapers. The position will be approximately 36 hours per week and will include benefits.

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# LPC sends cards, shows sympathy for VA Tech

*Free throw event will raise funds for new memorial*

by Rebecca Guyon

As news spread of the tragic April 16 massacre at Virginia Tech, many across the country sent their condolences to the school's students and faculty—a way to deal with the grief and reach out to those in need.

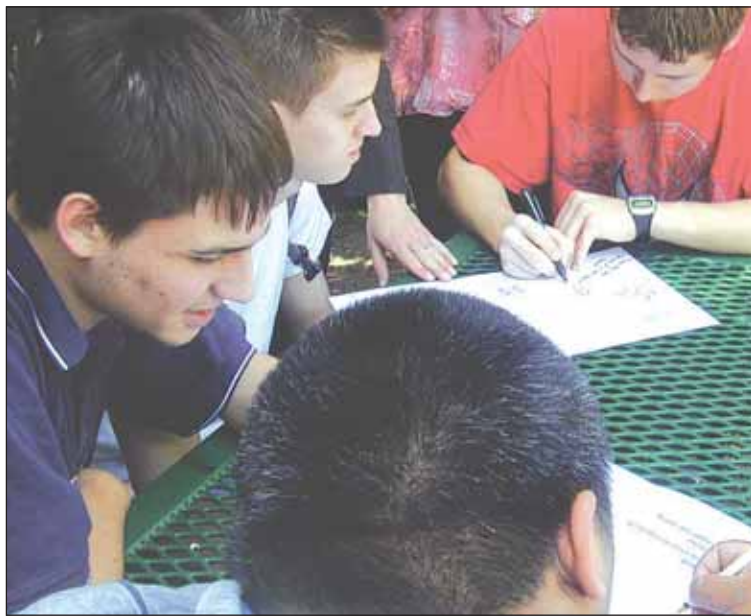
Students at Las Positas College joined this procession, sending cards of sympathy to the Virginia Tech community and organizing a fundraiser for a memorial planned to be built on the Virginia Tech campus.

"Watching the coverage of the massacre, I was disturbed and worried about coming to school," said LPC Spanish Instructor Catherine Suarez, who organized both the signing of the cards and the fundraiser. "How would LPC process this? I thought we could send Virginia Tech cards, reaching out as a community that shares something in common with them as a place of learning and teaching."

The school sent 10 cards and a giant banner, both signed by students, expressing their support and condolences. The cards were made by community college students, designed with the LPC logo on them. Each contained a different message. Students signed the cards last Friday and they were sent on Monday.

"I felt sorry for the people who died and the families who lost family members," said Esther Chege, an LPC student who signed the card.

Beyond sharing condolences, Suarez also wanted LPC to help Virginia Tech in some way, which is how the idea to hold a fundraiser came about. The school is hosting a free throw event featuring members of the new LPC men's and women's basketball teams at 7 p.m.



Rebecca Guyon



Rebecca Guyon

(Top) Las Positas College student Eric Reilly (in red) signs a card for Virginia Tech along with other classmates. Above, cards signed by students were sent out Monday and a fundraiser will be held May 18 to go toward a memorial on the Virginia Tech campus.

on May 18 at the LPC gymnasium. Suarez said the event is a good way to feature the new basketball teams and give back to a good cause.

There will also be food, music and raffle drawings. Funds raised will go toward a memorial on the Virginia Tech campus. ■

## Johnson

(continued from page 5)

Casey said the panel would include parents, teachers, classified employees, administrative representatives and even students. That panel will identify those whom they believe qualify and the pool would be narrowed to two or three.

The toughness of being a principal wasn't why Johnson decided to move to pupil services.

"Pupil services is going to be a demanding job," he said. "I've enjoyed my 12 years at Foothill. It's a new opportunity and I'm remaining in the system. I'll still support Foothill, and all schools."

In the pupil services role, tasks include dealing with student records, discipline appeals, enrollment, training vice principals, working with counselors and acting as a police liaison, among other tasks.

"Rich has done amazing work for our school district and our community," Johnson said. "I think we've all learned from each other.

One thing I can take from him is passion and commitment to kids."

And though Johnson is leaving Foothill, he said it's with "mixed feelings."

"It's hard to leave a place I've been at so long and enjoyed so much," he said. "But there's also the sense of excitement of continuing what Rich started."

Casey is also positive about the abilities of Johnson for the position.

"Foothill is an outstanding school with all of the awards and recognitions it's received," he said.

"A major thing that has occurred is to see the school grow and maintain faculty that's committed and positive, along with the community during growth. That's hard to do and Kevin made that happen."

Puppione said he will also miss the job, mostly because of the people he's worked with.

"There's a great group of people from my own staff to the people in the schools that I work with on a daily basis and of course that includes the students you deal with and help connect them to services they need," he said.

But as for retirement, he's expecting an easy transition.

"I plan on continuing to work building character in schools," he said. "Every day is a great day. I'm just going to continue having great days."

The district also announced last week the promotion of Bill Faraghan, the director of human resources since 2005. Also pending approval of the board, he will be the assistant superintendent of human resources following the retirement of Clem Donaldson, effective June 30. Faraghan came to the district in 1988 as a teacher at Harvest Park Middle School. He subsequently worked as a dean and assistant principal at Pleasanton Middle School, then was principal at Fairlands Elementary School.

Former PUSD Superintendent and current embattled Palo Alto Unified Superintendent Mary Frances Callan has announced that she is retiring at the end of this school year. She will be replaced by Kevin Skelly, associate superintendent of the Poway Unified School District in San Diego County. ■



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Janet Pelletier

**Painting the town purple**

It was raining purple last Tuesday when volunteers with the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life blanketed the downtown with purple streamers and ribbons. Volunteers tied bows on even the smallest of places, including this column with an iron horse in the parking lot next to Round Table Pizza. The ribbons were tied in support of cancer survivors and victims. The Relay for Life walk will be held July 28 and 29 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

**Kiwanis club hosts Sunday Stroll**

*Restaurant and wine tasting tour downtown to benefit local charities*

The Pleasanton Kiwanis Club is serving up a restaurant and wine tasting walking tour May 20.

It begins at 1:30 p.m. that day at Gay 90's Pizza, 288 Main St. On the tour, groups of five will be taken to six different restaurants, some which include Gay 90's, Baci and Pastas Trattoria. Along the way, guest will sample wines that were donated and eat hors d'oeuvres. The tour will end at Vic's All Star Kitchen, 201 Main St. where all will enjoy a spaghetti dinner.

The event is in its third year,

according to Kiwanis member Dawn Wilson.

"This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for us," Wilson said, adding that the club has 16 members.

The proceeds raised will benefit Access Community Health, the pediatric ward of ValleyCare Medical Center and Open Heart Kitchen.

Tickets cost \$30 per person. The tour is limited to 125 people and no tickets will be sold on the day of the event. For information, contact Wilson at 846-5858 or Vic Malatesta at 484-0789. ■

**Career Day**

(continued from page 6)

boys like the students guessed, but women over 30. And the most lucrative games aren't first-person shooters, but those that appeal to both sexes with a unique edge that allows players to create a non-linear story line.

Livermore police officer Sgt. Mike Mayberry was another popular presenter. Graduating in 1977, he said his job was the best because in his 21 years on the police beat, his job is never the same. Students were very attentive when he spoke; though perhaps unloading his "toolbox" of intimidating arsenal may have helped.

Yet Mayberry stressed that what matters as a member of law enforcement is behind the uniform and the armor: personal integrity.

"Without it, you're useless in law enforcement," he said, adding that only 1 of 100 applicants make it past the tough screening process to be an officer on the street.

The future of the job, he said, is in understanding computer crimes. And if he were to do it all over again, he would have taken more literature and psychology classes as much of the job consists of paperwork and helping people in difficult situations.

Thirty-five alumni from 1977 to as close as 2004 to help the high school juniors and seniors get a better understanding of the working world. In its 15th year, organizers, including parent volunteers chemistry teacher Len Reppond, work hard to put this event on because of the credibility alumni bring and the chance for students to get a step ahead in the ever-changing job market. ■



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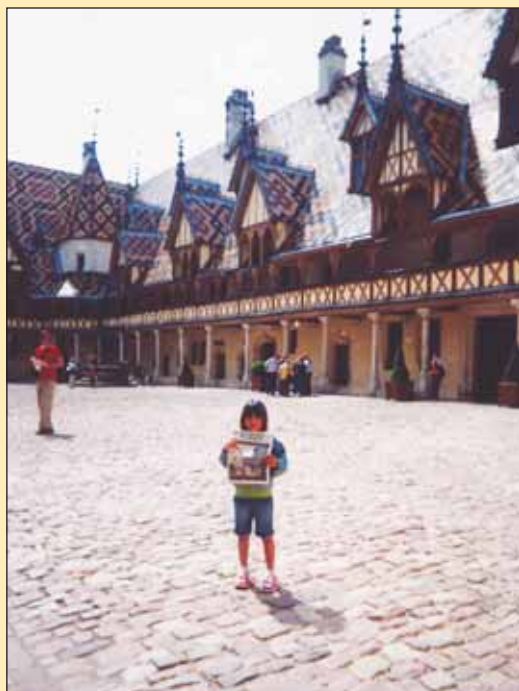
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Weekly makes a great wedding gift

Old friends from Foothill High School class of 1988, (Back Row, L-R) Valerie Montellano, Lynette Cox, Erin Kelly, Kerry Dantzig, Laurie Petterson, Erin Kvistad, Kim Valenzuela, (Front Row) Aileen Arellano, met up in Mission Viejo, Calif. for their friend Nicole Meier's (now Rusin) wedding. Knowing how to get a party started, the group brought the Weekly and busted it out for some reading action at the wedding reception.



C'est le Weekly

Jocelyn Cardoza reads the Weekly in front of the Hotel Dieu in France during a family vacation.



Vatican vacation

Margie and Randy Schmidt read the Weekly while visiting Vatican City. Here they are in front of St. Peter's Square.



Weekly Town Square

Even before the new Town Square bulletin on www.PleasantonWeekly.com, you could find the Weekly in Tallin, Estonia in the center of the Town Square. Who knew Pleasanton residents Mike and Katherine Ferreira and Cyril and Diana Bonanno had such foresight?



To the Tower!

In this day and age, going to the Tower of London is actually a fun adventure as Scott and David Hunford found out. They even made a friend by sharing their copy of the Weekly.

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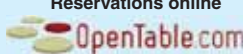
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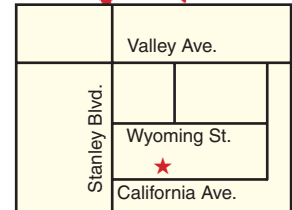
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1 tbl cilantro, minced (a ceramic knife is perfect for this)  
¼ tsp cinnamon                      ½ tsp oregano  
1 tsp salt                                      Pepper to taste  
1 egg    2 qts chicken stock  
2 carrots, peeled and sliced (easy, with a ceramic Perfect Peeler)  
2 potatoes, peeled and cubed (ditto)  
2 zucchini, sliced (lots of knife work, eh?)  
Mix ground meat with the jalapeno, spices and egg. Shape  
into 1-inch balls and refrigerate until ready to use. In an Inox  
stockpot by SPRING Switzerland, bring stock to a boil and add  
the meatballs, one at a time. Simmer an additional 10 minutes.  
Add, carrots, potatoes and zucchini and continue to simmer  
until the meatballs are cooked through, approximately 10-15  
minutes longer. Garnish with sour cream, salsa, and chopped  
green onions. This soup can be prepared with any additional  
vegetables that are in season.



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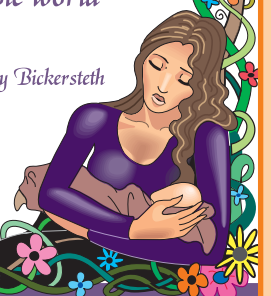
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# Community Pulse



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, May 9, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- PCUP 139, Tucknott Electric and Liquid Coating Designs  
Application for conditional use permits to allow the operation of two construction and/or construction-related business offices located at 1032 Serpentine Lane, Suite 103 and 1262 Quarry Lane, Suite D, respectively, within the Valley Business Park.
- PUD 61, Emil Oxsen and Kathleen Morrison  
Application for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning of an approximately 10,669 square foot parcel from the R 1 6,500 (Single Family Residential) District to the PUD HDR (Planned Unit Development – High Density Residential) District and for development plan approval to allow the existing 1,118 square foot and 1,200 square foot single family detached units and detached garage located at 403 St. Mary Street/730 Peters Avenue.
- PUD-93-02-09M/PCUP 182, Barnabas Nagy  
Applications for: (1) a major modification to the Ruby Hill PUD development plan to: (a) relocate the existing sales office building on Ruby Hill Boulevard northwesterly along Vineyard Avenue; (b) change the existing office use to restaurant use; (c) revise the configuration of the existing parking lot; (d) establish a new driveway off of Vineyard Avenue; and (e) establish a pad location and design guidelines for a future single family residence; and (2) a conditional use permit to allow the operation of a restaurant with alcoholic beverage service after 10:00 p.m. The property is located at 2001 Ruby Hill Boulevard. Also consider a Negative Declaration for the project
- PUD 62/PGPA 13, Windstar Communities, Inc.  
Work Session to review and receive comments on applications for General Plan Amendment and Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning and development plan to construct a mixed use high density residential/commercial development containing 350 apartment units and approximately 12,000 square feet of commercial/retail space at the property located at 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road (adjacent to the future West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station)

### Civic Arts Commission

Monday, May 7, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Review of options for the proposed "Cat in the Hat" Sculpture
- Review of proposed Downtown Public Art Master Plan
- Review and approval of draft FY 2007/08 City Grant Recipient Compliance Requirements and funding reallocation plan
- FY 2006/07 City Grant Quarterly Reports

### Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, May 10, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

- Please visit our website at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us) to view the agenda.

### Library Commission

Thursday, May 10, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.

Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

- Summer Reading Programs (Children's and Teen)
- Commissioner Goals

### Youth Commission

Wednesday, May 9, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.

Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- FY 2006/07 City Grant Quarterly Reports
- Discussion Regarding the Book "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens", by Sean Covey

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
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The above represents a sampling of upcoming meeting items. For complete information, please visit [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

## Police Bulletin

### Grand theft at Village High School

A security officer at Village High School received a call from the alarm company around 2 a.m. April 29, saying an alarm had sounded at the 4649 Bernal Ave. campus. When the security officer arrived at the scene, he saw a woman exiting the parking lot in a blue Volkswagon Passat. He followed the vehicle and obtained the license plate number. At the campus, he searched and said the campus was secure. The following day a teacher noticed wires had been cut in two electrical pits. The stolen copper wiring had an estimated value of \$6,000.

### Kaiser offices burglarized

An unknown suspect burglarized offices in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive owned by Kaiser Permanente. Entry was made into the offices and a storage closet sometime between 4 p.m. April 20 and 8:30 a.m. April 23. Items, including a computer and other office equipment, were stolen and/or damaged.

### Burglar enters home through unlocked window

Between 10:35 a.m. and 1:40 p.m. April 26, an unknown suspect entered a home in the 1600 block of East Gate Way and stole various items including a computer, jewelry and an iPod. The total value of the stolen goods was estimated at \$5,050.

## Police Report

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

### April 21

- DUI: 2
- Found property: 1
- Vehicular theft:
  - 3:44 a.m. in the 8100 block of Arroyo Drive; parts, worth \$200-400
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 9:47 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; worth \$200-400
- Vehicular vandalism:
  - 5:32 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; worth less than \$1,000
- Public drunkenness:
  - 12:34 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

### April 22

- DUI: 1
- Found property: 1
- Theft:
  - 5:06 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; from vehicle, worth \$50-199
  - 8:05 p.m. in the 4700 block of Augustine Street; from building, worth over \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 8:59 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; worth over \$400
  - 11:49 a.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; worth over \$400
- Public drunkenness:
  - 1:50 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
  - 11:49 a.m. in the 6400 block of Owens Drive

### April 23

- Found property: 1
- False pretenses:
  - 1:01 p.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court
- Vandalism:
  - 9:13 a.m. at the intersection of W. Las Positas Boulevard and I-680; public, worth less than \$1,000
  - 10:13 a.m. in the 3400 block of National Park Road; public, worth less than \$1,000
  - 4:06 p.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive; vehicular, worth over \$1,000
- Residential burglary:
  - 5:30 p.m. in the 1500 block of Oxsen Street
- Drug violations:
  - 1:15 p.m. in the 3800 block of Old Santa Rita Road; paraphernalia possession

- 5:27 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; marijuana possession
- Unauthorized commercial entry:
  - 8:30 a.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive
- Assault:
  - 7:22 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue
  - 11:09 p.m. in the 3400 block of Norton Way

### April 24

- Found property: 1
- Theft:
  - 12:25 a.m. in the 5500 block of Baldwin Way; from vehicle, worth \$200-400
  - 12:23 p.m. in the 3000 block of Hopyard Road; forged checks
  - 2:12 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; from building, worth over \$400
  - 2:46 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$50
  - 4:30 p.m. in the 5600 block of Spring House Drive; false pretenses
  - 5:00 p.m. in the 800 block of Palomino Drive; identity theft
  - 7:43 p.m. in the 7700 block of Canyon Meadow Circle; from vehicle, worth less than \$50

### April 25

- DUI: 1
- Identity theft:
  - 10:35 a.m. in the 3200 block of Belvedere Court
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 2:42 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; worth over \$400
  - 9:19 p.m. in the 7500 block of Stonedale Drive; worth less than \$50
  - 2:27 p.m. in the 7400 block of Stonedale Drive; worth \$200-400
- Threats:
  - 6:30 a.m. in the 800 block of Palomino Drive
- Open container in vehicle:
  - 8:50 a.m. at the intersection of Sonoma Drive and Sunol Boulevard
- Unauthorized residential entry:
  - 3:13 p.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court
- Display/use of a gun:
  - 7:41 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road

### April 26

- Annoying phone calls: 1
- Theft:
  - 11:05 a.m. in the 5100 block of Golden Road; identity theft

- 2:52 p.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard; embezzlement
- 5:30 p.m. in the 300 block of Main Street; false pretenses
- Vehicular vandalism:
  - 6:36 a.m. in the 3700 block of Marlboro Way; worth less than \$1,000
- Burglary:
  - 6:13 a.m. in the 3800 block of Pimlico Drive; vehicular, worth less than \$50
  - 11:37 p.m. in the 900 block of Main Street; commercial
- Unauthorized residential entry:
  - 1:45 p.m. in the 1600 block of East Gate Way

### April 27

- DUI: 2
- Theft:
  - 4:19 a.m. in the 6900 block of Koll Center Parkway; from building, worth over \$400
  - 10:57 a.m. in the 4200 block of Hacienda Drive; from building, worth over \$400
  - 12:00 p.m. in the 5500 block of Johnson Drive; credit card fraud
  - 1:24 p.m. in the 4100 block of Hazelhurst Court; from vehicle, worth \$50-199
  - 2:11 p.m. in the 4000 block of Rennellwood Way; credit card fraud
  - 2:50 p.m. in the 2400 block of Tapestry Way; from vehicle, worth less than \$50
  - 6:28 p.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive; shoplifting, worth over \$400
- Commercial burglary:
  - 8:27 a.m. in the 900 block of Main Street
- Drug violations:
  - 1:50 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; paraphernalia possession
  - 2:10 a.m. in the 4800 block of Saginaw Drive; cocaine possession
  - 11:55 p.m. in the 80 block of Shore Drive; marijuana possession
- Unauthorized commercial entry:
  - 1:30 p.m. in the 600 block of Main Street

### ACCIDENTS

### April 22

- 9:02 p.m. - Injury accident at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Black Avenue

# Transitions

## Obituaries

### Ray Miller

Ray Miller of Pleasanton died April 16 at Stanford Medical Center following complications from a stroke.

Mr. Miller was born and raised in Oakland and lived in Castro Valley for 26 years, before moving to Pleasanton in 1994.

He enjoyed a long list of musical accomplishments, ranging from working with Walt Disney in the Mousketeer Club to the Stan Kenton Orchestra. Mr. Miller retired from AT&T after 25 years of employment and was currently employed by Robert Half International. Throughout his career, he was passionately involved with music ministry. He served many years as a Minister of Music at Neighborhood Church as well as other Bay Area churches, and most recently at Redwood



Chapel of Castro Valley.

He will be remembered for his deep love for Christ, passion for music, zeal for photography and love for road trips. He was a fabulous husband, devoted father, enthusiastic "Papa" and a loyal friend.

He is survived by his wife Vivian, of 46 years; son and daughter-in-law, Ray and Helen Miller of Stockton; daughter and son-in-law, Renée and Shareef Mahdavi of Pleasanton; and grandchildren, whom he adored.

There will be a celebration of his life at 3 p.m. Saturday at Redwood Chapel in Castro Valley.

### Frances Seed

Frances Seed died April 17 at her daughter's home in Fremont at the age of 82.

Born March 30, 1925 in San Bernardino, Calif., she was raised in the Bay Area and graduated from high school in San Leandro. Mrs. Seed called Pleasanton home for over 37 years. She enjoyed shopping, gardening, golf, traveling and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Walter Seed; daughter

Rebecca Camara of Fremont and son Timothy Clark of Corcoran, Calif.; grandchildren Kathy Nelson of Stockton, Michael Murazzo of Brentwood, Cheryl Martinez of Pleasanton, Glenn Vargas of San Jose, James Vargas of Newark; great-grandchildren Joshua, Kendall, Kaitlyn, Logan, Lexi, and soon-to-arrive Henry; brother Gil Prevetle.

She was preceded in death by daughter Connie Clark of Dublin and son Boyce Clark of Texas.

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

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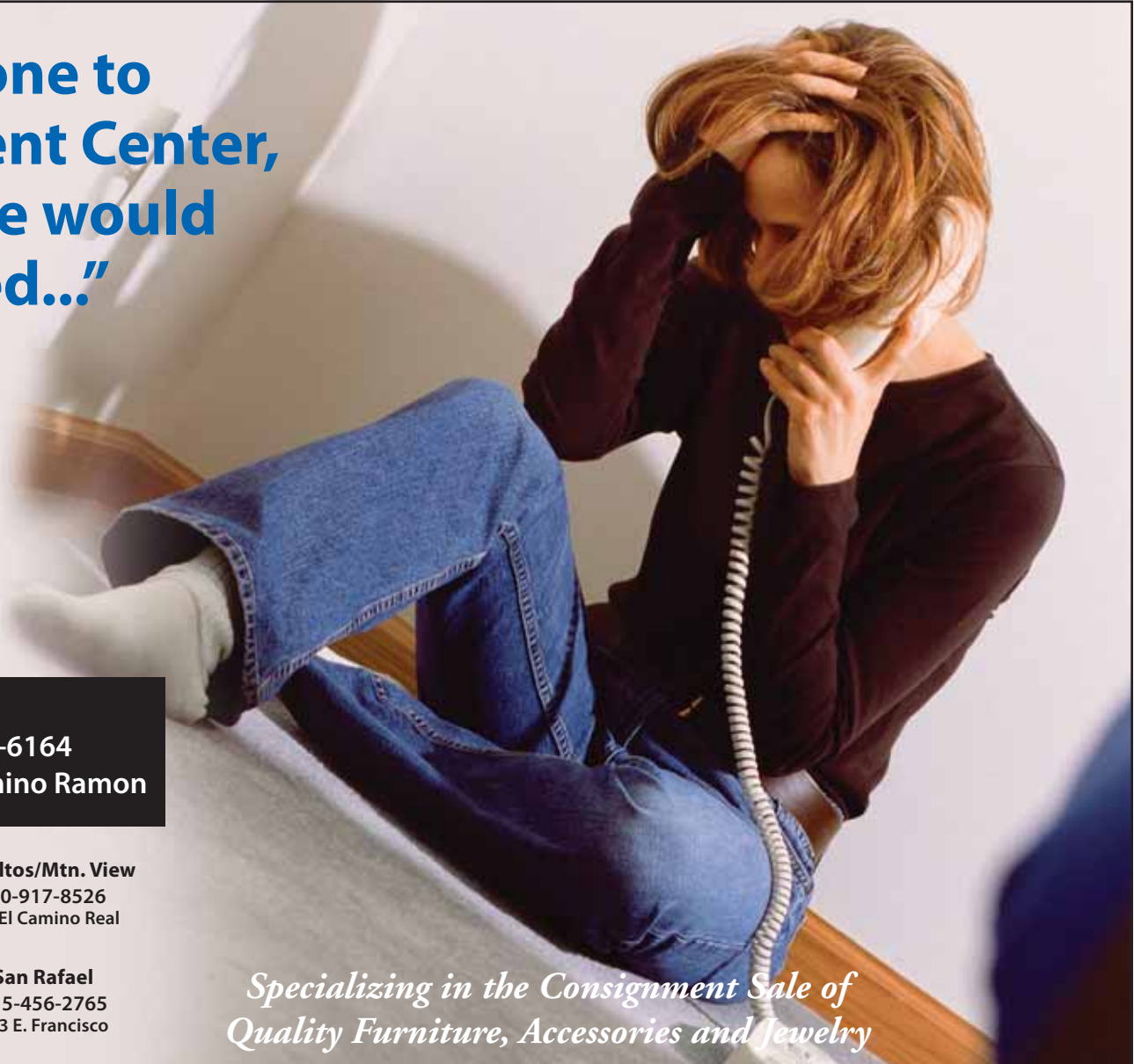
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# Sports

## Falcon track team races to records

Several qualified track and field athletes traveled to Sacramento April 28 to compete in the Meet of Champions. They had to face many of the top athletes in the state. Sophomore Matt Yankowski finished fifth in the 1600-meter race and broke Foothill's Frosh/Soph record and his own personal record with a time of 4:34.53. The record was held for 32 years, since 1975, by Bruce Rogers with a time of 4:36.40.

David Norton finished second in the 200-meter race with a time of 23.05, his personal record. Senior Tony McCan was in eighth place in the 800-meter race with a time of 1:56.92. Jim Heppner competed in the 3200-meter race with a finishing time of 10:14, while Will Loewenhardt ran the 800-meter race with a time of 2:09.25. The Frosh/Soph 4x400-meter relay team consisting of Norton, Davis Rajs, Tyler Stetson, and anchored by Loewenhardt finished with a time of 3:42.87.

—Monica Yankowski

## Monte Vista takes second game of freshman baseball series

For the second game in a row the Monte Vista Mustang pitching stymied the Foothill Falcon bats, holding the boys in blue to only two hits over seven innings. The day got off to a good start as lead-off hitter Garrett Moore singled in his first at bat, but that would be all the offense until the last inning. In the seventh, Austin Mann reached first on a Mustang throwing error. With the fleet footed Spencer Miller taking over the running duties, Ryan Mende crushed a triple to the left center, scoring Miller for the only Falcon run of the game.

—Richard Hengehold

## Foothill girls lacrosse loses to Cal High in sudden death

Fresh off a win over Granada April 24, Foothill women's lacrosse lost to Cal High April 27. The Falcons matched blows evenly for two complete halves of their match with Northern California's No. 1 rated and undefeated Cal High Grizzlies last Friday night.

Freshman Goalie Andrea Renton picked off nine Grizzly shots on the night, effectively keeping her team in the game. While Renton was the force in goal, Tracy Pham matched her on the field, time and again swooping into a crowd to pick up loose ground balls. Pham's (almost) coast-to-coast sprint to score a goal in the second half tied the game at the time.

The Falcons came out strong scoring the first two goals of the

game. But the Grizzlies came roaring back with five straight of their own. The Falcons battled back before half coming within one at 8-7.

The battle continued in the second half, and came down to Kelsey Adamson's goal with seconds left in regulation, tying the game at 11-11, and sending it into overtime.

The overtime procedure calls for the teams to play two 3-minute halves, then, if neither team has a lead, start a 3-minute sudden-death period. The 11-11 tie continued into the sudden-death period, where the Grizzlies found an opening and put one into the net for the win.

Falcons scorers: Lyssia Porter, 5; Brigitte Brierley, 3; Alicia Roe, 1; Tracy Pham, 1; Kelsey Adamson, 1.

—Tim Shearer

## JV softball moves to 7-0 in EBAL

After a home win against hometown rivals Amador Valley, the Foothill JV softball team defeated Danville's Monte Vista April 27. Mariah Worley struck out 11 out of 18 batters in five innings and allowed only two hits and one walk as the JV improved their record to 7-0 in EBAL league play.

Once again the Falcon bats came alive when they delivered 13 runs on 12 hits. Taylor Schoonover, Jennifer Ong, Allie Straub, Jennifer Flaming, and Jenica Holt each had a pair of hits. Straub, Flaming, Haley Piona and Schoonover each hit a triple.

—Coleen Worley

## Blizzard lacrosse remains undefeated

The Pleasanton girls lacrosse Blizzard team remains undefeated with victories over the Burlingame Coyotes and Ross Valley Grizzlies April 28 at Rheem Elementary School in Moraga.

The Blizzard beat the Coyotes with a score of 7-3. Cambi Cukar, Kira Ewanich, Kirsten Jensen, McKalee Mooney and Evan Murphy scored the goals for the Blizzard. Andrea Arden had a stunning interception and assists were made by Lindsey Kail. Excellent ground balls were fielded by McKalee Mooney. Goalie Haley Brodnick blocked the Coyotes' speeding shots.

For the second game, the Blizzard beat the Grizzlies with a score of 5-3. Cukar, Ewanich, Jensen, Tori Larsen and Mooney scored the goals for the Blizzard. Outstanding plays were made by Jenny Gubner, Sarah Monday and Madison Steele. Excellent ground balls were fielded by Kail. Goalie Meghan Serrano stayed tough against the Grizzlies' shots.

—Kim Cukar

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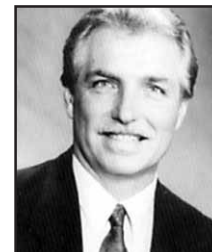
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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Congratulations to Amador's competition civics team

Congratulations to the 30 seniors on the Amador Valley High School competition civics team and their teacher and coach Brian Ladd for winning the second place title in last Monday's national "We the People" competition. Sure, it would have been nice to win the top award, which Denver East high School took home, but second place in this annual Washington, D.C. contest is mighty good, especially when we consider that Amador competed against the civics champions from 49 other states and the District of Columbia.

The "We the People" is a competitive civics experience sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, a division of the U.S. Department of Education. In their competition last weekend in Washington, the Amador students' knowledge of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the founding of the United States and the evolution of American government was tested in simulated congressional hearings that fostered critical thinking and creativity. After two days of intense examination by panels of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists and government leaders, the field of 1,200 students and 51 high schools was narrowed down to the final 10. When the champions were announced last Monday night, Amador came up second, behind Denver (Colo.) East High School and ahead of third place winner Grant High School from Portland. If it was any conciliation, Amador's long-time nemesis, East Brunswick (N.J.) High School, which has a year-long course in competition civics compared to Amador's one semester, and is a frequent winner, including taking the championship prize last year when Amador again came in second, finished among the trailing seven finalists in this year's program.

More than 28 million students and 90,000 educators have participated in the "We the People" program since its inception in 1987. Civics teams in the national competition must win their state's contests first, which Amador has done eight times. The school fielded teams in the nationals in 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000 and 2004. In 1995, Amador won the national championship and in 2006 and now again this year finished second. We join with Amador Valley High, the Pleasanton school board and the City Council in the special congratulations to come this week and next for these high-achieving seniors and Brian Ladd for their extraordinary accomplishments.

### Where was Pleasanton in freeway collapse crisis?

We're as impressed and appreciative as everyone by the quick response of government and private sector leaders following the collapse of a key section of the I-80 and I-580 connectors west of the Bay Bridge early last Sunday morning. The collapse came after a tanker truck carrying 8,600 gallons of unleaded gasoline apparently careened into a guard rail, crashed and exploded, with the fierce heat melting the upper roadway. The explosion occurred at 3:42 a.m. and by 7 a.m. television news reports showed emergency crews from San Francisco, Oakland and the state already assessing the damage and planning repairs. San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and Oakland's Ron Dellums were on the scene later, joined by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Joined by their staffs, they moved quickly to set up emergency routes for Monday morning commuters, with the governor declaring a free day for anyone riding BART or AC Transit.

But where was Pleasanton? Other than the media, including this newspaper's regular updates at our online edition, www.pleasantonweekly.com, there was no help or advice from City Hall. As motorists scrambled to find parking spaces at the Pleasanton BART station, which were gone by 7 a.m. Monday, police and others failed to reach out to offer temporary parking on the shoulders of wide open Owens Drive and Willow Road. This city is quick to post streets around the Fairgrounds as 'no parking' zones at fair time, but it needs to reverse course and allow parking near BART until the 580 emergency repairs are over. In a city where 1,400 commuters head to jobs in San Francisco and beyond every day, we should do our part in helping them use public transportation by making sure they have a place to park.

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# Letters

## Mayor responds to votes, not inquiries

Dear Editor,

It would seem that Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's office could better respond to questions posed by constituents. Having endured many episodes of unresponsiveness of politicians, I have a mantra that they only notice us at election time.

I think that six weeks is long enough for the mayor to respond. First, after waiting two weeks for a response to my initial query, I waited two weeks for a callback. At that time, I was told the mayor was studying for the Bar exam. Four weeks later I called again only to find that the mayor was going to take the Bar exam on Feb. 27. Two more weeks went by and still no response. Aides could have conveyed her answer.

My simple question was formulated on the mayor's expression during the re-election about global warming. Her expression about global warming is in direct conflict with her stance on not opening up Stoneridge Drive to relieve traffic congestion on Stanley and Valley. I did not ask her to figure out the national debt. The answer should have been forthcoming as my question did not come out of left field.

Two signs appear in two locations, one showing the word "Respect" and the other "Honesty." Both of these words could have been issued in this instance. Both could have been used when others and I asked for police to ticket speeders on our street; a defective monitor was put in place. A monitor showing their speed is useless. Citations work.

At election time, we will remember.

*Audrey DeHart  
Pleasanton*

## Safeway abounds in charitable giving

Dear Editor,

I appreciated very much your editorial ("Pleasanton's Safeway Corp. a leader in charitable giving," Around Pleasanton column, April 20) about Safeway's Charitable giving. You mentioned a great many things that Safeway does for our community, but not even included in those was their amazing donations to our community's schools, churches, boy scouts and other youth organizations through their participation in the eScrip program.

Safeway is the primary merchant of hundreds which participate in the eScrip program, giving back literally hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to groups in our Pleasanton community.

Safeway, through eScrip, is the largest contributor to our athletic program at Amador Valley High School. Our Amador Athletic Boosters Club is the largest of over 50,000 eScrip participating groups in the country. In the past we have

given plaques to Safeway, honored them at half-times of football games, written letters of support at various times, but these are but small tokens for the benefit they have provided to us.

Through the generous giving of Safeway and many other merchants and individuals in our community, we are able to keep the cost of athletics at Amador Valley High School such that any student can participate, regardless of their ability to pay.

Thanks again for honoring Safeway with your editorial, they well deserve it.

*Ken Mano  
Treasurer,  
Amador Valley Athletic Boosters*

## Thanks from Open Heart Kitchen

Dear Editor,

Open Heart Kitchen, Inc. would like to thank the generous people of the Tri-Valley area who support our programs through donations to the Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund and the Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Ball.

We are very grateful recipients of \$18,736.50 from the Pleasanton Weekly's 2006 Holiday Fund, in which the Tri-Valley Community Foundation matched donations. This money will go a long way in supporting our hot meal programs that provide nutritious, hot meals, free of charge, to those in need in our local community. Last year, Open Heart Kitchen served over 130,557 meals and approximately 59,000 of those meals were served to guests in Pleasanton and Livermore. The Pleasanton Weekly campaign will help us to serve 15,000 meals in 2007!

Open Heart Kitchen's share from the Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Ball proceeds—\$30,000—will be used to fund the weekend box lunch program for elementary-aged school children. Open Heart Kitchen is currently distributing approximately 1,000 boxed lunches every week to children in Livermore who are receiving federally-subsidized lunches during the school week. The Charity Ball grant covers 324 of these children and provides for two lunches every weekend for one school year!

It is difficult to imagine the thousands in our area who are living on a daily basis without the funds to meet their minimum nutrition needs. There is no other non-profit agency addressing hunger in the Tri-Valley area to the broad extent that Open Heart Kitchen does. Our success in reaching out to those in need is made possible by the generous donations of those who care.

Thank you for your support.

*Carol Beddome  
Executive Director,  
Open Heart Kitchen*

## Pleasanton under a 'cloud of silence' in supporting troops

Dear Editor,

As of this writing, almost 3,300 American military men and women have been killed in Iraq. In vain. Needlessly. Sacrifices to the imperial gods of oil and political power.

Congress could put a stop to it, but they don't. Oh, they talk a good story, but the genre is fiction. Our state government could try to put a stop to it, but they're pretty useless when it comes to national moral issues. Our local City Council could try to stop it, but they seem to be afraid to make their views known. They refuse to discuss the issue, and they even refuse to honor the troops who have been killed.

That leaves the American people to try to stop it. I don't mean the majority of Americans who don't seem to care or the shouting, hissing, spitting minority who support the war and its consequences. I mean those who truly care about the lives of our troops. We who care can stop this war. We must stop this war. If we don't, the next American to die in Iraq will have died because we failed.

Pleasanton, where are you? Where are the demonstrations against this unjust war? Where is the anger, the rage, as the death count rises? Except for a few whispers against the war, a cloud of silence covers Pleasanton, a fog that hides the shame that our troops are being sent to their deaths, and Pleasanton does not object.

*Fred Norman  
Pleasanton*

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Attention: Tess Lengyel

A Pre-Proposal meeting will be held at the ACTIA offices on **Thursday, May 10, 2007, at 10:30 A.M.**

Deadline for submitting a response to the RFP is **Friday, May 25, 2007, at 4 P.M.**

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## INDEX

- BULLETIN BOARD 100-155
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- KIDS STUFF 330-355
- JOBS 510-585
- BUSINESS SERVICES 600-690
- HOME SERVICES 700-799
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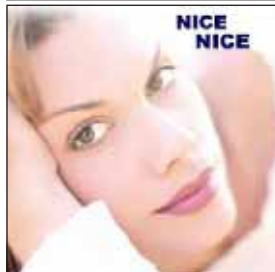
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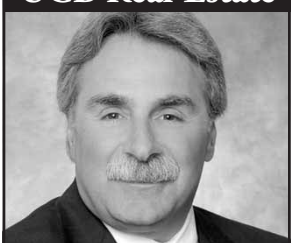
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# GOING BUNCOERS FOR BUNCO

**Social dice game  
a hit in Pleasanton**

**by Janet Pelletier**



Cheers and fits of laughter permeated the walls on a recent Thursday at Tracey Jones' house. It all began with the ringing of a bell, announcing the game of was about to start.

Dice were rolled about on three tables seated by a dozen women sipping Chardonnay and Merlot. Intermittent conversation ranged from kids to redoing the back yard.

This "bunco" group has been playing since 1996. There are still six original members playing today.

The dice game, also spelled "bunco" isn't a new fad. According to the World Bunco Association based in Newport Beach, the game dates back to the late 1800s and was played by women, school children and couples. But in the past few decades, the game has grown in popularity for its social aspect and simplicity.

The game first began in England and was introduced to San Francisco during the Gold Rush era in 1855 by a crooked gambler. After the Civil War and into the turn of the century, bunco became more widespread with population growth and a recovering economy. In the Victorian era, it became a permanent staple as a traditional family or parlor game. After Prohibition, the groups declined but resurfaced in the suburbs with a second wave of population growth. While it stayed fairly stagnant from 1940 to 1980, it

was in the early '80s that the game increased in popularity yet again. The reason? There was a return to traditional family values, a sense of neighborhood and community and the desire and need for social interaction, according to the WBA.

Pleasanton players agree that the game is beloved for its social rewards.

"I love this group for the socialization,"



Patti Parker of the "wine and cheese" bunco group rolls three dice at the head table during her turn.

said Janet Ward. "We get dinner, you get money, you have fun. It's nice not to have to go out to restaurants sometimes. You can just come here."

Nicknamed the "wine and cheese" group, the ladies meet once a month at a different person's house. Three women are chosen to

## Do you know the lingo?



### Bunco

Rolling three of a kind with the current number round being rolled. If someone at the head table rolls a bunco, they immediately ring the bell to signal the end of that round.



### Round

A round is a full turn of the number currently being rolled. Noted on a scoring card each player receives, each set is broken into six rounds since there are six sides to a die.



### Set

The game is divided into four sets. One set equals six rounds



### Head table

The head table controls the pace of the game. The game is played with three total tables.



### Ghost

If there aren't enough players, a ghost player can be substituted. The ghost moves from chair to chair like any player would. If they roll a bunco, their team gets the points and their teammate gets the bunco point.



### Roll-off

If the score is tied at the end of a round, there is a roll off. That is one complete turn around the table rolling the current number up. The team with the most points after the roll-off is the winner and moves up a table.



Janet Pelletier

The "wine and cheese" group, as they're nicknamed, has been playing bunko since 1996. The group was formed by moms whose children went to Walnut Grove Elementary.

bring a theme dinner every third month and the host provides the candy, dessert or drinks.

The group was formed by moms whose children all were in Mrs. Marilyn Auser's kindergarten class at Walnut Grove Elementary School. Their children are now at Amador Valley High School and about to head off to college.

"A lot of us were stay-at-home moms, so it's a great way to get out and socialize and meet people," said Wendy Flanagan.

"We have a hard time playing sometimes because we chat so much," added Chris Baggett.

Another bunko group was started five years earlier, in 1991, by moms with children at Walnut Grove. Their children, too, are in high school now.

"My son calls it a 'secret spy society of moms,'" said Mari Terhune.

"It's been fun watching all of our kids grow up together," said Teri Wendt, whose home was where the bunko night was held.

Called the "bunko babes," the group hosts a bunko night once a month at a different person's house.

Both groups also have members put in a dollar amount--\$10 for the "wine and cheese" group and \$5 for the "bunko babes." The person who gets the most "bunkos" at the end of the night walks away with the winnings. But often, they play for a charitable cause.

"If someone from our group is going through a crisis or having a major milestone, we'll donate our earnings to that cause," said Flanagan of the "wine and cheese" group.

Ward added that the group donated money to her for her son's heart surgery. Another time, they donated to a member who went on a missionary trip to Africa. They've also donated for weddings, death, even to those going through menopause.

The "bunko babes" also donate to special causes and usually split up the earnings at the end of the night so no one walks away a loser. When someone gets a "bunko" they proudly don a pirate hat.

When a member can't make it to a bunko night, both groups will either institute a "ghost"--meaning another player substitutes, moving from chair to chair, or that seat becomes filled by an imaginary celebrity such as Antonio Banderas or Brad Pitt.

While the majority of bunko groups have female members, there is at least one co-ed bunko group in town. Vic Malatesta, who owns Vic's All Star Kitchen in downtown Pleasanton, and his wife Terry, play in a couple's group.

It all started 33 years ago when Terry was in her own all-female group. Some of the members branched out to form the couple's group that the Malatestas began playing in just a couple years ago. The



Janet Pelletier

The "bunko babes" were formed in 1991, also by moms with children at Walnut Grove.

arrangement is perfect for the pair because Terry still plays in her women's group, both play in the couple's group and Vic also participates in a men's poker group.

"They've watched their kids grow up and their grandkids grow up," Vic Malatesta said of his wife's bunko group. "It's amazing."

He said he looks forward to the couple's group and his Friday poker nights because it's a great way to catch up with old friends.

Having the right combination of personalities in a group is essential, he added. The Malatestas got into the couple's group by filling in one time.

"When you get someone to fill in, the chemistry's got to be just right. You have to vote on it," he said. "It's interesting to catch up on what's happening. Now with even the couple's group, everyone has grandchildren, so we're talking about them and when you take a trip, everyone knows about it." ■

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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 starchy 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.redsmokegrill.com).

## Brewpub/Alehouse

### The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers 30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at [www.hopyard.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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

### Chinese Szechuan

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

### Panda Mandarin Cuisine

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

## Continental

### Barone's

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

Saturday evenings. Ask about our banquet facilities and special events.

## Fusion

### Oasis Grille

780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438. Visit downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination. Oasis features 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](http://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.

(continued on page 27)

## The euphoria of fine Italian food Mother's Day Lunch Buffet



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### Pastas Trattoria

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will jazz up your Friday and Saturday evenings. The banquet facilities have wireless Internet for large parties, up to 70 guests.

### Japanese

#### Ume Sushi

4855 Hopyard Road #7 in Gateway Square, 734-0996. Acclaimed chef David Win brings delicious Japanese cuisine to Pleasanton at an affordable price! We have a daily fresh fish delivery, teriyaki and tempura. We are open Monday-Saturday, with lunch from 11:30-2:30 and dinner from 4:30-9:30, Saturday until 10 p.m. Party platters are available. Visit our

(continued on page 28)

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Tortilla Soup



4501 Hopyard Rd, Pleasanton  
**734-0307**  
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[www.redsmokegrill.com](http://www.redsmokegrill.com)

Web site: [www.umesushi.com](http://www.umesushi.com).

### Sato Japanese Cuisine

3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner Operator has been serving traditional Japanese cuisine for over 25 years in Pleasanton. Enjoy the variety of our sushi bar and Japanese tempura and teriyaki sushi. We are open for lunch and dinner. We also do catering. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday.

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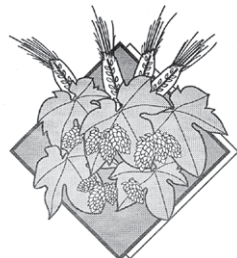
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## Pizza

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