

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 28 • August 10, 2007

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It's all about Pleasanton

Mutts march down Main

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Over 150 dogs
strut their stuff
to help Tri-Valley
Guide Dog Puppy
Raisers



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Foothill's first class back for Concert in the Park tonight

As if the week-after-week of record-breaking crowds for the Friday night Concerts in the Park aren't enough, graduates of Foothill High School's first two classes and some of its teachers will meet an hour earlier at Lions Wayside Park to grab what space is left, refresh their memories and kick-off a week-end-long 30-year reunion.

Foothill opened in 1973 with only a freshman class, mostly 13-year-olds who are now in their upper 40s. The school added one class at a time and it's those classes that graduated in 1977 and 1978 that are joining together for tonight's get-together. One of those attending will be Jerri Long, a frequent contributor to this newspaper who has also worked in earlier years for other media and taught English at Foothill when it opened. She retired several years ago as Director of Public Information for the Pleasanton School District, ending a 33-year career here.

Long recalls those early days when she and fellow teachers, including Foothill's first principal Neil Sweeney, called the school "Camelot High." The small classes, idyllic and uncrowded campus and architecturally-pleasing school buildings made it more like highly esteemed Mukilteo High outside of Seattle in Snohomish County, which parents still rave about. The intent of Pleasanton educators, parents and students was to create a once-in-a-lifetime place where teenagers could safely grow and learn. Even today, with a much more crowded campus and student enrollment over 2,100, Foothill still has the image of a newer, different kind of high school with a band that is nationally-renowned and sports and academic awards that fill scores of hallway trophy cases.

Sweeney held long meetings in the district for a whole year before the school opened, seeking ideas from teachers and other administrators as to what would make Foothill the best possible public high school. They joined the discussions as volunteers to share their ideas to develop an excellent academic and campus activity program from the start. Their efforts, widely publicized, drew attention and suggestions from around the U.S. and even from foreign visitors.

Because the school buildings weren't ready in time for opening day, classes met in borrowed space at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at Valley and Paseo Santa Cruz. Utilizing new teaching concepts developed during the Sweeney discussion meetings, the faculty formed Teacher Advisory Groups (TAG) that followed students for all four years of their schooling. Each TAG leader became a student's "adult friend on campus, helping to ensure each student's academic success," Long recalls. She also remembers it as the best experience of her teaching career, giving her and the other teachers time to interact with students and their parents outside of classes. Some classes met for 45 minutes a day; others, including Long's journalism and yearbook classes, met for 90 minutes every other day, making it easier to get writing and publication projects finished on time.

Now, 30 years after those first kids graduated, Long, Sweeney and others who served at Foothill in those early developmental years, are looking forward to visiting with their first classes of students—and probably their spouses and children, as well—before tonight's "Finding Stella" rock and pop group takes the stage at 7 p.m. ■

About the Cover

PeeWee, a pug rescued by the Bierbower family, blew away the competition when she arrived in a Captain Jack Sparrow costume. Our intern Tyler Bierbower thought of the idea. His mother Diane Bierbower spent hours handcrafting the costume using the Pirates of the Caribbean movie poster as inspiration. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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Streetwise

Q: Does the Minnesota bridge collapse make you more afraid to drive on Bay Area bridges?

Asked Downtown



Victoria Hollenbeck

Daycare Provider

Yes, it does. It was so unexpected. You never know when these types of things are going to happen, so it does scare me. It was so random.

Jason Esswein

Marriage and Family Therapist

It doesn't scare me at all—just like after 9/11 being afraid of flying on a plane. These types of freak occurrences can happen anywhere at any time and we can't live our lives afraid of what will happen next.



Lauren Pendleton

Service Coordinator

Yes, I've already been nervous about driving on bridges so the collapse in Minnesota has made me a little shakier. I think anything man-made has a tendency to be faulty and flawed as proved by this incident. I will definitely be more nervous on bridges.



Charlie Killian

Software Developer

I am not more fearful. As an engineer I realize that there are risks in any building but I have faith in the engineering principles. I think there are freak accidents every once and a while but for the most part our structures are very safe.



Don Underwood

Retired Teacher

We can't avoid situations such as flying because there might be a terrorist's bomb on a plane and we can't avoid bridges because there may be minuscule chance of a flaw in the construction. Accidents are going to happen; Bay Area bridges are being inspected thoroughly. The odds are definitely in our favor.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

BART announces weekend station closures

Construction crews working on a new west Dublin/Pleasanton BART station need a train-free track to continue their work. To accommodate that, there will be temporary closures at the following times: 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 11, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 12, 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 18, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 19. Passengers will need to use the Castro Valley Station to ride BART during the closures, and BART will provide free shuttle service between stations until 1 p.m. Visit www.bart.gov for details.

Scream for ice cream in Livermore

The Ravenswood Historic Site in Livermore hosts its Annual Ice Cream Social from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 12. This family event is free to the public and includes games, music, historic demonstrations and more. The event is sponsored by the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) and the Ravenswood Progress League. All funds raised will go towards the restoration of the Ravenswood Historic Site.

BBQ cook off to benefit food bank

The Bay Area Barbeque Cook Off & Music Festival takes place Aug. 18 and 19 in the Walnut Orchard of the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton and will benefit the Alameda County Food Bank and Bay Area Community Services. The event features award winning, national competitive barbeque cookers, a concert performance by the Temptations Review featured Dennis Edwards, celebrity judges, a kids zone and more. Admission is free; parking is \$8. For additional information visit www.bayareabarbequecookoff.com.

Teach people to read, write

The Pleasanton Public Library's Read Project seeks literary volunteers to teach people to read and write. An in-depth training day will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3411.

Corrections

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

Pleasanton man arrested for providing drugs to high school students

Police seized methamphetamine, cocaine, ecstasy from 28-year-old man's home

by Emily Atwood

Police continue to investigate and conduct interviews in the alleged drug and child endangerment case that led to the arrest of 28-year-old resident Paul White last Thursday.

After about a two-month investigation, officers from the special investigation unit of the Pleasanton Police Department arrested White for allegedly providing drugs to

Amador Valley High School students.

Sgt. Barry Mickleburgh said police searched his home in the 3200 block of West Las Positas Boulevard and confiscated one-quarter ounce of cocaine, more than 100 ecstasy



Paul White

tablets and just over 3 ounces of methamphetamine. He said the amount was significant because one dosage of meth is one-tenth of a gram and 1 ounce is worth about \$900 and contains 28.5 grams.

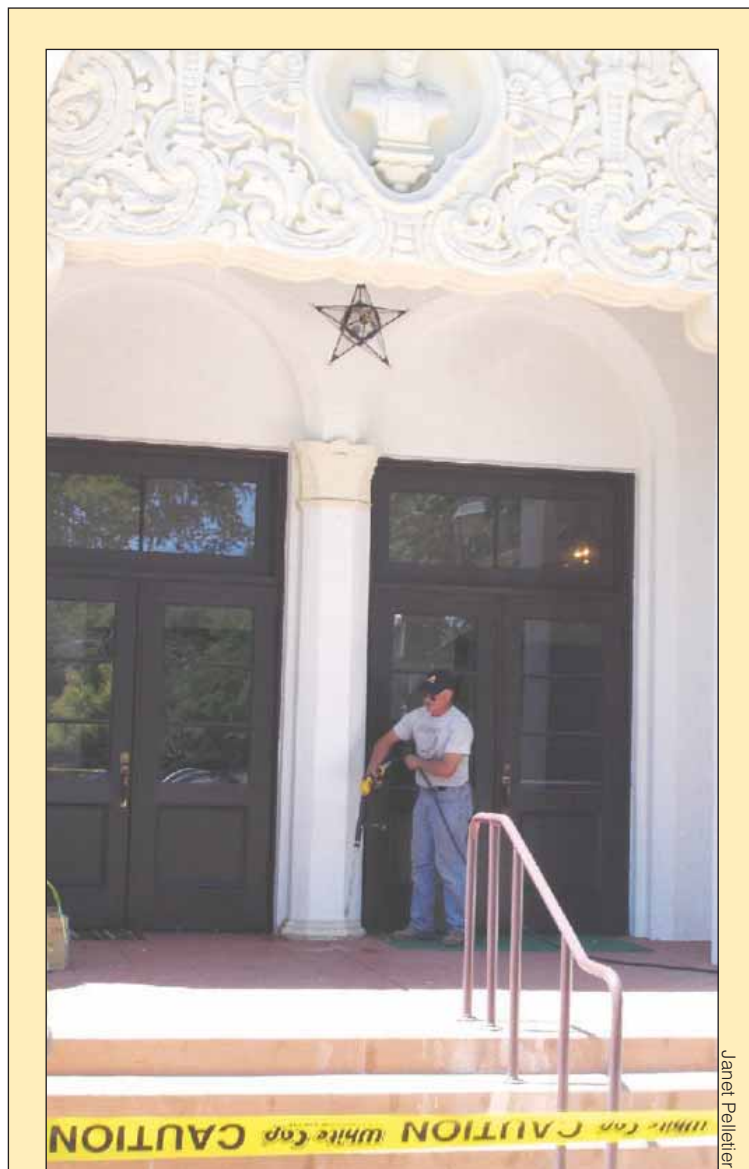
Two handguns were also taken from White's home.

Police said they obtained information that led them to believe that the man had endangered minors on 35 separate occasions and fur-

nished or offered minors ecstasy or meth on another 15 occasions. The report said endangering a minor includes, but is not limited to, selling and/or purchasing drugs in the presence of someone who's under the age of 18.

Mickleburgh said the specific contact made with high school students in each instance was unclear, but he said White had shown up at

(continued on page 9)



Janet Palleter

Fence down at Veterans Hall

\$4.8-million project restores 1933 hall built for \$38K

by Jeb Bing

The temporary construction fencing was taken down Tuesday from the sidewalks adjacent to the newly-

renovated Veterans Memorial Building on Main Street as work to restore this 74-year-old structure nears an end.

Even though the fencing was removed, the building will remain closed while finishing and detail work continues through the end of the month.

(continued on page 6)

Downtown businessman saves historic pulpit

Platform used for sermons dating back to 1930s or earlier

Downtown frame shop owner John Gregory rescued the historic church pulpit off the outside walks of Lighthouse Baptist Church Saturday, moving it inside a backroom in his studio to restore and preserve it for future generations.

Gregory, who owns Gregory Frame Shoppe at 800 Main St., said he was second in line of many who called church Pastor Bill Bryson to ask for the pulpit after a photo appeared in last Friday's Pleasanton Weekly showing it sitting outside the church. Bryson agreed to let Gregory take the pulpit since it would be saved as an historic community piece.

Gregory said no one is sure how old the pulpit is, whether it was built back in the late 1800s when the church was built or, more likely, in the 1930s when the church was renovated. The church, located at 118 Neal St. at the corner of Second Street, was built in 1876 by Pleasanton Presbyterians, who sold it to the Baptists when Pleasanton Presbyterian Church was built on Mirador Drive in the 1970s.

Whether 80 years old or an 1876 platform, it has served for thousands of sermons and guest lectures dating back to when Pleasanton was a town of just a few hundred people.

"I saw the picture in the Weekly and went over and saw this pulpit," said Gregory, as he stood behind it in a corner of a crowded art frame supply room behind his Main Street studio. "I want to refinish and restore it to its original appearance, and also place a plaque on it recognizing its construction date and how it's been used."

The photo of Gregory behind the pulpit was posted last weekend on the Weekly's Web site: www.pleasantonweekly.com. Since then,



Jeb Bing

John Gregory, owner of Gregory Frame Shoppe on Main Street, stands behind the historic pulpit from First Baptist Church at Neal and Second streets that he plans to restore and preserve for community.

he's received a number of calls from other media and was featured on a TV30 Community Television report.

Lighthouse Baptist is remodeling its sanctuary and installing hardwood floors with a new floor plan for the sanctuary that does away with a pulpit entirely. The church moved the old pulpit to an outside courtyard in hope that someone would take it before it was sent to a junkyard.

The church appealed to the Museum On Main to take the pulpit because if its historic value to the Pleasanton community. But the museum passed on taking the pulpit because of the inability to pinpoint the installation date and the museum's lack of adequate storage space, said Jim Allen, former Museum On Main board president and the museum representative who assessed the pulpit.

"We think maybe it's the original, but it's a big piece and we couldn't find out, so it's too big for us to store," Allen said.

—Jeb Bing

High-tech mannequin serves as crash test dummy

SimMan talks, breathes and has a pulse, is used to practice with real-life scenarios

by Janet Pelletier

Twenty-six-year-old Michael Reynolds is in a dire situation. He's experiencing a severe shortness of breath and his inhaler isn't helping. Lying on a hospital bed, medical personnel are trying to fix his condition. Reynolds is having an asthma attack. Thankfully, the 6-foot-tall, 175-lb. man is a mannequin and his symptoms are just a figment of the imagination.

The mannequin, called SimMan, is a computerized patient simulator that talks, breathes and has a pulse just like a living person. A team of about 30 Bay Area professors from various medical schools gathered at ValleyCare Health System's education offices in Livermore last Thursday to practice using SimMan so they would be able to then teach their students how to use the dummy.

The mannequin is a big improvement over other teaching methods, according to K.T. Waxman, who is the program director for the Bay Area Simulation Coalition and a registered nurse. Before, students were using prosthetic arms and oranges to practice such things as giving a shot or taking a blood pressure measurement, she said.

The mannequin, staged in a room at the Mertes and Feit Center next door to other ValleyCare facilities, cost \$35,000, according to Derek Thibodeau, who is a sales manager for Laerdal, the company that makes SimMan.

Included with SimMan is a patient monitor, a compressor and a laptop equipped with computer software that can enact real life emergency scenarios such as heart and asthma attacks.

The California Institute for Nursing & Health Care (CINHC) is a Berkeley-based nonprofit that received a grant to provide the simulation session. ValleyCare hosted the training as an in-kind donation to CINHC.

"I love it. It's a new way of teaching for students who may not get such an opportunity in real life," said Fred Stevenson, who attended the training and is from Kaiser Permanente in Sacramento.

Lina Gage-Kelly from Samuel Merritt College in Oakland, was taking the training for the second



Raul Cano from John Muir Health in Walnut Creek checks the pulse of a "patient" who is having an asthma attack.

Janet Pelletier

time and said it reinforced what she's already learned.

"It gives me more energy to teach students," she said.

Raul Cano, who works in the emergency wing of John Muir Health in Walnut Creek, said "a lot of nurses are uncomfortable doing certain procedures on people and this gives them a better comfort level."

Not only does SimMan help med students in learning how to treat patients, it also helps all those attending to a patient to communicate more effectively, Waxman said.

The group engaged in a five-minute exercise where a fake patient (Reynolds) was having an asthma attack. Waxman played Reynolds' wife as Cano took the lead treating him with Stevenson assisting.

Simulations are recorded which allows teachers to review the tape with students over what was done right and what wasn't, Thibodeau said.

"As fancy as the mannequin is, the debriefing is really the best tool," he said.

For information on SimMan, visit www.laerdal.com. ■

San Ramon Regional hosts Korean med students

On Friday, medical students from South Korea visited San Ramon Regional Medical Center to work with local Dr. Barry Gardiner on the daVinci surgical system.

The system is a surgical instrument that has computerized robotics, according to Sandra Ryan, marketing manager for SRMC.

It comes equipped with a station that can be operated by hand and foot controls which command a three robotic arms that can stitch, cauterize (burn) and make incisions.

The medical center has owned the daVinci system since 2000 and was the first hospital on the West Coast to have one, Ryan said.

"The doctor sits in a console, where the actual surgeon sits," Ryan explained. "The amazing thing is that the viewer screen allows the surgeon to look at the surgery site 10 times magnified and another thing that's unusual is that it's three-dimensional."

She added that because a computer is operating the machinery, it helps eliminate situations where a surgeon's hands can get tired and shake and the instrument also rotates in a circular direction.

Ryan said the daVinci system is especially helpful for urologists performing prostate surgeries. DaVinci is developed by Intuitive Surgical, www.intuitivesurgical.com.

Veterans

(continued from page 5)

A rededication ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 7 at 1 p.m.

The \$4.8-million renovation project by the city of Pleasanton was designed to preserve the building's exterior appearance and restore its interior features, including many that are historic. The renovation also addressed safety

issues by bringing the building into compliance with the current municipal building code, while also upgrading all building systems for program needs, including lighting and fire protection, heating, air conditioning and security systems.

To seismically strengthen the building, the roof was removed, steel columns were installed and attached to existing concrete walls, then the roof was seismically sheathed with plywood and the original hand fabricated terra cotta barrel

roofing materials were replaced. The building has been made accessible to the disabled by the addition of ramps at all entrances.

The Pleasanton chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion Veterans' organizations that have long called the building home will move back into building in mid-September.

The Roosevelt-era WPA building at the south end of Main Street has been closed for nearly a year. It was built in 1933 at a cost of \$38,000. ■

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A real McCoy joins Foothill staff

Middle school science teacher Mark McCoy to start school year, pending board approval

by Emily Atwood

Mark McCoy started as a student teacher at Foothill High School and is coming back to serve as the new vice principal, pending board approval Aug. 21.

A graduate of San Jose State University in 1997, he also was a student teacher at John Muir Middle School in San Jose. He then taught science for 10 years at Pleasanton Middle School.

McCoy's experience as an administrator includes two years as an administrative designee at PMS and spent this summer as a vice principal for the school district's summer school program.

"Any apprehension I could have had was eliminated during the summer school," he said. "Relating to the high school students comes very natural to me because they're young adults and I get to interact with them that way."

McCoy fills the spot vacated by John Dwyer, Foothill's new principal. Kevin Johnson, who was the principal at Foothill since 1996, took on the role of senior director of pupil services for the

school district Aug. 1 following Rich Puppione's retirement.

According to Dwyer, McCoy is also a savvy businessman who serves as president and CEO of two start-up companies.

"Mark's vision, work ethic, commitment and supportive manner with students, teachers and parents will be an asset to our school and our commitment to continuous improvement," he wrote in an email to Foothill staff.

McCoy joined Dwyer and the district's administrative staff on a retreat in Lake Tahoe this past week and is anxious to start the job.

"Obviously I'm excited about it; I think it's a wonderful opportunity," he said. "[Foothill] is a very welcoming community and I am really fortunate to be there."

One of his first tasks, along with other school staff, is to plan Falcon Fest on a Friday in October. The event is open to "Falcon families" and will allow clubs on campus to highlight themselves. ■



Mark McCoy

Smog King

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

SELLING AN EMPTY HOUSE

What if you're selling a home that you've already moved out of? Are there special problems?

Yes. Though some seller may think an empty home allows prospective buyers to more easily imagine what the house would look like with their own furniture in it, the opposite is true. A bright, inviting home, with comfortable-looking furniture in it, is far more appealing to most buyers than are bare walls. Especially if the walls are dull and battle-scarred. Further, empty rooms tend to look smaller than furnished rooms.

There are some things you can do, though. First, there are three crucial steps: Clean everything that remains in the house, paint the walls, and clean or replace carpeting as necessary. Second, leave just a few representative pieces of furniture in the home and place paintings and houseplants in the home in artful ways.

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Tickets still available for sister city BBQ

Saturday fundraiser includes emcee Gary Hansen, auctions, tri-tip dinner, no-host bar and more

by Emily Atwood

The Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association is holding its annual barbecue fundraiser this Saturday, Aug. 11 at the Ivy Glenn BBQ Area at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. From 5:30 to 11 p.m. participants will eat, bid for prizes and celebrate 24 years of cross-cultural exchange.

"Most sister cities do not continue to flourish, so [the 24th anniversary] is special," said association member Alice Pryor. "It's an incredible experience for us. And I've only been in the group about 16 years."

Included in the live auction are prizes like a day sailing on the bay for four, lunch for two once a month for a year at a local restaurant, vacations to Mexico, a tamale making class and more. There's also a silent auction where members make themed baskets.

"This is our 18th year at the fairgrounds and we really use this event to do everything we do," Pryor said, adding that the group puts on community events such as Pasada at Christmas time and the Cinco de Mayo party.

Marlene Rebello, the group's auction coordinator, has been participating for 11 years and has appreciated the relationship made through the visits.

"We're treated like family, maybe even better than family," she said.

"We try to welcome them as much as they welcome us. We also do some charity work [in Mexico]. Pleasanton as a community pitched in a helped out after a devastating natural disaster."

Funds raised will also go towards the student exchange program. In June and July, four students from Tulancingo visited for four weeks. Their time here included trips to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk and San Francisco's Exploratorium.

Annelise Judd hosted one student, a girl named Gretel. As a part of the exchange, her daughter Emma left for Tulancingo in the first week of August.

"We did a few things on our own, like taking day trips to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Mount Diablo," she said. "I'm very grateful for my daughter's opportunity and it was fun having Gretel here. We really enjoyed the experience."

Pryor not only highly encourages people to come to the barbecue, but to get involved in the group as well.

"It's [how she spends her] free retirement; it has to be fun or I wouldn't be doing this," she said.

Some tickets will be available at the door for \$35, but it is recommended that those interested in attending should call Pryor at 462-5786 or Jorge Victoria at 462-6723. ■

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Water line breaks on Sunol Blvd.

Proximity to PG&E transmission line complicates repairs

by Rebecca Guyon

A water line located on Sunol Boulevard near the Pleasanton Senior Center broke early Tuesday morning, causing traffic congestion and leaving the Senior Center without water service for several hours. The break started as a slow leak

Monday evening and progressively worsened, leading to the break on Tuesday, said Scott Baker, assistant director of Public Works and Operations for the city.

The water line's close proximity to a PG&E transmission line complicated problems, causing

electricity to flicker on and off in various areas throughout west Pleasanton on Tuesday and early Wednesday and causing traffic signals to go down in the area. All power was back on by mid-morning Wednesday.

A temporary water jumper was installed to reestablish water connection with the senior center, Baker said. The facility was only without water on Tuesday. No other areas went without water, he added.

City crews are still working to find a permanent fix to the problem by collaborating with PG&E.

"Part of the problem is that PG&E will have to relocate its transmission line," Baker said. "It's an important project to PG&E and us, and PG&E is really working to get their part of this done, so hopefully it will be (in) very short order."

Although repairs are wrapping up, the city is not sure what caused the break.

"It's still not exactly clear, but we're looking into it," Baker said. "These are physical structures under high pressure. There are a lot of things that can cause them to fail over time: age, fatigue, soil movement. Sometimes they get hit by something, by someone digging, but we know that's not the case here." ■

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Crowds fill Concerts in the Park

The popular Finding Stella rock and pop group is expected to draw several thousand fans to Lions Wayside and Delucchi parks tonight for their performance, which starts at 7 p.m. A new record was set by concert-goers last Friday as an estimated 3,000 fans filled the parks as part of the Concerts in the Park series to hear Tommy & the 4 Speeds.

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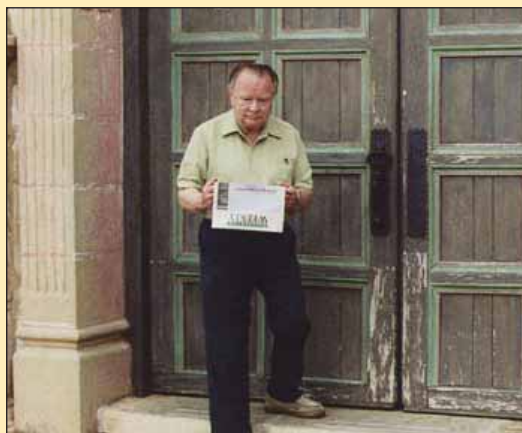
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Take Us Along



Mission: Share the Weekly

Glenn and Audrie Hage took turns reading the Weekly in front of the Santa Barbara Mission, built in 1780

Drugs

(continued from page 5)

Amador after being introduced to a female student. He also had reportedly given her rides.

"While we know of at least one

incident, we're hoping that when parents and students (hear about this case), they may have more information and call us with that," he said.

Mickleburgh said the drugs seized at White's residence are not

those most commonly used by high school students.

"We don't typically see meth on campus," he said. "While there are reports of ecstasy, alcohol seems to be the drug of choice, along with marijuana." ■

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California Newspaper Publishers Association

Opinion

Editorial

Is this \$90,000 city PR job necessary?

For a city of 70,000 whose residents in a recent survey said they like living here and believe that their local government is doing a good job, we're somewhat baffled by the job search now under way to find a community relations manager (a.k.a. public relations chief) to do what others have been doing quite well. At a starting salary of \$90,000, with fully paid medical and retirement benefits, this strikes us as a very high-level job for what the job description calls for. Sure, top PR professionals earn more, but probably not in the Tri-Valley and certainly not in any neighboring cities we know of. Pleasanton has always been a town where we can pick up the phone and call the mayor or city manager or public works chief directly without going through a middleman (or woman). As news reporters, we don't want that direct communications approach to end nor are we about to start calling a public relations manager to get our stories from City Hall.

In fairness to Pamela Ott, the city's Economic Development Manager who has gradually been taking on the role of "city communicator," she has a lot on her plate of responsibilities and no doubt her staff of three can use some help. This new position would report to Ott, and would develop, write and produce various communication materials. According to the job description which Ott and City Manager Nelson Fialho prepared, the new manager also "may act as a public spokesperson for the city." Not on our watch. That may be Tony Snow's job as President Bush's press secretary, but it's not a post we need here.

More than a year ago, Councilman Jerry Thorne asked for a study of compensation packages paid to the management teams of cities such as Pleasanton and similarly sized businesses in the private sector. We'd be interested in seeing this inquiry expanded to include public relations and community relations managers. Even at starting pay of \$90,000, do these other positions also include all of the benefits that taxpayers of Pleasanton provide? Here, a manager receives 11 vacation days a year, fully paid disability insurance and a \$100,000 life insurance policy, tuition reimbursement, and on and on. City Finance Director Dave Culver warned last June that despite the good times for tax revenue growth in the next two fiscal years, it won't last forever, especially as the city nears buildout and residential construction comes to a halt. There's also the concern over the city's pension fund obligations, which are only half funded. If belt tightening is needed, perhaps the community relations manager position should be chopped down a few levels to fit the city's needs, both in terms of communications and fiscal responsibility.

Taxpayers to pay \$500,000 to move asphalt plant

After three years of negotiations, we're pleased to see that Granite Construction has agreed to relocate its noisy and smelly asphalt production plant farther away from its Vineyard Avenue neighbors. The relocation won't be cheap. Granite will pay \$600,000 of the \$1.1-million cost of moving the plant from Stanley Boulevard to another site close to existing gravel pit operations; Pleasanton taxpayers will pick up the rest of the tab, or \$500,000.

Alameda County supervisors approved the agreement last week on the recommendation of the county Planning Commission, which gave Granite and its parent company, Cemex, the approval to build the asphalt plant at its present location in 2002. At the time, county officials believed the plant would be far from residential areas, apparently unaware of plans to realign Vineyard Avenue closer to the Arroyo del Valle and the asphalt plant, with several hundred homes to be constructed in the Vineyard corridor. Although the city of Pleasanton asked the county to withdraw its approval, legal analysts said Granite had the permits it needed to stay there. Even so, the company agreed to pay more than half the costs of the relocation, along with upgrading the facility in the process.

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



A critical cog

Newsroom consolidation means loss of public 'watchdogs'

Aug. 13 will mark a day that will change the landscape of media in the East Bay.

The sale of The Contra Costa Times by the McClatchy Company in April 2006 gave MediaNews Group of Denver unprecedented concentration of ownership of newspapers in the Bay Area. Now it has been announced that on Monday The Contra Costa Times and ANG newspapers, the Bay Area division of MediaNews, will consolidate their newsrooms into one entity. They will reduce staff accordingly. Locally this will affect The Tri-Valley Herald and The Valley Times, but will also involve The Oakland Tribune and several other Northern California MediaNews-owned publications.

According to a memo from John Armstrong, vice president of MediaNews' California Newspapers Partnership, to the staffs at the publications, "As we eliminate duplication of effort in our newsrooms, we will reduce the size of the editorial staff. It is our hope attrition will cover this reduction, but there is no guarantee that layoffs can be avoided."

"Streamlining" is not bad in and of itself. Reducing redundancy is a good business practice. It is also good when the result of streamlining is more time and resources to produce more and better products or services. But this is not the concept of this consolidation; this is to reduce costs and increase profits for the shareholders. But this cost reduction strategy is costly for the public. Fewer news gatherers means fewer stories, less depth in coverage and lower quality.

Consolidating newsrooms is not a new concept, nor is it unique to California. Bigger newspaper companies have been swallowing up smaller ones for decades. The shareholders and owners benefit,

but the demise of these smaller newspaper companies is detrimental to the health of a society because we lose a significant cog in the democratic process.

The success of democracy is in part dependent upon having a number of diverse, local, independent news organizations to be the "watchdogs" for the public. Media consolidation stifles independent voices and limits public access, leaving increased censorship of divergent views and less coverage of politics and local issues.

Newspapers are not just a business—they are a public trust and an integral part of the American democracy. While everyone understands the need to make a profit to cover expenses and employ the news gatherers, we must also take into consideration the importance of keeping local media strong. Owners and shareholders might need to give up the 20 percent profit margins, which they are keeping through reduction in staffing, to keep the newsrooms strong.

When we consolidate two, three, four newsrooms into one and eliminate the journalists, we silence a number of the "watchdogs," leaving only one voice to be heard. And if that one voice becomes weak, hindered or compromised in some way, well, it's the only one we have.

This reminds me of a John Mayer song lyric: "When they own the information they can bend it all they want."

Your thoughts and comments are encouraged.

Gina Channell-Allen, a 20-year journalism veteran, is the president of the East Bay division of Embarcadero Publishing Company, president of the Pleasanton Weekly and publisher of the Danville Weekly. Send questions to gallen@pleasantonweekly.com.

Letters

Bravo on business briefs

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to thank you for including the business briefs in your newspaper. In the eight years that I've lived in Pleasanton I have always wished there was a "one-stop" news section that would pro-

vide me with information on new businesses coming into town as well as ones who are closing their doors. Your newspapers' coverage on this topic is fantastic and I just wanted to say thank you for a job well-done. I will continue to look forward to my Friday mail delivery as reading the Pleasanton Weekly is a great way to start my weekend.

Hillary Bessiere, Pleasanton

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The Pleasanton Weekly is once again asking you for the best places to eat, drink, shop and spend time in Pleasanton. This year's theme is a salute to the best-selling board game, Monopoly. But just as this game has changed and evolved, so has Pleasanton. With several new categories and balloting on the 2007 Best of Pleasanton will make you feel like you've just won the Get Out of Jail Free card and looted the Community Chest. The online ballot will be available Aug. 3 through Aug. 24. Go directly to www.PleasantonWeekly.com. Do not pass up the opportunity to vote for your favorite in the Best of Pleasanton!

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- Best place to people watch
- Best Pleasanton real estate office
- Best tire store / service center
- Best tutoring school
- Best veterinarian
- Best video / DVD store

Specialty retail

- Best art gallery
- Best bicycle shop
- Best bookstore
- Best florist
- Best framing store
- Best hobby / craft store
- Best health food store
- Best jewelry
- Best lingerie wear
- Best men's clothing store
- Best pet store
- Best place to buy a gift
- Best place to buy athletic equipment
- Best place to buy a musical instrument
- Best place to buy cookware
- Best toy store
- Best wine store
- Best women's clothing store

Personal care and pampering

- Best acupuncture
- Best dry cleaner
- Best hair salon for women

- Best hair salon for men
- Best manicure/pedicure
- Best massage
- Best medical spa

Epicure

- Best American Food Restaurant
- Best "assemble your own" meal store
- Best atmosphere
- Best bakery
- Best barbecue
- Best burger
- Best breakfast
- Best burrito
- Best Chinese restaurant
- Best french fries
- Best French restaurant
- Best ice cream/yogurt Shop
- Best independent coffee house
- Best Indian restaurant
- Best Italian restaurant
- Best Japanese/Sushi restaurant
- Best kid-friendly, non chain restaurant
- Best Main Street restaurant
- Best margarita
- Best meal under \$20
- Best Mediterranean/Middle Eastern restaurant
- Best Mexican restaurant
- Best outdoor dining
- Best pizza
- Best place for a business lunch
- Best romantic restaurant
- Best seafood restaurant
- Best steakhouse
- Best takeout
- Best Thai restaurant
- Best winery

Let's Get Physical

- Best bike or walking trail
- Best health club
- Best martial arts studio

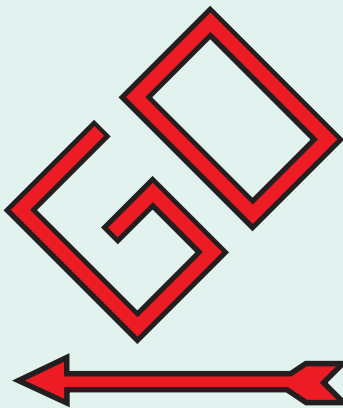
- Best place to jog
- Best place to walk a dog
- Best yoga / pilates

At home

- Best antiques store
- Best carpet cleaners
- Best carpet store
- Best consignment shop
- Best flooring store
- Best hardware store
- Best handyman
- Best home consignment store
- Best home furnishings
- Best kitchen/bath remodeler
- Best landscaper / designer
- Best outdoor/patio furniture store
- Best plumber
- Best pool service
- Best roofer

Stepping Out

- Best place for a picnic
- Best place for an after-work drink
- Best place for dancing
- Best place for live music
- Best place to get together with friends
- Best place to meet new people
- Best theater company



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Mutts march down Main

Over 150 dogs strut their stuff to help Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers

A sea of dogs of all shapes and sizes, breeds and colors sauntered along Main Street Aug. 1 as a part of the 10th annual Pooch Parade. The event, which includes a raffle and contests for creative costume and best trick dog, is the only fundraiser for the Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers. The club seeks to raise awareness for guide dogs and the need for puppy raisers.



Emily Atwood



(Above) Main Street went to the dogs Aug. 1 for the 10th annual Pooch Parade, which benefits the Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers. It was the largest parade yet, with 159 dogs.

Emily Atwood

Ten-week-old Wyoming, a male yellow labrador who will undergo guide dog training, is under the care of Debbie (left) and Greg (not pictured) Triplett. The puppy served as bait as Shannon Carver (right) told people about the Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers.



Tyler Bierbauer

It was all smiles as Lexie Martoglio cuddled up with her pug puppy Maybelle.



Emily Atwood

Friends come in all shapes and sizes, as proved by miniature wire dachshund Bug and Irish wolfhound Pyro. The two are owned by dog trainer Katie Tucker of the San Lorenzo Dog Training Club.



Tyler Bierbower

Melanie Forrete and Lillie showed their Oakland A's pride by proudly donning the green and gold.



Emily Atwood

It looks like Bryan Bottero, a Pleasanton National Little League player, is training his Maltese, Maggie, to join him in the next season.



Emily Atwood

Maybe this dachshund and its young owner were inspired by the movie "Ratatouille" when concocting up this chef's costume complete with red wagon wheels.

Pooch Parade winners

Most creative costume

1. Diane Bierbower with PeeWee
2. Nicole Browne with Harry
3. Dina Brown with Leela

Cute enough as is (under 20 pounds)

1. Nicole & Fernando Buchner with Buddington
2. Debra Schmitt with Deizel
3. Mike & Sandy Uejo with Gizmo

Best team (human and pooch)

1. Lesley, Brian, & Kelly Simms with Buster Brown
2. Andre, Barb, Heather, & Pixie with Samantha Sasha
3. Bobby, Andrea, Chloe & Ava Vaughn with Bridget

Best Team (pooch and pooch)

1. Rachael Toschi with Sparky and Roxy Moran with Princess
2. Emma with Macy
3. Terry Messick with Midnight

Cute enough as is (over 30 pounds)

1. Dan Faustina with Natoma
2. Gina Landis with Gracie
3. Dennis Corbett with Daisy

Puppy fun (pooches two years and younger)

1. MaryAnn Thackaberry with Mason
2. Dan Faustina with Natoma
3. Mercedes Phillips with Conner

Senior pooches

1. Patti Chandler with Toto
2. Christie Anderer with Duke
3. Linda Forster with Flash

Best trick pooch

1. Marshall Alexander with Leia
2. Debra Schmitt with Deizel
3. Blair & Holly Michael with Indy

Farthest pooch

Cary Simpson with Oakley from Carmel Valley

Oldest pooch

Christie Anderer with Duke

For more information on the Tri-Valley Guide Dog Puppy Raisers, visit www.trivalleyguidedogs.com or email Ellen at photopups@sbcglobal.net.



Emily Atwood

Bridget and her fan club—Andrea Mosley, Ava and Chloe Valcarcel, and Bobby Vaughn—took a break from the obstacle course to show off their border collie/golden retriever costumes before the parade. Bridget was a puppy of a dog left in a Dumpster after the 2005 mudslides.

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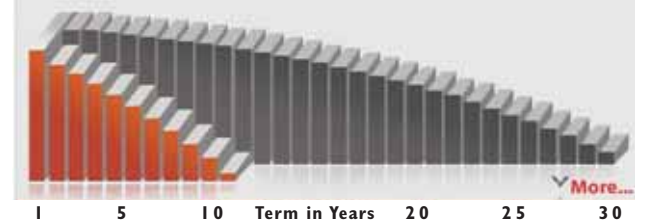
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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Housing Commission

Thursday, August 16, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Approval of Management Assessment Subsystems (MASS) Report for Pleasanton Housing Authority
- Review of Affordable Housing Concept for Windstar's "Stoneridge Station" Apartment Project
- Discussion Regarding Letter from Howard Neely Dated July 19, 2007
- Discussion Regarding Documents Used for the Pleasanton Homeownership Assistance Program (PHAP)
- Update Regarding the Status of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) Process

City Council

- The next City Council meeting is scheduled for August 21st.

Youth Commission

- The next Youth Commission meeting is scheduled for September 12th.

Parks and Recreation Commission

- The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled for September 13th.

Library Commission

- The next Library Commission meeting is scheduled for September 13th.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Employment Opportunity

Community Relations Manager/Public Information Officer

The City of Pleasanton is currently recruiting for a Community Relations Manager/Public Information Officer to administer the City's marketing, public information and media communications programs, and may act as a public spokesperson for the City. This position reports directly to the Director of Economic Development and works in close cooperation with the City Manager. The Economic Development Department is responsible for programs that promote a positive business climate to support a stable economic base for the City. The deadline to apply is August 17, 2007. For more information or to apply online, visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us

Notice of Commission/Committee Vacancies

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications to fill vacancies on the following commissions or committees:

- Civic Arts Commission
- Human Services Commission
- Economic Vitality Committee
 - (1) Biomedical Business Representation
 - (1) Environmental Community Representative
 - (1) Commercial Services Firm Representative

Applications are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2007. Postmarks are not accepted.

Gingerbread Preschool

Spaces available for Fall 2007

The Gingerbread preschool program offers children the opportunity to learn through play, hands-on activities and inspires creativity and the love of learning. For space availability or more information, phone (925) 931-3430 or visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/recreation/gingerbread-preschool.html

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

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

Police Bulletin

Woman suffers broken rib after car pinning

A 58-year-old grandmother of Daly City was released from the hospital and suffered one or two broken ribs, according to police, after being pinned between two cars in a parking lot on Peters Avenue, behind Bank of America. The collision happened around 10:20 a.m. Saturday.

A 51-year-old woman driving a 2007 Lexus told police she lost control when trying to park and the vehicle allegedly went over a planter median and into a 2003 Lincoln Navigator, with the grandmother stuck in between.

"[The Lexus] didn't appear to be going fast," said Officer Bob Leung. "It looks like she came out of the driveway over the retaining wall."

The Lexus struck the Navigator at the rear passenger-side door. Leung said that he wouldn't consider the damage "sizable."

Officers said at the time the victim was tending to her two grandson, ages 3 and 6. The victim's daughter had reportedly tried to get her mother out of the way, but had gotten her arm stuck in the collision. The daughter was able to escape, but the report said the victim was pinned between the two cars for 30 minutes. The driver of the Lexus and the grandsons were not hurt. The daughter was examined by the hospital and released.

Police Report

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

July 28

- Theft:
 - 11:10 a.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; grand theft
 - 5:48 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Assault:
 - 12:18 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 3:35 p.m. in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road
- Burglary:
 - 1:29 p.m. in the 190 block of Peters Avenue
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 3:21 a.m. in the 4000 block of Schween Court; public drunkenness

July 29

- Theft:
 - 4:16 a.m. in the 7500 block of Maywood Drive; grand theft auto
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:13 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- Other:
 - 11:11 p.m. at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Castlewood Drive; possession of stolen property

July 30

- Vandalism:
 - 3:14 p.m. in the 5400 block of Corte Paloma; worth less than \$400

- Assault:
 - 3:14 p.m. in the 5400 block of Corte Paloma
- Mental health danger:
 - 3:47 a.m. in the 5500 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard
- Other:
 - 12:42 a.m. in the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue; possession of switchblade knife

July 31

- Theft:
 - 3:18 p.m. in the 500 block of Burger Court; identity theft
 - 12:29 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; forgery
- Burglary:
 - 12:24 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 1:04 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive
- Other:
 - 10:30 a.m. in the 11000 block of Dublin Canyon Road; lost property

August 1

- Theft:
 - 9:41 a.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; grand theft
 - 10:09 a.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 4:53 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
 - 8:09 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Assault:
 - 1:20 p.m. in the 700 block of Main Street
- Vandalism:
 - 6:56 a.m. in the 4500 block of First Street; worth less than \$400

- Other:
 - 10:13 a.m. in the 3300 block of Dennis Drive; found property

August 2

- Theft:
 - 3:23 a.m. in the 6100 block of W. Las Positas Boulevard
 - 2:04 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 6:58 a.m. in the 6900 block of Corte Pacifica; worth more than \$400
- Assault:
 - 9:06 p.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue; domestic violence
- Burglary:
 - 7:13 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
 - 8:52 a.m. in the 700 block of Rose Avenue
 - 5:03 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:59 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
 - 5:00 p.m. at the intersection of Peters Avenue and W. Anglea Street; public drunkenness
 - 11:05 p.m. in the 7100 block of Johnson Drive; public drunkenness
- Other:
 - 11:46 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; lost property
 - 6:45 p.m. in the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue; lost property

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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* DEADLINE *

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Tuesday 12 Noon

through the business office

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Tuesday 11:59 PM

through Fogster.com

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135 Group Activities

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Stress/Pain Management Strategy

140 Lost & Found

Bike Found
Older woman's Schwinn bike near downtown Pleasanton. 462-6561

Found- Black Cat
Black cat found behind Gene's Market, Pleasanton on July 29. Call 461-1618.

155 Pets

Free to a Good Home!
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210 Garage/Estate Sales

PLEASANTON, 3710 W. Las Positas Blvd, Sat 8/11 8:30-3pm
Very large multi-family sale! Furniture, appliances, toys, rugs and more.

Pleasanton, 4730 Del Valle Pkwy Sat 8/11, 8-2, Sun 8/12 9-1
Pleasanton, 6346 Hansen Dr. @ Valley, Sat 8/11 9-?

Pleasanton, 462 Kottinger Dr, Sat 8/11 9-11

Pleasanton, 7541 Trotter Way, Sunday, 8/12, 9a-2p
Garage Sale! Tons of misc. items for sale (computer equip, furniture, large dog travel crate, etc...) Take Bernal to Tapestry.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Beatles Record - \$2000 OBO
Coke Machine 846-3306
Coffee Mill, Pepper Mill & Spice - \$89
Football posters - \$9
Garantied Forged Grinder - \$39
Hood's Sarsaparilla bottle - \$28
Olympic Pins - \$3
Radio Flyer pumpercar - \$100 OBO

220 Computers/ Electronics

CD Storage Tower - \$25
240 Furnishings/ Household items
CA King Headboard Set - \$50.00
Candles - \$15
Desk/file/shelves - \$800
Nice Dresser with 4 drawers - \$50
Signed Print - \$7
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245 Miscellaneous

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270 Tickets

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Kid's Stuff

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Nanny wanted

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Piano Lessons

350 Preschools/ Schools/Camps

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PART TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (20+hrs/week w/o benefits)
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ASSOCIATION seeks an energetic, multi-tasking professional with outstanding computer skills. Microsoft Office and QuickBooks experience required. This position will take care of the day-to-day activities of the office including light bookkeeping, maintaining membership databases and member communications including newsletters. Must be friendly, great with the public and have a pleasant phone demeanor. Submit resume to director@pleasantondowntown.net or fax to (925)484-3064.

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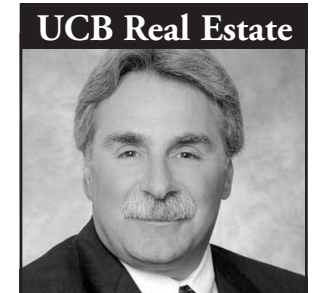
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Mention this ad and receive the Chamber member price of \$30 per person.

Register on line at: www.pleasanton.org or call Wendy Gutshall at 846-5858 Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce.

Calendar

Author Visits

Authors of 'Sandworms of Dune'
Based directly on Frank Herbert's final outline, which lay hidden in a safe deposit box for a decade, Kevin Anderson and Brian Herbert will finally answer the urgent questions Dune fans have been debating for two decades in their latest work "Sandworms of Dune." The event will be held at Livermore's Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 16.

Herb Martinez Pinstriping Artist
Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents pinstriping artist Herb Martinez at 2 p.m. Aug. 12. Pinstriping is not limited to custom cars, you can pinstripe anything. Call 931-3405.

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.

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

Classes

College Admissions Seminar The seminar takes place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 21 Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Learn about the latest in college admissions, including how colleges evaluate applicants, how to find a good fit, what to do before senior year and how to prepare a strong application. For parents and high school students. Call 963-2932.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 11, noted teacher and applique artist Sandra Mollon will be present at the Amador Valley Quilters meeting at Pleasanton Middle School. She will conduct a workshop the following day. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Assistance League of Amador Valley All are invited to Assistance League of Amador Valley meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church, on the corner of Hopyard Road and Del Valle Parkway. Informational half hour begins at 6:30 p.m., then social time at 7 p.m. and the meeting at 7:30 p.m. To learn more about the non-profit organization, visit amadorvalley.assistanceleague.org. Call 461-6401.

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@webbears.com or 373-7982.

Leads Group for True B2B Business Developers The Leads Group meets from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Aug. 16 at Mimi's Cafe, 4775 Hacienda Drive, Dublin. B2B Power Exchange is a leads group for people who sell to corporate decision makers. Pre-register because attendance is limited to 25 people. Non-members pay \$40 which includes the cost of breakfast. Prepay by the Tuesday prior to the event. Call 201-3410 or visit www.b2bpowerexchange.com/dublin.htm.

Concerts

The High Strung with Posterboy Rock Concert From 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 18, the Pleasanton Public Library presents for the second year, the quirky, carefree, energetic music of Detroit's The High Strung. Local favorites Posterboy will open the show on the Library Lawn, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3404.

Events

Thomas Coyne Winery Opens New Tasting Room Thomas Coyne

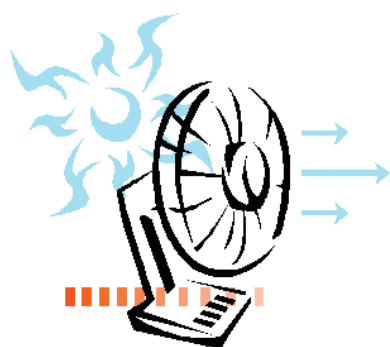
Civic Meetings

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



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Axis Community Health is a licensed, nonprofit healthcare organization committed to serving the community.

www.axishealth.org

Winery opens its new tasting room at noon Aug. 11 at Blacksmith Square, 25 South Livermore Ave, Livermore. Call Chris Doczy, 872-7481.

garden sale to benefit the Just Like New Fund, which pays one-time emergency medical costs so low- and fixed-income families can get help for sick or injured pets. The sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 25 at 4510 Entrada Ct. (off Neal Street). Call Jackie Barnett at 846-2512.

Exhibits

Kaiper & Schnitter: "Go Figure!"

Gina Kaiper and Jim Schnitter will exhibit figurative paintings in the "Go Figure!" show running through Aug. 25 at the Tri-Valley SPCA Art Gallery, 4651 Gleason Drive. Sponsored by Las Positas College Art Club, the exhibit is open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Email gkaiper@comcast.net.

Pin-ups and Pinstripes

Worthington Gallery West coordinated its upcoming exhibit, "Pin-ups and Pinstripes," with the 25th anniversary of the Goodguys Rod and Custom Association's hot rod and custom car event. The exhibit opening will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 24 at the gallery, 739 main St., Ste. J. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com

Pleasanton/Tulancingo BBQ The Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City Association hosts a fundraiser barbeque from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Aug. 11 at the Ivy Glen BBQ Area at the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. KGO's Gary Hansen hosts and the event includes a no-host bar, and live and silent auctions and more. The cost is \$30 per person in advance, \$35 at the door, or \$240 reserved table for eight with sponsor sign. Call Alice at 462-5786 or Jorge at 462-6723 for tickets and more information.

The Mother Bear Project Knit This, Purl That owner Beth Spisak has a goal of sending 100 teddy bears to needy children by December. She seeks knitters and crocheters who want to participate by purchasing an inexpensive pattern from The Mother Bear Project and completing a bear by December. The first meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Aug. 8 at 205A Main St. Call 249-9276 or visit www.yourknittingplace.com.

Tri-Valley Democrats Barbeque

The Tri-Valley Democrats host Congressman Jerry McNerney at its annual barbeque from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 18 at Kolb Park on

Fundraisers

Garage & Garden Sale The Valley Humane Society hosts a garage and

Weekend Preview



Photo credit

Fire up the grill next weekend

The Bay Area Barbecue Cook Off and Music Festival will take place at the Alameda County Fairgrounds next weekend, running Aug. 18 and 19. The annual event features award-winning cook off teams from across the country grilling up barbeque favorites, as well as live music and a "kid's zone." Doors open at 11 a.m. both days, closing Saturday at 9 p.m. and Sunday at 8 p.m. Admission is free, but parking costs \$8 per car. Visit www.alamedacountyfair.com for more information.

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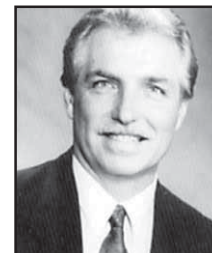
Example	30 year	40 years
Loan Amount	\$500,000	
1st Year Monthly Payment	\$1,608	\$1,264
2nd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,728	\$1,358
3rd Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,857	\$1,460
4th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$1,996	\$1,569
5th Year Max Monthly Payment	\$2,145	\$1,686

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Brighton Drive, Dublin. This event supports the 2008 election season. With Mc Nerney are speakers including Assemblymembers Alberto Torrico, Loni Hancock, Mary Hayashi and area officials and candidates. The cost is \$25 for adults. Call 831-8355 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

Lectures/Workshops

First Time HomeBuyer Seminar A free First Time Home Buyer educational seminar will be held at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 23 at the Diablo Funding Group,

100 Park Pl., Ste. 205, San Ramon. Learn the benefits of home ownership and qualification. Receive free home buyer checklists and mortgage info. Call 586-0429.

Market Research and the Marketing Plan Tech Ventures presents the Market Research and the Marketing Plan from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Aug. 15 at CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive. This session discusses the significant endeavor in determining the market potential of a product. Call 960-1600 or visit www.techventures.org.

Stressed Out? Stress is the cause of 80-85 percent of all illness according to the AMA. It can affect your metabolism, body weight, cardiovascular system, digestion, central nervous system, muscle function, and sleep. Join us as Dr. Lynne Sullivan shares ways to reduce or eliminate stress without addictive medication at 10 a.m. Aug. 14 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The cost is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Miscellaneous

Food Drive Dinner My Way of Pleasanton is sponsoring a food drive for Tri-Valley Haven. Your non-perishable food will be accepted through Aug. 31 at our store located at 1989 Santa Rita Road, Ste. G. Call 485-4286.

Home Equity Counseling Individual counseling for senior homeowners or other interested parties can come to the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., from 10 to noon Aug. 16. The free and impartial education about reverse mortgages and other forms of home equity conversion will be discussed. Call 931-5365 for an appointment (required) or call (510) 271-7931 for information about ECHO Housing, a non-profit housing counseling agency.

athletes, the camp includes training, conditioning, goal setting, time trials and racing tactics, as well as off-site running sessions on local Pleasanton trails. The coaching staff includes Rik Richardson, president of Athenian Athletics and assistant coach of Foothill's cross country and track teams, and Shannon Sos, Foothill's head cross country coach and assistant track and field coach. For more information, contact Rik at 518-9356.

Fastpitch Girls 12-U Tryouts Fall 07/Spring 08 The Tri-Valley Blaze Girls 12-U softball team is looking for players to join the roster. We are a highly competitive team and are looking for players who have 100 percent commitment. Individual try-outs available. Call 383-4708 or visit www.eteamz.com/tri-valleyblaze.

Lacrosse for 1st & 2nd Grade Boys First and second grade boys play lacrosse, Monday night clinics and Saturday morning games, in July and August at Hart Middle School. Training is provided by high school coaches and players. Helmets are provided. Call Rory Manley, 425-9198 or visit www.pleasantonlacrosse.com.

PONY General Meeting Pleasanton/Livermore Pony Baseball will hold its 2008 Tiger Baseball general meeting in August. All players ages 11-15 who are interested in participating in this program should attend this meeting. Pre-register at www.pleasantonpony.com.

Seniors

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.

Live Music

Concerts in the Park At 7 p.m. every Friday night through Sept. 7, music will fill Lions Wayside Park, at First and Neal streets. The line-up is as follows: La Ventana Aug. 17, Magic Moments Aug. 24, The Tom Rose Band Aug. 31, and Public Eye Sept. 7. For more information visit www.downtownpleasanton.net

Music for a Sabbath Evening Compositions by Clayton J. Foor can be heard at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 19 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road. This event features East Bay Festival Chorus; Flutes Con Moto; and Clayton Foor, director of music at Tri-Valley Unity Church of Dublin, on piano. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$40 per family. Call 783-3965.

Sports

Cross Country Training Camp There is still space available in the Tri-Valley Cross Country Training Camp, which begins 8 a.m. Aug. 13 at the Foothill High School track. The five-day camp will be held 8-11 a.m. Monday through Friday (Aug. 13-17). Cost is \$120. Open to all interested

TV30

Let's Talk Sports TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich Oakland A's Golf Special with Vida Blue, Dave Stewart, Dan Haren, Nick Swisher, Billy Beane and more. On Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., Fri. and Sat. at 4 p.m. Call 462-6644 or visit www.tv30.org.

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

Asian-Pacific

Mahalo Grille
425 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-2800.
Treat yourself to a taste sensation at Mahalo Grille featuring a variety of Pacific seafood, Hawaiian fresh fish and shell fish, and "Mahalo" signature selections. Also try our various vegetarian-friendly offerings, California wines and island cocktails. Visit www.mahalogrille.com.

Barbecue

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

Brewpub/Alehouse

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

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

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

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

(continued on page 24)



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Dining Out

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Panda Mandarin Cuisine

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

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.

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.

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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.

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.

Mexican

Blue Agave Club

625 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

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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

Japanese

Sato Japanese Cuisine

3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner



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30 BEERS ON TAP
Huge Outdoor Patio!

Pleasanton Weekly's BEST OF PLEASANTON 2006

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Come Taste Our New Lunch & Dinner Entrees



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- Rehearsal Dinners
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Check out

PLEASANTON WEEKLY.COM


every day

Sheldan's Bakery & Cafe
artisan bakers

presents
LIVE JAZZ

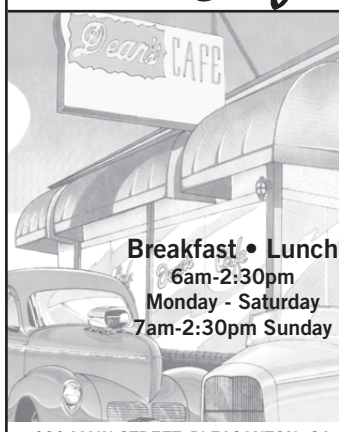
Featuring nationally acclaimed teen jazz duo **John Palowitch**, alto sax, and **Jeff Stein**, guitar, performing classic standards

Saturday, August 11, 2007 1:30-3:00 pm
Join us for an afternoon of great music and food



4584 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, CA 94568
925.560.9830

House of Omelettes
Deans Cafe



Breakfast • Lunch
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Monday - Saturday
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FONTINA Ristorante



• 3 New Specials Every Week
• Seasonal Menu

Pleasanton Weekly's BEST OF PLEASANTON 2006

Kids eat free*
Monday & Tuesday
*One free child meal (under 12 yrs) with one paying adult

FONTINA Ristorante
925.462.9299
349 Main Street, Downtown Pleasanton • www.fontinas.com