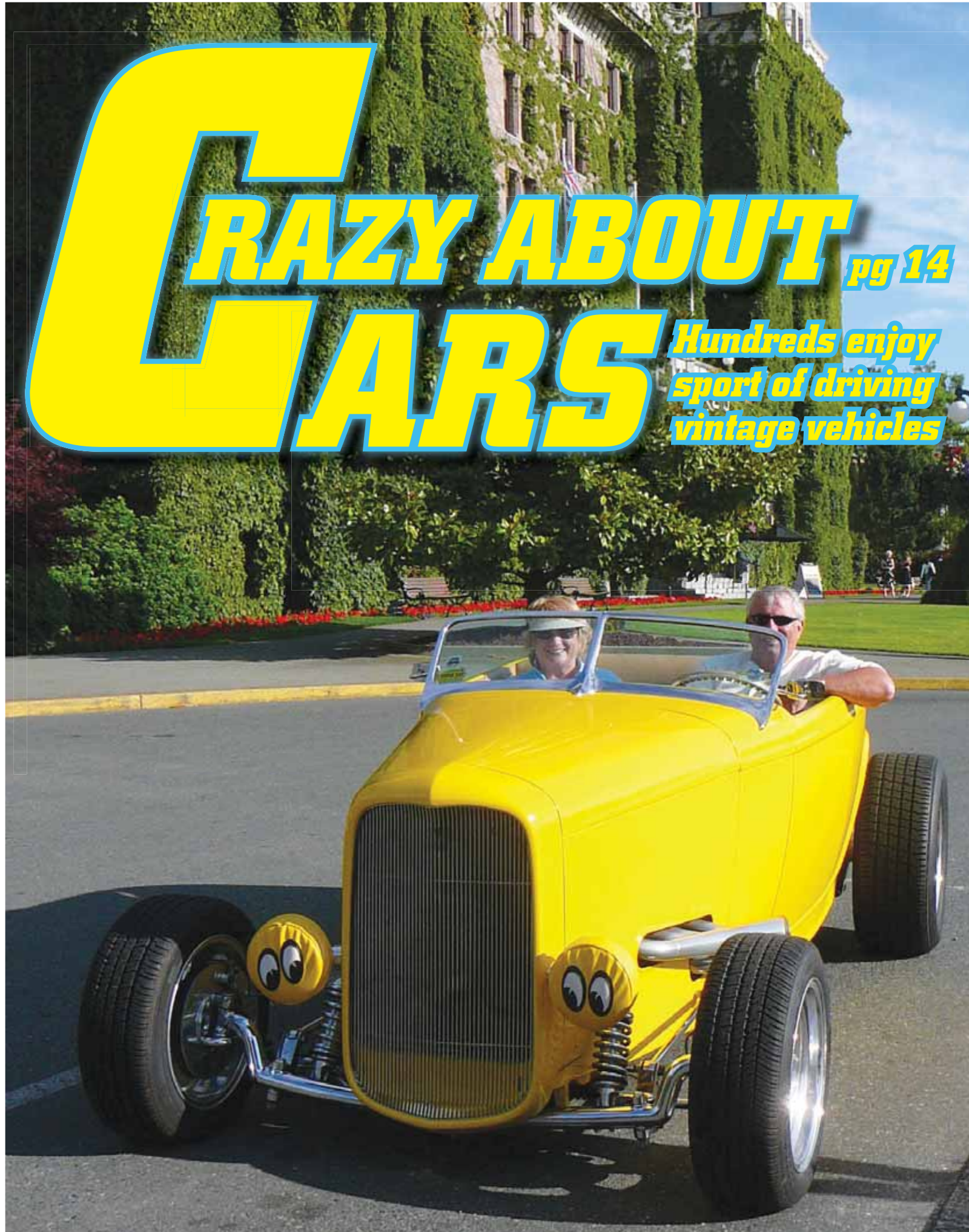


# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Vol. VIII, Number 32 • September 7, 2007

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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Castlewood says goodbye to its 'best letter carrier ever'

Irene Marquez probably knows more about the homeowners in Castlewood than any one else, and she doesn't even live there. But the more than 200 residents she has served as their letter carrier for the last 15 years love her all the same. What happens in Castlewood stays there, one homeowner joked, and Marquez is part of the crowd.

Many she has served in this distinguished community gave Marquez a going away party no one will soon forget after learning she was retiring last Friday. Balloons flew from mailboxes all along Castlewood, Castledown, Golf and other streets and cul-de-sacs with a gigantic sign posted at the foot of Castlewood near Foothill Road, where at least 40 residents gathered to wish her well. Carol Langer, who organized the party, directed traffic as many drove their golf carts down the hill to join in. Longtime homeowner Steve Mattox said he and his wife Lorraine were there to cry together because they were losing "the best mail girl in the world." He told of many times when they were at their winter home that Marquez would collect their mail and send it to them each week on his Federal Express account. Louise Johnson, who moved to Castlewood in 1949 and thinks that she may now be one of the oldest members of Castlewood Country Club, praised Marquez for her years of service. "She always comes," said Johnson, whose late husband Tom was the first president of the country club. At the retirement party, Connie Duke called Marquez "the most considerate mail carrier I've ever had." She joined with Liz Rose, who has lived in Castlewood for the last 41 years, in giving Marquez a giant Happy Retirement card with more than 100 signatures and messages—a virtual who's who of Castlewood.

Marquez considers herself one of the luckiest letter carriers in the post office. When she hears grumbles from other carriers about some of their customers, she just smiles

with relief that she signed up to be a rural carrier when she came to the Pleasanton office. Unlike regular city carriers who walk or drive the more densely populated streets in Pleasanton, Marquez could take her time, often stopping to chat with homeowners who were outside, looking for a chance to talk for a while as well as get their mail. Sometimes it was news of a new grandchild or a trip they were planning. There also were times when the news was bad: a longtime homeowner with advanced Alzheimer's who had to move, a death of a homeowner she knew and whose spouse she consoled. Besides delivering the mail, Marquez was also known for her caring heart and soft shoulders to cry on.

Since many in Castlewood are retired, Marquez handled larger and heavier volumes of mail than others, with more catalogues, travel brochures, corporate shareholder reports and magazines. That caused her to leave her home in Hayward by 5 a.m. to reach Pleasanton by 6 and start sorting, then driving out to Castlewood by mid-morning with the day's mail. If she found mail still in a box from the previous day, she would take it to the house or back to the post office for safekeeping. She said Castlewood has had a number of mail thefts, which is why many now have purchased new curbside mailboxes with locks. Recently, Marquez said, postal investigators found a group in a Pleasanton hotel with mail stolen from Pleasanton, Castro Valley, Danville and Walnut Creek. Her advice is for everyone with an outside mail box to make sure they empty it as soon as possible and to never leave newspapers or other deliveries on the driveway. She made that happened in Castlewood, offering what most of us would consider extraordinary service from a letter carrier. No wonder it was hard for the folks in Castlewood to say goodbye to Irene Marquez. ■

### About the Cover

George and Carol Withers traveled to The Empress Hotel in Victoria B.C. in their 1932 Ford Roadster in July for "Deuce Days," a celebration of the 75th anniversary of "the deuce" as the '32 Fords are nicknamed. The Withers' car was one of more than 400 '32 Fords on hand for the celebration. Vol. VII, Number 32

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# Streetwise

**Q:** Should Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick play football again?

Asked Around Town



**Brad Cox**

Mechanical Services

No, he should not. What he did was such a heinous crime he should never be allowed to play again. A lot of responsibility comes with being a professional athlete; kids look up to you. There are certain professions that need to be held to a higher standard: politicians, doctors and athletes fall within that category.

**Lernis Roberts**

Social Worker

I think eventually, after a five-year suspension, he should be allowed to play with some serious restrictions around pet ownership. In fact he should never own pets again. Who knows what legal ramifications will result from this but whatever they may be I believe after he has taken care of that and after a lengthy hiatus from the NFL, they should let him play again.



**Glen Jones**

Consultant

I think what he did is reprehensible. I think he has a responsibility to be a role model to the team and the public. Whether he should serve time or not, that's up to the courts.

**Sylvia Ramos-Hans**

Executive Assistant

He should never play for the NFL again on any team regardless of who may want to hire him. He has admitted to being guilty of a portion of the indictments against him. He has been a part of something so cruel that, even if he pays his dues, the public will never be able to look at him the same way. He has lost all respect.



**Camille De Meneses**

Student

I don't feel he should be able to play in the NFL again. He is a role model to young fans and I don't feel it is appropriate that he be put back in the public light. As a professional athlete he has a responsibility to society.

Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Foothill grad makes "Design Star" finals

Foothill High School alumnus Todd Davis (class of 1990) is in the finals for a Home & Garden TV (HGTV) reality show called "Design Star." Eleven designers began the competition to compete for their own HGTV show. America gets to choose the winner by visiting [www.hgtv.com](http://www.hgtv.com) and casting a vote. The finals will air Sunday at 9 p.m. Davis currently lives in San Francisco with his wife and has a sister who is a sophomore at Foothill.

### Annual BUSC/Rage soccer parade this Saturday

The annual BUSC/Pleasanton Rage Soccer Parade will take place at 7:30 a.m. Saturday in downtown Pleasanton. Teams will proceed down Main Street and turn onto West Angela Street and back up Peters Avenue. Due to time constraints the fairgrounds will not be part of the event this year. The parade, which signals the start of soccer season, is a long-standing tradition.

### CVB holds a photo contest

The Tri-Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) is holding a photo contest titled "Show Us Your Roots." Images depicting Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville will be considered. Cash prizes from \$250 to \$1,000 will be awarded. For details, visit [www.trivalleycvb.com](http://www.trivalleycvb.com).

### Recycle e-waste in Sunol, Pleasanton

Sunol Glen School, 11601 Main St., Sunol, is hosting an e-waste collection from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Items accepted for free recycling include: TVs, monitors, laptops, flatscreens, cell phones and ink jet cartridges. Items accepted for \$5 fee include: CPUs, keyboards, printers, copiers, DVD and VCR players, stereo equipment, fax machines and video games. Email [leslymohr@yahoo.com](mailto:leslymohr@yahoo.com) or call Roger at 510-860-3708.

Harvest Park Middle School's environmental club is also collecting electronics to support an outdoor classroom. During September, students will recycle empty laser, fax, copier and inkjet cartridges; cell phones; laptops; Palm Pilots; iPods; DVDs; electronic games and game systems. These items can be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school's main office, 4900 Valley Ave. Call Marsha 426-4444 or email [mjones@pleasanton.k12.ca.us](mailto:mjones@pleasanton.k12.ca.us).

## Pleasanton Middle School's API scores invalidated

*School district surprised by California Department of Education action, may appeal*

by Emily Atwood

When the 2007 Academic Performance Index (API) rankings were released last Friday, the district was told that Pleasanton Middle School's 2007 Growth API results would not be included. That is because the 2006 API scores were invalidated.

The California Department of Education (CDE) said handwritten copies of a 2005 practice science STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) test made by a Hart Middle School teacher and shared with other teachers during a summer 2005 meeting compromised the eighth grade science test scores at PMS, according PUSD spokeswoman Myla Grasso.

Superintendent John Casey said the dis-

trict was surprised by the CDE decision, announced one day before they were released. He said the district will decide within three to four weeks as to whether an appeal will be filed.

Staff gathered at Pleasanton Middle School Aug. 30 to discuss the withholding of the school's API scores after the CDE said the results were compromised.

PMS Principal John Whitney would not comment on the situation, but confirmed that the meeting was in regards to the CDE announcement.

The district was made aware of the test copying in a meeting last March when an administrator reported a comment made about the copying to the district. The CDE was reportedly notified immediately and the district began to investigate. The district found that the information from the copy was made available to one teacher at each district middle school "during a time when the



Janel Pelletier

School administrators and students file through the hallways of Pleasanton Middle School during lunchtime Aug. 30, a day before the API scores came out.

(continued on page 8)

## High scores abound for public schools

*Results from API, state exit exam show students continue in streak of excellence*

California's Academic Performance Index (API) scores, released today, rate Pleasanton Unified School District in the top 10 among unified districts nationwide.

The API stems from STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) testing and is used to monitor student achievement in regards to state and federal accountability standards.

With scores ranging from 200 to 1000, each of the 13 district schools surpassed the state goal of 800. In addition, eight schools earned over 900. Foothill High jumped 52 to 884, putting them above Amador Valley High at 870, whose was previously on top with a score of

850. The highest ranked school was Mohr Elementary with a score of 965.

Overall, the district's score rose by 12 for a total of 893.

Not all schools showed improvement, however, as Alisal Elementary fell six points to 878, Donlon Elementary fell eight points to 902, Fairlands Elementary fell 12 points to 918, Vintage Hills Elementary fell three points to 915 and Walnut Grove fell eight points to 924. Village High did not surpass the state goal and fell five points to 585.

Pleasanton Middle also dropped seven points to 905, but currently the California Department of

(continued on page 8)



Jay Flachsbart

### Great Scot!

The Scottish Highland Games, held last weekend at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, was a big hit with the locals. Here, Alyssa Batovan (in red) of Livermore and Jacqueline Miller (in black) of Moraga, perform a Scottish dance at a parade last Friday in downtown Pleasanton, ushering in the three-day affair.

## Oak Grove plan stalls as debate sizzles

*Council puts off to Oct. 2 any decision on 51-home, open space proposal*

by Jeb Bing

The City Council, after hearing 3-1/2 hours of comments Tuesday night about the proposed Oak Grove development of 51 homes and nearly 500 acres of open space, put off until Oct. 2 any decision on the plan.

Oak Grove is a 562-acre hilltop above Kottinger Ranch, Vintage Hills and Grey Eagle that is owned by Jennifer, Frederic and Kevin

Lin. The Lins are proposing 51 home sites on 77 acres of their property with an offer based on that development approval of 496 acres as permanent public open space to Pleasanton or another public entity. As part of the development agreement, they would also contribute \$1 million to the city for use in traffic, street and other infrastructure improvements outside of Oak Grove.

The development would contain large lots capable of holding homes as large as 12,500 square feet, although most of the homes would be in the 9,000-square-foot range.

Initially, the Lins asked to build

98 homes on the site, which is in accord with the city's 1996 General Plan that sets land use policy. If the council approves the 51-home plan, the Lins would have the right to build the remaining 47 homes, including 20 that would have to meet the city's affordable housing requirements, elsewhere in the city.

For Atty. Marty Inderbitzen, who, along with developer and investor James Tong of Pleasanton represents the Lins, Tuesday night's public hearing was another in a long series of meetings and public hearing delays that now go back nearly three years. Sensing the opposi-

tion to the original 98-home plan by city officials and particularly the Kottinger Ranch community, Inderbitzen and Tong worked with the Lins to downsize the planned development, increasing the size of the 51 homes in their last offering to make the gift of the 496-acre forest preserve financially feasible.

"Although many people in Kottinger Ranch would probably like to see no homes built in these hills, we believe the compromise we've reached is agreeable to all," Bing Hadley, president of the Kottinger Ranch homeowners

(continued on page 9)

# Court ruling called "a big blow" to local water supply

*Zone 7 warns that residents may face mandatory cutbacks in the future*

by Janet Pelletier

A recent court ruling has spread a wave of concern for the local region's water supply. The ruling, made by a U.S. federal court judge last Friday, could lead to up to one-third less water being pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to cities in the Bay Area such as Pleasanton.

The pumping reduction stems from a court case initiated by the Natural Resources Defense Council regarding the protection of the Delta smelt, a 2- to 3-inch silver fish that once thrived in the Delta but is now dying off. The fish are being sucked through pumps such as those at a Tracy pumping station that distributes water to the East Bay and South Bay regions.

Officials at Zone 7, the water agency that wholesales water to 80 percent of Pleasanton residents as well as those in Livermore, Dublin and Dougherty Valley, are worried that the ruling will have a substantial impact on the local water

supply. The agency gets 80 percent of its supply conveyed through the Delta by the State Water Project.

"We really could be in a bind if we're entering a drought or experience an earthquake that disrupts future water delivery," said Zone 7 General Manager Jill Duerig. "We may ask people to do more with less in order to protect our drought supplies and will be looking at additional tools and programs to help people do that."


The court ruling will cut up to one-third of combined State Water Project and Central Valley Project water deliveries for one year while state and federal agencies complete a long-term plan to protect the endangered fish, according to Zone 7.

Reserves of groundwater will help the water agency through next

year, but Duerig said drawing down on those reserves could put the Valley in a "seriously vulnerable position" if dry weather conditions such as the ones this year, continue into a prolonged drought.

Last week's court ruling follows a nine-day period back in June where the Delta pumps were shut down to protect the smelt.

Some measures residents can take to reduce water usage include watering outdoors less, washing cars less frequently, repairing leaky sprinkler heads and household plumbing, turning off the tap while brushing teeth, taking shorter showers and running dishwashers and clothes washers only for full loads. More conservation tips are listed on Zone 7's Web site, [www.zone7water.com](http://www.zone7water.com). ■




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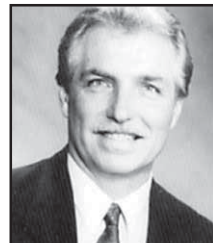
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Bob Koopmann, with his wife, holds the original cocktail lounge sign.

## Rose Hotel to honor area grandparents with roses

*Downtown hotel hosts "Roses to Grandparents" in observation of holiday Sunday*

While Grandparents Day is not the most popular observed holiday during the year, it is special to many. In honor of the holiday, celebrated on Sept. 9, the Rose Hotel will host the second annual "Roses to Grandparents."

Grandparents and their families are invited to gather in the hotel lobby to have cake, coffee and engage in conversation that day from 2 to 4 p.m. Guests will be treated to tours of the hotel, including viewing vintage photos of downtown Pleasanton that are hung on the balcony walls and will also be eligible to win a free night's stay.

Each grandparent will be given a rose.

"Our first 'Roses to Grandparents' event was a huge success, with more than 100 people enjoying the hotel and

each other's company," said hotel general manager Phyllis Grisham. "One guest, Bob Koopmann, who now lives in Murphys, Calif., even presented us with his antique cocktail lounge sign from the original Rose Hotel."

"Grandparents are such an important part of our community's heritage as well as each family's history," she added.

National Grandparents Day is observed the first Sunday after Labor Day. It was proclaimed by President Jimmy Carter in 1978 in response to the efforts of Marian H. McQuade, a housewife in West Virginia, who campaigned for a day to honor grandparents. For more information about the event, call the hotel at 846-8802. ■

—Janet Pelletier

# Business Briefs

**New logo, tagline, Web site for CVB**

The Tri-Valley Convention and Visitor's Bureau has a new logo, tagline and Web site. The bureau represents the cities of Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, San Ramon and Danville. The new tagline is "Our roots are showing" to reflect the Tri-Valley's pride in its past and a commitment to staying true to the values of hospitality, quality and community. It was created with branding agency Great Destinations.

The "Tri-Valley, California" logo and color palette was created with Carl Mazer Design. Adding "California" to the logo is expected to eliminate confusion for the region's location.

The new Web site was developed by Simpleview and features a room reservation and booking application, travel itineraries, expanded member listings, a press room, user-generated blogs, expanded photo library, online RFP's and a regionwide calendar of events. For more information, visit [www.trivalleycvb.com](http://www.trivalleycvb.com).

**Pleasanton businesswoman to be honored**

Donna Garrison, Realtor with Keller Williams Tri-Valley, will be honored as one of three of this year's Outstanding Business Women on Sunday by the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) Bay Area Council and eWomen-Network.



Donna Garrison

Garrison was chosen for her community contributions as well as her professional achievements. As a founder of the Ruby Hill Giving Thanks Charity Committee, she currently serves as president of the board. Garrison has worked in various capacities since 1997 to help the organization raise more than \$2.2 million to support local charities such as Hope Hospice, Valley Care Medical Foundation, Taylor Family Foundation's Camp Arroyo and Open Heart Kitchen.

In addition to being a Realtor, in partnership with her sister, Garrison is also an independent film producer, having produced several films highlighting women's issues, one of which was accepted at the prestigious Sundance Producer's Conference last year. She is also on the board of the California Independent Film Festival and volunteers with the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Career Day efforts.

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# Hosterman heads to global warming summit

*60 mayors invited to Redford's Sundance Summit*

by Jeb Bing

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman will leave this weekend for Utah where she will take part in the 2007 Sundance Summit of mayors on global warming protection and prevention.

This invitation-only summit is the third annual event hosted by actor and environmentalist Robert Redford to discuss ways to combat greenhouse emissions. It opens Sunday with a welcome by Redford to the 60 mayors from across the U.S. who are expected to attend. Speakers will include key environmentalists and climate policy planners, with former California gubernatorial candidate Phil Angelides, now of the Apollo Alliance, and Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez as luncheon keynote speakers.

Hosterman, who will attend the conference at no cost to the city of

Pleasanton, is listed as "a participating mayor" from Pleasanton. Other California mayors who have accepted the summit invitation include Dan Cort, Pacific Grove; Yoriko Kishimoto, Palo Alto; Vicki Vidak-Martinez, Rohnert Park; Dennis Donohue, Salinas; Emily Reilly, Santa Cruz, and Robert Blanchard, Santa Rosa.

Besides Chavez, the only other large city mayor expected to attend is Rocky Anderson of Salt Lake City and David Miller, mayor of Toronto, Ontario.

Redford, in cooperation with the Local Governments for Sustainability organization, launched the ongoing effort to halt global warming in 2005 to influence U.S. national energy policies and to provide support to cities seeking to find ways to curb greenhouse emissions on their own. ■

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## PMS

(continued from page 5)

teachers were meeting to review and prepare science curriculum for the course." The investigation also showed that the copied test was not shown to students, according to Grasso.

Casey said the investigation had two components: the first being done by the district and bringing it to the CDE, and the second part including amendments made by the CDE. The first part was completed in April and the second in June.

"Our investigation showed that teachers looked at these questions for a very brief period of time," Casey said. "The teachers didn't create worksheets or example problems that were ever directly created [from the copied test]. You can get public documents from the state that can give you an idea of what will be on the test. We don't have any evidence that our kids had an advantage."

While the teacher did break the rules in copying parts of the test, Casey said the test was not obtained illegally. The science portion of the STAR test was a field test, meaning the exam results would be used to help finalize the final version of the test to be given the following year. The field tests were not used to calculate a score. Casey also added that only portions of the 2005 test were likely used in the 2006 test.

In addition to the invalidation of the 2006 API scores, the 2007

API Growth score will not be calculated, Grasso said. The 2007 test results, however, are still valid.

The teacher who made a copy of the test was from Hart Middle School and copies were given to science teachers at each of the three middle schools in the district, Grasso said. Yet only Pleasanton Middle School was disqualified.

"The [CDE] couldn't get over the fact that PMS's scores were so high," Casey said. "District staff believes that the scores at Pleasanton Middle reflect only the achievement of the students at the school."

The fact that none of the other schools was disqualified gives reason for the district to believe that PMS was unfairly singled out, Grasso said.

PMS science scores have been higher for the past few years, with 88 percent of the student body proficient in science, compared to 72 percent at Harvest Park and 78 at Hart.

"These are great teachers and great teachers are going to get great results and focus on state standards," Casey said. "This doesn't surprise us. We should be congratulating them."

STAR tests are under strict security, Grasso said, and are only available to teachers and students at the time of testing. Teachers also must sign affidavits, saying they agree not to make copies of the test. The CDE's reasoning is that students would have an unfair advantage if

teachers are structuring curriculum around the test.

"We're not sure we agree with that [reasoning] because the state wants us to teach to state standards and that's what we did," Grasso said.

Legal action has not been taken against the Hart teacher, but according to Grasso he or she received "reasonable and appropriate" disciplinary action from the district, but was not fired.

"These are good teachers," she said. "We don't want this to be a career defining event for them. It was a mistake; it was not of bad intention."

Jim Rallis, director of assessment, said the 2006 API scores will be invalidated for the school, but will not affect individual students. Grasso also added that the disqualification could make it difficult for the school to apply to be a California Distinguished School, but wasn't sure at the time. ■

## Scores

(continued from page 5)

Education said this growth score was invalidated because of a discrepancy relating to a teacher copying a test.

### 2007 API scores

Alisal Elementary 878  
Donlon Elementary 902  
Fairlands Elementary 918  
Hearst Elementary 926  
Lydiksen Elementary 897  
Mohr Elementary 965  
Valley View Elementary 917  
Vintage Hills Elementary 915  
Walnut Grove Elementary 924  
Hart Middle School 895  
Harvest Park Middle 899  
Pleasanton Middle 905\*  
Amador Valley High 870  
Foothill High 585  
District-wide 893

### California High School Exit Exam scores

Also recently released were the results of the California High School Exit Exam. As sophomores, a large majority of the class of 2009 passed and secured the state's graduation requirement.

The now-juniors had a passing rate of 96 percent in both the English-language arts and mathematics portions on the first attempt. Over 97 percent of this year's seniors (class of 2008) have passed the exam.

"I am very proud of our students," said Superintendent John Casey. "The fact that so many have already completed this requirement for graduation allows the district to identify the seniors who have not passed and offer individual, targeted support to ensure that they will be successful."

The exam is administered to sophomore students who must pass both portions of the exam in order to graduate. Those who don't pass in their first attempt have several opportunities to take it again. Seniors who have still not passed have three more chances, starting Nov. 6 and 7. ■

—Emily Atwood

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## Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

Association, told the council.

"Our vision now is that other large land owners of the hills around the south side of Pleasanton will go through the same process so that one day we can have trails running from the Callippe Preserve Golf Course all the way to Shadow Cliffs."

Jon Harvey, another Kottinger Ranch homeowner, agreed.

"We are locking in our boundary so Pleasanton can't expand to the south," Harvey said. "It will provide access to local trail networks as well as to connect to trails to the east and the west."

He also urged that the council moved expeditiously to approve the plan.

"I hope it's this City Council that will be the one to take action on this development," Harvey said. "If you don't, it could go to another council in the future and, frankly, I don't want to bet on another one."

Although many speakers praised the plan and particularly its open space proposal, some were critical.

Former Councilwoman Kay Ayala said she was disappointed by the council's decision to even consider the plan.

"I am absolutely shocked that this development plan is before the City Council," Ayala said. "For all the years I served on the coun-

cil, anytime there was even a tiny squeak about developing this precious land, it was stopped."

The former mayoral candidate said the Lin family long ago made the revenue it deserved by developing Kottinger Ranch, and the rest should be left in open space.

She also accused city politicians and others of accepting campaign donations and work arrangements from the Lins, "chasing the money," as she called it, so that this development process would go through.

"Just say no to ever building there," she urged. "You don't have to allow any homes there."

Other objectors came from the Grey Eagle community, whose homes in this gated development would look across ravines to the new homes proposed in Oak Grove.

"The people in Grey Eagle were never included in any survey or planning effort where Oak Grove is concerned," said Pam Grove, a Grey Eagle homeowner. "The presentation talks about compromise, but there was never any compromise with those of us who live in Grey Eagle."

Carla Brown, vice president of the Kottinger Ranch Homeowners Association, also criticized the plan even though the organization, itself, is supporting it.

"What we have here is a bait and switch game, talking about hiking and horse trails," she said. "But is it really fair to add 620 cars a day on Hearst Drive where we have kids

riding their bikes to school?"

"I'm not saying the land owners can't use their land for agriculture or growing grapes, but what's proposed is not the best use of this land," she added. "Keep in mind that trials alone and a land grant isn't what makes a neighbor."

Inderbitzen's biggest problem in finally winning council approval on Oct. 2, though, may be the Planning Commission's decision June 27 to not certify an environmental impact report on Oak Grove. That is usually the first step in a three-part approval process that the City Council must now undertake.

That brought the loudest complaint from Councilwoman Cindy McGovern who argued that the Planning Commission, not the council, should be hearing the Planned Unit Development (PUD) and Developer Agreement proposals first.

"The Planning Commission is better at considering these issues and, frankly, I think they can do a better job than the council," McGovern said, in urging that the Lin family petition be sent back to planners for new hearings.

Even if the Planning Commission agreed to re-open the petition, it could delay final approval—or rejection—of the Oak Grove plan by months, putting the decision closer to the next council election in November 2008.

Jon Harvey urged the council to avoid that, to make the decision soon "and then to move on." ■

### Take Us Along



### Not a 'bear' to read

Donnie, Mike and Jan Collinson, Nick Mendonca, Derek Banister, Neal and Clint Mankins, Chase Miller, Malcolm Michael, Sue Banister, Brandon Martinez, Hunter Collinson, and Richard and Teri Mankins read the Weekly during their regular New Years trip to Bear Valley.



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# Opinion

## Editorial

### State's penalties against Pleasanton Middle School make no sense

Let's get this straight. An eighth-grade physical science teacher at Hart Middle School hand copied questions from a 2005 practice science Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) test that students completed and placed on the teacher's desk. The teacher later made photocopies and shared it with other middle school science teachers during a 15 to 30-minute meeting they had in the early summer 2006 as they were preparing that school year's physical science curriculum. Their objective was to update classroom material to make sure students were well prepared for the coming year's course work and the tests they would face. At no time did any student ever see the teacher's copy of the 2005 test questions nor were any tests or test results compromised in any of the schools. Yet last week, the California Department of Education (CDE) announced that because high test scores resulted after a handwritten copy of the 2005 test questions had been used to prepare course material for 2006, the 2006 test scores from Pleasanton Middle School would be invalidated and not included in the 2007 Academic Performance Index (API) rankings.

It doesn't make sense. Sure, the teacher who made the test copy violated an affidavit he and all teachers sign not to make copies of test questions or the tests themselves. As soon as Superintendent John Casey and his staff learned of the infraction, they conducted an investigation that confirmed the report they had received. The case went to the school board in May, with the board taking firm but measured disciplinary action against the teacher and others who were involved, but allowing them to continue teaching. These are, after all, career teachers with many years of excellent service to the school district. One teacher made a mistake. The district took appropriate action and also notified the CDE about what happened and the disciplinary action that was taken.

Why then did the CDE believe that action wasn't enough and that somehow the 2006 tests administered at Pleasanton Middle School might have been compromised, even though the investigation showed they weren't? The CDE found that since Pleasanton Middle School's results on the 2006 STAR tests were among the highest of middle schools in the state, there must be something wrong. It ruled that the wrongfully copied 2005 physical science test must have been the reason for the superior scores. Did the CDE fail to notice that test scores from PMS are historically among the highest in the state? That's because the school has long been recognized for having some of the brightest, experienced teachers among middle schools in the state with an enviable, statewide reputation for achieving excellence in the courses they teach.

Without question, Casey and the school board made the right decision in taking prompt and decisive disciplinary action when the wrongful test copying was discovered. Even though the intent was to improve the eighth-grade science curriculum in accordance with state standards, copying of test questions is not allowed and the teacher knew it. They accepted responsibility, the teachers' union agreed to the board's action, and Casey has been meeting in recent weeks with school principals, test coordinators and others to remind everyone how important it is to watch testing procedures. In a school district with 1,400 employees, mistakes will be made. This one was discovered early on, disciplinary action was taken and the school district advised the CDE of what happened. What seems unfair to us is the CDE's insistence on punishing Pleasanton Middle School—not even the school involved in the test copying mistake—simply because its test scores are high, which they have been for years. Someone in Sacramento needs to explain this decision. ■

# Letters

## BBQ event not friendly for pedestrians

Dear Editor,

I wanted to echo your comments regarding the "free" BBQ event at the county fairgrounds two weeks ago.

Except I never got in.

Saturday morning I was at the farmer's market on Angela Street, so I decided to take the short, pleasant walk to the fairgrounds entrance on Pleasanton Avenue and go to the BBQ fair. There was a sawhorse on the driveway stating to enter the BBQ fair through the Valley Avenue gates.

As I entered the fairgrounds there on Pleasanton Avenue I was stopped by the security guard. He told me in no uncertain terms there were to be absolutely no walk-throughs to the BBQ fair allowed. He told me I was required to drive to the event and enter at Valley Avenue and pay the \$8 parking fee for the "free event." I am not so sure I would really be required to drive to enter at Valley Avenue, but the prospect of walking an additional mile to go around on Bernal Avenue, Valley Avenue and through the whole of the fairgrounds parking lot was enough to dissuade me.

To be fair, a friend of mine was permitted entry on Sunday by a more lenient guard.

However, I am sure that the security guard I encountered was given very explicit orders to bar walk-throughs.

I think that the fairgrounds should make a commitment to allowing pedestrians entry to all events, and not create unreasonable barriers to pedestrians like requiring all entries limited to Valley Avenue.

And, certainly it is not a very wise policy to require all to drive to an event where alcohol is served.

Carl W. Pretzel  
Pleasanton

## Out of food, out of fun

Dear Editor,

I paid \$8 to park in the sun, stood in line to buy food for two and a half hours and when I was the 20th in line they announced they ran out of food. What a waste of money and time!

Jan Dal Porto  
Pleasanton

## BBQ event to work out kinks next year

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to both the editorial in the paper ("Fairgrounds BBQ was the pits," Aug. 24) and Carl Pretzel's letter (above). The Fairgrounds has done some remodeling this year to extend the Green Gate entrance gate further closer to the parking lot to create a nice festival area with trees and grass. With this new setup, the promoters decided to control the entrance to their event from the Valley Avenue side of the grounds close to the parking lots which creates an issue for the few who walk through the grounds from Pleasanton Avenue. To clarify, the fairgrounds rents the space to the promoter.

The BBQ Cook-off and Music Festival was advertised as a "free admission" event with \$8 parking included on the Web site, collateral etc.

I do apologize for the confusion by our security staff in regards to pedestrian traffic, as the amount of walk through traffic was not anticipated. This was a brand new event by the promoter, Bay Area Productions, in a newly enhanced area of the fairgrounds and as with most new events, improvements will be made for the future. Many thousands of

attendees did enjoy the new event and the great BBQ food from award winning BBQ organizations across the nation. The promoter, Bay Area Productions, was thrilled with the turnout and intends to hold the event here at the fairgrounds next year.

I do kindly thank you for the feedback and your comments will be taken into consideration for the planning of future events in this specific area.

April Mitchell  
Events & Marketing Manager,  
Alameda County Fair

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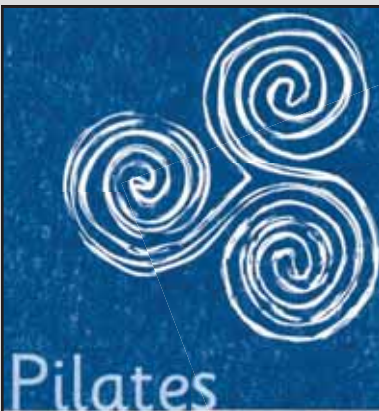
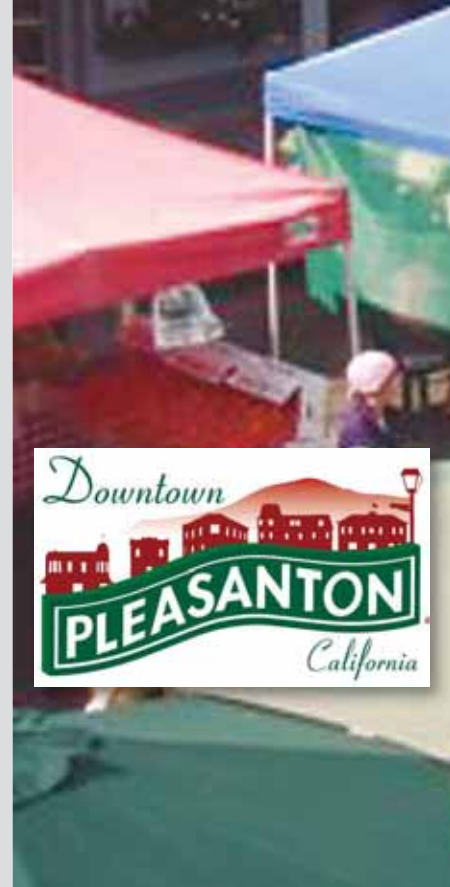
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When: Sat., Sept. 15 from 11:00AM to 12:30PM

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Who: a representative from the Princeton Review will facilitate the workshop



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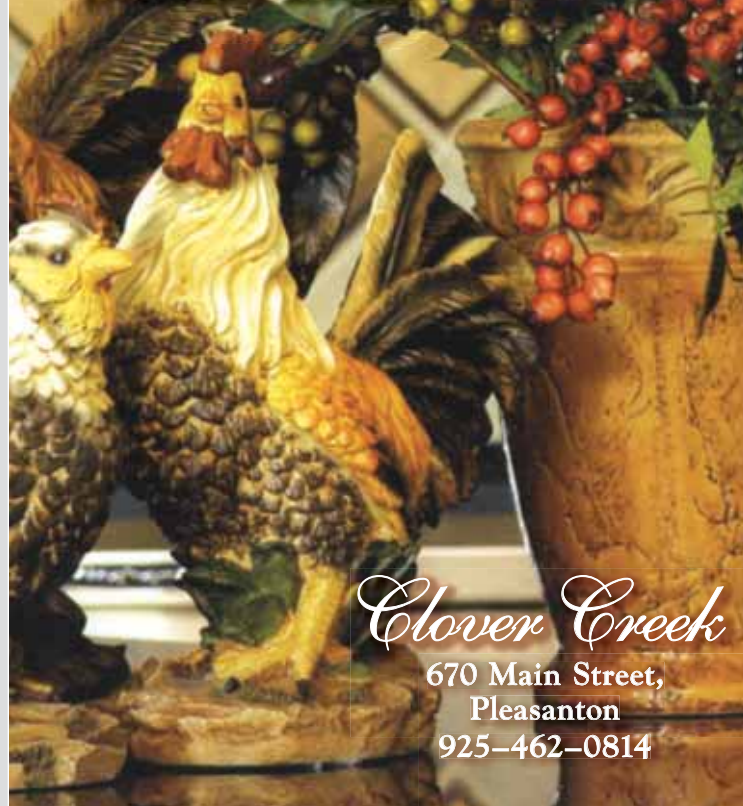
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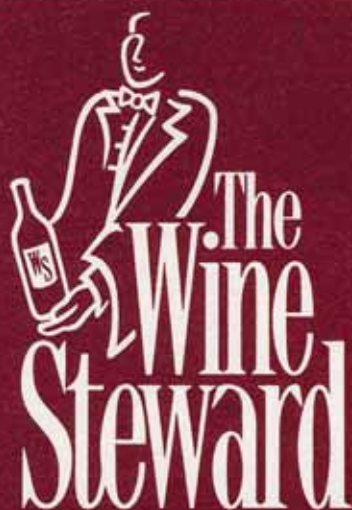
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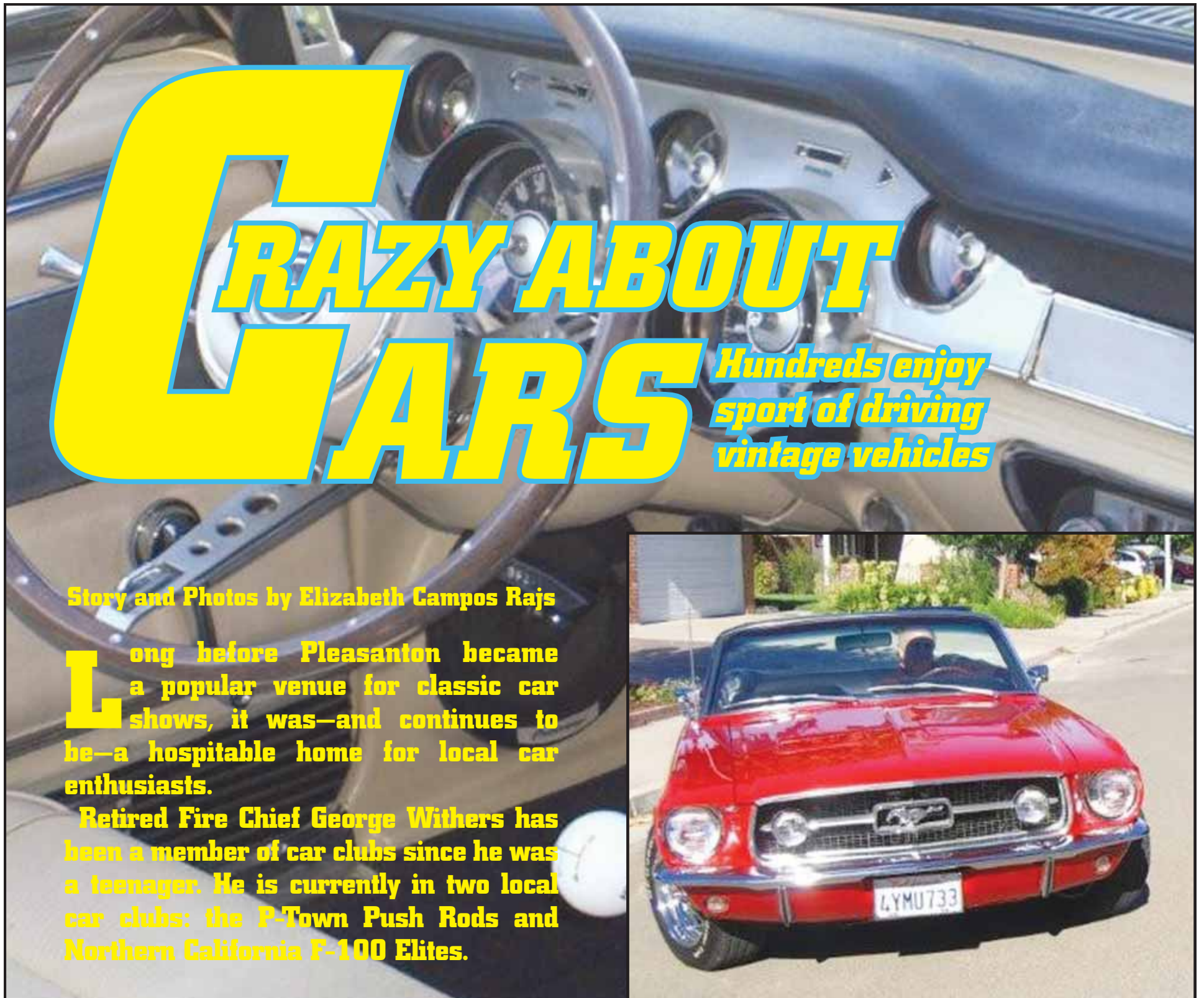
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**Story and Photos by Elizabeth Campos Rajs**

**L**ong before Pleasanton became a popular venue for classic car shows, it was—and continues to be—a hospitable home for local car enthusiasts.

**Retired Fire Chief George Withers has been a member of car clubs since he was a teenager. He is currently in two local car clubs: the P-Town Push Rods and Northern California F-100 Elites.**

“I’ve been in clubs since high school,” Withers said. “It’s a fun hobby. You have your standard family car, but when you go out, you want to have a fun car with more flash.”

Withers owns a “hot rod yellow” 1932 Ford Roadster and a 1953 Ford F-100 truck he purchased 42 years ago. This has been a banner year for his custom street rod. Withers has taken it on two road trips this summer, riding top down to Canada and to Calistoga to attend “Deuce Days” shows celebrating the car’s 75th anniversary.

“The 1932 Ford is the first year they came out with a V8 engine. The ‘32 also has a distinctive body style that Ford only made that one year,” Withers said, adding that the car’s nickname is “the deuce.” The 75th anniversary celebration has been going on all year long around the country.

When he drives the ‘32 Ford, it’s not uncommon to see people stop and stare, to wave and take pictures of his street rod.

“It’s a kick,” he said.

Withers, who worked for the Pleasanton fire department for 32 years, the last eight of which he was chief, first became interested in cars while growing up in Livermore. His family moved there in 1954. His first car was a 1951 Ford two-door sedan that he customized with a ‘57 Oldsmobile engine.

“We cruised in Livermore and Pleasanton,” said Withers, who moved to Pleasanton in 1963. “We used to race on Isabel and on Valley between Hopyard and Santa Rita Road.”

There are about 30 members in the P-Town Push Rods Club. It’s a family-oriented car group that organizes social gatherings, group trips to out-of-town car shows and charita-

ble fundraisers. The Web site for the East Bay chapter of the Northern California Ford F-100 Elites is [www.eastbayf100.com](http://www.eastbayf100.com).

Car clubs are by no means the exclusive domain of custom cars and street rods. There is a vast array of clubs, specializing in a wide variety of car models.

The Mission Trails Mustangs club, whose members live predominantly in Pleasanton, Danville and Fremont, is geared primarily to Mustang owners, but anyone with a Ford vehicle can join, said Frances Hewitt, who is a member of the club.

Frances and Don Hewitt own a black 1967 GT convertible Mustang. They purchased the vehicle in 2000 in Washington and spent three years restoring it to its original specifications, right down to a working 8-track player, she said.

“I always wanted a Mustang,” Hewitt said. “I just think they are a classy car. They’re beautiful.”

The Hewitts have entered the car in several shows and have received numerous awards. Their car hasn’t won as many awards lately, however, since fellow club members Wayne and Pam Yeaw purchased a red 1967 GT convertible Mustang.

“I ran into these guys and they had a ‘67, so I had to buy one too,” joked Yeaw, who also owns a “Wimbledon white” ‘66 Mustang coupe that he bought 25 years ago from his father-in-law. “The ‘67 was rebuilt from the ground up. I bought it three years ago.”

“Now we don’t win any more awards,” Frances Hewitt said with an exaggerated sigh. “There is something about the

color red that really attracts people.”

Both couples are active members in the Mustang club. As a group, they caravan to car shows, organize a Christmas fundraiser for charity and participate in social outings throughout the Bay Area.

Two years ago, the club members were invited to display their cars at a Goodguys show and have also participated as a group the last two years in the Pleasanton Veteran’s Parade down Main Street.

One of the best features of being in the club is the wealth of knowledge the members can share with each other about parts, mechanics and other Mustang-related information, Frances Hewitt said.

Don Hewitt has purchased and restored a number of old cars, including a Fiat, a Ferrari and a Triumph. He usually sells them after they are fixed up, but the Mustang is a keeper, he said.

“There is something different about it than any other car I’ve owned,” he explained.

For more information about the Mission Trail Mustangs, visit [www.missiontrailmustangs.org](http://www.missiontrailmustangs.org).

For Linda Bartolomucci Boyd, her dream car has always been a Porsche. She purchased her first one three years ago and last year upgraded it in for a Lapis blue 2006 Boxster that was featured in a San Francisco show. Two years ago she joined the Porsche Club of America—Diablo Region and is now on the board of directors.

“I really enjoy being around cars and I enjoy the social part of the club,” said Boyd, who teaches dental assisting at



Peter Skoglund, sitting in his Mini Cooper with his wife Lori, said the compact car is like a “legalized go-cart.” The pair often takes joy rides as part of the NorCal Minis along Bay Area backroads.



Wayne Yeaw (in red Mustang) and Don Hewitt (in black Mustang) both love their classic Fords, so much so, in fact, that they are members of the Mission Trails Mustangs, whose members are mostly from Pleasanton, Fremont and Danville.



Linda Bartolomucci Boyd purchased her dream car three years ago and recently traded up for a 2006 blue Porsche Boxster. Boyd said she relishes the social aspect of her membership in the local chapter of the Porsche Club of America.

Diablo Valley College.

The Porsche club hosts a weekly breakfast on Saturdays at Marie Callender’s in Walnut Creek and meets the third Thursday of the month for dinner at Strizzi’s in San Ramon. The club also sponsors a couple of sessions a year at Thunderhill track in Willows where members can drive their own cars on the winding track.

“If you are a novice, you ride with an instructor and learn to drive your high performance car like it should be driven,” Boyd explained.

Additionally, the club organizes outings such as wine rallies, where the members meet and follow each other driving on country roads—no highways, Boyd said. They attend car shows and organize tech sessions before track days to make sure their cars are safe. For more information about the club, go to <http://dia.pca.org/>.

Peter Skoglund had never been a car buff, but owning a Mini Cooper has changed that.

“I felt cars were for transportation. You should have a good one for commuting,” he said. But one ride in his brother-in-law’s car and he and his wife Lori purchased one for themselves.

“These cars are just so much fun,” Skoglund said. “I had a car before that was just for transportation. Now I have a car that’s a lot

of fun.”

In fact, he and his wife enjoy driving their Mini so much that they have put a deposit down, sight unseen, for a new model scheduled to be delivered in February.

His brother-in-law Larry Paquette started a Northern California Mini Cooper club in 2003 and there are now 250 members. They meet monthly to go on long drives—or runs—on Bay Area backroads. Last month, a large group of club members rode in a caravan to Fort Bragg and stayed for the weekend.

“On one run to the Delta, there were about 25 Mini Coopers—they looked like a bunch of jellybeans on the road,” Skoglund said. “People were standing on the side of the road watching as we drove by. That was a lot of fun. This car is just a real kick to drive.”

The fun begins the moment you purchase one, Skoglund added.

“You build these cars online,” he said. “There are hundreds of combinations. Buyers can completely customize the car, from the paint color to the stripes to the size of the engine and all the extras inside.

“The mini is a great car because it’s different. It’s a legalized go-cart,” he added.

For more information about NorCal Minis, go to [norcalminis.com](http://norcalminis.com). ■

# Put Pleasanton First



SOON YOU MAY BE APPROACHED AT THE GROCERY STORE, FARMER'S MARKET, SPORTS PARK OR EVEN YOUR HOME BY PEOPLE WANTING YOU TO SIGN A PETITION. IT'S DISGUISED TO LOOK LIKE AN OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE, BUT DON'T BE FOOLED! ASK THEM WHY MANY OF OUR COMMUNITY LEADERS AND THE SIERRA CLUB DON'T SUPPORT THEIR CAUSE!

**Join the following Pleasanton Community Leaders and Just Say No to signing the petitions currently being circulated:**

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Bob Mollinaro  
Bay East Association of Realtors  
Becca Jorgenson  
Becky Dennis, former Pleasanton City Council Member  
Bill Heppner  
Bill James  
Bill Suchland  
Bob Lane  
Bob Philcox  
Bob Shapiro  
Brad Hirst  
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Chris Beratlis  
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Dave Becker  
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Sandra Hirst  
Scott Raty  
Sharrell Michelotti  
Steve Brozasky  
Steve Clarkson  
Tim Neal, former Pleasanton Police Chief  
Tom Madden  
Tony Rivera  
Tony B. Johnson  
Vic Malatesta  
W.Ron Sutton  
Wendy Barnes  
Wes Tanner

**For more information on Putting Pleasanton First, go to [www.pleasantonfirst.org](http://www.pleasantonfirst.org)**

# Community Pulse



## Police Bulletin

### Man stabbed at his party

A 22-year-old man is in stable condition after being stabbed three times last Saturday at a house party he hosted near I-680 and Bernal Avenue, according to police. Twenty-year-old Brian Turner of Dublin was arrested for allegedly stabbing Rohit Pathak after refusing to leave.

Police found Pathak unconscious and bleeding heavily and followed a trail of blood to find Turner. Pathak was transported to Eden Trauma Center in Castro Valley and Turner received stitches for a self-inflicted hand wound at ValleyCare Medical Center before being booked in Santa Rita Jail.

According to police, Turner had consumed alcohol before coming to the party. An argument began when Pathak asked Turner to leave. Pathak allegedly challenged Turner to a fight and was stabbed in the shoulder and across the chest with a 2 1/2-inch Buck knife.

### Nail salon robbed

Police are looking for a heavy-set woman who robbed a nail salon last Friday morning.

A woman entered Patrick Nails on Koll Center Parkway and pointed a gun at a female employee, according to Lt. Bob Lyness.

The suspect took a customer's purse, which contained a cell phone, watch, credit cards and an I.D. Two employees handed the suspect \$400 in cash and some business checks from the cash register, Lyness said.

The woman fled the scene in a green Dodge Caravan toward Bernal Avenue. A witness reported seeing a Caucasian woman in her 20s sitting in the getaway vehicle during the robbery. The suspect is described as being of either Latino or Asian descent, between 20 and 25 years old and of a heavy-set build. She was wearing a black sweater and tan pants.



## Police Report

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

### August 27

- Theft:
  - 12:57 p.m. in the 1500 block of Fairview Court; grand theft
  - 2:15 p.m. in the 6900 block of Calle Altamira; identity theft
  - 2:45 p.m. in the 3100 block of Weymouth Court; grand theft
  - 2:59 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft
- Vandalism:
  - 7:17 a.m. in the 4500 block of Willow Road; worth over \$400
  - 9:01 a.m. in the 3800 block of North Yosemite Court; worth less than \$400
- Other:
  - 2:03 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Stoneridge Drive; arson
  - 7:28 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; mental health danger

### August 28

- Theft:
  - 10:16 a.m. in the 2700 block of Maria Street; grand theft
  - 5:28 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road
- Vandalism:
  - 11:24 a.m. in the 2400 block of Tapestry Way; worth less than \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 7:06 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle

### August 29

- Theft:
  - 10:17 a.m. in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway; petty theft
  - 11:43 a.m. in the 4100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; petty theft
  - 12:50 p.m. in the 100 block of Wildflower Lane; stolen vehicle
  - 1:17 p.m. in the 3700 block of Crofters Court; identity theft
  - 10:16 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft
  - 11:51 p.m. in the 1800 block of

Valley Avenue

- Burglary:
  - 3:31 a.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard
  - 10:58 a.m. in the 4900 block of Hopyard Road
  - 11:03 a.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

#### •DUI:

- 11:51 p.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue

#### •Assault:

- 3:03 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive

#### •Other:

- 8:24 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Rockingham Drive; mental health

danger

- 12:07 p.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue; trespassing

### August 30

- Theft:
  - 2:24 a.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; identity theft
  - 9:24 a.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; identity theft
  - 11:11 a.m. in the 1300 block of Benedict Court; identity theft
  - 2:43 p.m. in the 10 block of Cali Street; grand theft
  - 9:28 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; petty theft
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 8:00 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road

## Celebrate Grandparent's Day At The Parkview!

The Parkview invites you to a Grandparent's Day Tea on Monday, September 10, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

All grandparents are welcome!

Full tea service and refreshments will be served. Tours of our Assisted Living and Memory Care Communities will be available.

For more information please call 925-461-3042.



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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

Monday, September 10, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Operation Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

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

### Youth Commission

Wednesday, September 12, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

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

### Planning Commission

- The September 12th Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next regular Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for September 26th

### Library Commission

Thursday, September 13, 2007  
Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discussion regarding Commission goals
- Discussion regarding the Night at the Library Event

### Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday, September 13, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.  
City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Selection subcommittee recommendations for appointees to the Trails Ad Hoc Committee
- Review of draft conceptual site plan for the Kottinger Place Redevelopment Project

### Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, September 13, 2007 @ 7:30 a.m.  
Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Review of proposed curriculum of classes offered in partnership with the East Bay Small Business Development Center
- Review of General Plan Update process and timeline
- Review terms and conditions of Staples Ranch MOU as approved by the City Council

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### 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](http://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](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

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# Transitions

## Obituary

### John R. Rocha

John R. Rocha died July 26 at the  
age of 74.

Born Oct. 27, 1932 in Oakland  
to the late John Rocha and late  
Virginia Grubb, Mr. Rocha was a  
devoted family man who loved his  
wife Marcia dearly and cherished  
their 56 years of marriage together.  
The couple resided in Pleasanton

and were members of St. Augustine  
Catholic Church. Mr. Rocha was  
also a Teamster and retiree of Local  
70 for nearly 40 years.

Family and friends will miss  
him tremendously, especially his  
story-telling, sense of humor,  
sentimental nature and kindheart-  
edness. His wife, children, and  
grandchildren believe he was a  
true gift from God, but hold on to  
his memory and joy that we will  
all be united again one day.

He is survived by wife Marcia;  
children Ron Rocha and his wife

Nora of Newark, David Rocha and  
his life partner, Charles of Sunnyvale,  
Ellen Triebwasser and her husband  
Gary of Pleasanton, and Suzanne  
Rocha and her life partner Kristine  
of Walnut Creek; siblings William  
Rocha and his wife Lana of Walnut  
Creek and Pearl Mendonca and her  
late husband Hilary of Oakley; five  
grandchildren; and many nieces and  
nephews.

A mass of Christian burial was  
held July 31 at St. Elizabeth Seton  
Catholic Church with a burial at St.  
Augustine's Cemetery.

## Wedding



### David and Carolyn (Forcier) Carlson

Carolyn Clarice Forcier of  
Pleasanton and David Gustav  
Carlson of Tracy were married

May 29 at Mountain Terrace in  
Woodside with Rev. Bill Nebo offi-  
ciating.

Carolyn is the daughter of  
Max and Lynn Martin and James  
Forcier of Pleasanton. She is a  
2002 graduate of Amador High  
School in Pleasanton. David is the  
son of David and Carol Carlson and  
Danette Thorton of San Jose. He is  
a 1997 graduate of Westmont High  
School in Campbell.

Attending Carolyn were maid of  
honor Kristine Stephens; brides-  
maids Anne Le'strange, Brandi  
Blotz and Sara Ward; and flower

girl Auburn Turner. David's atten-  
dants were best man Ernesto Garcia  
and groomsmen Anthony Pavone,  
Ted Jones and Nelson DaRosa.  
Ushers were Sam Marchesse and  
Trevor Turner. Ring bearers were  
Matthew and Jackson Martin.

Guests of honor were Carolyn's  
grandmother, Martha Carstensen  
of Livermore and David's grand-  
parents, George Watson and Margit  
Carlson of San Jose and Melvin  
and Elaine Thorton of San Jose.

After a honeymoon in Maui, the  
couple is making their first home in  
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**Saturday, Sept. 15, 2007**

**11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**



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# Juanita Harriet Sakajian Haugen

## November 17, 1937—March 5, 2007

Our family would like to thank this wonderful community for the overwhelming support and outpouring of love following our mother's passing.

It is the beginning of a new school year and we want to wish everyone all the best. Our mom loved this community so much and cared deeply about a fair and excellent education for all children. She was so proud of the schools within Pleasanton and throughout our valley. May all of the students, teachers, administrators, parents, guardians & relatives have a wonderful and rewarding 2007-2008 school year.

We have been sharing your letters, cards and emails with one another and appreciate all of the tributes and awards given recently in mom's name. Thank you for helping to keep her memory alive.

We would like to send our deepest thanks to all of the loving people in this community who have exemplified so many of the Community of Character traits that were always so dear to our mother.

Many of you have shown much love and compassion towards our mom and our family throughout the years. Thank you, especially, for your kindness the past few years during her courageous battle with cancer.

Words do not seem enough to express our thanks, however, please know it comes from the heart. We know we could never have carried out her beautiful service and reception without the help of many, many people in our dear community. This valley has been our family home for years and we have gained so many wonderful friends.

We would like to thank the students, parents, teachers and administrators within the Pleasanton Unified School District and the districts surrounding our valley for their visits, letters & cards of support, phone calls, emails, assistance with paper work, help during our mother's illness and with the memorial service following her death. Your words and encouragement always meant so much to her. She loved all of you so very much.

We also thank the City of Pleasanton officials, Firefighters, Police Officers, City Council, managers and employees for your friendship and generosity towards our mother and family throughout the years.

Our love and thanks to all those who helped with our mom's beautiful memorial service. She wanted it to be a celebration of life and you made this happen: Lisa Lorentz, Alex Sutton, Jerri Long, Kay Huff, Wendy Kirkup, Colleen & Brad Bothello, Joanie Fields, Kit Little and the catering programs of Village, Foothill and Dublin High Schools, Frank Castro of PUSD Food Services, Skip Hinsley of Girasole Grill & Pampered Palate Catering, California School Employees Association Chapter #155, the Pleasanton Unified School District, The City of Pleasanton and the Police & Firefighters escort and the City of Pleasanton Color Guard.

Special thanks to coordinators Kay Huff, Jerri Long, Colleen Botelho, Rosemary Hosterman, Alex Sutton and Lisa Lorentz. Our gratitude to Alex Sutton, Cal Fenolio, Pat Mitchell, Cathy Gibbs, Jennifer Gibbs and other colleagues for coordinating parking for the service. Our heartfelt thanks to the Village High School Leadership Students and Lee Zachariades along with Boy Scout Troop #943 for their help setting up for the reception and church service. We thank Principal Steve Maher and the custodial staff, teachers, students and parents of Hart Middle School for use of

the reception site. It was the perfect location and a fitting tribute to hold our mother's services at a school site!

Using artwork by students of the Pleasanton Unified School District Lisa Lorentz created the perfect program cover for the memorial service. The program was created using cards and letters sent to mom by local school children and is so precious. Brent Alverson of Zzipes, Pleasanton printed the programs. We could not think of a more perfect tribute to our mom. Thank you so very much.

Many thanks to the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, St. Elizabeth Seton Roman Catholic Church staff members and Father Daniel E. Danielson for their compassion, love, and kindness in welcoming our family for our mother's memorial service.

To the St. Clare's Episcopal Church members, staff and clergy for all of their prayers, love and devotion for so many years for our mom and our family. We give much thanks to Rev. Ronald D. Culmer, Rector of St. Clare's Episcopal Church for conducting the service, baptizing Giovanni with mom present, spending many hours with our family and for his love, devotion and dedication. We also are very grateful for the years of love & friendship from the Rev. Rudy Johnson, Rev. Meg Brogan, Father Maurice Turner and Father Ralph Calabrese. Special thanks to Diane Granlund for all of her love and hard work. Much love to Chuck Bridley, L. E.M. and his wife Trish for the tender love and friendship they showed our mother. We send our thanks to all of the other clergy involved with her services and visitations.

Our love and thanks to the entire spiritual community who offered prayers, meals and visitations and to Debbie Scott for organizing meals.

We send our gratitude for the beautiful music for mom's service by The Chev. Jason R. Fredrick as organist and choirmaster, Cantor Edward Coverdale, St. Clare's Episcopal Church Chancel Choir, the angelic voices produced by the Foothill High School Choir directed by JoAnn Koobatian, Brassavola members Jeff Foster, Daniel Weinstein, Jeffrey Bellamy, Jeff Johnson and Bruce von Kugelgen, the Communion Anthem by Amy Giovannetti, Jennifer Loyer and Kevin Van Ord, and Bagpiper Jeff Campbell.

To our dear friend, Bob Elliott we thank you for all of your help with the media set-up and video tape. Thanks also to Sherri Hovis and her son, Dave, for their help with the service too.

Many thanks to our wonderful friends and the ushers and greeters for our mom's service: Alma Agard (head usher), Judge Steve Pulido, Gloria & Rich Fredette, W. Ron Sutton, Vicky Reinke, Jim Ott, Patrick Kernan, Joanne & Clark Gunson, Larry Valenzin, Pauline Townsend, Marilynne O'Brien, Bill Cassell, Ward Belding, Carol Fernandez, Cleo Foster, Jerri Long, Lisa Lorentz, Bob & Pat Lane, Bob & Sarah Warnick, Nancy Eddinger and Jill Coats.

Many thanks to our loving friends who spoke during the service and shared wonderful stories: Dr. John Casey-Superintendent of the Pleasanton Unified School District, Dr. Kerry Clegg-Past President of the California School Boards Association/Regional Director of the National School Boards Association, E. Jane Gallucci-President of the National School Boards Association and Tim Hunt of Hunt Enterprises. We are also very grateful to long-time family friends Carolyn and Dennis Karle for the Old Testament Reading and Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority Sisters Sirie Thongchua, Ellen Poso and Marilyn Palmer for the New Testament Reading. Special thanks to dear family friends Mary Ann and Bob Butler for handling the Offertory during mom's service.

Much love and thanks to the lovely Bonnie Green for her beautiful music performed at our mom's reception and to Don & Julie Lewis for providing Don's heart-warming music for the reception.

We thank with all of our hearts the people who helped drive our mother to appointments, helped to create delicious meals and bonded with her in such loving ways. Especially Janine and Vessna Scheff, Chuck and Trish Bridley, Cheree Hethershaw, Jerri Long, Carolyn and Dennis Karle, Bob and Pat Lane, Mary Ann and Bob Butler, and Debbie Scott with St. Clare's and those involved with Alisal Elementary for all of the wonderful meals they created. Our thanks to Tom & Carol Penderly for the special hats they gave our mom and for their kind support.

Thanks to our co-workers who offered encouragement and help for our families during this time of grief, The Museum On Main Street (Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Society) staff, Board of Directors and volunteers, The City of Pleasanton Support Services Division, Cal High in San Ramon, Florin High in Elk Grove, Bristow Middle School, Krey Elementary and Garin Elementary located in Brentwood, California.

To Jeb Bing and the Pleasanton Weekly we thank you for your kind words and articles. They made our mom so proud of our schools and students. Jeb, we thank you for your friendship and for visiting her so frequently to help brighten her day.

Thanks to all who visited our mother and telephoned her on a daily basis. We also read your emails to our mom during her last few weeks and thank you for sharing your thoughts and special memories with her.

Thanks to Beverly Lazar Baker for her kindness & generosity, the "Bob Gang" and Pinot Court Friends for years of loving and fun memories, Olive, Audrey, Yolanda, Regina and Leonora with Bay Area Caregivers for their devotion, and the loving Castro Family for years of support and their help with our mom's reception. We give our sincere thanks to all of the loving employees at the Medicine Shoppe in Pleasanton and to those at the Hacienda Care Facility in Livermore (especially to Nenita, Sandra, Susan, Gretchen, Ida and Carolyn who also helped to care for our Grandmother Louina Sakajian back in 1998).

Our heartfelt thanks to Brian & Mark O'Connor who are part of our extended family. For years they helped to take care of grandma Lou & then our mom. Brian was like a son to mom and Mark just like a grandson. She loved them dearly and so do we.

Our thanks for the kind words & thoughts from the YMCA, AAUW, Panhellenic Association, the Assistance League, University of Southern California East Bay Alumni Club, Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority sisters, the Arthritis Foundation, Soroptomist International of Pleasanton, the Association of California School Administrators, the Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award Committee, the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, the Pleasanton Youth Collaborative, the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation, the Amador Valley Scholarship Fund, the Classical Philharmonic, Valley Community Health Care Center (now known as Axis), National Assessment of Educational Progress board, Education Commission of the States, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the California School Boards Association, the National School Boards Association, the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research, Community of Character Coalition, Relay for Life, Hope Hospice and all of the other local cancer support groups. Our mom supported these groups and causes and she dearly loved the people involved with these organizations.

To the Atamian, Baladjanian, Bacon, Clairfield, Dito, Dreeszen, Frey, Mears, Morello, Peart, Rizzoli & Sakajian families we send our love and thank you for your continuous support.

We wish to thank the doctors and staff at San Ramon Regional, Valley Care, John Muir hospitals and the University Of Southern California Norris Cancer Research Institute for all of the care they gave our mother. Especially, for Dr. Kazemi, Dr. Sherman, Dr. Massulo, Dr. Malani, Dr. Dharan, Dr. Kumar, Dr. Malek, all of the wonderful nurses, the assistants and loving & kind staff.

Most importantly, we want to extend our love and thanks to Dr. Kevin Hart and his loving office staff members, Sandy Ciullo & Lisa Weisbrod for the absolute love and devotion they showed our mom throughout this entire process. Dr. Hart's care for our mother went far beyond the normal "duty" of the medical profession and he showed her and our family so much love and kindness. He watched-out for our mother every single step of the way and helped her medically so she could continue to do those things she loved for our school children. He knew how important it was to her. He knew that this is what kept her alive and gave her the drive to continue on. Dr. Hart is a remarkable man and we thank him deeply.

Thanks to all of you who helped in the celebration of her life and for all of you who are working tirelessly to keep her memory alive.

With endless love and gratitude,  
Heather and Chris Rizzoli, Hilary and Jeffrey Dito, Heidi and Bruce Peart and Holly, Mark and Giovanni Morello

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Joe Zummo

Sophia Dunworth (#13) helped the Amador Valley High School girls volleyball team defeat Miramonte High School 3-0 last Tuesday night. The 6-foot senior is said to have committed to Duke University. The Dons will face James Logan High School at 5 p.m. next Tuesday at home.

## BUSC teams compete in SoCal

*U14 team takes first in Flight 2,*

Several Ballistic United Soccer Club teams traveled to Southern California over Labor Day weekend to compete at the North Huntington Beach Cup Tournament.

Ballistic United U14 competed at the North Huntington Beach Cup Tournament in Southern California over the Labor Day weekend. The team took first place in the U14 Flight 2.

The BUSC U18 United made it to the quarterfinals of the tournament before being ousted by the RSF Attack. RSF Attack had not yet allowed a goal this tournament. United played them evenly through the first half, led by Jeff Squier's midfield toughness. The Attack found an opening on the wing and a drop pass to an open midfielder led to a 1-0 lead after 12 minutes. An Attack red card gave United an opening, but they could not exploit this. In the 52nd minute, the Attack scored again on a corner kick for the 2-0 final.

Another BUSC team to move forward after the qualifying rounds were the U16 Class 1 team. They went on to place second in Flight 1 after losing to Merced 3-2. ■

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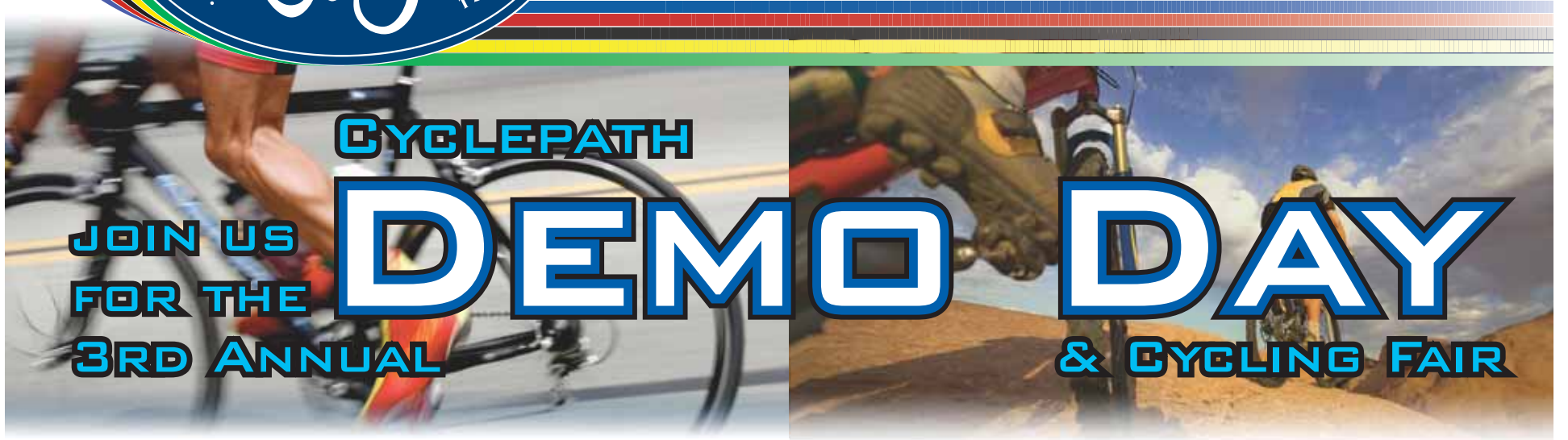
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and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit [www.redsmokegrill.com](http://www.redsmokegrill.com).

**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).

## Asian-Pacific

**Mahalo Grille**  
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## 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

## Brewpub/Alehouse

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## Catering

**Fontina's Catering**  
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## 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 and carry-out. A banquet room is available.

**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


## American

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

**Bridges**  
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**Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant**  
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## 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.

**La Vite Ristorante**  
3037-G Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 485-4500. La Vite Ristorante was rated "A" by the Contra Costa Times restaurant critic and voted the best Italian restaurant by the readers of the Tri-Valley Herald. We're located off the beaten path of downtown Pleasanton in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center.

**Girasole Grill**  
3180 Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton, 484-1001. Girasole, a locally owned family business, is an award winning California style Italian restaurant. We feature signature cuisine such as Scoozzi, Absolut! prawns, chicken gorgi, spinach for Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood...just to name a few. We are upscale, but California casual with friendly prices.

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

## Japanese

**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 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.

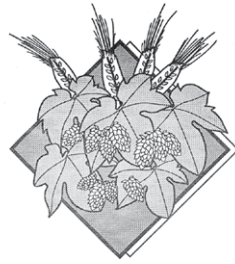
## Mexican

**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](http://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.



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\*One free child meal (under 12 yrs) with one paying adult

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# UNCLE Turns

# 50!

Special Offers!  
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**Please join us the week of September 10-14 to help celebrate UNCLE Credit Union's 50th Anniversary and take advantage of these special offers!**

- ▶ **Take .50% off interest rate of a new auto loan or a non-UNCLE auto loan refinance when you apply for an UNCLE VISA card or upgrade your existing VISA card!\***
- ▶ **Take .50% off interest rate of a new signature loan!\*\***
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\* - Offer only good for a new auto loan or refinance, excluding existing UNCLE loan. .50% discount given if you apply for an UNCLE VISA card or apply to upgrade your current UNCLE VISA card. Current UNCLE VISA Platinum card holders will automatically receive this discount. This special discount is in addition to the .50% discount received for automatic repayment option of payroll deduction, direct deposit or ACH debit from another institution. Must apply for loan during the week of September 10-14, 2007. Rates and terms subject to change. Based on creditworthiness.

\*\* - Offer good for our signature loan products. This special discount is in addition to the .50% discount received for automatic repayment option of payroll deduction, direct deposit or ACH debit from another institution. Rates and terms subject to change. Based on creditworthiness.

\*\*\* - New money only. CD must be opened the week of September 10-14, 2007. Excludes variable rate CDs and variable rate IRA CDs.

## FOUR BRANCH LOCATIONS

### Administrative & Main Office

2100 Las Positas Ct. • Livermore

### Livermore Laboratory Office

7000 East Ave., Bldg. 6425 • Livermore

### Pleasanton Office

Mission Plaza Shopping Ctr.  
1989-E Santa Rita Rd. • Pleasanton

### Tracy Office

1960 W. Grant Line Rd. • Tracy, CA 95376



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