

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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It's all about Pleasanton



Art revival

As Pleasanton rebuilds, Tri-Valley is alive with new performance venues page 14

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this week**

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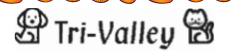


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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

After 37 years, Eileen Morley-Hofstadt is moving on

Eileen Morley was a 15-year-old sophomore at Amador Valley High School when she first joined Pleasanton's small and recently organized recreation department in 1970. Two weeks from today, on Nov. 2, she'll retire 37 years later, leaving behind a legacy of successful programs for young and old. It all started when the Morley family moved here from San Lorenzo where Eileen and her sister Maureen, a year younger, had studied puppetry in one of that city's recreation classes. When they moved here, their father built a puppet stage and they became skilled at the art. Pleasanton hired them on a part-time basis to teach puppetry as part of its early children's program, and Eileen Morley never looked back. Graduating from Amador in 1972, she went on to Cal State Hayward to earn a bachelor's degree in recreation, all the while continuing her part-time positions with Pleasanton.

After college, she took a full-time job with the San Leandro Girls Club, but the public revenue shortfall caused by Proposition 13's passage put her out of work eight months later. She added more hours in Pleasanton, although the same municipal funding problems also meant no full-time job opportunities here either.

Then Alameda County officials called and asked her to become their recreation coordinator in downtown Oakland. Still she kept working nights and weekends as needed in Pleasanton and, four months later, when Dolores Bengtson was named director of parks and community services, she had a call to come back home to a new position as recreation supervisor.

Those were the growth years in Pleasanton. In 1970, Morley recalls that there were about 9,000 people in town; today the city's population is about 68,000. She was a key part of building community services and recreation programs to accommodate that growth, including special programs for children and for the aging. She also became the city's unofficial dedicator of new facili-

ties and services, including the first tennis program which she managed, senior support services and the responsibility for helping to plan the Pleasanton Senior Center and manage many of the services it hosts, including the paratransit program for the elderly. She also took on the responsibility for obtaining city grants that are passed out annually to deserving nonprofits, such as Tri-Valley Haven, and for designing the many programs that a fast-growing senior population now enjoys at the senior center and other locations.

Earlier this month, she completed a two-year management project to restore the 1933-era Veterans Memorial Building downtown to its original luster, with the addition of 21st century standards that included better wiring, air conditioning, a new heating system and earthquake supports. It was a bit of *deja vu* for Morley when she directed the placement of red, white and blue patriotic ribbons, banners and American flags around the building in preparation for a public dedication ceremony. Years earlier, she had the same responsibility for planning the opening of the city's new aquatic center in the newly established Amador Park at Black Avenue and Santa Rita Road. The aquatic center was named for Bengtson, who retired. In fact, Morley has worked for four directors: Gary Patton, Bob Caporuso, Bengtson and now Jim Wolfe.

Never married, Morley got to know John Hofstadt, a Pleasanton resident for 23 years and also a lifelong bachelor. A veteran and an active member of American Legion Post 237, they worked together as Morley began planning with the veterans' organization on how to restore the Main Street landmark. The two married in June 2006, and moved into a new home in Brentwood. Always passionate about public service, Eileen has already been appointed to the Brentwood Parks and Recreation Commission. Watch for an invitation to a dedication there one of these days at a facility all festooned with patriotic banners by our own Eileen Morley-Hofstadt. ■

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About the Cover

Musicians in front of Livermore's new Bankhead Theater perform the "Pink Panther" to a lunchtime crowd. Bankhead is just one of the new arts spaces to open for Tri-Valley residents to enjoy. Photo by Emily Atwood.

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Streetwise

Q: Should Pleasanton public schools allow religious services on their campuses?

Asked Around Town



Donna Vong
Student

Probably not. Public schools should be used for school related functions. Many people who are taxpayers are atheists, like me. I don't think public buildings should be used for church services. There are tons of churches around here.

Ryan Berkley
Customer Service

Religious services should not be held in school buildings. Other public buildings are okay but not schools. There is too much of a chance for religious bias—allowing certain faiths to practice and not others. The use of publicly paid buildings definitely encroaches on the division of church and state.



Ann O'Neil
School Secretary

I don't see a problem. These functions happen when students are not on campus, therefore upholding division of church and state.



Marcia Rome
Bookseller

I'm conflicted about it. I've never thought about the idea. These are wonderful, expensive facilities sitting unused for periods of time but at the same time religious activities are supposed to be completely separate from schools. I think if children at the school are participating in other activities, i.e.: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts—rooms could be used for that, but the church groups I'm not sure about.



Spencer Meyn
Barista

Religious services should not be allowed to use public school facilities. There are so many religions out there, the district could not accommodate the many different types of religions in one facility. It would just be one specific faith. It would be wrong to accommodate one or two specific religions within the school district and not others.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

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Newsfront

News Digest

MD Spa supports breast cancer research

All profits from services given tomorrow at MD Spa, 531 Main St., will go to the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Research. Available treatments include laser treatments, massage, Botox, Restalin, chemical peels and more. Appointments are recommended. Call 846-A-SPA (2772).

Clean the creek tomorrow

Walnut Grove Elementary School's Go Green program and the Rotary Club of Pleasanton are sponsoring a Del Valle Creek cleanup from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 20 between Main Street and Harvest Circle. Students and families from nearby schools will be participating and the public is invited to help. There will be investigations, explorations, and activities, along with the opportunity to pick up litter. Bags, gloves, water, and snack bars will be available. No dogs please. Email Kat Peters at kpeters@pleasanton.k12.ca.us for details.

OHK director resigns

Carol Beddome has resigned her position as executive director of Open Heart Kitchen (OHK). The board has begun its search for qualified candidates for the position. Day-to-day management of OHK programs continues under Operations Manager Nancy Wilson.

Donate new, gently used costumes

Bob and Deb Cilk of United California Brokers are conducting their eighth annual Halloween Costume Drive to benefit homeless and disadvantaged children of Alameda County. They will be collecting new and gently used costumes and accessories at 352 St. Mary St. during business hours through Oct. 26 in order to deliver costumes in time for Halloween. Call 487-8735 for more information.

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

Water district crowns 'greenest' mayor in Tri-Valley

Collection of produce stickers part of campaign to eliminate cog in water pipelines

by Janet Pelletier

Just a few months ago when summer was in full swing, workers at the Dublin San Ramon Water Services District were dealing with a hefty backlog—literally.

Summer is a time when people tend to eat more produce such as fruits and vegetables, according to the district, which provides drinking water, wastewater collection and treatment services and recycled water in the Tri-Valley area. What district workers discovered was that people were tossing the tiny produce stickers down the sink drain or the toilet, leading to the plastic particles clogging meters and strainers in

the recycled water systems.

The district estimated that in a 24-hour period, operators were cleaning the screen six or more times by vacuuming off the particles and other pieces of plastic material.

The timing couldn't have been worse because during the summer is when recycled water is in higher demand due to warmer temperatures, for landscape irrigation. As a result, not enough water was getting through the pipelines. When workers realized the labels were the culprit, the district embarked on a campaign to warn the public about trashing something down the water system that should be thrown in the actual trash.

Last Friday, DSRSD crowned Dublin Mayor Janet Lockhart as the "mayor of the greenest

(continued on page 9)



Mayor Jennifer Hosterman shows her red-tail hawk Ariel to a crowd at the Pleasanton Library.

The mayor and her hawk: A saga

Chasing Ariel across the Livermore Lab grounds

by Jeb Bing

Much has been said recently about Mayor Jennifer Hosterman's red-tail hawk, a raptor she has been nursing back to health after it was found wounded near the Oakland Airport.

Hosterman is a state licensed apprentice falconer who is taking lessons to qualify for advanced licenses. She has tamed her red-tail hawk, which she has named Ariel, so that the female bird, estimated to be about 14 years old, will come back to her when let loose, although not always quickly or easily.

Hosterman, whose request to keep the bird in

the backyard of her home in Vintage Hills has repeatedly been continued by the Pleasanton Planning Commission, introduced Ariel to the public last Saturday at an outdoor gathering sponsored by the Pleasanton Public Library.

"I got interested in this hobby some years ago while at the Scottish Games and decided to get involved in the sport of falconry," she told parents and several wide-eyed children who hesitated to sit too close to the bird. "It's a wonderful opportunity to learn how to deal with wild animals, and this raptor is wild."

(continued on page 8)

Police: Vintage Hills incident may be mix-up

Investigation into case of female stranger picking up 9-year-old girl continues

by Emily Atwood

After interviewing multiple witnesses, police are saying now there's not much evidence to support what other media outlets have been calling an attempted kidnapping that occurred last Friday near Vintage Hills Elementary School.

A 9-year-old fourth-grader was waiting to be picked up by her mother around 3 p.m. at their usual pick-up spot on Kottinger Drive, around the corner from the school. It was raining hard and as a woman pulled up in an old model sedan, she told the girl to get in the car because she was sent by her father to pick her up, according to police. The girl refused and the woman drove away.

The girl was picked up by her mother shortly after, telling her what had happened. Police were contacted and conducted a search, but were unable to locate the woman.

A grandfather standing with a group of children saw the incident take place. He told Sgt. James Knox there was a line of cars in the residential area, it was "raining cats and dogs" and that there didn't seem to be anything suspicious about the incident.

"It looks like it may be a case of mistaken identity," Knox said, adding that the woman may have thought the girl was someone she knew.

Det. Larry Cox described the scene as "a very hectic day with a lot of rain, tons of cars and tons of kids—very confusing." He expected to interview the mother and daughter shortly and indicated that the mother initially thought it could be a misunderstanding.

Cox said recent media reports calling the incident an attempted abduction or kidnapping have been blown of proportion. Knox added there was nothing to substantiate those claims and that's why police have and continue to identify it as a "suspicious circumstance."

"There was never any overt act [done by the woman]," Cox said. "She didn't speed off or anything; she just got back in the line of 50 cars and continued on."

Lt. Mike Elerick said that the girl did the right thing, whether it was an abduction attempt or not.

"This is a great opportunity for parents to talk with their kids about stranger danger and what to do when someone they don't know approaches them or entices them into a car," he said.

Concerned parents wondered why they weren't informed of the incident on Friday, but it appeared the school district wasn't contacted by police until Monday.

"There was some breakdown of communication," said district spokeswoman Myla Grasso. "The [Vintage Hills] principal found out over the weekend, but we didn't know until Monday."

Parents were notified by a letter that was sent home Monday, according to Grasso. She said the district's policy is to notify parents immediately, either by hard copy letter or by posting it on the Web site and by email.

Knox and Cox said they were not on duty Friday and weren't sure how the information was handled. ■

Charity worker nabbed in bank robbery

Man used Salvation Army delivery truck as getaway vehicle

by Janet Pelletier

Pleasanton police have arrested a suspect in the robbery of a local Washington Mutual bank branch.

Masala James, 39, of San Leandro, was arrested Monday afternoon in connection with a Sept. 28 robbery at the Washington Mutual on Stoneridge Mall Road, according to Sgt. Jim Knox.

The damning evidence was the getaway vehicle the suspect used—a Salvation Army delivery truck.

The suspect was also captured on video surveillance inside the bank, which clearly depicted his face, Knox said.

Police were able to account a witness gave.

“The fortunate thing for us is that a witness came forward after she saw the initial press release and told us that the day of the robbery, she remembered seeing the guy run by her who matched the description, and got into a Salvation Army delivery truck,” Knox said. “She thought it was kind of odd, but hadn’t thought of (him being a robbery suspect) until she saw the press release.”

Det. Larry Cox discovered that James was employed with the nonprofit as a delivery driver out of their Oakland office, Knox said. His delivery route included Pleasanton. After detectives went to the Oakland office, employees there identified James as the man in the surveillance video. When James returned from his delivery route Monday, he was arrested and taken into custody, Knox said.

Knox said it’s not every day that a worker for a charitable organization is implicated in a crime.

“You can’t really predict that they’re going to be involved in that stuff. It’s unusual,” he said.

During the robbery, the suspect reportedly threatened to shoot a female bank teller if she didn’t comply with his orders, although no weapon was seen. Knox said no weapon was found after a search of James’ residence.

While police won’t disclose how much money James allegedly took during the robbery, Knox said “we believe he already spent it.”

At the time of the arrest, James was on parole for multiple bank robberies, police said. Along with a robbery charge, James will also face a parole violation charge. He was booked at Glen Dyer Jail in Oakland. ■



Masala James

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Safeway teams with St. Joseph's

Town Hall meeting for Pleasanton employees announces Safeway Foundation grant

Pleasanton-based Safeway, Inc. is partnering with St. Joseph's Medical Center to provide free breast cancer screenings in 22 California counties as part of Safeway's annual Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign in October.

Safeway announced the partnership with employees, breast cancer survivors and officials from St. Joseph's Medical Center during a Breast Cancer Awareness Employee Town Hall meeting at corporate headquarters in Pleasanton.

With funding from Safeway Foundation, St. Joseph's state-of-the-art Mobile Mammography Unit (MMU), equipped with digital screening technology, will double the number of breast cancer screenings it performs annually. The expansion of the services is the result of a \$500,000 operating grant from the Safeway Foundation that will allow the unit to operate four days a week in 22 California counties, serving mainly low-income women who may not have access to such services.

Nationally, the MMU's sites of operation include rural hospitals, community clinics, public health fairs, Native American reservations, senior centers and migrant worker camps.

The St. Joseph's Medical Center high-tech mobile mammography clinic is complete with a waiting room, dressing room and latest mammography equipment. Since its launch in August 2006, the MMU has seen more than 1,000 patients. Due to limited funds, the MMU has operated only two days per week, screening 15 mostly low-income women per day in 17 Northern California counties. With The Safeway Foundation grant, the unit will now double its screenings and expand to additional counties, including Alameda and Contra Costa counties.


—Jeb Bing



Emily Atwood

Salute red, white, blue and green

Alisal Elementary School Principal Amy Simone stands with students as they prepare to salute the flag and dedicate a newly planted tree and four ball wall murals in the playground area. Students submitted designs and messages about the four Rs of environmentalism—recycle, reduce, reuse and rot—and compiled by muralist Karen Bilbrey Zengal. The fruitless mulberry shade tree replaced an old tree that was lost to termites. Alisal's Go Green Initiative program hopes both the walls and the tree will show a continued concern for promoting environmental stewardship.




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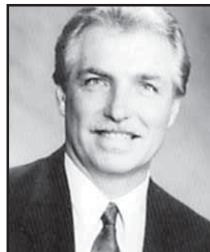
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Goethe winner returns

Marcus Smith, the grand prize winner of the Goethe Institute Award of Excellence Contest, recently returned from Germany. The Hart Middle School eighth-grader enjoyed his time studying at the Goethe Institute in Marquartstein from Aug. 5 to 25. He met 90 students, ages 13-15, from 15 different countries. In the mornings, they had German classes and in the afternoon and on weekends he participated in activities like touring castles and salt mines, hiking in the alps, bike rides, alpine slides, visiting Salzburg and Munich, and watching American movies in German. He was also able to meet some relatives in the area for the first time. A cousin even taught him to make bratwurst.

Hawk

(continued from page 5)

As Ariel frequently spread her wings in a vain attempt to fly off Hosterman's arm, where it was fastened, the mayor told of letting the bird loose in the hills east of Livermore one day. It flew off and dived into the center of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory grounds, hidden from anyone outside the gate.

"You can imagine the look on the guards' faces as I approached, dressed in my raptor protective clothing and gloves and a cleaning knife strapped to my waist," she said. "But when I explained, they were very nice and escorted me through the grounds. We found Ariel, but she took off again."

Hosterman said she chased the bird across the hills and found her

near the Wente Vineyards the next day, where she finally flew up, circled the skies, and then came down to rest on Hosterman's shoulder.

"She now recognizes me and trusts me," Hosterman said.

Although the City Council recently allowed several homeowners to keep chickens in their backyards, Hosterman may be the first to seek a permit for a predatory bird. Her requests for a special permit will be heard again next month, unless its tabled again by a commissioner who wants to keep the mayor on hold.

Hosterman said she plans to train Ariel to stay close to her even off the attached leash, and also to use the bird as she moved into advanced falconry licenses. Then, probably next May, she plans to release the bird back into the wilds. ■

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Sticker

(continued from page 5)

city,” determined by which city collected the most stickers per capita (by each person).

In the months leading up to last week, the district distributed magnetic game cards to area schools, libraries, senior center and city halls, asking the public to participate by collecting stickers and pasting them on the cards. Completed cards could be redeemed for prizes such as glow-in-the-dark cups, bobble head and bubble pens and CD cleaners or openers.

While Lockhart took first place for her city in the contest, Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman received second and San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson garnered third. As part of the contest’s conclusion, the two runners-up had to suck up plastic particles from a screen.

The new recycled water system first began operating in May of last year, and has had increasing success despite the sticker issue.

“Last year, we pumped about 1,295 acre feet out to recycled water customers, which includes golf courses, parks and things like the schools,” said Dan Gallagher, operations manager for the district. “Just this past week, we passed 2,000 acre feet this year that we’ve sent out, so that’s a 60 percent increase from what we did last year.

“We’re continuing to see more and more customers using our recycled water which is a perfect thing, especially with the Bay-Delta crisis going on now and all the questions about whether we have enough water to supply all the people that we have,” he added. “We’re using our water a second time for a purpose that doesn’t require drinking water.”

Levi Fuller, an operations supervisor, said demand during the summer was as high as 4.5 million gallons a day, making the sticker problem that much worse. But awareness has spread.

“Despite that increase (in demand), the cleaning cycle has gone down on the screens so the guys only have to clean once a shift or two times a day,” he said. “This campaign has worked. Keep the word out and just keep it up.” ■



Janet Pelletier

From L-R: Mayors Janet Lockhart of Dublin, Jennifer Hosterman of Pleasanton and H. Abram Wilson of San Ramon, stand on their respective places, carved out by the sticker cards residents turned in.



Janet Pelletier

Wilson uses a vacuum to clean stickers from a screen.

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Pleasanton's St. Clare's Choir, under direction of The Chevalier Jason R. Fredrick, stopped at Christ Church in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada to catch up on the local news in the Weekly. The choir sang for the annual investiture ceremony of the International Knightly Order of St. George in Toronto and after joined Christ Church in Sunday services.

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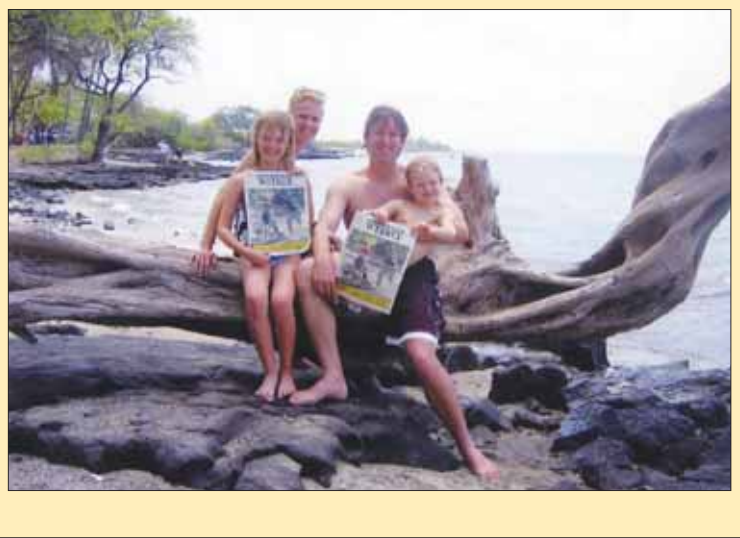
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Hawaii-four-0

In between cruising through four Hawaiian islands, Morgan, Kristin, Kurt and Brent Werder stopped off and posed with the Weekly (on a big piece of driftwood). The Werders traveled with Kristin's parents, Alvin and Patti Baer, sister Carol Ann and her husband Michael Laughlin.



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Opinion

Editorial

Help is on the way for those kept awake by train horns

For the several thousand Pleasanton residents who live within earshot of the blaring horns of Union Pacific freight trains every night, relief may be on the way. The City Council, bowing to complaints from sleepless constituents, agreed to consider spending up to \$2 million to install additional crossing protections at four at-grade railroad crossings so that trains passing through the city won't have to blow their horns. As it is, engineers are required to blast the horns at least twice when approaching each crossing, and some residents along the tracks said the blasts are loud, long and becoming more frequent as freight train traffic increases.

Federal and state regulations govern the sounding of train locomotive horns, which require the move to warn vehicles and cars at crossings. A new Horn Rule, however, allows localities to establish "quiet zones," where the routine sounding of horns is banned. But to meet the new requirements, these crossings must have four gates—two on each side—so that cars can't drive around the one closed gate. Pedestrians must also be barred from crossing the tracks when the gates are down, and safety devices have to be installed to open the gates quickly if a vehicle gets caught between the gates with a train approaching. All of these safety devices must be paid for by the city requesting them, although Union Pacific must handle the installation and operations. It would also charge Pleasanton up to \$20,000 a year for ongoing maintenance.

Spending \$2 million to silence train horns seemed excessive until we sat through 45 minutes of public testimony at Tuesday night's council meeting where the agony of pained eardrums could be heard loud and clear. Long-term homeowners like Bill Apperson and Diana Bonanao, whose homes are next to the tracks, weren't there. They've long ago tuned out the noise and have learned to sleep through it. Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who lives just two blocks away, also said she's not bothered by the horns, but she's had many complaints from newcomers who can't get used to the nightly blasts. Bennett Johnson of St. John Street has lived there 14 years, but complained that the problem is worsening. He said freight train traffic has increased 40 percent in just the past four years, adding to the stress, lost productivity and sleeplessness of four out of five people he talked to in his neighborhood. Lou Kofani moved to a home on St. Mary just two doors from the tracks and said the nightly noise is awful. By the constant barrage of horn blasts and their often-extraordinary length, he surmised that the train crews who have to work at 3 a.m. want those along their path to be awake, too.

Several speakers said living near train tracks is like living near an airport. Planes keep flying whether you like it or not, and those who are complaining should have seen the tracks before they bought their homes. Still, the noise is agonizing and most of us can hear the horns whether we live on Muirwood or Kottinger drives. Councilman Matt Sullivan said he lives on the other side of town from the tracks, but still hears the horns—even the noise of the diesel engines. Putting four gates at each of the four crossings: Santa Rita Road, St. Mary Street, Rose Avenue and West Angela Street, along with fencing to keep pedestrians from crossing at St. John and Division streets and Old Bernal Avenue, would add to the safety of the crossings as well as meet the regulations for a railroad quiet zone. The estimated cost of \$2 million seems like a small price to pay for quality of life and safety improvements that would benefit many.

Code of ethics

The Pleasanton Weekly seeks to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards in journalism, including the Code of Ethics adopted Sept. 21, 1996, by the Society of Professional Journalists. To review the text of the Code, please visit our web site at www.PleasantonWeekly.com

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Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



Press releases are effective way to get your news to readers

Tell us the who, what, where, when and why of your article idea

The Pleasanton Weekly has only so many newsroom staff members to divvy up between the dozens of assignments we have on a weekly basis, not to mention the copy editing, Web site production and staff meetings they must attend.

In a thriving community such as Pleasanton there is more going on than we have staff to cover. But we still want that news.

We rely on community members to send press releases to keep us informed and get that news to the public. This is the time of year organization boards are being formed and new publicity chairmen are being named. "It's easy," the former chairman will tell you. "Just call the newspaper." So you, like many others recently, have called and asked for coverage of an event only to have our editor ask for a press release instead of sending a reporter. Not quite as easy as you were led to believe, right?

An effective press release doesn't have to have a great storyline or \$10 words. It only needs to be complete and concise. When writing a press release, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Ask yourself why readers will be interested in this story. This will help you focus on the important details. For example, if you are having a fundraiser, readers will be interested most in who will benefit and how they can get involved.

- Make sure you answer the most important questions: who, what, when, where, why and how.

- Include all the information as if you are writing for someone who is new to town. For example, don't just give the location of the event, but include the complete address. Also include a sentence about your group. After all, you

want people to join and participate; the easier you make it for them, the better off you are.

- Include a phone number, Web site and any other contact information for readers, and don't forget to give us contact information in case we have questions.

- If you are uncomfortable writing your release in paragraph form, just list the questions above and provide answers. In most cases the "how" would be the contact information for readers because that's how they would participate.

- The most important step is to check your facts. Everything. Twice. Check spelling of names, addresses, times. Make sure the day of the week and the date match. Include costs or fees if they are applicable. Verify phone numbers. Everything. Twice. When you call to verify the spelling of a common name, you might get dead silence for a few moments. However, I have personally seen one of those so-called common names spelled "Mary," "Maire," "Marie," (pronounced "Mary") and "Merry" (because she was born on Christmas).

If you do send something with an error, alert us to it as soon as possible. We might be able to catch it before it prints.

Getting press releases to us two weeks before you hope to have it in print is a good rule of thumb. If you're unsure about deadlines or anything else, you can always call or email the newsroom—editor@pleasantonweekly.com.

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

City sidesteps public opinion on downtown

Dear Editor,

Anyone who knows Old Town Pleasanton remembers what the Elsnab property looks like. A superbly maintained old home with unique character, worth preserving by any standard. Now go down to the corner of Pleasanton Avenue and St. John Street and see what's there now—two lonely porch posts holding up a balcony, as another generic 6,000-square-foot house sprouts out of Old Town soil.

How does this happen? Here's how. There's a process the city uses to sidestep public opinion and the intent of the Downtown Specific Plan and it goes like this: If Elsnab's entire house were torn down, the project would enter into Old Town's planning process, where it would then be exposed to the light of day. But, by leaving something standing (a wall, a 2x4, a couple of porch posts, anything), the decision-maker can label the project a 'remodel,' thereby shifting approval away from public eyes and into the hands of a single person—themselves.

Now I'll let you decide if this is really building a Community of Character or not, but I can tell you this: one neighbor called the city, refusing to give their name, saying they were friends with the applicants, but requesting that the project be denied anyway.

Me, I think this practice breeds deception, arrogance, destroys, not builds communities and places Old Town's future into the hands of too few, understandable encouraging sameness, favoritism or even worse. What do you think? Tell the city.

*Kathleen Morrison
Pleasanton*

Report dogs who are off leash

Dear Editor,

I just want to bring to your attention and the Pleasanton community an incident that just happened to me last Saturday. I was in front of my house doing some yard work with my sister-in-law who was watching my two little children.

A young man walked with his pitbull dog unleashed. I requested him politely to put his dog on a leash. He ignored my request and answered to me with profanity. I just want to bring this fact to you and our community. I do not want to wait until my children are mauled or severely injured to stop this type of irresponsible behavior. People should walk their dogs on a leash, more so if they have a vicious dog.

The members of our community should report this type of irresponsible behavior to the Animal Control Department of the Pleasanton police by calling 931-5100 so that we avoid an attack to ourselves or our children. We have the social responsibility to

(continued on page 13)

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The Pleasanton Weekly encourages comments on our coverage or issues of local interest.

Submit letters to the editor of up to 250 words and guest opinion pieces up to 500 words with a short bio to editor@PleasantonWeekly.com. Include your name, address and daytime phone number so we can reach you. We reserve the right to edit contributions for length, objectionable content, libel and factual errors known to us. Anonymous letters will generally not be accepted.

Submitting a letter to the editor or guest opinion constitutes a granting of permission to the Pleasanton Weekly and Embarcadero Publishing Company to also publish it online, including in our online archives and as a post on Town Square.

For more information contact Editor Jeb Bing at (925) 600-0840.

Letters

(continued from page 12)

act in order to avoid an irreparable physical injury or in the worst case scenario losing a dear member of our family.

*Liliana Perdomo
Pleasanton*

All weather fields needed in Pleasanton

Dear Editor,

Saturday, Oct. 13, was a glorious fall day. Beautiful, warm and affirmation of what a great decision it was to settle in Pleasanton in 1981.

But something was missing. As I drove around town the parks were empty, the hundreds of children that use Pleasanton's parks for youth sports were silent. While Danville, San Ramon and Dublin all had a full day's schedule of sporting activities, Pleasanton's parks were once again silenced by the dreaded "weather line" and the monotonous voice that reminds me that for all the rhetoric about Pleasanton's progressiveness it is woefully negligent in committing to and funding parks that will allow for year round accessibility. While Friday's rain was not insignificant, it was already the second rain out of the sporting weekend this fall. Hundreds of games will have to be rescheduled, if they can. Having worked closely with Parks & Recreation and park maintenance, I know the pressure they face in the monumental task of keeping Pleasanton's parks beautiful while balancing the hundreds of sports hours that are dependent on every inch of available park space.

It's high time that Pleasanton's elected leaders, and its city staff, commit themselves to work with

the sports community to develop all weather fields that can be enjoyed by Pleasanton's adult and youth sports participants year round.

*John Cligny
Pleasanton*

Thanks for column on commission award

Dear Editor,

I appreciated very much your coverage in your column of the County Human Services Commission Distinguished Citizen Award that was given to me this year (Around Pleasanton, Oct. 5).

I don't like to correct such a beautiful article, but I just would like to mention that we do have a homegrown citizens' advocacy group for affordable housing in Pleasanton in Citizens For A Caring Community, and my work has been a part of that group effort. Also, in the jail ministry, I go wherever the chaplain and my supervisor assign me, and inmates really do not ask for me because I currently am slotted to do group sessions. But each of us 35 or so detention ministers from Catholic Community of Pleasanton can tell you that the inmates certainly appreciate the hope which we offer them in the Christian message at a time when they are in a pretty dark place in their lives.

Thank you again for your patient listening and for such a fine article.

*Patricia Belding
Pleasanton*

Sky is not falling in real estate—especially in Pleasanton

Dear Editor,

Your article ("Mortgage problems continue to hamper pending home sales," Real Estate, Oct. 5) suggested that the economy was tanking and especially the real estate market was cause for alarm.

Up-to-date news about Pleasanton every day



You cited a Realtor press release and the August U.S. jobs report.

Unfortunately, by the date of publication, the September jobs report was out revising all of the catastrophes out of the earlier report. Today, the minutes of the Fed's Open Market Committee meeting in August were released indicating that FOMC members, too, were skeptical about the dire August jobs report.

The bottom line is, the sky is "not" falling in real estate—especially here in Pleasanton—nor is the national economy in bad shape. Pleasanton Weekly readers would be better served by not reprinting the unedited press releases of interest groups like the Realtors who may slant the news to fit their agenda.

*Jim Anderson
Pleasanton*



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story and photos by Emily Atwood

Mass interest in the arts has seen a revival nationally, with non-profit arts and culture industry showing steady growth just in the past decade. According to American for the Arts' most recent economic impact report, organization and audience spending is up by 24 percent from 2000 to 2005, totaling \$166.2 billion.

Art revival

As Pleasanton rebuilds, Tri-Valley is alive with new performance venues



Restored to its original splendor, the main theater at The Grand was updated with an Egyptian-themed scheme and sparkling futuristic light fixtures that project the night sky.

The Tri-Valley is emerging as a hot spot for the arts, with several new and remodeled venues aimed to attract audiences locally and beyond. Much of these projects have been in the works for years, finally coming together as a result of the partnering of civic and arts organizations.

In Livermore, the recently completed Amador Theatre is set to host over 200 shows a year in 1,000 seat space during its inaugural season. In San Ramon, the city and its school district joined forces to build a 600-seat theater on the campus of the Dougherty Valley High School. The Grand Theatre in Tracy also recently completed its transformation from a run-down, makeshift storage space to a fully functioning facility with two theaters, rehearsal spaces, and visual arts spaces.

While Pleasanton residents patiently waited for their beloved Amador Theater to be rebuilt, they also had to open its remodeled doors, check out the new venues the Tri-Valley now has to offer.

Amador Theater

Built in the late 1930s on the Amador Valley High School campus, the Amador Theater has hosted school plays, band concerts, lectures and more. In addition to community theater groups, it has hosted Broadway musicals. As interest in performing arts waxed and waned over the years, the building began to show signs of wear. In 2005, the city, school district and the Pleasanton Arts Council organized combined use plans that were completed in April 2006.

Since then, thousands of people have come to see performances. The most recent season featured popular acts like Don Lewis & Young and The Big Fat Year End Kiss-off Comedy. Other acts include Will Durst and the Russian-American Ensemble.

This season, audiences will have to wait for some of these shows until mid January. Andy Jorgensen, civic arts manager, says the \$400,000 renovation is lighting renovations and more.

Firehouse Arts Center

A demand for an intimate arts space in Pleasanton led to the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Center. The Civic Arts Commission, the city, and even local business owners to support the Firehouse Arts Center.

The revamped facility will feature a 1,000-square-foot studio theater that is designed to seat 240 people in a variety of configurations. It also has 2,000 square feet of gallery space, art classrooms, and spaces for visual and performing arts and a gallery. Jorgensen also said a major focus of the center will be to engage youth in the arts.

Greg Reznick, president of the Pleasanton Arts Foundation, said the location of the center on Railroad Avenue is perfect for what



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Performers prepare for a show in the newly finished 600-seat Dougherty Valley theater in San Ramon.



Civic Arts Manager Andy Jorgensen stands in what will be gallery space at the to-be-renovated Firehouse Arts Center.

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be the city's arts hub. Varying designs of the building was meant to thrive in that location with nods to both the past and the future. The front features substantive glass and brick while the back view from Wayside Park is kept more soft and natural.

Jorgensen said they are in the process of finalizing plans in order to get bids for construction early next year and begin building in April. To learn more about this project, visit www.pleasantonartsfoundation.org.

Bankhead Theater

With its season in full swing, the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center can finally boast about its new 500-seat Bankhead Theater. Located on 2400 First St. just off of North Livermore Avenue in the heart of its evolving downtown, it is equipped to showcase music, theater, dance and conferences. It will house local talent like Del Valle Fine Arts, Livermore Valley Opera, California Independent Film Festival, Valley Dance Theater, Cantabella Children's Chorus and Valley Concert Chorus.

Groups like the Pleasanton Playhouse, Livermore-Amador Symphony and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Science on Saturdays lecture series, who typically performed at the Amador Theater, have relocated to Bankhead as well.

Executive Director Len Alexander said "as a promise to the community, we want [the theater] to be open more than it is closed."

With performances of more than 200 shows scheduled through August 2008, it seems that they are on the way to fulfilling the promise. In addition to featuring local talent, they will host world-renowned performers. Most recently, Tony award winner Bernadette Peters performed for a gala benefit Oct. 6.

Alexander also said that it was a race to build this type of theater in the I-680 corridor, as other cities like Walnut Creek were considering building similar set-ups. The idea of a community performing arts center was one gaining momentum with a small group of Livermore residents 15 years ago. The \$22.3-million project was paid for by contributions. The LVPAC still needs \$15 million more, with more than \$9.5 million already pledged.

The momentum is still going as there are plans to build a second venue, a 1,800-seat theater for full-scale Broadway touring productions. Audiences from near and far are expected to come for an intimate experience watching a large production--the theater ensures no seat will be more than 125 feet from the stage.

For more information about these facilities and to see a schedule of shows, visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center

Located on the brand new Dougherty Valley High

School campus in San Ramon is the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center. Rounding out the city's five year cultural arts plan to increase the emphasis on the arts, the center provides joint use for both students and the community.

While the 600-seat theater with a full stage, lobby, city office and dressing rooms is impressive, the real gem is something the audience may never see: the rehearsal space. The 3,500-square-foot room was designed to be the same space as the stage, meaning the stage will be open for more productions instead of being backlogged with rehearsals. It also allows for the major "wear and tear" to happen outside of what was referenced as the performers' temple.

The city and district are very proud of the partnership that was formed during the process. Mayor H. Abram Wilson said they are uniting with the purpose of being civilized—and getting the best for less.

With slated performances including "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "Late Night Catechism," "The Heat is On" and "Crique D'Amour," tickets have been going fast. Details on these shows can be found at www.sanramonperformingarts.com.

The Grand Theatre

The city of Tracy and its partner the Arts Leadership Alliance, a nonprofit organization of community leaders, encourage Tri-Valley residents to go the distance and even brave the traffic to experience the first step towards a revitalized downtown.

The old became new again in Tracy as the Grand Theatre, a surrounding hotel space and even the old jail was remodeled to encompass a 37,000 square foot visual and performing arts center. Included in the building is a 560-seat proscenium theater; 110-seat studio theater; dance, music and ceramics studios; children's art space; and a concession and catering area.

Originally opened in 1923 as a vaudeville theater, the art deco marquee and interior made it the centerpiece of downtown Tracy. As entertainment dramatically changed over the years, it officially closed in 1977 and the impromptu storage facility unpleasantly stuck out in the downtown. After it was purchased in 2002 by the city, the Grand embarked on a \$12.5-million overhaul to become the arts center, 20 years in the making.

The building embraces the future with state-of-the-art staging systems while remembering the past with the Egyptian colored, art deco-style architecture. Sometimes the two ideas mix, as with the eye catching light fixture that was a nod to a sparkling chandelier that many residents remembered.

Just a few of the fine and popular arts to grace the stage will be "Trailer Park Musical," "An Evening with Groucho" and "Tweaksters," the dancing and juggling acrobats. Visit www.atthegrand.org to learn more. ■

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Civic Arts Commission

The November 5, 2007 meeting of the Civic Arts Commission has been canceled. The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting will be held on December 3, 2007

Parks and Recreation Commission

The November 8 and December 13 regular Parks and Recreation Commission meetings have been cancelled. A special PRC meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, December 6.

Planning Commission

Wednesday, October 24, 2007
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- General Plan Update
Review and consideration of the Draft Circulation Element of the General Plan.
- PCUP 196, Rachelle Nguyen
Application for a conditional use permit to operate an indoor recreation facility for up to 40 children at the property located at 7071 7073 Commerce Circle.
- PCUP 201, Kwang Weon Seo
Application for a conditional use permit to operate an office and a warehouse for a contractor business in the existing building located at 1249 Quarry Lane.
- PAP 109 (PHUP 18), Rebecca Andrus
Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's denial of an application for a non exempt home occupation for wedding dress sales at the existing residence located at 3463 Windsor Court.
- PUD 05-02M, James Happ, Northstar Realty Services, Inc./Kenneth and Pamela Chrisman (Jenny Soo) Application for a major modification to an approved PUD development plan to replace the approved production home designs with design guidelines for the property located at 1944 Vineyard Avenue, in the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan Area.

Trails Ad Hoc Committee

Monday, October 22, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- For more information visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us

GENERAL INFORMATION

Employment Opportunity

Youth Sports Official – Basketball (Part-time, Temporary) \$9.57 - \$11.63 per hour (depending upon experience) Open Until Filled
The Youth and Adult Sports program seeks several part-time Recreation Aides to work as youth sports officials at the Harvest Park, Hart, and Pleasanton Middle School Gymnasiums
The Position: Under direction of the Recreation Supervisors, Youth Sports Officials will officiate selected basketball games in the Pleasanton Youth Basketball (PYB) program. Basketball players are in grades 1-12.

For more information or to apply for this position, please contact IAN Anderson, Recreation Supervisor at (925) 931-3447 or ianderson@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

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

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Amador Valley High on lockdown

Amador Valley High School was on lockdown for about 45 minutes Monday morning as police responded to a weapon threat, according to the Pleasanton Unified School District.

District spokeswoman Myla Grasso said administrators received a report from students who heard a rumor about a possible weapon on campus and

called for a lockdown at 10 a.m.

Police searched the school and found no credible evidence to support the rumor, which is reportedly now being considered a joke from identified students. The lockdown was called off at 10:45 a.m.

In the media alert, Grasso said the district considers safety a priority and that "campus administration takes all such reports very seriously."

Police Report

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

Oct. 6

- Petty theft:
 - 7:17 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Public drunkenness:
 - 12:36 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 12:52 a.m. at the intersection of Main and Saint Mary streets
 - 8:41 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
 - 11:47 p.m. in the 2300 block of Parkside Drive
- DUI:
 - 4:32 a.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue
 - 7:36 a.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and Hopyard Road
- Sexual assault:
 - 7:54 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road
- Found property:
 - 2:49 p.m. at the intersection of West Angela and Main streets

Oct. 7

- Theft:
 - 7:05 a.m. in the 4500 block of Chabot Drive
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 2:19 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Clara Lane
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 1:11 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; marijuana possession, public drunkenness
 - 1:47 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive; marijuana possession
 - 2:12 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Hopyard Road; public drunkenness

Oct. 8

- Theft:
 - 8:16 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle; grand theft
 - 12:37 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; identity theft
 - 1:21 p.m. in the 7200 block of Stonedale Drive; identity theft
 - 7:27 p.m. in the 3700 block of Smallwood Court
- Burglary:
 - 9:18 a.m. in the 6800 block of Koll Center Parkway

• Other:

- 10:26 a.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; recovered vehicle
- 7:20 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; mental health danger

Oct. 9

- Theft:
 - 12:10 p.m. in the 6300 block of Paseo Santa Maria; identity theft
 - 1:44 p.m. in the 2400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; shop lifting
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 6:18 a.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 9:36 a.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; worth less than \$400
 - 11:21 a.m. in the 7900 block of Paragon Circle; worth over \$400
 - 11:23 a.m. in the 400 block of Old Bernal Avenue; worth less than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:16 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Gibraltar drives; driving with marijuana
 - 2:44 a.m. at the intersection of Sunol Boulevard and Bernal Avenue; DUI
 - 8:08 p.m. at the intersection of Saint John Street and Peters Avenue; public drunkenness
 - 9:44 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- Mental health danger:
 - 7:06 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Oct. 10

- Theft:
 - 10:11 a.m. in the 4600 block of Jefferson Court; forgery, petty theft
 - 11:10 a.m. in the 4400 block of Oracle Lane; grand theft
 - 12:00 p.m. in the 800 block of Palomino Drive
 - 4:05 p.m. in the 7900 block of Stoneridge Drive; grand theft
- Burglary:
 - 6:38 a.m. in the 2700 block of Hopyard Road
- Drug violations:
 - 7:44 p.m. at the intersection of Harvest and Ridgewood roads; marijuana possession, driving with marijuana

• Battery:

- 8:07 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Oct. 11

- Theft:
 - 4:59 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
 - 9:25 a.m. in the 4500 block of Oracle Lane; grand theft
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 7:09 a.m. in the 4900 block of Owens Drive
 - 9:05 a.m. in the 4900 block of Owens Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 11:06 a.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive; worth less than \$400
 - 12:12 p.m. in the 2500 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400
 - 1:31 p.m. at the intersection of Black Avenue and Harvest Road; worth less than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 2:16 a.m. in the 4500 block of Oracle Lane; public drunkenness
 - 6:50 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Black Avenue; paraphernalia possession
 - 9:17 p.m. at the intersection of Rubino Court and West Ruby Hill Drive; DUI
- Mental health danger:
 - 12:51 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive

Oct. 12

- Theft:
 - 7:57 a.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; forged checks
 - 9:12 a.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; grand theft
 - 9:22 a.m. in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway; stolen vehicle
 - 10:28 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; forged checks
 - 11:18 a.m. in the 3300 block of Prairie Drive; identity theft
 - 1:46 p.m. in the 800 block of Sunset Creek Lane; identity theft
- Drug violations:
 - 4:09 p.m. in the 800 block of Division Street; under the influence of a controlled substance
 - 8:44 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; driving with marijuana

Obituaries

Warren E. McNely

Warren E. McNely, grandfather of Pleasanton Weekly Features Editor Emily Atwood, died Oct. 13 at the age of 78.



Born Oct. 23, 1928 in Eolia, Mo., Mr. McNely was raised in Wood River, Ill. He graduated from the University of Missouri Rolla in 1950 before moving to California to pursue a master's degree in civil engineering at the University of California Berkeley in 1952. Following graduation, he served in the U.S. Air Force. He was a resident of Oakland for many years.

Mr. McNely worked as a civil engineer and general contractor and served on the Contractors State License Board for many years. He was vice president of Linquist/McNely Construction Company. Upon the death of his partner, he formed McNely construction in San Leandro. He also served on the board of deacons at Sequoyah Community Church for over 50 years, the board of trustees of Bethany University, the Oakland Zoo, Goodwill Industries of the East Bay and the Salvation Army.

Mr. McNely is survived by wife of 54 years, Carol; children Warren and Kathleen Atwood, Dean and Claire Koenig, and Dan and Maribelle McNely; grandchildren Michael and fiancée Sarah, Emily and fiancé Matt, Megan and fiancée Matthew, Davis, Alexandra, Jessica and Joshua Warren.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at Sequoyah Community Church, 4292 Keller Ave., Oakland. Contributions may be made in his name to Bethany University Growing by Faith Capital Campaign, 800 Bethany Drive, Scotts Valley, CA 95066.

Lawrence Michael Lund

Lawrence Michael Lund died Oct. 8 after a brief illness. He was 67.



Mr. Lund, of Knights Ferry, was born Aug. 29, 1940 in Sacramento to Victor and Mercedes Lund.

He was raised on a cattle ranch, known to many as Lund Ranch, in Pleasanton with his brother Victor and sister Loretta. He attended Pleasanton schools, graduating from Amador Valley High School in 1958. He went on to San Jose State University, City College of San Francisco, Cal Poly and Chabot College.

In 1962, he entered the U.S. Navy and received pre-flight training at the U.S. Naval Academy in Pensacola, Fla. and aviation training at the U.S. Naval Aviation Training Center in Kingsville, Texas. He was a fighter pilot stationed at Naval Air Station in Miramar, Calif. His awards include the National Defense Service Ribbon and the Vietnam Service Medal. In 1967, he was transferred from active duty to the U.S. Navy Reserves at the naval air station in Alameda. He held the rank of lieutenant and received an honorable discharge in 1968.

Mr. Lund enjoyed ranching and raising cattle with his father at

Lund Ranch. He was a commercial pilot for Pan American and Delta Airlines flying Boeing 707s and 727s and retired as a flight engineer in 2004. He had an electrical contractor's license with the state of California.

Mr. Lund belonged to the Pan American Historical Society, Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society, Knights Ferry History and Museum Society, the Knights Ferry Community Club and The Native Sons. He was a member of many hobby-related organizations and enjoyed flying radio controlled model airplanes. He was an avid '49er and Sacramento Kings fan.

He is survived by his wife, Gayle

of Knights Ferry; his brother Victor (Pat) Lund of Pleasanton, daughters Kerri (John) Visser of Farmington, Calif. and Kristi (Joe) Henriques of Modesto; grandchildren Tiffany and J.D. Visser and Jack, Kate and Joey Henriques; nephews Mike (Diana) Lund of Livermore and their children, Cassie, Tyler, and Jeff (Tina) Lund of Shady Grove, Ore.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Loretta.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. tomorrow, Oct. 20, at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St. A reception will follow the service at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St.

Remembrances may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

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

Transitions
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Please include a contact name and telephone number. Not responsible for lost photos. Information how to send a photo digitally can be found on the Weekly's web site: www.PleasantonWeekly.com

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Description: Busy downtown Pleasanton real estate office seeks a part-time administrative marketing assistant to work in a fun, friendly environment on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's from 10-3. Job includes: developing listing flyers, answering phones, greeting our guests, placing ads in local newspapers, helping agents with various projects, and general office tasks.

Requirements: Our ideal candidate would know Outlook, Publisher, Word, Photoshop, and Illustrator thoroughly. Additionally, they must have a great attitude, be outgoing, motivated, and a self starter. Some real estate experience is also a plus.

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Sports

Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com of the best action shot from your child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

Amador looks for sixth win tonight at Granada High

Game follows 35-7 win over Antioch last week

The Amador Valley Dons take on Granada High on the Livermore field tonight, fresh from a 35-7 win over Antioch last Friday.

Amador, with a 5-1 record, hopes for a repeat of its stunning performance over the Antioch Panthers as it battles Granada (1-5), which lost to Foothill last week 24-7.

Even though considered the superior team, the Dons found during the first half of their game against Antioch just how tough the Panthers' offensive line could be. The Panthers controlled the ball almost the entire first half. Including two punts, the Dons ran a total of 12 offensive plays in the half.

Fortunately, the Amador Valley defense was up to the task, stopping the Panthers on a fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line on their first possession, and picking off an Antioch pass to halt another drive. A blitzing Nick Vuoto hit the Panthers' quarterback just as he was about to release the ball, and Mike Aronoff returned the ball to the Antioch 5-yard line after a nice one-handed interception.

Antioch struck first in the game, scoring their only touchdown of the contest at the 2:15 mark of the first quarter on a dive of less than a yard. After the ensuing kickoff, the opportunistic Dons' offensive struck back quickly, as Pat Gondkoff took the first-down handoff and swept around the right side, cutting back towards the middle after setting up his downfield blocking, then outracing the Panthers' defense to the end zone for a 65-yard touchdown. The Dillon Mullaney extra-point tied the game at seven 20 seconds after the Panthers had taken the lead.

The Dons' other first-half touchdown followed the Aronoff interception. On third-and-goal from the one-yard line, J.R. Souza bulled through the left half of the Antioch defense to find the end zone. The Dons found themselves in the lead 14-7 in the half.

The second half reminded fans of the previous week's game against Livermore, as the Dons added another touchdown 15 seconds into the half. Kean Stancil received the second-half kickoff at the five-yard line, found a hole in the middle of the pack, and cut to the right sideline before outracing all Panthers' defenders to the end zone. The Dons now had a more comfortable 21-7 lead following the extra-point. Then Brent Starkey came up big again, intercepting a pass around the 10-yard line before returning it to the 40-yard line.

Floyd Jackson was the featured back on the Dons' final scoring drive, carrying the ball four times, sealing the win for the Dons with a touchdown run of 14 yards. Mullaney's extra-point gave the Dons a 35-7 lead with 1:41 remaining in the game.

The final drive of the game began deep in Antioch territory, as the knuckleball kick was fielded at the four-yard line and the Panthers' returner was immediately crushed by Kyle Perry of the Dons. Antioch was able to pick up two first downs and reach the 46-yard line, but time ran out and the Dons had their fifth win of the year.

—Bob Gatehouse

Ryan Gordon games planned for December

Popular alumni soccer play honors 2003 Foothill graduate

The fifth annual Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Game is looking for ex-soccer players from Amador Valley and Foothill high schools to play in the game, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 29.

The game is an annual event that raises money for the soccer programs at Foothill and Amador in honor of Ryan Gordon, a 2003 Foothill graduate who was killed in a boating accident shortly after graduating. Gordon played soccer at Foothill for four years and was planning on attending Santa

Barbara City College where he would continue his soccer career.

There are men's and women's matches featuring players who graduated in the '70s, '80s, '90s and 2000s. Both games are at Foothill with the women scheduled for 4 p.m. and the men at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited and tickets will be available at the door for \$7 for adults and \$4 for students.

For more information, contact Curt Gordon at 426-1540 or curt.gordon@comcast.net.

—Jeb Bing

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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* DEADLINE *

The Pleasanton/Danville Weekly Classified Advertising deadline is:

Tuesday 12 Noon

through the business office
925-600-0840 x12

Tuesday 11:59 PM

through Fogster.com

Avoid the last-minute rush -

Place your ad early!

First Time Home Buyer Seminar
Holiday Boutique - Free Admis
Live Comedy in The East Bay



Singles Party, Halloween Party
Meet 100's of Singles Fri, October 19, 8pm to midnight. Call 925-937-4744 visit www.pguild.com World's Singles Largest Expo, 11/16

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130 Classes & Instruction



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BMW 2003 X5 - \$27,900

Chevrolet 1970 Sedan - \$3,000 or

Chevrolet 2002 Silverado - \$27,500

Chevrolet or Ford Mickey Thompson Tires and Rims - \$1,200 obo

Dodge 1970 Challenger RT - \$39,500

Toyota 2000 Tacoma Prerunner - \$100. obo

210 Garage/Estate Sales

Pleasanton, 7258 Valley View Ct
Garage Sale, SAT, OCT 20, 8:30-1:30
Possibly more neighbors to join—
Almost new Radiant Top elec. kitchen stove & a used elec. kitchen stove with overhead microwave (great for rentals); household items; lamps; books; women and girl clothing; children toys; some outdoor plants and more.

Pleasanton, 1699 Orchard Way, 7a.m.-3p.m. Oct.20

Pleasanton, 1817 Sinclair Dr, October 20th 8 to Noon

Pleasanton, 3895 Mammoth Cave Ct., October 20, 9-4

Pleasanton, 4433 Willow Road, Saturday, October 20, 8-2
Rummage Sale Hart Middle School NO Early Birds - Cash Only Rain/Shine Clothing, Household, Toys, Books, Furniture & more. Priced to sell! Off W. Las Positas, one block East of Hopyard.

Pleasanton, 5656 San Antonio Street, Oct 19 & 20 8-4

Pleasanton, Salvador Court, Oct 20 8 am -2 pm
Multi-family Garage Sale Vintage Housewares & collectibles, small appliances, furniture, plus many more!

215 Collectibles & Antiques

Coffee Mill, Pepper Mill & Spice - \$89

Garanteed Forged Grinder - \$39

Hood's Sarsaparilla bottle - \$28

Olympic Pins - \$3

Radio Flyer pumpercar - \$100 OBO

240 Furnishings/ Household items

Bello TV Stand - \$200

Candles - \$15

Furniture
Liftchair by Pride. Brown. Like new.

Garden Swing - \$75

sectional sofa - \$300

Sewing Machine, Viking Designer 2 - \$1,950

Signed Print - \$7

245 Miscellaneous

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"Manufacturer Direct!" Take Now or deposit holds till March. Examples: 25x36 \$6,100, 30x44 \$7,700, 35x52, 40x70. Others. Ends/accessories optional. Pioneer 1-800-668-5422. (Cal-SCAN)

1/2" Drill Press - \$100 obo

10" bandsaw - \$100 obo

Craftsman table saw - \$100 obo

DECORATE YOUR HOME FOR FALL! - \$14.99

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We are looking for an Account Executive with some sales experience (minimum one year), excellent organization and communication skills, ability to meet deadlines and a strong ability to build and foster client relationships. The successful candidate will be comfortable making cold calls and prospecting.

The Weekly is a division of Embarcadero Publishing Inc., a dynamic organization with a 27-year history of a commitment to high quality journalism. We offer a compensation plan of a base salary plus commission on sales, medical and dental benefits, paid vacation and 401(k).

EOE; drug-free workplace

Administrative Assistant - 30 hrs /week
The Pleasanton Weekly is seeking a part-time administrative assistant to work approximately 30 hours a week, Monday through Thursday.

Reporting directly to the president / publisher, this position will be responsible for:

** Acting as the liaison between the newspaper and the real estate clients and assist with the administrative duties necessary to produce ads.

** Providing administrative, operational and project support for all departments.

** Providing administrative assistance for editorial content for special sections

** Ensuring the accuracy of advertising proofs before they are submitted for client approval.

** Assisting with the coordination of the company's presence at special events

The successful candidate will have superb customer service and computer skills, good problem-solving and proofreading ability, and be able to work effectively under deadlines and be detail-oriented. Proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel and email is required. Real estate office experience a plus.

Send a cover letter, salary requirements and resume to Gina Channell-Allen, president, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Ste. 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566 or fax to 925-600-1433. Inquiries without salary requirement and/or cover letter will not be considered. No calls please. EOE.

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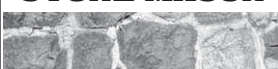
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PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Boo!

OK boys, listen up. Halloween is coming and we need to get in shape for some trick-or-treating. Keep those I.D. tags on in case you get lost and report back if you find someone handing out sardines! Paying attention to instructions are two young male housecats named Christopher and Schroeder. Christopher and Schroeder are about four months old and they are just two of several playful and affectionate kittens available for adoption at Valley Humane Society. VHS also has adult cats that will add fun and companionship to your home life. Visit Christopher and Schroeder, and their friends, at Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St., Pleasanton. It's open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Call 426-8656.

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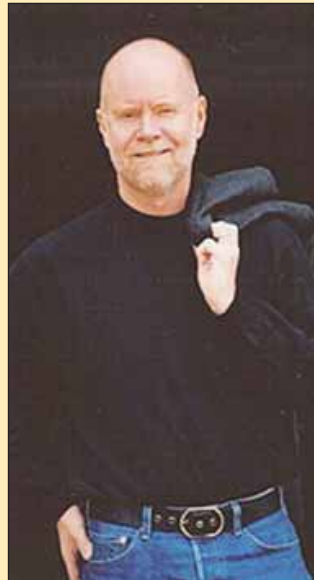
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Calendar

Calendar Spotlight



Meet John Lescroart

As a part of The Big Read celebration of The Maltese Falcon, the Pleasanton Library presents author John Lescroart at 7 p.m. Oct. 25. The Suspect and The Hunt Club is a legal thriller series about two friends in San Francisco, defense lawyer Dismas Hardy and homicide detective Abe Glitsky. This free event is open to all.

Auditions

Youth Orchestra Auditions
YOSAC (Youth Orchestra of Southern Alameda County) offers several levels of string instruction leading to an advanced full orchestra. String, brass, wind (except sax) and percussion are all welcome to audition. If available, students must be enrolled in a school music program. Weekly rehearsals. Call 510-483-1163 or visit www.yosac.org.

Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Basic Yoga Class Every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, will teach a yoga basics class in Lynnewood United Methodist Church's multipurpose room, 4444 Black Ave. The class is \$10, open to the public and is appropriate for all levels of experience. Call 846-0221 or visit www.lynnewood.org.

California Native American Culture A one-evening class, "They Were Here First: An Introduction to California Native Culture," will be taught by Patricia Belding Oct. 26 at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. The class meets from 6 to 10 p.m., costs \$39, and includes a movie. To register call 424-1467.

Clubs

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

California Writer's Club Plot and story consultant Martha Alderson, author of Blockbuster Plots Pure & Simple, will discuss her unique line of plot tools for writers and strategies for demystifying the structure of storytelling at the regular meeting Oct. 20. It will be held at 11:30 a.m. at Oasis Grill, 780 Main St. The cost is \$20 for members or \$25 for non-members. Call Kathy, 296-0447.

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

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m. every Saturday for breakfast

at Marie Calendar's 1101 S. California Blvd., Walnut Creek and at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Strizzi's 3456 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Visit www.pca.org/dia.

Toastmasters Pleasanton Community Toastmasters holds meetings Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 4530 Sandalwood Drive. Learn the art of public speaking in a fun-filled supportive environment. Call Bobbi at 846-8654 or visit pleasantontoastmasters.com.

Events

Fall Jamboree Hoedown The Fountain hosts a Fall Jamboree Hoedown from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 28 at 4455 Stoneridge Drive. The event includes games, prizes, entertainment, a jump house, food, panning for gold and a petting zoo. Western costumes are welcome. Tickets are \$5; preschool and under free. Call 600-8182 or visit www.fountaincc.org.

Foothill Band Review The 33rd Annual Foothill Band Review will be performed in a parade from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 27 on Main Street. Grand Marshall will be Dr. John Casey, superintendent of schools. A field show competition will be held at 4 p.m. at Foothill High School. Tickets are \$10. Visit foothillband.org.

Monster Bash on USS Hornet Is the USS Hornet Haunted? Bring the whole family and find out from 7:30 p.m. to midnight Oct. 27 at 707 W. Hornet Ave., Pier 3, Alameda. This family-friendly event will have music, costume prizes, children's area, haunted tours and The Haunted Hospital. Advance tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids. Tickets also at door. Call 510-521-8448 or visit www.uss-hornet.org.

Operation: S.A.M. Holiday Drives for Military Annual Holiday Drives, sponsored by Operation: S.A.M. "Supporting All Military," will be held at Pleasanton Wal-Mart, 4501 Rosewood Drive, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 20 and Livermore Wal-Mart, 2700 Las Positas Road, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 13. The drives will collect goodies, cards and let-

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ters for troops. Call 989-3990 or visit www.operationsam.org.

Pleasanton History Book Launch Party A new photo-filled book on Pleasanton history, "Images of America—Pleasanton," will be launched at 7 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St. Wine and dessert will be served and author Mary-Jo Wainwright will be giving a brief talk. Visit museumonmain.org.

Exhibits

The Essential Landscape An exhibit, "The Essential Landscape: A Tribute to Nature's Bounty and Beauty" will be presented at the grand opening of Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. The exhibit runs Aug. 30 to Oct. 28 with a

wine and cheese reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 29. The exhibit features two prominent California oil painters, Stephen Sanfilippo and Tom Taneyhill. Call curator Shelley Barry, 683-4804.

Vicki Asp Exhibit See work by plein-air painter Vicki Asp from Oct. 20-28 at Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St. Asp is known for her dynamic, exciting vineyard and local landscape acrylics. Visit www.studio7finearts.com.

Film

Free Teen Movie at the Library Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents a free teen movie "Disturbia" (rated PG13) at 7 p.m. Oct. 31. Refreshments will be served and any teen wearing a costume is eligible to win free movie tickets. Call 931-3404.

Fundraisers

Cook for A Cause In October, GourMade Cookery, 7060 Koll Center Parkway, Ste. 320, will be donating five percent of sales of every Cook for A Cause menu item sold. To register for a session or place an order visit www.gourmadecookery.com or call 846-4774.

Hart Middle School Rummage Sale Stop by Hart Middle School from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 20 to see what treasures can be found at the school's annual rummage sale. Hart's families have donated gently used items for this fundraiser for the Parent-Faculty Association. Proceeds benefit students programs and supplies.

Hoofprints on the Heart Hoedown Hoofprints on the Heart Adaptive Riding Center hosts a hoedown at

Cedar Mountain Winery, 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Oct. 20. Tickets are \$40 and proceeds will go towards program expenses, horse board and client scholarships. Call Peggy James, 455-9460.

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.

Thomas Hart Middle School Rummage Sale Donations Save your gently used clothes, household items, furniture, etc. and donate them to this annual tradition. Bring donations

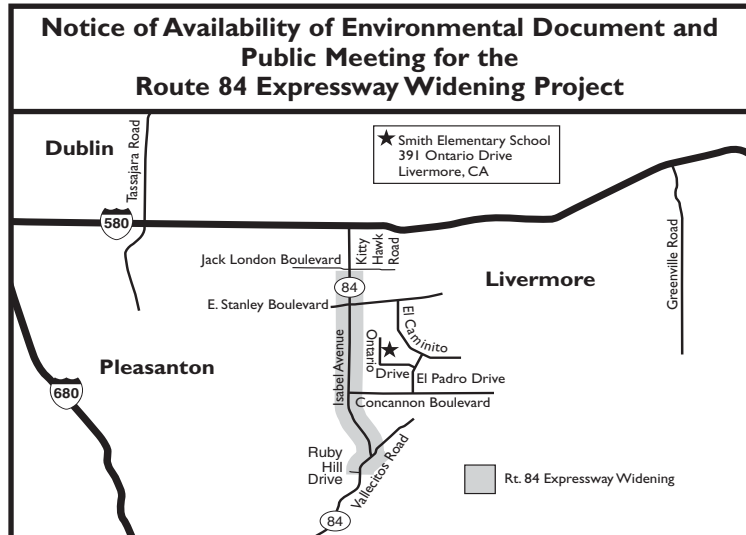
to the Thomas Hart Middle School multipurpose room from 3 to 6 p.m. Oct. 19. Tax deduction credit given. The Rummage Sale pays for many needed programs. Call 846-0329.

Health

Foot Freedom World School of Massage will offer a free seminar for the general public from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Oct. 25 at 699 Peters Ave. The school presents Foot Freedom: A Free 90-Minute Foot Health Clinic. Attendees will learn daily self-care and specialized foot self-massage techniques. Call 461-2533.

Health Fair and World Record Attempt A Health Fair from 1 to 3 p.m. Oct. 27 at Fitness Together, 101 E. Vineyard Ave. Ste. 111, Livermore, will

Notice of Availability of Environmental Document and Public Meeting for the Route 84 Expressway Widening Project



GENERAL PROJECT AREA

WHAT'S BEING PLANNED: The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) and the City of Livermore, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), propose to widen and upgrade State Route 84/Isabel Avenue between Ruby Hill Drive and Jack London Blvd., a distance of approximately 4.8 miles, in the City of Livermore, Alameda County, California.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the regional connection between I-680 and I-580 by widening State Route 84/Isabel Avenue to four- and six-lanes between Pigeon Pass and the I-580/Isabel Avenue interchange. The project will also improve local traffic circulation by adding capacity and providing intersection improvements at Jack London Boulevard, Discovery Drive, Stanley Boulevard, Concannon Boulevard, Vineyard Avenue, Vallecitos Road, and Ruby Hill Drive. Lastly, the project will bring this section of State Route 84/Isabel Avenue to expressway standards.

WHY THIS NOTICE: Caltrans and ACTIA have studied the effects this project may have on the environment. The environmental studies show the project will not significantly impact the quality of the environment as detailed in the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA). A public meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project and comment on the IS/EA.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW: Caltrans and ACTIA are seeking public comment on the IS/EA for the Route 84 Expressway Widening Project. You can view or obtain a copy of the IS/EA at the following locations:

- Caltrans District 4 Office, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA
- ACTIA Office, 1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA
- Livermore Main Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA
- Online at www.actia2022.com or www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/




Should you wish to comment on the IS/EA, please do so no later than 5:00 pm, November 15, 2007. Written comments should be submitted to: Caltrans District 4, Office of Environmental Analysis, Attn: Ed Pang, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.

PLEASE JOIN US: A public meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2007, 6:00–8:30 pm, at Smith Elementary, 391 Ontario Drive, Livermore, California to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project and comment on the IS/EA.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 30, 2007, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: Smith Elementary School, Multipurpose Room 391 Ontario Drive, Livermore, CA

The public meeting is wheelchair accessible. If special accommodations are needed, please contact Brigetta Smith, Caltrans at (510) 286-5820 as soon as possible.

For more information about this study or any transportation matter, call Brigetta Smith, Caltrans at (510) 286-5820 or Arthur L. Dao, ACTIA at (510) 893-3347 or visit www.actia2022.com.

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Stroke and Osteoporosis Screening Stroke and osteoporosis screening will be available starting at 9 a.m. Oct. 19 at Pleasanton Community Church, 4455 Stoneridge Drive. For pricing and to schedule an appointment, call 800-697-9721 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com.

Holiday

Comedy, Costumes and Chaos Contest The Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., presents an evening of com-

edy from 8 to 10 p.m. Oct. 31 where 10 comedians, in full costume, battle "to the death." Your votes decide who wins. Wear your costume and compete in our audience costume contest. Raffle prizes, drink specials, trivia contests and other "chaotic" behavior. Tickets are \$7. Call 264-4413 or visit www.laughalotproductions.com.

Party Planning for the Holidays Get a head start on the holiday season with party planning tips from caterer and event planner Barbara Llewellyn and noted designer and author Ron Morgan host a holiday-themed cooking demonstration, entertaining tips and an edible centerpiece how-to, from 10 a.m. to noon Oct. 23 at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, 7900 Edgewater Drive, Oakland. Tickets are \$20 plus a canned food donation. Includes tour and breakfast. Visit www.accfb.org.

Kids & Teens

Library Halloween Program At 2 p.m. Oct. 27 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Voice of the Wood, storytellers and performance artists, presents an afternoon of unique Halloween storytelling and more. Using music, dramatic narration and masked movement, this will be a Halloween show sure to raise both goosebumps and giggles. For ages K and up. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

Lectures/ Workshops

Children's Ministry Magazine Live Workshop This practical, hands-on, day of training will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 20 at Cornerstone Fellowship, 348 North Canyons Pkwy., Livermore. Take home ideas to create the place where kids want to be, so they grow deep in their relationship with Jesus. The cost is \$45. Call 447-3465 or visit www.group.com/cmml.

So You Googled an Employee, Now what? From 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 23 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin, learn the rules of the Internet: What employers can and cannot do about employees' use of the Internet to talk about themselves and their jobs. Tickets are \$105 for NCHRA members or \$145 for non-members. Call 415-291-1992 or visit www.nchra.org.

Top Productivity Secrets for You and Your Office Las Positas Community College, 3303 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore, presents productivity tips to save an hour a day—guaranteed from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 3. Class and text are \$69. Call 424-1467.

Miscellaneous

Adoption Faire From noon to 4 p.m. Oct. 27 at 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin, Tri-Valley Animal Rescue hosts an adoption faire with a dogs in costume parade, free drinks and hot dogs. Dog adopters receive three free professional dog trainings classes and a leash and collar. Cat adopters receive goodie bags. A dog trainer will be on-site to give expert advice and help evaluate/modify dog behavior, plus more. Call 408-202-6708 or visit www.tv-ar.org.

On Stage

Bohemians in Livermore Livermore Valley Opera presents La Boheme by Giacomo Puccini, his opera about two young bohemians in love, at Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Show times: 8 p.m. on October 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28. Sunday matinees: 2 p.m. Enjoy dinner and a live stage production in downtown Livermore. Tickets are \$30-55. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Role Players production Ruthless the Musical Ruthless! The musical by Joel Paley and Marvin Laird, directed by John Maio, musical direction by Joe Simiele, parodies The Bad Seed, Gypsy and others Thursday-Sunday Oct. 12-Nov. 3. Tickets are available at www.villageatheatreshows.com; Danville Community Center 420 Front St., Danville; and 314-3400.

Seniors

Computer Tutoring One-on-one computer tutoring is available every day at the Pleasanton Senior Center. The tutor works with you on topics where you need help. No formal program to follow, just help where you need it. Internet, Office applications, picture editing, etc. Call 931-5365 to set up an appointment. The cost is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents.

Dessert Dance Put on your dancing shoes and enjoy dessert and ballroom dancing to the Treblemakers Oct. 26. Dessert will be served at 6:30 p.m. with dancing from 7 to 9 p.m. Register early by calling 931-5365. Advanced tickets are \$7 for residents, \$8 for non-members. At the door tickets are \$8 or \$9.

Dublin Senior Center Extends Hours Live at the Senior Center! It's Wednesday Night! Do you yoga? Have a question about computers? Enjoy playing games? Sign the interest list and we will try to organize new activities on Wednesday nights at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Starting Sept. 12, the Senior Center will extend its Wednesday hours to 8 p.m. Call 556-4511.

Gujarati Dinner Tri Valley Gujarati Seniors holds monthly meetings with varied themes. Interested Gujarati Seniors are welcome to attend as guests. For additional information, call 846-3521. 6:30-9:30 p.m.

PC Users Group The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. The usual Senior Center charges apply. The cost is \$1.50 or \$2.00.

Transitions Support Group Are you or someone you know: 60 or older and living in Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore or Sunol? Looking for a warm and supportive environment to connect with others? In need of a place to share, support and reminisce? Join the Transitions Support Group meeting 2:30 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 931-5379 for info.

Spiritual

Indonesian Minister to Speak Mirna Wati, an Indonesian Minister will speak at 7 p.m. Oct. 30 at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. She is devoting her life to Christian outreach, church planting and child development in the most dangerous and remote regions of Indonesia. Call 998-3785 or visit www.sistersinservice.org.

Peace Meditation A one-hour silent meditation on peace will take place on the second Saturday of the month at Downtown Yoga, 220B Division St. No talking—just sitting. No political affiliation or religious denomination. Free to all. Call 819-9983.

Tri-Valley Unity Church Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at the Radisson

Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Sunday service and children's school at 10 a.m. Ongoing classes and groups. All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Worship Service The Fountain Community Church, 4455 Stoneridge Drive, holds a worship service at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. It's a place to connect with God and people. Upbeat contemporary worship and challenging messages. Call 600-8182 or visit www.fountaincc.org.

Sports

Lake Chabot Mountain Ride Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop mountain ride at 6 p.m. every Tuesday in October. Meet the Cyclepath group at the Ranger station. Most rides last approximately two hours. Riders should be in good fitness; have a well-adjusted, safe mountain bike (with a light); and general knowledge of bike handling skills. Call 485-3218.

Sunday Morning Group Ride Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop ride. Routes vary weekly (25-55 miles) and last approximately two hours. We meet at 8:30 a.m. at Cyclepath, 337-B Main St., to determine our route and fill tires for a 9:00 a.m. departure. Riders warm up together and split into smaller groups based on skill level. Call 485-3218.

Support Groups

ClutterLess Self Help Group Is clutter stressing you out? We are a Self Help support group for those with difficulty disposing of stuff. Cluttering is a psychological issue, not just an organizing issue. The group meets Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church Rm 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 846-5060 or visit www.clutterless.org. The group is free and \$2 to \$5 donation appreciated.

Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis Support Group This support group meets the third Thursday of every month at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Walk-ins are welcome. Feel free to bring a guest. No meeting in December. Call 462-6764 or 846-4653.

East Bay Cancer Support Group The East Bay Cancer Support group is an independent, non-profit, non-sectarian organization serving cancer patients, caregivers and the bereaved at Faith Lutheran Church, 20080 Redwood Road, Castro Valley. All services are provided free of charge. For scheduled meeting times, please call (510) 889-8766 or visit www.ebcancersupport.org.

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

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Call 443-4098 or 447-6158 or email ral-aye@comcast.net.

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

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month. Call 485-9370 or visit www.kivaspirit.org for details.

Overeaters Anonymous Is Food Controlling Your Life? This group meets every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, Room C-5, 4444 Black Ave. This is a 12-step study and discussion meeting and newcomers are welcome. Call Georganne at 361-7224.

Stress and Pain Management Strategies and Support Learn how to use visualization, relaxation techniques and new ways of thinking (cognitive restructuring) to help reduce stress levels and down-regulate pain. Share experiences and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. †Free classes are held from 11 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday of each month at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Facilitated

by Betty Runnels, M.A., Counseling Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy. Call 734-3315 or email bettyrunnels@earthlink.net.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group This group provides peer support for those affected by Parkinson's disease and for their caregivers, families and friends. The group meets from 10 a.m.-noon, the second Saturday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Call 831-9940 or email jackiebard@pacbell.net.

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

fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

Widow/Widowers Support Group Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple years? Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life event. Course is open to all widows and widowers. Enrollments are now being accepted and can start up to third week. Pre-registration required. The workbook is \$5. The group meets from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays from Oct. 6 to Dec. 15 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valley Pkwy. Call Linda Husted at 833-9013.

Jo Molz, makes and distributes soft fleece blankets to at-risk, abused and neglected children in the Tri-Valley, Alameda County and even Los Angeles. The easy-to-make blankets are constructed of a soft fleece material with pleasant designs. Volunteers have made more than 10,000 blankets for distribution since the organization began. Those interested in volunteering, or donating money or fleece to the nonprofit organization call Jo, 846-6155.

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

TV30

In a Word Join hosts Jim Ott and Kathy Cordova during the month of October with Lisa See, author of *Peony in Love*. Bookclub discussion of *The Maltese Falcon* with guests and authors Hailey Lind and Mark Coggins. On Channel 30 every day at 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. weekdays. Sponsored by Towne Center Books.

Let's Talk Sports TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich Special: Boxing from King's Gym with Andre Ward, Olympic Gold Medalist and undefeated as a professional will air on Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., and Fri. and Sat. at 4 p.m.

Volunteering

Blankets for Kids Blankets For Kids, founded by Pleasanton resident

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

CAPITAL GAIN VS. ORDINARY INCOME

You probably already know the answer to this one. Ordinary income—generally, the money you make from your job, as well as interest and dividends, in most cases—is taxed at the highest tax rate you will face each April. Capital gains, on the other hand—the taxable portion of profits from the sales of long-term investments—are taxed at a much lower rate these days.

This includes the taxation that you will face when you sell investment real estate or on your personal residence—to the extent your taxable gain exceeds \$500,000 (for married taxpayers, \$250,000 for singles). But what is "taxable gain"? It's almost never identical to the size of the check you get when the sale of your home closes.

Why? Because you arrive at the taxable gain amount in a different way. First, the qualified costs of purchasing the home are added to the total purchase price. Then, all the qualified expenses of capital improvements made to the home are subtracted from the eventual selling price. And the first is subtracted from the second. The resulting figure is the taxable gain. It has nothing to do with the size of the mortgage loan balance at the time of selling the home, and little, really, to do with the size of the actual profit you made when you sold the first home.

This is one of a great many ways that real estate provides tax benefits to its owners—and one of many reasons why you should work with a good real estate advisor and mortgage professional and also consult your tax advisor whenever you buy or sell real estate or any other investment. So call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Dining Out

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

44 Church St., Danville, 820-7200. Executive Chef Kevin Gin interprets California-American cuisine with European and Asian influences with expansive lunch and dinner menus. Add dessert, wine and cocktails and you have Bridges' casual fine dining experience. Visit www.bridgesdanville.com for event and private party details.

Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant

855 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-8106. Executive Chef Neil Marquis offers exciting contemporary American cooking at lunch and dinner, featuring a wide selection of fresh fish entrees. Also offering our famous Sunday Champagne Buffet Brunch full bar and

patio service. Visit us at www.pleasantonhotel.com for menus and private party and catering 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 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 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.

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Dining Out

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, ppinach 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

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

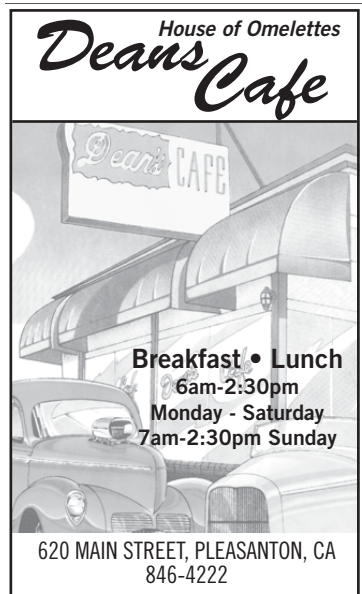
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