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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## We're 8 years old and still growing!

Tomorrow marks the eighth anniversary of the Pleasanton Weekly, and what a ride it's been. From local, state and Congressional elections to our non-stop reporting on the decisions and activities of municipal government, education, health care, business, sports and just about every other aspect of community news, we have filled tens of thousands of pages of news and locally-focused advertising for our Pleasanton readers and many more who subscribe to our paper in other cities and on college campuses. Through our cooperation with Pleasanton Military Families, we also send the paper free of charge each week to those from Pleasanton who are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other Gulf states.

I remember back in late 1999 when we were preparing the first edition for launch a visit I made to the City Hall office of then-Mayor Ben Tarver with Bob Thomas, our paper's first president, who has since retired. We showed Tarver a prototype of that first edition schedule to print on Jan. 26, 2000, and talked about the Weekly's plans to cover Pleasanton. Tarver congratulated us, but then shook his head, saying it would be a short-lived business venture since there was so little news to report in this small suburban city of 50,000 that we would have nothing left to write about within six months. Today, Pleasanton's population is nearing 70,000, our weekly press run totals more than 18,000 newspapers, delivered every Friday to homes and apartments, and with newsstands downtown, around town, at the BART station and in neighboring cities that quickly empty out every weekend. Contrary to Tarver's prediction, we have more news, sports, business and feature stories to fill our paper each week than space to accommodate them and growing columns of advertising that keeps our skilled management team and advertising representatives busy 60 hours a week and sometimes longer. We're also publishing special sections regularly on a wide range of issue-focused topics, from Home

& Garden, business profiles, women in business to "Staying Healthy," which accompanies this anniversary issue.

Also growing in popularity is our lively and interactive Web site at [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com) and its popular Town Square interactive site for readers. Anytime, day or night, you can sign on to Town Square to read someone's comments on current topics. Although there have been some indiscretions which we have to manage and sometimes delete, the vast majority of postings are thoughtful, knowledgeable and sometimes even exclusive news reports that our reporters learn about for the first time along with our readers. We didn't know, for instance, that our local YMCA had closed its once-filled and highly-visible day care center at First Street and Bernal Avenue until a parent posted that fact on Town Square. When a police SWAT team surrounded a house where its occupant had barricaded himself, it was a neighbor, not the police department, that told us that the man inside was a cop. Check out all of the current comments on Town Square about the Oak Grove housing and open space issue in Kottinger Hills for reports that, while not verified as blogs usually aren't, nevertheless provide good insight on an ongoing news story we'll be covering for weeks—if not months—ahead.

Our goal as we start our ninth year as your community newspaper hasn't changed from the start. We are committed to providing the most accurate and consistently reliable news coverage and commentaries of interest to all of us who live and work here. We strive to report that news in an objective, unbiased manner. On our Web site, where we will increasingly be including video reports, as well as in our Friday print editions, we will provide local news not available elsewhere in a year that promises to be one of the most exciting Pleasanton has ever seen. Thanks for reading—and watching—us for these eight wonderful years. Stay tuned. ■

### About the Cover

Peter and Kenneth Milliken get a bird's eye view of the Bay Area as they stand in an elevator atop the Golden Gate bridge. This is the eighth year that the Pleasanton Weekly has been publishing and also the eighth anniversary of Take Us Along, a popular feature that was unexpectedly started by then-Police Chief Tim Neal, who sent in a picture of himself reading the Weekly at the Statue of Liberty. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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# Streetwise

## Q: Are Pleasanton schools overcrowded?

Asked Downtown

### Taylor Martin

Consultant



Not at the elementary level—yet. I have read that Amador High is currently either at capacity or exceeding it and that Foothill is close behind. Student populations will fluctuate based on home sales and new developments going in. Perhaps some alternatives to a new physical site could be “brain stormed”—online classes or alternative schedules, at least at the high school level.

### Al Lopez

Owner Al's Hair Design

The Pleasanton school district is a great district. As far as a high school goes, perhaps we need another. Using Village to accommodate overflow could be a difficult fit. Twenty-two hundred kids on average is a lot of students—almost like a small college campus. This town is growing and the schools need to keep up.



### Lisa Coelho

Student



I notice tons of kids during passing periods and lunch. In the classroom though, a student would need to work hard to fall through the cracks. The teachers call you and email if you are struggling; they work hard to know you and give you what you want. You have to speak up for yourself and ask for the help you need and they are there.

### Chelsea Shelton

Student

The teachers know everyone in their classes. The principal and counselors are on top of things, watching out for everyone. The addition of staff last year made a big difference. Our school is definitely crowded but we have the staff to help everyone that needs it.



### Alex Herzfeldt

Student



I think it's easy to get help when you need it. It's always available. We have anywhere from 25 to 32 kids in each class but the teacher seems to have time for everyone.

# BANKHEAD THEATER



## MOZART AND BARTOK

*Pacific Chamber Symphony Concert*

February 8 • 8pm • \$26, \$32, \$38

The principal winds display their virtuosic talents joining Maestro Kohl on the clarinet in W.A. Mozart's joyous Sinfonia Concertante for oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn and orchestra. With this work, Mozart transforms the Baroque concerto into a classical masterpiece.

## EINSTEIN — THE PRACTICAL BOHEMIAN

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Museum On Main has new director

Julia Bussinger is the Museum On Main Street's new executive director. A special reception will be held for her from 5 to 6 p.m. Feb. 7 at 603 Main St. Following the reception will be the opening of the Pleasanton Treasures exhibit, in conjunction with the Pleasanton Downtown Association's Truffles, Wine and Tidbits event.

### Workshops focus on financial aid

Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi invites high school seniors and their parents to financial aid workshops. One will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 5 at Dublin High School, 8151 Village Pkwy., Dublin and another from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 7 at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Ave. Bring student and parent social security numbers (or alien registration number); the family's recent federal tax forms like a 1040, W-2, bank statements, etc.; and submit a Cal Grant GPA verification form to your counselor before March 2. Visit [www.eastbayconsortium.org](http://www.eastbayconsortium.org).

### Talk healthy hearts on TV30

Tune into TV30's "Ask the Doctor" program on channel 30 at 7 p.m. Feb. 6 and get the chance to talk about heart health with a health professional. John Vu, M.D., cardiologist, and Calvin Lemon, M.D., internal medicine specialist, will answer live questions from callers and discuss the signs and risks of heart disease, high cholesterol, medication and more. Call 462-3030 between 7 and 8 p.m. that night to participate. Reruns will air Wednesdays in February at the same time.

### LPC open Saturday for registration

Students needing help with registration, counseling and textbooks can come to Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive in Livermore, on Saturday. The Admissions and Records and counseling offices will be open from 9 a.m. to noon, and the bookstore will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Classes began Jan 22, but students can still register for open and late start classes. For information, call 424-1000.

### Corrections

An incorrect Web address was given for the Civic Arts. Tickets for shows, including "Peter and the Wolf," which will be held tomorrow, can be purchased at [www.civictickets.org](http://www.civictickets.org).

## Callippe Preserve wins award, names new general manager

*Former GM of The Bridges takes helm, celebrates environmental leader award*

by Janet Pelletier

Just a few weeks into the New Year, Callippe Preserve has a new general manager and another award to add to its collection.

Mike Ash, a PGA Class "A" golf pro, took over the city golf course Dec. 17. Ash, who has more than 22 years of experience in the golf industry, has worked with Club Corporation, one of the largest golf course management companies in the country, for more than 20 years. Most recently, he was the golf pro at The

Bridges Golf Club in San Ramon for the past six months. Ash has also been general manager at Chardonnay Golf Club in Napa, Teal Bend in Sacramento and Rancho Solano in Fairfield.

This won't be Ash's first foray into managing a city-owned golf course. He has also managed courses in the cities of San Francisco, Fairfield, Healdsburg and Eureka.

Some goals he said he's working on include an ongoing effort to bring new people to the course as well as offer educational tours.

"Really, the goal is to provide a well-maintained golf course for residents of Pleasanton,"

Ash said. "We also want to get non-golfers of Pleasanton to get involved by doing lunches and dinners. We want to bring in women and children."

There are currently two female golf groups that play at Callippe and the golf course also offers youth golf lessons, Ash said.

Educational tours will teach youth groups about endangered species that co-exist with

(continued on page 6)



Safeway Chairman Steve Burd shows off an 18-wheeler big rig that has now been converted to run on cleaner-burning biodiesel fuel.

## Safeway converts truck fleet to cleaner-burning biodiesel fuel

*McNerney, Garamendi join CEO Burd in launch of Pleasanton-based corporation's newest 'Going Green' initiatives*

by Jeb Bing

Safeway Corporation has converted its entire California and U.S. truck fleet to cleaner burning biodiesel fuel as part of an ongoing company commitment to manage and reduce its environmental carbon footprint.

Safeway chairman and CEO Steve Burd

made the announcement last Friday at a public event in front of the company's prototype supermarket in central Dublin. With a newly-converted 18-wheel big rig truck behind him, Burd said the initiative makes Safeway one of the first major retailers in the U.S. to convert its entire fleet of just under 1,000 trucks to

(continued on page 7)

## Children's Hospital seeks help

*Measure A on Feb. 5 ballot would partially finance state-required seismic upgrades, expansion*

Children's Hospital of Oakland, one of the country's largest and the only hospital and research center serving children exclusively in Alameda County, is asking voters to approve Measure A on Feb. 5.

Measure A, which appears on the Presidential Primary Election ballot behind the ballots for presidential contenders, would impose a parcel tax of \$24 a year on homeowners throughout Alameda County to provide half of the \$700 million needed to rebuild and expand Children's Hospital to meet earthquake retrofitting requirements by 2013 as required by state law. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has endorsed the measure.

"Without this needed funding, Children's Hospital will have to surrender its license and close because we won't be able to meet state requirements," Frank Tiedemann, the hospital's president and chief executive officer, told the Weekly in an interview. "None of us wants that to happen."

Still Tiedemann's and the county supervisors' objectives to win at the polls are formidable. To pass, Measure A will need a vote by two-thirds of those voting (66.6 percent). Although opposition has been light, many voters in the county have never used the services Children's Hospital provides, and many don't even know where it's located.

The tax, which would impose a \$100-a-year parcel tax on small non-residential properties and \$250 on larger ones, in addition to the \$24 annual tax on residential properties, would last for 35 years and provide \$300 million to "The Children's Hospital Construction Fund," which would be maintained by the county. Homeowners 65 years of age or older could request each year to be exempted from the tax.

With the construction fund and other funds available to Children's, Tiedemann said the plan is to build a new 12-story-high medical facility on land between 52nd and 53rd streets near the

(continued on page 9)

## Callippe

(continued from page 5)

Callippe and the course's effort to preserve them.

Ash replaces former General Manager John Renslow, who has taken a similar position at Alta Sierra Country Club in Grass Valley, according to city spokeswoman Joanne Hall.

Among the responsibilities Ash is inheriting as head of the two-year-old golf course is accepting accolades. Since opening in November 2005, Callippe Preserve has earned recognition for its attention to the environment and as a top-rated golf course.

Golf Digest magazine named Callippe as one of America's Best New Courses, Golf Week magazine ranked Callippe as the sixth best public access course in California, and it achieved the designation of a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division

of Audubon International.

Most recently, Callippe has earned another award to add to its mantle—recipient of a 2007 Environmental Leader in Golf Award (ELGA). The distinction was made by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Golf Digest magazine. D. Cord Ozment, supervisor at Callippe, was one of three chapter winners for the ELGA award in the category of public facilities.

Ozment said he is proud of the award, calling it the "Super Bowl" of environmental achievement.

"It gives us the opportunity to show off what we're doing on a regular basis in the environmental sense," he said, adding that it was a group effort including Ryan Hess, assistant superintendent, Julie Foster, environmental manager and Jim Woelfl, irrigation manager.

This is the first time Callippe has applied for the award. Ozment works for CourseCo Inc., which is contracted by Callippe for supervision and management of the course.

When Callippe first opened in 2005, there was some criticism over the \$34.5-million cost to build the course, but Ozment said the money has been well-spent.

"When the city of Pleasanton built this golf course, they really focused on making it environmentally sensitive," he said.

One of those features includes expanded drainage areas off the golf course which absorb nutrients out of water running across the course.

Ozment said the city "spent over \$5 million in permits alone and we have 24 different management plans on this property to make sure we protect what was here before us and what will be here long after us."

Three endangered species call the area home: the Callippe Silverspot Butterfly (which the course is named after), the red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander.

The butterfly habitat is between the course and the Koopman Ranch property on land owned by the city, Ozment said.

"The salamander has its own unique site on the opposite side of the property," Ozment added.

Right now, it is breeding season for the tiger salamander.

Ozment said the salamander lives in the bottom of water channels and is pretty reclusive, but Callippe has taken steps to ensure that golfers don't travel off path and risk stepping on one.

"That's one of the most important reasons on why we keep golfers out of those environmental areas," he said. "When they're playing golf, they're not allowed to go in that area if they hit their ball there."

Callippe has also funded a plan to protect the red-legged frogs from being overrun by bullfrogs, a predator.

"During mating season, we build dams in our drainage channel and we dam up the water and pump it back into our irrigation lakes," Ozment said. "It takes away the breeding ground for the bullfrogs so that they can't breed and develop and later come back and eat the red-legged frogs."

And to educate others on such environmental efforts, as General Manager Ash mentioned, Callippe will begin giving tours to youth groups.

Since Callippe opened, "we got a lot of golf played here and made a lot of money for the city here for the first two years, and now its time for our company, CourseCo., to take the next step and that's to start doing the community outreach," Ozment said. "The theme is going to be that the city built it right. They spent a lot of money on it and they got criticized for the money they spent but they did it for our future, not just for the immediate return on investment." ■



Mike Ash is the new general manager for Callippe Preserve Golf Course.

Janet Pelletier

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## Junior college board adds noteworthy member

*Pleasanton Police Chief Mike Fraser joins Las Positas College Foundation Board of Directors*

by Tyler Bierbower

Pleasanton Police Chief Mike Fraser has broadened his range of work by recently becoming the 19th member of the Las Positas College Foundation Board of Directors.



Police Chief Mike Fraser

"I have been very impressed with Mike's commitment, clear thinking and sense of realistic priority setting," said Ted Kaye, foundation CEO.

Fraser has been a police officer in Pleasanton since 1980 and served as captain for 12 years. He was named chief of police following a nationwide search last year.

The mission of the foundation is what intrigued Fraser to join.

Founded in 2003, it serves as a funding resource for Las Positas and educates surrounding communities about the educational opportunities available at the college. It also helps fund scholarships, staff development, technology upgrades and the college's performing arts program.

"Our main focus is the funding of student scholarships, supporting vital educational programs and continuing our outreach to the Tri-Valley community through college sponsored programs," Kaye said.

Las Positas College offers a variety of criminal justice courses that help pave the way for students entering the Sheriff's Academy. The Alameda County Sheriff's Regional Training Center currently partners with Las Positas College.

Fraser, who attended Chabot College, talked about the financial struggles that many young indi-

viduals go through while trying to attain a college degree.

*"I have been very impressed with Mike's commitment, clear thinking and sense of realistic priority setting."*

—Ted Kaye, Las Positas College Foundation CEO

"Recognizing that it's a little more difficult for other people because of the costs associated, that's kind of what pushed me towards accepting a position with the board," Fraser said.

For more information about the foundation contact CEO Ted Kaye at 424-1010 or tkaye@laspositas-college.edu. ■

## Safeway

(continued from page 5)

the cleaner burning biodiesel fuel. The action will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 75 million pounds annually, the equivalent of taking nearly 7,500 passenger vehicles off the road each year.

"Safeway is proud to lead by example to help protect the environment," Burd said. "Using biodiesel to power our transportation fleet will prevent millions of pounds of carbon emissions from being released into the environment."

Joining Burd at the Dublin event were Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) and California Lt. Governor John Garamendi, also a Democrat. Both elected officials are active in global warming reduction initiatives and in supporting measures to increase alternative energy sources.

"This is forward thinking at its best," McNerney said. "Safeway's leadership in reducing diesel emissions is not just good for the environment, it's good—as Steve Burd has said—for the company's bottom line. I'm proud that it's happening in my Congressional District and I hope other corporations throughout the country will take notice."

Garamendi agreed.

"Safeway's environmental leadership is a shining example of how businesses can adapt and become a major player in the fight against global warming," he said. "Smart businesses like Safeway are looking over the horizon and understand the risks and opportunity associated with this critical issue."

Burd said that Safeway joined the Chicago Climate Exchange in 2006, committing the company to reduce its carbon footprint from

the base year of 2000 by 390,000 tons of carbon dioxide. The company also has joined the California Climate Action Registry, the state's only official registry for greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects.

Last year, Safeway completed the installation of 55,000-square-feet of rooftop solar panels at its central Dublin store, making the store the first of 22 supermarkets Safeway will power by solar energy.

The company also is one of the largest retail purchasers of renewable wind energy in the country,

purchasing 87,000 megawatts annually, enough to power its 300 fuel stations and more than 50 stores.

Safeway, with its corporate and North American headquarters on Stoneridge Mall Road in Pleasanton, is a Fortune 100 company, operating 1,738 stores in the U.S. and western Canada. The corporation had annual sales in 2006 of \$40.2 billion.

For more information about Safeway and its "Growing Green" programs, go to [www.safeway.com](http://www.safeway.com). ■



# BANKHEAD THEATER

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February 8 • 8 pm • \$26, \$32, \$38

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## Oakland diocese OKs Catholic high school in Livermore

*First Catholic high to be built in East Bay in 40 years*

A long-planned Catholic high school for northeast Livermore has been given the construction green light by Bishop Allen Vigneron of the Oakland Catholic Diocese. To be named Pope John Paul II Catholic High School, it will be the first Catholic high school built in the East Bay in more than 40 years.

"From his establishment of World Youth Days to his commitment to higher education, Pope John Paul II left a lasting impression on youth," Vigneron said. "With the Cathedral Center of Christ the Light in Oakland due to be completed this summer and dedicated on Sept. 25, we can now turn our attention to building this new high school to continue the educational ministry of Pope John Paul II."

As planned, the new high school campus will encompass 32 acres of a 122-acre plot owned by the diocese and annexed by the city of Livermore. The remaining 90 acres, including segments of two arroyos, will be kept as open space.

The new Catholic college preparatory high school will accommodate a coed student body of 1,200



A 3D model shows what a Catholic high school in northeastern Livermore, to be called Pope John II Catholic High School, would look like.

students, starting out with only a freshman class and possibly a sophomore class as well, each with about 300 students. The diocese said the state-of-the-art school will include administrative offices, classrooms, a chapel, performing and visual arts facilities, a sports complex and about 800 parking spaces.

Pre-construction work will get under way in the coming months, including finalizing the school's design and building an access road

to Interstate 580. A capital campaign fundraising drive also will start shortly at the same time the new school's administration is chosen. An opening date has not yet been set.

For more information, call Ross Perich at 381-6048 or email to [rossperich@aol.com](mailto:rossperich@aol.com) or Rick Kruska, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Oakland, at [rkruska@oakdiocese.org](mailto:rkruska@oakdiocese.org).

—Jeb Bing

## Replace your wood stove and get a discount

*Bay Area Air Quality Management District offering up to \$600 off*

Looking to replace your wood-burning fireplace or stove with a new, less-polluting gas one? The Bay Area Air Quality Management District has partnered with an agency to sweeten the deal by offering consumers up to \$600 off in an effort to reduce the cost of replacing older heating appliances with cleaner-burning alternatives.

"Particulate matter is the greatest airborne public health hazard in the wintertime," said Air District Executive Officer Jack Broadbent. "The Air District promotes clean air choices and offers incentives to help residents make an investment in improving air quality."

The district has committed a total of \$100,000 to reduce the level of particulate pollution across the Bay Area. A partnering agency in the effort is the Pacific chapter of the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA). The program will run through March 31 on a first-come, first-served basis. As long as funding is available, residents who purchase new qualifying stoves or inserts from participating HPBA retailers will be eligible for discounts at the time of purchase.

Discounts for stoves are as follows: \$600 for gas or pellet stoves and \$300 for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-certified wood stove. Discounts on fireplace inserts are: \$600 for gas or pellet

inserts, \$300 for EPA-certified wood inserts and \$300 for gas fire logs.

Older wood stoves and fireplace inserts that were manufactured before 1992 can produce 70 percent more smoke than newer appliances, according to the Air District. The district said fine particles in wood smoke can enter nasal passages and be inhaled deep into the lungs, causing a range of health problems including aggravated asthma, nose and throat irritation, bronchitis, lung damage and premature death. Children, elderly people and those

with pre-existing cardio-respiratory conditions are most susceptible to the harmful effects.

Among other efforts, the Air District designates roughly 20 days per year as Spare the Air days, where residents are asked to refrain from using their wood-burning fireplaces on days when the air quality index level is high.

For participating retailers and more information about the program, visit [www.change4cleanair.org](http://www.change4cleanair.org) and [www.sparetheair.org/changeout.htm](http://www.sparetheair.org/changeout.htm).

—Janet Pelletier

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## Share the Warmth coat drive a success

*Rotary Club collects over 600 coats*

Residents of the Tri-Valley area came together to donate more 600 coats for families in need this winter season.

The Tri-Valley Rotary Club organized the Share the Warmth coat drive and received generous donations from Kraft and Girl Scouts of America, among others.

"It is amazing how much good work can be produced by a grassroots effort to help the people in our community," said Theresa Muley, project director. "It makes you feel great to volunteer and to be in the service of others."

This is the second year the Tri-Valley Rotary Club has spearheaded the coat drive and they plan to expand by asking people to donate new or gently used coats beginning now. The Rotary club is currently accepting donations of toys as well and has offered to store all the donations until the next distribution.

The coats were distributed, along with toys, to families in need, just before the holidays.

—Tyler Bierbower

## Hospital

(continued from page 5)

hospital's main facility in Oakland. The hospital would continue to operate its current facility during construction, which would start in 2010 and must be completed by 2013 to meet the state's deadline for seismic upgrades.

The expansion project would increase the hospital's capacity from 171 pediatric beds now to approximately 250 private patient rooms.

*"This is an historic time for our hospital and the community that depends on our services."*

—Frank Tiedemann, Children's Hospital's president and CEO

"This is an historic time for our hospital and the community that depends on our services," Tiedemann said. "The construction of our new medical center provides a long awaited opportunity to match the excellence of our medical staff with a superb facility. We're treating an increasing number of children with some of the most complex and serious illnesses. We need a new building to give them the best possible healthcare

experience."

Tiedemann said Children's has treated thousands of children from Pleasanton and works closely with pediatricians and hospitals in the area to handle patients who need specialty care. At one time, Children's was considering property in the Tri-Valley for its new facility, but decided to stay in the location it's occupied for 100 years that is convenient to two freeway off-ramps and public transportation.

At the same time, he added, Children's is planning to expand its Pleasanton specialty care center, located at 5820 Stoneridge Mall Road, where it provides a wide range of specialty pediatric care.

Tiedemann said the Oakland facility is only one of eight children's hospitals in California and one of only 50 throughout the country. A nonprofit hospital, Children's of Oakland also operates the largest non-university-related pediatric research center in the U.S., with 300 scientists and a \$50-million budget. The research center will stay in its current location, and the existing hospital facility will be turned into an outpatient center if Measure A passes.

For more information about Children's Hospital building plans and Measure A, see your Alameda County Sample Ballot or sign on to <http://www.childrenshospitaloakland.org/>.

—Jeb Bing

## Museum on Main

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# TAKE US ALONG

From all its traveling, the Pleasanton Weekly newspaper would appear to be weathered, but it hasn't skipped a beat. Over the past eight years—yes it has been that long—Pleasanton residents have participated in our "Take Us Along" feature, bringing us to far away islands, glaciers, cruise ships, camping trips, national landmarks, foreign landmarks and even underwater! About the only place we haven't been is to the moon—and we dare you to try it.

Since its inception in 2001 when then-Police

Chief Tim Neal sent us a picture of himself, the Weekly and the Statue of Liberty, and unofficially inaugurating Take Us Along, we've visited all 50 states and hundreds of countries. When we celebrated seven years, the only state we hadn't been to was North Dakota, not exactly known as a "must see" destination. But luckily for us, 20-year Pleasanton resident Brandt Esser took notice of our desperate plea to visit the 19th largest state in the nation.

"There was an article in the paper that said the only state the Weekly hadn't visited is North Dakota, and I said, 'I can fix that,'" Esser said.

Since its inception, the Weekly has now published over 1,000 vacation photos and they keep coming.

—Pleasanton Weekly staff



## An ancient Week

Grego Kosinski tries to hang on to the Weekly in Athens, Greece.



## A long way from home

Pfc. Joel Catalano holds the Weekly in Iraq. Here he is sitting on top of a Humvee, sitting next to his XM14 rifle, holding an appropriately veteran's-themed copy of the paper.



## Ziplinin' with the Weekly

Good thing the Weekly isn't afraid of heights! The Papp family (Ashleigh, Meagan, Ethan and Isabel) zip lined over the tops of the Arenal Rainforest in Costa Rica. The Papps rode on 10 different zip lines ranging from 150 feet to 1,200 feet and said it was "better than any rollercoaster ride."



## Cliff's notes

Martin Donlin uses the white cliffs' reflection from the sun to light up the Weekly for some good reading. Donlin, an English artist, was commissioned by Pleasanton to design the glass for the marquee at the future Firehouse Arts Center. The cliffs he's standing near are in Dover Shock.



## Reed-ing the Weekly

Ellis Schott and his granddaughter Lauren MacDonnell took the Weekly to the shores of Lake Titicaca in Hautajata, Bolivia. There, they visited Aymara Indians who still practice the traditional art of building reed boats.

## About the Cover:

It's not every day that the Weekly gets taken 57 stories high to the top of the Golden Gate Bridge, where in our cover photo, it is being held by Peter and Kenneth Milliken of Pleasanton.

Don't adjust your eyes, and no it's not Photoshopped—father and son are really standing 574 feet high on the famous San Francisco landmark.

Peter Milliken said the opportunity to get a bird's eye view of the Bay Area came from his nephew Kevin Milliken, who paints the rust-colored bridge five days a week.

"He goes places where a lot of people wouldn't go," Milliken said of his nephew.

In the time his nephew has painted the bridge, Milliken said the only time the workers were ever sent home due to dangerous conditions was about three weeks ago during

some fierce rainstorms.

The weather on the day the Millikens were there couldn't have been more perfect.

"When I got there, it was blowing 9 to 12 miles per hour at the base of the bridge. He said "When I got to the top, it was very calm," "We watched the ships come underneath."

If you're wondering how the Millikens got that high up atop the bridge, they were lifted up in a compact elevator.

"It was a very, very small elevator," he said. "There were three people in the elevator, which was meant for two. It took five to seven minutes to get up there. I couldn't even watch once we got in the elevator."

Milliken said he decided to bring the Weekly along for the ride because he wanted to raise the bar on photo submissions.

"We've been taking this Weekly for years,"

he said. "We keep seeing it and thinking how cool (Take Us Along) is and then when I got the opportunity, I told my wife 'I'm taking the paper with me.'"

Milliken and his son are wearing construction hats from Peter Milliken's company, Top Grade Construction of Livermore, where coincidentally, he's a safety engineer.

As you could probably imagine, taking the photo with the Weekly wasn't a piece of cake. It took some careful precision.

Milliken's nephew stood out on a cantilever to frame the shot, which was difficult since they were in such tight quarters. But the result turned out better than they imagined.

"I wish everybody could do it," Milliken said of his experience.

—Janet Pelletier





...kly  
to the Weekly in the wind at the Parthenon on the Acropolis in



### NYC the Weekly

Students from Amador Valley High School and Hart Middle School (Linett Rasmussen, Karl Haller, Ian Coblenz, Jenna Nibert, Rhianna Schaefer, Annika Ragsdale and Emily Lundin) pose with the Weekly in Times Square. On their trip, they also traveled to Europe, visiting Berlin, Prague, Munich, Lucern and Paris. German teachers Manja Benadjaoud and BettyGail Hunt accompanied them.



### Reading with the dolphins

Caroline Paraskevopoulos and Cindy Lee share some hometown news with Nina and Nemo (dolphins at the Dolphin Cove in Ocho Rios, Jamaica) after a long day at work for the sea mammals.

### Ice, ice baby

Mark and Sonia Sanchez bundle up with the Weekly as they stand on top of Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska. The stop was one in a number of ports on their Alaskan cruise. They took a helicopter ride to the top of the glacier where they went on a 2-mile trek.



### Notre Weekly

Erin Whitbread, studying abroad in London, and Danielle Miller, studying in Paris, meet up at Notre Dame to get their Weekly fix.



### Pitching stories in the Weekly

Steve Carroll, Bryan Hernandez and Brendon Kyle, with coach Mike Sa, get the Weekly a little dirty on the baseball field after competing in the Hawaiian Classic Baseball Tournament in Oahu last summer.

### Toboggin reading

The Faria family (Debbie, Mike, Alexis and Hunter) took the Weekly along on their travels to the island of Madeira in Portugal. Here, they are sitting in a Medeiran toboggan that was invented for transportation in 1850. Drivers push and steer using rubber-soled boots as brakes. The Farias are happy to report that they rode from Monte to Funchal in 20 minutes, covering over 4 kilometers (2 miles).



### A sandy Weekly

Ian and Nancy Grant take in a moment with the Weekly while outside their Bedouin tent after watching the sunrise in the Sahara desert in Morocco.



### Transfiguring Weekly

Hildegard and Dave Melander pose near the Transfiguration Church on Kizhi Island on Lake Onega in Russia. The church was built with wood and no nails in the early 1700s.



### An altruistic Weekly

Diana and Howard Mendenhall took the Weekly with them on a humanitarian trip to Northern Mongolia for Habitat for Humanity.



### Weekly brings peace

Janice and Sammie Flanzbaum and Monica and Ava Chinn pose inside the Peace store on State Street in Santa Barbara. The girls were on a mother-daughter trip to the Central Coast to look at colleges and shop.



### Weekly expedition

Nancy Pennell, Patty Rabada, Betty Dawson, Betty Holland, Jolene Gibson and Pam Copeland went on a 16-day expedition through Africa, visiting the Cape of Good Hope, Chobe National Park, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Cape Town and Botswana. While there, the group went on safari camps in the bush, where Nancy reports she ate crocodile, ostrich, wildebeest and worms.

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## PLEASANTON WEEKLY

5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Phone: (925) 600-0840  
Fax: (925) 600-9559

### President

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 19

### Publisher

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

### EDITORIAL

#### Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

#### Managing Editor

Janet Pelletier, Ext. 11

#### Features Editor

Emily Atwood, Ext. 21

#### Contributors

Tyler Bierbower

Jerri Long

Elizabeth Campos Rajs

Joe Ramirez

Cybele Ryan

#### ART & PRODUCTION

##### Art Director/Operations Manager

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Trina Cannon, Ext. 14

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Bob Lampkin, Ext. 41

##### Front Office Coordinator

Kathleen Martin, Ext. 0

##### How to reach the Weekly

5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100

Pleasanton, CA 94566

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

##### Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com  
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

##### Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

##### Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

##### Circulation e-mail:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Pleasanton preschools: One up, one down

In its wisdom, the City Council last week allocated nearly \$400,000 to upgrade the city's popular Gingerbread Preschool in Amador Community Park and improve and expand its playground. Gingerbread has over a 30-year history in the Pleasanton community. The program is provided through the Pleasanton Parks and Community Services Department and is serving 348 children this school year, with 552 participating in its annual summer program last year. Located in Amador Community Park next to the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center, the building Gingerbread occupies was built in the 1960s as the city's public library and retrofitted more than 10 years ago to accommodate the growing preschool attendance. Some of the preschoolers currently attending Gingerbread showed their enthusiasm for the program at a City Council meeting last month, where they also presented the lawmakers with a colorful 20-foot-long sample of their hand-painting skills. Besides winning the hearts and minds of councilmembers, they also won the unanimous vote of the council to proceed with rebuilding the 50-year-old facility and expanding its playground, assuring the continuation of this vital preschool service in Pleasanton.

But the news for preschoolers was not so good a mile or so south of the Gingerbread school where the Tri-Valley YMCA abruptly and without any public notice shuttered the day care center building it has operated for the past four years. Built at considerable expense to the school district and city taxpayers, the standalone building is designed to handle 44 children and was opened specifically to accommodate a growing need for preschool day care for Pleasanton teachers in a city short on child care space. Because it was completed and turned over to the Y to operate in the middle of a school year, however, the Y filled it with others looking for child care space, largely shutting out teachers who had already contracted for day care in other facilities. By the time a new school year approached, the Y had few spaces left for teachers and the facility became a distant, seldom discussed cousin in school district affairs. Unless we missed it, neither the school board nor school district leaders ever announced the preschool they had built was closing last month.

Some may remember that the location of the district's preschool was controversial from the start. It once was planned for the soccer fields behind Alisal Elementary School, which neighbors successfully bashed, and then possibly on the Upper Bernal fields, where the city has a long-term lease and has recently lighted for youth soccer and baseball clubs. In the end, Jim Wolfe, director of Parks and Community Services, with the City Council's approval, agreed to relocate the popular tennis courts at Bernal Avenue and First Street and to relocate them, at the city's expense, to Pleasanton Middle School, where the new lighted courts serve both students and the public. The day care center was built there, a location that both teachers and the Y said was centrally located and would provide easy access for working parents to drop off and pick up their preschoolers in a convenient and safe location. Now it's gone and parents are left scrambling once again to find placement for their children at no thanks to the Tri-Valley Y, an organization that reneged on its commitment to our community.

### 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](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com)

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Photo by Lani Allen

# Letters

## Removing 'embarrassing' stories a bad idea

Dear Editor,

I don't know what to think, other than this is just another slip down a slippery slope from where we can not return ("Removing stories from Web sites is like unringing a bell," Talking Points, Jan. 11, page 11).

Let me explain. We wince when we hear stories such as where the Japanese are revising history books to remove the mention of their involvement in China.

Just imagine. Our history books are re-written to remove the simple phrases "no taxation without representation." Changes the whole story doesn't it? Don't we have a name for this? "Revisionist History," I think it's called. I believe most of us agree that it's not a good thing.

On to the person who wanted something removed, which I hope you don't do. Isn't this too revisionist history? If we fall for this all just to make someone comfortable—then why not just make up a "history" which we can all feel good about. Pooh Bear would say: "Oh bother." I'd add to that. Oh bother, why write anything at all, just read "The Jungle Book," or maybe "Alice in Wonderland," along with "The Wizard of Oz." Let those works be our history. Everyone could feel good.

I have one last thing to say to the person who wanted their "embarrassing" mention expunged from the records. I say to you the same as I tell my children: "Just don't do anything you'd be embarrassed to admit." If we all adhered to that simple phrase we'd live in a better place.

*Richard Schwaninger  
Pleasanton*

## Vote no on Measures A and B

Dear Editor,

A child advocate for over 15 years, I scraped to buy a small house with my husband in North Oakland after graduation. Our little home will become uninhabitable if voters approve the Feb. 5 ballot Measures A and B—Children's Hospital's \$750-million tax measure to supposedly "retrofit" its now-three-story building by constructing a brand-new, 12-story high-rise with a helicopter landing pad on top a mere two blocks from our house.

Our county and city officials should affirmatively seek the "pro-children" moniker. What else could our county do with \$750 million? We could finance and retrofit county-owned Highland Hospital, which serves the vast majority of the county's children. We might increase funds for abused children caught in the county's dismal foster care system. We could provide dollars to strengthen public schools so chil-

dren receive a quality education in a safe, healthy environment. Those actions would benefit children all across Alameda County and demonstrate our public officials' courage and commitment to children.

Instead, our elected officials, terrified of the "anti-children" label, have cowered to a private hospital's massive tax measure that would provide public funds to bulldoze through my small neighborhood, take Oakland residents' homes, and leave its current building unretrofitted—all while Alameda County's foster kids, public school children and child patients at Highland go wanting. Because they do an appalling disservice to this county's children, we are voting no on Measures A and B.

*Katina Ancar & Rafael Ebron  
Oakland*

## Mayor put others in difficult position

Dear Editor,

The issue of the mayor's hawk is absolutely political and perhaps not very nice, but the way that she has responded to it is the bottom line. As a public figure, she knows her actions come under greater scrutiny; this is a condition that a person in public office must be prepared to accept. While it may not have come to the city's attention had it been in anyone else's backyard, keeping a hawk is not allowed in Pleasanton.

The mayor should have shown more respect for her office and not dragged the city staff, the Planning Commission, as well as her fellow councilmembers into the difficult position she put them in. As mayor of our city she should be held to a higher standard and pointing the finger of blame at the complainant and saying he "started it" is beneath her position and childish. The mayor should have asked one of her non-Pleasanton fellow hawk handlers to care for the bird until it was ready for release. Then she could have pursued the process for changing the ordinance as any other citizen would doubt the outcome to allow her to keep the hawk was favoritism; justified by the political origin. That does not excuse the "I am above the law" arrogance demonstrated by our mayor and three council members that voted to give her an exception. I feel shame for my city and fear that my elected officials do not hold themselves to a higher standard.

*Kim Leighton  
Pleasanton*

## Downtown could use some different tenants

Dear Editor,

Jeb Bing's cover story article in the Jan. 18 edition of

the Weekly was spot on point ("Creating an ideal downtown," page 10). As a longtime resident of Pleasanton, I have often wondered about the thought process of the City Council and Planning Commission when we see the same kinds of restaurants (how much pasta and tofu can we eat?) open and close. Monopoly, anyone?

With its historic buildings and charming Main Street, our downtown should be able to attract the types of retail stores and trendy restaurants that bring people to other thriving areas, such as Walnut Creek, for example. A Crate & Barrel, or similar merchandiser, would have been a perfect tenant for the beautifully restored Kolln Hardware building. When was the last time you went shopping in a bank? How about soliciting restaurateurs/entrepreneurs with proven track records and financial backing, such as Bradley Ogden's group (Lark Creek Inn, Yankee Pier, etc.)? This would seem to be a better risk than most of the establishments we have seen come and go over the years.

We love our downtown, but often find ourselves traveling to neighboring cities when we go out for dinner because there aren't enough interesting places here. And, with the exception of a few quality retailers (love Domus, Wine Steward, Apparel & Co), there isn't much else to encourage shoppers to spend their money downtown. Craig Sellemeyer and Craig Scharton appear to have the right ideas. Why isn't the City Council listening?

*Cathy Wankle  
Pleasanton*

## Your Turn

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](mailto: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.

# Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## Endorsements a service to readers, civic responsibility

Newspapers have been endorsing candidates for office long before National Organization for Women, the Sierra Club and even labor unions. Now we have Oprah, Barbara, Chuck Norris and other celebrities endorsing candidates. As endorsements seem to be coming from everywhere and everyone, why should newspapers continue to devote the time and energy into endorsements?

I think it is because endorsements are coming from everywhere and everyone that newspapers should continue the practice. If done by a credible source, endorsements can make a difference, particularly in local races.

Newspapers are a credible source for voters who need candidates' information beyond the banality. Sound bites might be catchy, but they say nothing other than a candidate can be glib. Newspapers can, and should, help readers get beyond all that and delve into important issues. That takes time and resources, but it shows newspapers care about finding the right candidate, and so should readers. Endorsements are viewed as a service to readers and a duty of the newspaper, just as educated voting is a responsibility of citizens.

Another recent point of contention over whether newspapers should continue to endorse candidates is the perception of bias. Why, some have asked, can an institution that holds unbiased reporting as sacred pour out opinions on who should be elected to a particular office? The answer is that as long as the opinions are restricted to the viewpoints/editorial page, the newspaper has upheld its duty.

In addition to the skepticism about newspapers stating opinions at all, some newspaper editorial boards have been criticized for the process by which those decisions are made. Some boards have endorsed candidates without interviewing all the candidates, or doing interviews at all. While there are times when interviews are not necessary, when candidates are gathered at a forum for example, interviews are still standard practice at most papers.

The Pleasanton Weekly offers interviews to all candidates in contested races in Pleasanton. The editorial board consists of the entire editorial staff, including the editor/publisher and president. We always interview each candidate separately and at least for 30 minutes, although some interviews have last as long as an hour. They are asked

questions concerning the issues at hand, about their beliefs and the moral/ethical compass by which they make decisions.

Popularity, style of dress and catchy-but-inane comments and slogans are not the criteria for a newspaper endorsement.

I have a friend who is an editorial page editor with thousands of hours of endorsement interviews under his belt. When asked his opinion on celebrity endorsements, he said, "In my mind, it's OK for Oprah to endorse a candidate, just like it's OK for her to recommend books. But voting for her chosen candidate without finding out more on their issues is like buying that book and not reading it."

A book can be returned to the store. With an elected official, the return policy is quite arduous and costly. It's up to responsible voters to filter all available information to make an educated decision, not just a popular one.

*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](mailto:gallen@pleasantonweekly.com).*

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# Transitions

## Obituaries

### William M. Wright

William Merle Wright died Jan. 11 at the age of 83.

Mr. Wright was born Aug. 16, 1924 in Olympia, Wash. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a gunner's mate 2nd in the Pacific theatre. Following his discharge from the service in October of 1945, he returned to Pleasanton, where he lived with his wife Theresa and raised his family.

He was a charter member of the Pleasanton Veterans of Foreign Wars and enjoyed playing golf, bingo and going to breakfast with his friends and family.

He is survived by his son, James Wright and daughter-in-law Priscilla Wright of Pleasanton; daughter, Lynda Wright of Pleasanton; son, Stan Wright and daughter-in-law Bebe Wright of Salinas, Calif.; brother, Lloyd Wright of Vancouver, Wash.; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Theresa, and five brothers and two sisters.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St., Pleasanton. His ashes will be scattered at sea by the Navy.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate contributions to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 78851, Phoenix, AZ 85062-8851.

### Brenda Dawn Lathlean Faggiano

Brenda Dawn Lathlean Faggiano died Jan. 13 at the age of 41.

She was born Feb. 1, 1966 in Castro Valley and was raised in Pleasanton.

She attended Walnut Grove Elementary School, Harvest Park Middle School and was a 1984 graduate of Amador Valley High School. With her continued education, Mrs. Faggiano became a certified phlebotomist and medical assistant. She was dedicated to this profession for many years and always had a smile and an encouraging word for all the patients she cared for.

She will always be remembered as a devoted, loving mother, as her two girls were her pride and joy, her first and last thoughts of each and every day. One could always tell when she was thinking of them due to a special sparkle so vivid and bright in her eyes, created only by a thought or sight of her "Jen" and "Bee."

She had a deep appreciation for nature, especially the Carmel

Monterey coast and Yosemite. She also thoroughly enjoyed amusement parks, with Disneyland always a favorite. She loved animals and had many at most times. Ever since she was a small child, she has always held the Christmas holidays close in her heart and anticipated them with great enthusiasm.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Dean Faggiano; children, Jennifer Nicole and Bailey Alison; parents, William and Ellen Lathlean and Glorya and Robert Graves; sisters, Debra Dodson, Jill Ridgers and Debbie Engle. She was also an aunt to Daniel Brendan, Ryan Jake and Hannan Rey Dodson, Michael Charles and James Thomas Ridgers and Ian Thomas Engle.

Friends and family are invited to attend a funeral mass and reception at 3 p.m. today at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Pleasanton.

## Engagements



### Meghan Kelly & Russell Overcash

Meghan Faye Kelly and Russell Phillip Overcash have announced their engagement to be married.

Meghan, the daughter of Michael and Susan Kelly of Pleasanton, graduated from Foothill High School in 2000. She received a Bachelor of Science in family studies and human development from the University of Arizona in 2004.

She is employed as an executive assistant for The Taylor Family Foundation in Livermore.

Russell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Overcash of Salida, Calif. and Ms. Debbie Overcash of Pleasanton.

He is also a 2000 Foothill High School graduate and is currently finishing coursework for a Bachelor of Arts degree in visual effects at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

He is employed as an analyst for Kaiser Permanente in Walnut Creek.

The bride and groom will marry in a ceremony to be held April 19 at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Dublin. A reception will follow at the Castlewood Country Club in Pleasanton.

Following a honeymoon in St. Lucia, the couple plans to live in the Pleasanton-Livermore area.

**The Pleasanton Downtown Association presents**

*Truffles, Tidbits & Wine Tasting*

**Thursday, February 7th**  
**6-9 pm**  
**Downtown Pleasanton**

**TICKETS:**  
**\$25 through February 6th**  
**\$30 at the Door, IF NOT SOLD OUT**  
 Cash or Check Only. No Credit Cards.

Over 25 members from the Livermore Valley Winegrowers Association will showcase red and white wines, ports, dessert wines & champagnes.

Tastings will be complemented by a variety of sweets & hors d'oeuvres

Price includes wine glass, event map and tastings

**Pick up your wine glass and event map between 5:45-7:30pm at The Rose Hotel, 807 Main St.**

PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES	WINERIES	PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES	WINERIES
A Touch of Elegance	Little Valley Winery	Lani Allen Photography	Non-Alcoholic Beverages
A Touch of Health	Little Valley Winery	Leslie Marie Body & Skin Care	John Christopher Cellars
About Face Skin Care	Ruby Hill Winery	MD Spa	Mitchell Katz
Acc'sentials	Battalion Cellars	Mesa Trading	Non-Alcoholic Beverages
Alexander's Main Street Gallery	Tenuta Vineyards	Murphy's Paw	Non-Alcoholic Beverages
Amelia's Deli & Bistro	Charles R Vineyards	Museum on Main	Non-Alcoholic Beverages
Annie's Corner	Bent Creek Vineyards	Pans on Fire	Non-Alcoholic Beverages
Bibiane Bakery	el Sol	Passionate Athlete	Westover
Bicycles! Pleasanton	Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Poetry on Canvas	Battalion Cellars
Cazinha Portrait Design	Chilcas & Palena	Realty World Town & Country	Non-Alcoholic Beverages
Changes of Pleasanton	Les Chenes Estate Vineyards	RetroMartini	Retzlaff Winery
Clover Creek	Hidden Creek	Salon Saavy	Page Mill Winery
CyclePath	Wente Vineyards	San Francisco Cigar Co	White Crane
Divine Skin & Body Care	Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Savvy Seconds	Winery 21
Essence MedSpa	Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Serenity Stoneworks	Bent Creek Winery
Gallery M	Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Sincerely Yours Cards & Gifts	Eckert
Gift Baskets of Pleasanton	Fenestra Winery	Studio 7 Fine Arts	Wood Family Vineyards
Gourmet Works	Armida	The Berry Patch	Rodrique Molyneux Winery
Gregory Frame Shoppe	Livermore Valley Cellars	The Treehouse	Murrieta's Well
It's Only Natural	Tamas Estates	Towne Center Books	Elliston Vineyards
Jewelers Gallery	McGrail Vineyards & Winery	Valley Plumbing	Bodegas Aguirre
		Worthington Gallery West	Palomares

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**For more information, contact Nickie Hoppe at [events@pleasantondowntown.net](mailto:events@pleasantondowntown.net) or (925) 484-2199**

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# Community Pulse



## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council – Special Meeting

Tuesday, January 29, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consider the Draft Circulation Element of the General Plan

### Trails Ad-Hoc Committee

Monday, January 28, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Selection of Representative to Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
- Review of Committee's Purposes, Priority Projects and Subcommittees

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Notice of Pleasanton City Grant Application Availability

**Nonprofit, community-based organizations providing human services, youth programs and services, or promoting culture/arts.**

### Civic Arts, Human Services and Youth Commissions

#### Welcome Applications

Application Packets will be available to the public Beginning December 5, 2007.

- ✓ Pick-up packets - Department of Parks and Community Services Main Office 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton
- ✓ Request packets to be mailed by calling (925) 931-5346
- ✓ Packets available through the City website: [www.ci.Pleasanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.Pleasanton.ca.us)

#### Application Deadline

### Wednesday, March 5, 2008

- **Completed applications must be received by 5:00 p.m.**
- **No postmarks/Fax/emails.**

If you have any questions regarding the City Grant process, please contact Kathleen Yurchak, Community Services Manager at (925) 931-5346

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

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

## Police Bulletin

### Gym parking lots, hospital are burglary hot spots

For the past four weeks, automotive burglaries in Pleasanton have been on the rise.

In December, police reported 67 thefts from autos and so far there have been 47 this month. Many of these crimes are committed in the parking lots of local gyms, the hospital and also along Santa Rita Road, West Las Positas Boulevard, Hacienda Drive and Main Street.

Since early last month, police investigated a total of 26 auto burglaries in the parking lots of ValleyCare Medical Center, Express Fitness,

24-Hour Fitness and on or near Main Street.

Police are asking residents to be aware of people that look suspicious, anyone driving slowly through parking lots, sitting in their cars for an extended period of time or looking into car windows. If that behavior is seen, people should call police. The criminals have been targeting items of significant value such as laptop computers, purses, wallets, cell phones and GPS devices.

The best way to protect yourself is to not leave any valuable items in your car and if necessary, place them out of plain view by locking them in the trunk or placing them under a seat. Also, remember to roll up windows and lock all doors.

Anyone with information regarding the thefts should contact the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100.

## Police Report

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

### Jan. 11

- Petty theft:
  - 6:01 p.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue
- Vandalism:
  - 12:53 p.m. in the 4500 block of First Street; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
  - 2:09 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road
  - 3:58 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
  - 4:37 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- Forgery:
  - 10:10 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 10:22 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road

### Jan. 12

- Theft:
  - 11:05 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Burglary:
  - 12:21 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; vehicular
  - 12:35 p.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue
  - 12:57 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; vehicular
- Alcohol violations:
  - 1:00 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
  - 9:48 p.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and California Avenue; DUI
- Mental health danger:
  - 10:42 a.m. in the 1000 block of Valley Avenue

### Jan. 13

- Theft:
  - 3:07 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 4:55 p.m. in the 300 block of Main Street; grand theft
  - 8:37 p.m. in the 2500 block of Tanager Drive; grand theft
- Vandalism:
  - 6:10 a.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue; worth less than \$400
  - 8:34 a.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than

- Burglary:
  - 2:41 a.m. in the 6000 block of Johnson Drive
  - 11:10 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; vehicular
- Alcohol and drug violations:
  - 4:16 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and West Angela Avenue; DUI
  - 3:31 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; possession of marijuana

### Jan. 14

- Stolen vehicle:
  - 9:00 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle
- Assault:
  - 12:34 a.m. in the 3400 block of Isle Royal Court
- Vehicular burglary:
  - 7:18 a.m. in the 7000 block of Commerce Circle
  - 5:10 p.m. in the 4500 block of Oracle Lane
  - 7:59 p.m. in the 100 block of Neal Street
- Forgery:
  - 2:44 p.m. in the 1000 block of Touriga Place
- Mental health danger:
  - 10:00 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- Other:
  - 5:47 a.m. in the 4900 block of Pleasanton Avenue; vehicle break-in

### Jan. 15

- Theft:
  - 10:44 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
  - 2:10 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft
  - 3:27 p.m. in the 5000 block of Case Avenue; petty theft
  - 3:56 p.m. in the 1200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Forgery:
  - 8:54 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- Public drunkenness:
  - 9:20 p.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard
- Mental health danger:
  - 1:37 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road

- Found property:
  - 9:52 a.m. in the 5700 block of Sonoma Drive

### Jan. 16

- Theft:
  - 6:58 a.m. in the 7900 block of Foothill Knolls Road; grand theft
  - 8:32 a.m. in the 3300 block of Marsh Hawk Court; petty theft
  - 9:15 a.m. in the 2500 block of Sanderling Drive; identity theft
  - 12:02 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft
- Burglary:
  - 7:22 a.m. in the 8100 block of Moller Ranch Drive; vehicular
  - 7:30 a.m. in the 8100 block of Foothill Knolls Road; vehicular
  - 7:35 a.m. in the 8100 block of Moller Ranch Drive; vehicular
  - 7:47 a.m. in the 3300 block of Prairie Drive; vehicular
  - 8:06 a.m. in the 7800 block of Foothill Knolls Road; vehicular
  - 8:24 a.m. in the 5700 block of Athenour Court

- Mental health danger:
  - 8:00 p.m. in the 3800 block of Mohr Avenue

### Jan. 17

- Vandalism:
  - 4:07 p.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
  - 10:08 a.m. in the 8100 block of Arroyo Drive; vehicular
  - 2:38 p.m. in the 700 block of Sunny Brook Way
  - 7:02 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; vehicular
  - 7:27 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Public drunkenness:
  - 9:58 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
- Mental health danger:
  - 11:16 a.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

# Calendar

## Auditions

**The Boxcar Children Auditions** Auditions for youth will be on Feb. 7, ages 7 to 9 at 6 p.m., ages 10 to 12 at 7:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 16 at 8:30 p.m. Auditions for ages 17 and up will take place at 7 p.m. Feb. 5. Call backs will be held Feb. 6 by invitation. Call Michelle Russo, 931-5350.

## Author Visits

**Century House Reading Series to Resume** The Century House Reading Series will resume from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 3 at 2401 Santa Rita Road. Two guest poets, Dane Cervine and John Rowe, will entertain. An open mic segment will follow. Light refreshments will be served. The cost is \$5. Call 931-5350.

## Book Clubs

**Great Books of Pleasanton** The Great Books of Pleasanton book club meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday monthly at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call Sadie at 846-1658.

## Civic Meetings

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

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

**Human Services Commission** The Human Services Commission meets

at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

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

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

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

**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

**Pruning classes** Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave., is hosting pruning classes during the month of January. Dates include: Jan. 6 and 7 fruit trees and grapes; Jan. 12 and 13 roses; and Jan. 26 and 27 Japanese maples. Saturday classes start at 10 a.m., Sunday classes at 1 p.m. Learn about pruning techniques, care and feeding requirements for best fruit and flower production. Call 462-1760 or visit [www.westerngardennursery.com](http://www.westerngardennursery.com).

**Suburban Stargazing** Rob Drew presents a class on stargazing that meets at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 31 and Feb. 7 at Village High School, Room 704, 4665 Bernal Ave. Register by calling 426-4280 or going online at [www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted](http://www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/adulted) (class No. 252101).

## 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.

**CommArt Meeting** CommArt meets from 11:45 to 1:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Mudd's Restaurant in San Ramon. Tickets are \$20 cash, which includes lunch. The organization is for professionals interested in networking in arts and communications industries. Call 462-8083.

**Daughters of the British Empire** Come for a friendly "cuppa" and a chat with your sister Brits in the local chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month in Pleasanton. Call 875-0828 or 494-1273. Visit [www.dbenca.org](http://www.dbenca.org) or [www.dbesociety.org](http://www.dbesociety.org).

**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.

**Local Writers Meet for Support and Learning** The California Writers Club Tri-Valley branch meets the at 11:30 a.m. the third Saturday of each month at Oasis Grill, 780 Main St., to support experienced and aspiring writers in learning about their craft and sharing their work. Anyone who is curious about the group is invited to attend with no obligation to join. Call Kathy Urban, 296-0447 or visit [www.trivalleywriters.com](http://www.trivalleywriters.com).

**MOPS- Mothers Of Pre Schoolers** If you have children from birth to 6 years old, be refreshed, equipped and encouraged at MOPS. It meets from 9 to 11 a.m. the second and fourth Tuesdays monthly at Valley Bible Church, 7106 Johnson Dr. Enjoy breakfast, crafts and speakers while the kids are in MOPPETS! It's \$60 for the Jan. to May semester. Call Silvia, 560-1411.

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

**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](http://www.pca.org/dia).

**Retired Public Employees' Association** The Tri-Valley chapter of the Retired Public Employees Association meets at 10:45 a.m. Feb. 7 at the Emil Villa's Hickory Pit, 3054 Pacific Ave., Livermore. Harvey Robinson, director of Health Benefits for RPEA will speak. Call to make a reservation: Bob, 845-6563 or June, 461-0315.

**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 [pleasantontostmasters.com](http://pleasantontostmasters.com).

**Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network** The group meets from 7 to 9 p.m. the third Monday of the month at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra

### Calendar Spotlight



#### Oil Painting Class

An oil painting class taught by award-winning artist Stephen Sanfilippo will take place 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays through April 30 at Pioneer Art Gallery, 524 Hartz Ave., Danville. It includes demo, hands-on and critique. Open to all skill levels. The class is \$25. Register at [www.stephensanfilippo.com/workshops.html](http://www.stephensanfilippo.com/workshops.html).

Court, Dublin. Dads and children are welcome. See [www.holisticmoms.org](http://www.holisticmoms.org).

**Tri-Valley Wood Carvers** Tri-Valley Wood Carvers meet each Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, wood shop room, from 12 to 4 p.m. The regular business meeting is held the second Saturday of the month, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call Ken Morgan, 462-6586.

**TwinValley Mothers of Twins Meeting** Join us for our monthly Twin Valley Mother of Twins meeting, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin. Our goal is to provide support, information and friendship to Mothers of Multiples. Roundtable question and answer time is at 6:30 p.m.; dads are encouraged to attend the roundtable. Call DeAnna at 948-0004 or visit [www.tvmotc.com](http://www.tvmotc.com).

## Concerts

**Anton Schwartz to Appear at The Grand** Anton Schwartz will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 2 at The Grand Theatre Center, 715 Central Ave., Tracy. Schwartz has received accolades from listeners and critics at high-profile jazz venues across the country. Tickets are \$25 to \$50. Purchase at [www.atthegrand.org](http://www.atthegrand.org), by phone at (209) 831-6TKT (6858) or in person.

**Ravi Coltrane at Amador Theater** Ravi Coltrane comes to the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, at 8 p.m. Feb. 8. Named for Indian sitar artist Ravi Shankar, Coltrane is the son of music legends John and Alice Coltrane. Tickets are \$30 to \$40 for adults, \$20 to \$30 for students with ID. Buy tickets by calling 931-3444, visiting [civartstickets.org](http://civartstickets.org) or at the box office.

## Events

**8th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fellowship Breakfast** Community leaders and members from the Tri-Valley area will come together to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 28 at the Pleasanton Plaza Hotel (formerly the Crowne

Plaza Hotel). Hosted by the Tri-Valley YMCA and Assemblymember Guy Houston, it will include a variety of inspirational speakers. Call 475-6108.

**Art Auction Fundraiser** A silent art auction and jazz will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Poetry On Canvas Art Gallery, 55 West Angela St. Original works donated from CM, L. Smith, P. Faith, C. Jacobs, S. Haig, J. West and more. Funds raised will benefit the Firehouse Arts Center and Downtown Murals Project.

**Liberian Culture and Awareness Night** A night of Liberian Culture and awareness will be held at 7 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Amador Valley Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Rd. The main speaker is a native Liberian who will give an inside look on the country. There will be Liberian dancing, music and information on how we can help re-build Liberia. Donations welcomed.

**Teen Games** Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., welcomes teens (sixth grade and up) to Teen Game Days: from 3 to 7 p.m. Jan. 17 and 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 26. Play classic board games, D&D and Magic the Gathering. Snacks provided.

## Exhibits

**Museum On Main Treasures Exhibit** In conjunction with the Pleasanton Downtown Association's Truffles Wine and Tidbits event, the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St., will open the Pleasanton Treasures exhibit from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 7.

**Unity with Variety** Las Positas College student art work from Art 10 Design and Materials instructed by Mark Roberts will be on display Jan. 19 through Feb. 16 at the SPCA Gallery, 4651 Gleason Drive, Dublin. It's open from 1 to 8 p.m. Wed. to Thurs., and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fri. to Sun. A reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 19.

## Film

**The Eleanor Roosevelt Story** Eleanor Roosevelt was the conscience of her generation, helping

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to construct policies both nationally and abroad that put people first. This public event, at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin, is wheelchair accessible. Meet and greet starts at 6:30 p.m., and for those who wish to stay afterwards, a lively discussion follows the film. A \$3 donation is appreciated.

## Fundraisers

**Tri-Valley Animal Rescue 3rd Annual Crab Feed** Join us from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 2 at the Shrine Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore, for a fun evening of all-you-can-eat crab, salad, pasta, French bread and dessert. A no host bar is available. Enjoy live and silent auctions and 50-50 raffle. Raffle tickets are \$1, winner need not be present. All proceeds go towards helping homeless animals. Tickets are \$45 if purchased by Jan. 10, or \$50 afterwards. Visit [www.tv-ar.org](http://www.tv-ar.org).

**Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting** Only 800 tickets will be offered and are available at The Rose Hotel, 807 Main Street; Clover Creek, 670 Main Street; Studio 7 Fine Arts, 77 West Angela Street; and the Pleasanton Downtown Association office, 830 Main St., Suite A. Tickets are \$25. Visit [pleasantondowntown.net](http://pleasantondowntown.net).

## Kids & Teens

**Abbie 4-H Meeting** 4-H is a nationwide youth organization for ages 5 to 19 that helps young people gain citizenship, leadership and life skills, and participate in community service. The Abbie 4-H club has numerous animal, non-animal and leadership projects. It meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Drive. Visit [www.abbie4h.org](http://www.abbie4h.org).

**Jim Gamble's Puppets to Perform 'Peter & The Wolf'** The Amador Theater presents "Peter and the Wolf" at 11 a.m. Jan. 26 at 1155 Santa Rita Road. Jim Gamble's Puppets interpret the favorite classic about a boy who disobeys his grandfather and encounters a dangerous wolf. Tickets are \$10, \$14 & \$18 for adults and \$6, \$10 & \$14 for children; 931-3444, at the theater or at [www.civicartstickets.org](http://www.civicartstickets.org).

## Lectures/ Workshops

**Free Yoga and Breath Workshop**

Two hours of yoga, breathing and meditation will be held at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 7 p.m. Jan. 28. Open to all over 18 and taught by an Art of Living teacher. Bring a yoga mat and blanket for warmth.

**Internet Marketing Series** Part I of the Internet Marketing Series: Part I: Converting Visitors to Prospects, will be held at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at San Ramon Dublin Water Services District Board Room, 7051 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. This session is recommended for small to mid-sized business owners. Cost is \$25 and above. Visit [ebig.org](http://ebig.org).

## Live Music

**Chris Bradley's Traditional Jazz** Listen and dance to the live, traditional jazz every second and fourth Tuesday at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St.

**Pride of the Pacific Chorus - Come Sing!** We are a new women's capella chorus and we would love to have you join us. We rehearse at 7:30 p.m. at Lynwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue, Pleasanton. Call 209-830-7444 or visit [prideofthepacific.org](http://prideofthepacific.org).

## Miscellaneous

**Financial Aid Workshops** Assemblymember Mary Hayashi

invites high school seniors and their parents to financial aid workshops. One will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 5 at Dublin High School, 8151 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Another from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 7 at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Ave. Bring student and parent social security numbers (or alien registration number); the family's recent federal tax forms like a 1040, W-2, bank statements, etc.; and submit a Cal Grant GPA verification form to your counselor before March 2. Call 510-238-9450 or visit [www.eastbayconsortium.org](http://www.eastbayconsortium.org).

## On Stage

**Role Players presents Bus Stop by William Inge** The classic American play in which bus passengers and locals stranded in a 1950s Topeka diner in a snowstorm grapple with the challenges of loneliness and connection, romance and reality. Directed by Dana Anderson. Show runs Jan. 18 to Feb. 9. For tickets and information, call 314-3400 or visit [www.villagetheatreshows.com](http://www.villagetheatreshows.com).

**The Second City 'One Nation Under Blog'** The Second City will perform "One Nation Under Blog" at 8 p.m. Feb. 2 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. The Second City has become the premier training ground for the comedy world's rising stars. Appropriate for Adult Audiences. Tickets are \$20 to \$30. To purchase, call 931-3444, visit [www.civicartstickets.org](http://www.civicartstickets.org) or go to the box office.

## Seniors

**Seniors Computer Tutoring** One-on-one computer tutoring is available every day at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. 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 appt.

**Seniors PC User Group** The Pleasanton Senior Center PC Users Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Thursday monthly 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. Senior Center charges apply. Call 931-5365.

**Super Bowl Party** Watch the Super Bowl from 2 to 8 p.m. Feb. 3 on the big screen at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin. Join us for an indoor tailgate party with buffalo wings, pizza, chili and a whole lot more. Play fun games of skill and trivia. Win prizes! No-host bar. Register by Jan. 28. Tickets are \$15-\$18.

## Spiritual

**Ash Wednesday Services** St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, will hold Ash Wednesday services at noon and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6. This imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. All are welcome, regardless of faith. Call 462-4802 or visit [www.stclarespleasanton.org](http://www.stclarespleasanton.org).

**Faith Chapel Assembly of God** Sunday services include: All ages Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., and children's church (ages 2 to 12) at 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study meetings 10 a.m. Wednesdays. Call 846-8650.

**Tri-Valley Unity Church** Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Sunday service at 10 a.m. Ongoing classes and groups. All are welcome. Rev. Mary Anne Harris, minister. Call 829-2733 or visit [www.trivalleyunity.com](http://www.trivalleyunity.com).

## Sports

**Pleasanton Ridge Ride** Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop mountain ride 6 p.m. Tuesdays in January that lasts 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. Meet the Cyclepath group at the Foothill staging area. Call 485-3218 or visit [cyclepath.com](http://cyclepath.com).

**Saturday Morning Beginner Road Ride** This weekly no-drop ride is for those new to cycling, who haven't been on their bike for a while or just want to ride at a slower pace. Rides depart at 9 a.m. from Cyclepath, 337-B Main St., and will generally be 10 to 15 mph, 20 miles and no more than 2 hours. E-mail [rides@cyclepath.com](mailto:rides@cyclepath.com) if you plan to attend. free

**STRETCH STRETCH** Winter Boot Camp, an advanced softball and baseball camp, will be held Jan. 25-26 at Valley Community Church and Amador Valley High School. Girls 10U and 12U prior to December 2008 and boys 10-14 prior to April 30, 2008 are welcome. Visit [gostretch.org](http://gostretch.org) for details. The cost is \$150.

## Support Groups

**Cancer Support Group** A free support group for people with cancer and their loved ones. Facilitated by The Wellness Community. The group meets from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Valley Care Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Call 933-0107 or visit [www.twc-bayarea.org](http://www.twc-bayarea.org).

**ClutterLess (CL) 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. If you are ready to change your life, just come to the meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Monday at Pleasanton Presbyterian Church Rm. 7, 4300 Mirador Drive. Call 297-9246 or 846-5060 Box 2. Visit [www.clutterless.org](http://www.clutterless.org) or email [clutterlesspleasanton@hotmail.com](mailto:clutterlesspleasanton@hotmail.com). The group is free, however \$2 to \$5 donation appreciated.

**Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis Support Group** This support groups meets at 6:30 p.m. 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. Call 462-6764 or 846-4653.

**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](http://www.dublinvcc.org).

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

**Overeaters Anonymous Meeting** Is food controlling your life? Newcomers are welcome at the Overeaters Anonymous Meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way (Parish Hall), Livermore. Call 361-7224.

**Pleasanton Military Families** Pleasanton Military Families, a support group for families of service members, meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month. The group includes families who have loved ones serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and in the Global War on Terrorism. Meetings are held at a different group member's home each month. Call Chris Miller for information on the placement of a yellow streamer for the military person on Main Street and for information on the group, 730-1604.

**Stress and Pain Management Strategies and Support** Learn how to use visualization, relaxation techniques and new ways of thinking



Catherine Hansen Rush

## Meet Quincy

This young adult, neutered male housecat with a great personality. Quincy is a beautiful shade of red with white legs and a white chest. He has a big, fluffy red tail that he holds straight in the air and waves like a flag. Quincy enjoys playing with toys and he likes to sit in your lap to be petted. Quincy has medium length fur and he likes to be brushed. For more information about Quincy (No. 75135) visit him at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. It's open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

(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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Class** Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple years? Enrollments are now being accepted for the 10-week class and can start up to third week. Pre-registration required. The workbook is \$5. It meets at 3:30 p.m. Saturdays at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. Call Linda Husted, 833-9013.

## Volunteering

**Blankets for Kids** Blankets For Kids, founded by Pleasanton resident 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.

**Booklegger Volunteer Training** Do you enjoy kids? Like to read? Have a creative streak? Use your talents to

help children love reading by becoming a Booklegger and presenting book programs to the schoolchildren of Pleasanton. Training classes will begin at 7 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call Chris, 931-3400 ext. 26.

**Seeking Amador Theater Ushers** After a brief hiatus for renovations, the Amador Theater is back up and running, with a full slate of programming through July 2008. If you would like to support the performing arts in our community by being an usher, contact House Manager Larry Valenzin: 931-3472 or [lvalenzin@ci.pleasanton.ca.us](mailto:lvalenzin@ci.pleasanton.ca.us). Voice mail is now activated.

**Tri Valley Youth Court** High School volunteers needed for new Tri-Valley Youth Court to serve as jurors and court clerks. TVYC meets the first Tuesday evening of each month at the courthouse in Pleasanton. Visit [www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com](http://www.trivalleyyouthcourt.com) or call Tonya, 337-7175.

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

## TV30

**Ask the Doctor** Getting Healthy is the topic for "Ask the Doctor" TV30's LIVE call-in show at 7 p.m. Jan. 9 on Channel 30. Guests are Eric Gracer, M.D., Dat Nguyen, M.D., and host Dr. Robert Litman. Show will rebroadcast at 7 p.m. on Jan. 16, 23 and 30. Viewers can phone in questions at 462-3030.

**Let's Talk Sports** TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich Basketball Special with Coach Braun, Anderson, Hardin, Knesivich and more. On Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., Fri. and Sat. at 4 p.m.

**Tri-Valley Sports Final** Back for its third season, Tri-Valley Sports Final with hosts Ian Bartholomew, George "Dr. B" Baljevich, and Dennis Miller. This weekly show on Channel 30 features high school sports in the Tri-Valley. Fri., Sat., Sun. at 7 p.m. and Sat., Sun., Mon. at 9 a.m., and Fri., Sat., Sun. at 10 p.m.

# 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](http://www.bridgesdanville.com) for event and private party details.

### Zorn's Restaurant

3015 Hopyard Road, 462-0994. Located in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center, Zorn's serves breakfast all day. Open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with breakfast and lunch specials. Dine in or take out. Catering also available.

## Barbecue

### Red Smoke Grill

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

## Brewpub/Alehouse

### Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub, some ales (Attaboy IPA) are brewed with locally grown hops. We also have a rotating selection of guest brews and seasonal ales. To-go orders welcome and we're available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday, visit [www.mainstreetbrewery.com](http://www.mainstreetbrewery.com) for activities and specials.

## The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

## 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).

### Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate Catering

831-4888. Offering affordable and elegant catering, Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate provides quality food and generous portions at a fair price. Services include: decorated buffets with hors d'oeuvres and carving stations; sit down meal service; strictly hors d'oeuvres, both buffet and server passed; and a variety of beverage packages with no corkage fees. Visit [www.ppceastbay.com](http://www.ppceastbay.com).

## Chinese

### Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987, it has friendly service, delicious food and great prices, including lunch specials 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](http://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](http://www.OasisGrille.com).

## Greek

### Simply Greek

4220-C Rosewood Drive, 463-8801. From the neighborhoods of Greece to you. Menu features gyros, souvlaki and more. Located in the Rose Pavilion Shopping Center, they're open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Thurs., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fri. and Sat. Catering services available. Visit [www.simply-greek.com](http://www.simply-greek.com)

## Italian

### Fontina Ristorante

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

### La Vite Ristorante

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

### Girasole Grill

3180 Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton, 484-1001. Girasole, a locally owned family business, is an award winning California style Italian restaurant. It

was voted Best Italian Restaurant by Pleasanton Weekly readers for 2007. 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

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

## Pizza

### Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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

## Steakhouse

### Bighorn Grill

2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, 838-5678. Relax in our luxurious "mountain lodge" with a quintessential martini. Experience the aroma and flavors of our wood-fired grill. Enjoy a savory steak, traditional prime rib, smoked ribs, fresh seafood, and a variety of signature dishes. Fabulous wine list and two private banquet rooms. Visit [www.bighorngrill.com](http://www.bighorngrill.com).



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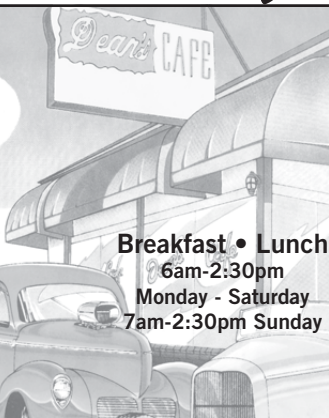
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**PLEASANTON WEEKLY**

# Sports

## Sports Briefs

### CCOP Warriors defeat Raptors

The CCOP boys fourth grade Warriors defeated the St. Isadore Raptors in a tough battle last Sunday, 25-16. Michael Climent of the Warriors led the team with nine points, two assists and three steals. Nick Bush of the Warriors added seven points, four steals and 10 rebounds. Troy Bachand and Brandon Beland both further added to the fray with nine and 11 rebounds respectively as well as several steals and assists.

—*Stu Bailey*

### Injuries don't stop CCOP 8th-grade girls

Catholic Community of Pleasanton (CCOP) eighth-grade girls (team 8001) faced undefeated SM/SC (team 8009) in a true nail biter. With three girls gone and two

injured players, CCOP (six player team) stepped up and played positions not normally asked of them. Jessica Morselli started CCOP off with a three-pointer while Kelly Parsons came up big down low as she snatched 10 rebounds.

Morselli, Nicole Torquato, Brittany Bicomong and Lauren MacDonnell were able to handle the press and get the ball down court. CCOP was up at the half 11-7 but in the third quarter found themselves trailing by five points and rallied back to within one.

It was in the fourth quarter that the game put the fans on the edge of their seats. CCOP and SM/SC exchanged baskets but it was Lyndsay Godwin's three-point shot, with less than 30 seconds in the game, put CCOP ahead by three. SM/SC came right back and scored two. CCOP, up by one, held onto the ball to end the game with a 28-27 win. Top scorer's were Godwin 12 points (two three-pointers), Parsons and Morselli

(one 3- pointer) five points each, Bicomong with four points and MacDonnell with two points.

—*Dalice Godwin*

### Seahawks dive into 2008

Fifty-six Seahawks swimmers participated in the first swim meet of 2008 at the Zone 2 meet in San Ramon. Even though swimmers take some time off from practice during the holiday seasons, breakthrough results were achieved by many of them.

Analeser Chinn, 9, participated in seven events and finished with all personal best time, and improved 100 IM by more than 7 percent. Regis Lachance, 10, swam eight events and had 100 percent best time, and cut his 50 Fly time by a whopping 31 percent. Jonathan Ong, 10, continued his excellent performance from last year and swam his best time in all his eight events. He improved

his time greatly on several events.

In the 11-12 girls group, Bridget Booe, 12; Heather Chandler, 11; Elise Cox, 12; and Winky Wong, 12, all have great performance in this meet. They all have reached 100 percent best time. In the 11-12 Boys group, standout swimmers are: Kevin McLaughlin, 12; Anthony Shen, 11; Alex Wang, 12; and Conor Ryan, 12. Especially worth mentioning is Kevin, who participated and did well in eight events.

Three elite Seahawk swimmers made it to the Pacific All-Star meet: Nick Silverthorn, 12; Catherine Breed, 14; and Tory Houston, 14. All three swimmers did wonderfully in the meet, all of their times are "A" or better.

—*Yi Zhang*

### Physicals needed for Foothill sports athletes

Before trying out for spring sports, Foothill athletes must have

complete physicals and a signed physician's release. Tri-Valley Orthopedic Specialists will offer sports physicals from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday Jan. 28 in the Q building at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. The cost of a medical exam is \$25, payable by cash, credit card or check. Be sure to bring the physical form from the sports packet.

## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by  
Gerarda  
Stocking

### WHY YOUR HOME WON'T SELL

According to long-time real estate expert and attorney Robert Bruss, "the top reason a home doesn't sell" is very simple: "the asking price is too high."

Okay—but what exactly does "too high" mean? And why can't a buyer who likes your property go ahead and offer less than you're asking for it?

"Too high" means that the asking price simply can't be justified by the recent selling prices of comparable homes located nearby. Today's buyers are far more sophisticated than they were five or ten years ago. They know what homes like yours are selling for and, generally, they are prepared to offer a fair purchase price if they like your property.

However, if you are asking more than makes sense in the current market, most buyers won't think you're a serious seller and, further, will doubt that they can negotiate a fair purchase price with you. So they generally won't even want to look at your home. Obviously, if they don't even look at it, they're not going to make an offer on it.

Your real estate professional can provide all the data you need to check recent sales prices and the specs on the homes that sold. With that, and with the ability to see your home as objectively as possible, you can determine an asking price that will actually hasten its sale, rather than impeding it. For more information call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

*Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.*



Cathy Jetter

### Rage upset

A final whistle signaled the end of last Sunday's quarter-final Association Cup match between the two Pleasanton

Rage U13 Division 3 teams. The newly organized B team defeated the more established A team with a score of 2-1. The win advanced the B team on the road to the finals, held Feb. 2-3 in Danville.

## GREAT NEWS

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