

Staying in shape

ClubSport exec, resident nominated for fitness award > **Section 2**

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Welcome home

Army sergeant comes back safely from Iraq

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

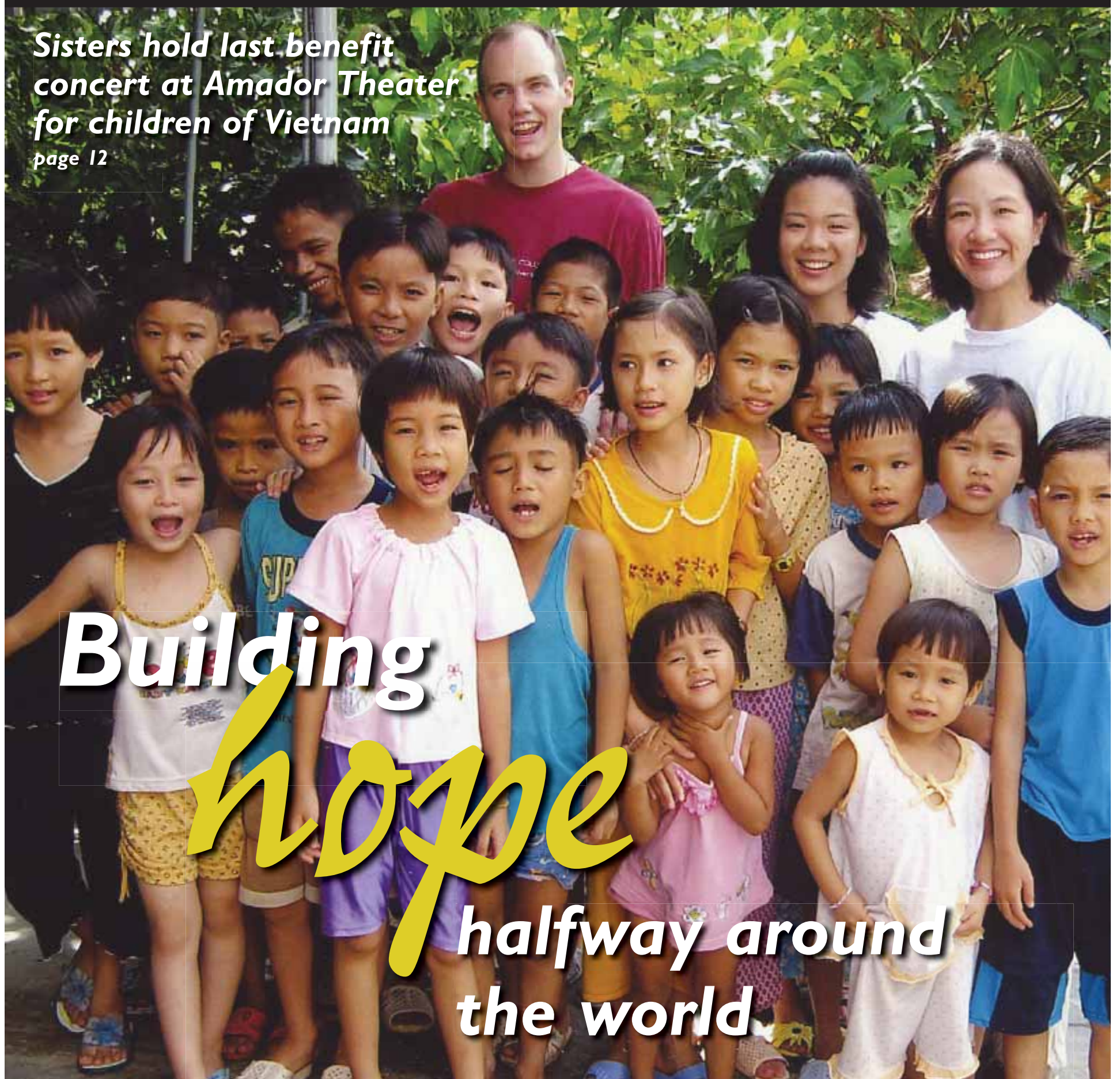
Market boost?

Economic bill could help home sales

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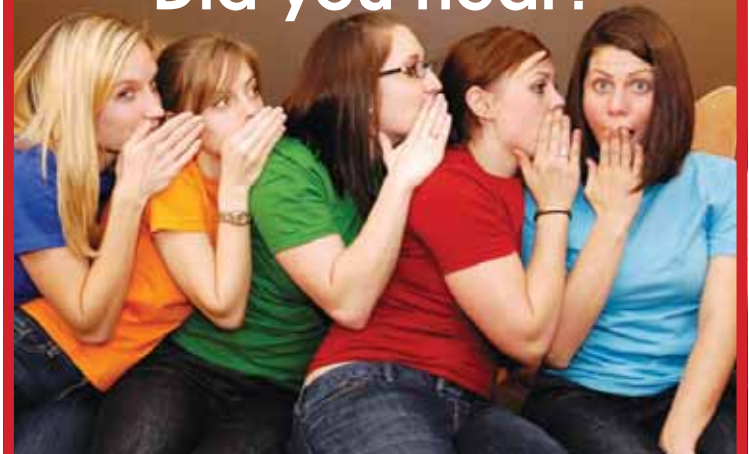
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Schwarzenegger meets the editors

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger earned high marks for humor a few days ago even while taking the time to brief the media on a projected budget shortfall and his disappointing loss of winning legislative approval for a California-style universal health care package. Meeting with 158 editors and publishers from across the state at the California Newspaper Publishers Association's annual "Government Affairs Day" in Sacramento, Schwarzenegger said that while he hadn't yet endorsed a presidential candidate, he would campaign vigorously for whichever one would agree to write a \$14.5 billion check to the state—which happens to be the projected deficit for the coming fiscal year. Facing a crowded room of note-taking editors and a back wall filled with more than a dozen television cameras, he also thanked us for inviting him, "because I love these kinds of off-the-record conversations."

Schwarzenegger is a jovial, articulate leader who obviously feels comfortable in his job. Despite the looming budget deficit, his passion is clearly on healthcare reform. Undaunted by losing the fight this year, he reflected on its history. Gov. Earl Warren, he said, tried to create universal health care in 1948 and lost by only one vote. He pointed out that all of the current presidential candidates are now talking up health care in one form or another, but they're behind the times. Teddy Roosevelt talked about it in 1912, "which was the year the Titanic went down, so it just shows you how far back it goes and they were not able to do it." According to Schwarzenegger, more than 70 percent of Californians have said our healthcare system is broken and needs to be fixed. So it's likely he'll be back before the legislators later this year to try again.

When he came into office, the state had revenues of \$76 billion. Today, revenue totals \$96 billion. The problem, Schwarzenegger said, is that as revenue goes up, so does spending. When it goes down, as is happening today, money has

to be taken away. "And this year we have to do it," he said. "We have to make a cut of 10 percent across the board because we are running out of money."

His solution, which brought applause from the editors, is to fix the budget system. Because of the economic slowdown, the state will have \$4.6 billion less this year coming in than anticipated. Meanwhile, the budget is likely to be short by \$14.5 billion. So while the downturn in the housing market and the economy are contributing to the problem, "the problem really is that this state has not yet gotten its act together," he said. "The system that we have right now I would not wish on any family or on any business anywhere in California."

Schwarzenegger urged editors to support his plan to restructure the budget planning process so that it begins earlier and provides a rainy day set aside fund so that when there are revenue increases, such as in 1999, that half goes to the fund, untouchable until there's a crisis like the one we're seeing this year. He called it the Arkansas method, which is what that state has now done successfully for a number of years. He also wants legislators to do what any cities do: plan ahead for two years or more and make decisions to accommodate future budget needs and anticipated revenue gains. Planning for fiscal 2008-09 should start in a month or two. We'll see.

He also wants more information put on Websites, particularly with regard to education and individual schools. That would give parents, the media or anybody who is interested to get on the Website and find out which schools are best based on state criteria, which schools have adequate funding, what each school's graduation (or dropout) rate is, even information about the music, arts and specialty education programs they have. All good ideas from the governor who must first close the budget gap without killing off some of the schools he wants all of us to know more about. ■

About the Cover

Truc and Chi Nguyen are holding the last benefit concert to help children in Can Tho, Vietnam. Since 2000, they have raised and donated at least \$8,000 each year to the children's shelter. The concert will be held at 2 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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Streetwise

Q: Have you decided who you are voting for in the presidential primary and why?

Asked Downtown



Don Christian

Retired

I haven't decided who I'm voting for but I'm certainly not interested in the trashing campaign going on by Hillary Clinton. I may lean toward Barack Obama if the Republicans can't get a strong frontrunner. We need a well-rounded package.

Susan Wacek

Speech Specialist

I've decided I'm voting for Hillary Clinton. She has many, many years of experience in politics. Years ago when she tried to tackle the health care dilemma she was on the right track. I think the country is certainly more open to a woman president than in year's past. A woman's perspective would be helpful both domestically and internationally.



Frank Patitucci

Real Estate Developer

Hillary Clinton because when push comes to shove she has the most relevant experience and the best chance of beating a Republican. I am hoping for a Clinton/Obama ticket which would be dynamite.

William Sallia

Engineer

I'm a registered Republican. I'm leaning toward McCain or Huckabee. They are both strong on national security and follow their convictions even if it isn't popular.



Linda DeMartin

Retired

I am undecided between John McCain and Rudy Giuliani. John McCain seems down to earth, trustworthy. I am not supportive of his immigration policy but so far he seems the best choice. I'm still listening to what Rudy has to offer.

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Scout collecting glasses for Eagle project

Local Life Scout Justin Sun is collecting eyeglasses as a part of his Eagle project. Until Feb. 23, eyeglasses in good condition can be dropped off at collection boxes at the following locations: Pleasanton Library, Pleasanton ValleyCare Hospital Optometry, Amador Valley High School office, Pleasanton Kumon, Pleasanton Wal-Mart, Livermore Costco Optometry, Livermore Wal-Mart Optometry, and Dublin Library. They will be given to those unable to afford eyeglasses.

Have a whale of a good time at library

The Pleasanton Public Library hosts the internationally renowned Marine Mammal Center of Marin Feb. 9. The center presents an interactive, hands-on introduction to the whales, seals, otters and other marine mammals that populate the coast and to the caring for the ocean environment. Space is limited, so registration is required. Grades kindergarten to third will be at 11 a.m. and fourth to eighth will be at 1 p.m. Doors close early, so arrive on time. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

Unique prizes up for auction at Museum fundraiser

The Museum On Main is hosting a winemaker's dinner fundraiser at 6 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Pleasanton Hotel. Included in the evening are live and silent auction along with a lively "two bit" auction. One of the auction items is a dinner at Main Street's Blue Agave restaurant with a ghost tracking experience afterwards. Another prize is enjoying wine and appetizers with Bill Apperson, great nephew to Phoebe Apperson Hearst. Tickets to the fundraiser dinner are \$100 or \$750 for a table of eight. Call 462-2766 for reservations.

Lovers head to the green

Callippe Preserve Golf Course hosts an inaugural couples event for Valentine's Day. The 9-hole event has a 3:30 p.m. shotgun start with a four-course meal afterwards. The entry fee is \$120 per couple and includes golf, cart, range balls, tee prize, closest to the hole contest and dinner. Call 426-6666 ext. 10 and ask for Doug or visit www.playcallippe.com.

Tri-Valley mayors seek to help homeowners in the red

Congressman McNerney asked to seek \$2.6 million in federal funding

by Janet Pelletier

The mayors of the Tri-Valley are asking Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) to seek \$2.6 million in federal aid to help homeowners who are struggling in the downturn of the housing market.

In Washington, D.C. to meet with McNerney as well as attend the U.S. Conference of Mayors, representatives from Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, San Ramon and Danville spoke with the congressman last week about their plan to use the money toward homeowners who are facing foreclosure.

"A portion would be appropriated for educating those families who are in loans that they're not quite

sure what they should be doing with, giving them credit counseling and then specifically working with families who are imminently facing foreclosure," said Danville Mayor Candace Andersen via conference call Jan. 23.

The monies would go to the Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center, a facility located in Livermore that was created two years ago by the five cities in the region to help first-time homebuyers and others seeking affordable housing. The center provides education counseling and offers prospective buyers better deals with approved lenders that partner with the center.

Andersen said since the housing center already has an ongoing

relationship with lenders, the new program the mayors are proposing would utilize those lenders to help homeowners with such things as buying down the interest rate, extending the life of the loan and refinancing.

Funding from this program would stay with the housing center if homeowners sell their homes—it would not be a gift, she added.

"If they sell the property or otherwise transfer it, then the housing authority would be re-paid and that money would be available to another family in need," Andersen said.

In two years' time, the housing center has helped 75 families and the proposed funding aims to assist 50 families on a cyclical basis, Andersen said.

San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson touted the mayors' funding plan, saying "this would be the prototype for all cities in the U.S., so we're really excited about this."

The city of Pleasanton has fared well so far in light of the sub-prime mortgage crisis, despite a steep rise in foreclosures in cities relatively close such as Brentwood, Mountain House and Stockton, the latter of which has the highest foreclosure rate in the country. But, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said it's prudent to prepare ahead of time should the crisis spread to Pleasanton homeowners.

"Everyone is extremely concerned about confidence in the

(continued on page 9)



Army Sgt. Scott Hankins (far right) joins his family at a homecoming celebration in a Pleasanton restaurant upon his return from 15-months in Iraq. From left, his mother Rosemary Hankins; wife Leta; Emma, 7 months old; Cole, 2-1/2, and father Rick Hankins.

Crowd welcomes Army firefighter home from Iraq

'It's the Pleasanton spirit,' says VFW leader

by Jeb Bing

Coming back from desert patrols in Iraq to a festive, crowded homecoming in Pleasanton was a welcome surprise for Scott Hankins, an Army sergeant and the 1991 basketball team captain at Amador Valley High School.

Hankins, who is stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash. awaiting his discharge, headed south Monday from a stop in Medford, Ore. with his wife Leta and their children, Cole, 2-1/2 and Emma, 7 months old. It was the first trip back to visit with his

parents, Rick and Rosemary Hankins, who live in Pleasanton Meadows, where Scott grew up. Their son called early Monday to say they might delay the trip a day or two because of snow in the mountains, but his mother told him she's waited too long to see him and to "get in the car and start driving." She said they would meet at Chevy's on Owens Drive for dinner at 6 p.m.

There was an ulterior motive. Along with veteran Doug Miller, members of the Pleasanton Military Families organization and others, the Hankins had joined

(continued on page 7)

Budget cuts could affect school jobs, programs

47 positions at risk if Prop. 98 measure suspended

Pleasanton School Supt. John Casey warned this week that Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposed budget cuts for the coming fiscal year could cause a "drastic" reduction in school programs as well as possible layoffs.

Schwarzenegger, in a budget proposal released Jan. 10 and now analyzed by the Pleasanton district staff, called for funding cuts to kindergarten through the high school senior levels. The governor also would reduce Proposition 98 funding by \$400 million in the current school year and suspend Proposition 98 funding altogether in fiscal 2008-09, which begins July 1.

"Without a doubt, our students will be negatively impacted by the governor's budget proposal because it cuts funding for daily services and programs in our schools," Casey said.

Casey also sent email messages to teachers and staff employees throughout the district detailing some of the cuts that would have to be enacted if the state budget is approved as proposed.

In a letter to the community, Casey stated:

"For Pleasanton, the Governor's proposal reduces revenue limit income for next year by \$2.5 million from current levels and Special Education revenue by \$450,000 below this year's income level. In addition, we know that our expenses for overhead (e.g. salary schedule movement, energy costs and insurance) will increase by \$1.6 million for next year. With these proposed reductions in income and increased expenses, the bottom line is that we will need to cut \$4.5 million relative to our current spending in order to have a balanced budget for 2008-09. In addition, our advisors estimate that the state's budget woes will continue for the next two to three years.

"Unfortunately, to provide a balanced budget, we are at risk of losing many of the student programs and services that have been a draw to both our district and to the community of Pleasanton. From looking at our budget, we estimate that we would be able to reduce non-personnel items by about \$0.9 million. The additional \$3.6 million would need to come from cuts in

(continued on page 8)

Both sides of fence meet Monday

Residents, school officials agree to flatten path, opening another gate

by Emily Atwood

Amador Valley High School Principal Bill Coupe facilitated what was said to be the final meeting Monday night discussing the school's rear entrance off of Gatetree Circle. Attended by a group of about 30 residents and parents, the consensus was to possibly open another gate until the school district could lay ground rock over the fire path.

Coupe and several residents said the fence—that replaced a gate earlier this school year that once allowed campus entry by way of the sports fields—is an effective solution to the concerns of traffic, parking and safety that many residents said lowered their quality of life. A chain link fence now re-routes students around the edge of campus—adding about 200 to 300 yards to the route—on a fire road that heads toward the parking lot, not the classrooms.

Even though a general agreement was reached, members of both sides expressed frustration and said their compromises were greater. In a show of hands to who wanted the gate reopened, about nine people showed interest.

Only one student attended the meeting. She, along with a handful of parents, complained of mud along the new path making the path practically unusable. To make the route more accessible during inclement weather, Hugh Anton, district director of architectural planning and management, said the school district offered to pay \$16,700 to have a base rock layer installed on the fire path. He was unsure of where that money would come from.

Some were only moderately pleased at this solution, as Anton said the construction would start once the rain cleared up and couldn't take place on the week-



Emily Atwood

Residents and parents gather in Amador Valley High School's library Monday night to discuss the changes made to the school's rear entrance off of Gatetree Circle.

end because of overtime pay for workers.

One resident said he used the path to get to the meeting and insisted that the route was not muddy as some claimed, and held up his clean shoe as proof. Another resident said the path need only be leveled and set up to drain properly.

Coupe and Amador's vice principals traversed the path after the meeting during intermittent rain showers. While there were puddles, he said "there are ways to walk through that are passable." Until the district is able to lay down the base rock on the fire path, Coupe said a compromise on rainy days could be opening a fence near the tennis courts so students can walk on asphalt.

Some residents shared concern

over the fire route improvements, saying it could make it more attractive to students and reverse the progress made in regards to traffic and parking. There was also no advancement on the idea of permit parking, as Coupe said it would be handled by the city, not the school district. There were mixed views regarding permit parking, with some not wanting their visitors to be ticketed.

After the last meeting, Coupe said the residents were to meet on their own about the changes and bring a consensus message to him prior to Monday's meeting. However, he said he didn't hear back from them. For those with further concern about the projected changes, he said he welcomes feedback. He can be reached at 461-6100. ■

New OSHA training program based in Pleasanton

Institute serves western region as part of Chabot-Las Positas College District

by Emily Atwood

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (CLPCCD) is one of eight new sites in the country to offer training for the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). While not intended for college students, businesses needing OSHA-certified employees can be grateful for the central location.

The only one in Northern California, the new OSHA Training Institute Education Center will be based in Pleasanton, where the district offices are located. It will serve the organization's Region 9, which includes California,

Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa.

The district office is located at 5020 Franklin Drive in Pleasanton.

Julia Dozier, the district's director of contract education and economic development, said many businesses in non-construction industries require certification training and refresher courses. Previously, people needing certification would have to go to Las Vegas or Colorado, which would be costly as the classes often span four days.

"We have a track record of delivering on large contracts," Dozier said. "Pleasanton can serve Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose and also Sacramento and the Central Valley—it's centrally located."

Dozier added that her department works directly with the community, rather than college students, in everything from welding to sexual harassment prevention. With the OSHA training, she said they are excited to be another resource for the community.

District Chancellor Dr. Joel Kinnamon said the CLPCCD was "their ideal choice based on our extensive contract education department and our current relationship with business and industry clients."

A catalog of training classes will be available in March, with classes starting in May. For more information about the program, visit www.clpccd.org. ■

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Foothill senior joins nursing field to give back help she received

Tri-Valley Regional Occupation Program educates teens in nursing in light of statewide shortage

by Emily Atwood

Kiley Gellman is doing her best to alleviate fears of understaffed hospitals. A senior at Foothill High School, she is enrolled in the Tri-Valley Regional Occupation Program (TVROP), which teams up with ValleyCare Medical Center in Pleasanton to train students to become nurses.

Kiley met with Sen. Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro) last Friday to give a tour of the intensive care unit, where she is currently assigned.

After being diagnosed with Wolff (Wolfe)-Parkinson-White Syndrome, a heart condition that affects less than 3 percent of the population, and having surgery, Kiley said the experience encouraged her to learn more about the field of nursing.

"I wanted to give back," she said, adding that the ROP class has helped her solidify her future as a nurse.

Corbett said that despite a projected statewide nursing shortage, there is hope with youth such as



Foothill High School ROP student Kiley Gillman explains her experience to Sen. Ellen Corbett and ValleyCare's Chief Operating Officer Cindy Noonan.

Kiley and programs like those found at TVROP.

"It's great to have the district and ROP so focused on these programs," Corbett said.

TVROP is based in Livermore and offers programs in technology, health, business and child development for juniors and

seniors in high school.

"If you have an interest in anything that has an ROP class, get in because it's hands on and shows you what you want to do," Kiley said. "Start early."

For more information on other programs offered by TVROP, visit www.tvrop.org.

Iraq

(continued from page 5)

in planning a welcome home party like none other, complete with decorations, food and a regimental guard from local VFW Post 6289 in Pleasanton.

VFW Commander David Ham, who led the procession, said "It's the Pleasanton spirit. We take care of our own."

Sgt. Hankins, who is 31, walked in at 6:10 to a roaring crowd of friends, relatives and others.

"I feel like a celebrity," he said. "I never imagined anything like this."

After graduating from Amador, Hankins went to Washington State University, where he earned a degree in civil engineering. He joined a construction company as a civil engineer and was there when terrorists struck the World Trade Center

and Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I realized that I wanted to be part of something bigger," he said. "So I paid off my debts and joined the Army in 2003, getting married just two weeks before I left for basic training."

With a lifelong ambition to be a firefighter, Hankins joined the Army Military Firefighters unit, working at various U.S. installations before leaving for Iraq 15 months ago. His duties included firefighting assignments along the Syrian and Jordan borders and escorting supply convoys to various installations in Iraq. He had a two-week trip home—for the birth of Emma.

Scheduled to be discharged in June, with accumulated leave time letting him out in April, Hankins now is job hunting among municipal fire departments. The Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department is a possibility, although Hankins has

yet to submit an application there.

His father Rick Hankins said their son's return "is a big load off our shoulders" for him and Rosemary Hankins.

"You pay attention to the flash news reports much more carefully when you have a child in harm's way," he said.

Hankins, a retired executive with the Clorox Corporation, traveled extensively in the Middle East as part of his manufacturing assignments. That helped him track where son Scott was stationed and patrolling while also understanding first-hand the risks in dealing with the Sunnis and the Shiites.

Besides Scott, the Hankins have three other sons: Bobby, Kevin and Scott, four daughters-in-law and six grandchildren. All four sons served as basketball team captains during their senior years at Amador. ■

Take Us Along



A cowboy Weekly

Ted and Ginger Klenk got two-stepping to the Calgary Stampede in Calgary, Alberta, Canada over the summer, with the Weekly in tow. The event bills itself as The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth and draws 350,000 people for 10 days every July.

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'We the People' teams head to state finals

2-year winner Amador, Foothill and Irvington open program Thursday

by Jeb Bing

Three Pleasanton teachers will again lead their government and civics classes to Sacramento next week for two days of intense testifying on constitutional issues before legislators, judges and others in the state's annual "We the People" competition.

The teachers—and their team's coaches—are Brian Ladd, a social studies teacher at Amador Valley High School; Cindy Juarez, who teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Civics and Economics at Foothill High School; and Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who teaches AP Government at Irvington High School in Fremont. Cook-Kallio, a Pleasanton resident, is also a member of the Pleasanton City Council.

More than 350 students in 12 high school classes from throughout California, including Amador, Foothill and Irvington, will compete in simulated congressional hearings to earn the opportunity to represent California at the national finals in Washington D.C. in May. Government, business, education and community leaders will serve as volunteer judges, timers and facilitators. Keynote speakers include assemblymember Gene Mullin, Charles Quigley, Shay Humphrey and Benjamin Glickman, a "We the People" alumnus, former Ninth District Circuit Court clerk and now an attorney.

The schools will compete in two

sessions Thursday with four winners to be announced at a banquet that night. Those four will then compete in a State Assembly hearing room Friday with the state champion to be announced that night. Each state can send only one team to compete in the national finals. Last year, Amador represented California for the second year in a row and finished second nationally.

"Ours is a very competitive state," Ladd said. "There's a lot of interest in this competition. The fact is that any of the top five teams from California could be the top team in 12 to 15 other states."

Cook-Kallio agreed.

"I can tell you story after story of students I've had in this class who come back years later and tell me it was the single most important program they participated in while in high school," she said. "It caused them to be aware of their community and the world around them."

She should know. Her son was on the 1999 "We the People" team at Amador and her daughter on the 2002 team. Both graduated from Amador.

Juarez said she has 24 students on her "We the People" team who will compete in Sacramento. They are Aditi Abraham, Shaherzad Ahmadi, John Bang, Chelsea Crandall, Brendan Duddy, Jonathan Forman, Alex Freed, Melanie Gin, Andy Guo, Sam Hyams, Salwa Kamal, James Karavakis, Michael Kim,

Mohini Kundu, Tiffany Lee, Zahra Murtaza, Sarah Peterson, Samar Shah, David Sin, Kelly Watkins, Ellen Yang, Madeline Yung, Mihir Zaveri and James Zhou.

Seniors on the Amador team are Vincent Buscarello, Joel Detweiler, Katie Gellerman, Stoney Glover, William Grau, Margaret Haupt, Kristyn Hayashi, Genevieve Hoffman, Pooja Jael, Udani Kadurugamuwa, Teresa Machado, Erica Miranda, Sarah Moellering, Lanz Nalagan, Joshua Pann, Shannon Parker, Jeysree Ramachandran, Devi Santhosh, Kevin Sasek, Alexander Schlick, Siddarth Somanathan, Yichuan Sun, Kristpher Tayyeb, Corinne Tu, Alan Wang, Terri Wang, Tony Wang and Curtis Wong.

Ladd said the Amador team will hold a dress rehearsal from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. next Monday in the school's multi-purpose room. The public is invited. Irvington's was scheduled last night on the school campus.

"We the People" is a competitive civics experience sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, a division of the U.S. Department of Education. Students' knowledge of the Constitution, the founding of the country and the evolution of American government is tested in simulated congressional hearings that foster critical thinking and creativity. ■

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Wine and dine at downtown stroll

Area wineries, businesses gear up for Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting event

If wine tasting and strolling downtown sound like fun, it is a good idea to head to Main Street to pick up tickets for the Pleasanton Downtown Association's (PDA) Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting event. Time is of the essence, as promoters say the wine stroll sells out every year.

At 6 p.m. Feb 7, wine strollers will meet up at The Rose Hotel, 807 Main St., to receive a commemorative wine glass, map and start tasting. Twenty-nine local wineries will showcase reds and whites along with ports, dessert wines and champagnes. They will be paired with sweet treats and/or hor d'oeuvres at participating

businesses.

While sampling wine and treats, event goers can indulge in the sense of sound. For the first time, the PDA is partnering with the City of Pleasanton Civic Arts Presents! and the Pleasanton Public Library to kick off the weekend of jazz as part of the Campana Jazz Festival.

Seven downtown venues will host the jazz ensembles, and those not participating in the wine stroll event are welcome to enjoy the music. The weekend of jazz continues as Ravi Coltrane performs the evening of Feb. 8 at the Amador Valley Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. It all leads up to the festival at Amador Valley High

School Feb. 9.

Truffles, Tidbits and Wine Tasting tickets are \$25 and may be purchased from the following businesses: Clover Creek, 670 Main St., Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St., The Rose Hotel, 807 Main St., and the Pleasanton Downtown Association, 830 Main St., Ste. A, behind the Cheese Factory building). Any remaining tickets will be available at 5:45 the evening of the event at the Rose Hotel for \$30. All tickets must be redeemed for glasses by 7:30 p.m.

For more information on this event, including a list of participating businesses and wineries, visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

—Emily Atwood

Casey

(continued from page 5)

personnel. This equates to the elimination of about 47 positions across the district."

During the month of February, the PUSD Board of Trustees will hold public workshops on how to balance the budget and receive input from the district's Budget Advisory Committee and employee associations.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Feb. 12.

In a follow-up statement, Jamie Hintzke, president of the Pleasanton PTA Council, said:

"Schwarzenegger's proposed drastic budget cuts will hurt our children. Our children need your help now! Urge legislators not to cut the funding of Prop. 98, the minimum public education funding guarantee for our students. The impact of the unprecedented cuts proposed in the

Governor's budget would severely harm each and every school."

She said voters passed Prop. 98 almost 20 years ago to ensure students and schools receive minimum funding.

"The proposal to suspend Prop. 98 conflicts with the will of the voters and jeopardizes the minimum education funding levels Prop. 98 provides for students and schools," Hintzke said.

—Jeb Bing

Housing

(continued from page 5)

market," she said. "Certainly, any slumps in the economy will be felt by us as well, but it's a trickle-down and we're not feeling it in Pleasanton yet, but we could."

The mayors stressed the importance of working together on regional needs, such as housing, the economy and transportation.

"This year, we recognized that with so little funding available that we wanted to make sure that our requests were regional in nature and that is the reason for all of us being here together," Hosterman said.

A federal economic stimulus plan, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives last week and includes refunds of between \$600-1,200 for tax filers is also expected to help homeowners.

McNerney said a portion of the plan to raise the limits on Federal Housing Administration loans and housing mortgages will help make a mark on the housing crisis.

"I'm particularly pleased that the conforming loan limit will be raised—an issue I raised with the Speaker (Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco) directly," he said. "Raising that limit will mean more people throughout California will have lower-interest loans, helping stabilize the real estate market and allowing more people to refinance into lower interest rate mortgages."

Another issue mayors discussed with the congressman included securing additional funding for the East Bay Regional Communications System, where police and fire officials can work together during emergencies. A total of \$808,000 has already been earmarked for the project. McNerney said he will request an additional \$3 million in federal funding.

"There's about \$70 million of infrastructure that we need to build and of that, we've received \$33 million in grants, so we're about half way to getting it built out," said Bill McCammon, interim executive director for the East Bay system.

McNerney said he is continu-

ing efforts to ensure that the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Livermore isn't sold for private development.

The mayors also requested additional funding for an eastbound carpool and toll (HOV/HOT) lane along Interstate 580, which is in the works.

Hosterman said the project is expected to break ground this year and be completed in 2009. She said the new lane is projected to decrease traffic delay time in that lane by 70 percent as well as decreasing delay times in the mixed lanes.

Assemblyman Houston introduces legislation to help housing market

Assemblyman Guy Houston, (R-San Ramon), has his solution to helping the faltering housing market by introducing legislation that would allow for a quicker home-building process once the market rebounds.

Assembly Bill 1777 will extend by 24 months the amount of time that a housing project can remain



Mayors from Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville meet with Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) in his Washington, D.C., office to discuss funding for homeowners facing foreclosure.

Courtesy: Office of Congressman Jerry McNerney

viable.

"When the housing market rebounds, it would be devastating to the economy if we do not have an adequate pipeline of new homes for future homeowners," Houston said. "While we deal with this current housing and credit crunch, it is equally important to look down the

road towards recovery. AB 1777 does this by helping to ensure that projects currently approved can be protected until the market is ready."

Similar legislation was passed after a significant housing downturn in 1993, signed by then-Gov. Pete Wilson, and was successful, according to Houston. ■

We did it!

Weekly's 2007 Holiday Fund makes its goal: \$150,000

by Jeb Bing

Thanks to our partnership with the Tri-Valley Community Foundation, the Pleasanton Weekly's 2007 Holiday Fund achieved its goal of \$150,000 on contributions that will now go to eight nonprofits serving Pleasanton and the surrounding communities.

The record-high goal was \$50,000 more than a year ago and six times more than the \$25,000 goal that was set when the Holiday Fund was first launched in 2003.

Actual individual and group donations to the 2007 Holiday Fund totaled \$73,539, just short of the \$75,000 goal, although more contributions may come in before the final audit. The Tri-Valley Community Foundation, which has matched direct contributions each year, agreed to add an additional amount to bring the total with its match to \$150,000.

Dave Rice, the foundation's executive director, said his group supports the Pleasanton Weekly

Holiday Fund because the beneficiaries are among the many needy organizations the foundation also helps fund.

"This is truly a community-wide effort by the Pleasanton Weekly that serves a growing need in the Tri-Valley," Rice said. "While those who contribute have jobs or other income and most have health insurance, the Holiday Fund contributes to organizations that help those who don't. The Tri-Valley Community Foundation is honored to be part of this effort."

Gina Channell-Allen, president of the Pleasanton Weekly, said checks in equal amounts will be distributed to the eight recipients within a few weeks after a final audit by both the Weekly and the community foundation.

"The downturn in the housing market and the subsequent softening of the area's economy had an adverse effect on all fundraising efforts this year," she said. "Even so, more than 300 donors reached into their pockets to help those less

fortunate. It was heartwarming to receive notes of thanks for providing a fund where they can make a dramatic difference in the lives of others."

The organizations that will benefit from the 2007 Holiday Fund are Axis Community Health, Hope Hospice, Open Heart Kitchen, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation, Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley, Tri-Valley Haven, Valley Humane Society and the emergency room expansion at ValleyCare Medical Center.

Unlike most other fundraising drives by individual organizations, the 2007 Holiday Fund had no administrative expenses or other overhead. The Pleasanton Weekly donated all the support services so all money raised would support local nonprofit groups.

All funds are held in trust by the Tri-Valley Community Foundation pending the final audit and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. ■

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At the close of the 2007 Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund, 335 donors contributed \$73,539 to the fund. With Tri-Valley Community Foundation contributions a total of \$150,000 has been raised for the eight 2007 beneficiaries.

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Terry & Dawn Abbey	**	Jean Jones	100	Deborah Tomlin	**	Elizabeth Stewart & Lisa Lum from Gordon & Elite Stewart	200
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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, February 5, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Public Hearing: PUD-64, 4238 First Street, LLC – Consider an application for Planned Unit Development rezoning and development plan approval to rezone an existing 13,161-square-foot parcel from RM-2, 500 (Multiple-Family Residential) District to PUD-HDR (Planned Unit Development – High Density Residential) District to renovate the existing home and to construct four detached single-family units ranging from 1,713 square feet to 1,919 square feet at the property located at 4238 First Street
- Review, discuss and provide direction to staff regarding the future public review process for the property located at 3950 Stanley Boulevard at the intersection of Valley Avenue, Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard
- Accept report on implementation of a Solar Cities Program to promote the installation of Residential Photovoltaic Systems and authorize development of graphic design and outreach material

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, February 4, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting.

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, February 6, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Report on Mental Health Services Act
- FY 2007/08 Service Contract Mid-Term Reports
- Update on Livermore's Friendship Center Senior Day Care Program
- Update on Eden I&R 2-1-1 Service

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Monday, February 4, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consultant Presentations for Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

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

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

Police Bulletin

Parent Project classes begin Feb. 26

Along with Amador Valley Adult and Community Education, the Pleasanton Police Department presents the 11-week Parent Project starting Feb. 26. The program teaches parents skills to change an

adolescent's destructive behavior and/or violent or incorrigible conduct brought on by drug/alcohol use, as well as skills to improve school attendance and performance.

Classes are held Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. at Alisal Elementary School. There will also be a class on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9, beginning Feb. 27 and ending May 21. The cost is \$95, which includes the text. Register by calling 426-4280. For more information, contact Officer Tam 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. 18

- Theft:
 - 9:31 a.m. in the 3600 block of Washington Street; forgery
 - 5:12 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Burglary:
 - 9:38 a.m. in the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive
 - 5:25 p.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 2:36 a.m. in the 6300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; DUI
 - 4:14 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; paraphernalia possession

Jan. 19

- Theft:
 - 1:20 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft
 - 3:42 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
- Public drunkenness:
 - 12:44 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 11:27 p.m. at the intersection of Inglewood Drive and Harper Court
- Assault:
 - 12:07 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road

Jan. 20

- Theft:
 - 7:37 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vandalism:
 - 10:31 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; worth less than \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 11:23 a.m. in the 4600 block of Herrin Way
- Marijuana possession:
 - 11:25 a.m. in the 5800 block of Owens Drive
- Lost property:
 - 11:35 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road
 - 5:30 p.m. in the 3600 block of Andrews Drive
- Mental health danger:
 - 6:17 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- Weapon use:
 - 2:02 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

Jan. 21

- Vandalism:

- 8:56 a.m. at the intersection of Neal Street and Entrada Drive; worth less than \$400
- Mental health danger:
 - 5:02 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- Dogs at large:
 - 3:50 p.m. in the 5400 block of Corte Paloma

Jan. 22

- Theft:
 - 3:53 p.m. in the 4100 block of Rennellwood Way
- Vandalism:
 - 9:11 a.m. in the 5700 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; worth over \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 11:32 a.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road
- Drug violations:
 - 12:39 a.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road; paraphernalia possession, non-narcotic controlled substance possession
- Assault:
 - 4:39 p.m. in the 4400 block of Comanche Way

Jan. 23

- Theft:
 - 1:57 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street
 - 2:38 p.m. in the 7500 block of Trotter Way; identity theft
- Vandalism:
 - 9:31 a.m. in the 7000 block of Koll Center Parkway; worth over \$400
 - 9:23 a.m. in the 5000 block of Owens Drive; worth over \$400
 - 10:54 a.m. in the 3500 block of South Olympic Court; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:

- 6:16 a.m. in the 7800 block of Creekside Drive; vehicular
- 3:16 p.m. in the 900 block of Kolln Street
- Mental health danger:
 - 3:16 p.m. in the 3800 block of Hopyard Road

Jan. 24

- Theft:
 - 11:19 a.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
 - 1:20 p.m. in the 6000 block of Stoneridge Drive; forgery
- Vandalism:
 - 9:01 a.m. in the 700 block of Main Street; worth less than \$400
 - 5:07 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400
 - 7:47 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Rd; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
 - 10:35 a.m. in the 4800 block of River Rock Hill Road
 - 5:14 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court; vehicular
 - 6:49 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; vehicular
 - 7:47 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; vehicular
- Public drunkenness:
 - 2:52 a.m. in the 3600 block of Kamp Drive
- Mental health danger:
 - 12:28 a.m. in the 8000 block of Canyon Creek Circle
- Assault:
 - 2:08 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street
 - 5:22 p.m. in the 3100 block of Ascot Court
- Weapon use:
 - 11:28 a.m. in the 300 block of Rose Avenue

Advertising Sales Account Executive

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Sisters hold last benefit concert at Amador Theater for children of Vietnam

by Jerri Pantages Long



Building hope
halfway around
the world

Children wave goodbye as Truc, Chi, and Kim Nguyen and Evan Kirby leave the Can Tho Children's Shelter after a day's visit.

Chi and

"Who can live without hope?" asked poet Carl Sandburg.

Children, above all, should have hope for a future of fulfillment. That idea has led Truc and Chi Nguyen to devote considerable time and energy toward helping children less fortunate than they are. Daughters of Kim and Danh Nguyen, the sisters had often heard their parents speak of life in Vietnam, where they had been raised. For the national Make a Difference Day in October 1998, the sisters decided to hold a garage sale in order to raise funds for those in need in faraway Vietnam—a land they had never seen.

With their mother's help, they made batches of almond toffee to sell, and they also sold their Beanie Babies, small stuffed animals that were all the rage at that time. Their goal was to raise \$200—but in fact, they were astounded to raise \$1,000 by the end of the day.

This sum they donated to VNHELP (Vietnam Health, Education, and Literacy Program), a nonprofit organization based in San Jose (www.VNHELP.org), which passed on the entire amount to a small library serving 300 children in Gai Xuan.

In the summer of 1999, the entire Nguyen family traveled to Vietnam—a journey that was to change the lives of (then) 17-year-old Truc and 11-year-old Chi. "We had listened to our parents' stories of what life in Vietnam was like and what children there lack that we take for granted," recalled Truc. "So when we went there, we wanted to visit some of these children and see what we could do to help."

"My first impression was great surprise," Chi said. "Even though my parents gave us a notion of what to expect, our first trip was just getting used to what Vietnam was like. People there were poorer than anyone we'd ever seen, even the homeless in San Francisco. How extremely difficult their

lives must have been."

The sisters got to visit the library they had helped supply with books. The funds they had raised from almond toffee sales in 1999 were directed toward flood victims in central Vietnam. However, their first visit to their parents' homeland convinced Truc and Chi that they wanted to focus on "helping street children gain an opportunity for a better life, through education." In other words, they wanted to provide the gift of hope to children who were orphans or whose families could not support them.

Truc had begun taking piano lessons at age six, and her younger sister followed at age three and a half. By 2000, both were studying with pianist Ellen Wasserman, who is on the faculty of Cal State East Bay in Hayward. When Truc and Chi decided to give a concert in order to raise funds to give hope to street children in Vietnam, their music teacher helped them line up other performers. Truc, who was to graduate as the valedictorian of Amador Valley High School's class of 2000, turned to her school's leadership class to sponsor the first Children's Benefit Concert in the city-owned Amador Theater on the high school campus—a sponsorship that has continued to this day. Each year, one

or both sisters have returned as guest speakers to the class, hoping to inspire the teenagers to devote time and energy toward community service.

Funds raised at the benefit concerts and by sales of the family's almond toffee now are used as the primary support of a children's shelter in Can Tho, Vietnam. The shelter provides housing and daily meals for up to 100 boys and girls, ages 3 to 20, who have either been orphaned or abandoned. They receive schooling, medical care, and a sense of family. In addition, about 30 young men and women ages 17-22 come to stay at the shelter for one or two years, long enough to learn a vocation (such as motorbike repair, home electrical wiring or sewing) so that they can become self-sufficient. This year, the shelter has added a nursery, to be able to care for infants—all this with a staff of five.

"Older children care for the younger ones," said Truc. "It is like a co-op," added Chi, "with everyone taking on some responsibility for all that has to be done."

Truc went on to Stanford University, graduating in 2004 with a major in management science and engineering, plus a minor in music. Truc has worked for Kaiser Permanente and KLA-Tencor. Now 25, she currently is enrolled in the Master of Business Administration program at UC Davis. Despite the demands of her studying and workload, Truc has continued to participate in the annual Children's Benefit Concert.

The family moved from Pleasanton (their home since 1985) to San Ramon, and Chi graduated from California High School in 2005. Currently, at age 19, she is a junior at Stanford, majoring in environmental engineering and planning to go on to law school. When her older sister went on to college, Chi took on more of the responsibility for organizing the annual benefit concert and speaking to schools and service clubs about their project. In 2004, Chi was given the Net Aid Global Action Award. That same year, she was recognized by the "Start Something" program, which is co-sponsored by Target and the Tiger Woods Foundation. Chi



Truc with the children at mealtime.



Truc with three of the children who would be homeless were it not for the shelter supported primarily by Truc and her sister.



Kindergarten students try out their brand new desks in the facility Truc and Chi helped fund.

Photos courtesy of the Nguyen Family

appeared on national television in a commercial with Tiger Woods, encouraging young people to participate in community service.

Since 2000, Truc and Chi have raised and donated at least \$8,000 each year to the children's shelter in Can Tho, Vietnam. In 2007, they were able to pay one-third (\$11,000) of the cost of a new kindergarten building in a rural area of the Mekong Delta. They also began to fulfill their dream of helping others go on to college, providing three scholarships for high school graduates from their mother's hometown of Ca Mau. The sisters have committed to providing three more scholarships a year for at least the next four years. Truc and Chi hope eventually to assist children from the Can Tho Shelter with higher education. (Photos and details of these projects can be seen at www.vnyouthprojects.net.)

This past summer, Truc and Chi were able to travel back to Vietnam with their mother, seeing for themselves how much of a difference their contributions have made to more than 1,000 children. As before, they brought along suitcases filled with clothing, toys, and candy for the children in the shelter. The sisters describe it is a lengthy journey, in part by boat, and the summer weather is extremely hot and humid.

"The second time, I knew more what to expect," said Truc. "Still, I was extremely touched, with tears in my eyes, at how extremely happy the children were to see us. They treated us as family, clamoring for our attention."

Of course, it helps that both sisters speak the language fluently, so they could laugh and play with the youngsters.

"They never hesitated to show how much they cared," said Chi. "I liked it this time (her third visit) because I felt more like an older sister to the children."

Chi had been back for a visit with her mother in 2004, and some of the same children were still at the shelter this past summer.

"One child, who had been only 8 years old when I last saw her, was now 11, and so grown up, caring for the younger

children, acting so responsible," she said. "More than me at that age."

The sisters spent two days at the shelter, watching how the former street children happily worked on their assigned shores, sweeping floors, washing dishes, caring for livestock and the orchard. The shelter also has its own vegetable garden and fish pond.

"We never saw any arguments," Chi said. "They really get along as a family."

The next stop was at the new kindergarten building in a rural area.

"I was so proud to come there and see that we had helped to build a school," said Truc. "We got to meet the children [who were going to be the first to attend]."

In fact, both sisters were surprised by the welcome they received. "There was a huge reception, with speeches, banners, and flowers," said Chi. "It was obvious that the little children were dressed up in their very best clothes."

The 2000 Children's Benefit Concert brought in \$1,500—including sales of the popular toffee during intermission. Since then, the annual event has grown to bring in 10 times that initial amount. Truc and Chi each perform piano solos, then a duet of classical music as part of the program. Pianist Ellen Wasserman has performed at each concert, as has her husband, clarinetist William Wohlmacher. They will be performing this month with violinist Philip Santos of the San Francisco Symphony.

Also on the program for the ninth Children's Benefit Concert on Feb. 10 will be Evan Kirby, Truc's fiance, who will perform on clarinet, with Christa Stiner and Judy Chen playing bassoon and flute. Evan was able to travel with Truc and Chi to Vietnam this past summer. Completing his doctorate at University of California, Santa Cruz, Evan commuted to San Jose to take lessons in conversational Vietnamese in

(continued on page 14)

Children's Benefit Concert

WHEN Sunday, Feb. 10, 2-4 p.m.

WHERE Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road

INFO Tickets are \$14 per person in advance, \$17 at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased from students in the Amador Valley High School leadership class or at Towne Center Books on Main Street. In San Ramon, tickets may be purchased at House of Woodwinds.

Other ways to help

- Sponsor a child at the children's shelter in Can Tho, Vietnam. Just \$20 per month will cover the cost of food, clothing, and school supplies for the child, and a progress report will be sent to the donor. Donations (tax-deductible, payable to VNHELP) may be sent to Chi Nguyen, P.O. Box 14210, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA 94309.
- Provide a (tax-deductible) scholarship to cover college tuition for a student for \$80-120 per year (depending upon the college). Address is listed above.

Kindergarten Open House

Thursday, February 7th at 6:30pm

**School of Imagination, Room 104
6444 Sierra Court in Dublin**



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For more information about OPEN HOUSE please contact us at
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All children have the same rights and privileges regardless of race, religion, nationality or special need. We are a Nonprofit Tax Exempt Organization Tax ID# 20-8683005. CA Facility # 013418979. Copyright 2008 School of Imagination

Hope

(continued from page 13)

preparation for the journey.

A special part of this year's concert will be a performance by Van-Anh Vo on a traditional Vietnamese instrument. The benefit concert begins with a moving slide show depicting the need and progress of the youth projects Truc and Chi sponsor.

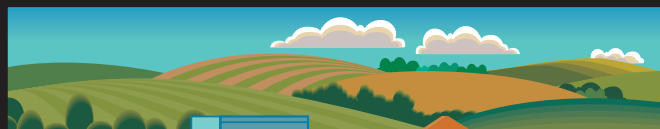
Truc and Chi both will graduate in 2009, and their future may take them in separate directions. That is

why they have decided that this will be the last benefit concert. However, both sisters are determined to continue to support the shelter and scholarship programs in the years ahead. Their hope is that those who have supported their efforts thus far will make pledges each year to help keep the projects going. Already they are planning an online newsletter to keep donors informed of the progress of the shelter and the scholarship students.

Next October, Truc and Chi will celebrate the 10th anniversary of their fundraising to bring hope to children halfway around the world. So far, their efforts have touched the lives of more than 1,000 children. ■




Chi and Truc perform their duet at the 2007 Children's Benefit Concert.



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Transitions

Obituaries

Margitta E. McGuire

Margitta E. McGuire died Jan. 17 at the age of 76.

Mrs. McGuire was born March 23, 1931 in Greitz-Thuringen, Germany and made her home in Pleasanton for the past 35 years.

She enjoyed creating porcelain art and painting. She also relished spending time with her friends at the Pleasanton Senior Center.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 35 years, Richard T. McGuire; four adored sons, Patrick McGuire of Oakland, Thomas McGuire of Hayward, Mark McGuire of San Ramon, and Matthew McGuire of Pleasanton; and special daughter-in-law, Lucy McGuire of San Ramon. She also leaves behind two cherished grandchildren, Megan and Molly McGuire.

Services were held Jan. 23. Burial followed at Memory Gardens Oddfellows Memorial Park in Livermore.

Frank Swickheimer

Frank Swickheimer died Jan. 16 at the age of 92.

Born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, he served during World War II in the U.S. Army from 1943-1945. He resided in Alameda County for more than 60 years.

He is survived by his beloved stepsons and stepdaughter, Larry Little and his wife Helen of Pleasanton, Ted Gourfay and his wife Shirley of Walnut Creek, Dolores Collins of San Francisco; nine grandchildren: Rebecca Bocek, Debbie Chinowth, Paul Collins, George Gourfay, Sabrina Lawrence, Beverly Lorenz, Judy Muetz, Lesli Norton and Lisa Rohner; 14 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Louise Swickheimer in 2001.

A service was held Jan. 21 at Graham-Hitch Mortuary. Interment followed later in the week at Sunset Mausoleum in Kensington, Calif.

Ellene N. Goedert

Ellene Goedert died Jan. 23 at the age of 81.

Mrs. Goedert was born Jan. 31, 1916. Originally from West Virginia, she was a Pleasanton resident since 1958.

She is survived by daughters, Patty and Karen; son, Peter and stepdaughter Darlene; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernie, and her son, Joseph (Buddy).

She will be greatly missed by all. Visitation was held Jan. 28 with a funeral service Jan. 29.

In keeping with her wishes, Mrs. Goedert will be buried next to her late husband, Ernie, in Cypress, Calif.



Florence Lorraine Christianson Nerton April 22, 1919–January 16, 2008

January 2008 has brought the hope for a new year. This New Year has brought some sadness along with the joy of new beginnings. Our mom, Florence, died peacefully at home, in her sleep, Wednesday, January 16, 2008. She's on her next big adventure.

Mom had a long, happy life filled with positive thinking and helping others. She loved her family, loved her friends, and loved all of her children's friends. Mom always had extra love to give along with some darn good advice! She was a woman of great faith.

Born in Rio Vista, CA in 1919 she moved permanently to Pleasanton in 1925 with her family. It was here she met her lifelong friend, Adelaide Bairos Bonne, at age 5, when they were both picking violets in a field off of Division Street. Florence attended Amador High School and then attended Beauty College in Oakland. After working for seven years in Berkeley as a beautician, she moved back to Pleasanton and opened Florence's Beauty Shop on Main Street in Pleasanton. In August 1947 she married Tom Nerton, closed her beauty shop, and began a new adventure as a housewife and mom. With the aid of her husband, Tom, and her mother, Ane, she raised two children, Susan and Roger, at 462 St. Mary Street. It was a happy household filled with love and humor. At different times in her married life Florence was an elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Pleasanton, a Brownie leader, a 4-H leader, and a personal shopper for many of her aging friends who needed some help and loved her company. She was a voracious reader and loved a lively discussion even if she didn't agree with your point of view. If Florence didn't know about something, she'd research it and make it her own. That willingness and confidence to "find out" was communicated to everyone who had a visit with her.

Florence is survived by her son and daughter, T Roger Nerton of Pleasanton, CA and Susan M Nerton of Santa Cruz, CA; her grandchildren Wesley Nerton and Kayla Nerton of Livermore, Tyler Thacher of Lausanne, Switzerland, and Ryan Thacher of Santa Barbara, CA. Florence was preceded in death by her husband, Tom Nerton, in 1991 and her mother, Ane Miller Christianson, in 1981.

A gathering to celebrate Florence's life has been planned at our family home, 462 St. Mary Street, Pleasanton, Saturday, February 23, 2008, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. In lieu of flowers please make a donation in Florence's name to Guide Dogs, P.O. Box 3950, San Rafael, California 94912, Canine Companions for Independence, P.O. Box 446, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446 or a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

Engagement



Stephanie duPuys Salkow & Christian George Cordisco

Steve and Vicki Salkow are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie duPuys Salkow, to Christian George Cordisco of Woodbine, Md. Stephanie and Chris will be married on Aug. 10 at the Ritz-Carlton in Dana Point, Calif.

Stephanie is a 1995 graduate of Foothill High School and a 2000 graduate of San Diego State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree. In 2006, Stephanie earned a Master of Business Administration from Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University. She is currently employed as director of

brand marketing at R.J. Reynolds in North Carolina.

Chris is the son of Ralph and Dale Cordisco of Woodbine, Md. He graduated from Glenelg High School in 1994 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from Syracuse University in 1999. In 2006, Chris completed a master's degree in business administration from the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University. He is currently employed in commercial finance at BB&T in North Carolina.

The couple met while attending graduate school at Syracuse University. They became engaged Oct. 6, 2007 while visiting the Grove Park Inn Resort in Asheville, N.C. They reside in Greensboro, N.C.

Births

The following information on Pleasanton births was provided by ValleyCare Medical Center.

Jan. 2 Laurie and Kent Robertson, a boy

Jan. 7 Carolyn and Richard Morec, a girl

Jan. 8 Rachel and Kurt Brockett, a girl

Kaylin Cherb and Nolan Roth, a boy

Jan. 11 Suzanne and Shane Eckert, a girl



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Opinion

Editorial

Vote No on Measure A, props. 91-93; Yes on 94-97

Tuesday is the Presidential Primary Election Day, with California one of 22 states across the country now joining in the early primary voting that has dominated the airwaves and Internet for many months. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Those who voted absentee already may find that their favorite candidate is no longer in the race. The rest of us will go to the polls Tuesday in what has become one of the most exciting presidential primaries in recent memory.

While we're not making candidate endorsements in the Presidential Primary, we are urging 'no' votes on propositions 91, 92 and 93, and 'yes' votes for the so-called Indian gaming compacts—propositions 94-97. These will be found below the presidential candidates in the various political party primary ballots. Actually, a 'no' vote on Prop. 91 is a no-brainer. Even its backers have dropped their support since an identical measure became law in 2006. Prop. 92, which would single out community colleges for special state funding treatment, is a bad measure at the worst time. The state is facing a \$14.5-billion deficit and this bill would lock in state funds for community colleges at the expense of the rest of the California public school system, which is facing severe funding cuts by Gov. Schwarzenegger. Vote 'no' on Prop. 92.

We also urge a 'no' vote on Prop. 93. While it sounds good because the new bill would eventually shorten the total time legislators can stay in office from 14 to 12 years, it would also allow current officeholders, who wrote the bill, to stay even longer. Our biggest beef with Prop. 93 is that it was supposed to include legislative redistricting, long overdue in California where districts have been carved out to suit political party favorites. A redistricting initiative is currently being circulated that would establish a citizens redistricting commission to work on an initiative that could be ready in time for the 2010 Census. Once that's in place, let's look again at term limits. Vote 'no' on Prop. 93.

Measure A is more troubling. It seeks to impose a parcel tax throughout Alameda County to provide half of the \$700 million needed to rebuild and expand Children's Hospital in Oakland. The tax would cost homeowners \$24 a year, \$100 a year on small non-residential properties and \$250 on larger ones. The money would go to "The Children's Hospital Construction Fund," which would be maintained by the county, and, over time, provide \$300 million toward the project. Homeowners 65 years of age or older could request each year to be exempted from the tax. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has endorsed the measure. The hospital needs the money to meet earthquake retrofitting requirements for its existing building or, in this case, build a 12-story tower addition instead next door to the hospital to accommodate more patients.

We like Children's Hospital and we know many in Pleasanton who have used its services. But we don't like parcel taxes, especially in this time of uncertainty in the housing market where prospective buyers might look to other counties that don't have one. We also question the use of public funds to finance a project by a private, albeit nonprofit hospital. Sure, Children's is unique in that it is Alameda County's only hospital and research center dedicated exclusively to children. It's one of only eight in California and there are only 50 in the country. Still, other hospitals, such as ValleyCare in Pleasanton, are also nonprofits that are desperately short of needed revenue. Instead of a public tax, we'd like to see Children's and the county board develop a different funding plan with incentives to encourage Alameda County residents and businesses to contribute to a larger and better Children's Hospital. Vote 'no' on Measure A.

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



Celebrity news is its own scandal

It was somewhat disappointing, but not surprising, that the death of actor Heath Ledger was covered on the front page of The New York Times last week.

Celebrity news, which at one time only had a place on the cover of checkout stand tabloids, is now making the cover of the "Gray Lady," as the New York Times is nicknamed because of its staid, sober, somewhat stuffy style.

Unfortunately, there has been no shortage of celebrity scandals. Hilton in the hoosegow to Anna's untimely expiration, Britney's breakdowns and legal battles and Lindsay's legal troubles have filled newspaper pages and airtime.

I am troubled by what is not being reported to accommodate for this can't-help-but-look train-wreck celebrity news—namely investigative, watchdog, going-to-affect-your-life-and-society news and analysis. Real news. Like the fact that the state of California has a \$14.5-billion budget deficit, the Federal Reserve is working on an economic stimulus program to combat the recent downturn in the economy, caucuses, campaigns, conventions and remember that conflict overseas?

In August, the Pew Research Center for People and the Press conducted a survey in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index. Eighty-seven percent of respondents said they believe celebrity scandals get "way too much" ink and airtime. And 54 percent of those folks said the media itself is to blame for covering celebrities. Roughly one-third, 32 percent, said the public is at fault for paying so much attention to them, and another 12 percent said the media and the public are equally to blame.

This being the season of polls, I did an unscientific poll of my own

on the causes of celebrity scandal-saturated media. Here's what I heard from non-journalists:

"The people want it and (the mainstream media) has to give it to them or they'll go somewhere else."

"People don't want to read about gloom and doom. (Celebrity news) distracts everyone from reality."

"Everyone wants to be a celebrity. They want the name recognition and the money. They want to relate to them. And the media takes the opportunity to feed it to the people."

As a former features editor at a chain of daily newspapers, I am of the opinion the proliferation of celebrity news has to do with dwindling newsroom resources and the ease of obtaining celebrity news to fill the pages.

It is a destructive cycle: Americans blame the media for the proliferation of celebrity coverage and the media blames Americans for demanding the coverage. News gatherers find it easy to pick up this information off wire services to fill pages, so wire services employ more people to cover celebrity news. The more celebrity news offered, the more people want. And heaven forbid that one news outlet be "scooped" by not offering the same mind-numbing fodder as another outlet.

This is obviously one of my many pet peeves. I encourage you to send your thoughts and welcome your opinions.

I will say that at least the old Gray Lady had the story about last week's Fed rate cut above the fold. Perhaps all is not lost.

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

Letters

Ending hunger should factor into voting

Dear Editor,

Our nation's economy and the war against terrorism are both crucial issues that the American public is focusing on as the battle for the presidential nomination wages on.

On Feb. 5, I encourage voters to include their concerns for ending global hunger when they choose the candidate who best represents and mirrors those same concerns. Please go to www.onevote08.org/ontherecord/ for the candidates' positions and plans. Let's begin with a small but significant step towards eradicating hunger on the global front. Every three seconds, a child dies from extreme poverty.

End the vicious cycle by doing your part and speaking out on Super Tuesday. Be that voice, that gentle reminder, that global hunger and poverty issues are also important.

Margie McLaughlin Pleasanton

Global poverty a key election issue

Dear Editor,

As a voter and a member of a local chapter of the poverty-fighting group ONE, I have been working with the more than 2.4 million ONE members nationally to make the fight against extreme poverty and global disease an issue in the 2008 presidential election.

I know global poverty is usually not part of the conversation when it comes to presidential politics. But through ONE Vote

'08, ONE's non-partisan effort made up of ordinary voters and some of the most experienced political and policy experts in America, that's all changing. ONE members are engaging the candidates at campaign stops across America and asking them about their plans to fight poverty and save lives. Candidates are responding, some with policy speeches, others by incorporating global poverty into their national security platforms.

As "Super Tuesday" approaches, ONE Vote '08 only plans to turn the pressure up. For instance, ONE members have gotten all of the major candidates to go on the record and lay out their concrete plans to fight global poverty and disease if elected, for all voters to see. I encourage voters to view those plans and compare the candidates at www.onevote08.org/ontherecord/.

For the sake of the lives being lost and the security of Americans here at home, preventing global poverty and disease must be part of this year's campaign. Want to hear something a little different out of the candidates this year? Visit ONE.org and get involved.

Steven Sobzak Pleasanton

Hospital using children for votes

Dear Editor,

Children's Hospital Oakland and I share several things in common. We are both child advocates. We both have jobs that care for children. And I always say with pride when asked where

(continued on page 18)

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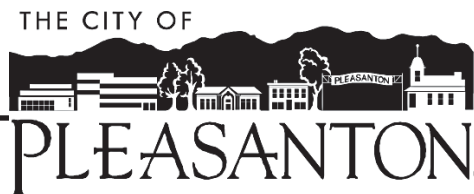
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A NEW PARK IN PLEASANTON!

Pleasanton Residents Invited To Participate In Master Plan Workshops For Proposed Staples Ranch Community Park

All Pleasanton residents are encouraged to participate in two upcoming community workshops to determine amenities and features for a proposed 17-acre community park on the Staples Ranch property located on the northeast corner of Pleasanton at the junction of I-580 and El Charro Road near Stoneridge Drive.

The community workshops are scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 9, at 9:30 a.m. Both meetings will be held in the multi-purpose room of Mohr Elementary School, located at 3300 Dennis Drive.

For more information regarding the workshops or the planning process, or to comment on this matter, please contact Jim Wolfe, Director of Parks and Community Services, at jwolfe@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or (925) 931-5340.

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Letters

(continued from page 17)

I live: I live next to Children's Hospital. But I cannot stand by to condone Children Hospital's campaign tactics for Alameda County's Measure A.

Imagine my surprise, quickly turning to disgust, when I opened a pink enveloped card from Children's Hospital questioning the sincerity of my goodwill toward sick children, with the signatures of six of those children, along with campaign slogans. Another mailer, this one printed to appear as yellow-lined school paper, in the handwriting of a child, lists the campaign slogans and is signed by the child with her age and illness. Shame on you Children's Hospital for using a vulnerable population to push your thinly veiled private business plan.

Jane Perry
Oakland

However, all newspapers are not equal. I subscribe to and read three large Bay Area daily papers, 365 days a year. One paper in one week publishes 80 political articles by 20 political writers, 40 political letters, all reviewed by several editors. That range of information provides a more balanced "credible" base, and the editor's endorsement is just one part of a larger ongoing picture.

I recall a combination nasty hit-piece and endorsement, poorly written, and unworthy of the Weekly. It was done the week before elections, not allowing time for responses.

Since a weekly cannot afford several qualified political writers, I don't think it appropriate to offer partisan recommendations out-of-the-blue, singularly, and at the last minute. It's pretty common with most people but, perhaps self-evaluation of your political opinions is somewhat overvalued.

Pleasanton doesn't need the Weekly overstepping its local boundaries.

Judy Symcox
Pleasanton

Crowded schools make it hard to concentrate

Dear Editor,

I am Michael Alt; I live in Pleasanton. I am in seventh grade at Harvest Park and I plan on going to Amador Valley High School. I am worried about the population in the Pleasanton high schools because it would be too crowded to get into some of the classes I want to go into. It would also be hard to get into extracurricular activities and clubs.

With lots of people there it would be loud and hard to concentrate. For a large amount of people there would be a large school so it would take a while to get across the school. A lot of people are complaining about traffic jams and since it is a high school a lot of the students drive a car to school which therefore creates traffic jams.

Michael Alt
Pleasanton

Don't cut Prop. 98 funding

Dear Editor,

Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed drastic budget cuts will hurt our children. Our children need your help now. Urge legislators not to cut the funding of Proposition 98, the minimum public education funding guarantee for our students. The impact of the unprecedented cuts proposed in the governor's budget would severely harm each and every school.

Voters passed Prop. 98 almost 20 years ago to ensure our students and schools receive minimum funding. They strongly reaffirmed their support for the minimum funding law in 2005. The proposal to suspend Prop. 98 conflicts with the will of the voters and jeopardizes the minimum education funding levels Prop. 98 provides for students and schools.

It is imperative that everyone in our community contact their assemblymember (Torrico, Hayashi or Houston) and Senator Corbett's offices by email, fax or phone. Our elected officials must hear the message clearly—protect Prop. 98. Go to: www.asm.ca.gov to find your legislator.

The California State PTA has come out strongly in support of protecting Prop. 98 funding. To read the press release of the California State PTA, go to: www.pleasantonpta.org.

For the past 110 years the California State PTA has been at the forefront of advocating for children. The organization is the largest and highest profile volunteer child advocacy group in the state with a million members statewide.

Jamie Yee Hintzke
President
Pleasanton PTA Council

Small papers shouldn't give partisan opinions

Dear Editor,

I could agree with "Endorsements a service to readers, civic responsibility," (Talking Points, Jan. 25, page 13) only if limited to nonpartisan city council, school board, county supervisor races, local measures and certain statewide measures, depending on scope. I strongly oppose a paper as small as the Weekly offering partisan opinion or endorsements. Reader write-in surveys might, over time, provide more information.

The Weekly's input on downtown, senior, and school activities, council issues, traffic and local initiatives offers a service to readers. It's neighborly, and should stay that way, without partisan political opinion.

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- Museum on Main (7:00-9:30 p.m.)Easy Street Quartet
- Acc'sentials (6:00-9:00 p.m.)Suite Serenade Trio
- Studio 7 Fine Arts (6:00-9:00 p.m.).....Prime Time Trio
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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.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters At 1:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave., we welcome fiber artist Linda Schmidt, who is noted for her innovative approach to quilting. Linda, an internationally recognized artist and teacher, will conduct a workshop the following day. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

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.

Communication Arts Network

New guests out of the communication arts industry are invited to attend the Feb. 12 meeting of the East Bay's Communications Arts Network (CommArt). The group meets from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Mudd's restaurant in San Ramon. Tickets are \$20 cash, includes lunch. Call Terry, 462-8083, or visit www.commartnet.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.

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.

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.

Super Tuesday Primary Party The Tri-Valley Democratic Club invites the public to a Super Tuesday Primary Party at 6 p.m. Feb. 5 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. Join us for the super bowl of primaries. Cheer for your favorite candidate on the big screen while enjoying refreshments. Proceeds to fund a 2008 Campaign Office. Wheelchair accessible. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students. Call 487-8277 or visit www.trivalleydems.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 Court, Dublin. Dads and children are welcome. See 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.

Concerts

9th Annual Children's Benefit Concert Come to the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, at 2 p.m. Feb. 10 for an afternoon of classical and traditional Vietnamese music. The concert is to benefit homeless children from Can Tho, and provide

scholarships for college students in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. Tickets are \$14 presale or \$17 at the door and are sold at Towne Center Books, 846-8826 or at the door. Visit www.vnyouthprojects.net.

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.athegrand.org, by phone at (209) 831-6TKT (6858) or in person.

Campana Jazz Festival Enjoy an afternoon of free jazz as part of this year's Campana Jazz Festival Feb. 10 at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The Silver Moon Band will play Sinatra-style swing at 1:30 and Lee Waterman's Jazz Caliente Latin Jazz Band will rumba in at 3:30. The Pleasanton Library is collaborating with the Amador Valley High School Music Department, the City of Pleasanton Civic Arts department and the Pleasanton Downtown Association to provide a long weekend of jazz events to the community. For information about the Campana Jazz Festival see www.amadorband.org.

Livermore Valley Opera Concert The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., will be hosting a special Valentine's Day concert with Livermore Valley Opera at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 11. Singers and instrumentalists will entertain you with beautiful music from one of the world's most popular operas, Carmen, by Bizet. Includes arrangements for flute, clarinet and piano. Call 931-5365.

Pacific Chamber Symphony Concert Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for oboe, clarinet, bassoon and French horn and Bartok's Music for strings, percussion and celesta will be performed by the Pacific Chamber Symphony at 8 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Lawrence Kohl conducts. Call 373-6800 or visit livermoreperformingarts.org for details.

Pianist Robin Spielberg From 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 10 at The Grand Theater, 715 Central Ave., Tracy, Robin Spielberg will perform romantic standards and theatre songs, as well as her own melodic original works. Tickets are \$15 to \$40. Call (209) 831-6TKT or visit athegrand.org.

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 civartickets.org or at the box office.

Road to Freedom A festival musical service in celebration of Black history, faith and hope at 5:15 p.m. Feb. 10 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. Discover the powerful story of the African-American people and their journey from slavery to liberation through Gospel music and readings of both biblical and historical texts. Donations accepted.

Youth Music Festival At 8 p.m. Feb. 15 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, the Youth Music Festival presents performances from solo vocalists, instrumentalists, and vocal and instrumental ensembles, ages 18 and under. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Purchase at www.civartickets.org, by phone at 931-5353 or in person.

Events

Art Auction Fundraiser A silent art auction and jazz will be held from 6

Weekend Preview



Oh Pleasanton!

Writers, multimedia artists and musicians come together at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., to highlight Pleasanton's past, present and future. The exhibit runs from Feb. 8 to March 29. An artist reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 7, during the Pleasanton Downtown Association's Truffles, Tidbits and Wine tasting event. To learn more about the exhibit, call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com.

Thinking about a sales career? Let's talk.

The Pleasanton Weekly continues to expand with opportunities, so we're always looking to strike up conversations with talented sales professionals. If you have experience in newspaper sales, or a strong sales background in a similar field, we'd like to speak with you. Exceptional communication skills, proficient computer skills, and attention to detail are a must. We're a deadline-oriented company, so the ability to work accurately and efficiently is highly valued. If you possess these qualities, we're open to explore new possibilities with you.

For future consideration, please email your resume, with cover letter, to:

Gina Allen
President/Publisher
Pleasanton Weekly & Danville Weekly
gallen@pleasantonweekly.com

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PLEASANTON
WEEKLY

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

MAKE IT EASY TO SEE AND BUY

Great retailers know that they have the best chances of selling their products if they make those products as accessible to potential buyers as possible and make the purchase process as easy as possible. That's one of the reason very few retailers refuse to accept credit cards, even though a customer's purchase costs them a bit more money when a credit card is involved.

What does this mean to home-sellers? First, many of us feel an understandable temptation to make our homes as difficult for potential buyers to examine as possible. That probably isn't our intention, but we don't want our home life to be bothered by a constant parade of strangers nosing around our home. It's important to turn this thinking around, if possible. Consider your home an item that you are marketing, and then consider how to best market it to the most possible potential buyers.

Second, few of us want to participate in the purchase financing of our home...but it's worth looking into. For one thing, it may prove as advantageous to the seller as it does to the buyer to carry a small portion of the financing. Even more important, though, it will serve you to discuss with your real estate and mortgage professionals the various financing programs now available to the buyers of your home so that you better understand their options, the choices they make, and how their choices might affect the purchase negotiations. Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

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.

Tesla Vintners Chocolate & Wine Pairing Taste wines and sweet chocolates from noon to 5 p.m. Feb. 9 and 10 at Tesla Vintners, 5413 Tesla Road, Livermore. There is no charge for this event. A new winery, Marr Cellars, will also be joining Tesla Vintners.

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.

Fundraisers

2nd Annual Wines and Valentines Dinner A fundraiser for the Museum On Main Street will be held Feb. 11 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. It includes a four-course gourmet dinner with wines from the Steven Kent Winery and La Rochelle Winery. There will be silent and "two bit" auctions. Guest speakers will be Pleasanton Hotel Chef Neil Marquis and a winery spokesperson. Tickets are \$100 or \$750 for table of 8. Visit museumonmain.org or call 462-2766.

AlaCosta Mardi Gras AlaCosta Mardi Gras will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 9 at Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville. Event raises money for developmentally disabled school children in Alameda and Contra Costa County. KTVU Anchor Dennis Richmond to emcee. Silent auction, live auction, dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$95. Call 510-828-4772 or visit www.alacostacenter.org.

Local Business Celebrates Anniversary with Autism Fundraiser It's Only Natural, 555 Peters St., Ste. 210, a downtown Pleasanton spa and boutique, will celebrate the anniversary of its 15th year in Pleasanton with a fundraiser to support autism early detection and therapy from Feb. 7 to 14.

New Orleans Bash at the Bothwell Can't get enough Mardi Gras? Join the revelry in a "French Quarter" atmosphere at the Bothwell Arts Center's inaugural New Orleans Bash at 6 p.m. Feb. 9. Louisiana-style cooking, Mardi

Gras trinkets, fortune telling, mask making and a "Preservation Hall" jazz club experience with the Big Money in Gumbo band. Tickets are \$10-\$15. Visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

Purple and Gold Gala The annual Purple and Gold Gala, benefiting Amador Valley High School athletics, will take place at 6 p.m. March 15 at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. The night includes dinner, drinks, dancing, and live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$100 or for \$110 receive commemorative Amador Valley etched wine glass. Checks must be received by March 1. Visit www.amadorsports.com or contact Sally Parsons, e5hoov@comcast.net or 846-9531.

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.tvrar.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.

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.

Pushcart Players 'Stone Soup' Now in their 34th season, the Pushcart Players will perform a dynamic and family-friendly presentation of the classic story at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 8 at The Grand Theater, 715 Central Ave., Tracy. Tickets are \$7. Call 209-831-6858 or visit atthegrand.org.

Pushcart Players in 'Little Red Riding Hood' Now in their 34th season, the Pushcart Players will perform family-friendly presentations of Little Red Riding Hood & other children's stories at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 9 at The Grand Theater, 715 Central Ave., Tracy. Tickets are \$10-\$35. Call 209-831-6858 or visit atthegrand.org.

St. Philip Lutheran School Open House Meet our staff and visit our classrooms during our open house from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 5 at St. Philip Lutheran School, 8850 Davona Drive, Dublin. The school has served the Tri-Valley area since 1984 with academic programs and credentialed teachers for children in preschool to eighth grade. Applications for new families for Fall 2008 are accepted starting on at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 19. Call 829-3857 or visit www.stphiliplutheranschool.com.

Whale Bus Comes to the Library The Marine Mammal Center of Marin presents an interactive, hands-on environmental science program—"Marine Mammals of California"—at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Feb. 9. Only 40 spaces per session: 11 a.m. to noon (K-3rd) and 1 to 2 p.m. (4th-8th). Call 931-3400 ext. 8 to reserve spaces.

Lectures/ Workshops

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.

Medical Leave Laws in California: Questions and Answers The administration of medical leaves has become a critical issue for CA employers. NCHRA will explore employers' legal obligations and practical solutions at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Tickets are \$35 for members, \$55 for nonmembers. Visit www.nchra.org.

Organizing Your Office: More Time and Profit From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 9 at Las Positas College, 3303 Collier Canyon Road, Livermore, learn to tune up your home, small business and workplace office systems. Save time, save money and reduce stress. Office organizing techniques and tools. The fee is \$79 plus \$25 for the book. Call 510-528-4950.

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.

HAPA in Concert Na Mamo No'eau presents Hawaiian recording stars "HAPA" in concert at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Hoffman Theater, Dean Leshar Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets, ranging from \$25-35, are on sale at 943-SHOW or www.dlrca.org.

Pride of the Pacific Chorus—Come Sing! We are a new women's a cappella chorus and we would love to have you join us. We rehearse at 7:30 p.m. at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Avenue. Call 209-830-7444 or visit prideofthepacific.org.

Miscellaneous

Drop and Date Night With so many families where both parents are working, couples seldom have time to foster their relationships. Living Vine Fellowship, 4100 First St., values families and marriages, therefore, they are offering free babysitting from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 14 so couples can enjoy a relaxing and romantic evening together. Call 846-1104.

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.

On Stage

Man of La Mancha Dianna Schuster directs "Man of La Mancha," the Tony award-winning musical with a score that includes "The Impossible Dream," based on Cervantes' "Don Quixote." Shows are at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. in February and March at the Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$28-\$40. Call 943-7469 or visit www.leshercenter.org for details.

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.village-theatreshows.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.civictickets.org or go to the box office.

Seniors

Friday Night Dessert Dances The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., offers monthly Friday Night Dessert Dances. Enjoy an evening of ballroom dancing to live music performed by various local bands. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., dancing from 7 to 9 p.m. Advanced tickets are \$7 for residents or \$8 for nonresidents, or \$8 or \$9 at the door. Call 931-5372.

Lunch Downtown Join us for lunch at the Oak House restaurant at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 12. This is a great way to make new friends and enjoy lunch in downtown Pleasanton. We meet at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., and are transported via Paratransit. Space is limited. Tickets are \$15 for residents or \$18 for nonresidents.

Maximizing Your Memory How does memory work? How can we tap into the various types of memory? Learn about the differences between normal memory loss associated with aging and dementia. Discover strategies to improve your memory. Join us as the Alzheimer's Association addresses our fears and attitudes about memory loss at 10 a.m. Feb. 12 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. \$1.50 for residents, \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Movie Madness The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., offers Movie Madness Day the first and third Mondays of each month. Free movie and refreshments. Movie schedules available at the Senior Center.

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

A Weekend of Jewish Living and Learning Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, invites the Tri-Valley community to participate in a weekend of Jewish living and learning under the leadership of Dr. Ron Wolfson, educator, best-selling author, and Beth Emek's scholar-in-residence from Feb. 8 through Feb. 10. Registration is required. Call 931-1055, ext. 11 or visit www.bethemek.org/scholar.

An Anglican Way of Being Christian At 6 p.m. Feb. 11 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, explore Anglican Christianity and the American Episcopal Church in a contemporary context. A simple meal at 6 p.m., fol-

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lowed by video and discussion from 6:45 to 8:30. Free and open to all. Call 462-4802.

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.

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.

Sports

Callippe Niners Callippe Niners is a fun group of nine-hole women golfers. We are currently welcoming new members into our group. Our play days are Tuesday mornings. Call Joan, 462-1054.

Give Ice Hockey A Try Day Women ages 18 and older can learn to play ice hockey in a fun, safe and encouraging environment from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 16 at Belmont Iceland, 815 Old County Road, Belmont. We provide gear, give on-ice instruction and finish with a scrimmage. Cost is \$20. Register by email: ncwhl.ghatd@gmail.com. Visit www.ncwhl.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 if you plan to attend. free

Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp Applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp, open by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10 to 19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter and more. College scholarships are possible. Call 704-373-0873 or visit www.tenstarcamp.com.

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.

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 or email clutterlesspleasanton@hotmail.com. The group is free, however \$2 to \$5 donation appreciated.

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.

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 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,

Pet Of The Week



Catherine Hansen Rush

Gimme some paw!

Hello Hank! This young adult, male, black and tan German Shepherd named Hank shakes the hand of a TVAR volunteer who has taken him outside for his favorite activity. Hank loves to chase tennis balls. He'll even carry two tennis balls at a time in his mouth for a great game of fetch. Hank has had some obedience training because he sits on command and downs as well. Hank is very friendly and he promises to make you an awesome companion. He'll even shake on it! For more information about Hank (pet #75179), 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.

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

Einstein as the Cosmic Comedian

February 10 • 2pm • \$21, \$26, \$31, \$11 Students

Ed Metzger's tour-de-force portrayal shows the human side of this man who perceived everything differently than anyone before him.



MOBY DICK REHEARSED

Theater becomes a house of magic

February 16 • 8pm • \$28, \$31, \$36, \$11 Students

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ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET

Compelling contemporary ballet

March 2 • 2pm • \$28, \$31, \$36, \$11 Students

One of America's leading contemporary dance companies, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet is renowned for its daring, eclectic repertoire, from 20th-century classics to new works by today's foremost choreographers. This sophisticated company of energetic dancers has charmed audiences with its fresh and innovative style of classical and contemporary ballet.



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Photo by Lani Allen

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.

Prostate Cancer Support Group
The Man to Man American Cancer Society program is designed to help men cope with prostate cancer by providing community based education and support to patients and their family members. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at San Ramon Regional Medical Center's south conference room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Men at any stage of prostate cancer and their family members are welcome. Michael Stephens, MST, facilitates. Call 933-0107.

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

Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Facilitated by Betty Runnels, M.A., Counseling Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy. Call 734-3315 or email betty-runnels@earthlink.net.

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

Vision Support Group Individuals with low vision, and their loved ones, are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for low vision information, speakers, resources, discussions, and day trips. No reservations are required. Nominal fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

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.

Hats Off America Volunteers are wanted for the Hats Off America Casino Night April 19; Muscle Car, Hot Rod, and Art Fair May 16 to 18; Red T-Shirt 10K runs/5K walks June 7, Sept. 13 and Nov. 8. HOA is a nonprofit organization benefiting families of fallen soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Email Sparky George, thebearflagrunner@yahoo.com.

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 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.

TV30

Ask the Doctor Heart Health is the topic for "Ask the Doctor" TV30's live call-in show on Wed., Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. on Channel 30. Guests are John Vu, M.D., cardiologist, and Calvin Lemon, M.D., internal medicine specialist, with host Robert Litman, M.D. Show will be rebroadcast at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13, 20, and 27.

Pitbull unleashed

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Expiration Date 03/31/08

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*Most cars can be done for these prices some Trucks, Vans, SUV's, Motor homes, Transverse mounted engines and (some vehicles with limited access may require an extra charge) Any changes other than as advertised would of course, require customer approval in advance. Not valid with any other offer.



Quality • EveryTime

www.qualitytuneup.com

Dining Out

American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

Bridges

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

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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, spinach for Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood...just to name a few. We are upscale, but California casual with friendly prices.

Pastas Trattoria

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

Japanese

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.

Pizza

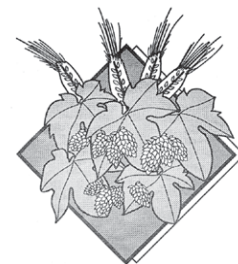
Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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.



THE HOPYARD
AMERICAN ALEHOUSE & GRILL

Neighborhood
Brewpub

30 BEERS ON TAP
Try our Winter Beers!

Pleasanton Weekly's
**BEST OF
PLEASANTON**
2007

"Best American Food
Restaurant"
"Best Place for After
Work Drink"
"Best French Fries"

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3015-H Hopyard Road
www.hopyard.com

Lunch • Dinner • Catering
Open Tuesday-Sunday
Closed Monday

JAPANESE
CUISINE

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Sushi Bar
Tempura
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In Hopyard Village Shopping Center
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• **BREAKFAST SPECIAL \$4.99**
*Includes: 2 pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 Bacon or Sausage

Monday - Thursday
6:30 - 11AM

• **FREE COFFEE \$2.50**
with any pastry or muffin
*expires 2-29-08

"Serving Breakfast All Day"

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In the Hopyard Village Shopping Center • 462-0994

Lunch Special
11:00AM-3:00PM
Buy one entree, get 2nd
of lesser value 50% off.

Open 7 Days
6:30 AM - 3 PM
Breakfast & Lunch
Catering available

Savory Delights of Northern China

LUNCH SPECIALS: Monday-Friday 11:30-2:00
DINNER: Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30
Friday & Saturday 5:00-10:00 Closed Sunday

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Chinese Szechuan

Szechuan Mandarin
—No MSG—

LUNCH SPECIALS
DINE IN
FOOD TO GO

Banquet Room
Available

Closed Mondays

We also serve Brown Rice

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Hopyard Village @ Valley
Pleasanton
(925)846-5251
"Open Since 1987"

MARDI GRAS PARTY!
Fat Tuesday Feb. 5th

PLEASANTON
MAIN ST. BREWERY
PLEASANTON'S ONLY BREW-PUB

• Live Cajun Music 7-10pm
• "Beads For Beers"
• Mardi Gras Food Specials

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SUNDAY, FEB 3RD
TAILGATE BBQ

LIVE MUSIC...Every Friday & Saturday
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463-8801
4220-C Rosewood Dr., Pleasanton
(in Rose Pavilion Shopping Center)
www.simply-greek.com

RED SMOKE GRILL

Pleasanton Weekly's
BEST OF PLEASANTON 2007

Pleasanton Weekly's
BEST OF PLEASANTON 2006

Family Meals To Go
Meals include four corn muffins and two large sides.

Rotisserie Chicken \$16.99
Tri-Tip
1 1/2 pound \$25.99
2 pound \$29.99
Slab-and-a-Half of Ribs \$26.99
One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Chicken \$32.99
Full Slab of Ribs & Whole Chicken \$32.99
One Pound Tri-Tip and Whole Slab \$36.99

Sides
Small Side Salad, French Fries, Roasted Corn Salad, Potato Salad, Creamy Cole Slaw, Santa Maria Style Beans, Chicken Tortilla Soup, Mashed Potatoes

4501 Hopyard Rd, Pleasanton
734-0307
Open daily from 11am
www.redsmokegrill.com

Making it a special Valentine's DAY

2008 Valentine
MAGICK
Limited Edition Heart

JEWELERS gallery
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Detox Weight Loss Center

Hear what others are saying:
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"The best thing I have ever done... Sleeps like a rock without any pills"
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Come Taste Wine with your Canine Valentine!

Friday, February 15th | 6pm to 8pm

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EST. 2007

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Pleasanton Weekly
BEST OF PLEASANTON 2007

Stacey's cafe
"A Fun Place To Eat"

Valentine's Day Special Menu Items! Make Your Reservations Early!

Entrees

- Crab Crusted Halibut
- Guinness Rib Eye
- Grilled Sea Scallops
- Boneless Beef Ribs
- Pancetta Wrapped Free Range Chicken

VOTED BEST COSMO by Diablo Magazine

310 Main Street, Ste. A, Downtown Pleasanton
925-461-3113 Reservations
www.eatatstaceys.com

Valentine's Day Specials

Girasole GRILL "Fresh Italian with a California Attitude"

- Australian Rack of Lamb
Orange Currant Sauce
- One By Land - Two By Sea
Atlantic Lobster Tails and Beef Tenderloin Medallions for Two
- Pancetta Wrapped Prawns
Creamy Chipotle Sauce & Asparagus Risotto
- Caribbean Seared Ahi Tuna
Soba Noodles, Pineapple Chutney, Drizzled with Creamy Wasabi
- Slow Roasted Choice Prime Rib
Au Jus & Creamy Horseradish

Voted best Italian Restaurant by the readers of the Pleasanton Weekly
Serving Pleasanton for 14 years

BEST OF PLEASANTON 2007

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(925) 484-1001 • www.girasolegrill.com

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Give a sweet treat to your Furry Friend this Valentine's Day from Three Dog Bakery®

All-Natural, Fresh Baked Dog Treats & Boutique

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Treat Your Valentine to the Finest in Intimate Apparel from Europe & Afar

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Lingerie • Gifts • Accessories

Bras • Panties
Garter Belts • Nighties • Baby Dolls • Silk Pajamas
Robes • Candles • Kama Sutra Products
Massage Oils • Men's Silk Lounge Wear

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Special Valentine's Package includes:

- ♥ Dozen Roses with upgraded Vase
- ♥ Box of 6 Delicious Chocolate Covered Strawberries by Cassandra's Bakery
- ♥ 1 Happy Valentine's Day Mylar Balloon

\$120⁰⁰ + delivery (delivery on Feb 13th & 14th)

ALSO:

- ♥ Roses ♥ Red Tulips
- ♥ Orchid Plants ♥ Balloons
- ♥ Mixed Spring Bouquets

3037 Hopyard Road, Suite F, Hopyard Village Shopping Ctr.