

Preserving downtown

Group forms to protect downtown's heritage > **page 5**

Indefinitely canceled

Officials say joint high school dance won't happen

> **page 5**

Vol. IX, Number 2 • February 8, 2008

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Sayonara suckas

Local advice writer shares dating tips from her book

> **section 2**



The next largest P-Town is known as the 'Birthplace of the Cowboy'

page 14



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Business is booming in city's downtown

Talking about the vibrancy of Pleasanton's downtown often depends on the source. For the very best news, stop by the Pleasanton Downtown Association office near the north end of Main Street where executive director Christine Saldivar keeps tabs on new businesses, retailers who've left, vacancies and a never-ending list of restaurants, shops and others who want to open on Main Street. She even has a caller who wants to buy a building on Main Street, which is rare and probably hopeless since building owners tell the PDA they're pleased with the rents they are getting and have no plans to sell.

Saldivar has kept her list of activities and actions for the four years she's been at the helm of the PDA. Right now, she has several restaurants looking for space downtown, retailers who want to move here to sell clothes, jewelry and ceramics. The Bay Area's popular Pawells Sweet Shoppe has asked the PDA for help in finding downtown space to market its old-fashion candies. There's even a veterinarian who is looking for a ground floor spot, no doubt attracted by pet stores like Murphy's Paw that waited over a year for the right-size Main Street space and is doing a booming business. Even banks, which some critics say hurt downtown business because they're not open Sundays and holidays to draw pedestrians to Main Street, apparently find downtown a good place to do business. Comerica Bank has signed a letter of intent to occupy the first floor of the newly restored Kolln Hardware building, which will open later this year and Guaranty Bank is planning to renovate the two-story building at 234 Main and take part of the space, leasing out what it doesn't need to more retailers.

Saldivar says downtown Pleasanton now has 400 active separate businesses and that there are actually 600 active business licenses this year for the downtown, although some of these are hair stylists and barbers who rent their own space in hair salons and barber shops. You can find office space at a few second floor locations, but nothing on the first floor. Empty store fronts may look vacant, but that's only briefly while new tenants negotiate their leases and prepare to move in. Pure Girls, which had been busy and popular, found that its customers came only certain times during the day and not everyday, not often enough to generate the profits needed to pay the higher rents downtown store owners charge. That store space is unusual, too, measuring out to 3,672-square-feet with a sizeable back room that most retailers don't need.

Saldivar agrees with some property owners that the historic buildings we have downtown are a good sell, but it's the type of business that goes in these buildings that determines if it can be successful. She'd like to see a florist come back downtown and more retailers that focus on merchandise for the 20- and 30-somethings, even kids. The PDA is making an effort to attract more businesses and customers to the side streets, and a walk down Angela and Neal streets shows the success it's having. There's also demand by shoppers for a bigger variety of restaurants downtown, with Redcoats and Amelia's already down side street destinations and a popular Walnut Creek Cuban restaurant waiting in the wings. Although vacant space is scarce, openings do surface, sometimes suddenly, so anyone who wants to try opening a business downtown should get on Saldivar's list soon. ■

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by
Gerarda
Stocking

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About the Cover

When residents think Pleasanton, they think of this Bay Area suburb with tree-lined streets, high home prices, and a slice of American pie flavor. They might be surprised to find that five other cities across the U.S. share the same name, and while some have similarities, others couldn't be more different. Cover illustration by Shannon Corey.

Vol. IX, Number 2

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Streetwise

Q: Do a few teary responses on the campaign trail affect how you look at a candidate?

Asked Around Town



Danie Brown
Semi-Retired

Doesn't change my mind at all. I'm a grown man and at times, I shed tears or have a quivering voice. I don't see myself as a weak person. We are all human and humans have emotions.

Scott Dunlap
Realtor

I want to know how they feel about issues. I want a president to be strong; teary eyed responses seem weak to me. I think overt emotions are more show than substance. The emotional responses are all part of the political act.



Linda Scanlin
Homemaker/student

I care more about how they vote on issues and what they stand for. Emotion can give a human touch to a candidate. There are times when people are touched emotionally. It's a human response.

Judy Fenton

Shakespeare Associates Volunteer Coordinator

No it does not. I base my decisions on substance and what is most important to me is a candidate who did not vote for the war. I like independent thinking people; emotions are fine.



Martina Harrison
Designer/Artist

Yes, actually beside any other reason I might have to vote for a particular candidate I would prefer to vote for someone who is able to show emotion. There are many, many reasons why you can cry about certain situations. A lot of world leaders should burst out in tears over what they have done.

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Have a Streetwise question? E-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Temperatures are down, needs go up

Bob and Deborah Cilk are collecting items for the eighth annual Warm Coat and Blanket Drive. They will also need hats, gloves, scarves and mittens in new or gently used condition to give to the homeless in Alameda County.

Drop donations off at their office at United California Brokers, 351 St. Mary St. during business hours through mid March. For details, call 487-8735.

Free opera show held at Senior Center

Music from the world's most famous operas will be performed in a free concert from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The Livermore Valley Opera will perform arias from "Carmen" by Bizet, with selected arrangements for flute, clarinet and piano. To learn more, call 931-5365.

Eat, drink and be merry for history

The Museum On Main Street hosts a fundraiser at 6 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Pleasanton Hotel. The night includes a four-course wine-maker's dinner with wine from Steven Kent La Rochelle Winery, as well as a live and silent auction and a lively two-bit auction. Of the many items to win, prizes include a dinner a Blue Agave followed by a Ghost Tracker-guided tour of the building. Tickets are \$100 or \$750 for a table of eight. Call the museum at 462-2766 for reservations.

Science bowl heat is on at LPC

Twenty-five Bay Area high school teams comes to the Las Positas College campus, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore, Saturday to participate in the regional Science Bowl competition.

One of 64 regional events, the teams will vie to advance to the national competition hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. later this spring. Foothill High School as well as Granada and Livermore high schools are expected to compete. For more information, call Dr. Neal Ely at 424-1182.

Corrections

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

Group seeks to preserve downtown character

Pleasanton Heritage Association aims to also be a resource to those interested in remodels, additions and new construction

by Janet Pelletier

There are a number of architectural hints to the history of downtown Pleasanton. The Pleasanton sign on Main Street, the 19th century buildings that dot the downtown and the victorian, craftsman, colonial and cottage-style homes that surround it are among them.

A new group called the Pleasanton Heritage Association has set out to advocate for the preservation of that historic character and is working with the city with

the goal of creating a future preservation ordinance and providing input on development proposals in the downtown area.

"The organization was formed as a result of extreme frustration by many of us who have been long-time residents of Pleasanton, living in basically vintage and heritage neighborhoods and homes," said Linda Garbarino, a 30-year resident who has owned two historic homes.

A point of contention, Garbarino said, has been downtown development projects that aren't keeping

with the historic architecture in the city center and the city's willingness to approve them.

"We've seen things in the General Plan, commitments to maintain that look, the Downtown Specific Plan notably, and the current downtown guidelines, which were just updated in May of 2006," she said. "Every time those are cited by us individuals, we're told those are not laws, they're just suggestions and guidelines, so it seems to have become a really hot point for us."

The group formed last spring.

They approached the city in late December to air their concerns and express an interest in giving input on development projects going before the city, according to city Planning Director Jerry Iserson.

The type of input the group would like to have, Garbarino said, is addressing architectural elements of projects, as well as offering specific design guidelines for preserving character to remodels, additions and renovations.

High density housing is something

(continued on page 8)



Democrats, including Angela Ramirez Holmes of Pleasanton, confer at an election night celebration held by the Tri-Valley Democrats at the IBEW Hall in Dublin.

Clinton, McCain top primary ballots in California, Alameda County

Hundreds cheer their candidates at parties here, throughout state

by Jeb Bing

Sen. John McCain supporters celebrated their favorite candidate's victory in the California presidential primary Tuesday night, vowing to continue their campaign momentum right up to Election Day on Nov. 4.

At the same time Republicans were toasting the McCain victory at the Hopyard Ale House in Pleasanton, Democrats were rallying at the I.B.E.W. union

hall in Dublin, with many wearing badges supporting Sen. Hillary Clinton while others showed their support for Sen. Barack Obama.

By the time both victory parties got under way, Clinton and McCain were ahead in many of the 22 states that held early primaries on what was called Super Tuesday. In California, both candidates took early leads shortly after the polls closed and vote counting started, and they held and increased those

leads through the night.

On the Republican ticket, Sen. John McCain was an early winner, ending with a total of 975,363 votes statewide, or 42 percent of the total votes, with 98.5 percent of California precincts reported. In that count, Gov. Mitt Romney had 790,515 votes, or 34.1 percent; Gov. Mike Huckabee had 268,622, or 11.6 percent, and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who earlier dropped

(continued on page 9)

Student arrested for threats to joint school dance

Event will not be rescheduled, reimbursements will be given

by Emily Atwood

A Pleasanton student was arrested Saturday for alleged threats that led to the cancellation of a first-time joint high school dance.

According to police, the threat involved more than one person and was not specifically related to the long-planned, non-formal dance for juniors and seniors of both Pleasanton high schools scheduled Friday night at Foothill High.

The leadership classes that organized the event decided not to reschedule the dance and are offering reimbursements for the tickets.

Police said they would withhold identifying information for the juvenile arrested and specifics regarding the threats and other charges that led to the arrest.

Several parents are reportedly upset about the cancellation, although public information officer Myla Grasso said she had not received any calls.

"An auto-dialer message was sent out, and staff was present at the school to inform any students who arrived of the cancellation," she said.

"We always put student safety first," she added. "Just because of the point of where we were at in the investigation, we made the decision to cancel the event."

Lt. Mark Senkle said that the event wasn't specifically targeted in the threats, rather at several students who planned to attend the dance.

"In today's environment, with any inkling of a threat, you have to take it seriously," he said. "It's our responsibility to protect."

Senkle added that student resource officers typically attend school dances. When asked if metal detectors could have been used to prevent the cancellation, he said that he couldn't confirm whether it would relate to this incident and didn't think it would be a good solution for student safety.

"It's fairly naive to think [it would be a solution]," he said. "It's not a shield; it doesn't stop bullets."

Pleasanton Weekly • February 8, 2008 • Page 5

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Allen Roberts took the Weekly to new heights as he stands at the summit of Uhuru Peak in Tanzania, Africa's highest peak.

Of Note



Pleasanton 6th-grader in music competition finals

Annie Wu, a sixth-grader at Pleasanton Middle School will travel to Denver, Colo. in March to perform in the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Junior Woodwind Competition.

The 12-year-old has been studying flute for nearly four years and is a student of Esther Landau. She is currently studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, in the prep division.

The competition will be held March 28-30. The national winner receives a cash prize and will perform in a winners concert during the MTNA National Conference, held in the same timeframe.

Wu won at the state level, advancing her to Colorado, in San Francisco on Nov. 11. She went on to win the southwest division, which includes the states of Hawaii, Utah, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona on Jan. 20 in Las Cruces, N.M.

MTNA is a nonprofit organization comprised of 24,000 independent and collegiate music teachers.

Paxson named president of Axis Health board

James Paxson, general manager of the Hacienda Park Owners Association, has been named president of the Axis Community Health board of directors for 2008.

Other members named to the board include Donald Odell, Esq., attorney-at-law and former president of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, vice chair; Aida White, disability specialist for CAPE (Community Association of Community Education)/Head Start, secretary; retired private industry president and CFO Bert Brook, treasurer; and members Mark Eaton, Thelma Fones, Michael Fraser, L. James Ghilardi, Ted Kaye, Farzi Najeeb, Rebecca Silva, Jeri Steiger, Jorge A. Suarez and Laura Torres.

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Pleasanton father and son team to be in new reality TV show

'My Dad is Better Than Your Dad' to debut Feb. 18 on NBC

by Janet Pelletier

Set your TiVo or prepare to plop in front of the television at 9 p.m. Feb. 18 because that's when you'll see a Pleasanton father and son compete in a new NBC reality show.

Called "My Dad is Better Than Your Dad," the game show pits dads against each other in a battle of intelligence, speed and strength.

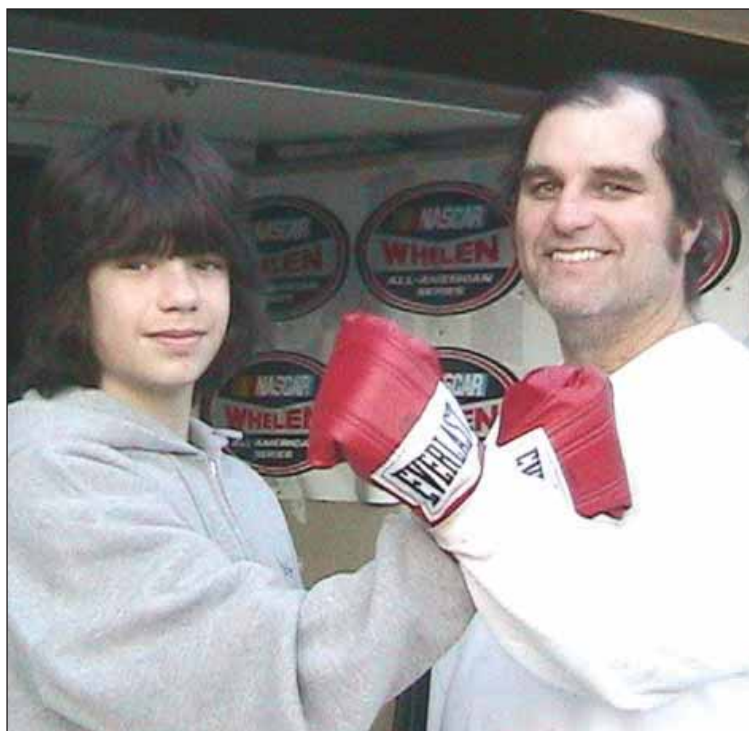
Dustin Avila, 13, and his dad Rick will be featured on the premiere episode of the new series. The opportunity came after Dustin's casting agent told him that NBC would be holding an open casting call in San Francisco.

The pair joined a thousand other hopefuls and were called back for a second interview. Then, NBC flew father and son to Los Angeles to meet with head executives, where they were chosen to be on the show. The game show was developed by Mark Burnett, of "Survivor" and "The Apprentice" fame.

"This is going to be big; the kids are going to love it when they see the show," said mother and wife, Sandra Avila. "I think adults are going to love it, too, because it's about the dads doing most of the stunts and the kids assisting."

The show was an easy choice for Dustin, who said there's nothing he'd rather do than spend time with his dad.

"I think he's better than all the dads," the Harvest Park Middle School seventh-grader said. "He's funny, easygoing and there's not really a boring time with him. We do all sorts of stuff together—build stuff, work out—you name it, we'll do it. We both are math geeks and



Sandra Avila

Dustin, 13, and Rick Avila of Pleasanton pal around at home. The father and son will appear on new reality game show "My Dad is Better Than Your Dad" Feb. 18 on NBC.

we both like to fly our little airplanes and ride our bikes."

And Dustin, an only child, didn't exactly have to twist his dad's arm to participate either.

"My dad wanted to try it out because he's always thought he was the best dad, so he has a chance to prove it," Dustin said.

While the details of what the Avilas do on the show and how well they do it have to be kept under wraps under strict orders by NBC, Dustin said there will be mental and physical challenges—a sort of

battle of the brains and brawn—and there's money involved.

The Avilas plan to throw a big viewing party at their house and Dustin hopes this will be the first of many future entertainment opportunities.

"I'd like to get into a movie and a comedy movie, so I guess that would be pretty cool if I got to do that," he said.

"My Dad is Better Than Your Dad" airs at 9 p.m. Feb. 18 on NBC, following hit game show "Deal or No Deal." ■

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Heritage

(continued from page 5)

she said the group is against, but added they are open to compromise. "I would say probably 90 percent of the people moving to or living in Pleasanton came here because of that charm, the nature of that heritage look that drew them here," she said. "It's a small town, it has a small town look and it has that character that appeals to people."

Garbarino said she appreciates that the city has taken up their request to be involved in new project proposals and the goal would be to create a downtown preservation ordinance. That's something Iserson said the city has already cited as one of its priorities.

"We are very much concerned with all of those issues," Iserson said. "It is something that the City Council has said that they want us to work on and as soon as we get done with some other priority projects, we would like to go ahead and do that."

"I've had a couple meetings with them so they could share with me what their goal is, they've prepared a mission statement and we've asked them to review a couple projects, so it really hasn't been defined as to how they're going to interact, but we see them as a citizen's group, kind of like a homeowners' association that's involved in the city," he added. "We would be open to hearing their comments and consider them along with other comments or

other perspectives as we go through the approval process (of downtown projects)."

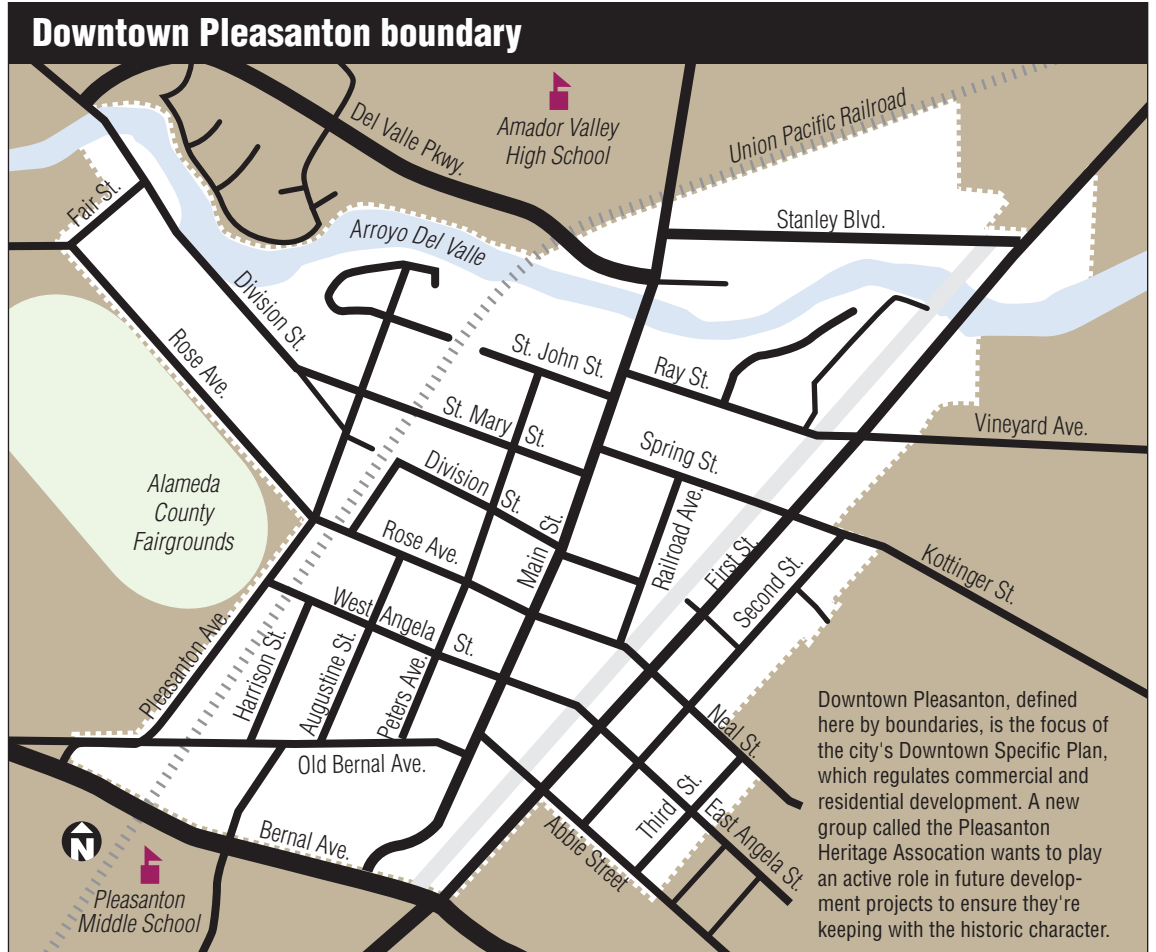
The city follows the Downtown Specific Plan, which was developed in 1989 and updated in 2002, which identifies the types of architecture found downtown and its characteristics. Among the guidelines in the plan, it says "if done properly, additions and remodels will look comfortable with the original buildings," and "new construction needs to be especially sensitive to surrounding structures."

Iserson said the city also works with the Pleasanton Downtown Association, which has a design committee, closely on commercial projects.

Garbarino said the Pleasanton Heritage Association is looking to other Bay Area cities to see what they've done. Livermore has a historic preservation committee that meets monthly. Among its duties is recommending to the City Council action to preserve historic resources, coordinating activities with the Planning Commission so that historic needs are considered in the planning process and offering preservation advice to historic resource owners.

"Berkeley has a booklet of suggestions for remodeling and materials and supplies, and types of things that make something in a remodel or new construction look like it is a heritage," Garbarino added.

She said the group is looking to expand its membership and form a



board. They plan to put up a Web site shortly, but in the meantime, Garbarino can be contacted at 462-8779.

"The heritage look of the city doesn't just happen or isn't main-

tained by coincidence or happenstance; it takes a lot of hard work on the parts of people and good partnerships," she said. "I think that's what we want to do—form good partnerships."

To view the Downtown Specific Plan, visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/plan-downtown-plan.pdf and for downtown design guidelines, visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/plan-downtown-guidelines.pdf. ■



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- **Investment Advisors Services**
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- **Capital Project Delivery Management and Project Control Services**

The Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) is seeking proposals for four separate contracts to commence services on July 1, 2008.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Pre-proposal meetings at the ACTIA Office, February 14, 2008 – times vary for each proposal
- Visit ACTIA's website, www.actia2022.com for each proposal's schedules and due dates
- Interview dates vary by proposal; please refer to ACTIA website
- The ACTIA Board will approve contracts of top-ranked firms on June 26, 2008
- All approved contracts commence July 1, 2008

Proposals are subject to the ACTIA Local Business Contract Equity Program. The ACTIA goal for professional services is 70% for Local Business Enterprise and 30% for Small Local Business Enterprise. For Program's Requirements and Forms, refer to the ACTIA website. Any contract to be awarded as a result of this Notice will be awarded without discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or national origin.

All RFP documents are on ACTIA's website and may also be obtained at the ACTIA office located at 1333 Broadway, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612 or by contacting ACTIA staff at (510) 893-3347. All questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to ACTIA no later than February 13, 2008. Fact sheets for each RFP are available on the ACTIA website (www.actia2022.com) and in the ACTIA offices.

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Primary

(continued from page 5)

out of the race, nevertheless earned 115,436 votes, or 5 percent.

As of the same reporting time, and also with 98.5 percent of all state precincts now reporting, Clinton received 2,107,758 votes, or 52 percent of all votes cast in the Democratic Party primary. Sen. Barack Obama won 1,717,681 votes, or 42.4 percent, with Sen. John Edwards, who also had dropped out of the race earlier, still receiving 168,866 votes, or 4.2 percent.

Results in California came in far later than usual this year because many counties used paper ballots, which had to be fed manually into scanners. Secretary of State Debra Bowen decertified the vast majority of electronic vot-

ing machines in the state last year, arguing that they were vulnerable to tampering and had defects that could mar vote counts.

In Alameda County, with 100 percent of the county's 1,204 precincts reported, Obama topped Clinton with 115,525 votes, or 50.6 percent, to her 102,039 votes, or 44.7 percent.

In the Republican primary, McCain led the ticket in Alameda County with 24,956 votes, or 48.4 percent, followed by Romney with 14,314 votes, or 27.8 percent. Huckabee trailed with 5,094 votes, or 9.9 percent.

In Pleasanton, Jill Buck, head of McCain's California Leadership Team and its Northern California communications director, headed to San Diego Tuesday to confer with statewide McCain for President leaders about ongoing campaign plans.

Buck, best known as the author of the national "Going Green" initiative, knows a lot about politics. She ran a strong campaign herself as the Republican candidate for an open state Assembly seat in the largely Democrat-dominated 18th District, where she lives, but lost to Mary Hayashi, a Democrat from Castro Valley.

While campaigning for McCain in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley, Buck talked about the Arizona senator's qualifications.

"He shares the perspective of most Californians that states should be allowed to set their own standards for measures to 'green' our environment, and that the federal government should not be able to drill for oil off our coastline if the people of California are opposed to it," she said. "In fact, Sen. McCain is the only presidential candidate on either side of the aisle who has authored legislation to set aggressive standards for reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

Steve Savas, Alameda County chairman of the McCain campaign, agreed. Joining the crowds at the Hop Yard to celebrate McCain's California primary victory, Savas proudly showed his personal McCain badge that the senator gave him during the recent New Hampshire campaign.

"I think McCain is someone who really offers the promise of a change, not only in how campaigns are run but in how he will serve Americans as their president," Savas said. "He tells it like it is, squaring with the public over the challenges we face as a country and how he will work to fix them."

"He knows that we have to make tough decisions and take difficult



John Bing

Sen. John McCain supporters (from left) Matthew McGovern Coyne of Santa Rosa, Steve Savas, Fremont, and Brad Richards, Pleasant Hill talk about primary results at Hop Yard Alehouse.

steps to fight global terrorism, to fix Medicare and medical costs that are rising at 10 percent a year and all of the other serious problems he believes we can handle by working together," Savas added.

Also at the Hop Yard rally was Brad Richards of Pleasant Hill, who has been chosen as a McCain delegate to represent his California district at the Republican convention in Minneapolis this summer.

"We had a lot of wins in Super Tuesday and our campaign will roll out after the convention with a lot of momentum here in California," he said.

Joining the group was Matthew McGovern Coyne, who came over to Pleasanton from Santa Rosa.

"I'm supporting McCain because I feel he is the most authentic candidate in the race," Coyne said. "I want someone in the oval office I can really trust and he's the one. He will be an exceptional president from day one."

With 700,000 more Californians registered to vote than there were two years ago, including a record-high total of nearly 37,804 registered voters in Pleasanton, voters lined up early at polling places across the city Tuesday to cast ballots in one of the liveliest presidential primaries ever.

Besides handling the record turnout of voters, precinct workers also were swamped with requests for provisional ballots from voters registered as "Decline to State." By voting provisional, those voters were able to vote in either the American Independent or Democratic parties' presidential primaries upon request. Most, precinct workers said, chose the Democratic Party primary ballot. The other four political parties, including the Republican Party, had "closed" primaries that did not allow decline-to-state voters to participate.

Bowen said more than 2 million absentee ballots had been sent before Tuesday's primary. Many more voters carrying absentee ballots that they had held back from mailing were seen at local polling places submitting those, which was allowed.

According to Bowen, the two largest political parties have seen

their registration percentages fall over the last four years as more voters declined to state a political affiliation. However, both parties have picked up new members recently: There are 150,633 newly registered Democrats and 39,246 newly registered Republicans since early December.

Statewide, registration totals for the six qualified political parties and voters who have declined to state their political affiliation totaled 15,091,160 going into Tuesday's Presidential Primary.

By political party, the number of registered voters and their percentage of the total number registered for the Presidential Primary were:

- Democratic: 6,518,631 of 43.2 percent of all registered voters.
- Republican: 5,364,832, 35.55 percent.
- American Independent: 291,055, 1.93 percent.
- Green: 157,749, 1.05 percent.
- Libertarian: 86,053, 0.57 percent.
- Peace and Freedom: 70,475, 0.47 percent.
- Decline to State: 2,480,039, 16.43 percent.
- Miscellaneous: 122,326, 0.80 percent.

"The percentage of people who are eligible to vote and actually registered to vote has dipped from about 69 percent to just below 68.5 percent," Bowen said. "The drop is partly due to better tracking and removal of so-called 'deadwood' from the voter registration rolls." ■



Emily Alwood

Students advocate for Liberian welfare

Walnut Grove Elementary and Amador Valley High students teamed up with three organizations to put on a night of Liberian entertainment and awareness to raise funds for the African country that has been devastated by war. They currently need \$5,000 to send learning materials. Donations are still being accepted by writing a check to Dehcontee and sending it to 1552 Poppybank Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94566. To learn more about the organizations, visit www.sadol.org, email dehcontee@aol.com and stangney@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.



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Opinion

Editorial

Strengths spare city from housing market frenzy

Pick up a daily newspaper or watch TV or your computer screen and you'd think the bottom has fallen out of the real estate market and that your home's value is dropping fast. But don't worry. An analysis of real estate transactions and mortgages in Pleasanton shows that we're among those high-valued cities in the country that have largely escaped the dire consequences of rising mortgages that homeowners can't afford, foreclosures and especially falling housing prices. It turns out that last year, when economic disaster seemed to be at our city's housing doorstep, was actually one of the best years ever for home sales and return on housing investments. The year ended with 2007 showing an average median price for Pleasanton homes of \$831,000, the third highest in the last 10 years. That was down slightly from the \$846,975 average median price in 2006 and even more from 2005, when the average median price hit \$850,000, the highest ever. Consider that the median was just \$290,000 in 1996 and those with homes in Pleasanton during the last 10 years can see that they've realized a 200 percent increase in their property's value.

This is not happenstance. On the East Coast and in many cities in California, housing prices are holding steady and selling, albeit selling more slowly than in the mad buyer rush two years ago. We also don't see the 12 to 22 percent annual appreciation. But there's little depreciation if any, unlike in nearby cities that just don't have all the bells and whistles of Pleasanton. A look at the Multiple Listing Service transactions this week showed that there are 160 single family homes currently for sale in Pleasanton. Four of them are listed as being in foreclosure, which is roughly 3 percent of the total. There are also 53 condos and townhouses for sale, with three of those in foreclosure. Dublin is much the same, with 123 active listings, including six in foreclosure, and 89 condos with seven in foreclosure. Livermore had 373 homes on the market this week, with 34 in foreclosure, and 87 condos and townhouses, with 12 in foreclosure. The study found even worse conditions in Oakland, where 1,240 homes are currently listed for sale with 25 percent of those—or 330—in foreclosure. Take a drive through Brentwood and for sale signs seem to outnumber the trees in many neighborhoods. This week, 553 Brentwood homes are on the market, including 179 that have been foreclosed.

Thanks to award-winning schools, a stable well-funded city government and an enjoyable lifestyle and environment, the real estate market here continues to be robust. As housing prices have increased in recent years, so have the qualification requirements for buyers. While many of us live in homes that have appreciated beyond our wildest dreams, new buyers also have the incomes and market savvy to sign up for mortgages they can afford. Of the zero-down payment, low-interest five-year loans that buyers fell for or were enticed to sign by unscrupulous lenders, particularly in the sizzling new-home markets in Brentwood, Mountain House, Tracy and other Bay Area cities where new housing tracts attracted first-time buyers, Pleasanton largely escaped those risks because of more experienced buyers and local real estate professionals who are involved in this community and are known for their ethics.

Now, with the Federal Reserve's recent decision to cut short-term interest rates by half a percentage point and expectation the Fed will do it again early next month, buyers will likely return to the market shortly, this time more aware of the pitfalls of over-extending their purchases but with lower interest rates and stable home prices to help them. For anyone wanting to sell or buy in Pleasanton, these may be the best of times.

Letters

Think before letting your dog off-leash

Dear Editor,

I agree with Marlene Baca's opinion in the Jan. 18 Weekly ("Animal Services should cite dog owners," Letters to the Editor, page 13).

In posted "on-leash" areas, owners should keep their dogs leashed. I understand that some dog owners like to let their dogs run free. On these occasions, you can take your dog to the Pleasanton Ridge for a hike off-leash, or to the dog park on Muirwood. Having your dog off-leash in an on-leash area poses a problem: If your dog is off-leash and you do not have complete voice control over your dog, it can go running up to a dog that is leashed, and cause a possible fight between the two dogs. In a situation such as this, the dog that is on-leash is put on the defensive. If one or both of the dogs is dog-aggressive, this could lead to a fight, and injury to both dogs and possibly to their owners.

Please think about this as you let your dog off-leash in on-leash areas.

*Linda Scanlin
Pleasanton*

Patience will lead to downtown tenants

Dear Editor,

In the Letter to the Editor, "Downtown Could Use Some Different Tenants" (Jan. 25, page 13) writer Cathy Wankle asks why Pleasanton's leadership are not listening to the public. I think downtown consultant and author Roberta Gratz might have explained it when she wrote "so-called experts too often want to 'educate' people instead of 'learn from' and 'be educated by them,' so let's not be too critical of our City Council or Planning Commissioners."

I mean, most members understand very little about downtown revitalization principles. Didn't a highly-placed city official say, "downtown should be run like a business"—which could explain why Kolln was released to a bank. So, who do we blame for our mistakes? Pogo said, "We have met the enemy and it is us."

The writer lists "The Wine Steward" as a good retailer. While that building sat vacant for months, I, too received lease offers from a bank and other low vitality businesses, but declined for the very reasons Pleasanton Weekly Editor Jeb Bing wrote about in his excellent article. Too often I've heard a leader say "something is better than nothing." I don't

agree. I believe with patience (and some negative cash flow) eventually someone will come along with energy, community commitment and vision. This time it was Pleasanton resident Joe Sasek. Joe transformed the dark, dead, dreary space of the old abandoned Roxy Theater into The Wine Steward...a good retailer.

*Robert W. Byrd
Pleasanton*

Mayor wasn't 'above the law' with hawk

Dear Editor,

Kim Leighton wrote in your Jan. 25 issue that "keeping a hawk is not allowed in Pleasanton," which is a rumor, not a fact ("Mayor put others in difficult position," Letters to the Editor, page 13). No such ban exists which would be recorded as a municipal code.

She described the mayor and three councilmembers as demonstrating "I am above the law arrogance." Fervent, but not factual. They were following the law, not flaunting it.

The mayor went through all the necessary steps required to keep this state-owned injured bird in order to rehabilitate it and release it back into the wild. When the city Planning Commission first delayed, then denied her permit, she appealed that decision. She recused herself, as was proper, when the matter finally came before council. Perhaps, Ms. Leighton can enlighten me on where the mayor "shamed" her, or behaved in a substandard fashion.

Our officials are expected to represent us in a manner of which we can be proud. They are also entitled to the same rights as the rest of us, including the right to appeal a Planning Commission decision.

*Janet Linfoot
Pleasanton*

Support downtown, local businesses

Dear Editor:

In response to the story "Creating an ideal downtown," (Cover Story, Jan. 11, page 10), we love our downtown. Our family has lived here since 1971 and one of the first places my dad took us was to check out downtown Pleasanton and breakfast at Dean's. We have supported downtown all these years. There have been so many positive changes over the years.

In the downtown visitor's guide it says, "Shop, Dine, Discover." I really think everyone needs to come downtown and discover a shopper's paradise, full of small,

(continued on page 11)

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



Freedoms, rights must be aligned with morals, ethics

"Whatever happened to the right to free speech?"

That question was asked on the Town Square online forum recently. It was followed by, "Stop the censorship Pleasanton Weekly!"

The writer was agreeing with other posts that said all posts should be fair game as long as there aren't four-letter words or names involved. In this particular case, however, there were names given in some posts, and enough description and innuendo in other posts to identify the person.

Naming individuals and four-letter words do not even merit a discussion over whether or not they should be removed; those are two examples of obvious and blatant violations of the Terms of Use.

References that inadvertently identify an individual or group will earn an editor's scrutiny, and a decision as to whether or not to keep the reference will be made based on ethical policies and moral guidelines.

We will do what we can to minimize harm, especially when the statement is an allegation or opinion. Until sources can be verified and fact separated from speculation, we will not cause harm to an individual's reputation. We also need to consider that sometimes calling someone out can put that person in physical danger.

We recently had a controversial forum topic and an outspoken contributor who shared some unpopular ideas. Another poster identified the unpopular writer with a full name and address on the forum. First, nobody knows if the individual listed was in fact the unpopular writer. Second, what exactly did the person who named the alleged writer intend for people to do with this information?

In 2003, I worked with the Chicago Sun-Times. In October of that year, the Sun-Times made what I consider one of the biggest journalistic blunders of the century. On Oct. 14, 2003, a gentleman named Steve Bartman attempted to catch a foul ball in Game 6 of the National League Championship Series between the Chicago Cubs and the Florida Marlins—a bonehead move Cubs fans believe cost their team a World Series championship. (Being a diehard Cubs fan, this still causes me pain.)

In an equally boneheaded move, the next day the Chicago Sun-Times released not only Bartman's name but his address and the name and address of his workplace. Bartman was hounded for months, couldn't leave his home, had to disconnect his phone, received death threats, and was told by the governor he should go into a witness protection program. The man had to leave town to escape the torment.

Claiming the right of free speech only to put another person in harm's way is wrong. For the Sun-Times editor to claim that, since the information was already out, the paper was justified in printing the information was irresponsible and unacceptable.

The right to free speech should not repudiate an individual's right to be free from physical harm, emotional distress or loss of reputation. We have to remember that due process is also a right.

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@pleasanton-weekly.com.

Letters

(continued from page 10)

unique shops. You can find everything you need right here. We have over 50 retail shops where you can buy cards and gifts for everyone, bikes, shoes, boots, clothing, books, flowers, flags, wine, chocolate, art, antiques and more. We have over 50 salons and spas, don't forget we have over 50 restaurants, and yes, a few banks and a hotel and it is all in our very own downtown.

There is so much to encourage shoppers to come downtown. We love everyone we love living in Pleasanton. Now let's support the downtown and our local businesses by bringing everyone down to see what they have been missing. There are several shops and restaurants open every day of the week. I really do love this town and all it has to offer.

*Robin Ehrman
Pleasanton*

Academic scholarships for young women

Alameda County has not participated in the Miss Alameda County competition for over 20 years and the Dec. 17 story in the Pleasanton Weekly makes it clear why not. This is a bathing suit, evening gown competition held under the guise of a scholarship for young women.

Why should these women sacrifice their dignity and self-respect by offering their bodies for judgment by some panel? I am disappointed that our County Supervisor, Scott Haggerty, is supporting this event and will act as a judge here in Pleasanton.

This pageant requires women and society to perpetuate the media-created unattainable body

ideal that often leads to poor self-esteem and eating disorders. The National Organization for Women has taken a strong stand against violent, denigrating, emaciated images of women in the media through its annual "Love Your Body Day" campaign which encourages positive images of women as athletic, strong and self-confident.

Women have only had the right to vote since 1920 and we are finally seeing women such as Nancy Pelosi become the Speaker of the House of Representatives. For the first time, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, an intelligent,

experienced, mature women could be president. This is a time to celebrate women for their intelligence and abilities not treat them as physical specimens based on an unrealistic standard of beauty that denies their personhood and ability to achieve higher education and scholarships based on their intelligence and academic qualifications.

Young women deserve more credit and respect as human beings.

*Mary Jane Casper
ACT NOW*

*Alameda County Tri-Valley
National Organization for Women*

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Your Turn

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

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

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

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

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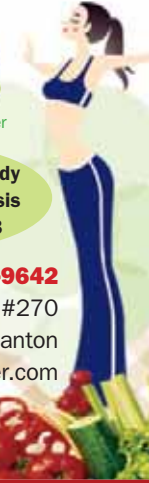
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Atlantic Lobster Tails and Beef Tenderloin Medallions for Two
- Pancetta Wrapped Prawns
Creamy Chipotle Sauce & Asparagus Risotto
- Caribbean Seared Ahi Tuna
Soba Noodles, Pineapple Chutney, Drizzled with Creamy Wasabi
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Welcome to PLEASANTON

TEXAS

The next largest P-Town is known as the 'Birthplace of the Cowboy'

by
Janet Pelletier



It's a pleasant town—the “land of the live oaks and friendly folks” they call it.

Residents driving along the highway wave to others even if they don't know them. P-town isn't a nickname here—people call it “Pledenten” in a southern drawl.

You'd be hard pressed to find a place with more country roots than Pleasanton, Texas.

Known to locals as the “Birthplace of the Cowboy,” the city of nearly 10,000 holds an annual cowboy festival, country singer Willie Nelson was a radio DJ there in the 1950s and hunting white-tail deer, wild hogs and quail is a favorite pastime.

Located 35 miles south of San Antonio in Atascosa County, this south Texas town is the next largest Pleasanton in the U.S. aside from California's Pleasanton.

And it shares some similarities with Pleasanton, Calif. It's a suburb to a larger metropolitan area, the crime rate is low and the city is in financially good shape. Residents say family life is important as is the good quality of life.

Ranching makes up the primary industry. Known for the longhorns which once led a cattle drive through town, livestock shows and 4-H clubs are abundant, a way of life. In fact, many students attain scholarships through these types of shows and involvement with 4-H.

If residents aren't ranchers, a vast majority of the rest commute to San Antonio for work. But while commutes in California are notoriously horrendous, commuting to the big city from Pleasanton, Texas is relatively gridlock-free.

“Traffic isn't bad. It comes a little bit during the commute times, but nothing like California,” said Gerald Black, with a chuckle.

Black knows what he's talking about. A resident of Pleasanton, Texas since 1992, he lived in California, both southern and northern, when he was stationed in the U.S. Navy. He's reported to both Moffet Field in Mountain View and the Naval Air Station in Alameda.

Since moving back to Texas, where he was raised, he covers news for the

Pleasanton Express, Pleasanton, Texas' only newspaper.

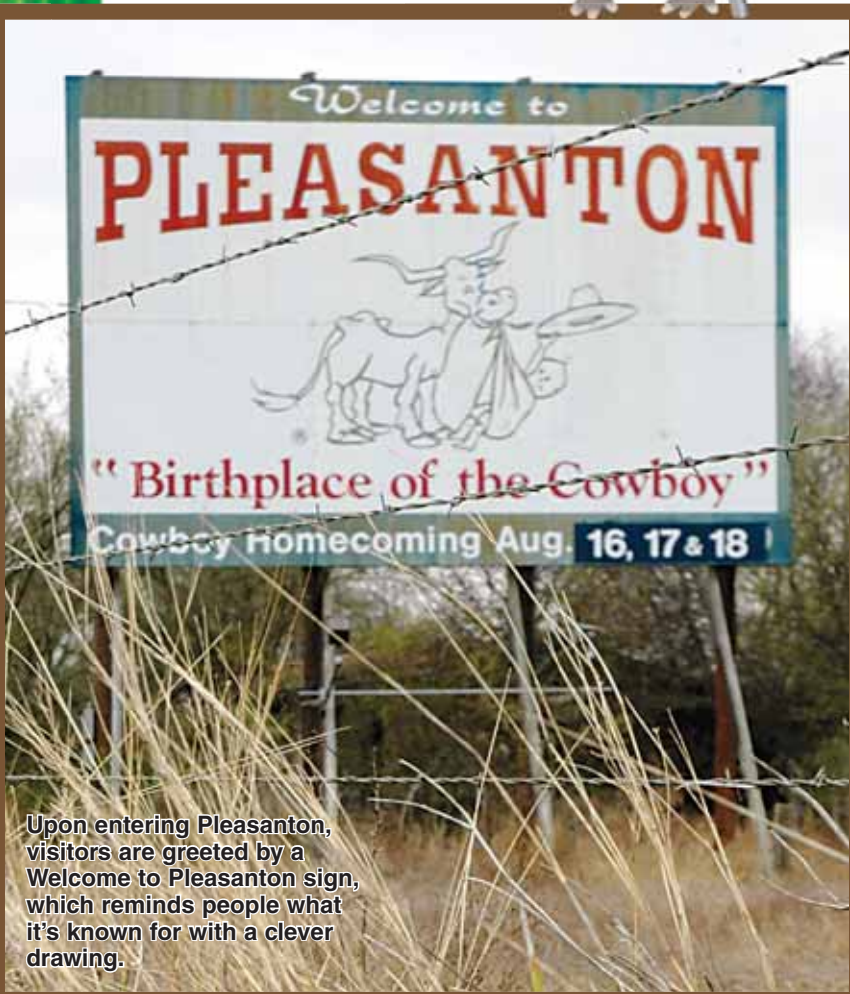
It was the stress of big city life that brought resident Jack Keller to Pleasanton. Having lived most of his years in San Antonio, Keller, who is originally from San Bernardino, Calif., said he enjoys the traffic-free country roads.

“If you come to town, there's three places that you can go to where you're liable to see anyone and that's the Dairy Queen, the State Stop restaurant...and of course, the bowling alley,” Keller said.

Keller started a Web site years ago spoofing the city, comparing such well-recognized landmarks as the Taj Mahal and the OK Corral with structures in Pleasanton. While he still gets emails occasionally from people asking him why he would say the weather there is like Hawaii, Keller said that's tapered off. The idea for the Web site came after Keller underwent heart surgery (which he attributes to the stress of living in San Antonio) and was recovering at home. When he couldn't find any information on Pleasanton, where he had recently moved to, he decided he would create a site on the history of the town—but he ended up getting carried away with the humorous comparisons. But if you read between the lines, there is some truth on his Web site, <http://pleasanton.jackkeller.net>.

The city got its name from an early settler named John Pleasants in 1858, not General Pleasonton, like Pleasanton, Calif. Before becoming a city, Pleasanton was once a stop along the El Camino Real, stretching from the Rio Grande to San Antonio, where the famous Battle of the Alamo took place. The region was surrounded by longhorns and Pleasanton soon became a cattlemen's capital. In the 1860s, the Stock Raisers' Association of Western Texas met there and the Western Stock Journal, founded in 1873, was published there.

“It's a rural place, so rodeo is big,” Keller said. “A lot of people have longhorn. When they first started the Cowboy Homecoming Festival, they really did have a cattle drive



Upon entering Pleasanton, visitors are greeted by a Welcome to Pleasanton sign, which reminds people what it's known for with a clever drawing.

through town with longhorns and it turned into a stampede so they never did that again. That's where the cattle tradition came from. They were allowed to roam wild."

"The cattle industry now is not the greatest, so that has spurred people to keep and cultivate deer and game for other people and their families to hunt on and it brings in big dollars," Black said.

Downtown consists of Main Street, which stretches three blocks. Some of the historic storefronts include a photography studio, museum, boutiques and a couple of barber shops. A hardware shop and western clothing store will be closing soon. It's been hard trying to lure new business because most of the stores are family-owned. When a business owner retires, there's often no one to take their place.

"We're losing our center businesses," Black said. "The families are still here, but we're looking for a little revitalization of that."

Residents would also like to see more sidewalks around town. The only ones that exist now are downtown—and those date back to the Depression era.

If downtown isn't exactly thriving, a well-know chain store is. Pleasanton, Texas was one of the first cities in the country to get



Downtown Pleasanton consists of a few family-owned businesses on Main Street, which stretches three blocks long.

a Super Wal-Mart—even, Black points out, when San Antonio didn't have any. Next to PISD (Pleasanton Independent School District), which employs 592 people, Wal-Mart is the second biggest employer, with 380 workers. A coal plant has 165 workers and the city of Pleasanton employs just 74.

The median household income in 1999 was \$29,644, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Houses are affordable in Texas, especially compared to California. A 2,000-square-foot house on a sizeable lot costs \$180,000. Those wanting a larger lot will look to spend \$220,000. Gas is also cheaper in Pleasanton, Texas at \$2.80 a gallon.

Much like Pleasanton, Calif., the city is in financially sound shape. With a \$16.9-million budget for this fiscal year, the tax rate is a low 45 cents per \$100 valuation.

"Our city here is in very good condition," Black said. "They have to plan ahead a lot. They're looking at the growth continually."

Things are looking prosperous because the population of Pleasanton continues to rise. The small, rural flavor of the city is still intact, but it's become more populated with people who hold jobs in San Antonio looking for the small-town life and cheaper housing.

A new Toyota factory in south San Antonio has led to a number of people looking as far south as Pleasanton for homes, Keller said.

Just like any other city, residents have their complaints. For one, wild dogs have become a nuisance. Those who live in the rural parts defy city ordinances by burning their trash, since they don't have regular pickups like those closer to the city do. Pleasanton has

been under a burn ban since last November and wildfires are always a concern, much like in California.

Known as the Brush Country, Pleasanton has two aquifers which supply residents with water. But an ongoing fight with San Antonio has no end in sight.

"The city of San Antonio is coming down and buying pieces of property that are large enough that they can sink wells on and everyone is up in arms about them taking our water," Keller said. "Droughts are a big deal because cattle wouldn't have anything to feed on if there wasn't grass. A lot of these ranchers grow hay based on the natural rainfall here."

"I have a friend who went out with propane tanks on his back and burned the thorns off of cactus to feed his cattle," Keller added. "That's the last straw. There's nothing left after you've burned your cactus."

Crimes committed in Pleasanton only amount to petty levels, mostly burglaries and what Black says is "criminal mischief." There's only been about one homicide on average a year. It's enough to handle for the 19-member Pleasanton Police Department. The city fire department is all-volunteer and has about 40 members.

Pleasanton will forever be a part of nation-

al history for its schools. They were the first in the country to integrate. LIFE magazine and hundreds of television news crews were there to document the historical event during the 1950s. The population of Pleasanton is fairly diverse, with about half Caucasian and half of Hispanic descent. There is a very small African-American population. In the same decade, Willie Nelson got his start at a now-defunct radio station in Pleasanton as a disk jockey.

"He has come back on a rare occasion," Black said.

People who move to Pleasanton, Texas love the simple life and slow pace.

"It's a place where you know many, many people," Black said. "I remember my first week on the job, I was driving to work and I was behind City Hall and the mayor of Pleasanton at the time stopped me in the middle of the street to chat."

Despite being one-seventh of the size of Pleasanton, Calif., residents still have many of the same amenities—an 18-hole golf course, a movieplex playing first-run films, a mall, chain grocery store and drive-through ATMs.

Need a couple groceries but don't feel like going to the store? Residents can frequent one of many beverage barns—a drive-through metal building where store clerks will get what you need—anything from candy to milk to beer—all while staying in the comfort of your car.

While raising and showing livestock is what most youths partake in as a hobby, many are also interested in science, math and business. Pleasanton has a community college that recently opened and an extension of Texas A&M University. Educational opportunities such as those are encouraging more

and more teens to go to college in Pleasanton, instead of traveling to San Antonio or other bigger Texas cities. It helps that 35 miles is all that separates rural living from city life.

"You go to some of the small towns in Texas and the youth have left," Keller said. "The parents are there, the grandparents are there, the aunts and uncles are there, but the kids have all gone off to San Antonio or Dallas or Houston. That's what's good about Pleasanton. They're close enough to San Antonio that you don't have to move there to enjoy it." ■



A bronze cowboy stands outside of the Pleasanton City Hall, since Pleasanton is known as the "Birthplace of the Cowboy."

Pleasantons in the U.S.A.

Pleasanton, Kansas

Population: 1,387
Median household income: \$25,714
Named after: General Alfred Pleasanton
Founded: 1869
Point of interest: Mine Creek Battlefield, located in Pleasanton, Ks., was the site of major battles during the Civil War. A total of 2,500 Union soldiers were under General Pleasanton's command there as they faced Confederate soldiers. The city is located 50 miles south of Kansas City in the Ozarks and is surrounded by dozens of lakes.

Pleasanton, Iowa

Population: 37
Median household income: \$51,250
Profile: Once a thriving farming hub, the town has dwindled in population. It's located 90 miles from Des Moines, at the entrance to Nine Eagles State Park on the Missouri state line.

Pleasanton Village, Nebraska

Population: 360
Median household income: \$37,656
Point of interest: Situated on the South Loop River, it was once the terminus of the Omaha and Republican Valley Railway, a Union-Pacific line that ended in the 1940s. A flood in 1947 washed away the tracks and the line was abandoned in 1948.

Pleasanton, California

Population: 68,755
Median household income: \$101,022

Pleasanton, Texas

Population: 9,800
Median household income: \$29,644

Pleasanton Township, Michigan

Population: 817
Median household income: \$33,997
Profile: A township located in Manistee County, Pleasanton covers over 35.5 square miles.

Sources: Kansastravel.org, Pleasantonkansas.org, Buffalo County Historical Society, U.S. Census Bureau

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 13, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PDR-645, Howard Parsell**
Application for design review approval to construct four multi tenant buildings totaling 70,575 square feet with landscaping and lot improvement at the property located at 3700 Boulder Court.
- **PCUP 209, AT&T Services, Inc., Pacific Bell Telephone Company**
Application for a conditional use permit to allow AT&T Services to establish an operation center for AT&T Project Light Speed on the former Pacific Bell Telephone/AT&T Services, Inc. site located at 4400 Black Avenue.
- **PUD-81-28-05M, City of Pleasanton**
Consider an application for a major modification to an existing PUD development plan to consider whether an existing six-foot tall masonry wall along a portion of the westerly property line between Pleasanton Station and Hap's Restaurant should be retained or removed. The property is located at 30 W. Neal Street.
- **PCUP 200, John Pfund, Tri Valley Martial Arts**
Application for a conditional use permit to allow a martial arts academy which would (1) include up to 20 students ages 5 to 12 years, and an additional 10 students 16 years and older and 1 employee, Monday through Friday between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.; and (2) provide (a) child transportation to the academy from elementary and middle schools, (b) an afternoon program for children between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m., (c) an area for homework activities, (d) after school martial arts related games and activities, (e) seasonal camps, and (f) care and supervision from 9:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. on school holidays, two weeks during the school winter break, and ten weeks during the school summer break, in an existing building located at 1262 Quarry Lane, Suite A, in the Valley Business Park.
- **PAP 114/PDR 684, Gerald Hodnefield**
Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's denial of an application for design review approval to construct a four car carport for the office building located at 1020 Serpentine Lane.
- **PREV-570, Hamid Taeb/Lester Property**
Work session to review and receive comments on a preliminary application for a 42-unit single-family residential development on the approximately 116-acre Lester property located at 11021 and 11033 Dublin Canyon Road in Unincorporated Alameda County.

Parks and Recreation Commission – Special Meeting

Monday, February 11, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Appointment of Alternate to the Trails Ad Hoc Committee
- Community Services Quarterly Report
- Parks and Maintenance Division Quarterly Report
- Quarterly Report Status regarding Parks Projects

Library Commission

Thursday, February 14, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

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

Youth Commission

Wednesday, February 13, 2008 @ 7:30 p.m.
Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- FY 2007/08 City Grant Program Mid Term Reports
- Discussion regarding selection of possible books for monthly discussions
- Discussion regarding 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

Monday, February 11, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m.
Operation Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

- Approve the YMPIC Master Plan Update
 - Community of Character
- Review and comment on YMPIC Master Plan Update
 - Child Care
 - Supervised Youth
 - Coordination
- Report on Anonymous Support Help Line Telephone Number
- Youth in Government Day

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

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Hit and run accident causes \$100K damage

A water main near the intersection of Pleasanton and Bernal avenues blasted water to the rooftops at an estimated 2,000 gallons per minute around 4:20 p.m. Saturday, according to police.

Witnesses said a 1980s model blue Chevy pickup truck with a white camper shell reportedly struck the water main at 5000 Pleasanton Ave. and drove off.

The truck was said to have damage to the front end and a broken windshield. The driver was described as a white adult male, approximately 40 years old and wearing glasses. The truck was last seen driving north on Pleasanton Avenue towards Rose Avenue.

Police said the collision caused "significant" water damage—estimated at \$100,000—to the building at 5000 Pleasanton Avenue.

If anyone has information regarding this incident, call police 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. 26

- Alcohol violations:
 - 12:12 a.m. in the 4100 block of Georgis Place; public drunkenness
 - 2:03 a.m. in the 5300 block of Hopyard Road; DUI
- Assault:
 - 10:21 p.m. in the 5300 Northway Road

Jan. 27

- Theft:
 - 12:53 p.m. in the 7700 block of Desertwood Lane; petty theft
 - 3:37 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; counterfeiting
 - 4:24 p.m. in the 3900 block of Stanley Boulevard; counterfeiting
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 12:29 p.m. in the 7600 block of Driftwood Way
 - 12:29 p.m. in the 7600 block of

Driftwood Way

- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:26 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Hacienda Drive; DUI
 - 12:35 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Kamp drives; DUI
 - 1:50 a.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- Mental health danger:
 - 6:42 p.m. in the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue
 - 8:29 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

Jan. 28

- Vandalism:
 - 7:50 a.m. in the 3300 block of Dennis Drive; worth less than \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 9:16 a.m. in the 3700 block of Boulder Street
- Drug violation:
 - 12:55 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; under the influence of a controlled substance

Indecent exposure:

- 6:55 a.m. in the 5700 block of Johnson Drive

Jan. 29

- DUI:
 - 1:44 a.m. at the intersection of I-580 and Hopyard Road
 - 10:46 a.m. in the 3600 block of Carlsbad Way
- Mental health danger:
 - 12:39 a.m. in the 600 block of Windmill Lane

Jan. 30

- Theft:
 - 3:42 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 5:52 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 7:28 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 7:11 p.m. in the 5600 block of Sunol Boulevard; worth less than \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:48 p.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road
- Public drunkenness:
 - 10:23 a.m. at the intersection of West Angela Street and Peters Avenue

Other:

- 11:01 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; recovered vehicle
- 4:39 p.m. at the intersection of Rose Avenue and Main Street; public fighting

Jan. 31

- Theft:
 - 10:03 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; grand theft
 - 3:38 p.m. in the 3200 block of Royalton Court; forgery
 - 4:27 p.m. in the 2300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Burglary:
 - 5:15 p.m. in the 3700 block of Boulder Street; vehicular
 - 5:59 p.m. in the 4100 block of Veneto Court; vehicular
 - 6:08 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:18 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; marijuana possession
 - 2:10 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal and Pleasanton avenues; open alcohol container in vehicle
- Prank calls:
 - 7:32 p.m. in the 2900 block of Yorkshire Court

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Obituaries

Jin Dorst

Jin Dorst, known also as Jin Creed, died Jan. 25 after living with cancer for three years. She was 44.

She was born Aug. 2, 1963 in Taiwan and immigrated to the U.S. in 1976. She lived in Illinois until she graduated from college, and moved to Sacramento in 1986, where she was recruited to teach first grade. Jin had wanted to be a teacher ever since she was a first grader herself. She taught in several school districts including the Pleasanton Unified School District (Vintage Hills Elementary) and earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction.

In 1998, she went to work for Ohlone Elementary School in Palo Alto, where she was recognized as an accomplished and passionate teacher. After receiving her National Board Certification, she became a coach for new teachers, providing valuable support to them. Mrs. Dorst was highly respected and well loved by her students, parents, colleagues, family and friends.

Even though her time was cut short, she was very grateful for the life she had and lived everyday with joy, love and gratitude until her very last moment. She felt deeply blessed for all the love she had in this life. She was even grateful for her cancer, which she credited for bringing her to her higher self and to the wisdom, peace and love that she found.

She is survived by her beloved husband, John; two daughters, Christen, 18, and Jamie, 7; parents; grandmother; brother; three half brothers; many cousins; two nieces; two nephews; a sister-in-law, her husband and their sons; and a brother-in-law.

A memorial service will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at Ohlone Elementary School, 950 Amarillo Ave., Palo Alto. Information regarding college fund donations for Christen and Jamie may be obtained at Ohlone School.

Gavina Zambrano

Gavina Zambrano died Jan. 27 in Pleasanton with her children at her side. She was 79.

Mrs. Zambrano was born in Alleyton, Texas Jan. 25, 1929. She remained a faithful Jehovah's Witness for 44 years. She saw to it that all her children learned the truth from God's word, and was a very content per-



son in Jehovah's Organization.

Mrs. Zambrano loved life and enjoyed sewing, embroidering, cooking, dancing and socializing with her family and friends. She moved to Kottinger Place in Pleasanton in 1999 and lived there until 2007. As a resident of Kottinger Place, she often enjoyed gardening, visits from friends and walks and shopping on Main Street. She taught her children and grandchildren by example what it means to be loving, kind, forgiving and faithful. She will be greatly missed but leaves a legacy of love and faith behind.

She is survived by her children, Janie Orozco of Paramount, Calif., Susan Valdez of Paramount, Calif., Gloria Zambrano of La Habra, Calif., Cosmo Zambrano of Richmond, Texas, Lucy Casaba of Whittier, Calif., Sylvia Miranda of Vacaville, Calif., Elizabeth Cendejas of Pleasanton; siblings, Marcelino Gaitan, Anna Morales and Carmen Sustaita; grandchildren, Lisa, Jimmy, Robert Jr., Candace, Eileen, Andrei, Jolene, Anthony, Fernando, Justin, Mario Jr., Dustin, Marteena, Samantha and Natalie; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Gonzalo Gaitan; her son, Jimmy Zambrano Jr.; her mother, Romana Gaitan; and her sister, Concepcion Garcia.

Friends and family are invited to attend a memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 878 Herman Ave., Livermore.

Susan Elizabeth Tasker

Sue Tasker died unexpectedly on Feb. 3 at John Muir Hospital at the age of 47.

She was born July 27, 1960 in Leeds, England to loving parents Ken and Dorothy Tindell, and came to Pleasanton in 1990 with her husband and three daughters.

Mrs. Tasker was an avid writer and the



co-founder of the Tri-Valley branch of the California Writers Club. She loved to read, travel, meet new people and take beautiful photographs. She was a lifetime Girl Scout and loved working with young children.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 27 years, Mick; her wonderful daughters, Kate, Amy and Alice; her devoted parents, Ken and Dorothy; her dear brother, Steven and his wife, Diane; her treasured nephew, Thomas; and many other kind and loving friends and family members who will miss her so much.

A memorial service will be held to celebrate her life at 2 p.m. Sunday at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton. Colorful flowers are greatly appreciated, or memorial donations to either the SCBWI Tribute Fund for children's books, or the Girl Scouts of the USA Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.

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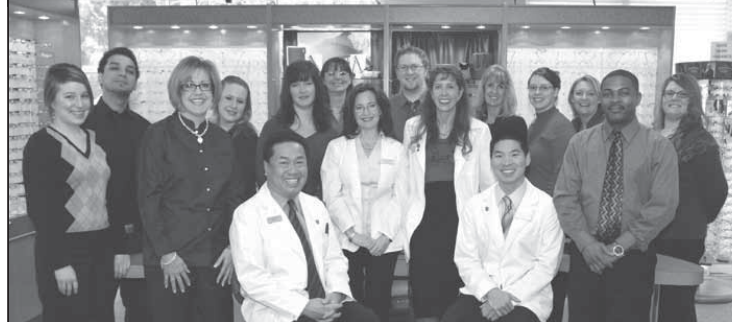


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Calendar

Author Visits

Mark Coggins author visit The Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents author Mark Coggins master of the hard-boiled detective genre, on at 2 p.m. Feb. 17. He will show a slideshow of his favorite haunts in San Francisco. He will also talk about his new book "Runoff."

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.

Boost Writing with Critique Session Most club meetings feature speakers, published writers or industry professionals, who talk about their experiences, the writing process, and tips on getting published. The meeting at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 16 at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., offers something different: a critique session. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. Call 462-

7495 or visit www.trivalleywriters.com.

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.

Calendar Spotlight



Comedy helps professional women's group

The local chapter of the American Business Women's Association Express to Success Network is sponsoring a night of comedy to raise money for the organization, which provides opportunities for professional women to network and develop their businesses. Held at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at Faz restaurant, 5121 Hopyard Road, the show will feature John DeKoven, chief executive comic for Pleasanton-based Laugh-A-Lot Productions; "Chicago" Steve Barkley who as appeared on the Showtime and A&E networks and "America's Funniest People"; and Jeff Applebaum from "The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson." Tickets are \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door. Call 510-366-7674 or visit www.expresstosuccess.org.

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

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.

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

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

February Meeting of Garden Club The February Meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will take place at 7 p.m. Feb. 12 at Walnut Grove School, 1991 Harvest Road. The speaker is Aerin Moore whose topic is "Plants for Structural and Architectural Solutions in the Garden." Call Sally, 417-8809.

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

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 January to May semester. Call Silvia, 560-1411.

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

Porsche Club of America, Diablo Region This club is for owners and enthusiasts of all Porsches. It meets at 8 a.m. every Saturday for breakfast at Marie Calendar's 1101 S. California Blvd., Walnut Creek and at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Strizzi's 3456 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Visit www.pca.org/dia.

Tax Strategies for the Self-Employed At 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at Four Points by Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, Express to Success welcomes speaker Maine Shafer, J.D. He has more than 10 years experience as a professional speaker delivering tax reduction strategies on behalf of Bradford and Company, Inc. Maine's platform abilities have involve making tax information clear and usable. Cost is \$5 for nonmembers. Call 202-9077 or visit www.expresstosuccess.org.

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

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 Holistic Moms Network Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network Keep the Spark Alive meeting is at 7 p.m. Feb. 18 at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court, Dublin. It's sometimes hard to find time to connect with your partner. Share what works in your significant relationship to keep the spark alive. Facilitated by Blaine Carman M.A., MFT. Call 922-7615 or visit 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.tvmtc.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.

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.

Free Opera Concert At 1:30 p.m. Feb. 11 the Livermore Valley Opera will perform music from "Carmen" in a special performance at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. This free, one-hour program will include some of the most popular arias from the opera. Call 931-5365.

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.

Mark Anderson & Tamriko Siphshvili At 8 p.m. Feb. 16, Mark Anderson and Tamriko Siphshvili will perform two piano, four hand classical selections including such composers as Rachmaninoff, Kreisler and Mozart. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. Purchase online at www.civicartstickets.org, by phone at 931-3444 or in person.

Pacific Chamber Symphony Concert Pacific Chamber Symphony presents Mozart and Bartok at 8 p.m. Feb. 8 and 8 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Lawrence Kohl conducts Bartok's Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta and Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante for oboe, clarinet, bassoon and French horn. Tickets are \$26-\$38 or \$7 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

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 atthegrand.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 civicartstickets.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.civicartstickets.org, by phone at 931-5353 or in person.

Events

Reflections On Your Future Seventh- and eighth-grade girls interested in science and engineering and their parents are invited to the fifth annual Reflections On Your Future event held at Livermore High School, 600 Maple St., Livermore, at 7 p.m. Feb. 20. Choose from four hands-on workshops: robotics, photography, exploring pi and DNA extraction. Sponsored by TVROP and Tri-Valley School Districts. Call 606-4812, ext. 2330.

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

Oh Pleasanton! Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., will have Pleasanton writers, multi-media artists and musicians, together for a thrilling Pleasanton—past, present and future themed show. The exhibit runs Feb. 8 to March 29. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com.

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 museumon-main.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.

GourMade Cook for a Cause This month GourMade, 7060 Koll Center Pkwy., Ste. 320, is raising money for Donlon Elementary School by selling the Donlon School cookbook featuring many family-friendly recipes (including one donated by GourMade) and a \$20 coupon for use toward a future order. Purchase at www.gourmadecookery.com. All proceeds will be donated. Call 846-4774 or visit www.gourmadecookery.com.

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Local Business Celebrates Anniversary with Autism Fundraiser

It's Only Natural, 555 Peters St., Ste. 210, a downtown Pleasanton spa and boutique, announced that the business 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, benefitting 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.onlinesports.com or contact Sally Parsons, e5hoov@comcast.net or 846-9531.

Relay For Life Information Rally

The American Cancer Society invites you to an informational meeting at noon Feb. 12 at the City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave., to learn about The Pleasanton Relay for Life which will be held July 26 and 27 at Pleasanton Middle School. The Relay for Life is the premier fundraising event of the American Cancer Society which raises money for cancer research. Call 264-4413 or visit www.Events.Cancer.org/RFLpleasantonCA.

Sweetheart Dance Sponsored by American Legion Post 237, the Sweetheart Dance fundraiser will be held from 6 to 11 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St. The evening includes live music, refreshments, bar by AI and VFW and a raffle. Donations of \$10 per person are tax deductible. Portions of proceeds go to the Veterans Affairs Nursing Home Care Unit in Livermore. Call Rene Lavigne from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tickets available at the door.

Valentine Bingo Luncheon The San Ramon Senior Center Foundation, a non-profit organization at 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon, is having a Valentine Bingo Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Feb. 9. The foundation has fundraising events so to continue to support a variety of programs and services to enrich the lives of senior citizens. Tickets are \$12.50. Call 973-3250.

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.

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

Construction Financing Seminar

Looking to Build or Remodel? Detailed discussion of the construction financing process from the lender's perspective at the seminar at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 20 at Las Positas College, 3000 Campus Hill Drive. We will use different borrower situations to characterize various options that are typically available to the borrower in order to best fit or tradeoff your investment versus your loan. Cost is \$19. Call 449-1275 or visit www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed.

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.

Old West Cattle Drives and Cowboy Poetry

Livermore resident Lynne Owens will speak from at 7 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Museum On Main St., 603 Main St. He enjoys writing cowboy and American Civil War poetry. Two of his poems "A place far away" and "Battle of Franklin, Tenn." were accepted by the Confederate Museum in Richmond, Va. under their new literature program. Tickets are \$5 to \$10. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.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

Campana Jazz Festival - 33rd Annual

Forty-five jazz ensembles from 24 Bay Area schools will be competing and performing in three venues of big band, combo and vocal jazz. The public is invited to attend jazz events throughout the jazz weekend from Feb. 7 to 10. Visit www.amadorband.org for details.

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 Leshner 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.

Mark Anderson & Tamriko Siprashvili

Anderson and Siprashvili will perform two piano, four hand classical selections including such composers as Rachmaninoff, Kreisler and Mozart, 8 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 931-5361 or visit www.civicartstickets.org.

Wicker Vault at Bosco's in Sunol

Well-known local band Wicker Vault will be playing a mix of pop, country, classic rock and many more listening and dancing favorites at Bosco's Bone's and Brew on at 8 p.m. Feb. 8 and 9. Visit www.wickervault.com.

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.

On Stage

Einstein—The Practical Bohemian

Einstein lives—in compelling drama and cosmic comedy. Ed Metzger's tour-de-force portrayal shows the human side of this man who perceived everything differently than anyone before him, and transformed human understanding of the nature of time and space. The show is at 2 p.m. Feb. 10 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$21-\$31 or \$11 for students. Call 373-6800.

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 Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$28-\$40. Call 943-7469 or visit www.leshercenter.org for details.

Moby Dick Rehearsed: The Acting Company

Theater enthusiasts will love what Orson Welles created out of Moby Dick, presented by one of the most respected repertory companies in America. The show is at 8 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$28-\$36 or \$11 for students. Call 373-6800.

Role Players presents Bus Stop by William Inge

The classic American play in which bus passengers and locals stranded in a 1950s Topeka diner in a snowstorm grapple with the challenges of loneliness and connection, romance and reality. Directed by Dana Anderson. Show runs Jan. 18 to Feb. 9. For tickets and information, call 314-3400 or visit www.villagetheatreshows.com.

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 non-residents.

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.

Senior Ball Gather your friends for an unforgettable evening of dining and dancing New York style. The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., will be transformed into a New York City style nightclub Feb. 22, complete with live music provided by the USS Hornet Band. Space is limited. Tickets are \$25 for residents or \$28 for nonresidents. Call 931-5372.

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.

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

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

Athenian Athletics Track Club Athenian Athletics Track Club invites youth athletes ages 7-18 to participate in our Track and Field practice sessions to prepare for the 2008 track and field season and Cal-Berkeley All-Comer meets. Practices will be held on a voluntary/drop-in basis Monday through Friday. Adults of all ages and ability are also encouraged to come for a work out. For club membership, practice times and locations, visit www.athenianathletics.com or call Coach Rik Richardson at 518-9356.

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.

Sunday Morning Group Ride Join cyclists of all levels for this friendly, no-drop road ride Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon. Routes vary weekly and last approximately 2 to 3 hours. Riders warm up together and split into smaller groups based on skill level (A—60 miles, B—35-40 miles, C—20-25 miles). Bring water and a snack. Rides depart from Cyclepath, 337-B Main St. Call 485-3218 or visit www.cyclepath.com.

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

Bipolar Mood Disorder Support Group Free peer lead support group for those struggling with bipolar, depression, or other mood disorders. We have been there, we can help, come join us from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. every Wednesday at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road. Call 462-5481 or visit www.DBSalliance.org/Tri-ValleyBipolar.

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 ValleyCare 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.

Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis Support Group This support group meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Walk-ins are welcome. Free fee to bring a guest. Call 462-6764 or 846-4653.

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

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, 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 bettyrunnels@earthlink.net.

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

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

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.

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 non-

profit 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.tvar.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.

Let's Talk Sports TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich's "Let's Talk Sports" with Greg Kragen, home town hero, NFL star with Broncos, Chiefs, and Panthers. Played in 3 Super Bowls, Pro Bowl. On Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., Fri. and Sat. at 4 p.m.

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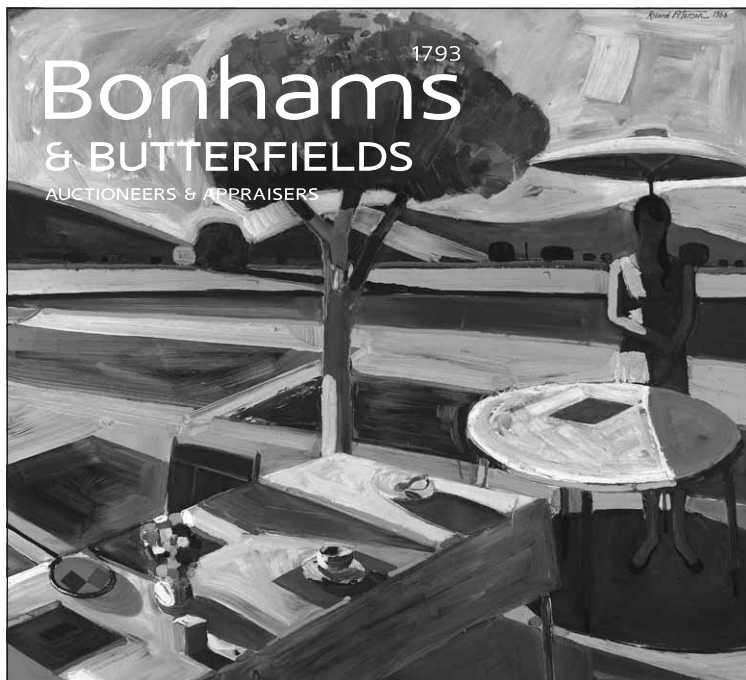
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Sports

Foothill cornerback receives scholarship

Senior John Lynn a model for athletic, academic prowess and community involvement

by Janet Pelletier

When Foothill senior John Lynn isn't playing cornerback for the varsity football team, he's guarding for the varsity basketball team, refereeing CYO basketball games or taking AP classes to maintain his 4.04 GPA.

It's because of these great accomplishments that Lynn has been named a recipient of a scholarship from the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame, an esteemed nonprofit organization.

Lynn joins 23 other scholar athletes from Northern California, and will be honored at an awards dinner Feb. 21. As part of the recognition, the local chapter will award \$1,000 to Lynn's college of choice.

"I was really surprised, a little shocked and happy," Lynn, who was Foothill's Student of the Month in December, said. "Coach (John) Mannion had given me a paper to fill out because he had nominated myself and one of my teammates and I saw it on the community television channel, the 'Dr. B' sports show."

Lynn's football career started just four years ago, and he's played for Foothill for all of them.

In addition to football, Lynn also plays guard for the Foothill varsity basketball team. And if juggling two sports didn't take up enough of his time, he's also refereed for the CYO basketball league for the past two years. Sports aside, Lynn also keeps busy with a heavy load of classes, including an AP calculus class.

"It makes for some long nights sometimes, but I enjoy it," Lynn said. "It keeps me busy."

Every year, the foundation selects outstanding athletes based on their on-the-field performance, scholastics and leadership/community service achievements. Lynn had the trifecta.

An unbiased committee of coaches and educators for Alameda County request submissions from every school in the county, according to Ron Sacchi, vice president for the foundation's Northern California chapter. The submissions include data presented to the committee from the principal, coach and counselors at the school. The committees meet between November and December and select nominees from submissions. The young men with the highest ratings in all three categories (athletics, academics, community involvement) are then selected to receive the scholarships.

When Lynn graduates, he wants to go to UC Davis and major in exercise biology—the study of muscles in the human body and how they work.

"I just really want to be involved in sports or athletic training for a profession," Lynn said.

As for whether he'll play football at Davis, Lynn said he's "going to see how I feel. I would like to be able to walk on at Davis."

Lynn said he wouldn't have received the scholarship without the help of teachers, dedicated coaches and supportive administrators at Foothill.

Parent photographers

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



Lynn plays cornerback, No. 6, for the Foothill High School varsity football teams.

"In particular, I am so appreciative of the time and support of Matt Sweeney, Kevin Johnson and Burt Dixon and especially varsity assistant football coach Willie Brown, who has been instrumental in my development not only as a football player, but as a person."

Lynn added that it has been his teammates who have made his athletic experience so memorable and successful and his parents and brother who have always encouraged and supported him.

For more information about the foundation, visit www.footballfoundation-norcal.com. ■



The scholarship Lynn received was not only based on athletics, but academic achievement and community involvement as well.



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Dining Out

American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

201 Main St., Pleasanton, (925) 484-0789. Vic's delivers a stary 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.ppcastbay.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.

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

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