

It takes a Village

Continuation high school named state model > page 5

Divided by a wall

Planning Commission helps settle downtown dispute
> page 5

Vol. IX, Number 4 • February 22, 2008

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

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PAGE 10

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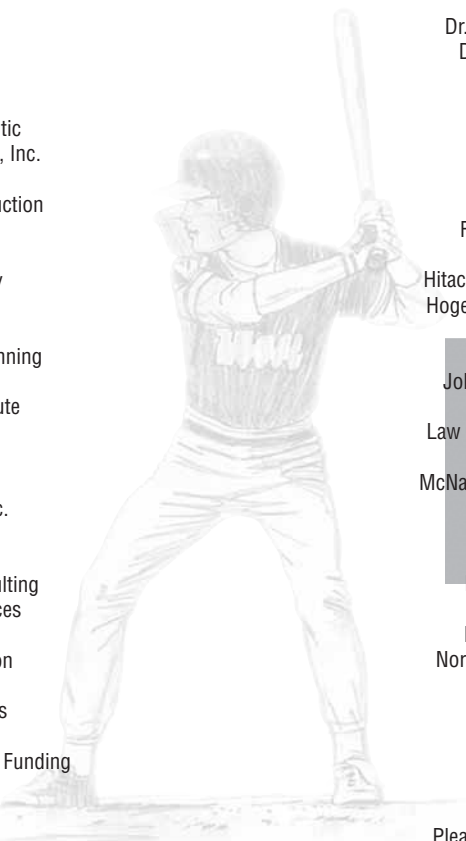
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Wed on Valentine's Day—at last

A group of nearly 100 homeless and poor had an extraordinarily happy Valentine's Day last week as guests of Pleasanton bride Lynne Chapman watched her marry her childhood sweetheart Jerry Meredith at an outdoor ceremony at 34th Avenue and Peralta Street in Oakland. For Meredith, a Christian missionary whose many evangelical friends joined her, it was a way to celebrate the couple's special wedding while also giving back to the community she and her Blazing Fire Church in San Ramon also serve. The church, led by its pastor Brent Lokker, who married the couple, has its Oakland Outreach Center at 34th and Peralta, across from the recycling center.

Although Lynne wore white and Jerry a suit and tie, there was little else that was traditional in the Valentine's Day afternoon outdoor wedding. As they served a meal and cut wedding cake slices for the guests, Lynne and Jerry, following their belief that it's better to give than receive, passed out large plastic bags filled with coats, blankets, other clothing, toys and nonperishable food that they and their church friends had prepared the night before at Lynne's condominium on Vineyard Avenue in Pleasanton.

It was at her condo where Lynne "reconnected" with Jerry and where I first met up with them the Wednesday night before their wedding. I learned that the two had been childhood sweethearts as teenagers in Corona in Riverside County, where both then lived and where Jerry had given her a "promise ring." With that ring, each had vowed to marry some day and to spend the rest of their lives together. But they hadn't planned on being separated for 32 years first. On one of his Christmas trips to visit his father in Redding, Jerry's family situation changed and he had to stay there to finish high school. Both were broken hearted but lacked the financial means to get together. They eventually lost contact, each married and later divorced, and each had

one child. Lynne's son Tyler graduated from Foothill High School three years ago; Jerry's daughter Bailey graduated from high school in Redding.

Last summer, Lynne came home to Pleasanton after a four-month revival mission in Mozambique, turned on her TV and by chance tuned into a Montel Williams' show, "Searching for Lost Loves." Entranced, she stopped unpacking and watched and listened as couples told of finding each other after long absences. Knowing that there was only one person she would ever want to be reunited with, she followed the advice one of the guests suggested and used Google on her laptop to search for Jerry. There he was, "Jerry Meredith, electrical contractor, Redding, CA." It took only a nervous minute for Lynne to call the phone number listed. Jerry answered, and their romance was rekindled.

I talked to both the night before their wedding and watched as a garage-full of friends helped them fill their gift bags. Both said they found it amazing that they had been on parallel paths during much of the time since Corona. Jerry, now 48, and Lynne, a year younger, talked about their children, who both dearly love and who were part of the Valentine's Day wedding, about their failed marriages and that they had both stayed single after that. Always devoted to their faith, Lynne had taken her strong Christian beliefs even further, establishing her own Heaven on Earth Ministries. She conducts her missionary work in Africa, Canada and parts of the U.S. Both also credit their faith for bringing them back together, saying "it was meant to be." Lynne had kept the "promise ring," which, though it had become too tight to wear, "miraculously fit again" after she reunited with Jerry and they planned their wedding. This week, Lynne and Jerry moved into his house in Redding where both will join in her ministry. For more information about her work, highlight Lynne Chapman at www.FathersTouch.org. ■

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

DEFINING A BUYER'S MARKET

Attorney and columnist Robert Bruss believes that a buyer's market, generally, can be defined as a "normal" market. Over the forty years that he's been a real estate investor, he insists, only about 25% of the time was the market characterized by multiple offers and rapid sales and skyrocketing appreciation rates. It's been normal, he claims, to see homes on the market for two to six months and to see the annual appreciation rate hovering slightly below 5%—or, when higher, generally a bit above the rate of appreciation.

But it's crucial to add that what is happening in one market may differ from what is happening only a zip code away. You should check each market, rather than generalizing, when deciding on the price you can afford to pay today.

The "Bruss Rule" looks like this. First, check how long it has been taking on average for the houses that come to market in a particular area to sell. If it's above 60 days, it can be characterized as buyer's market in that area. Second, check the number of homes listed for sale in the area as against the number of sales that closed, and you will gain an idea of the number of months' worth of inventory coming to market. If it's more than six months, Bruss argues the area is experiencing a buyer's market—which is a "normal" market with its own strategies and opportunities. For help call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

About the Cover

Jo Anne Camara, director of Pleasanton's Hacienda School, teaches a group of the upper level elementary students. Hacienda's School's ratio is much smaller than public elementary schools, and that's part of the reason parents choose to send their children there. While Pleasanton's public schools are acclaimed, they do not offer enough for some parents. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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Streetwise

Q: What would you change about the downtown?

Asked Downtown



Jane Christman
Hairdresser

There are plenty of big towns, shopping areas and big malls. I like the small town feeling we have here. Pleasanton is quaint, friendly and warm—let's keep it that way.

Jennifer DeFrance

Teacher

I don't live in Pleasanton. We come here to shop specifically for the small town feeling. I don't believe there should be bigger shops. I like the intimacy of the diverse boutiques downtown. If I'm looking for nightlife there are plenty of other places to go.



Heather Alexandria

Stay at Home Mom

Personally, I'm torn. I like to shop so more mainstream shops would be great, but I think it would detract from the charm. I would love if the current shops stayed open later. The streets roll up at 8 p.m. More to do later would be fun.



Tony Giustino

Firefighter

I like the small town feel of Pleasanton. If people want the big shops Hacienda and the mall are not far away. I think we should keep downtown independent.



Teri Wendt

Daycare Owner

I would hate to see downtown change. We've been here for 20 years and it's part of our unique charm. I would like to see some of the current restaurants and shops stay open later and offer some entertainment. By the time we get off work, get ready and head out, places are closing.



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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

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Newsfront

News Digest

Nominate excellent educators

Nominations for the 18th annual Excellence in Education Awards are now being accepted by the Pleasanton PTA Council. The community is encouraged to nominate a teacher, administrator or staff member of the Pleasanton Unified School District based on personal merit and exemplary contributions made to public education. Forms and eligibility requirements are available at www.pleasantonpta.org. Nominations must be received by 4 p.m. March 19. The public ceremony honoring the recipients will be held June 4.

Change a bike tire for breast cancer

Pleasanton bike shop Cyclepath, 337-B Main St. (in the Bank of America building) hosts the second bike workshop from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 28. All proceeds will be donated to the Breast Cancer Fund to support research and outreach. At this workshop, participants are encouraged to bring their bikes and learn to safely and efficiently change a flat tire. A \$15 donation is suggested. For more information, call 485-3218.

Falcon Royale tickets on sale now

Tickets are available for the Falcon Royale "Moon Over Manhattan" fundraiser, taking place from 6:30 to 11 p.m. April 5 at the Ruby Hill Golf Club. The event will feature student-made fine art, dinner, drinks, a silent and live auction, and dancing to the sounds of Annie Sampson and Friend. Proceeds will support Foothill High School programs. Tickets are \$75 and are limited to the first 200 sold. Contact Jill Thomas at 931-1075 or jillthomas@comcast.net.

Poet brings Yosemite to Pleasanton

James Down will share his work at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Down lives and works in Yosemite National Park which is his inspiration.

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

City seeks quick vote on Oak Grove referendum

Move comes before today's court hearings on project's legal disputes

by Jeb Bing

The City Council Tuesday night agreed to schedule a series of public discussions March 4 on the controversial Oak Grove project, a multi-million-dollar luxury home and open space plan it approved last fall for the hills above Kottinger Ranch and Vintage Hills.

With the clock running toward a March 7 deadline for scheduling a possible referendum on Oak Grove on the state primary ballot on June 3, Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio said she wanted everything in place if legal disputes affecting

Oak Grove are resolved today, as expected.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch has scheduled hearing this morning on a request by Oak Grove landowners Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic to declare invalid signatures gathered by former Councilwoman Kay Ayala and her citizens' coalition Save Pleasanton's Hills. Ayala and the organization collected more than 4,000 signatures from registered Pleasanton voters last fall seeking to overturn the council's decision that approved the project.

Another Superior Court Judge,

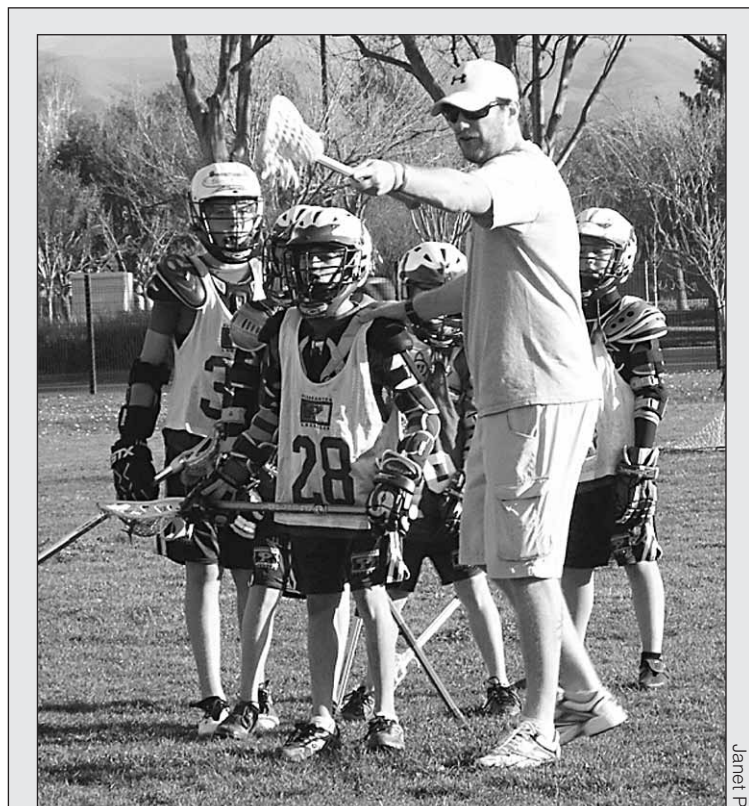
Ken Burr, substituting for Roesch at the time, granted the Lins a temporary order restraining the county Registrar from certifying the signatures until the Lins' suit could be heard in full by Roesch, as scheduled today. The Lins are arguing that Ayala and Save Pleasanton's Hills used deceptive tactics and failed to adhere to other rules in seeking voter signatures. They want Roesch to grant a permanent injunction that would invalidate the signatures so that they can get on with their project.

Ayala countered with a motion also filed in Superior Court that

seeks the dismissal of the Lins' suit on grounds that it violates a state statute that protects individuals from "Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation, known as SLAPP. Roesch is expected to decide that claim today also.

At issue is the council's approval for the Lins to develop 51 large custom homesites on 77 acres of the nearly 600 acres of wooded hilltop land the Lins own. As part of its approval, the council also approved a development agreement with the Lins that would turn the

(continued on page 8)



A GAME WITH STEALTH

The "young pups" division of the Pleasanton Lacrosse Club was treated to a clinic last week taught by San Jose Stealth forwards Colin Doyle (shown here) and Jeff Zywicki. The players often teach lacrosse techniques in schools across the Bay Area, as the sport has been consistently growing in popularity. For the story, turn to Sports on page 25.

Janet Pelletier

Quarrel over wall close to settlement

Barrier will remain up between Hap's restaurant and Pleasanton Station with added conditions

by Janet Pelletier

After two years, heated exchange and a longstanding rift, a battle over a wall dividing Hap's restaurant from the new Pleasanton Station center appears to be close to a conclusion.

The Planning Commission voted 5-0 at its Feb. 13 meeting that a 6-foot-tall masonry wall parting the back of Hap's on Neal Street from Pleasanton Station on West Angela Street will not have to be torn down. The matter will go to the City Council with the commission's recommendations for approval.

The dispute began two years ago after owners of the Pleasanton Station development, which opened a few months ago, erected the wall to separate its back parking lot from the rear of the steak and seafood restaurant. Owners complained that employees at the restaurant were dumping cooking oil and grease into Dumpsters out back

and that some of the liquid spilled and seeped into a storm drain.

"Our property tenants pay a handsome amount of rent and expect quality," said Mitch Perreira, one of Pleasanton Station's owners. "(Hap's) wants to go out and run the parking lot."

But Hap's owner Mike Madden denied that contaminants were leaking into storm drains.

"I don't pollute," he said. "I don't contaminate the property. We don't do these things that we're being accused of."

To solve the issue, Pleasanton Station owners asked the city if they could build a wall. When they were told they didn't need special permits, they completed the enclosure.

After the wall went up, Madden contacted the city to complain that the wall didn't get the necessary approvals and that it encroached

(continued on page 9)

Schools find alternate beef supplier

Westland Meat Company products removed from district after massive recall

by Emily Atwood

Beef has returned to Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) school menus following what is being called the largest meat recall in U.S. history.

Responding to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) large recall of Westland Meat Company beef, the district removed the company's products from the schools and began receiving beef from another source.

Frank Castro, director of nutritional services for the district, said the USDA either supplies raw meat to schools or to a processor which delivers cooked and frozen meat to schools. The district receives meat from a processor that has found a new beef provider since the recall.

"We were alerted at the end of January," Castro said. "The first week, we pulled any items that might be recalled."

As of Monday, the USDA issued a two-year recall of meat by Westland.

"That's for anyone who has meat from (as far back as) Feb. 1, 2006," Castro said. "They need to get rid of that."

Recalls were issued based on an incident in August, meaning the meat has likely already been consumed. So far, no illnesses among California school children who may have eaten the beef in question have been reported. USDA spokesman Keith Williams said the recall was done primarily to revoke the USDA's seal of inspection for the meat because of processing

procedures, not because of contamination or the risk of illness.

Pleasanton parents and students need not worry about the beef served in the 10,000 to 15,000 meals served throughout the district each week, according to Castro.

"The USDA inspects meat in its raw state," he said, adding that the meat is received processed and cooked. "All of our leads are trained in food safety. We follow safe food handling from time delivered to time the food is delivered to the students." ■

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102 years young

Bernice Pavlik, of Pleasanton, recently celebrated her 102nd birthday with friends and family at Eden Villa senior care facility.

Born in Oakland in 1906, Pavlik spent most of her life there before moving to Castro Valley and most recently, to Pleasanton, for the past two years.

Her secret to life's longevity? Pavlik said she doesn't drink or smoke and walks a lot.

Martial arts studio kicked out for good

In its denial, Planning Commission says owner needs child care license for its program

by Janet Pelletier

A martial arts studio on Quarry Lane has been shut down indefinitely after the Planning Commission ruled 5-0 its owner would need to get a child care license before it would consider it.

The Tri-Valley Martial Arts Academy shuttered last month after the city determined that the scope of operations at the studio were different than what owner John Pfund described to them initially.

The business, located at 1262-A Quarry Lane, opened last July after it obtained what the city termed an "over the counter" zoning certificate. But the city soon realized that a new law that went into effect the same month meant the studio needed a conditional use permit, and they contacted the studio to correct the mistake. After a back-and-forth battle, city staff recommended that the commission deny the permit because the martial arts activities resembled more of a day care than an after school program.

The decision was crushing to Pfund, who said his passion for life comes from teaching youths the principles of martial arts.

"I've wanted to do this since I was 10 years old," he said.

"I've never told anyone it's a day care," Pfund said. "I don't provide supervision or care."

Pfund said his studio is no different than after school gymnastics, dance and swim programs and should be considered by the same rules.

Parents of children who went to the martial arts school agreed with Pfund, reiterating that he never told them it was a day care and that they never considered it one. The

Tri-Valley Martial Arts Academy has left an indelible mark in their children's lives, they said.

"My 5-year-old daughter has really come out of her shell," said parent Amy Fluker.

Another mother said she was amazed at what her son learned about respect in such a small amount of time.

At the Feb. 13 meeting, commissioners said while they have no hesitations that Pfund is a great leader and role model to the children he teaches and that the martial arts program was exceptional, it didn't erase the fact that the longer hours of operation and regimented daily schedule falls into a day care category, which requires a state child care license.

"I have no doubt that John's a good teacher," Commissioner Jennifer Pearce said. "I'd like to see this succeed, but the way it's currently structured, I can't support it."

Commissioner Arne Olson added that the studio's practice of picking children up from school gives more of an element of care.

"The way to solve this would be to get a (child care) license," he said.

Pfund had been operating Tri-Valley Martial Arts under a 'free to come and go' policy—meaning students weren't required to be signed in and out by their parents which is how a day care would operate. But the city has a policy of requiring facilities to sign children in and out, according to city principal planner Donna Decker.

Under Pfund's policy, "children at any age would be free to come

(continued on page 7)

State recognizes Village High

School is one of 12 named 'Model Continuation High School'

by Emily Atwood

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell recently named Village High School as a 2008 Model Continuation High School. It was one of 12 to be recognized among the reported 519 continuation high schools in California.

"We are very excited," Greg Giglio, principal of alternative education, said, adding that the honor is won in cycles and it's their fourth cycle in a row to win.

Giglio compared the screening process to that of the WASC credentialing program. They look at the whole program, including test scores, curriculum, opportunities for students and ways for parents to be involved. A visitation team then tours the school for a couple days and interviews staff, students and parents.

"The feedback I got from the visitation team is that we provide structure and build solid relationship with students to help them dig themselves out of the hole and

"We provide structure and build solid relationship with students to help them dig themselves out of the hole and get back on track and graduate"

—Greg Giglio, Village High Continuation School Principal

get back on track and graduate," Giglio said. "The staff is a veteran staff and really does a lot to help students reach their potential."

Continuation high schools are for students age 16 and older who are at risk of not graduating. Village High boasts a high graduation rate, which Giglio said is usually between 90 to 100 percent.

"We're very proud of our students," he said. "They don't always get the best reputation and they really can and do achieve a lot of amazing things when they come here. It's always great to see them rewarded this way; it's on par with all the awards that Amador and Foothill receive."

The continuation high school recognition program is a partnership of the California Department of Education and the California Education Association. For more information on continuation education, visit www.cde.ca.gov/105244, or on Village High School, visit www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us/village. ■

Securing scholarship dollars

Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. raises money to ease financial burden for college hopefuls

by Emily Atwood

Since Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. (AVSI) started in 1965, the group has awarded \$370,000 to 362 Pleasanton students heading to college. The giving trend continues as the group begins its annual fundraising campaign.

Three new directors have joined the scholarship board in order to move the organization's goals forward. Denise Ebright is a graduate of Amador Valley High and UC Berkeley as well as the first AVSI recipient to serve on the board.

Dennis Hart is also a product of Pleasanton schools, and graduated from San Jose State University in 1979. He is also the son of the late Thomas and Mary Hart, for whom one of AVSI's scholarships is named.

Thirty-one year Pleasanton resident James Soule is also the chair of the Soule Family Charitable Foundation. AVSI's Scott Soule Scholarship is named for his son, who attended Pleasanton schools.

"As the cost of higher education continues to escalate, AVSI is determined to help as many Pleasanton students as possible in realizing



Dennis Hart, Denise Ebright and James Soule have joined the Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. board of directors.

their goals," Board President Mary Hart Reding said.

Scholarship applications are available at the Amador Valley, Foothill and Village high school counseling departments, or by emailing Ebright at denise.ebright@att.com. The deadline for submissions is March 14. Interviews will be conducted May 5 at Foothill High

School. High school seniors are eligible for scholarships to vocational, community or four-year colleges.

To donate to AVSI, send a check payable to Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. to 4665 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566. A donation form can be found on AVSI's Web site, www.amadorvalleyscholarshipsinc.org. ■

Martial arts

(continued from page 6)

and go," Decker said. "Parents would sign a waiver, but the child would not be required to be signed out by an adult."

There were some inconsistencies with how the state viewed the situation. Initially, the State Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division told the city that Pfund would be required to get a child care license because children would be at the facility for more than an hour and a half

and attending more than 16 hours per week. Other activities such as supervised homework also factored into the decision. However, the state revised that ruling following additional information it received from Pfund about the center's activities and determined a license wasn't necessary under an exemption that Pfund has parents sign a waiver stating the academy isn't a day care. The city said it disagrees with that decision because the exemption applies only to older children. The studio would be teaching children as young as 5 years old.

Commissioners also took issue

with Pfund's previous martial arts operations in Dublin, which the city of Dublin recorded numerous code violations for.

The vote commissioners made was a "denial without prejudice," which means that Pfund would be able to come back to the commission with a revised business proposal that includes a child care license. If the commission had denied the permit outright, Pfund would have to wait one year before bringing his proposal back. He has another option as well. He can appeal the Planning Commission's decision to the City Council. ■

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Of Note

Wieskamp to serve as president of park district board

Ayn Wieskamp of Livermore will serve as the East Bay Regional Park District board president for 2008. First elected to the board of directors in 1998, Wieskamp was re-elected in 2002 and 2006. Immediately prior to her being elected to the park district board, she was a councilmember for the city of Livermore for 18 years.



Ayn Wieskamp

Wieskamp has also served on the boards for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District and the Alameda County Recycling Board. Wieskamp's goals for 2008 include encouraging families and individuals to use EBPRD parks to improve their fitness, while enjoying recreational programs and the beauty of the parks. She is also focusing on continuing to expand the "green" programs and initiatives throughout the district

Sousa to manage Axis teen recovery program

Amie Sousa has been promoted to manager of Axis Community Health's Teen Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program. Sousa graduated from the University of Phoenix with a bachelor's degree in human services and came to Axis through an 80-hour internship program while working towards the degree. The Teen Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program last year served 159 teens in treatment and 6,000 additional teens in primary prevention at assemblies, school visits and the Parent Project.



Amie Sousa

In her new position, Sousa will oversee all aspects of the program, which provides outpatient treatment, extensive community and school outreach, and school-wide activities like the Choices program and red ribbon week. She replaced Debra Eberhart, who resigned to take a new position in San Francisco.

Retired Police Chief Tim Neal heads Hope Hospice board

Retired Pleasanton Police Chief Tim Neal has been elected presi-

dent of the Hope Hospice Board of Directors. Neal, who joined the board in 2003, witnessed the benefits of hospice when he lost both of his parents a year apart to terminal illness.

Margie Perry, vice president and branch manager of Heritage Bank, has been appointed vice president of the board. Heritage Bank (formerly Diablo Valley Bank) hosted Lights of the Valley in Pleasanton for the past two years and, as a part of each event, sponsored an Adopt a Bear program with all proceeds going to Hope Hospice and all bears purchased being distributed to sick children.

Charles Crohare, vice president, relationship manager for Tri-Valley Bank, is the board's new treasurer. Mary Prishtina, RN, OCN, is the new secretary on the board. Prishtina provides patients and their families with information and caring support at the ValleyCare Health Library and Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center in Pleasanton.

Food Bank names Pleasanton resident to its board

The Alameda County Community Food Bank appointed two new board members: Anthony Bettencourt, chief executive officer of Zantaz, an Autonomy company headquartered in Pleasanton and Lydia Tinjero-Deck, M.D., pediatrician at Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland.

Bettencourt, a resident of Pleasanton, has more than 20 years of senior management experience in a variety of high-tech companies and, most recently, as an entrepreneur-in-residence at US Venture Partners. Previously, as the chief executive officer of Verity, Inc., he grew the business from \$15 million in annual revenues to more than \$140 million from 1995 to 2005.

Bettencourt serves as a judge for the Tech Awards, is a mentor for Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator program, and is an honorary committee member of The Silicon Valley Challenge Summit. He was a past board member for Alameda

County Meals on Wheels.

Foothill grad earns Eagle Scout honors

Justin Worley, an 18-year-old graduate of Foothill High School, recently was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, the most prestigious rank in Boy Scouts. Worley started as a Cub Scout at the age of 7 in Pack 944 and advanced through the ranks from Bobcat to Webelos Scout. He also attained the Arrow of Light Award in 2000. That March, he crossed over into Boy Scouts and joined Troop 941. He then transferred to Troop 998 in 2004. With his new Troop he ventured to New Mexico in 2005 to Philmont Scout Ranch to participate in a 10-day, 90-mile backpacking trek.



Justin Worley

In order to earn the rank of Eagle, Worley was required to earn a minimum of 21 merit badges (which included first aid, lifesaving, shotgun shooting, camping and personal fitness, to name a few), and held various leadership positions in his troop, including patrol leader, chaplain, quartermaster and senior patrol leader.

Worley also organized and directed a service project that aided Valley Community Church's student ministries' worship team. He, along with friends and scouts from his troop, designed and built a fully carpeted portable media cabinet and microphone box for the church. In total, the team put in over 100 hours of labor. Worley's Eagle advisor was Doug Olson, the scoutmaster of Troop 998.

An Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held Dec. 30 at Valley Community Church to recognize his achievement. The now college freshman has received many letters of congratulations and recognition of his achievement including messages from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 6298 and the U.S. Marines. ■

Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

rest of their property over to the city at no charge. Pleasanton intends to use the acreage for trails, picnic grounds and equestrian paths. The council also will seek similar agreements with other adjacent landowners to create a 2,000-acre swath of open space along the southeast hills of Pleasanton.

If Roesch decides that the Lins' suit has merit and cancels the Ayala signature-gathering results, his decisions would effectively end the dispute. If the Lins lose in court, however, then the county Registrar can certify the signatures collected by Ayala and her group as sufficient in numbers to call for a referendum.

In that scenario, the council, at its March 4 meeting, would likely consolidate its response to the citizens' coalition in four steps:

- Certify the signatures, as counted by the Registrar's office.
- Vote to rescind its approval of the Oak Grove project or vote to place the measure on a public ballot on June 3.
- Adopt ballot language prepared by City Attorney Michael Roush formally describing the referendum and asking voters to approve or not approve an ordinance rescinding the council's action.
- Establish a referendum document containing Roush's formal language of the measure, with others writing arguments for and against the referendum.

At their meeting Tuesday night, councilmembers noted the many variables that could affect their plan to move forward on March 4. But by officially placing the Oak Grove project on its agenda, the council can postpone or extend its four-part votes on the measure right up to the March 7 deadline.

If the council would decide to rescind its approval of the project, the issue would end without a referendum and with the Lins unable to build Oak Grove. The developer agreement between the city and the Lins for the 496-acre land grant to Pleasanton also would be canceled.

Although most on the council appeared to favor placing the referendum on the primary ballot on June 3 if the referendum survives the Superior Court decision today and the council's action on March 4, Councilwoman Cindy McGovern said she wouldn't mind seeing the issue voted on at the General Election on Nov. 4. That would move the Oak Grove debate into the municipal election campaign as well. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilman Matt Sullivan, who have announced that they will seek reelection to their posts, favor Oak Grove. McGovern, who is also eligible to seek another term on the council but has not yet announced her candidacy, opposes the project.

Roush said state law requires that a referendum on a local issue such as Oak Grove be placed on the ballot at the next election, or as part of the state primary on June 3. The council also could pay for a special election, or could wait until the Nov. 4 General Election. ■

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A farmin' Weekly

On a recent trip to England, Deborah Grossman and Frankie Brooks (a former Pleasanton resident) pose with the Weekly in the tiny village of Felsted in Essex, where Brooks now lives. Grossman reports that "Frankie has missed the Pleasanton Farmers Market and was thrilled when we discovered a new farm stand open during the summer."

Business Briefs

Business association honors Woman of the Year

The local American Business Women's Association Express to Success (ABWA E2S) chapter has named Sharon Almeida as its Woman of the Year.

Almeida has been an ABWA national member for many years and joined Express to Success shortly after the group was formed in 2003. She has served as president, vice president and chair of several ABWA committees. She continues to share ideas to help members grow their businesses. Almeida, who has a Bachelor of Science in financial services, has been a financial advisor since 1987 and has run her own firm since 2000. She has volunteered her time in school, church and for the Portuguese community. Since 2004, she has devoted most of her volunteer time to House, Inc. a Pleasanton nonprofit organization that purchases and manages homes for developmentally disabled adults, providing housing support to live independently and reach their full potential. Since 2004, House, Inc. has purchased three houses. Almeida acts as a property manager for one home.

Each quarter, the Express to Success Network also selects a

Business of the Quarter to recognize a member for her efforts to support her chapter and her community. Culver Careers, where E2S member Karen Ferriera works as a national executive sales recruiter, has been voted Business of the First Quarter 2008. A Bay Area native, Ferriera founded the E2S chapter of ABWA almost five years ago and was its first president. She works with many networking organizations to keep E2S membership growing and thriving.

Humane society praises Safeway

The Humane Society of the United States is praising Pleasanton-based supermarket chain Safeway for its initiative to improve animal welfare in its food purchasing decisions.

The humane society has been in contact with Safeway about improving its farm animal conditions, according to HSUS. In November, the organization filed a shareholder resolution on the subject but withdrew it recently after hearing of Safeway's new policies. The humane society said Safeway's move will send a message to the agribusiness industry that it needs to separate itself from factory farming abuses.

Among Safeway's policies are: purchasing more cage-free eggs, doubling the percentage of cage-free eggs it offers to over 6 percent of its total egg sales within two years, purchasing more pork

from producers who don't confine breeding sows in gestation crates, increase the purchasing of this type of pork by 5 percent over the next three years and purchasing more from poultry sellers who use controlled atmosphere stunning in its slaughtering.

Pleasanton Hotel welcomes new chef

Bill Laube, owner of the Pleasanton Hotel, has announced that Chris Smith has assumed the position of executive chef, effective Jan. 1.

Smith attended the California Culinary Academy. His culinary experience includes Wentz, Caesar's Palace and as a chef instructor at Le Cordon Bleu Culinary School in Las Vegas.

Trapeze Networks employs Wi-Fi in Livermore schools

Pleasanton-based Trapeze Networks has provided more than 13,000 students, faculty and staff in the Livermore Unified School District with Wi-Fi infrastructure.

The wireless network allows the school district to relay critical information during a disaster when all telephone, cell service, Internet and local networks may go down, allowing the school to keep in constant communications. It also provides a potentially lifesaving conduit for first-responders such as

police and fire department personnel to communicate with each other on-site. In the event of a school evacuation during a fire, teachers can count the number of students present or missing on the football field and immediately convey the data back to an emergency operations center via a laptop, while a fire captain can articulate time-sensitive information and infrastructure to crew and direct operations.

In addition to emergency preparedness, the district is using the network to ensure student safety with wireless security cameras at the district's two high schools.

Pleasanton subsidiary provides safety system in M.D.

CompuDyne Corporation's Tiburon Inc. subsidiary of Pleasanton has signed a \$6.6-million contract to provide an integrated public safety system for Anne Arundel County in Maryland.

The system includes new computer aided dispatch, law enforcement and fire records management, investigative analysis, mobile communication, institutional management and civil process systems to support law enforcement and fire agencies in Ann Arundel County.

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Janet Pelletier

This 6-foot-tall masonry wall that separates the back of Hap's restaurant and the parking lot of Pleasanton Station has caused a rift between the two property owners.

Hap's

(continued from page 5)

on his property. That's when the city determined that in fact, it had made a mistake in allowing the wall to be constructed in the first place.

But trying to settle the issue privately proved impossible as a rift developed between property owners. So, the city opted to have the Planning Commission vote on whether to allow the wall to stand, which it did with some added conditions:

- The wall may not be altered unless by approval of the city's

planning director

- A heavy metal gate attached to the wall must be torn down because it is out of compliance for emergency access
- The city has agreed to pay for the new gate
- The owners of Pleasanton Station and Railroad Square will record an easement to allow Hap's to have access through a reconstructed gate in emergencies
- The easement will not be recorded until Hap's stripes the pavement and builds an enclosure for the trash bins
- The owners of Pleasanton Station will allow an easement to Hap's for trash collection. ■

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WHY SOME CHOOSE SCHOOLS OUTSIDE OF PLEASANTON'S ACCLAIMED SCHOOL DISTRICT

STORY AND PHOTOS BY EMILY ATWOOD

PLEASANTON'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE OFTEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN WHY PEOPLE MOVE TO THIS PART OF THE TRI-VALLEY. THE PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS A TRACK RECORD OF BEING ONE OF THE TOP IN THE COUNTY AND HAS RECEIVED REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ATTENTION.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX (API) RATES PLEASANTON DISTRICT SCHOOLS AS ABOVE AVERAGE ACROSS THE BOARD. ON A SCALE OF 200 TO 1,000—WITH 800 CONSIDERED EXEMPLARY—PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S 2006 API BASE SCORE WAS 881. COMPARATIVELY, DUBLIN UNIFIED HAS A SCORE OF 827, LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED HAS A SCORE OF 792 AND NEARBY CASTRO VALLEY UNIFIED HAS 826 POINTS AND HAYWARD UNIFIED HAS 681 POINTS.

Superintendent John Casey lists the district's attractive offerings as outstanding AP (advanced placement) courses and a variety of electives in staples like senior English and civics, not to mention the vast number of clubs and extracurricular activities offered as well as competitive varsity sports. Combine these with the Community of Character educational program, the district is on a mission to produce well-rounded, educated students.

Yet many families in Pleasanton find the school district's offerings are not

enough. With public schools expected to experience major state budget cuts this fiscal year which ends June 30 and fiscal year 2008-09, private schools will be unaffected. Tuition can be a hefty price to pay, but many families look to local private schools to educate their children.

One of the main reasons Kim Gray, a parent of a fourth-grader and second-grader, chose Hacienda School was because of its year-round schedule that follows a business calendar. It doesn't just help the family's schedules, Gray said she prefers that the educational

flow go without large chunks of vacation time.

"The public schools have way too much time off," she said. "They have to make up all that extra time in homework, so they're not learning as much in the classroom. The philosophy of the school is that school is meant for doing educational work and home time is meant for family time."

Hacienda School is a Montessori-based program located at 3800 Stoneridge Drive. It serves kids from first through eighth grade. Its nearby sister campus, at 4671 Chabot Ave., is



The scene at Valley Christian High School in Dublin could be from any public high school as non-uniformed students make their way to the next class.



Upper elementary student, Brett de Geus, tackles his homework.

for birth through kindergarten. Currently there are 62 students in the elementary and middle school campus and 180 at the Chabot Avenue location.

Student-to-teacher ratios are also very important to parents of private school children. Hacienda School boasts 12:1 for elementary and middle school, 10:1 for preschool and kindergarten, 8:1 for 2-year-olds and 3:1 for toddlers and infants.

Tuition for Hacienda elementary and middle school is \$1,355 and \$1,495 per month, respectively.

"Our students have many classes with specialists, such as music, Mandarin, Spanish, daily P.E. and art," Jo Anne Camara, school director, said.

Visiting the campus, you'll find students working in small groups with a teacher or sprawled on the floor. Some students even helped themselves to a bowl of cereal.

Gray said she and her husband weighed the cost of private school and determined

that it was worth

"I'm going to for an after-school kind of summer putting her child. "When I started all of that, it was than I expected."

As her daughter school, Gray said will continue with school. As for the already decided.

"One drawback that it's so much from different world," she said. school, they will public high school. more important and learn how to

Michelle E. Christian's high similar to the "

R PRIVATE?



work while sprawled across the floor at Hacienda School in Pleasanton.

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Brinnon likes Valley
h school because it is
real thing.” Brinnon, the

junior high and senior high school assistant principal, and a parent of two in the school system, said there are still things like prom and homecoming dances in private school, but there are boundaries to guide the students.
The school system runs from preschool to high school and is located atop a Dublin hillside at 7500 Inspiration Drive. With many students staying in the system all the way through, Principal Jane Kitchen said it fosters relationships that other schools can’t.
There is also a student-run chapel once a week complete with a full student band and different speakers each week.
Gary and Phoebe Schwaegerle have four boys in Valley Christian schools and said they chose the schools because it aligned with their religious views.
“For our children, it reflects our faith,” she said. “It’s upheld in the classroom and it’s very important to us that the teachers had same faith as we do.”

Both parents are products of public schools—Gary Schwaegerle graduated from Foothill in 1979—and said they think Pleasanton’s public schools are excellent. They just wanted their children’s education to reflect what they believe.
“The Bible program is a part of our core curriculum through senior year in high school,” Brinnon said. “We also have an aggressive academic program that is U.C.-approved and dually accredited.”
Valley Christian’s junior and senior high classroom ratio is about 22:1 and 18:1, respectively, and about 23 percent of students are from Pleasanton. Tuition for elementary through senior high school ranges from \$7,600 to \$10,000 per year. There are 11 AP courses, a U.C. Berkeley professor on staff and several science offerings including marine biology. Their five pillars of excellence are: academic excellence, spiritual development, creative expression, athletic distinction and servant leadership.
A big draw for preschool and elementary private school education is the vast integration of language and technology. Carden West, located at 4576 Willow Road, starts teaching Spanish to 3-year-olds, American Sign Language (ASL) to pre-kindergartners, and in kindergarten, students can choose to learn French or Mandarin.
Upon completing fifth grade, students are proficient in Microsoft Office. PowerPoint instruction begins in kindergarten and as they

progress, they learn Excel, Access and other computer programs.
Carden West serves preschool through fifth grade, is non-sectarian and governed by a volunteer board of directors. The board is comprised of parents and a former principal. Tuition ranges from \$7,400 to \$15,225 annually. Eventually the school plans to expand to offer a middle school program.
Another attraction, beyond small class sizes, is that they are open until 6 p.m. with homework and activity clubs.
“In every one of our classes we cater to the gifted and talented students and those who need extra support,” Principal Peter Van Court said. “We extend the curriculum beyond the grade level, which you can’t do with larger class sizes. All the other offerings we have just aren’t available in public school.”
Some families are willing to travel to secure a private education for their children.
Athenian School is located near Mount Diablo State Park in Danville. The independent and WASC-accredited school teaches middle- and high school-aged kids, some of whom board there.
Christopher Beeson, Athenian’s director of admission and financial aid, said the education features rigorous academics as well as service learning. The school’s boundaries extend beyond the 75-acre campus, as juniors are required to complete a 26-day wilderness experience and students regularly take part

in exchanges and service projects abroad.
“Athenian goes far beyond academics to educate students for lives of meaning and purpose,” he said. “They are taught to be citizens of the world with the goal of having a positive impact on our future.”
Class sizes range from 9:1 to 15:1, with annual middle and high school tuition at \$29,015 and \$27,520, respectively.
Carondelet and De La Salle are Catholic high schools located in Concord. Matt Guarino, director of communications at De La Salle, said Lasallian service to the poor is one of their first priorities along with quality academics.
“At De La Salle, we educate students with an emphasis on developing men of faith,” he said.
The young men work with a campus ministry department that organizes retreats and service learning projects.
De La Salle’s tuition is around \$12,000 per year and the student population is 1,000. While the two schools are separate institutions, Guarino said that the two high schools share some classes. The school also embraces diversity, with students coming from all over the Bay Area, including Alamo, Antioch and Richmond.
There are several Web sites to learn more about private schools, including www.privateschoolreview.com, which allows you to compare and find the many other private schools in the area. ■



Middle school students at Athenian School, located in Danville, show off papier-mâché mask creations.

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Opinion

Editorial

Changes needed to help voters

A look back at some of the problems voters faced in the Feb. 5 Presidential Primary shows a need for changes to make voting easier in the regular statewide primary June 3 and the General Election on Nov. 4. Laura Wu of Ruby Hill had it right when she called the Pleasanton Weekly at mid-day Feb. 5 to express concern that the provisional ballot she had just cast might not count. She was stopped from voting at her precinct at the fire station off of Vineyard Avenue because she'd been sent an absentee ballot to use instead. The only problem was that she had never asked for an absentee ballot so had never looked for it among the other election materials she'd received, including a sample ballot that she'd been sent by the Alameda County Registrar's office. She always votes at her precinct polling place in person. But when she got there, she found herself among others who also had been sent absentee ballots, with their names crossed off the roster of "live" voters eligible to vote in person. Only by taking the time to fill out a provisional ballot, which she then dropped in the ballot box, was she able to vote. Her concern was that this cumbersome process might leave her vote uncounted or among votes counted too late to make a difference. One precinct worker said it could take a month to count all the provisional ballots. With a larger number voting provisional on Feb. 5, some polling places ran out of the blue forms. Although Pleasanton had enough, the Registrar's office rushed copies of the provisional ballots to precincts in Hayward, Berkeley and Oakland and kept some precincts open late to handle the backlog of provisional ballot voters.

We know now, of course, that Laura Wu's concerns were justified. Three days after the primary, and long after the voting results were announced, Alameda County still had more than 30,000 provisional ballots to count. That's because provisional ballots have to be verified against the individual voter's registration and then checked to make sure none of those voters voted twice. Besides the provisionals, even the regular ballots had problems, with some voters asking for new ballots because they mistakenly connected a wrong line that they had marked in the required dark ink. Absentee voters are also creating a challenge. Now approaching the 50 percent mark, these ballots take longer to read and count.

Also frustrating to some voters on Feb. 5 was a change in their precinct polling place. A few years ago, Ruby Hill voters accustomed to casting ballots at the Hacienda Mobile Home Park on Vineyard Avenue found their voting precinct had been moved to the new Ruby Hill fire station. Even though the new address was noted on sample ballots sent to each voter, precinct workers at the mobile home site were deluged with voters unaware of the change and who had to be personally re-directed to the new firehouse. Another problem surfaced when voters long accustomed to voting on Case Avenue found that their polling place had been moved to 100 Valley Ave. That's the location of the newly-opened Parkview Assisted Living Center. But try to find 100 Valley Ave. on any city map or GPS. It doesn't exist because that section of Valley Avenue (formerly called Junipero Street) was just recently extended under the Union Pacific Railroad track between Bernal Avenue and Sunol Boulevard. One voter used Google to find the site and was directed to a commercial site at Valley and Stanley Boulevard, near McDonald's. Even City Hall couldn't help, since the recent primary was a statewide and county Registrar's responsibility and no one there knew where 100 Valley Ave. was anyway.

Let's hope the Registrar's office can have someone check out the information it prints in advance of sending the sample ballots to voters in early May for the June 3 statewide primary. Voters, of course, should do some checking themselves to make sure they know where to vote and can do so with little frustration or delay.

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



With your help, our community stays informed

With a newsroom staff busy covering breaking city, civic and other community news as well as putting together cover stories and other features, we rely on the many organizations that serve our city to provide us with press releases that can also inform our readers about the good community work they are doing.

In a thriving community such as Pleasanton, there is more going on than we have staff to cover. In fact, we rely on community members to send press releases to keep us informed and get that news to the public.

Often it's in the first quarter of a new year that organization boards are being formed and new publicity chairs are being named. "It's easy," the former chair will tell you. "Just call the newspaper." So you, like many others recently, have called and asked for coverage of an event only to have our editor ask for a press release instead of sending a reporter. Not quite as easy as you were led to believe, right?

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

- Ask yourself why readers will be interested in this story. This

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

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

- Include all the information as if you are writing for someone who is new to town. For example, don't just give the location of the event, but include the complete address. Also include a sentence about your group. After all, you want people to join and participate; the easier you make it for them, the better off you are.

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

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

The most important step is to check your facts. Check spelling of names, addresses, times. Make sure the day of the week and the date match. Include costs or fees if they are applicable. Verify

phone numbers. When you call to verify the spelling of a common name, you might get dead silence for a few moments, but I've often seen the most common of names spelled in an unusual way.

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

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

By the way, we prefer email over the old "snail mail" versions, with a contact name and telephone number in the email and the release sent as an attachment. Photos can be sent that way, too, which keeps everything together in a handy package we can use to get your message out.

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

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BAY AREA DANCE COMPANY IN CONCERT
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ASPEN SANTA FE BALLET
Compelling contemporary ballet
March 2 • 2 pm • \$28, \$31, \$36 (\$11 Student)

DUKE ELLINGTON ORCHESTRA
The quintessential American composer
March 7 • 8 pm • \$28, \$31, \$36, \$41 (\$11 Student)

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March 14-16, 21-22 • 2 pm & 8 pm • \$26, \$36, \$46, \$56

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Letters

One disappointed voter

Dear Editor,

I've voted for a Republican president in every election for the last 40 years.

This year, it was time for me to change. Imagine my disappointment when I couldn't vote for Barack on Super Tuesday...it looks like I'll need to wait until November to vote for him.

Gary Smith,
Pleasanton

our children. We must ensure that this type of thought pollution stays out of the classroom.

Ted Tully,
Pleasanton

Solution needed for trash problem downtown

Dear Editor,

I read with interest your recent article about downtown development, ("Creating an ideal downtown," Cover Story, Jan. 18, page 10). The town center aspect of Main Street is one of the distinguishing factors separating Pleasanton from many other communities. It is truly an asset to the community. The design of the Tully's complex definitely contributes to a pedestrian friendly ambiance that encourages the gathering of people.

Unfortunately, this has also made this little section of town take on the characteristics of a landfill. There isn't a day that goes by where the rear parking lot doesn't have a large collection of cups, bags and half eaten food scattered about. Likewise, the trash bins in front are often overflowing, spilling trash onto the sidewalk and courtyard. Perhaps Mr. Sellemeyer, with the help of the city, could use their considerable design skills to develop a solution to this problem.

Jon Caputo,
Pleasanton

Radical left contempt

Dear Editor,

In a recent letter titled "Provincial Dragons," (Letters to the Editor, Jan. 11, page 10-11) Paulette Kenyon gives us a telling glimpse into the mind of a leftist.

Ms. Kenyon says that our community is "truly provincial, classicist, racist" and enjoys using religion as a bully pulpit. Worse, we shop at Nordstrom and wave tiny flags as we "proudly slide into the next dark age."

This rhetoric is truly insightful. It reminds us of the contempt that the radical left demonstrates for ordinary Americans, who do not subscribe to their warped views.

Ms. Kenyon's letter is nasty but affects nobody. However, of serious concern is the presence of radical school teachers with similar toxic views, who impose them on

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Code of ethics

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

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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, February 27, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PCUP-213, Patricia Cramer, World School of Massage**
Application to amend the previously approved conditional use permit (PCUP-129) to allow a student clinic as part of the curriculum for the massage school located at 699 Peters Avenue, Suite A.
- **PUD-05-02M, James Happ, Northstar Realty Services, Inc./ Kenneth and Pamela Chrisman**
Application for a major modification to an approved PUD development plan to replace the approved production home designs with design guidelines for the property located at 1944 Vineyard Avenue, in the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan Area.
- **PUD-71, Michael Aminian/Medeiros Gardens, LLC**
Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning and development plan approval to rezone an approximately .876-acre parcel from the RM-4,000 (Multiple-Family Residential) District to the PUD-HDR (Planned Unit Development – High-Density Residential) District and to construct ten townhouse units at the property located at 3835 Vineyard Avenue.
- **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.

Trails Ad Hoc Committee

Monday, February 25, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discussion on Vineyard Trail – Residents request to partially modify alignment
- Update on Corte de Flores
- Donation by Kane Family towards Bernal Property Trail.

Notice of Commission/Committee Vacancies

The City of Pleasanton is now accepting applications to fill vacancies on various commissions or committees:

Applications for commissions and committees are available at the City Clerk's office, 123 Main Street, Pleasanton or on the City's Website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, call the office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than **5:00 P.M., FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008**. Postmarks are not accepted.



PLEASANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

NOW HIRING - POLICE RECRUIT - \$30.81 PER HOUR

The City is currently recruiting qualified individuals interested in an exciting career in law enforcement with the Pleasanton Police Department. This is an entry level position.

For more information, contact the Human Resources Department 123 Main Street, Pleasanton call (925) 931-5056 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us Application Deadline: 5 p.m., Thursday, March 2, 2008. EOE

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

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

Police Bulletin

Car burglary suspect arrested

Pleasanton police arrested 27-year-old Billy Joe Auston of San Jose in reported connection to car burglaries in the Fairlands neighborhood. He was positively identified by witnesses who notified police of a suspicious white pickup truck speeding away when seeing police.

Officers were investigating the theft of stereo equipment taken from an unlocked vehicle on Lethbridge Court around 6 a.m. Monday when neighbors alerted officers to Auston. They found Auston's then unoccupied white pickup truck parked on West Las Positas Boulevard as

Warrenton Court residents found stolen property stashed in bushes and alerted police. Auston was found walking from the front door area of the home next door to where the items were found.

He was booked at Santa Rita Jail on two counts of vehicular burglary, two counts of stolen property possession and one count loitering/prowling on private property.

Police said property—mostly electronics—from at least six other auto burglaries or thefts from unlocked vehicles were recovered and returned to owners.

Police Report

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

Feb. 8

- Theft:
 - 9:38 a.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
 - 10:19 a.m. in the 7600 block of Stoneridge Drive; grand theft
 - 12:12 p.m. in the 7000 block of Corte Nina; forgery
 - 4:11 p.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court; stolen vehicle
 - 9:21 p.m. in the 2300 block of Foothill Road; theft, petty theft
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 4:03 p.m. in the 5900 block of Stoneridge Mall
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 2:04 a.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road; marijuana possession
 - 7:47 p.m. at the intersection of Pleasanton Sunol Boulevard and Happy Valley Road; public drunkenness
- Mental health danger:
 - 4:18 p.m. in the 5900 block of Sterling Greens Circle
 - 6:14 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Feb. 9

- Stolen vehicle:
 - 2:35 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Pimlico Drive
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:09 a.m. in the 7300 block of Hickorywood Lane
 - 10:02 p.m. in the 7700 block of Canyon Meadows Circle
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:18 a.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; DUI
 - 1:55 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
 - 9:38 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; paraphernalia possession, under the influence of a controlled substance

Feb. 10

- Identity theft:

-12:08 p.m. in the 5500 block of Sonoma Drive

- Paraphernalia possession:
 - 10:49 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court

- Assault:
 - 1:42 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

- Mental health danger:
 - 12:47 a.m. in the 500 block of Main Street

Feb. 11

- Theft:
 - 5:15 p.m. in the 2200 block of Segundo Court
- Vandalism:
 - 11:18 a.m. in the 2700 block of Hopyard Road; worth over \$400
 - 11:48 a.m. in the 5200 block of Johnson Drive; worth over \$400

Feb. 12

- Theft:
 - 8:28 a.m. in the 7200 block of Valley View Court; petty theft
 - 11:18 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; stolen vehicle
 - 2:17 p.m. in the 3400 block of Cornerstone Court; forgery
- Vandalism:
 - 9:34 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; worth less than \$400

- Vehicular burglary:
 - 1:12 p.m. in the 11500 block of Dublin Canyon Road

- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:09 a.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance, DUI

- 9:00 a.m. at the intersection of Second and Abbie streets; open alcoholic container possession by a passenger
- 9:31 p.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive; DUI

- Mental health danger:
 - 10:15 p.m. in the 4200 block of Jensen Street

Feb. 13

- Theft:
 - 10:31 a.m. in the 2800 block of Whitney Drive

- Vandalism:

-10:09 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Busch Road; worth less than \$400

-12:58 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Feb. 14

- Theft:
 - 10:55 a.m. in the 1200 block of Quarry Lane; grand theft
 - 11:50 a.m. in the 6600 block of Amber Lane; grand theft
 - 12:48 p.m. in the 4400 block of Oracle Lane; grand theft
 - 3:57 p.m. in the 4000 block of Rennellwood Way
 - 7:09 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft

- Vandalism:

-1:01 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street; worth less than \$400

- Burglary:

-10:51 a.m. in the 4400 block of Bacon Court; vehicular

-11:51 a.m. in the 8000 block of Regency Drive

-8:40 p.m. in the 3500 block of Milleford Court; vehicular

- Drug/alcohol violations:

-12:01 a.m. in the 300 block of Rose Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance

-2:13 a.m. at the intersection of Owens Drive and Hopyard Road; controlled substance possession

- Assault:

-1:01 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street

- Truant:

-12:59 p.m. in the 200 block of El Caminito

- Mental health danger:

-2:15 p.m. in the 3700 block of Angus Way

Transitions

Obituaries

Warren J. Moritz

Warren J. Moritz died Feb. 7 at the age of 86.

Born Nov. 7, 1921 in Gowanda, N.Y., Mr. Moritz (known to friends as Fritz) retired from NYNEX in 1982 and relocated to California. He was a former longtime resident of Pleasanton and most recently a resident of Tracy.

During his retirement, Mr. Moritz worked at the Sunol Valley Golf Course and the Art Frieler School as a yard duty supervisor. He relished in a regular 18 holes of golf with friends.

Mr. Moritz is survived by his wife of 23 years, Claudia; son, Jordan, who still lives at home; son, Craig Moritz; son-in-law, Lorin Karge; brother, Fred Moritz, Jr. and wife Margaret; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Feb. 9 and



11, with a mass at St. Augustine Catholic Church and interment at St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Arnold Lindgren

Arnold Lindgren died at the age of 75.

Mr. Lindgren was retired U.S. Army and an active member of Operating Engineers Local 3.

He had been a Pleasanton resident since 1956.

He leaves behind his beloved wife, Mary Lindgren; sister, Anna Roan; daughters, Pam Sprague, Denise Lutz and Dinna Remillard; grandchildren, Jarrett, Amy, Adam, Lisa, Kim and Jessica; nephews, Andy and Bill Roan; and eight great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Feb. 19. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

Josephine Sansone Moffat, R.N.

Surrounded by her family, Josephine Sansone Moffat died peacefully Feb. 11 at the age of 92.

Mrs. Moffat, or "Jo," as her countless friends and admirers often called her, was born in Milwaukee,

Wis. in 1915.

After graduating from the Misericordia Hospital School of nursing and completing post-graduate work in pediatrics, Mrs. Moffat enlisted in the Army Air Force in 1942. She was trained as one of the Army's first flight nurses and arrived in Africa in 1943 to join General George S. Patton's campaign. As a part of the First Air Evacuation Transport Squadron, she and her sister nurses evacuated over 50,000 wounded servicemen from the Tunisian, Sicilian and Italian Campaigns. Her skill and valor were recognized in 1943 with the Air Medal for meritorious achievement.

It was during the war that Mrs. Moffat met and married her first husband, John Russo of Boston. A brilliant engineer, he sadly died on the beaches of Normandy just before D-Day.

In 1945, Mrs. Moffat met a handsome intelligence officer, Edward P. Moffat, who was stationed at Hamilton Air Force Base, as was she at the time. They married in San Francisco in 1946.

After the war, she was discharged as an Army major, but remained active in the reserves until her retirement in 1952. She then volunteered to work with polio victims confined to iron lungs and became

one of the first open heart surgery specialists in Denver and Santa Monica, Calif.

Mrs. Moffat worked at Providence Hospital in Oakland for the next 13 years. For health reasons, in 1981, Mrs. Moffat reluctantly retired from nursing to her Oakland Hills home.

In 1996, her deteriorating health required moving to the Veteran's Hospital in Livermore. She became active in patient and veteran's affairs as a member of AmVets, the Flight Nurses Association and the American Legion.

Mrs. Moffat was preceded in death by her beloved husbands, John Russo and Edward P. Moffat;

her parents, Anthony Sansone and Maria Sansone; her brother, Frank Sansone and her sisters, Lea Zackar and Rose Maglio.

She is survived by her cherished children, Judge Edward P. Moffat II and her daughter-in-law, Veronica, Marie Moffat Capri and her son-in-law, Donald Capri, John A. Moffat and her daughter-in-law, Nancy, and Joseph T. Moffat; her adored grandchildren, Gina, Edward, Sara, Matthew, John, Stephanie, Lisa, Joseph and Patrick; and the joy of her life, her great grandchildren, Kobe, Devon and Tyler.

Services were held Feb. 17 and 18.

Weddings

Jennifer Lukis & Michael McCarthy



Jennifer Lyn Lukis and Michael Robert McCarthy were married July 21, 2007 at Dublin Ranch Golf Course. A reception followed.

Jennifer is the daughter of Chris and Steve Lukis of Pleasanton. She graduated from Foothill High School in 1998 and is currently working for Safeway Inc. as a property accountant.

Mike is the son of Robert McCarthy of Idaho and Linda Dalziel of Canada. He graduated from San Ramon High School in 1996 and is currently working at San Ramon Auto Body as a body technician.

The couple thanks Jen's parents for making their day so special and Mike's family for traveling from Canada to be with them on their wedding day.

Their honeymoon was spent in Kauai and Maui. They make their home in Pleasanton.

A reminder from The Pleasanton Police Department

Cigarettes and Youth

- Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States.*
- As many as 23% of high school students in the U.S. are current cigarette smokers.* (*CDC website)
- Penal Code Section 308 prohibits the sale of tobacco and tobacco related products to minors. Selling or providing tobacco or tobacco products to a minor may result in criminal or civil penalties.
- PC Section 308 also makes it illegal for anyone under 18 to buy, receive or possess any tobacco or tobacco-related products. Any minor found in violation of this section may be punished by a \$75 fine or 30 hours of community service.

*By working together, we
can build a community of character.*



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Calendar

Author Visits

Free Journaling Workshop with award-winning author Diana Raab Author of "Regina's Closet: Finding My Grandmother's Secret Journal" will be signing books at 10 a.m. March 6 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. After, she'll offer a 1-hour free journaling workshop, discussing benefits of journaling and tips on how to start.

Book Clubs

Political Book Group The Political Book Group will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Board Room of the Livermore Public Library. The book we will discuss is "The World Without Us" by Alan Weisman. Everyone is welcome.

Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

Youth Commission The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Classes

Introduction To California Native Culture Multi-media class meets from 9 to 11 a.m. Feb. 23 at Village High School, 4645 Bernal Avenue, Room 602. It gives participants the chance to feel hands-on Indian materials, taste foods, see how Native Californians lived, learn about their history with the explorers, missions, and Gold Rush, and hear about their lives today. Instructor is Patricia Belding. Cost is \$25. Call 426-4280.

Clubs

Amador Valley Toastmaster Club Wake up your career and improve your communication skills by joining the Amador Valley Toastmaster Club. They meet at 7 a.m. Thursdays at Mimi's Cafe in Dublin.

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.

Concerts

Franc D'Ambrosio, 'The Phantom,' Coming to The Grand Franc D'Ambrosio, the longest-running "Phantom" with 2,600 performances, will take a nostalgic look at favorite Broadway musicals at 8 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Grand Theatre, 715 Central Ave., Tracy. Tickets are \$35-\$60. Purchase by calling 209-831-6858, at www.atthegrand.org or in person.

Pleasanton Chamber Players to Perform at Amador Theater Performing works of great classical composers, professional Pleasanton musicians will entertain with strings, clarinet, flute, piano, harp and voice at 3 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$15-\$25 and can be purchased by calling 931-3444, visiting www.civcartstickets.org or at the box office.

Events

Bridal Show at Elliston Vineyards Elliston Vineyards, 463 Kilkare Road, Sunol, hosts a bridal show from noon to 4 p.m. Feb. 24. Vendors will be present and the event includes champagne, hors d'oeuvres and cake. Tickets are \$5 at the door. RSVP for free admission to Kalie@elliston.com or 663-8214.

Luncheon & Fashion Show Daughters of the British Empire Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 23 at the Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle. Clothing presented by Draper's and Damon's. Tickets are \$30. Proceeds to go to The Blue Star Mothers and the British Home for the Elderly in Southern California. Call 510-386-7069 or email pam.stewart@comcast.net.

OSH How-To Fair The OSH How-To Fair comes to the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 1 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 2. The home and garden event features home improvement exhibits, how-to demonstrations, special celebrity guests, a money saving coupon booklet, knowledgeable experts and Land of Fun for the kids. Parking and admission are free.

Spring 2008 Fashion Show The Amador Valley High School Fashion Club presents the 2008 Spring Fashion Show at 4 p.m. Feb. 23 at the school, 1155 Santa Rita Road. The show includes student models and student and professional designers! Proceeds go to "Tide, Loads of Hope" for Hurricane Katrina and Southern California fire victims. Tickets are \$8 to \$15. Call Claire, 931-0628.

Exhibits

Barbara Jean Solos at Brushes Art Gallery "Entering the Mystery through Art," a vibrant and evocative body of work by abstract Pleasanton artist Barbara Jean will be shown from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Feb. 23 to May 16 at Brushes Gallery, 21001 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Suite C-7, in the San Ramon Dental Center, Gateway Center Mall, San Ramon. Call 829-0994.

La Primavera—A Celebration of Spring The fine art and painted wine barrel planter exhibit will be on display from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays through Sundays through April 6 at Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. An artists' reception and wine barrel planter silent auction will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. March 29. Call 292-2222.

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. There will be an artist reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 7. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthington-gallerywest.com.

Fundraisers

Comedy Fundraiser and Dinner The local chapter of American Business Women's Association Express to Success Network will sponsor a Comedy Extravaganza to raise money for the organization, which provides opportunities for professional women to network and develop their businesses. The fundraiser will be held at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at Faz Restaurant, 5121 Hopyard Road. Tickets are \$45 to \$50. Call 510-366-7674 or visit www.expresstosuccess.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.

Jazzed About Pets Award winning musician Craig Chaquico will perform at Valley Humane Society's Jazzed

Weekend Preview



'Entering the Mystery Through Art'

Pleasanton abstract artist Barbara Jean's vibrant and evocative body of work at Brushes Fine Art Gallery through May 16. An artist's reception will be held from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Feb. 23 at the gallery, 21001 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Ste. C7 in the San Ramon Dental Center, Gateway Center Mall. Those who are curious about abstract art but find it intimidating are encouraged to come and ask the artist questions. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Call 829-0994.

The Tri-valley/ TRI-CITY JEWISH FILM SERIES

SUN., March 2, 7:30 P.M.
Wondrous Oblivion
A powerful coming-of-age story.
(English)

TUES., March 4, 7:30 P.M.
Gloomy Sunday
A haunting, romantic mystery.
(German with subtitles)

THURS., March 6, 7:30 P.M.
Aviva My Love
Winner of Six Israeli Academy Awards. A real crowd pleaser!
(Hebrew with subtitles)

Vine Cinema
1722 First St., Livermore

Advance tickets and info:
www.eastbayjewishfilm.org or
510-839-2900, ext 256

Sponsors:

Congregation Beth Emek,
Temple Beth Torah, Midrasha, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

About Pets event at 7 p.m. March 1 at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. Tickets are \$85 and include heavy hors d'oeuvres and no host cocktails. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Tri-Valley YMCA Golf Tournament
A golf tournament to benefit the Tri-Valley YMCA will be held April 28 at Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore. Tickets are \$195 and includes lunch, dinner, refreshments, a round of scramble golf, a raffle, and live and silent auctions. Call 475-6108 or email mcasper@ymcaeastbay.org. Register before March 1 for a discount. Corporate involvement is also available.

Health

Seminar on Bladder Control Surgery Parminder Sethi, M.D., urologist, will speak about a new procedure for bladder control at 7 p.m. Feb. 27 at San Ramon Regional Medical Center's south conference room, south building, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Medications are available for an over-active bladder and urinary retention. Some people experience side effects and do not want to take the medication. Call 275-8230 or visit www.sanramonmedctr.com.

Stoneridge Boot Camp Grand Opening Baby Boot Camp is offering a free class to new moms, followed by a free raffle and goodie bags for their Grand Opening celebration from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Feb. 25 at Stoneridge Shopping Center, 13580 Stoneridge Mall Road. Pre-register at www.babybootcamp.com.

Kids & Teens

A Taste of Turkey in February The Yore Turkish Folk Dance Ensemble comes to the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 2 p.m. Feb. 23. Ethnic dances from across Turkey will be performed and a brief film shown highlighting aspects of Turkey, its character and culture. Appropriate for the entire family.

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.

Famous Children's Author at Pleasanton Library Children's picture book author and illustrator Patricia Polacco visits the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 3 p.m. March 1. Her work is renowned and loved around the world. Best for ages 5 and up. Books available for purchase through Towne Center Books. Come early.

Kidgits Book Blast! Character readers, engaging activities and giveaways are included in Stoneridge Shopping Center's 2008 Kidgits Club Book Blast! The event is free and takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 23. For more, visit www.simon.com.

Live Music

Wine Release Party with Live Music, Art Enjoy live music by Late Harvest and browse the art gallery's

new exhibit of works by 20 local artists from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 23 at Deer Ridge Vineyards, 1828 Wetmore Road, Livermore. There will also be complimentary tastes of four newly released wines. Call 743-9427 or visit www.deerridgevineyards.com.

Miscellaneous

Excellence in Education Awards Applications are now being accepted for the Pleasanton PTA Council's 18th annual Excellence in Education awards for the Pleasanton Unified School District. Nomination forms and a list of past honorees are available at <http://www.pleasantonpta.org/#ee>. All applications are due on March 19. Call Kim Chew, 426-2492.

Retired Teachers Association Offers Stipend California Retired Teachers Association Tri-Valley Division #85 is offering ten \$100 stipends for teachers to use in classrooms. To apply, provide the following information: name, school, district, work phone, home address, home phone, email, how long you have taught, grade you teach, and what you plan to do with the stipend. Return information to: Cathie Norman—CRTA, 7986 Driftwood Way, Pleasanton, CA 94588 no later than March 3. Call 462-7495 or email fnorman300@aol.com.

Spay and Neuter Day Alameda and Contra Costa county households earning less than \$40,000 are invited to Spay and Neuter Day Feb. 26 at the East Bay SPCA, 410 Hegenberger Road, Oakland. There will be 100 free surgeries, free basic and rabies vaccinations, and microchips for \$10. Appointments required, call 510-639-PETS.

On Stage

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet One of America's leading contemporary dance companies, Aspen Santa Fe Ballet is renowned for its daring, eclectic repertoire, from 20th-century classics to new works by today's foremost choreographers. They will perform at 2 p.m. March 2 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$28-\$36 or \$11 for students. Call 373-6800.

Best of San Francisco Comedy Last October, Ogata swept to victory in the finals and won the prestigious 32nd Annual San Francisco International Comedy Competition and joined the list of winners that includes celebrity comedians Dana Carvey, Marsha Warfield, Sinbad, Jake Johannsen and Doug Stanhope. Adult audiences welcome him to the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road at 8 p.m. March 1. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Purchase online at www.civcartstickets.org up to three hours prior to the show.

Thoroughly Modern Millie Amador Valley and Foothill high schools join talents again to bring a high spirited musical romp with a full score of new songs and bright dance numbers. Filled with frisky flappers, dashing leading men & a dragon-lady of a villainess, audiences will be tapping and clapping. Shows are Thursday through Saturday from March 6 to 15. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students/seniors. Call 461-6100 ext. 6197 or visit www.civcartstickets.org.

Political Notes

Republican Women Membership Luncheon Tri-Valley Republican Federated's third annual Membership Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 8 at Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle. RSVP by February 27 to 846-0914. Local Congressional candidates have been invited to speak. Event open to current and new members. The cost is \$26.

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 Meet at the Pleasanton Senior Center at 11:30 a.m. March 12 and paratransit will provide transportation to and from Hunan Chef Wong, located in downtown Pleasanton. This is a great way to get out and make new friends. Pre-registration required. Tickets are \$15 for residents or \$18 for non-residents. Call 931-5372.

Pleasanton PC Users Group The PC User 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. Call 931-5365 or email pleaseni@yahoo.com for details.

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.

Spiritual

Christian Science Church Celebrates 85 Years The congregation of the Christian Science Church, 263 South N St., hosts a public talk, open house at 11 a.m. March 1 to celebrate 85 years in Livermore. At 10 a.m. March 2, weekly service will feature readings on "Christ Jesus" from the Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, written by the founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy. Call 447-2946 or visit www.seekanswers.info.

God in Jesus: Incarnational Faith At 6 p.m. Feb. 25 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, explore Anglican Christianity and the American Episcopal Church in a contemporary context. (Part of Via Media.) A simple meal at 6 p.m., followed by video and discussion from 6:45 to 8:30. Call 462-4802.

Walk Through the Old Testament Learn the stories of the Old Testament in a fun, interactive, memorable way. Seminar for grade 6 to adult and a kids' seminar for kindergarten through grade 5 from 5:45 to 9 p.m. Feb. 29 and from 8:30 a.m. to noon March 1 at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin. Registration required. Fees are \$35 for adults, \$25 for K-6 and teens, and \$015 for families. Includes dinner/breakfast. Free childcare for preschool and younger. Call 828-1846.

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.

BUSC Soccer Registration Online registration for the 2008-2009 season is now open. Please visit our Registration Page for fees and instructions on how to register. Visit www.busc.org. Walk-in registration is at 6:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 26 and 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. March 1 at Hart Middle School.

Hands-On Bicycle Tire Changing Workshop Don't let a flat tire ruin your bike ride. This drop-in, hands-on clinic (a Breast Cancer Fund fundraiser) will teach tips and tricks for changing a tire safely and efficiently so you can get back on the road/trail quickly. Bring your bike to practice with. It will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 28 at Cyclepath, 337-B Main Street (in the Bank of America building). A \$15 donation is suggested. Call 485-3218.

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.

Support Groups

Breast Cancer Survivors Mass Breast Cancer Survivors—A Mass of Hope and Gratitude will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. March 5 at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. You are invited to a Lenten Mass of hope and gratitude for Breast Cancer survivors, their family members and their friends. Father Padraig Greene will be the celebrant. A social and refreshments will follow the service. Call 462-3798 or 846-8436, or visit www.catholicsofpleasanton.org.

Fibromyalgia Plus Support Group Fibromyalgia Plus Support Group meets from 6:30 to 8 p.m. the first Thursday monthly at the ValleyCare Library, 5725 W Las Positas Blvd Suite 270. All are welcome. Call 734-3315.

Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group The Livermore Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at Heritage Estates Retirement Community, second floor conference room, 900 E. Stanley Blvd., Livermore. All are welcome. Contact Lorene Stack, 447-6158 or Ann Laye, 443-4098.

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.

Volunteering

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.

Open Heart Kitchen Open Heart Kitchen is looking for volunteers to serve hot meals to the Tri-Valley needy. Time commitment is a couple of hours once a month. Call 580-1619.

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.

Pet Of The Week

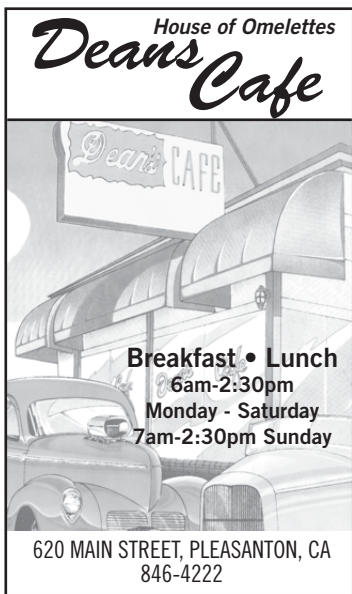


Catherine Hansen Rush

Delightful Duke

Meet Duke, a handsome boy with warm brown eyes and a shiny black coat. Duke is a 1-1/2-year-old, neutered Black Labrador with an enthusiastic outlook on life. He loves to play and go for walks. Duke enjoys attention and he gets along well with just about everyone. He's an all-around great dog! Duke's previous owner released him to the animal shelter because she was no longer able to care for him. If you would like more information about Duke (pet # 75864), visit him at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin. It's open from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Call 803-7040.

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Dining Out

American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

Bridges

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

Zorn's Restaurant

3015 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-0994. Located in the Hopyard Village Shopping Center, Zorn's serves breakfast all day. Open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with breakfast

and lunch specials. Dine in or take out. Catering also available.

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

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

Brewpub/Alehouse

Main Street Brewery

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

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

470 Market Place, San Ramon, 277-9600. Featuring a giant 8-foot projection screen for major sporting events, they also feature 30 beers on tap and

a great grill. Go in for the beer, go back for the food. More at www.hopyard.com.

Catering

Fontina's Catering

349 Main St., Downtown Pleasanton, 462-9299. Fontina Ristorante's award-winning menu can now be delivered to your home or office. Our lunch and dinner specialties feature homemade soups and pastas, premium seafood and meats, and a vegetarian menu. For parties of 10 or more, we'll include free dessert or 10 percent off your total bill (excluding tax).

Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate Catering

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

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

3059 Hopyard Road #G, Pleasanton, 846-5251. Chinese Szechuan is Pleasanton's best-loved Chinese restaurant. Family owned and run since 1987, it has friendly service, delicious food and great prices, including lunch specials and carry-out. A banquet room is available.

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

30 W. Angela St., Pleasanton, 484-4880. Panda offers several delicious specials using fresh ingredients and spices that make traditional northern Chinese cuisine such a delight. Open for lunch Monday through Friday, dinner Monday through Saturday, closed Sunday. A private banquet room is available. Visit www.pandapleasanton.com.

Fusion

Oasis Grille

780 Main St., Pleasanton, 417-8438. Visit downtown Pleasanton's exotic dining destination. Oasis features kabobs, rice and vegetarian dishes, to name a few. Check out our updated wine and exotic cocktail menus. We also cater! Visit www.OasisGrille.com.

Greek

Simply Greek

4220-C Rosewood Drive, 463-8801. From the neighborhoods of Greece to you. Menu features gyros, souvlaki

and more. Located in the Rose Pavilion Shopping Center, they're open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Thurs., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fri. and Sat. Catering services available. Visit www.simply-greek.com

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

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

La Vite Ristorante

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

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.

Pizza

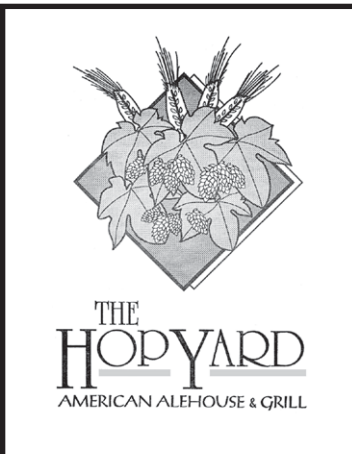
Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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

Steakhouse

Bighorn Grill

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



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YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A PHYSICIAN
TO SEE A VERY HEALTHY TREND

When it comes to your heart, results speak louder than words. And in the eyes of the organizations that statistically measure outcomes, the heart program at San Ramon Regional Medical Center is among the best, not only in the East Bay, but in California. See the outcome studies for yourself at www.oshpd.state.ca.us, at other healthcare rating organizations online, or speak with your physician. After all, when it comes to your heart, it pays to use your head.



SAN RAMON
REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

6001 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon
925.275.8221 www.sanramonmedctr.com