

Changes in store

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Budget crisis

School board discusses cuts, parcel tax

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Donna dreams

Resident, Realtor multitasks her way to her film goals

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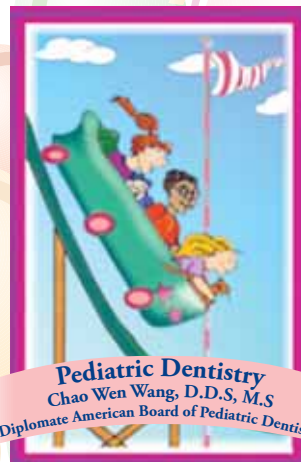
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

To Munich and back for 273 dollars

I'm just back from a six-day "long weekend" trip to Munich, a quick turn-around visit with some of my family that included stops at a fairytale castle, a fortress overlooking Salzburg, the huge Deutsch Museum and a sobering visit to the Dachau concentration camp memorial just 20 minutes from Munich. The trip meant sitting for about 26 hours on planes—14 going over and 12 coming back, but at a total round-trip fare of \$273, it was worth it. It was one of those "grab-quickly" specials that my son Chris occasionally finds in Flyer Talk, an online blog for recreational pilots. Joining us for this trip were two of his friends and my daughter Kerry Nally, who lives in Pleasanton, and two of her children: Jordan, a seventh grader at Harvest Park, and Christopher, who's in first grade at Walnut Grove. Her husband Jack stayed here to care for 2-year-old Katherine. Most of our frequent family get-togethers are for a week or longer, but—price-wise—this was a trip to take even just for a few days. Actually, we found that by going only to Munich, with a one-day side trip to nearby Salzburg in Austria, we were able to discover more of the city and its highlights than had we just passed through.

Kerry and I were designated drivers so we both had a chance to keep up with traffic on the autobahn at speeds of 90-100 mph. Even so, we were often passed in the no-speed-limit zones by cars going much faster. Frankly, there's nothing more intimidating than to see bright lights coming at you from behind at a high rate of speed. It keeps the more sane (and scared) motorists like us hugging the far right lanes. Both of us had English-speaking GPS systems in our cars, which is a technology that now makes traveling in other countries with unfamiliar rules much easier. Kerry's was a portable device that could be carried on walking tours. Her first big problem though came when she forgot to switch it off its pedestrian mode and ended up driving a short distance on a cobble-

stone sidewalk, realizing her mistake just short of a wide down stairway. Chris also had a mishap when, while riding on one of the downtown trams, he reached for a straphanger on the bumpy ride only to grab the emergency stop strap. The driver and fellow passengers were not amused.

Munich was Hitler's favorite city and the birthplace of his Nazi movement in the 1920s. The Hofbrauhaus is where he supposedly rallied his troops. But since 70 percent of Munich was destroyed by allied bombs in 1944, few of the original buildings exist and much of the city's history is now folklore. Still, Munich "looks" historical, with the post-war leaders choosing to restore the central city, unlike Frankfurt, which rebuilt to look much like Los Angeles, skyscrapers and all. Munich's painstaking restoration process continues today, particularly at the three famous churches around New Town Hall, known for its rebuilt glockenspiel, which now "jousts" again several times each day.

As cities go in Germany, Munich is the wealthiest, the most expensive and the most desirable place in the country. That makes hotels pricey, although, using Priceline, we found comfortable rooms for 60-75 euros a night, about \$90-\$100. There are an abundance of good restaurants with reasonably priced meals and, of course, bakeries with diet-breaking sumptuous pastries at every corner. Most attractions, including the huge Deutsch Museum in Munich and the mountaintop fortress in Salzburg are reasonably priced with a funicular that whisks up the mountainside for a spectacular view of the Austrian Alps. Our last stop was at a castle King Ludwig II built in the Alps two hours from Munich. Colorful, immense, it's what Walt Disney used to model his Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty castles, though Ludwig's has 230 stairs up and another 230 down, making our visit there memorable indeed. After that, the thought of sitting on the plane for 12 hours didn't seem so bad. ■



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About the Cover

If you need to grocery shop, there's no better place than Pleasanton. Safeway is looking to build a Whole Foods-style prototype store along Bernal Avenue and Interstate 680, while Raley's on Sunol Boulevard will be getting an extensive makeover. Albertsons recently changed over to Lucky and other markets such as Gene's Fine Foods and Trader Joe's continue to offer select products that keep customers coming back. Cover illustration by Shannon Corey.

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Streetwise

Q: Do you think laptops and other electronic devices should be more thoroughly searched at airports?

Asked Downtown



Larry Wray
Scientist

I don't have a problem as long as they're just checking to make sure it hasn't been modified in some way. Checking personal information I would not support.

Barbara Berlin
City Planner

It seems a little overly intrusive. The airport experience is very unpleasant. They need to re-evaluate how they look at suspicious people and what they are looking for. Putting everyone with laptops through additional search will increase the boarding process and further discourage people from traveling.



Mike Rose
Garbage Collector

I think it should be searched more thoroughly. The technology of making bombs is so sophisticated—they get smaller and smaller. Life is worth waiting a couple of extra minutes.



Kathy James
Secretary

Opening them up and looking is okay, but taking them apart is overkill. If I were behind someone in line it would be mildly annoying to wait extra time but not as annoying as having my water bottles confiscated or makeup. It's the times we live in I guess.



Claudia Imatt
Personal Chef

They are not doing a very good job of checking things as it is. I think it would just be more of a time delay with the appearance of making us more secure. We are in a terror driven society right now and I think many people would say, "Yes, we need more security, cameras and laptops checked." Truly I don't think it would make any difference.



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

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Newsfront

News Digest

Get jazzed about pets

Acclaimed guitarist Craig Chaquico, of Jefferson Starship, will headline the Jazzed About Pets event from 7 to 10:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Palm Event Center, 1184 Vineyard Ave. Put on by Valley Humane Society (VHS), the night also features hors d'oeuvres and no-host cocktails. Tickets are \$85 and proceeds go to supporting VHS programs. To learn more, call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

City hosting transit fair

The city of Pleasanton is hosting its third annual transit fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 17 at the Pleasanton Senior, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Representatives from Wheels, Pleasanton Paratransit Service, BART, the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) and the Pleasanton Police Department will provide the latest transit information and transportation options. Police will discuss identity theft.

The Senior Center's Snappy Cafe will offer a St. Patrick's Day meal for \$3.50 for adults and \$5 for seniors. Reservations must be made by 1 p.m. March 14. For information, call 931-5365.

Deadline nears for YMCA golf

The Tri-Valley YMCA hosts a golf tournament benefit April 28 at Poppy Ridge Golf Course in Livermore. Register by tomorrow for a discount. Discounted rates are \$175 for individuals, \$900 for a corporate foursome. Super tickets (two raffle tickets and two mulligans) as well as tickets for the auction and dinner are also available. To register, contact Marilyn Casper at mcasper@ymcaeastbay.org or 475-6108.

See classic film couples

The Pleasanton Public Library teams up with Livermore's Las Positas College to bring "Famous Film Couples: A Classic Film Series" with Dr. Candy Klaschus. "Me and My Gal" will be shown for free at 7 p.m. March 6 at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The series continues the first Thursday of each month through June 5. Some movies may not be appropriate for children.

Corrections

The date and location for scholarship interviews listed in "Securing scholarship dollars" (News, Feb. 22, page 7) were incorrect. Amador Valley Scholarships, Inc. (AVSI) will conduct interviews May 3 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road.

Parcel tax may be back on the horizon

School board approved preliminary cuts, reserves borrowing to ease state budget woes

by Emily Atwood

The words "parcel tax" and "cuts" were used abundantly Tuesday night as the school board discussed the Pleasanton Unified School District's (PUSD) plans to deal with \$4.5-million budget cuts.

After hearing public comments during the budget workshop and regular meeting, the school board voted to again explore the option of a parcel tax to be included on the November ballot. Board President Jim Ott said they will consider which programs would be sup-

ported by the tax, the amount and duration of the tax, whether it could be used to increase reserves, and if it could contain a variable collection schedule tied to increases or decreases in state funding.

Many of the board members showed support for the parcel tax at the meeting, but trustee Steve Brozosky said he doesn't want to "pull the trigger" quite yet.

"We have until August [to decide about the parcel tax]," he said. "We have no idea what the budget is going to be. Until we know that, it's premature."

Calling a rush to a parcel tax

a "cop out," Brozosky also said the district should consider that a parcel tax might not pass when considering borrowing money; otherwise it could bring the district into bankruptcy.

Ott said that the board hasn't decided and that they need to explore options before voting for or against a parcel tax.

However, the board decided Tuesday to use up to \$2 million of the reserve funds for the 2008-09 school year.

"Staff will review options and recommend whether tapping into the reserves would come from

unrestricted carryover, borrowing from the Sycamore fund or a combination of the two," Ott said.

Several times during the night, the board expressed how difficult it was to consider cutting programs that they worked so hard to initiate over the past few years. However, they also approved possible cuts recommended by the cabinet and the Budget Advisory Committee. The preliminary action was in response to a March 15 deadline for giving notices to employees who may be laid off.

"If we are going to go for a

(continued on page 9)

Superior Court judge delays Oak Grove ruling

Decision comes after tentative ruling in favor of Lins hours before

by Jeb Bing

It's not over yet for the opponents of the Oak Grove project after Superior Court Judge Frank Roesch delayed making permanent an earlier tentative ruling that favored the development.

The judge had issued a tentative ruling in advance of last Friday's court hearing on legal disputes involving Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic who own the hilltop land above Kottinger Ranch they want to develop. The tentative ruling also went against former City Councilwoman Kay Ayala and her Save Pleasanton's Hills citizens' group that is trying to stop it.

Roesch delayed his ruling last Friday at the downtown Oakland courthouse after attorneys for the Ayala group showed him 14 pounds of materials that the Lins' attorneys said the group should have carried while seeking signatures on a proposed referendum to overturn the Oak Grove project.

Roesch said he hoped to render a final decision in the next few weeks.

In the previous tentative ruling, Roesch had agreed with the Lins' argument that the signature-gathering effort by Ayala's group was "non-compliant" with the law's requirement that groups seeking a referendum provide those signing their petition to show all documents related to the issue. Roesch said that didn't happen, thereby nullifying the effort.

If the judge were to render a permanent ruling, the Lins, who already have the approval of the Pleasanton City Council to proceed with their project, could start

the development. He would also likely ask the Ayala group's Palo Alto lawyers to suggest another remedy. They could ask for another 30 days to conduct a signature-gathering effort again with all of the data Roesch said they should have displayed. Legal analysts say that is unlikely, since the law states that petitioners seeking to overturn a City Council decision have 30 days from that action, a deadline that Ayala's group met by obtaining more than 4,000 signatures, but also a deadline that has long passed.

Of course, Ayala's organization could appeal Roesch's decision, if it goes against them, an action that would delay an outcome for a few months to a year or more. Legal costs for an appeal could also reach \$40,000 to \$60,000, which Ayala's group might have to pay upfront but could recover from the Lins if the citizens' coalition wins on appeal.

At its meeting Feb. 19, the City Council agreed to schedule hearings on all issues relating to the Oak Grove development if Roesch denied the Lins' petition for a permanent ruling to throw out the Ayala's referendum petition. If he had proceeded with his tentative ruling, the council discussion won't be necessary since the Lins have all they need from the council to proceed with plans to create 51 large luxury home sites in the hills at the end of Hearst Drive in Kottinger Hills.

As part of the development agreement with the council, the Lins also will turn over 456 acres of wooded open space that they own adjacent to the 77-acre housing development. City and community leaders, in land use discussions that have gone on for nearly four years, plan to preserve

(continued on page 9)



A crew performs some duct work at the site of the future H&M store, which will take up 16,000 square feet on two levels of the mall.

Much in store for Stoneridge mall

Shopping center adds H&M, specialty McDonald's, Häagen Daz

by Janet Pelletier

Changes are afoot at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

If you've frequented the mall over the past couple of weeks, you may have noticed that some stores have closed while others have sprouted up. And the trend will continue.

Since its acquisition last July by Simon Property Group, the shopping plaza, which was formerly owned by the Mills Corporation, has moved in some new tenants and said goodbye to others.

"Stoneridge is in a good position because it has good occupancy rates of between 97 and 98 percent," said Carrie Williams, director of marketing for the mall. "When a tenant leaves, another fills its place."

And this spring, some well-recognized lessees will be

(continued on page 7)

Science fair takes off March 4-8

Student scientists and engineers to showcase their work

Budding scientists and engineers will get their shot at the spotlight at the Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held next Tuesday through Saturday.

The best and brightest students will showcase their work at the Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave. in Livermore. The fair is sponsored by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Each year, the fair motivates students to apply creativity and critical thought to the solution of science, engineering and math problems; encourages the exchange of knowledge and ideas and recognizes student achievement.

Students seventh-through 12th graders attending public, private or parochial schools in Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore, San Ramon and Danville are eligible.

Science projects are judged on

a wide range of criteria that represents standards of research held by the scientific community. Local scientists and engineers serve as fair judges. Research categories cover a wide spectrum of science and include: behavioral and bioscience, biochemistry, botany, chemistry, computer science, earth and space science, engineering, environmental science, mathematics, medicine and health, microbiology, physics and zoology.

Judging will take place on Wednesday morning, with an awards ceremony scheduled for 7 p.m. The public may view the exhibition of nearly 200 student projects at the Robert Livermore Community Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday; and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. There is no charge for admission.

The fair, in its third year, is affili-

ated with the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), the world's largest pre-college celebration of science. Held annually in May, the Intel ISEF brings together more than 1,400 students from more than 40 nations to compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips, and the grand prize—a \$50,000 college scholarship.

Each year Senior Division (ninth through 12th grade) Sweepstakes winners of the Tri-Valley fair have gone on to win top honors at Intel ISEF. This year, Intel ISEF will be presented by Agilent Technologies May 11-17, in Atlanta.

The Junior Division winners are eligible to compete at the California State Science Fair.

For more information visit <http://tvsef.lnl.gov/>.

—Janet Pelletier

Cities offer free workshops for small, mid-sized businesses

Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon partnering with East Bay Small Business Development Center

In an effort to sustain and support growing businesses in the Tri-Valley, area cities, including Pleasanton, are footing the bill to offer free workshops to small and mid-sized businesses.

The cities of Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore and San Ramon have partnered with the East Bay Small Business Development Center to offer a curriculum of half-day workshops.

The courses will be taught by experienced consultants and industry experts and are tailored to assist entrepreneurs in any stage of the business development process, according to city of Pleasanton spokeswoman Joanne Hall.

The partnership is an effort to show support for small and medium-sized businesses who are a critical component of both the

national and local economy, Hall said. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses employ one half of U.S. workers and have generated 60-80 percent of net new jobs per year over the last decade. Small businesses also hire 40 percent of high tech workers, such as scientists, engineers and computer specialists, which is particularly significant in the Tri-Valley, which has a large population of highly educated and skilled workers, Hall said.

The classes are free for residents and businesses located within any of the participating cities. Those outside the area will be charged \$20. The first class will be held 9 a.m. to noon next Tuesday at the Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The subject is "Successful Business Plans."

The rest of the schedule is as follows: 9 a.m. to noon April 1, "Accessing Capital for Small Businesses and Start-Up Companies," San Ramon Community Center, 125011 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon; 9 a.m. to noon, April 22, "Legal and Business Issues," Dublin Civic Center, 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin; 9 a.m. to noon, "Smart Office/Smart Worker—Using Technology to Leverage Sales and Profits," Livermore City Hall, 3575 Pacific Ave., Livermore; and 9 a.m. to noon, June 3, "Successful Advertising and Marketing Plans," Pleasanton Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave.

For more information, call 510-208-0410 or visit <http://www.eastbaysbdc.org/pages/seminars.php>.

—Janet Pelletier



Pleasanton Weekly President Gina Channell-Allen poses with her look-alike daughter, Ashleigh, 7.

Two of a kind

Weekly wants photos of mother-daughter look-alikes

Mothers and daughters can be so much alike in mannerisms, personality, thoughts and, of course, appearance.

With Mother's Day coming right up, the Pleasanton Weekly will hold a mother-daughter look-alike contest. If you think you and your daughter could be twins, please send a digital photo to gallen@pleasanton-weekly.com by Monday, April 21. Photos can be black and

white or color, need to be in JPG format, at least 300 dpi and no larger than 1 MB.

The staff at the Weekly will choose the finalists, and readers will be able to vote on which mother and daughter in Pleasanton look most alike. Prizes will be awarded for the first- and second-place winners. Photos of the winners will be published in the May 10 edition of the Pleasanton Weekly.

Free health seminar offered for seniors

Seniors interested in Medicare will learn about the different parts, how to supplement it and how to buy a drug plan

New to Medicare? San Ramon Regional Medical Center will offer a free seminar for seniors and their family members. It will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the South Conference Room in the South Building, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon.

Debbie Hammond, a counselor with the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program

(HICAP) of Contra Costa, will be the presenter. She will discuss Medicare parts A, B, C and D; how to supplement Medicare and when and how to buy a drug plan.

For reservations, call 1-800-284-2878 or register online at <http://www.sanramonmedctr.com/CWS/FindAnEvent.aspx> and select "senior services."

—Janet Pelletier

Business group offers summer teacher fellowships

Tri-Valley Business Council aims to provide businesses with pool of highly-qualified employees

In an effort to hook up highly-qualified employees with businesses, the Tri-Valley Business Council has launched a summer teacher fellowship program.

The council is partnering with the Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education (IISME) to promote the endeavor, which is expected to cost employers much less than the traditional cost of using contractors.

This is the first time in recent years that Tri-Valley businesses have participated in the program, according

to Toby Brink, president and CEO of the council. Tri-Valley teachers who are in the program previously had to commute to the Silicon Valley.

The summer fellowships are designed for sponsoring businesses to benefit from skilled, professional summer employees at below-market cost. Over the past 23 years, the Industry Initiatives for Science and Math Education has offered 2,375 summer teacher fellowships to 1,351 teachers.

With state budget cuts forcing reductions in funds for teachers'

professional development, the fellowships give teachers the chance to bring new and enhanced skills into the classroom, according to Jim Caldwell, education initiative chair for the Tri-Valley Business Council.

The program places Bay Area K-16 teachers of all subjects (with an emphasis on science, mathematics and technology) with mentored, paid summer internships in industry, university laboratories and government agencies.

"Valuable teachers are paid to work locally and then implement

their new education right here in our schools and we are ready to hire the best and brightest students they can provide," Caldwell said.

In the program, teachers complete a project for their sponsors and are paid \$8,200 for compensation. While fellowships are paid by the sponsoring company, much of the cost is tax-deductible. The business council said it is also prepared to arrange further assistance on a case-by-case basis. Teachers who apply for the program typically have at least a bachelor's degree

in the subject they teach and many have master's degrees.

In becoming a sponsor, businesses are able to gain fresh perspectives and top-quality results for short-term or long-range projects and it's also an effective way to give back to the community by providing teachers the opportunity to share their summer business experience with their students, according to Brink.

For more information, visit www.iisme.org or call the Tri-Valley Business Council, 227-1824.

—Janet Pelletier

Stoneridge

(continued from page 5)

moving into the 1.3-million-square-foot indoor mall. H&M, a Swedish clothing store selling the latest career and casual fashions at affordable prices, will take up 16,000 square feet of space at the north end of the center, near JCPenney. The space was previously habited by Grace's Hallmark on the second level and Radio Shack, McDonald's and Cinnabon on the lower level. The two-story H&M is expected to include women's, men's and teen's clothing, according to Williams. Before Stoneridge, the closest H&M stores were located at Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek and The Great Mall in Milpitas—another Simon Property Group shopping center. It is expected to open in late spring or early summer, Williams said.

Another clothing store for the younger set is Buckle, which is moving into the space formerly occupied by Bombay, a retailer of furniture, home accessories and wall decor. Bombay filed for bankruptcy last fall and will be closing all of its stores, including the Stoneridge store which has already closed. Buckle, a young men's and women's clothing store, will open sometime this spring.

With the H&M moving in, McDonald's has relocated to a different site in the mall with under the brand of its prototype store McCafe. The store, which sells specialty coffee, gourmet cakes, muffins and other snacks, opened in January. Family restaurant Sweet River Bar and Grill, which was located adjacent to the new and highly-successful P.F. Chang's China Bistro and The Cheesecake Factory, has also closed. Williams said she didn't think the closure was related to the two popular eateries which opened last year, adding the owner chose not to renew his lease.

"There are a lot of interested parties (who want that space)," Williams said, but so far, a replacement for that site hasn't been named.

Some plans that haven't gotten off the ground are expansions to Nordstrom department store and parking areas. While the mall's previous owners obtained city approvals for the plans, which at one time included a movie theater, the proj-



Janet Pelletier

More than six months after Simon Property Group took over Stoneridge Shopping Center, changes are afoot at the 30-year-old mall with some stores moving out and others coming in.

ect was put on hold due to Mills Corp.'s financial difficulties.

Since Simon took over, Williams said "the intention is definitely to move forward with Nordstrom, the parking and (future) restaurants," but added that Simon didn't want to immediately assume the same plans that had been in place when they acquired Stoneridge.

With the takeover also came the appointment of a new general manager for the shopping center. Michael Finley, who has been with such Simon properties as Hilltop Mall in Richmond, Bay Street in Emeryville and The Great Mall, took the reins six months ago.

One thing that will remain fairly the same is the organization of food offerings. When asked why Stoneridge is one of the few malls without a food court, Williams said the operator designed the mall that way and there are no plans currently to change that.

With all of the changes taking place at Stoneridge, many are expected to be announced in the coming year, including an update to the Nordstrom and parking lot expansions, Williams said.

The marketing department is always seeking new tenants that will generate sales and satisfy consumer demand. One of the types of stores that is most requested by customers is a book store, which Williams said has proven difficult for Stoneridge to court because many are either not doing well financially or have trade area requirements regulating the distance between competitors.

Stoneridge will continue to keep the moderate-level retail it's known for, while also adding a few higher-end stores, Williams said.

"Right now, I think Stoneridge has a good merchant mix," she said. "I don't see Stoneridge becoming a luxury property." ■

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Coasting with the Weekly

Check out that beautiful water behind Chris, Bethany and Josh Studendorff, who are aboard the Pride of America cruise ship on the island of Oahu. This was the last day of a seven-day excursion through the Hawaiian islands. I'm sure the Weekly didn't complain!



Bridge to the Weekly

Father and son, Phil and Keith DeLand, check out the Weekly before crossing the long Seven Mile Bridge on U.S. Highway 1 while on vacation in the Florida Keys.



Weekly soars in Taiwan

How's this for a picture? The Weekly was fortunate enough to tag along with 5-year-old Aaron Wade as he stood at the top of the Tapei 101 Tower, the world's tallest building.



A Grecian Weekly

Luke and Georgia Savage take the Weekly along to Athens, Greece.

Personalized bricks now selling for arts center

Bricks will be installed at the future Firehouse Arts Center

To preserve your name, that of your family, company or even a favorite pet, the fundraising organization behind the Firehouse Arts Center will begin selling bricks with personalized inscriptions today.

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation, which is spearheading the fundraising campaign, will launch the first part of a commemorative brick program starting at its "Wonderful Evening of Oz" gala tonight.

"We have had many inquiries about purchasing bricks at the Firehouse Arts Center," said Debbie Look, campaign director for the foundation. "People are excited

about the opportunity to create a lasting legacy in our community. These bricks are a wonderful way to mark a special occasion, to honor the memory of a loved one or pay tribute to a close friend or relative."

Money raised from the sale of the bricks will add to a pot of funds already being raised for the arts facility, which will be constructed in the historic Fire Station No. 1 on Railroad Avenue. The city has already pledged \$8.8 million and with a \$1 million commitment by the cultural arts foundation board, nearly \$10 million is set aside. The foundation has also raised additional funds through such events as

auctions to help make up some of the remaining \$4 million that still needs to be raised to fully fund the facility, including operating costs.

Included in the plans are a 240-seat theater, 2,000 square feet of gallery space and two art classrooms.

The bricks, which measure 4 inches by 8 inches, cost \$150 each. They can be inscribed with up to three lines with 15 characters per line. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

For more information, call 846-1007 or visit www.pleasantonarts-foundation.org.

—Janet Pelletier

School

(continued from page 5)

parcel tax," Brozosky said, "we need to show we've actually tried everything."

Superintendent John Casey said he wants to do everything possible to keep the district "team" together.

"If we do have to reduce positions, hopefully we are able to do it through attrition—people retiring or moving out of the area," he said. "We do need to take care of our people. They are integral pieces of the successful team we've put together. No positions or services should be diminished or underestimated."

Reducing reading specialists was an item that was moved to the cut list after the board's 3-2 vote, with trustees Pat Kernan and Chris Grant voting against.

"We're hopeful none of the reading specialists will have to be cut as we learn more about the 2008-09 state budget in the weeks and months to come," Ott said.

"The cuts we did were preliminary cuts," Brozosky said. "Nobody should get excited over it. We have to be conservative."

He noted some possible ways to save money and increase efficiency: the Horizon program, for example, supports students from outside communities; and management was recently given cost-of-living pay raises.

Casey said reducing salaries and work days is a possibility, and that people have stepped forward offer-

ing to have a decrease in pay or work fewer days.

"The problem with that is getting back to having a competitive salary schedule and we don't have the authority to do that unilaterally," he said. "When you start cutting salaries and reducing days, you become less competitive. It's something that we're going to consider, but it's hard to pull salaries back up to where they were."

The district has recently been compared to San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD), which is reportedly faring well amidst the cuts and didn't increase management salaries this year. Brozosky said Pleasanton receives \$625 more per student than SRVUSD and has more students, and he recommended a site visit to learn more about their budget and plans.

Continuing with comparisons, Grant said 13 of 15 school districts in Alameda County have initiated a parcel tax.

The majority of residents and parents speaking to the board showed support for reading and language programs as well as a parcel tax.

Hua Yin said one of the main reasons she moved to Pleasanton from Fremont last year was because of the schools, making her home purchase a good investment.

"The reason to keep the [property prices] up is because of the school district," she said. "That's enough reason [to pass a parcel tax] to all the residents here."

Lary Aladeen, Pleasanton Teacher's Association president, spoke as an individual in support of the reading specialists, adding penologists—those who manage

jails—plan prison capacities 20 years in advance by looking at third grade literacy rates.

One of the items on the recommended cut list was coach stipends. Longtime resident and Foothill High School Athletic Director Matt Sweeney said it would be preposterous to have students "pay to play." And as it stands, he said coaches receive pennies on the dollar for their hours of work.

Speaking for the board, Ott said that it "breaks our hearts" to make any reductions.

"This is why we would like to explore whether a parcel tax makes sense for our schools," he said. "Many other districts in Alameda County have parcel taxes and our children deserve nothing less to ensure that we continue to offer the high quality of education we're known for in Pleasanton." ■

Oak Grove

(continued from page 5)

the open space that they will be given free of charge and eventually connect it to other land parcels along the southeast hills from the Callippe Preserve Golf Course to

the Shadow Cliffs Regional Park on Stanley Boulevard.

As part of their agreement, the Lins also agreed to pay the costs of building public trails, equestrian paths, picnic areas and a staging area to be reached by way of Hearst Drive for visitors to the new parkland. ■

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CLOSED SUNDAYS



Tesco Corp. will begin opening locations of its popular British-based neighborhood markets in the Bay Area, and officials have had talks with the city of Pleasanton about opening a store on the Valley-Bernal-Stanley property.



For a downsized, quick shopping trip, downtown residents enjoy Coles's Market, which is considered the oldest market in Pleasanton.



Trader Joe's stays competitive with larger grocery stores and even independent stores such as Gene's Fine Foods by offering a number of organic foods and products.



The Safeway store on Santa Rita Road at Valley Avenue was remodeled not too long ago and soon, Raley's on Sunol will be following suit to keep up the competition.

Supermarket Sweet

What lengths grocery stores are going to bag the competition

Grocery shopping in Pleasanton keeps getting better.

Supermarkets here are planning new stores, major expansions, more product and service offerings and innovative marketing techniques.

Safeway Corp. and South Bay Development Company have submitted a site plan to city planners for a 65,000-square-foot prototype supermarket at Interstate 680 and Bernal Avenue that is being designed to compete with Whole Foods Market.

Raley's on Sunol Boulevard is moving aggressively to expand its customer base with curbside service, self-checkout stands, more organic foods and a larger pharmacy.

Tesco, Europe's supermarket giant, is planning a Gateway Center at Bernal Avenue. The former Home Depot store was once being considered.

Only Kroger, which owns the former Safeway store, has yet to open a Pleasanton location.

It's all part of a recognition that Pleasanton is a healthy place to go for their diets.



Safeway

For Pleasanton-based Safeway Corp., which has turned its retail business around with its upscale "lifestyle" format, its larger stores in Dublin and Livermore followed similar improvements in Pleasanton, where its only store is at Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road.

With Whole Foods just announcing its plans to open a 50,000-square-foot store in Dublin, across from Hacienda Crossings, Safeway's planned store across Valley Avenue from Jack-in-the-Box will be larger and more competitive.

The plans, which were submitted to the city's planning department last summer, also include a gas station. The state's new interchange at Bernal and the freeway also will make it more accessible for both commuters and Pleasanton residents and with less traffic congestion than Whole Foods.

City Manager Nelson Fialho has said that the city expects the Safeway plans to be formally considered and processed in public hearings early this year. Both stores could be open by 2010.



Lucky

Lucky, located on West Las Positas and Hopyard roads, is a relatively new arrival.

That's because the Northern California Albertson's stores were bought out last fall by Save Mart Supermarkets of Modesto. Ironically, Albertsons took over Lucky stores in 1999 and renamed them.

To roll out the change, the Pleasanton Albertson's was restored to the vintage Lucky name and incorporated practices used by Lucky and Save Mart stores.



Raley's, Nob Hill

In the coming weeks, Raley's on Sunol is planned to get an extensive makeover that will put it in closer competition with already remodeled stores such as Safeway. Raley's has been in the Oak Hill Shopping Center in south Pleasanton for nearly two decades.

Among the highlights of the remodel include an "e-cart" shopping service, four self-checkout stands, an expanded and updated pharmacy department, a larger natural foods section, a Peet's Coffee & Tea and expansion of the wine and liquor department. To cater to those with a diverse palette, a "gourmet cheese island" will also be added, an artisan trend that is spreading to all supermarkets.

The store remodel is expected to be completed by late summer, according to Raley's spokeswoman Amy Johnston.

Many of the features, including the e-cart service and the installation of a U.S. Postal Service department inside the store, are aimed toward customers with limited time.

The e-cart program is similar to what Safeway offers online,

where the store will deliver groceries that you've selected online to your house. While Raley's customers will shop online, instead of home delivery, they will go to the e-cart section of the parking lot where store clerks will deliver groceries to their car.

The Raley's corporation also owns Bel Air Markets, Food Source and Nob Hill Foods, which has a location on Santa Rita Road. No future plans have been confirmed for the Nob Hill location according to Johnston.



Vintage Hills Center

The only supermarket east of Sunol Boulevard, Raley's serves the expanding Vineyard Corridor as well as the heavily populated Vintage Hills and Kottlinger Ranch. The small Romley's Supermarket that anchored the Vintage Hills Center closed shortly after Raley's opened in the late 1980s and other smaller stores have decided against moving there. Trader Joe's often filled to near-capacity at its store on Pimlico Drive near Hopyard, chose instead to open a new store in Livermore at the old Kmart center across from Valley Memorial Hospital.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said recently that efforts to find a grocer to move to the Vintage Hills Center have so far failed and that it's likely another use will have to be found for the site.



Fresh & Easy

Tesco has started opening its Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Markets in the Bay Area, part of a \$2-billion investment in the British company has under way here and in Southern California, Phoenix and Las Vegas. Slightly larger than Trader Joe's stores and with a modern, futuristic look, Fresh & Easy markets are generally under 10,000 square feet and offer a selected range of their own branded products as well as national brands at prices considered quite competitive to the larger supermarkets.

City officials have contacts with Tesco and are working with Regency to include Fresh & Easy as part of its revised plan for the former Home Depot site.



Gene's Fine Foods

While other grocery stores are in the midst of one-upping the competition, one local independent market is doing what it does best by continuing to provide what customers are asking for. Gene's Fine Foods opened in a shopping center at Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue in the 1990s, where an Alpha Beta grocery store was formerly located. Owned and operated by the Giomi family, the market has been served by three generations of Giomis. They also own a location in Saratoga.

Market Up

by Jeb Bing
and Janet Pelletier

market kingpin, is considering a grocery store as part of the Regency and Stanley Boulevard, across from McDonald's, where a Home Depot is considered.

Gene's Supermarkets and is a dominant grocer in the eastern U.S., with a store in Pleasanton.

As the economy slows and as families seek more organic and natural products, the local supermarket that has the widest selection is the

Longtime General Manager Don Smedjir said he isn't too concerned with what the big supermarket chains are doing because Gene's has continued to follow a successful model, one that the chains appear to be moving toward.

"We've been doing this all along—natural food, gourmet food, organic food in our store all along," he said. "We were the Trader Joe's before Trader Joe's came."

Customers who shop at Gene's do so because of a wide variety of everything from local wines to organic fruits and vegetables. Smedjir said the store is in the process of expanding the produce section to offer even more choices. Another difference between the chain stores and Gene's is that Gene's only sells U.S.-certified angus beef—the highest grade beef—what Smedjir said is the type of meat you'd expect to be served at Hap's or McNamara's steakhouses.

And despite what Smedjir said is a misnomer that Gene's is more expensive, pricing is competitive with the chain stores.

The 26,000-square-foot store is small compared to some of the newer stores being planned such as the 65,000-square-foot Safeway or the 50,000-square-foot Dublin Whole Foods, but it is still twice the size of neighborhood markets such as Trader Joe's. The Saratoga Gene's has been remodeled and Smedjir said they hope to do the same with the Pleasanton store, although a timeframe isn't certain.



Trader Joe's

Shoppers of Trader Joe's enjoy the quaint "corner market" feel of the grocery store. And similar to Gene's, customers who frequent the store, located at Santa Rita Road and Pimlico Avenue, can satisfy their appetite for imported cheeses, organic produce and other specialty products, but in a downsized setting. Trader Joe's is popular with the younger crowd and busy families because it offers a number of frozen and fresh meals that are already prepared and assembled as well as a number of groceries in its own brand name, similar to Fresh & Easy.

The Pleasanton store is a popular stop for commuters along Interstate 580.



Cole's Market

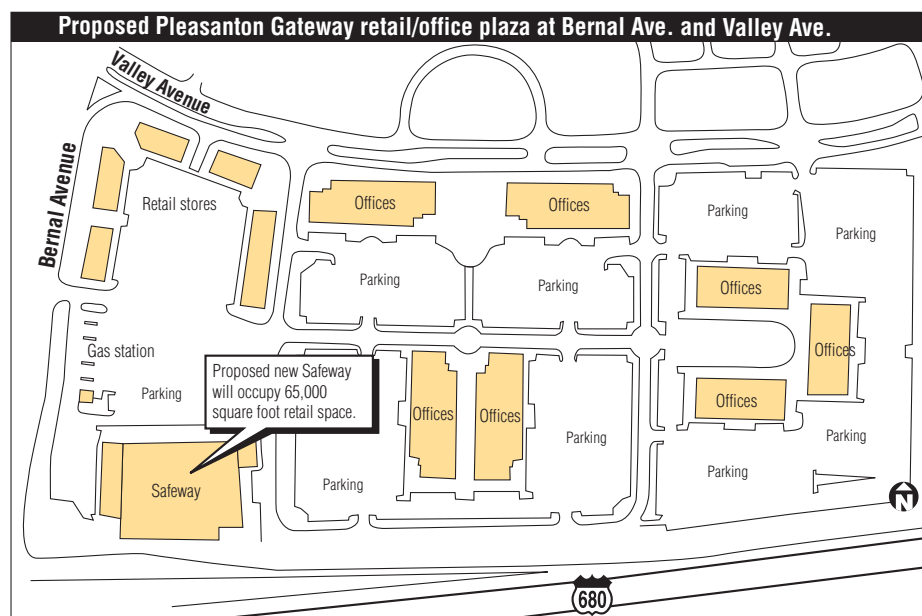
For a nostalgic experience, downtown residents forgo the supermarket experience and instead frequent Cole's Market in the vintage Pleasanton Plaza shopping center on First Street.

It may not be the most well-known or have the highest traffic volume, but the smaller, neighborhood market is a close distance for residents of downtown and those who live in the Vineyard Corridor.

The market, considered the oldest in Pleasanton, got a facelift along with the center in 2006 to restore the retro 1950s look. ■



Janet Pelletier



Shannon Corey

Above: Nyi Zan prepares sushi for sale inside Raley's on Sunol Boulevard. In the next few weeks, the supermarket will undergo an extensive remodel that will offer such amenities as curbside service, a post office and self-checkout stands.

Left: Plans for a new prototype Safeway that would closely compete with a Whole Foods planned near Hacienda Crossings in Dublin have already been submitted to the city. The store would be located at Bernal and Valley avenues.

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Opinion

Editorial

California cities watch Oak Grove case

California cities are watching closely the outcome of the legal battle in Alameda County Superior Court over a referendum effort affecting the development of Oak Grove. A tentative ruling by Judge Frank Roesch has already stirred interest from those on both sides of the public initiative process because of his extremely conservative view of the California Code of Civil Procedure. If the tentative ruling stands, developer Jennifer Lin and her brother Frederic will have all the permits and approvals they need to develop 51 large custom home sites on 77 acres they own atop Hearst Drive in Kottinger Ranch. As part of their agreement with the Pleasanton City Council, they also have promised to turn over the remaining 496 acres of adjacent hilltop and wooded land that they own to the city of Pleasanton for perpetual use as open space and a public park. Pleasanton plans to create hiking trails, equestrian paths and a park area with picnic tables, lavatory facilities and parking. The acreage, the largest land grant ever given to the municipal government, also is being considered as a model open space parcel that other southeast side developers will be encouraged to duplicate when their land parcels are developed.

Roesch's tentative ruling, which allows the Lins to proceed and tosses out petitions by former Councilwoman Kay Ayala and the Save Pleasanton's Hills citizens coalition that she organized, raises questions about the requirements imposed on those who want to fight City Hall. In his strict interpretation of California Elections Code section 9238(b), Roesch is ruling that Ayala and others who spent 30 days last November and December gathering signatures for their referendum failed to carry with them all of the documents related to the Lins' petition and the City Council's subsequent approval of the project. Although the Ayala group made multiple copies of the ordinance adopted by the council that approved the housing project as well as a stapled attachment of the developer agreement on the land grant, Roesch says that wasn't enough. What was approved was a large packet of material related to the Oak Grove property. To persuade registered voters to sign her petition to overturn the council's approval of the project, Ayala needed to have all of those documents, which Ayala claims weighs some 14 pounds.

If Roesch's tentative ruling is made permanent, an action that could occur at any time, the judge will single-handedly toss out referendum petitions signed by more than 4,000 registered voters as officially counted and verified by the Alameda County Registrar's office. Ayala and her coalition could appeal that decision, of course, at a likely cost of more than \$40,000. Of course, if he reverses his tentative ruling and decides in favor of Ayala, then the Lins can appeal. In either case, an appeal could take a year or more to get through the courts, with the Lins unable to proceed with their development until a resolution is reached. The Pleasanton school district, in its legal battle with Signature Properties over payment for a proposed Neal Elementary School on Vineyard Avenue, has been in court for four years with a trial date now scheduled for April.

In recent history, Pleasanton has seen a number of referendums similar to what Ayala and her group are seeking. None of those seeking signatures on their petitions carried much information, certainly not 14 pounds of background material, duplicated many times for the multiple signature-gathering stations petitions generally have. In San Ramon, Mayor Abram Wilson said those seeking a referendum to overturn the City Council's approval of a multi-million-dollar Civic Center and new central city complex are just circulating petitions with no background materials. Cities up and down the state have seen much the same thing. Roesch's interpretation, at least in his tentative ruling, seems overly strict. If indeed it follows the state code, our legislators should review the law to see if that's really what they intended when placing these requirements on petition proponents. Calling for a referendum should be easier than what Roesch has initially ruled.

Letters

Amador civics team deserves high praise

Dear Editor,

We would like to congratulate the Amador Valley High School Competition Civics team on its first place finish at the state competition. We wish them well when they compete at the national level in Washington, D.C., in May.

We know they are great students because they visited our third grade classrooms at Mohr Elementary School and shared some of their knowledge with us. We learned how the presidential primary system works. They helped us write letters to President Bush asking for more funding for schools and parks, lowering gas prices and preventing global warming.

It made some of us look forward to being a part of this team when we're in high school. Our classes encourage anyone who can to donate money to help defray the cost of the team's D.C. trip.

*Mrs. Janet Sears and class
Mohr Elementary School
Pleasanton*

Thanks to Weekly for promoting coat drive

Dear Editor,

Thank you so very much for helping us promote our Annual Coat & Blanket Drive. Winter conditions this year have been extreme—and the warm clothing, blankets, hats, mittens and rain gear that have been donated by the generous members of this community are once again making a difference to many of our less fortunate neighbors in Alameda County.

The donations continue to pour in, and we will continue to accept them through the middle of March or so...or until we get some warmer, drier weather.

We are most grateful for your continued support.

*Deb and Bob Cilk
United California Brokers*

A landfill in Pleasanton?

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*

Beef recall no surprise

Dear Editor,

A recall of 143 million pounds of beef has been all over the news the past few days.

Large beef have recalls have become almost normal in recent years. This is due to modern beef production methods being susceptible to passing dangerous diseases to humans, and that monitoring food safety is out of control.

Susceptibility is a fact for "factory farmed" beef and other livestock. In contrast, a grass fed cow (their natural diet) can't possibly contract BSE (deadly) and many studies show much higher concentrations of E. coli (can make you very sick or worse) from corn/other fed cattle. E. coli naturally occurs in the digestive tract of cows, but is sufficiently low in 100 percent grass fed cattle and probably processed under safer conditions.

The ability to control the safety of meat produced in factory farms is anecdotally supported by the fact that the best the USDA can do is narrow the problem to 143 million pounds of meat. We're only talking about a few animals that caught their attention out of approximately 300,000 cows. We shouldn't blame the inspectors. There are way too few for the volume of beef that is processed around the clock. What can you do? Pay the extra bucks for grass fed beef. It is good for you; it tastes better; it is much easier on the land; and you'll be supporting a caring and highly skilled rancher. Where else can you get a return on your investment like that?

*Jon Harvey
Pleasanton*

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

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



It's the neighborly thing to do

Recently I was contacted by a gentleman who was somewhat distraught about an upcoming fundraiser for the nonprofit organization he manages. This is the first such event for the nonprofit group and there are still tickets to be sold.

In addition to educating readers about political and social issues and how they will be affected by those issues, a community media outlet has a responsibility to be a good neighbor.

Being a good neighbor can take on many different forms. For example, on the strictly financial end, the Weekly allocates a certain amount of money in the budget to cover advertisements that will run at the lower rate we offer nonprofit organizations. We also support the nonprofits through the annual Holiday Fund that provides thousands of much-needed dollars for local nonprofits, which we promote and administrate gratis.

We are a sponsor for several community events such as the Downtown Rotary's Spirit Run, the Pleasanton Cultural Arts' fundraisers and the Pleasanton Downtown Association's Wine Stroll events and the Concerts in the Park.

We also support nonprofits, schools, service organizations and other such groups by getting their news to residents through the newspaper and Web sites. However, because our time and space is limited, we restrict this to nonprofits and can provide the service only as time and space allows.

This type of coverage is a public service and meant to create a reaction in the community. In the case of a fundraiser, the reaction we hope for is participation.

However, public service in this manner goes beyond fundraisers. One of the most heartwarming public service stories in my memory started out a simple human interest feature.

In a small Illinois town, a family of five was forced to move to a homeless shelter after they lost everything in a house fire. The newspaper reported, of course, on the fire, but also told about what happened after the fire to the people who lost their home. Within an hour of the paper hitting driveways we started receiving calls from people wanting to donate clothing, coats and money. Someone offered a rental property free for a few months until the family got back on its feet.

I will never forget the curmudgeonly city editor, who had been at the paper for 20 years at that point, hanging up the phone and saying, "Huh. People care. Who would have thought?"

Journalism is not a glamorous profession, nor will it make anyone wealthy. But it does allow an

opportunity to make a difference in the world. Whether it be through public service stories on fundraisers or coordinating the Holiday Fund, we enjoy the opportunity to be a good neighbor.

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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Pictured: A massive pair of blue and white jars and covers, Kangxi Period. Sold for \$226,000, December 2007

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, March 4, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **(Aspects of this item are currently pending in the Alameda County Superior Court and a decision from the Court bearing on this item is anticipated to be received prior to March 4. The item is being placed on the agenda as a placeholder so that the City Council could take action depending on the outcome of the court case.)** Receive the City Clerk's Certification of the Referendum Petition with respect to Ordinance No. 1961 approving the application of James Tong, Charter Properties (Oak Grove Development) for PUD plan approval, as filed under Case PUD-33 and consider various options/resolutions concerning the petition including whether to rescind the ordinance or call for an election and, if an election is called, to adopt ballot language, request the County to consolidate the election with the State primary election on June 3, and establish dates for arguments/rebuttal arguments in favor of and in opposition to the referendum
- **Public Hearing:** PAP 110, Dennis Long, Appellant (PADR 1698, Scott Smith, Applicant) – Consider an appeal of the Planning Commission's denial of an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of an application for administrative design review to construct an approximately 64 square foot first floor addition to the left side and an approximately 273 square foot second floor addition to the right side of the existing residence located at 3496 Whitehall Court. Zoning for the property is R 1 6,500 (Single Family Residential) District
- Consider a status report on and additional funding for the Eastern Alameda County Conservation Strategy
- Review of Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Regional Housing Needs Analysis (RHNA) determination and schedule including commencement of the City Housing Element Update process
- **Public Hearing:** PUD-81-28-05M, City of Pleasanton Consider an application for a major modification to an existing PUD development plan to consider whether an existing six-foot tall masonry wall along a portion of the westerly property line between Pleasanton Station and Hap's Restaurant should be retained or removed. The property is located at 30 W. Neal Street. Zoning for the property is PUD C O (Planned Unit Development Commercial Office) District, Downtown Revitalization District, Core Area Overlay District.

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, March 3, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Consideration of Commission Support for upcoming "Udder Event" Art Project
- Consideration of Expansion of the Award for Artistic Excellence Program to include Pleasanton Art League Annual Art Show
- Progress report from downtown Public Art Master Plan Subcommittee

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Presentation from Nonprofit Agencies and Recommendation to Allocate Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for Fiscal Year 2008 (2008-09). Following the hearing, the Commission will formulate a funding recommendation for review by the City Council at a separate meeting to be held in April.

Kottinger Place Task Force

Thursday, March 6, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.

Senior Center Classroom, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

- Review of draft site plan alternatives for Kottinger Place



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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.

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

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

One man injured in car theft collision

Pleasanton police responded to a single-car collision on eastbound Valley Avenue near Busch Road around 2 a.m. Monday. The driver of a 2004 four-door BMW 325i reportedly lost control and crashed on the center median, where the car slid sideways and sheared off a large tree. Witnesses reported seeing three teens flee on foot towards Busch Road. About an hour after the crash, the BMW was reported stolen by a Pleasanton resident.

Richard Cordova, a 19-year-old from Pleasanton, was injured and the only one found at the scene. Sgt. Michael Collins said it was likely the same person, who goes by Chris, arrested in July for

allegedly beating a teen at a house party. Cordova was taken to ValleyCare Medical Center and identified 18-year-old Dillon Costello of Pleasanton as the driver.

Police later questioned Costello and discovered injuries consistent with the crash when he reportedly came to the hospital to see Cordova. Costello allegedly refused to comment on his involvement in the incident, but he and Cordova were arrested and booked at Santa Rita Jail for felony vehicle theft. Cordova also had four outstanding no-bail warrants for which he was booked.

A police report said it was unknown if drugs or alcohol were factors.

Witnesses or anyone with information regarding the case should call Officer Bob Leong at 931-5100 (case 08-09231).

Police Report

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

Feb. 15

- Theft:
 - 1:37 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft
 - 5:25 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; petty theft
 - 5:48 p.m. in the 1600 block of Calle Santiago; forgery
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 4:31 p.m. in the 4400 block of Rosewood Drive
 - 6:16 p.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive
- Public drunkenness:
 - 4:21 p.m. at the intersection of Treewood Court and Highland Oaks Drive
- Mental health danger:
 - 9:18 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Feb. 16

- Theft:
 - 9:22 a.m. in the 1400 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
 - 10:10 a.m. in the 5300 block of Northway Road; stolen vehicle
 - 11:50 a.m. in the 800 block of Clara Lane; identity theft
 - 3:37 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- DUI:
 - 1:37 a.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue
- Lost property:
 - 4:50 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Birch Creek Drive

Feb. 17

- Theft:
 - 3:34 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
 - 5:07 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
 - 7:02 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 11:35 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive; stolen vehicle
- Mental health danger:
 - 4:38 p.m. in the 4900 block of

Monaco Drive

Feb. 18

- Theft:
 - 4:51 a.m. in the 2900 block of Lethbridge Court; grand theft
 - 11:15 a.m. in the 7800 block of Chestnut Way; grand theft
 - 7:28 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 10:27 a.m. in the 200 block of Kottinger Drive; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
 - 6:12 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Warrenton Court; vehicular
 - 11:36 a.m. in the 3600 block of Annis Circle
 - 4:41 p.m. in the 4000 block of Fernwood Court
 - 6:24 p.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road; vehicular
- Public drunkenness:
 - 3:34 a.m. at the intersection of Independence Drive and Junipero Street
- Mental health danger:
 - 2:37 p.m. in the 800 block of Bonde Court
 - 3:23 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- Other:
 - 6:12 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Warrenton Court; loitering
 - 7:28 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; lock picking

Feb. 19

- Theft:
 - 8:10 a.m. in the 700 block of St. Michael Circle; grand theft
 - 1:33 p.m. in the 1800 block of Brooktree Way
 - 1:43 p.m. in the 4400 block of Del Valle Parkway; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 10:10 a.m. in the 4700 block of Harrison Street; worth over \$400
 - 12:00 p.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; worth over \$400
 - 6:47 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; worth less than \$400

- Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:02 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive
- Mental health danger:
 - 2:45 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- Truant:
 - 10:07 a.m. at the intersection of Harvest Circle and Winter Court

Feb. 20

- Theft:
 - 10:15 a.m. in the 4100 block of Walnut Drive; fraud
 - 3:51 p.m. in the 7300 block of Ashwood Court; grand theft
 - 5:28 p.m. in the 5900 block of Corte Arboles; identity theft
- Assault:
 - 7:01 a.m. in the 4100 block of First Street

Feb. 21

- Theft:
 - 11:04 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- Vandalism:
 - 3:43 p.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue; worth less than \$400
 - 5:21 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall
- Burglary:
 - 6:54 a.m. in the 7600 block of Canyon Meadows Circle; vehicular
 - 1:20 p.m. in the 3700 block of Stanley Boulevard; shoplifting
- Alcohol violations:
 - 12:53 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard; DUI
 - 12:59 a.m. in the 7300 block of Johnson Drive; public drunkenness
 - 6:02 a.m. in the 2100 block of Camino Brazos; public drunkenness
 - 8:30 p.m. at the intersection of Bernal Avenue and Stanley Boulevard; DUI

Transitions

Obituaries

William "Bill" Francis Stephens, Sr.

William "Bill" Francis Stephens, Sr. died peacefully on Valentine's Day at the age of 64 after a courageous battle with melanoma.

Mr. Stephens was born June 2, 1943 and grew up in the Richmond district of San Francisco. He attended Star of the Sea Grammar School, Class of 1957 and Riordan High School, Class of 1961.

Shortly after graduation, he enlisted with the U.S. Army Reserves. In 1969, he went to work for the San Francisco Sheriff's Department as a bailiff. He also worked briefly for the U.S. Marshals as a court security officer from 2001 to 2005.

Mr. Stephens raised his family in San Bruno where he was actively involved with St. Veronica's Parish and School. His love was coaching basketball for his sons' teams.

After retirement, Mr. Stephens and his beloved wife of 33 years, Mickie, moved to Pleasanton. His happiest moments were spent with his loving family up in Lake Tahoe at the family's cabin, where he enjoyed spending much of his time swimming, barbecuing, and watching Giants and '49er games. Mr. Stephens was a storyteller and a jack of all trades. He took care of everyone and everything. He was "Mr. Fix It" and enjoyed doing



construction projects around his homes. He always knew how to get it done. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Mr. Stephens was the dearly beloved husband of Mickie Stephens; loving father of Bill Stephens, Jr. (Mariann) and Dan Stephens (Audrey); adored grandfather of Michael Stephens; dear brother of Jim Stephens; cherished uncle of Holland and Kevin Stephens and Jackie Groffman. He also leaves behind many other family and friends here in the Bay Area and in Ireland.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Margaret; brothers, Jack, Tom, and most recently, his twin brother, Bob.

A memorial mass was held Feb. 21 at St. Veronica's Catholic Church in South San Francisco. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or M.S. Society in Mr. Stephens' name.

Donna Gail Crawford

Donna Crawford, resident of Pleasanton for 40 years, died peacefully Feb. 20 at her home. She was 65.

Mrs. Crawford was born Feb. 15, 1943. She loved to golf, played in the Pleasanton Community Concert Band and was a member at St. Augustine Catholic Church. She was also a dedicated volunteer at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center.

She is survived by her loving family, beloved husband of 45 years, Robert W. Crawford; adored children, Kenneth Crawford and Kelly Perry; and brother, Art Farnsworth. She also leaves behind her treasured grandchildren, Courtney Perry and Britney Perry.

A memorial mass was held Feb. 23 at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic

Church. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

Beulah Salter Fairchild

Beulah Salter Fairchild, 86, died peacefully Feb. 25.

Born May 21, 1921 in Montana, she spent many years in San Leandro, where she enjoyed raising her family on Pierce Avenue with John Salter, who predeceased her. Before settling in Pleasanton in 2005, she took delight in retirement with a home base in Denver, and traveled the country for many years with the second love of her life, Allen Fairchild, her husband. He, her three sons, her three bonus children, and the many in-laws, grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends dearly loved her.

Survivors from Denver include her son's family, Wayne and Carol Salter; are Dale and Lauralee Salter of South Carolina, and Gary Salter from Maine. Her family from the Tri-Valley includes Mal and Mary Cameron of Pleasanton, Anne Miller of Livermore and John Fairchild of Livermore.

Mrs. Fairchild's love of the Lord was evident to all who knew her, and her family is comforted knowing she is in the arms of Jesus.

Visitation was held yesterday at Graham Hitch Mortuary. Friends and family are invited to a brunch at 10:45 a.m. today at First Baptist Church in Pleasanton, which will precede the service at noon.

Edna Mildred Wright

Edna Mildred Wright, "Millie" as she was known to everyone, died Feb. 15 in Pleasanton. She was 94.

Born Oct. 23, 1913 in Sterling City, Calif., the daughter of a gold miner, she lived most of her life in Hayward before retiring to the gold country town of Columbia, Calif.

Mrs. Wright was active in Native Daughters of the Golden West, serving as president of the Columbia Parlor. She also served many years as a docent for Columbia State Park. She was an accomplished artist and enjoyed playing cards, knitting and traveling with family and friends.

She is survived by a son, Roger Wright of Discovery Bay; daughter, Arlene Wright of Whittier, Calif.; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 51 years, Marshall Wright; son, Kenneth Wright; and siblings, Myrtle Davies, James Young and Hugh Young.

Her final resting place will be in Columbia Cemetery. A memorial service is being planned for 11 a.m. tomorrow at the Eagle Cottage in Columbia.

H. Clyde Maine

Clyde Maine died Feb. 15 after a long battle with melanoma.

Mr. Maine was born Aug. 8, 1923. He was a resident of Pleasanton and Indio, Calif.

He is survived by his sister Idella Westphal of Richardson, Texas; daughters, Audrey Butler, Skipper Maine; stepdaughter, Deb Tacker; grandchildren, Darren Butler, Kristine VanderBeek, James Tacker, Conor O'Callahan-

Maine; great-granddaughter, Delilah VanderBeek and innumerable step-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

A memorial will be held at 1 p.m. tomorrow at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, P.O. Box 10660, Indio, CA 92202.

Jimmy (Jim) Lee Snodgrass

Jimmy Snodgrass, 60, native of Fort Sill, O.K., died peacefully Feb. 24 at home with his loved ones by his side.

Mr. Snodgrass, a resident of Pleasanton since 1975, was born July 29, 1947. He received his Bachelor of Arts in business at the University of Southern California and dedicated his career life as a credit manager for many years. He was affiliated with the Tri-Valley Men's Golf Club, CCUU (California Union Collectors Council) and USC Alumnus.

Mr. Snodgrass enjoyed golf, music and traveling.

He is survived by his loving family, beloved wife of 34 years, Virginia; mother, Arlene Snodgrass; son, Rene Ruiz; and daughters, Jennifer Snodgrass, Yvonne Morales and Sylvia VonSchert; and sister, Candace Heldenbrand. He also leaves behind adored grandchildren, Vincent, Fiona, Veronika, Anthony and Vyvyan; and he was uncle to Alicia and Ronnie.

He was preceded in death by his father, D.M. "Jim" Snodgrass; and maternal grandparents, John and Alice Hebrew.

A memorial service will be held 10 a.m. tomorrow at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St., Pleasanton.

Engagement



Kearsten Pulido & Tony Hymer

Stephen and Kellie Pulido are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kearsten Cae Pulido, to Anthony Thomas Hymer of Martinsville, Ind.

Kearsten and Tony will be married on July 5 at the new Casa Real in Pleasanton. Kearsten is a 2004 graduate of Amador Valley High School and a 2007 graduate of San Diego State University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in the Liberal Studies Blended Education Program with an emphasis in childhood development. She is currently employed as a lead teacher at Goddard Preschool in Littleton, Colo. Kearsten hopes to do her student teaching back in the Bay Area after the wedding.

Tony is the son of Gary and Debbie Hymer of Martinsville, Ind. Tony graduated from Martinsville High School in 2001 and enlisted in the Navy that same year. Currently, Tony is stationed at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colo.

Tony and Kearsten met three and a half years ago in San Diego. Kearsten was in school at SDSU and Tony was stationed there with the Navy. It was love at first sight. Both of them had many months

apart because of Tony's naval commitments, but their love remained strong. They became engaged on May 18, 2007 after Tony flew in from Denver and surprised Kearsten at her birthday dinner with her family in San Diego.

Births

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

Jan. 17

Jennifer and Christopher Simms, twin girls

Jan. 21

J. Kate and Kevin Duggan, a girl
Kristine and Darren Tippit, a boy

Jan. 22

Daina Charland-Sulaver and Nathan Sulaver, a boy

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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 sand-

wiches. 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).

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.

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.

To have your restaurant listed in this dining directory, please call the Pleasanton Weekly Advertising Department at (925) 600-0840

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BEST OF PLEASANTON 2006

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Meals include four corn muffins and two large sides.

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

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

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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.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters At 1:30 p.m. March 8 at Pleasanton Middle School, quilt artist Rose Hughes will present her lecture "Raven Wisdom." Rose will conduct a workshop "Color Magic" the following day. Visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Communication Arts Network The group meets from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Mudd's restaurant in San Ramon. Tickets are \$20 cash, includes lunch. Call Terry, 462-8083, or visit www.commartnet.org.

March Meeting of the LAVGC The March meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club will take place at 7 p.m. March 4 at Alisal School, 1454 Santa Rita Road. Speaker Dolores Bengston will discuss gardening in Africa. Visitors are welcome. Call Sally at 417-8809.

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

Concerts

Duke Ellington Orchestra Whether you're "In a Sentimental Mood" or "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," cozy up to the signature sounds of the incomparable Duke Ellington Orchestra at 8 p.m. March 7 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St.,

Livermore. Conductor and leader Paul Mercer Ellington continues the orchestra founded by his father. Tickets are \$28-\$41 or \$11 for students. Call 373-6800.

Events

Country Folk Art Craft Show The Country Folk Art Craft Show comes to the Alameda County Fairgrounds March 7-9. The show hours are 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$7. A handstamp re-admits all three days. Visit CountryFolkArt.com.

PAMF Hosts Community Celebration The Palo Alto Medical Foundation Dublin Center, 4050 Dublin Blvd., Dublin, celebrates its one-year anniversary by inviting the community to enjoy a day of family fun from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 1. Meet physicians, get free health screenings, enjoy a complimentary lunch and bring the kids. Enjoy inflatable games, face painting, clowns and more. Call 875-6100 or visit www.pamf.org/dublin.

Seance at the Pleasanton Hotel At 7 p.m. March 12 at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St., psychic and author Irma Slage will make contact with the spirits of the historic hotel to tell of Pleasanton's history. Psychic questions will be answered. Tickets are \$25. Call 846-8106 or visit www.pleasantonhotel.com.

Exhibits

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.



Artwork by
John Crawford

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Sunday, March 2 at 2:00pm • \$28, \$31, \$36, \$11 Students

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

CARMINA BURANA

Experience the Passion and Power, Valley Concert Chorale

Saturday, March 8 at 8:00pm • \$25

Carl Orff's ever popular and appealing dramatic choral masterpiece. Joining the chorale are singers of the San Francisco Concert Chorale and Cantabella Children's Chorus. Accompanied by two pianos, percussion and professional soloist. Also, Valley Concert Chorales's accompanist and internationally known concert pianist Daniel Glover will perform the music of Franz Liszt.



CARMEN

Livermore Valley Opera

Opera Week! March 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 • \$26, \$36, \$46, \$56

Carmen is the smoldering seductress of opera. She flirts with men but can never be possessed. Opera goers will thrill to the tantalizing Habanera and the stirring Toreador song. Our special guest collaborators include director James Marvel from New York, New York the Pacific Boychoir and Valley Dance Theatre.



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8 to March 29. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com.

Spring Art Show at Tri-Valley SPCA Artists Carol Hart and Helene Ha welcome spring with a show of recent artwork at the Tri-Valley SPCA Art Gallery. A reception for the artists will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. March 8. For more information, visit www.eastbayspca.org.

Film

Uncounted: The New Math of American Elections This film, shown at 7 p.m. March 1 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin, explores election fraud documented in the 2004 and 2006 elections; positing that greater election fraud is possible in 2008 if citizens aren't vigilant. This event is open to the public, refresh-

ments are served, meet & greet begins at 6:30 p.m., while a short discussion follows the film. Donations of \$3 are appreciated.

Fundraisers

'Wigged Out' for Hats Off America See "Wigged Out" for a laugh you won't soon forget from 9 to 11 p.m. March 8 at Hair on Stage, 520 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. Proceeds benefit Hats Off America, a nonprofit organization for families of the brave American soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. Tickets are \$40. Call 855-1950 or visit www.hatsoffamerica.us.

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

Sisters in Service Third Annual Indian Dinner Sisters in Service's third Annual Indian Dinner, takes place at 5:30 p.m. March 9 at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. The event includes special music, delicious food and guest speaker, Kay Strom, co-author of "Daughters of Hope." Kay will share her SIS related experiences at the hardest places in the world researching child trafficking for her next book. Tickets are \$10 for adults or \$10 for children 10 and under. Call 998-3785.

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,

Weekend Preview



A How-To Weekend

Orchard Supply Hardware presents the OSH How-To Fair from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 1 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 2 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Over 400 vendors will exhibit new products and there will be live how-to demonstrations all day. Check out the schedule of celebrity appearances, family activities and learn more about entering to win prizes at www.osh.com. Admission and parking are free.

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.

event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 8 that will include crafts and an egg hunt with Mr. Bun E. Rabbit. Call 463-2778 or visit shopstoneridge.com.

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.

Renowned Artist to Paint Mural at PartyBees Grand Opening On Feb. 29, world-renowned artist Phil Yeh will paint a mural from 3 to 6 p.m. outside of the PartyBees grand opening at 1991 Santa Rita Road. Yeh has traveled the world for 22 years promoting literacy by painting more than 1,500 colorful murals and speaking to communities. Call 249-9233 or visit www.partybees.com.

Health

Welcome to Medicare HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program) will present a free seminar "Welcome to Medicare" at 7 p.m. March 4 at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. The seminar will cover Medicare A, B, C, and D; how to supplement Medicare; when and how to buy a drug plan. HICAP is a non-profit under the Department of Aging. Call 275-8230 or visit www.sanramon-medctr.com.

Kids & Teens

Easter Rabbit Comes to Stoneridge Mall Mr. Bun E. Rabbit will be at Stoneridge Shopping Center, One Stoneridge Mall Road, from March 1 to 22. He will visit from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. The center's kid's club, Kidgits, will also host a special

Lectures/ Workshops

Disaster Risks & Preparedness In the event of a disaster, what are your risks? The class is at 10 a.m. March 11 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

THAT SILVER LINING

Consider the couple whose house would have fetched \$1 million if they had sold it last year. They had wanted to make a few quick repairs before putting it on the market, and they wanted to purchase a beautiful \$1.5 million home when their existing home sold.

Now, a year later, their \$1 million home has experienced a value correction of 10% and will fetch \$900,000 if they sell it. They are heart-broken for a moment. Then they realize that the 10% correction also applies to the \$1.5 million home they wanted to buy—so it is now selling for \$1.35 million. They are, quite literally, \$50,000 ahead at this point, having lost \$100,000 in their existing home's value but having gained the benefit of a \$150,000 price reduction for the home they want to buy.

There are other benefits, too. Insurance costs are slightly less. Property taxes will be slightly lower. And their total mortgage amount will be smaller. All of this because of what many in the financial media call a "bad" real estate market.

Look for the silver lining, indeed! Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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Pet of the Week

Castaway no more

Looking for a loving companion who needs you as much as you need her? Meet Lily: an 8- to 10-year-old housecat who has spent the last couple of years roughing it as a homeless castaway. A leg injury led Lily to her current foster home where she was allowed to heal and show her loving personality. Lily is an affectionate companion who will follow you around the house and engage in conversations. She's quite a talker! Lily will sit in your lap for hours on end while she flexes her paws and purrs contentedly. Lily isn't fond of other cats so she prefers to be "the only one" and her favorite pastime is sleeping in sunny spots and cozy cat beds. Lily needs a home where she will be handled gently and affectionately. Lily is spayed and Felv/Fiv negative. For more information about Lily, contact her foster parents Del and Catherine Rush at 437-3972 or e-mail catherine.rush@sbcglobal.net.



Catherine Hansen Rush

Sunol Blvd. Learn basic safety measures, how to make a disaster plan, and assemble an emergency supply kit for you, your family, and your pets. The cost is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

eBig Internet Marketing Series eBig presents "The Power of Pay-Per-Click" at 6:30 p.m. March 5 at San Ramon Dublin Water Services District Board Room, 7051 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. Visit www.ebig.org. Tickets are \$25 for members, or \$35 for non-members in advance or \$45 at the door.

Youth Employment Program Are you age 14-21 and looking for a job? Need help writing a resume? Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., will host a career counselor from the Tri Valley One Stop Career Center the first Monday of each month until June. Call 931-3411.

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.

TVAR Adoption Faire From noon to 4 p.m. March 8 at 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin, a dog trainer will be on site to give expert advice and help evaluate and modify dog behavior. Adopt a dog and receive three free private, professional dog training classes (an \$180+ value), dog bed, leash, collar and bag of Science Diet dog food. Adopt a cat and receive a goodie bag with toys and more. Call (408) 202-6708 or visit www.tvvar.org

On Stage

Best of San Francisco Comedy 2007 Champion to Appear at Amador Theater Last October, Ogata swept to victory in the finals and won the prestigious 32nd Annual San Francisco International Comedy Competition. He'll perform at 8 p.m. March 1 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Buy online at www.civicartstickets.org.

at the box office or call 931-5361.

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.civicartstickets.org.

Seniors

Bakery Tour We will travel by bus March 5 to pay quick visits to recently voted Best East Bay Bakeries by Bay Area Backroads. They are located in Berkeley and Oakland. Please bring bag lunch or plan to purchase a quick bite to eat along the way. Stop by the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., to register. The cost is \$24 for residents or \$27 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

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.

Spiritual

'The Power Story' Dr. Richard Southern will speak on the theme of "The Power Story" in March, with March 2's message called "Starting Over," the story of forgiveness. Tri-Valley Unity Church meets at 10 a.m. Sundays at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com. All are welcome.

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 the Holy Spirit: At 6 p.m. March 3 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.

Support Groups

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

Volunteering

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

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

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

TV30

In a Word Join hosts Jim Ott and Kathy Cordova for interviews with authors and TV30 Book Club on Channel 30. March show: "The End of America: Letter of Warning to a Young Patriot" by Naomi Wolf. Jim interviews author Frank Delaney. Show airs 6:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 6:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Let's Talk Sports TV30's George Baljevich St. Mary's College Basketball Show with stars Paddy Mills, Omar Sanham, assistant coach Kyle Smith and highlights. On Channel 30 weekdays at 11:30 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday at 4 p.m.

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Sports

Parent photographers

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

BUSC, RAGE soccer clubs may merge

Clubs form study group to consider consolidation

by Jeb Bing

Representatives of the Ballistic United Soccer Club and the Pleasanton RAGE Girls Soccer Club have formed an ad hoc committee to explore the opportunities of unifying the two Pleasanton-based community youth soccer clubs.

Nandor Krause, president of the BUSC, and RAGE President John Cligny announced the formation of the committee after discussions with their clubs' boards of directors.

The two soccer clubs have about 4,000 players—boys and girls—from ages 5 through 18. The programs offer recreational and competitive programs as well as a pro-

gram for developmentally disabled children.

The committee's recommendations will be considered by both boards later this year.

For more information, visit the online Web sites of the two organizations at www.busc.org or www.pleasantonrage.org. Questions and comments can be directed to BUSC-RAGE@busc.org or BUSC-RAGE@pleasantonrage.org.

The BUSC also is accepting online registrations for the 2008 soccer season. Information on how to register, fees and schedules can be found at www.busc.org.

Walk-in registrations will also be accepted from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow, March 1, at Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road. ■

Rage goal keeper invited to elite adidas camp

Jessica Mickelson was one of 96 female youth soccer players in the nation selected to attend the adidas Elite Soccer Program, held Feb. 21-24 on the campus of Cal Poly Pomona in Pomona, Calif.



Mickelson is a goal keeper for the Pleasanton Rage.

U.S. Women's National Team captain Kristine Lilly kicked off the second annual program with a speech to motivate and inspire the players. Adidas ESP is a premier youth development program focused on providing soccer's next generation of stars with a platform

to showcase their skills.

The program is a sanctioned U.S. Youth Soccer Olympic Development Program that identifies the country's best high school-aged players and provides them with a top-level, on-field training program along with a diverse off-field education curriculum. An estimated 60 coaches from colleges, universities and professional teams were expected to scout the players attending the program.

Former U.S. Women's National Team and current U20 National Team head coach Tony DiCicco served as technical director and the coaching staff also includes former Women's National Team members Kerri Sanchez, Cindy Parlow, Danielle Fotopoulos and Thori Bryan.

Rage players sign letters of intent for college

Eight Pleasanton Rage players

have signed letters of intent to play for colleges and universities nationwide.

The third annual signing event was held Feb. 6.

Rage U17 Premier players who signed athletic scholarships to play soccer include: Alexa Douglas—Azusa Pacific, Morgan Celaya—DePaul University and Janelle Jin—Boise State. Rage U18 Premier players who signed include: Michelle Harrison—Idaho State, Brenna Schaff—U.C. Riverside, Lani Amack—Washington State and Faustine Dufka—University of Washington

Since 2001, the Rage has had 125 players go on to play for colleges and universities nationwide. For a complete listing of Rage alumni and their accomplishments visit the Rage Web site at www.pleasantonrage.org/pgsa_alumni.htm.

—Tamie Grimes

Sports Briefs

Registration open for junior football place-kicking camps



Nine-year-old Harrison Goold, of Pleasanton and the nephew of Baltimore Ravens place-kicker Matt Stover, attended the placekicking camp last year wearing his uncle's jersey.

The camp is back with two sessions this year, taught by Amador Valley High School varsity football kicking coach and former All-Pac 10 and NFL place-kicker Steve Jordan. He will teach basic place-kicking skills and techniques, and participants will gain accuracy and power on PATs, field goals and kickoffs, as well as confidence and proper kicker sideline etiquette. Campers will need to bring kicking cleats or soccer shoes, plenty of water, and a game-winning attitude. Footballs and other kicking equipment will be provided. Beginners are welcome and space is limited.

Each camp is for sixth- to ninth-graders and takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 8-9 and April 12-13. The fee for each camp is \$125.

To sign up, contact city of Pleasanton's Parks and Recreation Department at 931-5340 or see page 48 of the Spring 2008 Activities Guide.

High School Sports Schedule

Feb. 29

Varsity Baseball: 3:30 p.m. Foothill vs Pinole Valley, Away

Varsity Boys Lacrosse: 7:30 p.m. Amador Valley vs Redwood, Home

Varsity Boys Lacrosse: 7 p.m. Foothill vs De La Salle, Home

Varsity Girls Lacrosse: 7 p.m. Foothill vs Las Lomas Knights, Away

Varsity Girls Lacrosse: 7 p.m.

Foothill vs Miramonte High, Home

Varsity Boys Tennis: 3:45 p.m. Amador Valley vs Livermore, Home

Varsity Boys Volleyball: 6 p.m. Amador Valley vs Monte Vista, Home

Varsity Boys Volleyball: 6 p.m. Foothill vs California, Home

March 5

Varsity Baseball: 3:30 p.m. Foothill vs Irvington, Home

Varsity Boys Tennis: 3:45 p.m. Amador Valley vs DeLeSalle, Away

March 3

Varsity Boys Lacrosse: 7:30 p.m. Amador Valley vs Bellarmine, Home

March 4

Varsity Baseball: 3:30 p.m. Amador Valley vs Clayton Valley, Home

Varsity Softball: 6 p.m. Amador Valley vs James Logan, Away

Varsity Boys Lacrosse: 6 p.m. Foothill vs Berkeley, Away

March 6

Varsity Boys Tennis: 3:30 p.m. Foothill vs Granada, Home

Varsity Boys Volleyball: 6 p.m. Amador Valley vs Granada, Away

Varsity Boys Volleyball: 5 p.m. Foothill vs Ponderosa High, Home

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