

## Public pleading

School board hears support of reading specialists, coaches ► **page 5**

## Rockin' robotics

Pleasanton  
Slingshots prepare  
metal masterpiece  
for competition

► **page 5**

Vol. IX, Number 7 • March 14, 2008

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# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

## Joining forces

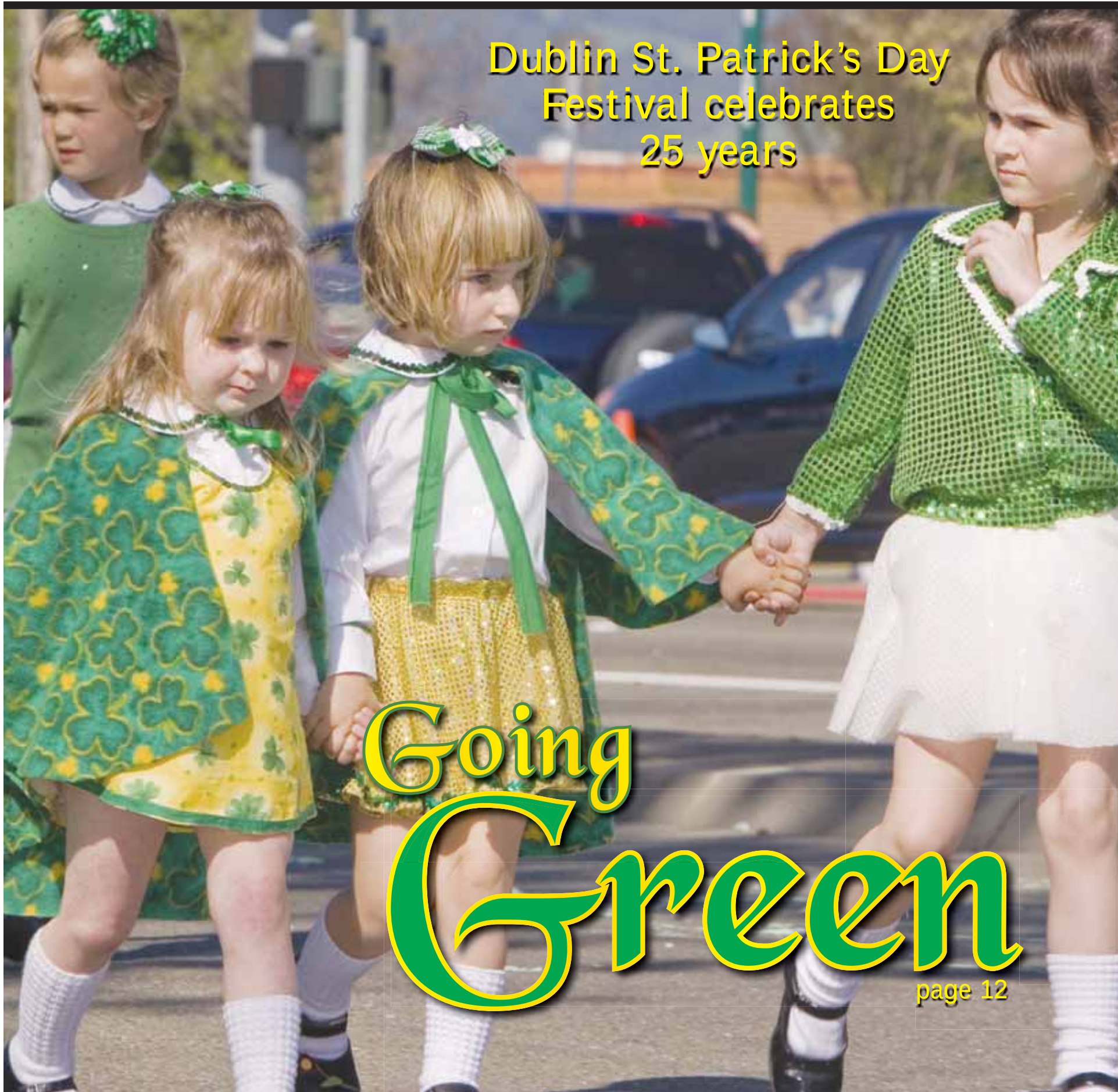
Foothill, Amador  
combine to bring  
'Modern Millie'

► **section 2**

Dublin St. Patrick's Day  
Festival celebrates  
25 years

Going  
Green

page 12



Pleasanton Weekly's  
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**INTERO**  
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## Firehouse Arts Center Benefit

The Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation would like to extend a sincere appreciation to all of the individuals, organizations and businesses that supported our recent "Wonderful Evening of Oz" event on February 29th. The event was a tremendous success in generating excitement and funds for the Firehouse Arts Center!

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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Career Day helps 8th graders look ahead

**H**ats off to Debi Covello for her months-long, enthusiastic work in planning and handling another successful Career Day in our city's three middle schools. It was the 17th annual program where local civic, government, business and education representatives from Pleasanton spend half a day talking about their own careers and the decisions they made along the way to reach their goals. I had a chance last Tuesday to talk about my passions: journalism and good writing, topics the Weekly's president, Gina Channell-Allen, talked about earlier at Pleasanton Middle School. As career journalists, we feel strongly that good writing skills—plus a college degree or two—are essential in today's world where writing defines the individual, whether writing for a newspaper, magazine, on the Internet or as attorneys, doctors, managers and corporate executives. I was in good company because joining me in talking to these four separate classes of eighth graders at Hart Middle School was Celeste Young, a marketing executive at Robert Half International. She impressed us all with her PowerPoint presentation on how products are identified and sold, and how graphics, marketing techniques and, again, good writing of advertising copy and product descriptions can make or break a sale.

Equally impressive were the students, who seemed more mature and worldly than those I've met with in previous Career Day programs. Most are on MySpace and Facebook and the Internet regularly so there's not much new that passes them by. Surprisingly, this year we found many students asking questions about retirement and health benefits, instead of the usual ones about how much we earn. Covello thinks it's because these are issues being discussed around the dinner table at home. Also, there were more questions about how our jobs impact having a family, with students talking about how their parents commute long distances,

and even travel internationally more frequently because of their jobs.

As executive director of the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education Foundation (PPIE), Covello puts together Career Day, looking for a diversified group of speakers to talk to students about future opportunities and the kind of education they'll need to get there. This year's group was the best I've seen, with 70 from various fields who offered students a wide assortment of career interests to choose from. They included a probation officer, police and firefighters, a highway patrolman, Superior Court judge, architect, graphic design specialist, interior designer, nurse, process engineer, physical therapist, an Amador High alumnus who is now an aerial photographer for local companies and Sandia National Laboratories and a semi-conductor company executive. Many work in Pleasanton, almost all live here and each year an increasing number of speakers are local high school graduates who remember their own Career Day as an eighth grader.

A corporate pilot talked about how he flies company executives to meetings around the globe, with several students asking if they could major in corporate piloting. A 55-year-old flight attendant talked about switching careers just 18 months ago after he retired from a corporate job. A frequent traveler who enjoys flying and people, he applied for an open position at Southwest Airlines and was hired. Now an empty nester with his youngest daughter a senior in college, he's having the time of his life and truly one of those we'd like to have serving us the peanuts on our next Southwest flight. Down the hall and on the flip side, a CHP officer told how he started out as a flight attendant, went into sales four years later, and then heard about law enforcement through a friend. He's been a state patrolman since 1991 and told students it's a great career with good benefits, a good retirement package and one they should pursue. ■

### About the Cover

For the 25th year, the St. Patrick's Day Festival will kick off Saturday in Dublin, with everything Irish, including green pancakes, bagpipe players, Irish dancers and international food and beer offerings. The festival is the biggest in the East Bay, drawing 70,000 people both days. Cover design by Lili Cao.

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# Streetwise

**Q:** Would you support a school parcel tax?

Asked Downtown



**Ben Marsh**  
Biology Teacher

I'm in full support of a parcel tax. I work in a school district where a parcel tax is used to enhance wages for teachers and subsidize schools. With these budget cut threats from the governor, I think a parcel tax would certainly supplement that support from the state and bring financial autonomy within the district—which is important when funds are short.

**Sydne Roth**

Photography Assistant

I think it's a good idea as long as it is all used toward schools. I'd like some information on how it will be spent and the yearly amount of the tax. But ultimately I think we need to do whatever we can to protect our school system.



**Mary Roth**

Marketing Consultant

Maintaining the level of education that we have in Pleasanton is critical. But I think it raises a red flag in relation to the type of education and programming the kids are getting here. I would like to see the residents have more say, not only in terms of what's on the chopping block but what additional programs may be added to our system and their importance and validity.



**Brenda Abramovich**

Resource Specialist

I am torn. Property taxes are high. I am reluctant to increase current expenses, however, I'm opposed to the proposed cuts to education. I would be for a parcel tax if I knew exactly where the money was going.



**Gary Stange**

Loan Broker

I don't think it's necessary. Property taxes are already high. We have the lottery. I think that should be enough support. The current cuts proposed by the governor seem unnecessary. The money could be taken from other infrastructure such as Caltrans and not education.



**Have a Streetwise question?** E-mail: [editor@PleasantonWeekly.com](mailto:editor@PleasantonWeekly.com)  
Compiled by Cybele Ryan

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### Light a peace candle

Pleasantonians for Peace will hold a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. March 19 in front of the Museum On Main Street. The group will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor the veterans and visualize ways to have a peaceful world. There will also be poetry from Fred Norman, music of peace and stories from those affected by the war. Contact Matt Sullivan at 415-533-8164 or by email at mjs7882@gmail.com, or Fred or Cathe Norman at 462-7495.

### Bestselling author visits library

Journalist and notable author David Sheff will appear at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 7 tonight to discuss his book, "Beautiful Boy," a memoir of a father's heart-breaking struggle with his son's addiction to methamphetamines. "Beautiful Boy" is No. 26 on Amazon's bestseller list. Sheff's son, Nic, will also be on hand to talk about his first book, "Tweak." Call 931-3400.

### Job's Daughters help recycle electronics

Pleasanton Job's Daughters are going green with an electronic recycling event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. Residents are invited to bring obsolete computers, monitors, printers and fax machines to be recycled. Contact Bethel Guardian Tamra Keen at 640-4599 or tamrakeen@aol.com.

### Kids who help eat free at Sweet Tomatoes

Children ages 12 and under who bring a new clothing item (with tags attached) to Sweet Tomatoes restaurant, 4501 Hopyard Road, from 9 a.m. to noon March 30 will receive a free breakfast meal. The clothes will be donated to the nonprofit organization K.I.D.S. (Kids in Distressed Situations), which annually distributes more than \$50 million worth of new products to about 4 million children in need. Visit [www.kidsdonations.org](http://www.kidsdonations.org) or call 800-266-3314.

### Corrections

The Blankets for Kids celebration on March 19, mentioned in News Digest (page 5) of the March 7 edition of the Pleasanton Weekly, is a private event.

## School board hears support for reading specialists, coaches

### Temporary employees given notices of potential layoffs

by Emily Atwood

**A**fter programs were added to a potential cut list, parents, teachers and other speakers pleaded with the Pleasanton Unified School District's board of trustees Tuesday night to reconsider putting reading specialists and coaches on the chopping block.

At the last meeting, the board decided to use up to \$2 million of reserve funds for the 2008-09 school year and approve a list of programs to cover the rest of the preliminary state budget

that requires \$4.5 million in reductions.

Parents and teachers provided the board with information on the impact of the reading specialists, saying that any cuts would be detrimental.

Sharon Mitchell, a reading specialist, said they conduct daily interventions, to help students read better, and pointed to California curriculum frameworks highlighting the importance of individualized attention with literacy.

When one of her two daughters in the dual emersion language program had trouble reading, Barbara Comstock said specialists were able to identify and fix the problem within two months.

Vicki Stephens, a first-grade teacher at

Vintage Hills Elementary School, said the reading specialists have helped her become a better teacher, providing great advice and techniques.

Last season's Foothill High School football coach John Mannion and Foothill Athletic Director Matt Sweeney were the only ones to speak on behalf of coaches and the importance of athletics in high school. Sweeney said he knew many students who are now at four-year colleges because of their athletic involvement during high school.

Trustee Kris Weaver reminded the public that nothing has been cut yet and assured them it was not the board's desire to reduce anything.

(continued on page 10)

## City names new development director

*Building, planning, other departments to be combined under new leadership*

by Jeb Bing

**B**rian Dolan, most recently the director of development services for Vallejo, has been hired as community development director for the city of Pleasanton, a new post that will merge municipal planning, building code enforcement and safety units.

Dolan, 47, will succeed Jerry Iserson, director of planning and community development, who plans to retire.

In making the announcement, City Manager Nelson Fialho said Dolan's responsibilities and the larger, combined departments that he will head stems from the city's desire to streamline the permitting process. Both city committees and outside advisors spent about 18 months reviewing the existing process before recommending the new structure, Fialho said.

"I have great expectations that this new department will systematize the planning and development functions of the city in a way that marks an immediate improvement in the level of customer service," Fialho said. "Brian's collective experience in both the public and private sectors will be a valuable resource in meeting this goal."

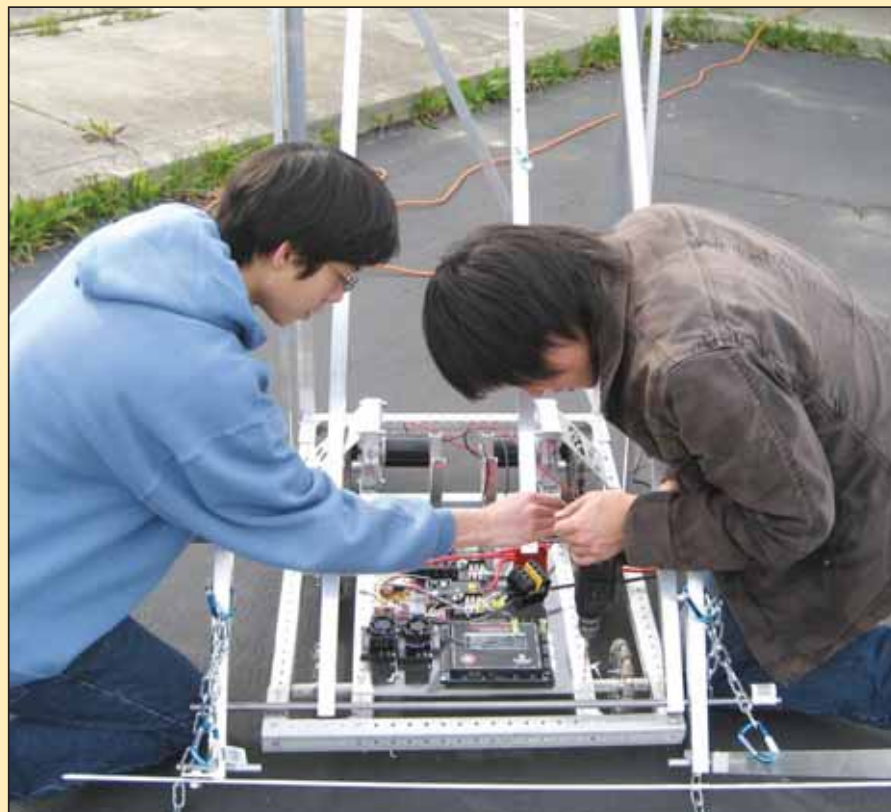
Dolan brings 22 years of professional urban planning experience to his new position, along with eight years of management skill in municipal planning and private sector experience in environmental engineering.

Prior to his Vallejo position, Dolan worked in economic development and planning for the cities of Concord, where he was a principal planner, and Palo Alto.

"He also has broad experience in private sector engineering as a senior environmental planner and is well versed on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)," Fialho said.

"He was at the forefront of the planning and implementation of the Mare Island Specific Plan, which encompassed more than 1,000 acres and is considered a model for military base reuse,"

(continued on page 7)



Left, Matthew Yang and Kevin Kim work on the Pleasanton Slingshots robot ahead of Saturday's competition.

## Foothill robotics team to show creation Saturday

*Group has been crafting their robot for past six weeks*

by Janet Pelletier

**A** mass of metal, intricate engineering and sheer genius, the Pleasanton Slingshots will unveil their prize robot after spending six weeks crafting it.

This is the first year the group is competing in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition.

Pleasanton Slingshots president Kevin Kim said this year's challenge is named "Overdrive," "and consists of remote-controlled robots making laps around a track as well as moving balls across lane mark-

ers to score points."

Various methods of scoring are available, he explained, such as lifting a ball over an overpass, as opposed to pushing the ball across the line, with the number of points assessed based on the difficulty of the task.

According to the FIRST Web site, the robotics competition challenges teams of young people and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts and enter them in competitions

(continued on page 6)

## Robotics

(continued from page 5)

designed by Kamen, Dr. Woodie Flowers and a committee of engineers and other professionals.

The Pleasanton Slingshots have been working fastidiously on their robot on that six-week schedule.

"However, many teams know that it is impossible to follow a schedule and we were building up to the last day," Kim said. "Although the actual building of the robot is definitely a significant part of the competition, all the brainstorming, frustra-

tion and redesigning are what make the competition worthwhile.

He added that the past six weeks, the team has co-existed as a make-shift family.

"Which invariably means getting into arguments," he said. "We thought together, built together, ate together, grew frustrated together and disagreed together, but we worked as a team, which is what FIRST is trying to promote."

The organization was founded by Dean Kamen, who, among other accomplishments and distinctions, invented the Segway human transportation device and the iBot wheel-

chair for the disabled. In FIRST, there are four levels of competition for children as young as elementary school age to students in high school.

The local competition will be held tomorrow at the San Jose State University event center in San Jose.

The team has been in a number of other competitions and began in 2002. Before that, the group existed as a Lego robotics club in elementary school, founded by Judy Banks. Banks continued at the group's coach and mentor through middle school and after the mem-

bers moved on to high school, they became a student-led, independent team.

Kim said he enjoys robotics because "there is a certain satisfaction that comes with devoting immense amounts of time and energy into a robot, and then watching it perform on the field at competition."

Skills that the team learns include time management, brainstorming, working as a group and making friendships.

Most members of the Slingshots are interested in pursuing careers in science and engineering, such

as biology, computer programming and electrical engineering. Kim himself would like to get into mechanical or aeronautical engineering.

The team includes: Kim, 11th grade; Joon Park, 10th grade; Timothy Lee, 10th grade; Matthew Yang, 10th grade; Jonathan Hwang, 11th grade; Abishek Akella, ninth grade; Ryan Banks, 10th grade; Scott Banks, 12th grade; Shane D'Cruz, 11th grade; Lyndon Hong, 11th grade and Shridhar Gupta, 12th grade.

For more information about FIRST, visit [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org). ■

# Come Celebrate Easter With Us

**Easter Service**  
**Sunday March 23rd**  
**10:00 am**

**Thomas Hart**  
**Middle School**  
**4433 Wilow Road,**  
**Pleasanton CA 94588**



## Trinity Lutheran Church of Pleasanton

### Holy Week Services

March 16 - Palm/Passion Sunday - 8:30 & 10 a.m.

March 20 - Maundy Thursday - 7:30 p.m.

Remembering Jesus Last Supper with His disciples

March 21 - Good Friday - 7:30 p.m.

Remembering the moment of our Lord's Death

March 22 - Children's Easter Egg Party - 10:30 a.m.

Bring a basket of plastic eggs/candy and share in the Easter Egg Hunt

### Easter Morning Services

March 23 - Resurrection Sunday - Easter Festival Worship

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship in Trinity Park

sponsored by our Youth Ministry

8:30 & 10 a.m. Festival Worship and the celebration

of Holy Communion at both services

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Friday, March 21, 8pm

Saturday, March 22, 8pm

Sunday, March 23, 7:30pm

**Interstake Center Auditorium**  
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~ Admission is free ~

## Holy Week at Valley Community Church

**Palm Sunday**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Easter Sunday**

**March 16**

Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

featuring

Children's Choir  
Sanctuary Choir

**March 20**

Family Communion Service

7:00 p.m.

Childcare for birth-kindergarten

**March 23**

Celebration Services

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Children's Palm  
Processional

**Valley Community Church**

925-846-6622 • 4455 Del Valle Pkwy

(between Hopyard & Main) Pleasanton

[www.valleycommunitychurch.org](http://www.valleycommunitychurch.org)

Free Pancake Breakfast  
from 8:30-11:30 am

Children's Program at each Service  
For Birth thru Kindergarten

*Easter Sunrise Service*  
*All Are Welcome!*

*Shadow Cliffs Regional Park*

**Sunday, March 23**

**6:00-7:00 am - Sunrise Service**

**Gates Open at 5:30 am**

- Coffee and donuts following service
- No charge for parking • Please bring flashlights

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**Easter, March 23rd - 10:45am**  
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[www.livingvinefellowship.com](http://www.livingvinefellowship.com)

## St. Clare's Episcopal Church

**3350 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton**

### Holy Week and Easter

**Palm Sunday, March 16**

8:00am & 10:00am

Procession of the Palms followed by  
Holy Eucharist

**Maundy Thursday, March 20**

6:30pm

Agape meal of soup, bread & cheese

7:30pm

Holy Eucharist and foot washing

**Good Friday, March 21**

Noon Stations of the Cross (no Holy Eucharist)  
7:30pm Good Friday liturgy with Holy Eucharist

**The Great Vigil of Easter, March 22**

8:00pm

Baptisms, readings, exuberant Easter music and  
pageantry, with reception to follow

**Easter Sunday, March 23**

10:00am

Festival Holy Eucharist

(One service, followed by a reception)

**925-462-4802**

[www.stclarespleasanton.org](http://www.stclarespleasanton.org)

# Nominations requested for Juanita Haugen award

*Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative will honor person who demonstrates commitment to volunteering*

To honor beloved late school board president Juanita Haugen, the Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative is seeking nominations for residents who demonstrate a commitment to quality volunteer work.

The Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award recipients will be announced May 29.

The public is encouraged to nominate citizens who consistently display sensitivity to relevant social issues and exhibit the kinds of behaviors the collaborative advocates--responsibility, compassion, self discipline, honesty, respect and integrity, according to organization president Ellen Pensky McGraw.

Haugen, who died in March 2007 after a long battle with cancer, was a co-founder of the Pleasanton Community of Character program, which is employed by the city and the school district.

"We want to help build respon-

sible, knowledgeable citizens of Pleasanton," Pensky McGraw said. "We all want citizens who volunteer whenever volunteers are needed, who are ready to help others, play fair and treat people with respect. We anticipate that honoring model citizens will inspire and encourage others to be involved in the community."

Anyone wishing to nominate someone can pick up a form at the Pleasanton Unified School District office, 4665 Bernal Ave., the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, 777 Peters Ave., or online at [www.communityofcharacter.org](http://www.communityofcharacter.org). Forms can be submitted in the following ways: to the Chamber office in person or by fax at 846-9697 or the school district office either in person or by fax, 426-7146.

The deadline for entries is May 1.

—Janet Pelletier



Incoming Director of Development Services Brian Dolan speaks with City Manager Nelson Fialho at City Hall.

## Planning

(continued from page 5)

Fialho added. "He also worked on the development of the General Plan for Palo Alto.

Dolan is a former planning commissioner for the city of El Cerrito. His wife Allison, an attorney, serves on the Planning Commission for the town of Moraga, where the

Dolans live with their children, Brandon, 13, and Madelyn, 10.

Dolan will start his new job in Pleasanton April 7. Iserson, who earlier announced his intentions to retire, continued to stay on the job until his replacement was found. He has agreed to continue working on special assignment for a few more months to complete work on the city's General Plan update, which should be done within the next few months. ■

### Bank near mall robbed Friday

Around 1:12 p.m. Friday a man reportedly robbed a Washington Mutual Bank on Stoneridge Mall Road threatened to use a gun, although no weapon was seen

[READ MORE/COMMENT](#)

## Town Square Forum

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**9:30AM**  
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**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
**Saturday, March 15**  
**7:00 – 10:00AM**  
**Fire Station #16**

**SHAMROCK 5K FUN RUN & WALK**  
**Sunday, March 16**  
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## Pleasanton Real Estate News



by  
Gerarda  
Stocking

### WHO OWNS WHAT?

Most of us pay far too little attention to what will happen to the assets we own after we leave this life. So let's jump right to the bottom line here: Spend some time—and do so at least every two years and before every major purchase, like a move into a new house—with your estate attorney. (The assumption here, by the way, is that you do indeed have an estate tax attorney. If you don't, even if you have the kind of reservations about attorneys that Shakespeare seemed to have, you will be very happy if you find one you can communicate with well and trust. Trust me on this.)

Here's a simple example. Let's say you grew up in California, a "community-property" state wherein it is generally assumed that everything a husband and wife buy belongs to both of them and, if one spouse dies, all of those things are then owned by the surviving spouse. Let's say you and your spouse move to Colorado early on, but you continued to assume that your assets were all protected by community-property rules. But they aren't. Colorado isn't a community-property state—only nine states are.

Add to the confusion the fact that ownership laws (ways of taking title) are constantly under revision, and you will surely agree that you should be talking to your estate tax attorney every time you take title to a new piece of real estate, among other assets. For your sake and for the sake of your heirs, review your title options every time you buy. Need help? Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

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

# Police: increase in traffic tickets means fewer accidents

*Hopyard Road, Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue are still crash hotspots*

by Emily Atwood

Traffic collisions in Pleasanton decreased by 8.5 percent from 2006 to 2007, making it the lowest number of collisions since 1977. Police attribute this decrease to an increase in tickets given out last year.

Lt. Tom Fenner of the Pleasanton Police Department said the change in statistics is due in large part to Chief Michael Fraser's desire to get back to the basics.

"He started [as police chief] a little over a year ago and it's one of the things he was emphasizing: getting back to what we knew worked, being proactive," Fenner said. "We knew that it has an effect on lowering the number of collisions and injury collisions, but it also has a spin-off effect on crime. Criminals

talk and they realize that when they see officers proactively stopping people, it makes them nervous."

There were 512 documented collisions in 2007, compared to 559 in 2006. Injury collisions decreased by 6.3 percent from 254 in 2006 to 238 last year.

In 2006, the total number of citations issued by patrolling officers was 10,707, with 973 of those mechanical violations; 4,759 moving violations; and 4,975 courtesy warnings. These numbers increased in 2007, with 1,228 mechanical violations; 5,578 moving violations; and 7,008 courtesy warnings, totaling 13,814 tickets.

While the courtesy warnings weren't a part of the "back to

basics" push by the department, they did increase and outnumber those given in the other categories.

"It's completely at the discretion of the officer; we don't tell them how many to write," Fenner said about courtesy warnings.

As for the idea of officers needing to reach citation quotas each month, Fenner said this notion is false and that quotas are illegal.

The more dangerous thoroughfares are often the ones with increased traffic, such as Hopyard Road, Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue. The intersection of Foothill Road and Dublin Canyon Road has also been the scene for many accidents, as drivers exit Interstate 580 and cross several lanes to get to Stoneridge Shopping Center.

"Typically, we're seeing that the main reasons for collision are speeding, running red lights and unsafe lane changes," Fenner said.

Statistics for this year may be impacted by a new law going into effect July 1. Officers will be able to issue citations to drivers not using a hands-free cell phone device while driving. In addition, drivers under the age of 18 are not allowed to use cell phones at all while driving.

To learn more about the new driving law, including exceptions to the rule, visit [www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws).

"Making a lot of traffic stops has a lot of real positive effects," he said. "It's something the department rededicated to last year and is now seeing the results." ■

## Business Briefs

### Safeway appoints two to board of directors

Pleasanton-based Safeway Inc. has announced the appointment of Frank Herringer and Kenneth Oder to the company's board of directors, expanding the board from nine to 11 members.

Herringer is the chairman and former CEO of Transamerica Corporation, a financial services company. He joined Transamerica in 1979 and held various positions before becoming CEO in 1991 and chairman in 1995. Transamerica was acquired by Aegon, N.V. in 1999. He currently serves on the board

of Amgen, Inc. and The Charles Schwab Corporation.

Oder was Safeway's executive vice president of Labor Relations, Human Resources, Legal and Public Affairs from 1993 to 2000. Prior to joining Safeway, he was a partner at Latham & Watkins, a Los Angeles based law firm. Since 2000, he has served as a director and president of the board of directors of Los Angeles Public Counsel, one of the largest pro bono organizations in the U.S. He is also the managing member of Sugar Hollow LLC, an investment firm.

Safeway operates 1,743 stores in the U.S. and Canada and had annual sales of \$42.3 billion in 2008.

### Comcast relocating in Livermore

Comcast, a leading cable television and communications company, has acquired a 26-acre campus near Las Positas College in Livermore where it will consolidate its regional office staff from four locations into one headquarters, initially hiring 200 people.

The campus site is at the end of Triad Drive just off of North Canyons Parkway that will eventually house about 1,000 employees. Comcast will be the sole tenant in the three building campus (two single-story and one two-story building) that comprise 220,000 square feet. One building will be used for a new 500-personnel customer service center, which will replace its existing

call center on Nissen Drive in Livermore. The other two buildings will house the company's expanding Livermore technical operations team and the regional office staff currently based in San Ramon.

The company will renovate the existing empty property and construct a new parking lot as part of the project. The call center portion of the campus is expected to open in August and will support customers throughout the Bay Area. The other two buildings will be occupied by December.

Comcast will hire additional customer account executives and technical support representatives to staff the new center, adding to Comcast's 7,500 existing employees throughout the state. ■

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## Of Note

## Food Bank names Pleasanton resident to its board

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

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

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

## Pleasanton's Purves takes lead of Caledonian Club

Alan Purves, a Pleasanton resident for more than 13 years, has been installed as the chief of the

Caledonian Club of San Francisco, which hosts the annual Scottish Highland Games at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Purves and his wife Jean are both natives of Stirling, Scotland (Braveheart Country), and moved to California in 1979, settling in Pleasanton on Labor Day weekend 1994.

Coincidentally, that was the first year that the club's Scottish Games and Gathering was held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

As chief, Purves will lead the officers, trustees and clansmen of the Caledonian Club of San Francisco in presenting the 143rd Annual Scottish Games at the Fairgrounds on Aug. 30 and 31.

Among this year's events include the 34th U.S. Invitational Heavy Athletic Championships, with tossing the caber; Western U.S. Open Highland Dancing Championships; piping and drumming competitions; living history reenactments; Gathering of the Clans; Celtic heritage music and dancing; Scottish country dancing; Five-a-Side soccer; Shinty; Scottish fiddlers rally; Celtic harpers; Celtic rock; birds of prey; sheep dogs; Highland cattle and Clydesdale horses.

## Calvin Santos accepted to West Point

Pleasanton native Calvin Santos



Calvin Santos has been accepted to West Point.

was recently awarded an offer of admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The son of Joe and Maria Santos is currently a cadet at Marion Military Institute in Marion, Ala. He joins 31 other cadets from the institute's academy preparation program who will be a part of the West Point class of 2012.

For more information on West Point, visit [www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu).

## Pitbull unleashed

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## Take Us Along



## One if by DeLand, two if by sea

Phil and Keith DeLand catch up on the news in the Weekly before crossing the Seven Mile Bridge on U.S. 1 while on vacation in the Florida Keys.



## Malaysian persuasion

Craig Garcia reads one of our Year In Review issues at the Sri Aruloli Thirumurugan Temple in Penang, Malaysia. Craig's wife Karla reports that she's "been packing Pleasanton Weeklys in his suitcases for years and finally got him to get a picture on one of his business trips to exotic locations."

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## Cuts

(continued from page 5)

The board, except for trustee Steve Brozosky, pushed the parcel tax as a solution to getting reading specialists and programs off the potential cut list.

Board President Jim Ott called spending \$150 (the projected parcel tax per household) on saving these programs a "no brainer."

"I have this feeling that a parcel tax isn't going to solve the issue," Brozosky said. "It has to be struc-

tured in a way to where we don't continue to spend it all. I'm concerned that it happens all the time. It's still a small part of our whole budget."

Responding to those wanting cuts in administration before the classroom, Superintendent John Casey said that the district has already done so. The reason for the potential cut list from the last meeting, he said, was to send out notices to temporary workers by tomorrow's set deadline.

"The administrative ranks have

been hit as have the classified workers and equally so the teachers," he said, adding that in April and May the district will know more about the state budget and possible attrition.

"What I really need is a different budget proposal," he continued. "The budget I have now is going to have reductions and costs. We're not going to 'tighten the belt' to the level of \$4.5 million."

Temporary notices were personally delivered Wednesday to temporary workers who may not

be re-hired, according to Casey. Brozosky said these notices aren't pink slips or final layoff announcements; rather they are notifications that the district may decide not to re-hire temporary employees--something that many districts do every year for flexibility.

In response to community concern, the board recommended a report be presented on reading specialists at the April 8 meeting. An attorney will be at that meeting to help the board and public understand a parcel tax, from language

to how the tax is used. Budget concerns will also be addressed at the regularly scheduled budget hearings April 14 and May 20, when the state budget is revised.

While they are encouraged to continue speaking at the local level, Casey asked residents to bring the local voice to Sacramento.

"In 2005, the last time we had a budget crisis like this, communities ended up (rallying) in Sacramento," he said. "Things were changed and the education budget was protected to a certain degree." ■

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# Transitions

## Obituaries

### Joan Gaster

Joan Gaster died Feb. 15 in Sun City, Ariz. after a sudden illness. She was 75.

Mrs. Gaster was born May 16, 1932 in Los Angeles. She was the only child of John and Ella Farmer.

A teacher for 35 years, Mrs. Gaster never lost the ability to schedule and instruct. If any of her friends and family wanted to know what they had to do each day, all they had to do was ask her and she would provide a detailed schedule of their week's activities. She was also a very giving person who single handedly kept the Hallmark card business alive. One could count on at least one and usually two or three cards from her for each holiday, birthday or anniversary.

Mrs. Gaster was involved in every social function that she came across, from church to sororities. She loved her family and friends and they all loved her.

She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Jim Gaster; son, Larry; seven daughters, Mary, Jill, Jorgette, Charlotte, Sharon, Mary and Theresa; 21 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son, James Jr.

Services were held March 8, with a graveside service held on March 10 at Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery.

### Mary Louise Lindgren

Mary Louise Lindgren died Feb. 25 at the age of 76.

She was born Jan. 22, 1932. A resident of Pleasanton, Mrs. Lindgren was very active in CAPE and Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

She is survived by three loving daughters, Pamela Ann, Denise Michelle and Donna Marie; six grandchildren, Jerrett, Amy, Adam, Lisa, Kimberly and Jessica; eight great-grandchildren; a brother and his wife, Norman and Marie Mendonca.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 38 years, Arnold Lindgren.

Services were held March 5 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livermore. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Hope Hospice or Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

### Martha D. Gallo

Martha D. Gallo died Feb. 27 in Hughson, Calif. at the age of 75, following a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Gallo was born Feb. 8, 1933 in Schenectady, N.Y. to Andres and Martha Smit. She lived in Toledo, Ohio and Saint Johnsbury, Vt. before moving to Pleasanton in 1973.

She adored her grandchildren and loved each of them deeply, particularly enjoying the times they would come stay with her. She also liked gardening and traveling. She was a caring wife and loving mother and grandmother.



Mrs. Gallo met her husband William H. Gallo in the military, where he was an air traffic controller and she a teletype repair person in the U.S. Air Force. She made a home for her husband and children and continued her education after the military, receiving a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from the University of Toledo. The Gallos were extensive travelers, camping across the U.S. and visiting Egypt, France and Israel. She was fluent in French and spoke Dutch as well. Mrs. Gallo enrolled in St. Georges College in Israel, pursuing her fascination with the history of that part of the world. She greatly enjoyed annual visits with her brother Jake in Boone, N.C. She maintained a deep attachment and involvement with Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Boone and Pastor Tim Smith presided over her memorial service on March 5.

She is survived by her brother, Jacob Smit, and his wife Norma of Boone, N.C.; her three sons and their families, William D. and Lisa Gallo and their children Chelsea, Talia and Sam; Andrew C. and Cheryl Gallo and their children Chris, Joe and Melissa, and Jeffrey S. and Tammie Gallo and their children Jeremy, Tera and Seth.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William H. Gallo.

Services were held March 5. Burial followed at Memory Gardens in

Livermore. Remembrances may be made to Alexander Cohen Hospice House in Hughson, Calif. or to the Grace Evangelical Church Pastor's Discretionary Fund in Boone, N.C.

### Jacquelyn Joyce Navone

Jacquelyn Joyce Navone died Feb. 8 with her family at her side at the age of 63.

Mrs. Navone was born Oct. 10, 1944 in Albany, Calif.

She grew up in Contra Costa County and spent much of her married life in Pleasanton. After working for Intel for more than 30 years, she retired and moved to El Dorado Hills in Sacramento. Friends and family cherished her as "one of the special ones."

She is survived by her two sons, Josh and Matt; two daughters-in-law, Susan and Angela; granddaughter, Sophia Jacquelyn and brother, Bob.



A celebration of life will be held at 1 p.m. April 11 at the Folsom Rotary Club House, 7150 Baldwin Dam Road, Folsom.

Contributions may be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society, 800-227-2345 or the American Lung Association, 1900 Powell St., Ste. 800, Emeryville, CA 94608.

## Engagements

### Kristen Wood & David Knibbs

Kristen Erica Wood and David Wittwer Knibbs have announced their engagement to be married.

The couple met while vacationing in Costa Rica.

Kristen is the daughter of Rebecca Wood of Canmore, Alberta, Canada. She attended Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in 2001 and will graduate this year with a Bachelor of Arts in communications from Athabasca University in Alberta, Canada. She is employed as a freelance photographer in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

David is the son of Sally Wittwer Stock of Pleasanton and Ronald Dean Knibbs of San Ramon. After graduating from Village High School in 1997, David graduated with honors from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2001. He is employed as a certified public accountant (CPA) and certified internal auditor (CIA) with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Amsterdam.

The ceremony will be held July 5 at Canmore Ranch in Canmore, Canada. A reception will follow at Banff Park Hotel in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

The honeymoon is a secret only the groom knows.

The couple plan to reside in Amsterdam after they marry.



### Deaths, Weddings and Births

are a free editorial service. Information should be submitted, typewritten or emailed no later than Monday at 5 p.m. Send to:

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Pleasanton, CA 95926  
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editor@PleasantonWeekly.com (subject: Transitions)

Please include a contact name and telephone number. Not responsible for lost photos. Information how to send a photo digitally can be found on the Weekly's web site: [www.PleasantonWeekly.com](http://www.PleasantonWeekly.com)

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Even the youngest Irish revelers get in on the family friendly fun at the Dublin St. Patrick's Day Festival, which takes place this Saturday and Sunday.



Young children get a kick out of eating green pancakes at the annual Alameda County Firefighter's Pancake Breakfast, which raises funds for the Ann Ruch Burn Foundation.

# Going

## Dublin St. Patrick's

by Janet Pelletier

This weekend, more than 70,000 people will descend upon Dublin, when it celebrates a landmark 25th year of the St. Patrick's Day Festival.

The two-day celebration, which includes a pancake breakfast, parade, street fair and run/walk, is the second largest observance of the Irish holiday in the Bay Area, next to downtown San Francisco's. While no local event can hold a candle to Dublin, Ireland's celebration—drawing half a million people to a five-day festival—the Dublin, Calif. event continues to gain popularity year after year.

"It has grown so much," said Lorri Polon, special events director for the city of Dublin. "The event continues to garner support from our community—from sponsorship and certainly from attendance. It started out as a very small, community event and has grown now into a full-scale signature event for the city."

The festival began by a group of parents who wanted to put on a small event celebrating the holiday. But being that the city of Dublin shares its name with the capital of Ireland, it goes without saying that a celebration of the patron St. Patrick is appropriate and welcomed.

"We welcome that—to celebrate our heritage and our name and have an opportunity for people to come and see what a great community we have here in Dublin," Polon said.

The celebration is so big in fact that the city, which funds, sponsors and hosts it, begins planning almost right after the previous festival.

"I do work on it almost year-round because it's a passion," Polon said. "The fact that the city is in such support of it, it's certainly something that we're thinking about all the time. I primarily focus on it about eight months of the year."

And as the event attendance grows, so does the population of Dublin year after year. The city now has an estimated population of 50,000 residents.

Dublin resident Bill Burnham has been around for all the changes. The Dublin Lions club member, and its former president, has helped put together the annual Dublin Lions Club St. Patrick's Day Parade for all of its 25 years.

"I got involved when the parade first started and just stayed with it," Burnham said. "It's been a lot of fun. We do it mainly for the kids."

While Burnham said he isn't Irish, some of the members share a genealogy that includes the Emerald Isle.

A wide variety of groups will be participating in the parade, from marching bands, elementary schools, dancers, civic organizations, bagpipe players, equestrian groups and clowns. The event begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

"This year we have over 70 entrants," Burnham said. "We started 25 years ago with just 22, 23. Every year, it just gets bigger and better. In fact, this year we have just over 3,000 people in the parade."

Other parade and the City of Dublin dignitaries.

The parade takes place on Amador Valley Boulevard from last year's place—on Amador Valley Boulevard from last year's place—on Amador Valley Boulevard.

Guests who want to see the parade should arrive early. Amador Valley Boulevard is closed to traffic from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

But before the parade, there's a breakfast at the Alameda County Fire Station. The breakfast is a green pancake breakfast. The fire station is located at 1000 Donohue Drive and Donohue Drive.

On Sunday, the parade starts at 10 a.m. and goes under way along the Dublin City streets. The parade is free to watch, but a \$25 registration fee can be completed online.

Throughout the day, there's Irish music, dancing, and more. The main event is the parade, which starts at 10 a.m. on Golden Boulevard and goes through the city streets to a separate stage.

Both the festival and the parade are located on Dublin Boulevard. The parade starts at Sierra Lane and goes through the city streets to a separate stage. The parade is free to watch, but a \$25 registration fee can be completed online.

While the festival is a decidedly small event, the parade is a big one. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on 3015-H Hopewell Avenue and goes through the city streets to a separate stage.

"We're going to have a lot of fun," said the parade director. "We're going to have a lot of fun."

of one since the parade started. The parade is a big one. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on 3015-H Hopewell Avenue and goes through the city streets to a separate stage.

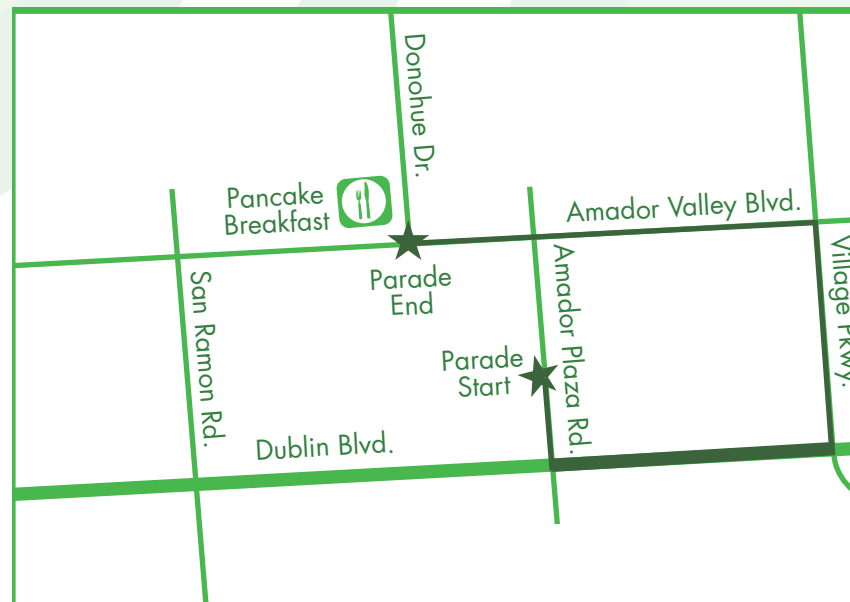
Starting today, the parade is a big one. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on 3015-H Hopewell Avenue and goes through the city streets to a separate stage.

"We feature a lot of Irish music and dancing," said the parade director. "We feature a lot of Irish music and dancing."

Nostrand said. The parade is a big one. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on 3015-H Hopewell Avenue and goes through the city streets to a separate stage.

a great Irish lunch. The parade is a big one. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on 3015-H Hopewell Avenue and goes through the city streets to a separate stage.

with Murphy's. The parade is a big one. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on 3015-H Hopewell Avenue and goes through the city streets to a separate stage.



# Green

## Day Festival celebrates 25 years

Participants also include Mayor Janet Lockhart, who will ride in a fire truck, and a band from Bray, Ireland, Dublin's sister city.

The parade is returning to its original route, which is different from last year's route. The parade will begin and end in the same place, on Amador Plaza Road by Safeway and will travel east on Amador Road, north on Village Parkway and west on Amador Road to Donahue Drive.

Those who would like to view from bleachers can find seating on Amador Road between Oil Changers and Lucky Pizza. When the parade gets under way, many attend the annual Firefighter's Pancake Breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. The event will be held at Fire Station No. 16, which is different from last year's event, according to Polon. The event, which serves up pancakes, is a fundraiser for the Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. The event is located at the corner of Amador Valley Boulevard and Amador Drive. The cost is \$3 for children and \$5 for adults.

The 10th annual Shamrock 5K Fun Run & Walk will be held at 8:30 a.m. The 3.1-mile course starts and ends at the Civic Center. To participate on the day of, the cost is \$10, which includes an event T-shirt. Pre-registration is required and can be found online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) for \$20.

During the two-day festival, arts and crafts booths will be set up, some even with an Irish flavor. There will also be carnival rides, international foods and drink. This year's stage will feature such entertainment as Black Irish, The Leperkhanz, Gabriel Duffin and CastleRock. And there will be Irish dancers.

The festival and the parade are free to the public. Parking is available in downtown Dublin city streets, including Sierra Court, and Clark Avenue for festival-goers. Those who take public transportation will exit the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station and hop on a free shuttle—the Wheels No. 10—which will take attendees to the parade site.

St. Patrick's Day celebration in Pleasanton will be smaller than Dublin's, revelers can party Irish-style at the local bar scene. The Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill, 10000 Hop Yard Road, will begin its celebration today, lasting through Monday.

"We're going to be celebrating for four days this year instead of three. St. Patrick's Day falls on a Monday," said Hop Yard owner, David Strand.

Today, the brew pub will feature Irish food and brews. "We're focusing on some St. Patrick's Day food and beer items primarily," said Strand. "We've got corned beef and cabbage and we also do lamb stew that seems to be a hit every year. We make it with Guinness Irish stout. That's always something that goes quick."

On the beer side, Hop Yard will be offering Irish beers such as Guinness, Harp, Murphy's and Smithwicks. And while the restaurant won't serve green beer, they'll make it possible for customers to get the St. Patrick's Day specialty.

"We don't do green beer, but what we do every year is we have some green food dye that we will serve with the beer and if folks want to create their own green beer, we're there to help," he said.

To top it off, Irish music will be intertwined with the regular Top 40 tunes.

Main Street Brewery, located at 830 Main St., meanwhile, will offer live music from local rock band Public Eye, corned beef and cabbage and green beer on Monday.

And the newest pub in the local scene, Redcoats British Pub & Restaurant, located at 336 St. Mary St., will also be serving corned beef and cabbage on Monday, in addition to its regular European beer offerings and Guinness.

Perhaps the largest private party celebrating St. Patrick's Day is at Kathleen and Bronco Hinek's home in Kottinger Ranch. It started 10 years ago by the couple, who are both 100 percent Irish. After a decade, nearly 200 invited guests come to eat corned beef and cabbage sandwiches, Irish soda bread and likely Irish-inspired beverages. ■

### Dublin St. Patrick's Day Festival

**WHO:** city of Dublin

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday  
and Sunday

**INFO:** visit [www.dublinstpats.com](http://www.dublinstpats.com)

- ◆ dogs are not allowed
- ◆ look for the Pleasanton Weekly booth near the library and carnival rides



During the festivities, event-goers can shop at a number of booths that will be set up selling arts and crafts and other wares.



Irish dancers perform each year on stage for audiences.



Among the parade entrants including marching bands, equestrian groups, civic organization and bagpipe players.



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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Play ball!

Groundbreaking ceremonies will be held within the next few weeks on three new baseball fields in the Bernal Community Park, and none too soon. Little League baseball starts tomorrow in Sports Park with more than 2,300 players signed up to play ball on the 21 fields there and two more at Upper Bernal field on Bernal Avenue just east of First Street. Besides the American, National and Foothill Little Leagues, Pleasanton also has PONY baseball and girls softball leagues. These five take all the available fields in town and sometimes have to play their games at Foothill or Amador Valley high schools due to crowded conditions on city fields.

The new fields under construction will mark the first improvements to the Bernal property, which was given to Pleasanton free of charge in 2000 by Greenbriar Homes and its partners as part of a

deal that also allowed the developer to build apartments and homes on part of the land. At the time of the title transfer to the city of Pleasanton, the agreement called for the city to start work quickly on a 10-field sports park along the east side of the property with the proposed lighted fields to be installed before the

homes to avoid any complaints. This month's groundbreaking will come five years after KB Home completed construction on the houses directly facing onto the public park and the new baseball fields.

It's the lighted fields that are needed even more than regular baseball diamonds, and really, for soccer and other team sports that are now played year-round, and often after dark. Only the Upper Bernal fields have lights which means that Pleasanton misses most chances to hold winter-time tournament play, with our teams usually going to Newark or other cities where fields are equipped for nighttime play. Still, only two of the first three baseball fields being built will have lights, with more to come as the city budget allows. Plans are to build a total of eight fields, for soccer, youth football and lacrosse, plus at least one more lighted baseball field. The start-up project that gets under way shortly will cost \$8.8 million, a higher amount than the city usually spends on its recreational facilities because it also has the responsibility of installing utilities, new roads and other amenities that developers normally pay.

This year's youth baseball season opens with Sports Park in the best shape ever. Crews worked since the park was closed for the season last November to restore the turf, reseeding and fertilizing, and were helped by an extraordinarily good spring season of occasional rain, plenty of sunshine and warmer-than-usual temperatures. It costs Parks and Community Services Director Jim Wolfe and his team \$1 million a year to maintain the fields each year. But their work bodes well for the tough competitive play expected this summer as Pleasanton teams jockey for top tournament invitations, including a chance to go to the Little League championship games in Williamsport, Pa. late this summer.

Weather permitting, the three new fields off Valley Avenue near the Union Pacific Railroad underpass should be ready for play by mid- to late-2009 or by 2010 at the latest. It took a year for the turf to grow in at Val Vista Park before the soccer leagues could play games there. Next year is also when work will begin to install artificial turf on the Upper Bernal fields, which the baseball and soccer leagues have been requesting. Artificial turf, which Foothill and Amador now have on their football fields, dries out quickly after a rainstorm and makes for better, safer play. Other cities are using artificial turf and we're glad that Pleasanton is joining in. With new turf and more lighted fields, Pleasanton teams will now have a better chance at hosting tournaments, which will boost player and taxpayer support.

*It costs Parks and Community Services Director Jim Wolfe and his team \$1 million a year to maintain the fields each year.*

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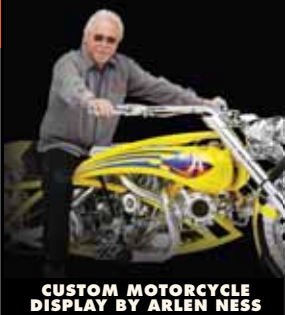
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# Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



## Good grammar should not be relegated to one day a year

Darn. I had National Grammar Day marked on my calendar March 4 but was so busy working, it completely slipped my mind.

I'm almost positive Hallmark makes a card for this. It would read something like:

Roses are read, violets are blew, I obviously missed National Grammar Day, How bout ewe?

Dedicated to copy editors and English teachers, National Grammar Day is sponsored by the Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar (SPOGG) and MSN Encarta. I'm somewhat excited by groups trying to promote the use of proper grammar. Being a former editor, I'm dedicated to countering the text-message grammar prevalent among today's teens and tweens. (RU2 old 2 no wat that means? me 2.)

I admit that I sometimes use informal language and dare to split an infinitive occasionally to make my writing more conversational. Should I straighten up and fly right? Er, I mean, fly correctly?

My pet peeves:

- Compliment versus complement. I cannot compliment the misuse of "complement." Restaurants are notorious for this.
- Homophone abuse: Bee vary careful; spellcheck doesn't catch these.
- Comma overuse: Believe it, or not, it is annoying, and distracting, when you use too many commas.
- To "a" or not to "a": I was taught in high school to use the article "an" before the words "historical" and "hotel." If a word begins with a consonant sound, use the "a" article; if it begins with a vowel sound, use "an." That means a historic event, not an historic one.

Not many others share my enthusiasm for the English language and its quirks. I drive people crazy editing menus at restaurants, advertisements in magazines and signs. But those same people who ridicule me ask for my help when they have a term paper due or have a work-related writing assignment.

According to a few blogs, the SPOGG and MSN Encarta got a

little flack for the idea of National Grammar Day. Apparently a few of the presidential candidates weighed in on the promotion of special day. According to the Grammar Goddess blog: "The Obama people are working on a statement on the issue now. McCain says we should bring back rulers to smack the knuckles of grammar abusers. Hillary has a 39-point plan to simplify grammar while increasing access to grammar education."

JK (Translated into English: Just kidding.)

What are your grammar pet peeves? Email me at [gallen@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:gallen@pleasantonweekly.com). I'll share in a future column.

*Gina Channell-Allen, a 20-year journalism veteran, is the president of the East Bay division of Embarcadero Publishing Company, president of the Pleasanton Weekly and publisher of the Danville Weekly. Send questions to [gallen@pleasanton-weekly.com](mailto:gallen@pleasanton-weekly.com).*

### TOWNSQUARE Forum Postings

#### On TV30 woes

These problems will only continue as the station has put the news producer who is in charge of the station who produces the show that is wasting the station's money. He is the person who brought Britney Spears and other content like "timesaver traffic reports" and "microclimate weather" to the news when it does not serve the Tri-Valley's interest.

TV30 needs to focus on public affairs programming, and get rid of all this other garbage. If they want to produce entertainment, it should be done by volunteers and not salaried employees.

By the way, TV30 used to have a weekend newscast that aired on Friday, Saturday and Sunday but it was removed during Davis' tenure. So he actually is responsible for getting rid of more hours of news, and instead replaced it with programs from other stations that do not generate revenue.

*Posted by watchdog*

#### On possible school budget cuts

The goal should be not to cut programs, period. Sports, all programs are valuable and

should be kept.

I would much rather undo the superintendent's team and trim the administration than having to undo my child's team of teachers, reading specialists.

Mr. Casey: you must trim your team—talk to parents, read their comments, there are positions that are simply a luxury right now. Example: the public information department. If you continue to refuse to see the obvious, then it may be harder to convince people that a parcel tax is needed. How can you possibly tell a parent that reading specialists will be laid off, coaches' stipends reduced... yet your PIO stays on board?

Let's be fair here. Cut at the top, then we pass a parcel tax.

*Posted by anonymous*

#### On new BART station at Stoneridge

Doesn't anyone else see this as a bad idea? At the Owens location, there are not too many homes or businesses. But along Stoneridge, there are many neighborhoods, which have always been quiet, and for the most part crime free.

This is definitely a bad decision, and I am wondering if something can be done to halt it before it comes. I mean weren't they supposed to go out to Livermore then to Tracy like 10 years ago? Or is it OK for Alameda County to pay taxes on nothing? Wasn't there also an extension to San Jose coming soon?

Either way I don't want BART in my neighborhood. Look at all the neighborhoods along BART's path. All are crime ridden and pretty trashy. Look out the parking lot and see crime, poverty and filth. Is that what people want surrounding the mall, and the surrounding neighborhood? Not what I want or my neighbors, that's for sure.

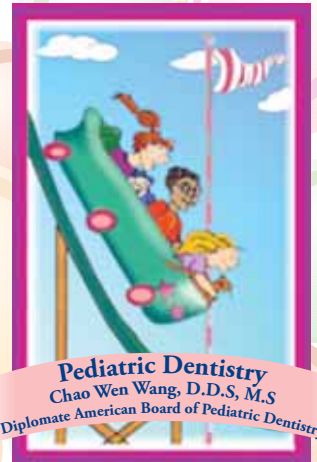
I don't see the mall having that much of a problem with business. They seem pretty busy to me. And if so, why not try putting better stores, instead of worsening the area? About 20 years ago there was a homeless problem in that neighborhood and the parks. Do we need this again? I don't think so. It may not happen immediately, but with time it will happen.

*Posted by Aaron*

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## Two of a kind

### The 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@pleasantonweekly.com](mailto:gallen@pleasantonweekly.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 9 edition of the Pleasanton Weekly.

PLEASANTON  
WEEKLY

## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, March 18, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Information report regarding Zone 7's presentation on environmental issues in the Delta and its impact to the Tri-Valley's water supply
- **Public Hearing:** PUD-32, Daniel and Belinda Sarich – Consider an application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) to subdivide an approximately 20-acre site into two single-family residential lots: (1) approximately one-acre parcel which would include the existing residence and a new detached two-car garage; and (2) approximately 19-acre parcel which would include: (a) approximately 9,990-square-foot, two-story home with a 3,150-square-foot habitable basement with second unit; (b) 1,785-square-foot five-car attached garage; (c) 660-square-foot cabana; (d) 165-square-foot pool bathroom; and (e) 165-square-foot greenhouse. The property is located at 5 Tuscany Place (formerly 1630 Vineyard Avenue), in the Vineyard Avenue Corridor Specific Plan Area, and is zoned PUD-LDR/HR/OS (Planned Unit Development – Low Density Residential/Hillside Residential/Open Space)
- Review of the City's State and Federal Legislative Priorities
- Consider a report on the status of the General Plan Update

### Planning Commission

Wednesday, March 19, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PAP-116, Paul Esser, Appellant (PV-167, Rich and Lori Lortz, Applicants)**

Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of an application for variances from the Municipal Code to: (1) reduce the street side yard setback of a corner lot from the required ten feet to eight inches (measured from eave to soundwall) for an existing accessory structure and to five feet for an existing pool; (2) reduce the side yard setback from the required three feet to one foot, eight inches and reduce the rear yard setback from the required five feet to eight inches (measured from the eave to the property line) for a second accessory structure; and (3) retain the existing eight-foot tall hedges in the front yard where a maximum height of six feet is allowed. The property is located at 2402 Crestline Road.

- **PREV-712, Pamela Hardy/Ponderosa Homes**

Work session to review and receive comments on an application for preliminary review to construct 110 detached single-family homes for residents aged 55 and older at the previously reserved school facility option site located at 1 Reimers Drive in the Ironwood Development.

### Housing Commission

Thursday, March 20, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Presentations from Nonprofit Agencies and Recommendation to Allocate Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Funds for Fiscal Year 2008 (2008-09)
- Approval of the Affordable Housing Agreement for the Continuing Life Communities (CLC) Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) Development Proposed for Staples Ranch
- Approval of Modifications to the Affordable Housing Agreement for the Windstar Stoneridge Station Apartment Project

### Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, March 20, 2008 @ 7:30 a.m.  
Operations Service Center, 3333 Busch Road

- **Economic Development Strategic Plan**

Discussion of key strategies and actions and reports from subcommittees

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

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

# Community Pulse

## Police Bulletin

### Robber pulls gun at Pak Mail

The Pak Mail store at 5524 Springdale Ave. was robbed around 9 a.m. Monday. The suspect, described an Asian male in his 20s, allegedly approached the employee and asked for a box and then to use the restroom. Police said he exited the restroom, pulled a small black handgun from his waistband and demanded money from the reg-

ister. He reportedly left with cash out the back door and into a silver, newer model Lexus SUV.

The suspect is described as about 5 feet, 5 inches tall and 130 pounds, with a thin moustache and acne scars on his face. He was wearing a black knit cap with a bill, red T-shirt, red sweatpants and black tennis shoes.

Anyone with information regarding this incident should call the Pleasanton Police Department at 931-5100.



## Police Report

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

### Feb. 29

- Petty theft:
  - 1:42 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 3:08 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- Burglary:
  - 7:52 p.m. in the 5800 block of West Las Positas Boulevard
- Public drunkenness:
  - 12:46 a.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue
- Truant:
  - 2:21 p.m. in the 4300 block of Foothill Road

### March 1

- Theft:
  - 12:28 p.m. in the 400 block of Ewing Drive; stolen vehicle
  - 3:26 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
  - 4:01 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 1:03 a.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Bernal Avenue; passenger riding with open alcohol container
  - 2:22 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Quarry Lane; DUI
  - 9:04 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Stoneridge Drive; DUI
- Assault:
  - 1:24 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road
  - 2:28 p.m. in the 1500 block of Elderberry Court
- Mental health danger:
  - 3:19 a.m. in the 500 block of Junipero Street

### March 2

- Stolen vehicle:
  - 9:20 a.m. in the 300 block of Mans Drive
- Vandalism:
  - 9:23 a.m. in the 6700 block of Payne Court
  - 7:24 p.m. in the 3200 block of Omega Circle
- Drug/alcohol violations:

- 1:00 a.m. at the intersection of Chabot and Stoneridge drives; public drunkenness
- 1:24 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue; DUI
- 3:12 a.m. at the intersection of Vineyard and Ruby Hill Boulevard; DUI
- Mental health danger:
  - 1:24 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue
  - 5:34 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

### March 3

- Theft:
  - 12:45 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; theft, identity theft
  - 4:50 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
  - 5:19 p.m. in the 5000 block of Case Avenue; petty theft
- Burglary:
  - 10:54 a.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive
  - 12:45 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 5:04 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 1:33 a.m. at the intersection of Kottinger Drive and Bernal Ave; DUI
  - 10:02 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road; paraphernalia possession, non-narcotic controlled substance possession
- Mental health danger:
  - 10:30 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
  - 3:15 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

### March 4

- Theft:
  - 10:57 a.m. in the 3200 block of Picadilly Court; identity theft
  - 6:08 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
  - 9:14 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vandalism:
  - 8:11 a.m. in the 7700 block of Creekside Drive; worth less than \$400
  - 10:39 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; worth less than \$400

- DUI:
  - 1:18 a.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road
- Mental health danger:
  - 10:34 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas
  - 8:38 p.m. in the 400 block of Main Street
- Threats:
  - 7:01 p.m. in the 3900 block of Stanley Boulevard

### March 5

- Theft:
  - 7:31 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Hopyard Road
  - 4:03 p.m. in the 3400 block of Boulder Street; grand theft
  - 10:13 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive
- Vandalism:
  - 7:18 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; worth less than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 6:20 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; paraphernalia possession
  - 6:28 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and West Las Positas Boulevard

- Assault:
  - 9:15 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street
- Truant:
  - 9:33 a.m. in the 7600 block of Olive Drive

### March 6

- Theft:
  - 11:34 a.m. in the 3600 block of Dunsmuir Circle
  - 5:47 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vandalism:
  - 7:19 a.m. in the 2200 block of Segundo Court; worth less than \$400
  - 11:27 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 10:55 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; controlled substance possession, DUI

# Calendar

## Calendar Spotlight



### Deuces and more at Goodguys

The '32 Ford is considered the most popular hot rod of all time due to its simple size, shape and large engine compartment. These cars are easily dressed up or dressed down. The Beach Boys immortalized the car in their '60s hit 'Lil Deuce Coupe.' These and many more will be shown at the Goodguys 26th All American Get-Together Car Show from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 29 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 30 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Tickets are \$15 for general admission or \$6 for children ages 7 to 12. To learn more, visit [www.good-guys.com](http://www.good-guys.com) or call 838-9876.

## Author Visits

**Writing Winning Poetry and Prose** Award-winning poetry and prose author Kim Addonizio will speak at the next meeting of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 15 at the Oasis Grille, 780 Main St. She will speak about her sources of inspiration, how to capture the right words on paper, and how to market writing for success. The cost is \$20 for members or \$25 for nonmembers. Lunch is included in price. Call 296-0447 or visit [www.trivalleywriters.com](http://www.trivalleywriters.com).

## Book Clubs

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

**Non-Fiction About Our Fantastic Brains** This book club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. "How Doctors Think" by Dr. J Groopman will be discussed in April and May, and "Einstein Never Used Flash Cards" by Drs. Hirsh-Pasek, Golinkoff and Eye. This is not a lecture series; book must be read before discussion. Call 846-8826. The cost is \$2.

## Civic Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Clubs

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

**Boutique Textile Art** Create home accessories, wearable art or soft sculpture. Learn how to piece, applique and embroider ideas into art from 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Class is free. Bring fabric scraps, a yard of unbleached muslin, sharp scissors and dressmaker pins.

**Communication Arts Network** The East Bay's Communications Arts Network (CommArt) 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](http://www.commartnet.org).

**Daughters of the British Empire** Come for a friendly "cuppa" and a

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

**Hearing Loss Association of America** The Tri-Valley chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America meets at 7 p.m. March 20 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Parkway. Jenifer Pesek from the California Center for Law and the Deaf-Outlook will speak on ADA information and self advocacy. Call 455-6591 or email [hvanblarigan@hotmail.com](mailto:hvanblarigan@hotmail.com).

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

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

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

**Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network** The Tri-Valley Holistic Moms Network hosts a discussion on vaccinations at 7 p.m. March 17 at CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court, Dublin. Dr. Tim O'Shea, author and international speaker, will present "Vaccines: It's Your Choice." Contact Katherine Havener at 922-7615 or [tri-valleyhmn@hotmail.com](mailto:tri-valleyhmn@hotmail.com), or visit [www.holisticmoms.org](http://www.holisticmoms.org).

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

**TVDC presents "No end in sight"** At this the 5th anniversary of the war, from 7-9:30 p.m. March 17 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin, Tri-Valley Democratic Club presents "No End In Sight," which examines how the Bush administration botched the war and created the insurgency, from the perspective of those in the administration. A discussion will follow. Free refreshments. Wheelchair accessible. Call 831-8355 or visit [www.trivalleydems.com](http://www.trivalleydems.com).

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

## Concerts

**Infusion 2008** An extravagant evening of Indian and Western theater fused together, ranging from Samba to Bharatanatayam, will be held at 4 p.m. March 23 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road. This involves

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**Parent Information Dates**  
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*Concert for Carnegie*

Tuesday, March 18 • 7 pm • \$11

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*Tri-Valley Haven Fundraiser*

March 28 & 29 • 8 pm & 2 pm • \$26, \$31, \$41

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adults and high schoolers from all over the Bay Area, all working towards raising money in order to sponsor children in Asia and South America. Tickets are \$6.50 presale or \$8 at the door. Visit [www.freewebs.com\\$nfusion2008](http://www.freewebs.com$nfusion2008).

**SFJAZZ Collective** At 8 p.m. March 19 at The Grand Theatre, 715 Central Ave., Tracy, SFJAZZ Collective will perform. Tickets are \$25-\$50. Visit [www.atthegrand.org](http://www.atthegrand.org) or call (209) 831-6TKT (6858).

**The Alley Cats** At 8 p.m. March 22 at The Grand Theatre Center, 715 Central Ave., The Alley Cats mix musical talent and comic timing to great songs of the '50s and '60s. Audience interaction and humor make their shows fresh and fun. Tickets are \$15-40. Visit [www.atthegrand.org](http://www.atthegrand.org) or call (209) 831-6TKT (6858).

## Events

**80,000-egg Easter Egg Hunt** Valley Christian Church, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin, hosts four hunts March 22 at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Other activities include pony rides, a petting zoo, inflatable jumpers, a giant slide, and more. Advanced registration is recommended. Visit [www.dublinegghunt.com](http://www.dublinegghunt.com).

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## Calendar

### Persian New Year (Norooz)

**Celebration** The annual Persian new year celebration (Norooz) will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. March 16 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Norooz means new day and happens on the first day of spring (equinox). Program includes cultural dances, music and more. Refreshments are served. Free admission. Call 297-9700.

## Exhibits

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

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

**Mix It Up Art Exhibit** Fourteen local artists have produced an exhibit, Mix It Up, for the Livermore Main Library Artist's Gallery, 1188 S. Livermore Ave. The works include watercolors, acrylics, oils, textiles, collage, ink and other mixed media. Showing from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. until March 31.

**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 through March 29. Call 485-1183 or visit [www.worthingtongallerywest.com](http://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. Visit [www.eastbayspca.org](http://www.eastbayspca.org).

## Fundraisers

**Swingin' Bingo** The Italian Catholic Federation, branch 285, hosts Swingin' Bingo at 7 p.m. March 29 at St. Michael's Parish Hall, 372 Maple St., Livermore. The event will benefit Children's Hospital and Tri-Valley Scholarships. Tickets are \$10 and includes 1 bingo packet for 10 games. Reserve space by March 27. Call Helen, 462-3798 or Mary, 447-8471. Donations can be mailed to Helen Wirtenson, 4071 Moselle Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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

## Holiday

**Purim party** Celebrate Purim with games, crafts, hamentashn-baking, a costume parade and more at 10:30 a.m. March 16 at the Bothwell Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. Sponsored by Jewish Culture School/Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Suitable for pre-school and elementary school kids. Come in costume. No charge, but bring a donation for the Alameda County food bank. Call 485-1049 or visit [Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org](http://Tri-ValleyCulturalJews.org).

## Kids & Teens

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

**Bill Harley Comes to Amador Stage** At 7:30 p.m. March 20 at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, Grammy winner Bill Harley will share his stories, songs and wacky humor, which have delighted family audiences around the country for years. Tickets are \$14-\$20 for adults and \$8-\$16 for children. Visit [www.civcartickets.org](http://www.civcartickets.org) or call 931-3444.

**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 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](http://shopstoneridge.com).

**Irish Dancers Return to the Library** Students from the Moore School of Irish Dance in Walnut Creek perform at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 2 p.m. March 22. Perennial favorites for several years in a row, they will demonstrate traditional and competitive solo and group Irish dances.

**Teen Games** Teens grades six through 12 are in invited to the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 15 to play Wii sports on the big screen and unlock songs from Guitar Hero. Call 931-3404.

## Lectures/ Workshops

**California Gold Rush Era** Jody Horner will give a lecture, "19th Century California Gold Rush Era" at 7 p.m. March 20 at the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St. Reservations are requested. Step back in time to the 19th century through the images from Horner's award-winning Golden History Books. Tickets are \$5 and \$10. Call 462-2766 or visit [www.museumon-main.org](http://www.museumon-main.org).

**Open Your Heart Through Art** Using art and movement, this free workshop at 6:30 p.m. March 20 at the Valley Care Medical Plaza Building, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., promotes self-awareness and connection of body, mind, and emotion. The focus is on reconnecting with sources of inner strength and hope using simple exercises. All exercises will be modulated to your energy level and needs. No creative experience necessary. Call 933-0107 or visit [www.twcba.org](http://www.twcba.org).

**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.

## Live Music

**Carmen-Livermore Valley Opera** "Carmen," the opera by composer George Bizet, will be performed by the Livermore Valley Opera in March at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Opening March 14, Carmen is opera's bad girl, a smoldering gypsy seductress who will not be possessed. Tickets are \$20-\$55. Call 373-6800 or visit [www.LivermoreValleyOpera.org](http://www.LivermoreValleyOpera.org).

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

**Wicker Vault Plays at Bosco's** Wicker Vault will play their mix of classic rock, pop standards, country and favorite requests at Bosco's Bones and Brew, 11922 Main St., Sunol, from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. March 14 and 15. There is no cover charge. Visit [wicker-vault.com](http://wicker-vault.com).

## Miscellaneous

**Au Pair Outing** Cultural care au pairs will be roller skating at Golden Skate in San Ramon at 6:30 p.m. March 16. All au pairs in the Tri-Valley (regardless of agency) and their friends are invited to come. Pizza and drinks are included. Email [heidibrewer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heidibrewer@sbcglobal.net).

**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.

## On Stage

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

**Tales & Scales' 'Just Beyond the Junkyard'** Tales & Scales uses music, theatre and dance to set the scene for the story of a 9-year-old girl's quest to help those in her community. The show is at 9:30 a.m. March 14 at the Grand Theatre, 715 Central Ave., Tracy. Tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at [www.atthegrand.org](http://www.atthegrand.org), by phone at (209) 831-6TKT (6858) or in person.

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

## Seniors

**Friday Night Dessert Dances** The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol

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

**Seniors Computer Tutoring** One-on-one computer tutoring is available every day at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The tutor works with you on topics where you need help. No formal program to follow, just help where you need it. Internet, Office applications, picture editing, etc. Call 931-5365 to set up an appt.

**Seniors PC User Group** The Pleasanton Senior Center PC Users Group meets at 10 a.m. the fourth Thursday monthly at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. Senior Center charges apply. Call 931-5365.

## Spiritual

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

**Sin: Roadblocks to Abundant Life** At 6 p.m. March 17 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.

**The Power of Story** March's message theme, by speaker Dr. Richard Southern, is the Power of Story. He will speak on "Unconditional Surrender," the story of letting go, March 16; "Resurrection and Renewal," the story of Easter, March 23; and "Telling Your Story," the story of purpose, March 30. 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](http://www.trivalleyunity.com). All are welcome.

**Thy Kingdom Come: The Promise of Christian Hope** At 6 p.m. March 24 at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, explore Anglican

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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.

## Sports

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

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

**Keep 'Em Playing Soccer Camp**  
The Development cycle begins in April with a two month Keep 'Em Playing Camp. The camp exposes players to a number of BUSC coaches through creative small-sided games and training sessions. The final session of the camp allow players to practice their skills in World Cup-style competition. The camp is offered for one day a week for 1.5 hours of training. At this point players may continue in the program by registering for the training component. The cost is \$150 for nine camp days. Register at [www.busc.org](http://www.busc.org).

**Saturday Morning Beginner Road Ride** This weekly no-drop ride is for those new to cycling, who haven't been on their bike for a while or just want to ride at a slower pace. Rides

depart at 9 a.m. from Cyclepath, 337-B Main St., and will generally be 10 to 15 mph, 20 miles and no more than 2 hours. E-mail [rides@cyclepath.com](mailto:rides@cyclepath.com) if you plan to attend.

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

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

## Support Groups

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

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

**Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis Support Group** This support groups

meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Walk-ins are welcome. Feel free to bring a guest. Call 462-6764 or 846-4653.

**Domestic Violence Support Group**  
On-going support for women dealing with conflictual issues is available at Tri-Valley Haven, Livermore, on Thursday evenings. Call Elizabeth, 667-2799.

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

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

**Grief Support Meeting** The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss, and the reality of death leaves most in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. St. Elizabeth Seton Church will hold a grief support meeting at 7:30 p.m. March 27. Call Joan at 828-6864.

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

**Overeaters Anonymous Meeting** Is food controlling your life? Newcomers are welcome at the Overeaters Anonymous Meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's

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- Remember to lock the doors and tightly close the windows of your vehicle every time you get out.
- Use anti-theft devices for extra security: Alarms, steering wheel locking devices, electronic tracking devices, etc ....
- Avoid leaving garage door openers in your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Be aware of your surroundings when walking to and from your vehicle.
- And never leave personal items of value in plain site in your vehicle. Take them with you or lock them in the trunk. Hiding them under a jacket or blanket does not work. Remove electronic equipment chargers.

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Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way (Parish Hall), Livermore. Call 361-7224.

#### Pleasanton Military Families

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

#### Prostate Cancer Support Group

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

#### Stress and Pain Management Strategies and Support

Learn how to use visualization, relaxation techniques and new ways of thinking (cognitive restructuring) to help reduce

stress levels and down-regulate pain. Share experiences and ideas in a supportive, caring environment. Free classes are held from 11 a.m. to noon the first Wednesday of each month at ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Suite 270. Facilitated by Betty Runnels, M.A., Counseling Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy. Call 734-3315 or email bettyrunnels@earthlink.net.

#### Widows/Widowers Grief Support

Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class at 7 p.m. every Friday at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy., is helpful to the healing process. Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant event. The workbook is \$5. Pre-Registration required. Call Linda at 833-9013 or email info@valleycommunitychurch.org.

## 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 mate-

rial 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 nonprofit 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.tv-ar.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.



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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.



Top: the Amador Valley High School varsity boys volleyball team celebrates.  
Above: Mike Corbin (No. 14) goes for a kill.

## Dons volleyball defeats No. 1 seed

*Amador boys win Deer Valley Invitational*

The Amador Valley High School boys varsity volleyball team garnered impressive wins last weekend, defeating the No. 1 seeded College Park in three games.

The Dons won the 16-team Deer Valley Invitational with scores of 23-25, 25-20 and 16-14.

The successes came after a grueling 12-hour day in with the Dons emerged second in pool play after beating Oak Ridge and Antioch, and suffering a loss to Northgate.

Buoyed by afternoon victories against Deer Valley and Monte Vista, Amador faced off against the College Park Falcons in the final. College Park had won on all of its matches, and all but one in two sets.

The Falcons and Dons played evenly in the early going of the first set, but then College Park racked up seven points from a single server, putting Amador on its heels. Outside hitters Jacob and John Buchenauer, setter Colin Harper, middle Tyler Von Pein, oppo Mike Corbin and libero Tim Gaisor were firing on all cylinders in the second game, and built a comfortable lead with a combined 10 kills, three blocks, and an ace from Tyler Christensen. A string of early hitting and serving errors by the Falcons gave the Dons momentum in the final game, but a seesaw battle began from the 11-point mark forward. An ace from Corbin, and kills from John Rodriguez and Jake Buchenauer kept the Dons in the hunt. A kill from Von Pein, followed by a setting error by the Falcons blocked by John Buchenauer brought home the plaque for Amador.

Tournament results: Amador v. Oak Ridge: 25-15, 15-25, 17-15; Amador v. Antioch: 25-18, 25-18; Amador v. Northgate: 21-25, 26-28; Deer Valley: 25-21, 25-20; Monte Vista: 25-22; 25-20; College Park: 23-25; 25-20; 16-14. Record overall: 9-2; EBAL: 2-0

—Nancy Richardson

## Blizzard gets first win of the season

The Pleasanton girls lacrosse Blizzard (fifth- to sixth-grade) came out on top last Saturday with the team's first win of the season against South Marin Wolfpack, 5-2.

The game took off with an assist from Brianna Armario to Haley Brodnick for the first goal of the game. Maddie Aston's speed took the Blizzard down the field to score and end the half with a two-point lead. Haley Brodnick and Annelise Dutcher's aggressive play clinched the win with goals scored in the second half. Goalies Meghan Serrano and Lauren Caldwell made great saves at the net to keep the Wolfpack at bay. Excellent defensive play by Jaime Rinetti and Whitney Carter throughout the game.

In game two against the Lamorinda Fire, the Blizzard top scorers were Brodnick, Dutcher and Aston. Great saves by goalies Meghan Serrano and Lauren Caldwell. The game ended in a 3-3 tie.

—Dorothy Brodnick

## Amador shuts down Miramonte with big first half

The Amador girls varsity lacrosse team used their high-powered offense, fueled by UC Berkeley-bound Melissa Sheehan's six goals, to down visiting Miramonte, 12-2, last Friday.

Junior Kara Bijesse recorded her second hat trick in as many games, and added an assist. Amanda Nespor contributed two goals and an assist, while Teresa Li netted her first goal of the 2008 season. Senior goalkeeper Ana Martinez was solid in the net, with five saves on the night.

The Lady Dons dominated the first half from whistle to whistle, outplaying Miramonte on both ends of the field. Melissa Sheehan started the offensive onslaught, scoring her first goal of the non-league contest at the 24:27 mark.

The scoring slowed down in the second half, but the Lady Dons lead was never in jeopardy, thanks to a great defensive effort throughout the game by Brittany Schoen, Kerry McCulloch, Allie Zachariades and Jessica Daut. Colee Evangelista, Amelia Major, Julia Frizzell and Morgan Dorsey saw time in this half, combining for several ground ball and draw controls. Miramonte managed one more goal with 11 minutes to play, but Sheehan fired one last shot past the Mats goalie to cement the 12-2 victory.

Sheehan had a great all-around game—in addition to her six points, she had four ground balls, three caused turnovers, and won four draws. McCulloch led the team in ground balls with six, followed by Zachariades and Bijesse with five each, and Li with four.

—Marilyn Clark

## WCOGA boys storm states with two championship titles

The West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy of Pleasanton came home with two state titles in the Men's Junior Olympic State Championship held last weekend at Ronald McNair High School in Stockton.

Chris Turner of Fremont won the level 10 all-around state title after winning parallel bars, rings, high bar and vault. Christopher Siebel, an 11-year old from Dublin who attends Wells Middle School, took the all-around level 8 state title after winning parallel bars. He took seconds on rings and floor and a third on pommel horse.

The WCOGA level 10 team who won the level 10 team title include: John-Nathan Monteclaro of San Ramon, who came in third place all-around after earning a third on pommel horse and parallel bars; Ethan Jose, a level 10 from Fremont, who came in fourth all-around after earning a second on rings and a third on high bar; Alex Ganz, a level 10 from Danville, who came in sixth overall after earning a second on parallel bars; and Mark Ringle, of San Ramon, who came in sixth place overall after taking a third on rings and high bar.

The level 9 team also performed well, coming in second place. Justin Woo and Jonathon Liu both tied for third place all-around. Woo earned a first on pommel and a second on rings and bars. Liu took a second on floor and a third on high bar. Travis Gollott came in eighth place all-around.

The following eight members, after placing in the top six all-around, earned a spot on the California Regional Select All-Star Team which will compete against Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii at the regional championships in Reno, Nev. the first weekend of April: Chris Turner, Ethan Jose, Alex Ganz, Mark Ringle, John-Nathan Monteclaro, Justin Woo, Jonathon Liu and Christopher Siebel.

The WCOGA boy's team is coached by Vince Miller, a veteran in the sport with close to 40 state titles, several national champions and who serves as a current staff member of the Junior Olympic team.

—Laurie Siebel

## WCOGA girls place in Novato Classic

The West Coast Olympic Gymnastics Academy girls team competed at the Novato Classic last Saturday.

Results: Katelyn Kleinheinz Level 7, Vault 8.575, Bars 9.05 (second), Beam 9.325 (second), Floor 9.10 (third), All Around 36.05 (fourth)

—Doreen Aubel

# Dining Out

## American

### Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

### Bridges

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

### Zorn's Restaurant

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

## Barbecue

### Red Smoke Grill

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

## Brewpub/Alehouse

### Main Street Brewery

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

### The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

## California Cuisine

### Stacey's at Waterford

4500 Tassajara Road, Ste. C., Dublin, 551-8325. We serve seasonal California cuisine using the freshest ingredients, with delicious

dishes including seafood, pasta, meat, wood fired pizza and even vegetarian choices. Available for special events on Sundays. Visit [www.staceysatwaterford.com](http://www.staceysatwaterford.com).

### Stacey's Cafe

310 Main St., Pleasanton, 461-3113. Located on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, Stacey's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, serving fresh California cuisine. Come as you are and enjoy our dining room, banquet room, outdoor patios and full bar. Visit [www.staceyscafe.com](http://www.staceyscafe.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](http://www.pandapleasanton.com).

## Continental

### Barone's

475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant features innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees, outdoor dining, and a full bar. Barone's is open for dinner seven nights and lunch Monday through Friday, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. Ask about our banquet facilities and special events.

## Fusion

### Oasis Grille

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

## Greek

### Simply Greek

4220-C Rosewood Drive, 463-8801. From the neighborhoods of Greece to you. Menu features gyros, souvlaki and more. Located in the Rose Pavilion Shopping Center, they're open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Thurs., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fri.

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

and Sat. Catering services available. Visit [www.simply-greek.com](http://www.simply-greek.com)

## Italian

### Fontina Ristorante

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

### La Vite Ristorante

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

## Japanese

### Sato Japanese Cuisine

3105-K Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 462-3131. Makoto Sato, Owner Operator has been serving traditional Japanese cuisine for over 25 years in Pleasanton. Enjoy the variety of our sushi bar and Japanese tempura and teriyaki sushi. We are open for lunch and dinner. We also do catering. Open Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday.

## Mexican

### Blue Agave Club

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

## Pizza

### Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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

## Chinese Szechuan



*Szechuan Mandarin*  
—No MSG—

**LUNCH SPECIALS**  
**DINE IN**  
**FOOD TO GO**

**Banquet Room**  
**Available**

Closed Mondays

*We also serve Brown Rice*

3059 Hopyard Road #G  
Hopyard Village @ Valley  
Pleasanton  
**(925)846-5251**

"Open Since 1987"

• **BREAKFAST SPECIAL \$4.99**

\*Includes: 2 pancakes, 2 eggs, 2 Bacon or Sausage

• **FREE COFFEE \$2.50**

with any pastry or muffin

\*expires 4-30-08

"Serving Breakfast All Day"

**ZORNS Restaurant**

3015 Hopyard Suite A-C Pleasanton

In the Hopyard Village Shopping Center • 462-0994

**Monday - Thursday**  
**6:30 - 11AM**

**Lunch Special**

**11:00AM-3:00PM**

Buy one entree, get 2<sup>nd</sup>  
of lesser value 50% off.

Open 7 Days  
6:30 AM - 3 PM

**Breakfast & Lunch**  
**Catering available**

**GAY NINETIES PIZZA CO.**

*Italian Style Spaghetti & Ravioli*

**BEST OF**  
**PLEASANTON**  
2007

• Lunches Dinners • Beers on Tap  
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**288 Main Street • 846-2520 • [www.gayninetiespizza.com](http://www.gayninetiespizza.com)**



**fiery • hot • exotic**

**BEST OF**  
**PLEASANTON**  
2007

**SHISH KABOBS • EXOTIC CHAMPAGNE COCKTAILS • PATIO DINING**

**Oasis**  
grille & wine lounge  
**925. 417. 8438**  
**780 Main Street, Downtown Pleasanton**  
**[www.oasisgrille.com](http://www.oasisgrille.com)**

**Easter Brunch**  
**March 23**  
make your  
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today!



**The euphoria of fine Italian food**

Elegant banquet  
room and wine bar  
combination ideal  
for all your special  
occasions.

**La Vite**  
**RISTORANTE**

• Catering Service  
• Take Out Menu

Garlic Di Pasta – same owner and same great food  
3037-G Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton (At Valley Ave in Hopyard Village)

**925-485-4500**

[www.LaViteRestaurant.com](http://www.LaViteRestaurant.com)

**RED SMOKE GRILL**

**BEST OF**  
**PLEASANTON**  
2007

**BEST OF**  
**PLEASANTON**  
2006

### Family Meals To Go

Meals include four corn muffins and two large sides.

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

### Sides

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



4501 Hopyard Rd, Pleasanton  
**734-0307**  
Open daily from 11am  
[www.redsmokegrill.com](http://www.redsmokegrill.com)

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**YES! We're Open**  
**Monday, Mar 17th!**

• **Corned Beef & Green Beer**  
• **Live Music 7-10PM**

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## THE LEXUS GRAND TASTING

Stroll through the Lexus Grand Tasting at Pebble Beach Food & Wine, a unique occasion to enjoy exquisite wines from 200 of the world's most prestigious wineries. Interact with 16 celebrity chefs while they prepare delectable hors d'oeuvres for your enjoyment. There will also be book signings and photo sessions. You cannot miss this rare opportunity to sample some of the greatest food and wine available today. **Only \$165.**

### WINE TASTINGS

|                                                             |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| The New Face of Spain with Jorge Ordoñez                    | \$100 |
| Oregon Terroir - Grand Crus of Oregon                       | \$100 |
| Women In Wine                                               | \$100 |
| The Wines of Spring Mountain                                | \$100 |
| Pax: A Tour Through the World of Pax                        | \$100 |
| Penfolds - Four Decades of Penfolds Bin 389 Cabernet-Shiraz | \$100 |
| Jam Session: Top Rated Zinfandels                           | \$100 |
| Chateau St. Jean Cinq Cépages Blending Seminar              | \$100 |
| Dr. Loosen and The Range of Riesling                        | \$100 |
| Silver Oak - Alexander Valley vs. Napa Valley               | \$100 |
| Grand Crus of Monterey                                      | \$100 |

### RESERVE TASTINGS

|                                                                |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Tim Mondavi - A Legacy of Fine Wine                            | \$200  |
| The Chardonnays of Sir Peter Michael                           | \$200  |
| Château Margaux - A Tasting Spanning Five Decades of Seduction | \$500  |
| The Wines of Heidi Peterson Barrett                            | \$350  |
| PlumpJack - Cork vs. Screwcap                                  | \$250  |
| Kosta Browne - Pinot Noir Visionaries                          | \$250  |
| Harlan Estate Retrospective                                    | \$1000 |
| Shafer Vineyards - Hillside Select                             | \$250  |
| Dom Pérignon - A Retrospective Tasting                         | \$250  |

### LUNCHES & DINNERS

|                                             |        |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|
| Coastal Cuisine - Stillwater Bar & Grill    | \$165  |
| Chef Table Lunch - Lexus Grand Tasting Tent | \$165  |
| The Lexus Grand Tasting - Saturday          | \$165  |
| The Lexus Grand Tasting - Sunday            | \$165  |
| A Night of Stars Dinner - Spanish Bay       | \$350  |
| The Lexus Rare Wine Auction & Dinner        | \$1250 |
| Grand Finale Dinner - Spanish Bay           | \$350  |

### COOKING DEMOS

|                                            |       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| Chef Mark Miller - Sizzling South West     | \$100 |
| Chef Jacques Pépin - The Legend            | \$100 |
| Chef Ming Tsai - Simply Ming               | \$100 |
| Chef Tom Colicchio - Top Chef              | \$100 |
| Chef Todd English - Cooking Olives Style   | \$100 |
| Chef Gary Danko - A San Francisco Legend   | \$100 |
| Chef Charlie Trotter - 5-Star Cooking      | \$100 |
| Chef Ted Allen - Cooking Celebrity Style   | \$100 |
| Chef Michel Richard - Citronelle's Top Dog | \$100 |

## CHARITY CELEBRITY CHEF/WINEMAKER GOLF TOURNAMENT AT PEBBLE BEACH

Go "tee to green" on Pebble Beach Golf Links with a few of the Celebrity Chefs, Wine Makers and Master Sommeliers here for the weekend. This is a rare opportunity to see these professionals out just having a good time. Can you drive further than Ming Tsai? Can you read a putt better than Thomas Keller? There is only one real way to find the answer. Bring your "A-Game" and have fun! **\$1000.**



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