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Swim meet to bring thousands to city streets > page 5

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Celebrating 15 years

Senior Center
plans party for
its anniversary

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Actors in action

Local studio
now offering
acting classes

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IRON HORSE TROTTING ALONG

*Pleasanton celebrates newest segment of
regional trail for bicyclists, pedestrians
and equestrians alike*

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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Village High grad earns Silver Star

Congratulations to Marine Corporal Ian Dollard of Pleasanton, who just received the Silver Star—the country's third highest award for combat heroism—at a special ceremony at the Marine Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms. Now back home with his parents Judy and Tom Dollard to celebrate his 22nd birthday, the young Marine has completed two tours of duty in Iraq since graduating in 2004 from Village High School. He is awaiting his release from active duty in June.

It was June 24, 2007, according to the Silver Star award citation, when Dollard and his men were attacked by automatic machine gun fire near Fallujah. Dollard promptly returned fire with his weapon so his fellow soldiers could come to the aid of a Marine who was wounded in the attack. Then Dollard and his men started receiving automatic machine gun fire from a second position, which inflicted two gunshot wounds to his platoon commander. Dollard left the relative safety of the armored vehicle that was shielding him and rushed to his commander's side, dragging the wounded officer about 30 yards to cover but not before being struck in the leg by small arms fire, himself. Later he found a bullet lodged in his flack jacket just 2 inches below his unprotected neck. Hospitalized briefly for treatment, Dollard insisted on returning to his unit until it completed its assignment in Iraq and was sent back to Twentynine Palms, where the infantry unit was first organized. Maj. George Hasseltine, his former company commander, pinned the Silver Star medal on Dollard at a special ceremony two weeks ago.

Dollard had been in the line of fire earlier. On his first tour of duty in Iraq, in January 2006, he was monitoring a radio in a Humvee when one of a group of

soldiers nearby stepped on a pressure-plate bomb, which exploded four or five artillery shells, killing 10 of them. Dollard's unit was redeployed to Twentynine Palms several months later and that June Dollard drove a Humvee in the Alameda County Fair parade to honor his fallen comrades. Yet, even after these two near-death experiences, Dollard thought seriously about staying in the Marines for another tour going with his unit in a few weeks when it will become the first battalion-sized Marine unit to support the Afghan National Police in Afghanistan. His mother Judy said she promised to support whatever decision he made, but is admittedly relieved that he's chosen to pursue his long-sought interest in firefighting—the domestic version—by enrolling at the Butte College Fire Academy in Oroville after he leaves the Marines.

Later he found a bullet lodged in his flack jacket just 2 inches below his unprotected neck.

Ian Dollard grew up in Pleasanton, attending Fairlands Elementary, Harvest Park Middle School and the first two years at Amador Valley High before transferring to Village. An accomplished athlete, he played competition soccer on traveling teams in the Ballistic United Soccer Club and was on the All-Stars team in Pleasanton Little League. Between serving in harm's way in Iraq and the risks he will no doubt face as a professional firefighter, Dollard is taking a well-deserved breather—serving as a lifeguard at one of the recreational swimming facilities at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms. ■

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About the Cover

City officials this week lauded the completion and opening of a 1-mile segment to the Iron Horse Trail. The trail itself runs continuously from Dublin to Concord. In Pleasanton, it has gaps in a few places, but the city has said it plans to connect it south to downtown and north to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. Cover design by Manuel Valenzuela.

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Streetwise

Q: If you could choose a special power, what would it be?

Asked Downtown



Emil Oxsen
Realtor

Time transport. I was born and raised here in Pleasanton and I'd transport myself back to 1954. Pleasanton was a small hometown then. When I walked up and down Main Street I knew everyone. It has grown so much, especially in the outlying areas.

Jamshid Galehzan
Social Worker

I think harmony living amongst each other would be the most beautiful thing. If I had a special power it would be to make people understand each other and live peacefully.



Tracy Smith
Writer

It has always been my dearest desire to fly over the hills, rooftops and entire city. From the time I was about 4 years old, I'd wake up on my stomach having just flown, in a dream of course, over the all the hills in our area.

John Vieira
Self Employed

My super power would be to be able to play any and every sport really well. I'd be exhausted! I'd have to have super human energy. Top picks would be soccer, football and baseball.



Paige Medinas
Kindergartner

My special power would be to help people. I'd make everybody be nice to each other.

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

Newsfront

News Digest

Teens talk about depression next Thursday

A panel of local teens will discuss experiences and issues with depression and suicide from 7 to 9 p.m. April 10 at Amador Valley High School's library, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Students, parents and community members are invited to the second in an ongoing series put on by the school district and Amador Valley Adult and Community Education. Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi will also share information. To learn more, call 426-4280.

VHS garden tour tickets now for sale

The Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour, benefiting the Valley Humane Society, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 4. Ran or shine, participants will visit unique gardens at Pleasanton homes named after the homeowner's pet. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at VHS, 3670 Nevada St.; Feline Medical Center, 3160 Santa Rita Road; Western Garden Nursery, 2756 Vineyard Ave.; Towne Center Books, 555 Main St.; and Three Dog Bakery, 335 St. Mary St. Call 426-8656 for details.

Amador band, colorguard hosts Gatsby gala

The Amador Valley High School Band and Colorguard will hold The Magic of Music 4th Annual Fundraising Gala, "The Great Gatsby: A Celebration of the Roaring '20s," from 6 to 11 p.m. April 26 at the Hilton Pleasanton at the Club, 7050 Johnson Drive. This is the only major fundraiser for the AVHS four concert bands, two jazz bands, winter percussion and colorguard. Tickets are \$75. Call Paulette, 846-8957 for ticket information or visit www.amadorband.org.

Learn about Livermore's new Catholic high school

Parents and parishioners are invited to a series of informational meetings to learn more about the new Catholic high school in Livermore, Pope John Paul II Catholic High School. Bishop for the Diocese, Allen Vigneron, will kick off the meetings at 7 p.m. April 8 at St. Raymond Church in Dublin. Other meetings will be held at 7 p.m. April 22 at St. Michael's and St. Charles at the Hall, 7 p.m. April 28 at St. Isadore at the Cardeli Center, at 7:30 p.m. May 5 at CCOP at St. Elizabeth Seton, and at 7:30 p.m. May 12 at St. Joan of Arc in the gym.

Senior center celebrates 15th anniversary

About 300 people of all ages walk through its doors each day

by Emily Atwood

To honor 15 years of activities for seniors, the Pleasanton Senior Center will host a western-themed Open House Jamboree next Friday.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the public is invited to soak up the sights, sounds and tastes of what goes on behind the doors of the 22,000-square-foot building at 5353 Sunol Blvd. Woodwork, arts and crafts and more will be on display, showing what goes on in the many classes happening there each week.

Other festivities include dancing to music from the South County Western Band and a free apple pie dessert from noon to 3 p.m.

A barbecue lunch will also be provided by the SPECTRUM lunch program and will be \$3.50 for seniors and \$5 for adults. Registration for lunch is requested and can be done by calling 931-5385 by 1 p.m. April 10.

Pam Deaton, recreation supervisor at the senior center, has seen how much the center has grown since she began working there in 1996.

"In a nutshell, we have more and varied activities on a daily basis," she said. "We regularly have about 300 people a day eating lunch to doing their taxes. It was more like 150 people a day 10 years ago."

Also growing is the number of volunteers, which now includes many high school-aged helpers, Deaton said.

Other programs recently offered include the downtown bus route and lunch trips, English as a second language (ESL) classes, exercise classes like tai chi and yoga, the popular coffee and conversation

lecture series.

In the future, the center plans to add another partnership, this time with ValleyCare Medical Center, to provide a mobile health unit once a month starting in July. They are also teaming up with other senior centers in the area, including Danville, Dublin, San Ramon and Livermore, to put on the 580-680 Senior Games, an Olympic-like event in September.

For more information on the senior center, call 931-5365 or visit www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/senior. ■



Swimmers wait for the buzzer to start their heat at last year's Far Western swim meet. This year's meet began yesterday and lasts through Sunday.

Big swim meet in town now through Sunday

City working with Pleasanton Seahawks to control traffic issues around aquatic center

by Janet Pelletier

Fifteen hundred swimmers, their coaches, family and friend are in town this weekend at a meet hosted by the Pleasanton Seahawks.

The Far Western Short Course Championship Meet, which began Thursday and lasts through Sunday, is expected to create a lot of traffic in and around the Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center on Black Avenue at Santa Rita Road.

Swimmers are arriving each morning at 6:30 a.m., with competition beginning at 8 a.m. and continuing until approximately 7 p.m.

The city has been working closely

with the Pleasanton Seahawks, which is hosting the meet, to help reduce the impact on the neighborhoods surrounding the aquatic center, located at 4455 Black Ave., according to city spokeswoman Joanne Hall.

"(The aquatic center is) sort of landlocked; it's one of those situations where it happens once or twice a year that it is hard on the neighbors and we do understand that," she said.

"The Seahawks are encouraging their swimmers that they just get dropped off, rather than come and park a car here all day," she added. "They've got a pick-up,

(continued on page 7)

13,000-square-foot home given OK

Current, ex-officials gather to debate plan

by Jeb Bing

Current and past elected and appointed officials crowded into the City Council chambers Tuesday in a sort of political homecoming to face off on a bid by Belinda and Daniel Sarich to build a 13,000-square-foot home on 20 acres of Vineyard Avenue property they own.

In the end, and after an eight-year effort, the Sariches won in a 3-2 vote. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman and councilmembers Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio voted in favor of the Sarich project; councilmembers Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan voted against it.

There in the same room for a discussion that lasted more than two hours were a number of familiar faces. They included former Mayor Tom Pico, who is now a paid consultant to some developers, including the Sariches; Kay Ayala and Steve Brozovsky, both former councilmembers and mayoral candidates who each ran unsuccessfully against Hosterman; Mary Roberts and Brian Arkin, former Planning Commission members and one-time chairs of the commission; and Greg Reznick, chairman of the Firehouse Arts Theater Foundation.

The Sarich property is located on the south side of what is now called Old Vineyard Avenue, a local street that serves residents there. Roberts' and Brozovsky's homes are west of the Sarich property; Reznick's acreage borders to the east. All three spoke against the proposed estate home, as they also did at earlier hearings before the Planning Commission. That commission also approved the Sarich project in a 3-2 vote, and the city's Planning Department has consistently recommended approval.

The proposed two-story house would actually measure 9,900 square feet, with a below grade basement that would add another 3,200 square feet. An adjoining garage would have more than 1,700 square feet of floor space.

Roberts urged the council to "ditch this mansion." She described the home's Tuscanesque-design as a "Tuscan compound," and one "that basically disregards the natural setting of the hillside along the south side of Old Vineyard Avenue.

Agreeing with Reznick, Brozovsky and Ayala, she said the massive size of the project would be inconsistent with the Vineyard Avenue Specific Plan that was written in the 1990s.

Brozovsky complained that Sarich would remove 73 trees, including some that are classified as heritage trees.

"The emphasis of the specific plan was to maintain the rural character of this area and this isn't being done," Brozovsky said.

(continued on page 6)

Cinderella Classic is Saturday

2,500 women to cycle on 65-mile ride

by Janet Pelletier

If you're an early riser, you may see a mass of female bicyclists wearing unique costumes riding through town. They're participants of the popular Cinderella Classic bike tour, which rolls through town Saturday morning.

A total of 2,500 women will be participating in the 65-mile tour through Amador, Livermore, Diablo and San Ramon valleys, starting at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Riders will depart anytime from 7 to 9 a.m. and will travel along First Street, Valley Avenue and Vineyard Avenue, past Ruby Hill to Livermore and beyond. On their return, cyclists will enter Pleasanton south through Dublin, passing through Hacienda Boulevard, West Las Positas Boulevard, Hopyard

Road, Valley Avenue and back to the fairgrounds.

Bonnie Powers, who is one of the founders of the classic, said she doesn't expect the event to cause traffic delays since it begins so early in the day. She said she's also informed the riders to adhere to safety standards.

The event is in its 32nd year and Powers has participated in every one of them. It's so popular that when the Valley Spokesmen riding group, which hosts the classic, mails out flyers in late January, the spaces fill up within a week. And word of mouth, which Powers attributes to the success, is drawing riders from 18 different states, including as far away as New York, New Jersey and Florida.

"We started off with 200 riders the first year," she said. "I jokingly say we've created a monster. You

don't like to disappoint gals, but there's a limit as to how many can be on the road for safety."

Powers said people often try to find someone who has signed up but can no longer participate, but she added that people who aren't signed up and don't have the permission to take someone else's spot should not "ride-along" because it could jeopardize the event since the Spokesmen have to get special permits that specify the number of participants.

Those who didn't make the cut this year can request a flyer for next year on the Spokesmen's Web site, www.valleyspokesmen.org.

The event is not only fun for the cyclists; it's also a fun spectator sport.

"The kids get a kick out of watching all the Cinderellas with their crowns, and their tutus and their funky skirts," she said. ■

Investigators inquire about Camaro

Castlewood residents asked if they saw car around time of deaths

Sheriff's investigators have reportedly asked Castlewood Country Club residents if they've seen a red Chevy Camaro around March 7 and 8, when they believe a husband and wife were beaten to death in their home.

The news came from an email sent by investigators to the Castlewood Property Owners Association, which was then reportedly forwarded on to homeowners. The Alameda County Sheriff's Department, which is handling the case because the homicides occurred in unincorporated Alameda County, has declined to comment on the news.

The email asked residents to report if they'd seen a 2001 red Camaro convertible with a black top in the area on around the

time. Investigators believed Ernest Scherer, Jr., 60, and his wife of 31 years, Charlene Abendroth, 57, were killed. Their bodies were found a week later after the couple's daughter asked the country club to check on them when she hadn't heard from them in a while.

Scherer, Jr. was a poker player by trade, as well as a real estate agent, investor and former San Ramon school board member who was recalled by voters. Abendroth was an accounting professor at Cal State East Bay for more than 30 years.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to call Sgt. Scott Dudek of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department at 510-667-7478.

—Janet Pelletier

Fresno man dies during arrest at Stoneridge Mall

Police say death was likely due to prior health condition

by Emily Atwood

Pleasanton police are continuing their investigation into the death of a 32-year-old man March 27 at Stoneridge Shopping Center.

Alex Gomes II, a Fresno resident who entered the Macy's men's store at the mall, allegedly stole merchandise, according to police.

Police said Gomes was stopped by mall security at 8:35 p.m. after he allegedly attempted to steal a hat, which was worth \$25.

Gomes, who was described as weighing about 420 pounds, report-

edly resisted the security staff and collapsed. As a result, some of the staff sustained minor injuries, police said.

Det. Larry Cox of the Pleasanton Police Department said security officers used a reasonable amount of force and the death appears to have stemmed from a prior medical condition. He added that Gomes was never officially charged or taken into custody by police, but was considered under arrest by mall security as he was detained and handcuffed.

Officers and the Livermore-

Pleasanton Fire Department arrived on the scene at the same time as police and found the man unconscious and receiving medical attention from mall staff. Paramedics administered CPR and the man was taken to ValleyCare Medical Center, according to police. There, police said he was pronounced dead shortly after arrival.

Cox said it was likely that Gomes was under the influence of alcohol at the time, but police are awaiting official toxicology reports from the coroner. ■

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Take Us Along



The Great Wall of Weekly

George Wu, Logan Kvaternick, Sonny Zhang, Maria Xu, Steve Wu and Daniel Wu focus all their attention on the Weekly (don't they look interested?) while taking a break from their performance at the 2008 Olympic Countdown Concert in Beijing, China. Here, they're touring the Great Wall of China.

Home

(continued from page 5)

Reznick, who recently received approval to build homes on his adjacent property, said the Sarich home "would be too big for the area."

In casting their votes against the project, Sullivan and McGovern basically agreed. Sullivan said that while Sarich and his architect had worked hard to screen the home from neighbors, "I can't get to the point where I think this house should be built."

He said the council's approval of

the Reznick development was "a stretch," adding: "This to me is a farther stretch and I'm not comfortable in taking it."

Hosterman said she struggled with her decision to approve the project because of her environmental concerns over big houses and how they use too much energy and harm natural resources.

But I have to rid myself of my subjective views and be objective as I can," she added. "Based on the plans, I actually think this house will be the least visible on Vineyard, that it's well screened and that the plan should be approved." ■

Four businesses cited for selling tobacco to minors

Police sting operation acted on goals of state health survey

by Emily Atwood

School resource officers cited four stores during a tobacco sting operation last Thursday where minors attempted to buy tobacco products. The stores included Main Street gas station Coast Gas, Arco Gas on Bernal Avenue and Utah Street, Shell Gas on Pimlico Drive, and Plaza Market and Deli on Springdale Avenue.

Sgt. Michael Tryphonas said the sting, done while students were out for spring break, was successful and considered the outcome to be positive.

"You can see that a majority of businesses are very cognizant," he said. "When we do these opera-

tions, it's done as an educational campaign."

During the sting, an officer saw a minor not involved in the sting buy cigars from Plaza Market and Deli. Both the clerk and the buyer were cited, according to police.

Tryphonas said the police came up with the idea for the sting operation after so much attention had been shed on teen issues. Tobacco use, especially among minors, became a concern for parents and educators when results of the California Health Kids Survey were revealed.

The other 12 businesses required identification of the minors and refused to sell them cigarettes. They were: Express Liquors, 7-11

Foodstore on Hopyard Road, 7-11 Foodstore on Valley Avenue, Valero Gas on Hopyard Road, Perry's Liquors, Kavanaugh Liquors, Main Street Liquors, Pleasanton Liquors, Cole's Market, Chevron Gas at Valley Avenue and Santa Rita Road, Unocal 76 on First Street and Shell Gas on First Street.

Tryphonas said police are actively looking for violations like this as well as alcohol- and drug-related violations. Officers were said to have patrolled neighborhoods the Thursday night before spring break looking for possible house parties with underage drinking. Tryphonas also added that an alcohol sting may be planned sometime in the future. ■

Swim Meet

(continued from page 5)

drop-off plan for that."

Hall continued that "they are public streets and we can't stop people from parking, but what we've done is notify all the other teams as well to not park in people's driveways and to be as considerate as they can."

Letters were sent out to the neighborhood surrounding the swim center to notify them of the meet and announcements will be made over the loud speaker at the meet mentioning any cars that are illegally parked.

Parking is also prohibited in the U.S. Postal Service office and profes-

sional buildings that are across the street on Black Avenue, including the lot at Lynwood United Methodist Church. Hall said there will be security monitors posted to make sure people don't park there. Overflow lots will be available tomorrow and Sunday at Amador Valley High School and the Gingerbread Preschool nearby. There are 266 parking spots at the aquatic center and with the overflow, Hall said the city believes that will be a sufficient amount of parking.

Those just passing by on Santa Rita Road or Black Avenue may want to avoid the area or just be patient with small delays.

Today could also get hairy along Santa Rita with not only the swim meet, but a rally organized

at Amador Valley High School to protest state budget cuts. The rally is scheduled for 4 p.m. in the high school parking lot.

On the north side of town, drivers could also see delays Saturday around Hart Middle School for a big wrestling tournament featuring some 800-1,000 wrestlers from 20 middle schools around the Bay Area.

The Tri-Valley Masters Swim team will host a second swim meet at aquatic center the following weekend, from Friday, April 11 through Sunday, April 12 in a meet that is expected to draw about 800 swimmers. The swimmers will begin to arrive at 8 a.m. each day (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) and end at approximately 5 p.m. ■

Of Note



Neethi Bangalore

Pleasanton students excel in spelling bee

At the recent Alameda County Junior High Spelling Bee Championship, three trophies went to Pleasanton schools. First place was Hart Middle School, third went to Harvest Park Middle

School and fourth place went to Pleasanton Middle School. Second place went to a middle school in Castro Valley.

First-place winner was Hart seventh-grader Neethi Bangalore, who's winning word was "effervescence." The win came after the second-place winner misspelled "annihilation."

Mridula Dilip, an eighth-grader from Harvest Park, garnered the third-place win and Randy Yamanaka, a seventh-grader at PMS, won fourth-place honors.

In the elementary division of the spelling bee, Fairlands Elementary School fifth-grader Sahit Menon took second and PMS sixth-grader Phoebe Lu took fourth.

The spelling bee was hosted by the Alameda County Office of Education and conducted in Cal State East Bay. About 30 kids participated in the event.

Bangalore will compete in the state junior high spelling bee May 10 in San Rafael. Menon will compete in the state elementary spelling bee May 17 at Sonoma State University.

Essay writers honored at Laws of Life luncheon

The fourth annual Laws of Life awards recognition luncheon honoring student writing contest winners was held recently at Foothill High School. Laws of Life is a writing contest to help build character education and is endorsed by the National School Board Association.

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman spoke and the essays were read as the winners were recognized. The essays were judged by dozens of community members. Winners include Megha Jain, Audrey Kim, Frank Morley, Arianne Olarig, Jake Potter, Danial Asif, Ruoju Gu, Julianna Haykin, Namrata Nadella, Connor Wrenn, Arianna Chopelas, Sarah Closson, David Gruen, Nathan Hinke, Haley Piona, Melanie Gin, Matthew Glassanos, Gabriella Gomez, Valerie Rycerski and Blake Williams.

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Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 19

Publisher

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

Managing Editor

Janet Pelletier, Ext. 11

Features Editor

Emily Atwood, Ext. 21

Contributors

Jerri Long

Joe Ramirez

Cybele Ryan

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Shannon Corey, Ext. 17

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Circulation Director

Bob Lampkin, Ext. 41

Front Office Coordinator

Kathleen Martin, Ext. 0

How to reach the Weekly

5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100
Pleasanton, CA 94566
Phone: (925) 600-0840
Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Opinion

Editorial

City hosts thousands for weekend events

When it comes to fun-filled weekends, it doesn't get much better than this. Thousands will descend on Pleasanton for rallies, swim meets, wrestling tournaments and bicycle rides this weekend, with more coming in another week. They follow the 8,000 car-loads of classic car enthusiasts who were at the Goodguys show last weekend at the fairgrounds, spilling out into local restaurants, gas stations and hotels where they provided economic perks for local businesses and eateries. If finding a table at Strizzi's or Tully's or McDonald's was a problem last Saturday, the estimated 5,000-10,000 visitors in town this weekend could make our city and its amenities even more crowded—and profitable. This weekend:

- The Pleasanton Seahawks swim club is hosting the four-day Far Western Short Course Championship Meet, with 160 teams and 1,200 swimmers participating from 10 states as far away as Virginia and Louisiana, and Canada. Before the meets, in the evenings and during downtimes, families will shop, dine and visit stores and restaurants downtown, in neighborhood centers and at Stoneridge Shopping Center. Already, many hotels are filled. Seven of them have been designated official swim meet hosts, offering shuttle service for guests to the aquatic center and back.

- The Cinderella Classic is sold out for its 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 65-mile ride Saturday starting and ending at the fairgrounds, with several hundred bicyclists riding through Pleasanton, the Livermore Valley wine country, San Ramon Valley and, for the more ambitious, to the top of Mt. Diablo. Pleasanton, which works with the group to dedicate traffic lanes in Vineyard Avenue and other thoroughfares for the cyclists and posts police patrols, is a favorite for the Cinderella group because of safety, reasonably flat terrain and plenty of restaurants and refreshment stops along the route. Like the Seahawks, the group has arranged special rates at local hotels for those who spend the weekend here.

- The Pleasanton Parent Teacher Association is sponsoring a rally at Amador Valley High School this afternoon as soon as the school day ends for labor leaders, teachers and politicians to protest Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposed state budget cuts for education. Expect at least 1,000 to demonstrate between 4 and 5 p.m. in the school parking lot, assembling there as students drive their cars out. Many of the teachers plan to have their spouses and families join them and then to walk downtown to shop and dine.

- The Farmers' Market, an always-crowded Saturday morning attraction in downtown Pleasanton, will likely have more customers tomorrow as parents take a break from the swim meet to stock up on fresh fruits and vegetables for their day-long stays at the aquatic center and adjacent Amador Community Park for the Far Western event.

- Hart Middle School will play host to between 800 and 1,000 wrestlers Saturday from over 20 middle schools across the Bay Area. Expect parking issues around Willow Road and Hopyard Road.

- Next weekend, the Tri-Valley Master Swim Team, a member of the U.S. Masters Swimming organization which serves those 18 and older, will host the Pacific Masters Championship at the aquatic center, from Friday, April 11, to Sunday, April 13. About 800 swimmers are expected for the three-day event, including spouses and families.

Pleasanton has had problems in the past handling large crowds. This year, host organizations are working with city officials, police, traffic engineers and businesses to make sure that everyone who comes here, whether for a day or a long weekend, enjoys their stay and comes back soon. These events represent huge economic benefits for local businesses and all of us who live here.

Code of ethics

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

Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



A few peeved readers sound off on grammar

I am delighted to report I have many peeved readers.

A few respondents to my call for grammar pet peeves pointed out that among my own vexations I listed a few punctuation and spelling and mistakenly referred to them as grammar errors.

It is true that grammar in the strictest sense of the word deals with how words are combined to form sentences. I was reaching back to my days as a college English instructor when I was asked to impart knowledge of not only syntax, but also mechanics (punctuation) and word usage. Correct application of all is necessary for proper communication.

A caller identifying himself as Gary pointed out that one of my pet peeves, using a preposition when it is unnecessary, was in the very next edition of the Pleasanton Weekly.

Gary said, "Here is it on page 14 of the March 21 edition, 'A house fire on Cloverwood Lane, off of Muirwood Drive ...'"

"'Off of' is absolutely the worst usage ever!" he continued.

A few people expressed dismay over my rant against "verbization" (making nouns into verbs), saying the practice is getting a "bum rap."

Online contributor Stacey wrote, "... language changes and this (verbization, a.k.a. zero derivation) is a prime example of that process in action. It helps make English a truly international language because foreign speakers don't have to remember obscure morphological suffixes, native speakers can fit new or foreign words into English easily, and the sentence is semantically more efficient. Saying 'I Googled...' is not much different from saying 'Can you Xerox this?'"

Another online contributor lamented the incorrect usage of adverbs and adjectives, such as when answering, "How are you?"

"I'm doing good." WRONG

"I'm doing well." CORRECT

The anonymous contributor added the following examples:

Jon is careless.

Jon drives carelessly.

Dan finished his work quickly.

Diane walked slowly to school.

Then the passionate poster advised readers, "Adverbs modify the verb! Adjectives modify the noun! Just think about it people!"

I have to think about adverb/adjective use, particularly in verbal communication, which seems to be more casual.

Both the caller Gary and Pauline Coe mentioned pet peeves in spoken language, with the mispronunciation of "nuc-u-lore" and "real-a-tor" being two.

Pauline added, "How about the 'y'all' we're starting to hear way too often? 'You' can be plural, folks!"

Speaking of making something plural when it shouldn't be, I was listening to the 2008 Annual Kids' Choice Awards on Nickelodeon (at the request of my daughter and against my will), and heard an actor thank his "moms." I wanted to scream. Even my 7-year-old said, "Did he just say 'moms?' Please..."

Donna Whitaker pointed out the misuse of the statement, "I could care less," which doesn't really make sense. It should instead be "I couldn't care less," but at least 50 percent of the time speakers use the former as opposed to the latter.

Language evolves, but the purpose of language is to communicate, whether that be written or verbal communication. As many of you pointed out, however, incorrect grammar / punctuation / word usage hinders the message.

So even if you couldn't care less about the grammar you learned in school, you should be aware that the way you present your thoughts reflects on you and affects how your ideas will be received.

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

the mayor, and approved by the city attorney. The city's own rules and policies determined that this ordinance was "complete." Since the judge has ruled otherwise, the city needs to modify the ordinance in order to be in compliance with the judge's ruling and go through the approval process again.

Therefore, the City Council needs to vote on the Oak Grove project again. The city cannot have it both ways.

*Brian Arkin
(former Planning Commission Chairman)*

Commend Congressman McNerney on energy

Dear Editor,

Representative Jerry McNerney is to be commended for his strong support in extending the Renewable Energy bill before Congress. This bill allows solar, wind and geothermal energy producers and installers—not just the heavily subsidized oil corporations—to benefit via tax incentives for research, development and exploration.

Many oil businessmen (i.e., T. Rowe Pickens of Texas) and oil geologists (i.e., Sadad al-Huseini,

former head of exploration, Saudi Aramco) believe that Global Peak Oil production is imminent or has already occurred. The price of gasoline will continue to increase while supplies diminish and our oil-dependent economy will be devastated unless we prudently transition to other forms of energy not tied to oil production. Oil corporations must share these tax incentives with all energy producers so that there is a Plan B when the oil pumps run dry.

*Cynthia Degnan
Pleasanton*



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Letters

City needs do-over on Oak Grove vote

Dear Editor,

The city must re-do its approval of Oak Grove.

Two weeks ago, a judge ruled that the Oak Grove ordinance approved by the city and used to

collect signatures (over 5,000) for the referendum was not a "complete" ordinance. Since the Oak Grove ordinance as approved by the City Council and signed by the mayor was ruled incomplete, the city did not approve a "complete" ordinance as defined by the judge. Thus, the City Council vote on Oak Grove is also invalid.

The ordinance that the signature gatherers used was voted on by the City Council, signed by

IRON HORSE TROTTING ALO

Pleasanton celebrates newest segment of regional trail for bicyclists, pedestrians and equestrians alike

story and photos by Janet Pelletier

By foot, bicycle or horse, the Iron Horse Trail is slated to become what many hope will someday be a regional trail that will offer Pleasanton residents the chance to travel through town, but all the way up to Suisun Bay in Contra Costa County.

On Monday, the city celebrated the dedication of the newest segments of the Iron Horse Regional Trail in Pleasanton. The first segment stretches from Santa Rita Road south across Mohr Avenue. The second segment connects from Mohr Avenue south to Busch Road in the Ironwood neighborhood.

The segments comprise one mile and feature a 10-foot-wide paved pathway and a 2-foot-wide decomposed granite lane for walkers, runners, skaters and cyclists.

Amenities on the trail include benches, distance markers, a fountain, landscaping and a traffic crossing device at Mohr Avenue.

The project cost \$1.6 million and was a partnership between the city of Pleasanton, East Bay Regional Parks District, the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) and Ponderosa Homes, which is building out the Ironwood community near Busch Road and Valley Avenue. ACTIA put up \$450,000 of the costs for the Santa Rita Road to Mohr Avenue trail segment through a grant administered by the East Bay Regional Park District. ACTIA was formed as a result of the 1986 voter-approved Measure B, a half-cent sales tax. Ponderosa paid for the design services for the project as well as funding and construction of the Mohr to Bush segment. The trail borders homes in the Ironwood community, which includes single-family homes and senior apartments, and a soon-to-open church campus built by Pleasanton Presbyterian Church. Both trail portions will be maintained by the city and patrolled by the parks district.

Recognizing that the trail is a leisurely attraction for walkers, runners, cyclists and equestrians, East Bay Parks District President Ayn Wieskamp said it is also an everyday route for some.

"We are about real people who use the trail to get to work and school," said Ayn Wieskamp,

president of the East Bay Parks District.

Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi, D-Hayward, said the trail is yet another tool for youths and adults to stay fit and healthy.

"At the state level, we're talking a lot about health," said Assemblywoman Mary Hayashi, D-Hayward.

The Iron Horse trail is just another way to get children out exercising, she said.

Alameda County Supervisor Chris Gray said the county has worked hard to purchase right-of-ways to build trails and connectivity between cities.

"We're going to continue to help make this thing go to Fremont," he said.

Kurt Kummer, chair of the city's Trails Ad Hoc Committee, said there is still much more that needs to be done with the Iron Horse Trail, but said he is excited that some progress has been made.

"It's something we've been waiting for for a long time," he said, adding that the newest segment is positive for the entire Tri-Valley. "This isn't going to be complete, but it's a good start."

In the future, the goal is to connect the Iron Horse Trail with downtown Pleasanton, the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station on Owens Drive and to Lake Del Valle in Livermore.

"We're not going to stop until we get it all," Kummer said.

Issues linger as to how the trail would all connect through Pleasanton. One section could cross through the Alameda Transportation Corridor, but Archstone Apartments on Stoneridge Drive abuts the easement owned by the parks district for the trail and a public hearing process would be required for access of a right-of-way there. Other portions of Hacienda Drive and Stoneridge Drive would force trail users to cross mid-block which could provide safety problems. ■



Members of the California State Horseowners Association provided the backdrop to a ceremony Monday dedicating the newest 1-mile segment of the Iron Horse Trail.



A pair of bicyclists enjoy the Iron Horse Trail.



Kurt Kummer, a city Parks District member of the Trails Ad Hoc Committee, said there is still much more that needs to be done with the Iron Horse Trail throughout the city.

ONG

slowly but surely connect-
 y be a complete regional
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hit the trail at Mohr Avenue.



Parks and Recreation commissioner and mem-
 oc Committee, praised the new segment, but
 e work needs to be done to fully connect the
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History
 In 1896, the multi-use, whole-access trail between the cities of Concord and Pleasanton follow the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way established in 1891 and abandoned in 1977. The name Iron Horse came from the iron horse steam engine trains. When many train stations and tracks became a thing of the past, communities lobbied for the old railways to be converted into trails.

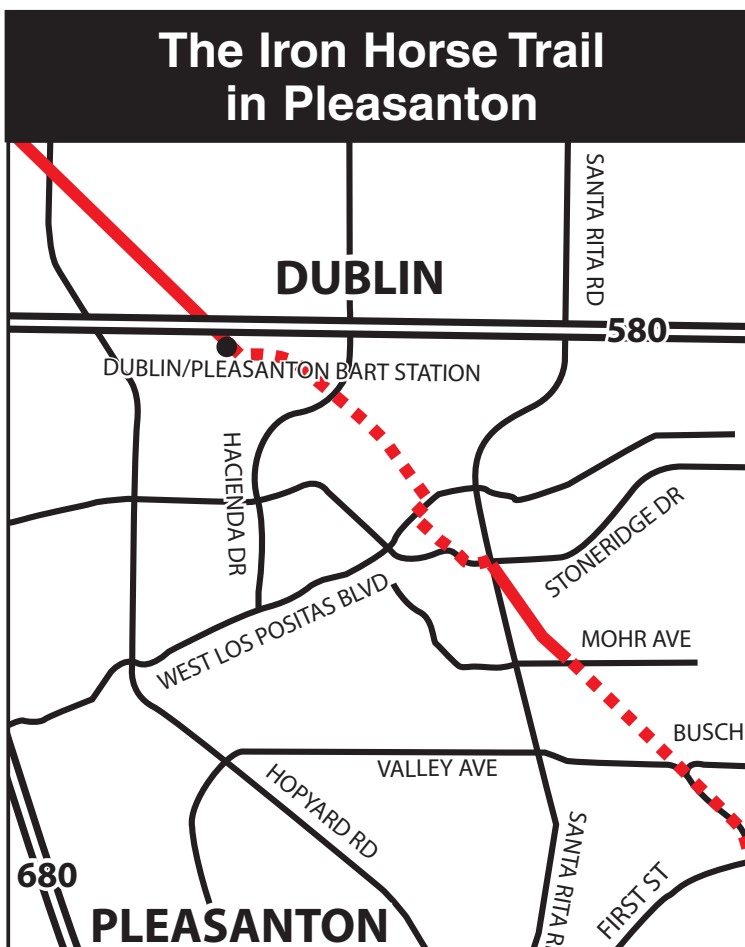
What it provides
 The trail corridor connects residential and commercial areas, business parks, schools, public transportation (BART, County Connection), open space and parks, regional trails and community facilities. Currently, the trail is developed from Marsh Drive near Highway 4 in Concord south to the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station. The newest segment to open in Pleasanton connects from Santa Rita Road, across Mohr Avenue to just south of Busch Road.

Future
 Extensions are planned in Pleasanton that will connect the BART station to Shadow Cliffs Regional Park and farther eastward. When fully complete, the Iron Horse Regional Trail will span from Livermore to Suisun Bay in Contra Costa County, a distance of more than 40 miles, connecting two counties and 12 communities.

Road rules

- trail curfew is 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- open containers or consumption of alcoholic beverages are not permitted within 50 feet of paved trails, roads or parking areas
- keep to the right side of the pathways
- helmets are required by law for bicyclists under 18 and strongly recommended for all bicyclists and equestrians
- dogs must be on least (with a six-foot maximum) where posted and under full verbal control elsewhere
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- pedestrians should yield to equestrians

Source: East Bay Regional Parks District



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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, April 9, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- PCUP-205. Paul and Janny Rocha

Application for a conditional use permit to relocate and replace a 5,000-gallon water tank in the rear yard of the existing residence located at 481 Sycamore Road.

- PUD-91-01-05M. Steven and Laura Spencer

Application for a major modification to an approved Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan to reduce the rear and side yard setbacks for a swimming pool at the property located at 8031 Oak Creek Drive.

Civic Arts Commission

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

- Review of FY 2008/09 City Grant Applications in the Civic Arts category

Youth Commission

Wednesday, April 9, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Boulevard

- Review of FY 2008/09 City Grant Applications in the Youth category

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, April 10, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review of Proposed Master Plan for Staples Ranch Community Park
- Discussion Regarding Kottinger Place Redevelopment Conceptual Site Plan

Library Commission

Thursday, April 10, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Community of Character Collaborative is seeking nominations for the first annual Juanita Haugen Community of Character Award to recognize citizens who consistently display sensitivity to relevant social issues and exhibit the traits of the Collaborative advocates: Responsibility, Compassion, Self Discipline, Honesty, Respect and Integrity. Nomination forms are available at the Pleasanton Unified School District at 4665 Bernal Avenue; the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce at 777 Peters Avenue; the City of Pleasanton City Clerk's office at 123 Main Street or at www.communityofcharacter.org. Forms may be turned into the Chamber office or faxed to 846-9697; turned into the School District office or faxed to 426-7146; or turned into the City Clerks' office or faxed to (925) 931-5492. Deadline for submitting nominees is May 1, 2008. The award recipients will be announced May 29, 2008 at the Community of Character Collaborative Celebration at the Hilton Hotel in Pleasanton.

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

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Infant in critical condition as police investigate cause of injury

Police are investigating the cause of a 9-month-old Pleasanton boy's head injury, who remains in critical condition. The boy was taken to ValleyCare Medical Center around 4:25 p.m. last Saturday by a babysitter.

According to police, the boy's babysitter brought him to the hospital because he was vomiting and unresponsive. Police said it was determined that the boy was suffering from head trauma. He was transferred to Children's Medical Center in Oakland and reportedly was in surgery shortly after arrival.

Det. Derek Hooper with the Pleasanton Police Department said the boy had a brain injury and they were still investigating how it could have happened.

Dublin teens seized in string of robberies

Five Dublin teenagers were arrested March 27 for their alleged involvement in a string of robberies since Monday, according to police. At about 12:09 a.m., the group, all between the

ages of 16 and 18, allegedly exited a black Lexus sedan in the area of Via de la Cruz and Hansen Drive and approached a 15-year-old boy. Police said one of the suspects brandished a golf club while another wielded a large flashlight.

Lamar Fountila, 18, allegedly demanded the victim's wallet. When the victim said he didn't have a wallet, Fountila reportedly searched the victim's pockets and took his cell phone, police said.

The victim returned to his home and called authorities. About 20 minutes later, officers located the suspect vehicle.

Officers took the five teenagers into custody and allegedly learned they were involved in at least two other similar robberies in San Ramon on Monday. The suspects also allegedly confessed to entering an unlocked garage of a home on Anastacia Court and taking clothing, police said.

Fountila and Brandon Sowden, 18, were booked into Santa Rita Jail.

Three juveniles between the ages of 16 and 17 were booked into juvenile hall on charges of robbery, burglary and possession of stolen property.

The case remains under investigation by Pleasanton and San Ramon police.

Police Report

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

March 23

- Petty theft:
 - 4:04 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vandalism:
 - 2:27 p.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
 - 8:50 a.m. in the 4600 block of Laramie Gate Court
- Alcohol violations:
 - 1:06 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
 - 2:47 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Coronado lane; DUI
- Found property:
 - 6:35 p.m. in the 7000 block of Corte Rosa

March 24

- Identity theft:
 - 1:24 p.m. in the 3500 block of Rocca Court
- Marijuana possession:
 - 4:43 p.m. at the intersection of First Street and Kottinger Drive

March 25

- Theft:
 - 8:58 a.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 4:35 p.m. in the 4100 block of Stanley Boulevard; grand theft
 - 8:09 p.m. in the 6400 block of Owens Drive; petty theft
- Vehicular buglary:
 - 8:48 a.m. in the 4600 block of Herrin Way
- DUI:
 - 3:23 a.m. in the 5300 block of

Hopyard Road

March 26

- Theft:
 - 10:23 a.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; petty theft
 - 6:42 p.m. in the 4300 block of West Ruby Hill Drive; forgery
- Marijuana possession:
 - 5:03 p.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive

March 27

- Theft:
 - 11:05 a.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 1:05 p.m. in the 5500 block of Black Avenue; grand theft
 - 1:09 p.m. in the 300 block of Rose Avenue; identity theft
 - 3:34 p.m. in the 1100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 3:50 p.m. in the 5100 block of Springdale Avenue; grand theft
 - 4:39 p.m. in the 2600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 8:53 p.m. in the 6200 block of Hansen Drive; forgery
- Vandalism:
 - 8:57 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Stoneridge Mall Road; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
 - 12:09 a.m. at the intersection of Via de la Cruz and Hansen Drive
 - 12:09 a.m. in the 3200 block of Anastacia Court
- Drug violations:
 - 12:29 p.m. in the 21800 block of Meeland Avenue; marijuana possession for sale, cocaine possession while armed, controlled substance possession for sale, gang activity, possession of stolen property



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Transitions

Obituaries

Rosemarie Campion

Rosemarie Campion died March 21 in Walnut Creek at the age of 74.

Born Dec. 24, 1933, Mrs. Campion enjoyed living in Pleasanton for the past 38 years. A graduate of Castlemont High School, she was a retired clerk from Thrifty drug store in Pleasanton.

She loved shopping, going out to dinner, watching her favorite

cooking shows and had a soft spot in her heart for children and animals.

She is survived by her daughters, Deborah Campion of Livermore, Susan Campion of Pleasanton, Fidelas Campion of Santa Clara; brother, Gordon Klein and family of Ukiah, Calif.; and grandchildren, Jason Campion and Stephanie Wilson of Livermore.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herbert and Alvina Klein; and her sister, Alberta Priester.

Friends and family gathered for services March 26. Burial will be private.

Engagements

Rachel Hempy & Alan Brogdon



Rachel Hempy and Alan Brogdon of Santa Rosa joyfully announce their engagement to be married.

Rachel is the daughter of Fred and Dineen Hempy, who are longtime Pleasanton residents. Alan is the son of Greg and Lisa Brogdon of Rohnert Park, Calif. and Lynn and Gary Kamph of Chico, Calif.

Rachel attended Lydiksen Elementary School, Pleasanton Middle School and graduated from Foothill High School in 1998. She graduated from Sonoma State University in 2002 with a major in the-

ater arts. She is currently employed at Sonoma Bank in Santa Rosa as a residential construction loan processor. Alan attended schools in Eureka and graduated from Humboldt State University in 2002 with a major in psychology. Alan is currently employed as an estimator at Rugworks in Rohnert Park.

The couple were engaged while taking a break to enjoy the view of Lake Tahoe while skiing at Heavenly Village. The wedding will be held Sept. 6 at Kenwood Farm and Gardens in Kenwood, Calif. They will honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico.

Births

Samuel Richard Daily

Samuel Richard Daily was born at 3:16 p.m. March 19 to Timothy and Allison Daily of Pleasanton.

Weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces, baby Samuel was 19 1/2 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Larry and Debbie Daily of Pleasanton.



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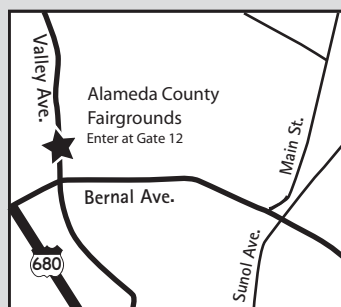
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E-Waste Collection Event

For the Pleasanton Community

TVs and computer monitors contain lead and cannot be thrown in the trash. Other electronics may also contain toxic components, and can be recycled or reused.

The City of Pleasanton is making it easy to recycle or properly dispose of your unwanted electronics (E-waste) with a free, weekend collection event.



*For additional information on acceptable items, please contact Electronic Waste Management at 1-866-335-3373.

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ACCEPTABLE E-WASTE:* Working or non-working

computers	camcorders	fluorescent bulbs
televisions	batteries	microwave ovens
VCRs	auto batteries	
DVD players	copiers	
PDA's	cell phones	
stereos	telephones	
radios	printers	
game equipment	fax machines	

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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.



Yer out!

Amador Valley pitcher Brendan "B.K." Kyle delivers a strike against Buhach Colony High School March 26 at the San Luis Obispo Easter Tournament. Amador won the game 9-8 after a see-saw battle for the lead in the late innings. Amador won three of their four games in the tournament.

Pleasanton Girls Lacrosse team continues winning streak

The powerful Pleasanton girls lacrosse Twister team showed its force with a 9-6 victory over the Diablo Scorpions at Blackhawk Field in Danville last Saturday.

Cambi Cukar led the team in assists and goals. Other top scorers were Lauren Hall and Tori Larsen. Evan Murphy had a great game of sliding into position and checking to stop the Scorpions' run. Outstanding performances were given by Rebecca Dumanski off blocking the Scorpions' shots, Kira Ewanich, Lindsey Kail and Sarah Monday. Goalies Molly Grozier and Lexi Nicholas also did a great job of stopping the Scorpions' shots on goal. The Twister team kicked off the season on March 15 with a 12-3 victory over the Livermore Phantoms and 12-5 victory over the Lamorinda Flash.

Coach Richard Murphy moved the sixth grade team to a seventh/eighth division to give them more of a challenge, but they still remain undefeated.

—Kim Cukar

Rage U16 Division 1 AC unable to advance

The Pleasanton Rage found themselves undefeated, but unable to advance in their season-ending State Cup appearance over the weekend. With a record of one win, two draws and no losses, the Rage ended their Cup chances last Sunday with a hard fought 0-0 draw against Lamorinda United 91 Blue team, the eventual bracket winners.

On Saturday morning, the Rage played to a 1-1 draw with County

Line Heat. The Heat score came on a penalty kick early in the second half, following a Rage foul in the 18-yard box. Kira Capaccioli scored the tying Rage goal, off a free kick, on a low shot that found the far post corner. In the afternoon game the Rage took a controlling halftime lead of 3-1, over San Francisco Viking Typhoons. The Typhoons scored first on a free kick and three consecutive Rage goals—one by Brittany Carrolan and three by Aisla Smith followed that. The Rage then held on for the 5-4 victory, with Smith adding the game winner to her goal total of four.

—Dan Skinner

Tigers Baseball hosting open clinic for 15-18-year-olds

Tigers Baseball is holding an open clinic for high school players ages 15-18 years of age. This event will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. April 20 at Bill Payne Sports Park, 5800 Patterson Pass Road in Livermore for all players interested in participating on either our 16U or 18U summer teams. The event is free to all players. Players selected will pay an additional fee which includes gear package, nine tournaments through Labor Day 2008.

Players interested in participating in this event can go to the Tigers Baseball Web site: www.rteamsite.com/baseball/tigersbaseball, download the event registration form, fill it out then fax their registration form to the program manager. Registered players will be notified via email with additional details.

Tigers Baseball is a nonprofit baseball program that works in cooperation with well known colle-

giate coaches and professional players to teach dedicated young players who wish to play baseball at a higher level. The mission of Tigers Baseball is to provide young players with the opportunity to develop and learn the sport of baseball from some of the finest teachers in our area. Tigers Baseball is not affiliated with or in any way associated with the Detroit Tigers or any other Major League Baseball-related entity.

—Jeff Hollar

Registration open for place-kicking camp

Amador Valley High School varsity football kicking coach and former All-Pac 10 and NFL place-kicker Steve Jordan will instruct participants in basic place-kicking skills and techniques in a two-day camp April 12 and 13.

Participants will gain accuracy and power on P.A.T.'s, field goals and kick-offs. Participants will also gain confidence and learn proper kicker sideline etiquette. Campers will need to bring kicking cleats or soccer shoes, plenty of water, and a game winning attitude each program day. Footballs and other kicking equipment will be provided. Beginners are welcome. Space is limited.

The camp is being offered to all sixth-ninth-graders from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 12 and 13. Camp fee is \$125. Location is at Amador Valley High School.

For information, call the City of Pleasanton's Parks and Recreation Department at 931-5340 or see page 48 of the Spring 2008 Activities Guide.

—Tricia Jordan

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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 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**

Dining Out

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

American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

Bridges

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

Zorn's Restaurant

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

Asian-Pacific

Mahalo Grille

425 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-2800. Treat yourself to a taste sensation at Mahalo Grille featuring a variety of Pacific seafood, Hawaiian fresh fish and shell fish, and "Mahalo" signature selections. Also try our various vegetarian-friendly offerings, California wines and island cocktails. Visit www.mahalogrille.com.

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

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

Brewpub/Alehouse

Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub, some

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

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

California Cuisine

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.

Catering

Fontina's Catering

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

Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate Catering

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

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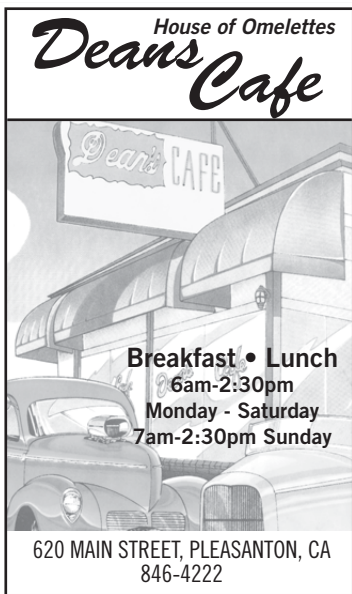
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Chinese

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

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

Fusion

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

Greek

Simply Greek
4220-C Rosewood Drive, 463-8801. From the neighborhoods of Greece to you. Menu features gyros, souvlaki and more. Located in the Rose Pavilion Shopping Center, they're open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mon. through Thurs., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fri. and Sat. Catering services available. Visit www.simply-greek.com

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.

Italian

Fontina Ristorante
349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials--including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal--served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. We

have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

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

Girasole Grill
3180 Santa Rita Road at West Las Positas Boulevard, Pleasanton, 484-1001. Girasole, a locally owned family business, is an award winning California style Italian restaurant. It was voted Best Italian Restaurant by Pleasanton Weekly readers for 2007. We feature signature cuisine such as Scoozzi, Absolut! prawns, chicken gorgi, spinach for Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood... just to name a few. We are upscale, but California casual with friendly prices.

Mexican

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

Pizza

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

Japanese

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

Steakhouse

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

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Dining Out SPRING 2008



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April 17

Calendar

Author Visits

Elizabeth Strout at Towne Center Books Join author Elizabeth Strout for coffee, tea, and a discussion of her new book at 11 a.m. April 11 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. "Olive Kitteridge," is 13 rich, luminous narratives bound through the presence of one larger-than-life, unforgettable character. Strout is also the author of Amy and Isabelle and Abide with Me.

Book Clubs

Towne Center Books Bookclub Towne Center Bookclub will discuss "Pillars of the Earth" at 7 p.m. April 9 at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. Call 846-8826.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters The Amador Valley Quilters meet at 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. April 12 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Quilt teacher and author Brenda Henning, a self-described "compulsive quilter," will also conduct a workshop the following day. Call 454-1971 or visit www.amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Lady's Choice Investment Club This club meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month at Morgan Stanley, 6140 Stoneridge Mall Road, Ste. 100. It's an opportunity for interested women to learn about stock market investing using the tools and principles provided by Better Investing. Visitors are welcome. Call 447-8572.

Concerts

33rd Annual Spring Concert The Pleasanton Community Concert Band returns to the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road, for their 33rd Annual Spring Concert at 2 p.m. April 6. This year's theme is a Salute to Spring and

Leroy Anderson. The concert is free, though donations are appreciated. Doors open at 1:40 p.m. Call 846-5897 or visit www.pleasantonband.org.

Events

Alexander's Fine Art Alexander's Fine Art opens at new location, 608 Main St., with a diverse collection of contemporary and traditional art on display April 8-18. Artists include Ford Smith and Miguel Freitas.

Annual CFA Allbreed Cat Show Some 250 cats and kittens of 41 breeds will be on exhibit and competing for Best in Show April 5 and 6 at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Rescue organizations will have loving cats for adoption. Arts and crafts, gifts and gadgets on sale for cats and cat lovers. Proceeds to animal disaster relief. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children under 10, \$16 for families. Visit www.keencat.com/catshow/flyer2-08.html or call 827-2722.

Free Bay-Friendly Garden Tour The fifth annual free, self-guided Bay-Friendly Garden Tour is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 27 and features 30 public and private gardens throughout Alameda County. Registration is required by April 15. Visit www.bayfriendly.org or call 510-444-SOIL.

Hacienda School Open House Hacienda School in Pleasanton is holding a parent information meeting at 4:30 p.m. April 9 at the school, 3800 Stoneridge Drive. Hacienda School serves kindergarten through eighth grade in a year-round, full day program with Montessori curriculum. Call 485-5750.

Poetry, Prose & Arts Festival Offers Free Activities The Poetry, Prose and Arts Festival is back April 5 and 6 at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Saturday's events include a visual arts exhibit from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., as well as a reception and book signing and meet the authors at Literary Row events from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday's activities include a free performance of "When Tom Smith Caused the 1906

San Francisco Earthquake" by Word for Word of San Francisco. Call 931-5350 or visit www.pleasantonarts.org.

Spring Basket Event The Home Builders Association of Northern California Women's Council (HBANC) spring basket event will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. April 10 at The Bridges Golf Club, 9000 South Gate Ridge Road, San Ramon. Donated baskets of household supplies, personal care items and other gifts are donated to Shepherd's Gate, a battered and homeless women's shelter. The event also features two prominent speakers. Tickets are \$50 for members or \$75. Call 820-7626.

Spring Sidewalk Sale Celebrate the arrival of spring in Downtown Pleasanton from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 12 and noon to 6 p.m. April 13 at the sale sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association.

Exhibits

Gold Fever! Untold Stories of California's Gold Rush The exhibition at Museum on Main Street, 603 Main St., spotlights the remarkable stories of individual Californios, women, Native Americans, adventurers and gold seekers who emigrated from all parts of the world during the tumultuous and colorful Gold Rush era. The exhibit runs April 9 to June 1. A \$2 donation admits one.

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. Call 292-2222.

Spring Art Show 2008 An art show presented by the Livermore Art Association will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 5 and 6 at The Barn, 3131 Pacific Ave., Livermore. The reception is from 7 to 9 p.m. April 5, with presentation of awards at 7:30. Live music will be provided by the Gary Chulla Trio. Art work is for sale as well as to see. Call 449-9927 or visit www.livermoreartassociation.org.

Fundraisers

Annual Plant Sale Stock your garden with a wide variety of perennials, shrubs, trees, herbs, vegetables and more at reasonable prices. The Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club members will hold the annual plant sale from 9 a.m. to noon April 5 at Amador Valley High School, 1155 Santa Rita Road. All plants are grown by club members and range from \$1 to \$10. Expert gardeners will be available to assist with plant advice and

selection. Call Bev, 485-7812.

Autism Fundraiser at Blue Agave Club From 7 to 9:30 p.m. April 12, the Blue Agave Club celebrates its 11th anniversary in Pleasanton with a fundraiser to benefit autism research. The restaurant, at 625 Main St., will donate fifty percent of ticket sales and all proceeds from raffle sales to P.A.R. (Providing Autism Research) for Kids' Sake, which raises funds for the M.I.N.D. Institute at UC Davis. Tickets are \$40 and includes food and entertainment. Buy tickets over the phone at 417-1224 or at the door if space permits.

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by
Gerarda
Stocking

A TAXING RELOCATION?

If you move to another state, perhaps because you've found a great place to retire, you may be surprised by the estate tax laws in your new home state. It's a great idea to consult your estate tax attorney and/or tax advisor before making the move so that you know what the effects of your move will be.

Understand that federal estate tax law is a very slippery terrain at the moment. The amount of an estate that is exempt from such taxation currently changes every year, and our legislators continually attempt to change the system even further. To further confuse matters, many states have broken away from federal law and made their own formulas for the size an estate must be before it is taxed. More than a dozen start taxing at a far lower estate ceiling than does the federal government.

It gets even more confusing: Sixteen states, as this is being written, only collect estate taxes. Five states collect inheritance taxes—paid by heirs, not by estates—but do not collect estate taxes. And three states collect both estate and inheritance. The balance do not collect either estate or inheritance taxes.

Worthy of a half hour or so of your estate tax attorney's time? You bet! Indeed, it's always good to run your real estate plans past your tax attorney and advisor long before you act on those plans, and to call upon your real estate and mortgage advisors to help formulate the questions you'll want to discuss with your tax advisor. For more information call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

Health

Be the Boss of Your Bladder Many people of all ages experience bladder control problems and as they get older, accept it as a normal part of aging. Frieda Alessi of Extensions Physical Therapy will share the myths and the truths about incontinence and normal bladder function at 10 a.m. April 8 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The cost is \$1.50 for residents and \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Life After Prostate Cancer Community Seminar Learn about issues related to life after prostate cancer, including incontinence and impotence, at 7:30 p.m. April 8 at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, south conference room, 7777 Norris Canyon

Fairlands School Rummage Sale

From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 12, Fairlands Elementary School, 4151 West Las Positas Blvd., will hold a rummage sale. Over 300 families donated books, toys, DVDs, videos, electronics, sports equipment, kitchen ware, furniture, clothing, collectibles, baby items, small appliances, and much more. Cash only please. All proceeds benefit Fairlands PTA.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser A wine tasting fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society blood cancer research will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. April 13 at the Purple Orchid Inn, 4549 Cross Road, Livermore. There will also be a silent auction and finger foods. A \$25 donation buys five tastes and each additional is \$1. Presented by the Tri-Valley Hike for Discovery Team.

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Wednesday, April 9 at 8:00 p.m.

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Tickets \$26, \$31, \$36, \$11 students



THE MUSIC MAN

Pleasanton Playhouse

April 4-6, 11-13, 18-20 at 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.

An affectionate paean to Smalltown, U.S.A., "The Music Man" follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize — this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef.

Tickets \$21, \$29, \$31

LUNA NEGRA DANCE THEATRE

Latin and Afro-Caribbean dance

Thursday, April 24 at 8:00 p.m.

Fiery and passionate contemporary dance flavored by tango, mambo and salsa, Luna Negra's distinctive style artfully blends ballet and modern dance movements with Latino dance forms. Founded by Cuban-born artistic director Eduardo Vilaro, this richly textured and highly original contemporary dance theater features a fresh, exciting performance style.

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Livermore Community Blood Drive

There is a shortage of blood donors in the Bay Area so a blood drive will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. April 18 at Robert Livermore Community Center gym, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. The process takes about 1-1/2 hours, and you must be at least 17 years old, in good health and weigh 110 pounds or more. Call 980-8164.

Spring Immunization Clinics for Children

Immunization clinics are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. April 5 at Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Ave. Bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. Some immunizations require fees. Call 462-1755.

Kids & Teens

Meet The Fastest Draw in the East and West Cartoonist/Storyteller Joe Wos brings his unique blend of storytelling and cartooning to the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 4 p.m. April 4. Once Upon a Toon combines original stories and live cartoon illustration of heart-warming, hilarious folk and fairy tales with a twist. Best for ages 5 and older.

Miscellaneous

Bronze Award Project Pleasanton Girl Scout Troop 32072 is collecting used athletic shoes to recycle through the Nike Athletic Shoe Recycle Program. Please bring your used athletic shoes (no cleats, no metal) to Pleasanton Farmer's Market on Saturday April 5 and 12 or to Fleet Feet at 310-C Main St. April 1-14. Call 931-0975.

On Stage

Proof Proof tells the witty and compelling story of Catherine, a young woman coping with the mental illness of her mathematician father. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays April 4-6 and 11-13 at the Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 Eighth St. Tickets are \$25, or \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students. Call (800) 838-3006.

When Tom Smith Caused the 1906 Earthquake "When Tom Smith Caused the 1906 Earthquake" will be performed for free at 1 p.m. April 6 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. It was written by award-winning Native American author Greg Sarris. It retells a Native American folktale about Medicine Man Tom Smith and his unrestrained desire to be the most powerful medicine man ever.

Political Notes

Tri-Valley Republican Women's Meeting Republican Jim Hartman will speak about the state and local political scene from 6:30 to 9 p.m. April 10 at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road. Tickets are \$26 for members or \$30. Reservations are required. Call 426-1995.

Recreation

Beginning Fly Casting Learn knots, roll cast, pick-up and lay down cast, false casting, and how to select equipment and set up your fly rod. The class is taught by a national champion tournament caster and is April 6 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2500 Stanley Blvd. The cost is \$60 or \$66 for non-residents. Call 1-888-EBPARKS or visit www.ebparks.org.

Seniors

15th Anniversary The Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., is celebrating its 15th Anniversary with an Open House Jamboree. Event will feature displays and class exhibits. Live music will be provided by the South County Western Band from noon to 2 p.m. with free apple pie. For BBQ lunch reservations (\$3.25 for seniors), call 931-5385.

The Music Man At 6:30 p.m. April 4, begin the evening with dessert at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., then we're off to see one of America's favorite musicals, "The Music Man," performed at the lavish Bankhead Theater in Livermore. Tickets are \$41 for residents or \$47 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Welcome to Medicare Seminar The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) will discuss Medicare A, B, C and D; how to buy supplemental insurance; and when and how to buy a drug plan. HICAP is a non-profit organization under the Dept. of Aging. Attend one of three classes at 7 p.m. the first Tuesdays in April, May and June at the San Ramon Regional Medical Center, south conference room, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Call 275-8230 or visit www.sanramon-medctr.com.

Spiritual

A New Earth, A New You April message theme by Dr. Richard Southern, special speaker at Tri-Valley Unity

Church, meeting at 10 a.m. Sundays at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. The April 6 message is titled, "I'm Waking Up: Finding Your Spiritual Path." All are welcome. Call 829-2733.

Sports

Tri-Valley Cheer Sign-ups Girls between the ages of 10-15 years old as of July 31 are invited to sign up for Tri-Valley Cheer. Registration fee is \$75. Upcoming sign-ups for the 2008 season are from 6 to 7:30 p.m. April 3, 10, 16 and 24, and May 1, 8 and 15 at Frederiksen Elementary School's multipurpose room, 7243 Tamarack Drive, Dublin. Season begins in June and ends in March. Call 216-6742.

Support Groups

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.

Volunteering

Volunteer with Big City Mountaineers Big City Mountaineers, the program devoted to providing urban teenage youth with challenging, safe outdoor experiences, needs volunteers this summers. Stop by the booth at Any Mountain, 4906 Dublin Ave., Dublin, April 9 to learn more.

Pleasanton Unified School District and Amador Valley Adult & Community Education Present:

"Teens about Teens" Forum
A Panel of Local Teens Discuss
Depression and Suicide

Special Guest: Mary Hayashi, CA Assembly member (District 18)



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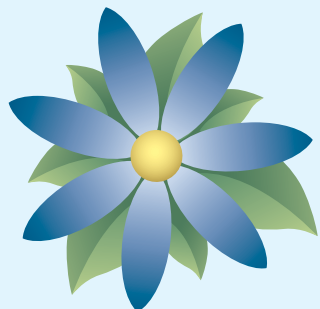
When: Thursday, April 10, 2008 7 – 9 p.m.
Amador Valley High School Library
1155 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton

To RSVP or for more information, call Amador Valley Adult School at (925) 426-4280.

"Teens about Teens" is a series of community meetings dealing with *depression* and *suicide*.



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