

Ready, set, run!

Runners gear up for annual Spirit race > **page 5**

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www.PleasantonWeekly.com

Kernan cleared

No fault found in trustee's residency

> **page 5**

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Like father, like son

The winner of the Weekly's look-alike contest revealed

> **section 2**

As judge rules agreement between developers and school district void, status of Neal Elementary School site in doubt

page 20





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Bob (Grandpa)

Hayden & Nick

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Anjali Lathi
600-2024



Eileen Borton
600-2034



Marques Buck
600-2006



Denise Colvin
600-2035



Rick Goss
600-2005



Yvonne Herbeck
600-2015



Sandy Hermann
600-2028



Brad Loudon
600-2021



Margie Lupo
600-2017



Mari Mahoney
600-2032



Dana Mesarchik
600-2004



Ron Flores
600-2022



Julie Thall
600-2033



Tom Vinson
600-2012



Diane Wood
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Volunteers win Haugen civic awards

The Pleasanton Community of Character Collaborative has given its first two Juanita Haugen awards to longtime community volunteers Lori Rice and Diana and Howard Mendenhall, and with good reason. I've written about the Mendenhalls, who have been active locally for almost 20 years. Longtime members of the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church—now renamed Centerpointe Presbyterian—they were among the energetic church volunteers who worked tirelessly this spring to frame, paint and furnish Centerpointe's new blimp-shaped temporary sanctuary at Valley Avenue and Busch Road. They're also involved with Habitat for Humanity and other charitable causes, making frequent trips to New Orleans and the Gulf states that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and serve on international Habitat for Humanity teams in Poland, Armenia, Ecuador, Romania and Mongolia. In fact, at the Community of Character luncheon, where the Collaborative's president Ellen Pensky McGraw and Councilman Jerry Thorne presented the awards, the Mendenhalls' son Mathew accepted the Haugen award because Diana and Howard were away volunteering with a Habitat for Humanity mission in Macedonia.

I can also attest to the good and effective volunteer efforts of Rice, who as president of the Boosters Club at Amador Valley High School recently led a fundraising dinner and auction that raised a record \$250,000 for sports programs that the Boosters support at Amador. Starting when her daughter Catie first left home for preschool as a 4-year-old and through tonight, when Catie graduates with Amador's Class of 2008, Rice has used her time as a stay-at-home mom to spend much of the time volunteering in Pleasanton schools, including Vintage Hills Elementary, Pleasanton Middle School and Amador. She contributes her time in offices as needed, served on school site councils, was that PTA president at Vintage Hills and vice president of membership for the

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) at Amador. Rice, whose non-stop community work mirrors that of her father, former school superintendent Bill James, also serves on the board of directors of the Valley Humane Society.

Grad night won't end Rice's activities, though. She still has another year as president of the Boosters club, which is good for her son Kevin, who will be a sophomore this fall at Amador, where he is on the cross-country and lacrosse teams. These teams now share in the Boosters Club's funding efforts, which under Rice's leadership have expanded its contributions to include many sports not previously on the support list, such as cheerleading, which Rice brought under the Booster umbrella.

Rice, like many of us, remembers Haugen, who was the school board's president and its longest serving member when she died last year. She also was the co-founder of the Community of Character program and the Haugen Civic Engagement Award, which Rice and the Mendenhalls received, is named in her honor. The award, to be given annually, recognizes citizens who display sensitivity to relevant social issues and exhibit the kinds of behaviors the Collaborative advocates: Responsibility, Compassion, Self Discipline, Honesty, Respect and Integrity.

Mary Ellen Huey nominated the Mendenhalls for the award noting the couple has been caring for aging parents for over 15 years, "yet they always have time to assist in driving unrelated elderly residents in Pleasanton to medical appointments, deliver home cooked meals and perform home repairs and yard work." In nominating Rice for the Award, Dawn Barraza said, "Her enthusiasm is contagious and she is a role model for her family and friends."

This volunteer committee is jointly supported by the city of Pleasanton, Pleasanton Unified School District, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, Pleasanton Weekly and various service and faith organizations. ■

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About the Cover

Seven years after the school district signed an agreement with the developers to build Neal Elementary School, the legal back-and-forth appears to be over. A judge ruled this week that the agreement was "ambiguous" and that Signature Properties and Standard Pacific Homes are not obligated to build the school on a stretch of land off Vineyard Avenue, east of Thiessen Street. The district will meet Tuesday to decide any next steps, such as appealing the decision to the state Court of Appeals. Cover photo by Janet Pelletier. Design by Lili Cao.

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Streetwise

Q: How will record gas prices impact your summer travel plans?

Asked Downtown



Kathy Rubin

Technology Support

We already have a trip planned. The price was set and now the tour group wants to raise the prices or cut out some of the tour destinations because of rising costs. We may take some local road trips also.

John Farah

Pilot

I'll travel and drive less this summer. I had a few road trips planned but now I will fly a personal small plane. It's actually less expensive.



Amy Berlin

Analyst

I'm not planning on spending any time on the road driving long distances. If I do drive they will be short, local trips.

Fred Stafford

Medical Tech.

I think our plans will remain the same. We are headed to San Diego. I think gas prices will continue to rise so other than our trip south, we'll stay local.



Carlos Jaramilla

Engineer

We already prepaid for a vacation to Cancun. It was an advantage to book travel plans last year. Had we not, we would be re-evaluating our ability and interest in going now.

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Mobile health unit to stop at senior center

The ValleyCare mobile health unit will make stops at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. the second Friday of each month starting July 11. Qualified seniors can receive free medical services, depending on their ability to pay, and some insurance plans are accepted. Seniors should bring immunization cards, Medi-Cal and Medicare cards and a list of medications when visiting the mobile health unit.

PG&E to raise rates in October

PG&E recently announced an average of 4.5 percent increase to electricity bills beginning in October. The company said the rate hike is necessary because of the rising price of natural gas throughout the country and the amount of hydroelectric power is lower than expected. The increase would bring in an extra \$482 million over a 15-month period, which would help offset higher costs to the utility. Average customers (who use 550 kilowatt-hours per month) would see an estimated 95-cent increase in October.

Firehouse Arts Center gets new leaders

New executive officers of the Firehouse Arts Center Campaign were added last Friday at an annual Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation (PCAF) meeting. Greg Reznick, outgoing president, has moved to Berkeley and will be replaced by John Loll, treasurer of a financial firm in San Francisco, starting July 1. Bill Butler will become vice president and treasurer and Jaime Dowell, owner of Studio 7 Fine Arts, was named vice president and secretary. Other board members include: Margene Rivara, Rudy Johnson, Beverly Hoey, Victoria Emmons, Jerry Pentin and Greg Reznick. Learn more about PCAF at www.pleasantonartsfoundation.org.

Seniors to study health care win scholarships

The ValleyCare Health System Auxiliary annually awards scholarships, funded by gift shop and thrift shop sales, to area high school seniors who will study health care. Melissa Kalbarczyk, from Foothill High School, will use her \$4,000 award at U.C. Berkeley to become a surgeon. Devi Santhosh, from Amador Valley High School, also received \$4,000 to go towards a U.C. Berkeley degree as he pursues a career as a genetic research physician.

Council OKs Staples location for ice rink

Sharks subsidiary to build, operate facility

by Jeb Bing

The City Council Tuesday night approved by a vote of 4-1 a master plan for a 17-acre community park in Staples Ranch with 10 acres to be set aside for a proposed two-story ice rink.

Staples Ranch is a 124 acre site at the southwest corner of I-580 and El Charro Road that is unincorporated and owned by Alameda County.

Besides the new park and ice rink other developments planned for Staples Ranch are:

- An auto mall at the northeast corner of the site at the I-580-El Charro Road interchange planned by Hendrick Automotive;
- A 600-unit independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing care facility for seniors, planned

by CLC Continuum, a Southern California-based senior care organization;

• A retail store complex between the park and the auto mall, to be developed by Fremont Land developers.

The ice rink is being proposed by San Jose Arena Management Company, a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks hockey team. The Sharks group has asked the city for approval of its plan to finance and operate a 116,000-square-foot facility on 7 acres of the 17-acre site, with the rest of the 10 acres to be used for paved and grass-filled overflow parking areas. It would lease the land for \$1 a year for 30 years and would build and operate the facility at no cost to the city.

The Parks and Recreation

Commission earlier recommended that the council approve the park plan, including the ice rink. A required Environmental Impact Report for the entire site has also been completed and accepted.

Tuesday night's action moves both the community park and the other proposed Staples Ranch developments forward, with development plans in place for more intense and specific reviews by the Planning Commission and again by the council.

More than 50 attended the special council meeting, with only one of 22 speakers expressing opposition to the ice rink.

Also opposed was Councilman Matt Sullivan who said the ice rink should be moved closer to the Fremont Land retail develop-

ment if it's built at all. He said that although there was only one speaker in opposition to the plan at the council's public hearing, he has walked the neighborhoods near Staples Ranch where he found many opposed.

"I know there's a lot of support for the Sharks in this town and regionally, but I also know there's a lot of concern," Sullivan said. "A lot of those people didn't show up tonight, but I have met them in their neighborhood. They feel this was supposed to be the neighborhood park they've been anticipating and looking forward to."

"I don't think we have a win-win situation as one speaker said," he added. "We may be making

(continued on page 8)



Jay Faschbath

Catch the Rotary 'Spirit'

Father's Day run is family fun

by Jeb Bing

In keeping with tradition, the Rotary Club of Pleasanton will be holding its 15th annual 5K and 10K Spirit Run this Sunday, Father's Day.

It's fun, for some it's challenging, for everyone from toddlers to the "more mature," it's a chance to start the day early with a bit of exercise before digging into the backyard barbecue treats and opening those Father's Day gifts.

There is a race or walk event for every member of the family, including the 5K run or walk, or the 10K run. In addition, there are three separate Kid's Challenge Races--for children ages 2-8.

The certified courses are flat and fast, using the monitored downtown streets of Pleasanton and a portion of the paved and un-paved Arroyo Trails. The start and finish lines are located under, or very close to, the Pleasanton Arch, located on Main Street. The Kids' Challenge consists of

100-yard dashes on Main Street, finishing right underneath the arch.

The 10K race starts at 8 a.m., followed by the 5K race/run/walk at 8:20 a.m. and the first of the Kid's Challenge races starting at 9:30 a.m.

Trophies will go to the top male and female finishers. Beautifully etched-glass trophies will be given to the top male and female Masters (over 40-years old) winners. In addition, medals are given three deep in designated age groups for both male and female participants. Each child participating in the Kids' Challenge will receive a finisher ribbon and a cookie from Mr. Cookie, himself.

And for those who truly want to compete, there's an official clock and timekeeper. Last year's winning times in the men's 5K was 16:35, and for women it was 20:25; and for the 10K, 35:24 for men and 39:47 for women.

The Spirit Run had its beginnings during the

(continued on page 8)

DA finds school board member within law

Research shows lack of evidence for criminal investigation against Pat Kernan's residency

by Emily Atwood

School board trustee Pat Kernan appears to be off the hook, for now, after recently being accused of maintaining a primary residency outside of Pleasanton's city limits. After some research, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office announced that they have found him to be within the law.

Accusations against Kernan came from the Pleasanton Weekly's online Town Square forum, where anonymous posters found websites connecting him to Camino, Calif., which is east of Sacramento. He has been absent from recent board meetings, including a May 1 special meeting where the board agenda shows him phoning in from Camino, although some occasions have been due to a recent hip surgery.

The district sought legal counsel on the matter in mid-May and drew up a document of reasons showing Kernan was within the law, including: his vehicle is registered in Pleasanton, he was excused from jury duty in El Dorado County this year on the basis of his Pleasanton residency, he is a member of the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce, and is registered to vote and has voted in Pleasanton elections.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Jeff Stark was asked to review documentation provided by parent and school activist Julie Testa. After perusing records and conducting an investigation, Stark said they "concluded that there wasn't any evidence of criminal misconduct" to justify a criminal

(continued on page 9)

Governor declares state in a drought

Zone 7 Water Agency reiterates call for residents to reduce water use by 10%

by Janet Pelletier

It's now official: the state is in a drought. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger made the declaration last week, following two years of below-average rainfall, a reduced snowpack and resulting runoff and the court-ordered reduction of pumping in the Delta over the killing of a species of fish.

Last month, the state Department of Water Resources reported in the final snow survey of the year that the snowpack was only 67 percent of normal and the runoff was forecast to be only 55 percent of average.

In the wake of the news, Pleasanton's largest supplier of water is reiterating its call to residents to reduce their water usage by 10 percent. Zone 7, which serves more than 200,000 residents in Pleasanton, Dublin and the Dougherty Valley, receives 80 percent of its supply from the State Water Project, which is water drawn from the Sierras and conveyed through the Delta region. The city of Pleasanton purchases water from Zone 7, supplying 80 percent of its residents with that supply and rest are supplied by city water.

The executive order signed by the governor takes action on a situation that has reached a tipping point. The order directs the state Department of Water Resources to respond with water transfers to communities with emergency shortages, work with local water districts and agencies to improve local coordination and expedite existing grant programs to help water districts and agencies conserve. Already, numerous cities are being asked to conserve or are facing mandatory rationing. Pleasanton has fared better than many communities because Zone 7 has a reserve supply underground and stored in Lake Del Valle, according to Zone 7 spokeswoman Boni Brewer. But Brewer cautions that those reserves aren't a guarantee going forward.

The city of Pleasanton maintains approximately 450 developed acres of landscaping, and has long been at the forefront of implementing the principles of water



Janet Pelletier

Adjusting your sprinkler timer to water from 3-6 a.m. is one way to conserve.

conservation at all times, according to city spokeswoman Joanne Hall. The city's central irrigation control system is tied to a weather station. Every 24 hours, computers adjust the irrigation schedule based upon the temperature with a program that is mathematically calculated.

There are a number of ways that residents can cut down on the amount of water they use daily.

"If each home could save just 35

gallons a day, we could stretch our resources a bit further," said Zone 7 General Manager Jill Duerig.

It's estimated that the average family of three in the Tri-Valley uses 350-450 gallons of water per day, depending on the time of year, weather conditions and location.

Some tips include reducing the number of days you water the lawn, shortening showers, and running the clothes and dishwasher only with full loads.

Ways to conserve:

- adjust sprinkler timer to water between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. to eliminate water loss from evaporation.
- check sprinkler coverage on each station and adjust, add, or replace sprinkler heads where necessary. After watering, notice where water runs off the landscape areas and adjust accordingly to eliminate this waste. Change timer setting to include shorter, repeated segments of watering rather than one long period. Fix any leaks detected.
- do not water lawn and water-needy plant beds more frequently than every other day, and reduce shrub or lawn areas in shade to two or three days per week.
- apply 2 to 4 inches of mulch to plant beds and around trees to help retain soil moisture.
- Mow lawns to no shorter than 2 1/2 to 3-inches high to stimulate deeper root growth for a healthier and less water-demanding lawn.
- water before 7 a.m.; savings

- = 15-40 gallons per day
 - when washing car, use a bucket of water and quick hose rinse at end; savings = 38 gallons per day (for two cars)
 - use a pool cover to reduce evaporation; savings = 32 gallons per day
 - use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks; savings = 19 gallons per day
 - shorten showers by 1-2 minutes; savings = 22 gallons per day
 - install a high-efficiency toilet; savings = 22 gallons per day
 - don't use toilet as trash; savings = 16 gallons per day
 - run only full loads of laundry or dishes; savings = 18 gallons per day
 - install high-efficiency clothes washer; savings = 18 gallons per day
- Other information, such as drought-tolerant landscaping and rebates for water-saving appliances, is listed on www.zone7water.com.

H&M now open at Stoneridge mall

Clothing store is on two levels near JCPenney

H&M, a popular women's and men's clothing store, has opened in Stoneridge Shopping Center. The store opened at the mall Thursday, one of a few new stores that have opened in the center recently.

H&M, which stands for Hennes & Mauritz, is on two levels near JCPenney department store.

The popular Swedish retailer, known for its moderately priced career and trend fashions, first

came to the Bay Area in 2006, opening a store in San Francisco. It now has a number of locations here, including stores at The Great Mall in Milpitas, Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek and Santana Row in San Jose.

Other new additions to the Stoneridge mall include Buckle, a men's and women's apparel company, McCafe (a prototype McDonald's), specialty dog bak-

ery Just Dogs, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Häagen Daz. The shopping center also recently signed a lease with Fossil, an accessories store, for a space next to Victoria's Secret. Singapore Kitchen & Noodle is expected to open late this summer. The owner of the restaurant also owns Old Town Singapore Cafe at the Ulferts Center in Dublin.

—Janet Pelletier

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Amador student named Eagle Scout

Patrick Stueve, a 17-year-old junior at Amador Valley High School, earned the rank of Eagle Scout at a final Board of Review.

In order to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Patrick was required to earn a minimum of 21 merit badges. He has held leadership positions of instructor, den chief, assistant patrol leader, patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader. He is now the senior patrol leader of Troop 911.



On March 30, Patrick earned a Bronze Palm, which is awarded for an additional five merit badges and continued service in the troop.

Highlights of Patrick's scouting experiences include a 50-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail in 2004, snow camping in New England and the Sierras, 2006 attendance at Brownsea Leadership Camp and his 2007 trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico on a 10-day, 70-mile backpacking trek. For his Eagle Leadership Project, Patrick revitalized five park benches along a mile-long hiking trail in Dublin. He coordinated all aspects of the project, from planning the project to asking for donations of supplies, as well as supervising the scouts, parents and friend who helped sand, prime and paint the benches. An Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel June 8 to recognize his achievement.

Carrozzoa named Sigma Alpha Lambda president

Pleasanton resident Amanda F. Carrozzoa was recently chosen to serve as the chapter president of the University of Southern California Chapter of Sigma Alpha Lambda. The national leadership and honors organization is dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development and lifelong professional fulfillment.

Commander retiring from Coast Guard

Commander Tim Stueve, United States Coast Guard, will retire Aug. 1 after 20 years of active duty service.



Stueve's tours of duty include service as executive officer of Training Center Petaluma; deputy staff judge advocate to the Pacific Area, 11th District and MLC Commanders; deputy staff judge advocate to the Superintendent, U.S. Coast Guard Academy; special assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Connecticut; assistant professor of law, U.S. Coast Guard Academy; assistant legal officer, 13th Coast Guard District; Defense Council, Navy Legal Service Office Northwest; Marine Investigator and Marine Inspector, Marine Safety Office Puget Sound; commanding officer, Coast Guard Cutter Point Baker; commanding officer, Coast Guard Cutter, Point Hope; and deck watch officer, Coast Guard Cutter Decisive. Military awards include a Meritorious Service Medal, two

Of Note

Coast Guard Commendations Medals, an Army Commendation Medal, a Coast Guard Achievement Medal, a Navy Achievement Medal and a Commandant's Letter of Commendation.

Foothill grad named Fresno State medalist

Foothill High School graduate Katherine Yeffa has been named a medalist for the Fresno State University Class of 2008. In total, nine top undergraduate students were named Dean's Medalists.



Yeffa served as School of Education senator in student government. In 2006, she became active in the California Youth Democracy Alliance, a non-partisan nonprofit group grounded in civic engagement and public policy. Through Campus Compact and the Education Commission of the States, she has been a speaker and presented workshops about the need for including youth voices in public policy.

Yeffa was a volunteer teacher for the Kids Invent! summer program through the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Fresno State. Her passions are teaching and music. She has

had lead roles in a number of musicals, and won awards from the American Musical Theatre of San Jose and California Music Educators Association. Yeffa completed her B.A. in liberal studies with a 4.0 GPA and simultaneously earned a multiple-subject teaching credential. Since 2005, she has been student director for the Peach Blossom Festival of Oral Interpretation at Fresno State. She plans to earn a Ph.D. in international education.

The medalists are chosen as the outstanding students in each of the university's eight schools and colleges of academic discipline and the Division of Student Affairs. The dean of each college/school selects an undergraduate medalist based on academic excellence, community involvement and other achievements. They will be recognized at the 97th Commencement ceremony May 17. One will be named winner of the President's Medal, the university's top student recognition.

McKinley earns Eagle Scout honor

Michael McKinley, a 15-year-old sophomore at Amador Valley High School, was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, the most



prestigious rank in Boy Scouts. Michael started as a Bobcat Scout in Pack 947 at age 8, with dreams of becoming an Eagle Scout. He attained the Arrow of Light award in February 2003, and later that year bridged over into Boy Scouts.

McKinley earned the required 21 Merit Badges to achieve his Eagle Scout. Some of these badges included archery, camping, rifle shooting, first aid, swimming, cinematography, rock climbing, personal fitness, fingerprinting, and aviation.

Michael's Eagle Scout project consisted of refinishing and painting over 15 park benches at Kolb Park in Dublin. He spent over 15 hours planning, writing reports, finding volunteers and organizing the project. He had over 70 hours of volunteer help.

An Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held May 17 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to recognize his achievement. Michael received many letters of congratulations, including from President George and Laura Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, Congressman Pete Stark, and Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman. He also received a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in recognition of Michael achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout.



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Spirit Run

(continued from page 5)

city's 1994 Centennial celebration when Joanie and Jim Fields, with the help of Brad Hirst and others, started the Arroyo Creek Trails (ACT I) community race. More than 1,100 runners joined in, although that number fell to 800 the follow-

ing year, when it was ACT II.

Downtown Rotary took over the third year, providing the manpower needed to both promote and handle what its members saw as a spirited event, which also gave it its name. Among others, the Pleasanton Weekly is now a sponsor of the annual Spirit Run.

This year Rotarians will have water and other treats available at stations along the way. One club member will be high on the Altamont Pass to call in a warning if a Union Pacific train is approaching so that the top runners can be alerted to speed it up. Several years ago, a train blocked the route at Santa Rita Road, canceling out several top times at the finish line under the Pleasanton Arch on Main Street.

The event raises funds for Rotary's Education Foundation, which distributes scholarships to graduating seniors from Pleasanton high schools based on financial need and academic excellence. Through registration fees and corporate sponsorships, \$206,000 has

been raised for the fund during the past nine years.

To register the day of the race, stop by the registration table in the Round Table Pizza. Race fees for adults and high school students are \$30 and \$20 for elementary and middle school students. Kid's Challenge registration is \$10 and the all-event family pass is \$20 per person.

All participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt and goodie bag, as well as refreshments and will each receive a ticket to a huge after-race raffle.

One of three Rotary Clubs in Pleasanton, Downtown Rotary has a special interest in community youth and dedicates much of its energy to helping local young people develop into caring, responsible citizens. It also has concern for seniors and has several projects dedicated to helping improve the lives of those in their later years.

Among its special projects are:
 • Student Achievement Awards: Each month, students from Pleasanton high schools are selected for special recognition based

on academic and other noteworthy achievements.

• Senior Holiday Dinner: The club hosts an annual holiday dinner for over 350 seniors.

• Club Foundation: The Club Foundation provides the vehicle for high school scholarship distribution through the Foundation Scholarship Selection Committee.

• Wheelchair Project: A major international project. Over the past three years, working in partnership with the Wheelchair Foundation (founded by Ken Behring), the club has provided nearly 2,000 wheelchairs to those in need of mobility.

• Rotary Gives Thanks: Once a year, Rotarians help Pleasanton seniors and shut-ins with cleaning and light home maintenance tasks.

• Rotaplast Project: A major international activity, the club raises funds to support medical teams providing free reconstructive facial surgeries to underprivileged children.

• Interact: Rotary sponsors the Amador Valley High school club, which introduces students to Rotary and in-community service projects. ■

Staples

(continued from page 5)

the Sharks happy and the business folks happy, but we have a neighborhood out there that won't be happy."

But Sullivan had no support from others on the council who praised the plan developed by Nelson Fialho, city manager, and Jim Wolfe, director of parks and community services, and the RRM Design Group, a landscape architectural firm located in San Luis Obispo.

"I think the extended process of considering this plan has been inclusive and in the best interests of the community," said Councilman Jerry Thorne. "I like this proposed plan and don't want to move the ice facility. This plan looks like the best use of this property."

Commenting on criticisms that the Sharks ice rink would attract skaters from outside Pleasanton, Thorne added:

"I've heard about this being a regional facility in a negative way. My hope is that it will be regional. I'd like to see some of our neighbors spending their money here at hotels and wherever. I don't want to build a wall around Pleasanton. I know I use facilities in other communities for movies and other things, and will be glad to see others come to Pleasanton."

Councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio agreed.

"I also like the idea of a public-private partnership and see this as a unique opportunity for Pleasanton," she said. "It will give us a chance to have high school hockey teams."

Mayor Jennifer Hosterman said the proposed park will offer amenities that will appeal to many in the community.

Support also came from Pleasanton organizations. Amy Blaschka, executive director of the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitor's Bureau, said the proposed ice rink would attract visitors and teams from outside the area that, her analysis showed, would provide 990 booked hotel rooms annually for \$4 million in revenue.

Businessman Brad Hirst said the Sharks facility would actually help reduce carbon footprints by providing a place in the Tri-Valley for hockey players who must now travel to San Jose or Oakland for tournament play and games.

Don Gralnek, executive vice president of San Jose Arena Management, said he expects the ice rink would appeal to young and old, and also serve those with handicaps in a relaxing facility that would cater to all skill levels and skating interests.

The ice arena would feature four ice rinks on the ground floor, skate rental services, 16 lockers, a weight room, bleacher seating and a small area for parties. The second floor would house ticket offices, a gift and pro shop, food and refreshment concessions, a restaurant with a bar, another party area, a small game room and offices for management and operations personnel. ■


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Fire leaves couple homeless

Blaze caused \$50K in damage, started on fence line

by Janet Pelletier

A fire that began on a fence quickly spread to the roof of a home, tearing through to the garage and a bedroom and leaving a couple homeless.

The blaze began at 2:27 Tuesday afternoon on Moselle Court off of Kottinger Drive, according to the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department. Firefighters responded within five minutes after receiving a call and were able to get the fire under control in about 20 minutes, finally putting it out at 3:10 p.m.

On the scene, Battalion Chief Jane Moorhead said the fire, which started on an exterior fence line, jumped to the side of a two-story home at the end of the court.

"The shake roof really exacerbated it," Moorhead said.

The two-alarm fire drew 36 firefighters and three chief officers. None of the firefighters were injured in putting out the blaze.



Chuck Haupt

Fire officials believe the home's shake roof spread the fire much quicker.

The fire department has not released a cause of fire. In total, the fire damaged the garage and one bedroom, but the rest of the house was spared, Moorhead said. Damage estimates are at \$50,000.

The homeowners, who were home at the time, and their dog

were not injured and were making arrangements to stay elsewhere.

The house has been red-tagged, meaning the family can't move back in at this time. Fire crews planned to watch the home overnight due to the red-flag wind advisories that were in place, Moorhead said. ■

Kernan

(continued from page 5)

investigation.

"In our review, Mr. Kernan appeared to be doing everything he could do to be living in the law, as opposed to outside the law," Stark said. "There are people out there doing their best to live in the letter

of the law to represent what they were elected to do. (There are) those doing the opposite and hiding. My observation has been that the people who are expending the most effort are generally the ones doing it correctly."

Conclusions drawn by the district attorney's office are not final and residents are still pursue litigation. Private individuals can seek

a legal opinion, or "quo warranto," from the California Attorney General. If approved, it can be used in the court process and could likely remove a person from public office. This process also helps public officers avoid frivolous lawsuits. To learn more about quo warranto, visit http://ag.ca.gov/opinions/quo_warranto.php. ■



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Opinion

Editorial

It's not over yet!

Sit tight taxpayers, it's not over yet. After five years of litigation, Judge George C. Hernandez of the Alameda County Superior Court has issued a tentative decision in the lawsuit by Signature Properties and Standard Pacific Homes against the Pleasanton Unified School District that ultimately could cost taxpayers millions of dollars. The dispute centered on the proposed construction of Neal Elementary School on Vineyard Avenue in 2001, which at the time was estimated to cost as much as \$8.5 million. Facing a budget shortfall, the school district, then headed by Superintendent Mary Frances Callan, appealed for help and Jim Ghielmetti, Signature's CEO, stepped to the plate with an offer to advance the cost of the school up to \$8.5 million and actually have his company's engineers and architects design and build a modular school to keep costs low. In return, the school district, in partnership with the city of Pleasanton, reduced the \$6.50 per square foot in developer fees being charged all homebuilders by \$2 a square foot for Signature and Standard Pacific. That agreement was celebrated at a school board meeting on a warm June night, which may have been the last time those developers and school trustees embraced for a photo with smiles all around and also recorded on videotape.

But a videotape does not make a contract, which Hernandez said in rejecting all claims by the district that it had a signed agreement with Signature and Standard Pacific to build the school. He ruled there never was an agreement, just an agreement to try to reach an agreement once all the construction costs and details had been worked out. He rejected the district's claim, made publicly by school Superintendent John Casey when he succeeded Callan in 2002, that Signature had agreed to build Neal at any cost, even if it exceeded \$8.5 million.

Signature took legal steps to clarify the agreement, filing a lawsuit in May 2003 that was eventually heard by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Ronald Sabraw. He later ruled against the school district, and without determining the validity of the purported agreement, said the arrangement between the school district and Signature was void because it violated the public contract code that requires public bidding on these kinds of projects. The district then changed its argument, claiming it had reached a financing agreement, not a construction agreement, with Signature, which was within the law. Hernandez rejected that argument, too, and, in fact, made 14 findings, all of which supported the positions of the developers and rejected each and every contention by the school district.

There were opportunities during the years of litigation when the school district and developers might have settled their dispute. At one time, Signature might have buried the hatchet if the district paid its costs for engineering and designing Neal and obtaining pre-construction approvals from the state school architect's office. But when the school district filed fraud and deceit charges against the top executives of Signature, Ghielmetti and Jim McKeehan, all bets on an out-of-court settlement were lost. Even though the district later dropped those charges, the personal attacks ratcheted up the dispute, leading to a full-blown trial before Hernandez. Although his is a tentative ruling, legal experts who have been following this case believe the district will have a difficult time convincing Hernandez within the 10-day time period allowed for rebuttal to change his ruling. The next step will be a final judgment by Hernandez on damages. The school district then can take its case to the First District Court of Appeal, which could take another year or longer for a ruling, again adding more costs which taxpayers will eventually have to pay. As one board member told us three years ago, he had pushed for the district to pick up its marbles and go home. We hope it does now.

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Guest Opinion

How do you drive with your dog?

by Melanie Sadek

Assemblyman Bill Maze introduced legislation this session that could potentially affect how you transport your dog(s). If passed, Assembly Bill 2233 makes driving a motor vehicle while holding a live animal illegal. This legislation is actually a good idea for both the driver and the dog. I'll explain.

Drivers take crash dynamics for granted. We drive thousands of miles and rarely get involved in a crash. Because of this, we take risks. We drive too quickly, we talk on the phone, we eat, and much, much more. Unfortunately, car crashes aren't always predictable and though most of us consider ourselves safe drivers, we have no control over the drivers around us.

Let's estimate that an average vehicle speed is 25 mph. If you get into a frontal impact crash, your vehicle starts to slow down immediately, but your body continues to travel 25 mph towards the point of impact. You continue to move until you come in contact with something that will slow you down. For most of us, the seatbelt slows us down. For the unrestrained, it is the steering wheel or the windshield and pavement. In addition, the faster you are moving and the heavier you are, the more force you exert in the crash. You can roughly estimate this force by multiplying your weight by the speed you are traveling. For example, if you weigh 150 pounds and are traveling 25 mph, you will exert approximately 3,750 pounds of force in a crash. Dogs experience the same crash forces, but



they are rarely restrained.

If you drive with your dog in your lap and you need to stop suddenly, your seatbelt will keep you in your seat, but your dog could fly into your pedal area restricting their use. If your airbag deploys, the crash would be deadly for your dog and potentially deadly for you if the bag can't protect you properly.

It is tragic to lose your dog in a crash, especially a survivable one. Dogs should be restrained in a vehicle like regular occupants. This is for the dog's safety and the safety of everyone in the vehicle. I'm not suggesting California should pass a law requiring seatbelts for dogs, but dog owners should be aware of the risk their dogs face along with the risk to themselves and other passengers. An unrestrained dog traveling through the passenger compartment can severely injure or kill occupants.

There are numerous options to help you properly restrain your furry family member. Though there are a number of items on the market, a majority of them have never been crash-tested. There are no federal requirements for dog harnesses, so companies aren't required to test their product. Research your options before you purchase a restraint.

Maze's legislation was introduced to eliminate driver distraction, but I believe it goes further. Our dogs are family members and protecting them should be a priority.

Melanie Sadek is an expert in occupant protection with 14 years experience in the traffic safety field and certifications from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. She is also the owner of Murphy's Paw, a new dog boutique on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton.

Letters

Happy Talkers says thanks

Since we started Happy Talkers in our home, Pleasanton Weekly has done so much to support our mission to help children in the community. Your May 9 article, "Help for Every Child," (Living, page 25) encouraged more than 200 families to come for free developmental screenings and workshops. For so many, this outreach project was a life changing experience. The Weekly's article is responsible for reaching parents of children with autism and other delays who didn't know where to turn.

Bright Beginnings is an example of what makes us a Community of Character.

Kent Rezowalli and Sandi Betts from Pleasanton Unified School District—you deserve so much appreciation for your commitment to children in our community. Jim and Pamela Ott—your family is amazing. We are so grateful for all your support and effort. Our Pleasanton North Rotary friends—we couldn't have done it without you. Dr. Lionel Herrera and Tri-Valley Pediatrics—thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the care you provided these children. Safeway, El Balazo, Ovation Foods and Starbucks on Village Parkway—thank you for keeping our volunteers going.

And, of course, Congressman Jerry McNerney and Mayor Janet Lockhart—thank you for giving a voice to our cause on KKIQ. Our community is blessed to have leaders such as yourselves.

On behalf of all the families in our community, thank you Pleasanton Weekly and all the incredible individuals and organizations who helped make Bright Beginnings a reality for so many.

*Charlene and Mitch Sigman,
School of Imagination
and Happy Talkers*

Thank you Tri-Valley Indian Princesses

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the staff and the board of directors of Open Heart Kitchen, thank you to the Tri-Valley Indian Princesses for their continued, generous support of Open Heart Kitchen's Weekend Box Lunch Program. The Princesses' recent food drive resulted in 15 carloads of food, gift cards and a generous cash donation of \$1,907. Because of their thoughtfulness, our staff and volunteers will be able to prepare and distribute nutritious meals to families struggling to make ends meet here in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin.

Open Heart Kitchen fulfills the most basic need of hunger in a dignified manner. We currently distributing over 3,500 meals every week through the following programs: The hot meal programs (serves hot nutritious meals, five

days a week from four locations here in the Tri-Valley); the weekend box lunch program (serves children in need over the weekend when school lunch programs are unavailable) and the senior hot meals program (serves low-income seniors five days a week here in Pleasanton). We could not address the hunger needs of the Tri-Valley without wonderful caring organizations like the Tri-Valley Indian Princesses.

*Linda McKeever,
executive director
for Open Heart Kitchen*

Sister city connection important

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the great Weekly article, ("Connecting across the border," Cover story, page 18). Front page and two whole pages with pictures, wow.

Your article clearly portrays the success and great association that has developed between our cities of Pleasanton and Tulancingo. This association has contributed to a better understanding of our cultures and its people. Thanks to the support of our community, the news media, especially the Weekly, and our service clubs, our sister city association is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Your article also contributed to a successful and fun Pleasanton Community Cinco de Mayo celebration at the Amador Recreation Center. We had over 200 people in attendance and new interests in our sister city association.

*Jorge Victoria,
president of PTSCA*

City already has good recycling program

Dear Editor,

I recently read the May 30th edition of Pleasanton Weekly, and I noticed the Streetwise section discussing Pleasanton's recycling program. It seems to me that the people who were interviewed about the garbage were not aware of Pleasanton's recycling program that is in effect every single day.

If you refer to http://pleasanton-garbage.com/services_res.html you will notice the garbage service in fact recycles everything that we as residential customers put into our trash cans. Because of the fact they use a conveyor belt system where employees hand pick through garbage to recycle anything that can be recycled. In fact, this system is a lot more effective than other methods where garbage companies require separate recycling bins. I think we need to educate the people of our community just how much of our waste is being recycled by Pleasanton Garbage Service, and we have created jobs in our city by doing so.

While I am sure people need to be more aware of their waste habits and recycling in general, it should be known what our city does for us already.

*Christopher Silva
Pleasanton*

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Code of ethics

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Your Turn

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

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

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

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

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On your mark get set.... VOTE!
Opening ceremonies for the Pleasanton Weekly's 2008 Readers Choice began June 6, with the closing ceremony at midnight June 22.
Until then you have the opportunity to vote for your favorites in a number of categories.
Who deserves a perfect 10?

Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to cast your vote.
The Readers Choice winners will be awarded their medals in the July 25 issue of the Pleasanton Weekly.

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Lunch Wed. June 25 12:00 with Karen Essex author of *Stealing Athena*. \$30.00 lunch and book; \$15.00 lunch

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Pleasanton Weekly
READERS CHOICE
 2008

On your mark
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Go to www.PleasantonWeekly.com to cast your vote.

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Calendar

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.

Classes

Genealogy Booth at County Fair Find your long-lost ancestors at the Genealogy booth in the Technology Building at the Alameda County Fair, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., which runs June 20 to July 6. It's open from 1 to 8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Friday through Sunday. Call Barbara Hempill, 846-9739.

Mortgage 101 Looking to buy your first home, next home or refinance in today's marketplace? This class at Las Positas College in Livermore will provide updated details and explanations in laymen terms on topics such as credit, preparation of an application, new conforming limits, tax benefits, FHA guidelines and the underwriting process. The fee is \$19. Call 449-1275 or visit www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed.

Yoga class Join Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, at 6:30 p.m. every

Monday night for yoga in Lynwood United Methodist Church's multipurpose room, 4444 Black Ave. The class is \$12, open to the public and is appropriate for all levels of experience. It incorporates relaxation through deep breathing and stretching. Call 846-0221.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilt Guild Amador Valley Quilt Guild meets at 1:30 p.m. June 14 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. This Saturday we welcome quilt teacher Joe Cunningham, often referred to as "Joe the Quilter." He will entertain us with his musical quilt show. "Elements of Chance," a design workshop, will take place the following day. The guild is a non-profit educational association for quilters of all skill levels. Visit <http://amadorvalleyquilters.org>.

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.

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

Norman Solomon Media Critic speaks The Tri-Valley Democratic Club presents Norman Solomon, nationally syndicated media and politics columnist, at 7 p.m. June 16 at IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin. He writes the weekly "Media Beat." He wrote "Made Love, Got War: Close Encounters with America's Warfare State" in 2007 and "War Made Easy: How Presidents and Pundits Keep Spinning Us to Death." Call 451-4303 or visit www.trivalleydems.com.

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

Tri-Valley Rotary Club Meeting The Tri-Valley Rotary Club is one of the newest and most diverse Rotary Clubs. Club members meet Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Girasole Grill, 3180 Santa Rita Road. The cost is \$20. Email info@trivalleyrotary.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.

Women's Investment Club Women's stock investment club meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday monthly in

Livermore. Club follows Better Investing's principles for studying stocks and investing for the long term while having fun. Call Barbara at 484-1319 or Eleanor at 846-6911 for details.

Women's Networking Opportunity The local ABWA E2S chapter meets at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday monthly at Four Points Sheraton, 5115 Hopyard Road, which focus on personal and professional development for women in business. Meetings include a guest speaker and networking opportunities. Nonmembers are welcome to attend at a cost of \$5 per meeting. Call 225-1135 or visit www.expresstosuccess.org.

Concerts

Concerts in the Park The Pleasanton Downtown Association presents the 2008 Concert in the Park series. Each concert is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lions Wayside Park at First and Neal streets. The lineup is Blues Bottle Band, June 13; Night Fever Band, June 20; The Crisis, June 27; D-Lucca, July 25; Houserockers, Aug. 1; Finding Stella, Aug. 8; La Ventana, Aug. 15; Magic Moments, Aug. 22; Pladdohg, Aug. 29; Public Eye, Sept. 5.

Events

Adoption Faire Sponsored by Tri-Valley Animal Rescue TVAR invites you to an Adoption Faire from noon to 4 p.m. June 14 at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive, Dublin. Dog adopters receive three free training classes with a professional dog trainer plus collar, leash and bed. Cat adopters receive free blanket and goodie bags. Free hot dogs and drinks at 1 p.m. Visit www.tvrar.org.

Exhibits

Glass Fantastic: Multi-media Glass Exhibit Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., Ste. J, presents Glass Fantastic!, an exhibit of museum-quality art glass, highlighting the history and techniques of art glass in a variety of media. Several Bay Area artists are represented. Many pieces will be on sale in a range of prices. Exhibit runs through Aug. 2, with an open house is from 3 to 6 p.m. June 21. Call 485-1183 or visit www.worthingtongallerywest.com. Pleasanton.

Jewelry Trunk Show and Wearable Art The Livermore Art Association gallery hosts "Jewelry Trunk Show and Other Wearable Art" from 5:30 to 8 p.m. June 20, at the Carnegie Building, 2155 Third St., Livermore. It focuses on local artists. Call 449-9927.

Pleasanton Art League Circuit Change The Pleasanton Art League's Public Art Circuit will mount exhibits from through July 18 at Bank of America, Keller Williams Realty, Towne Center Books, Me & Mai Friend's Cafe, Vogue Hair Studio, Realty Express & Sallman, and Yang & Alameda CPAs. A portion of sales supports PAL's community programs. Call Lisa, 518-4436. Pleasanton.

Film

Movie Classics Matinee View classic movies on a big screen at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Free popcorn and lemonade are included. Showing on June 20 is "North by Northwest" and June 29 is "Memoirs of a Geisha." Call 556-4511.

Fundraisers

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Denise Oyama Miller will demonstrate watercolor techniques at the monthly meeting of the Pleasanton Art League and the Livermore Art Association. She has practiced the pouring technique for over 15 years, which allows watercolorists to get a "glow" and transparent color mixtures.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Almond Avenue School, 1401 Almond Ave. in Livermore. For more information, visit www.livermoreartassociation.org.

The above art piece is titled "Bird Chatter." More of Miller's work is on display at Alexander's Fine Art, 608-G Main St, Pleasanton.

Campaign will accept most any car with no restrictions. Cars will be picked up anywhere in California, usually within a week, and are sold at auction. To donate, call 800-246-0493. Funds obtained by the sales go directly to help the California clubs.

Opera in the Vineyard The Livermore Valley Opera Guild presents its annual benefit, Opera in the Vineyard, at 5 p.m. June 15 at Cedar Mountain Winery, 7000 Tesla Road, Livermore. It features principal singers from its most recent production and the Las Positas College Jazz Ensemble. A silent auction and a raffle will help raise funds for LVO. Tickets are \$30. Call 960-9210 or visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com.

Health

American Red Cross Blood Drive Donate Blood and help save up to three lives from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 17 at the Kaiser Permanente Technology Campus building A, 4460 Hacienda Drive. Visit www.BeADonor.com (Code: KPTC) to schedule an appointment.

Dental Clinic Open House On June 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 7040 Dublin Blvd. in Dublin, Advocates for Access, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit dental corporation, will be having an open house. They provide dental care for low-income families in the Tri-Valley area. Call 225-9552 or visit www.advocatesforaccess.org.

Diabetes Support Group Free support group meets the second Wednesday of the month at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Blvd. Topics will cover travel, stress, medications, food, emotions and general living with diabetes. Call 510-383-5185.

Kids & Teens

Century House Poetry Century House Poetry Reading, from 2 to 4 p.m. June 15 at 2401 Santa Rita Road, presents Charlie Getter, founder of SF's

16th and Mission "micless open mic" and "Bear" Toffoli, poet and co-founder of Word Up poetry workshops. Cost is \$5. Call 931-5350 or visit www.civcart-literary.org.

Livermore Shakespeare Festival Youth Class This five-day course from July 21 to 25 at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore is designed to promote creativity in an ensemble setting. The cost is \$185. Visit www.ShakespearesAssociates.org.

Lectures/ Workshops

Marriage and Money Do money issues create conflicts in your relationship? CrossWinds Church, 6444 Sierra Court, Dublin, hosts an interactive seminar from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. June 21. The cost is \$40 per person before June 16, or \$45 per person. To register, go to www.crosswindschurch.org.

Medical Chi Kung Medical Chi Kung is a branch of traditional Chinese medicine that combines breath work, movement, and sound in order to regulate energy within the body. Learn and experience this system of health care from 6 to 8 p.m. June 19 at the ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 240. For cancer patients and caregivers. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twcba.org. 6-8 p.m. No Charge

Writers Learn about Alexander Technique At the next meeting, 11:30 a.m. June 21 at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch presents Kay Hogan, M.Ed., Alexander Technique teacher and movement expert, will speak on "Reducing Pain and Injury in Daily Life," geared for writers who often experience pain and injury from long hours at the computer. Tickets are \$20 for members or \$25 for non-members. Call 296-0447 or visit www.trivalleywriters.com.

Live Music

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.

Miscellaneous

Chinese School Open Enrollment New students at the Pleasanton Community Chinese School may enroll for the 2008-09 school year. The school teaches Chinese to children as well as adults. No experience required. Visit www.pccs-usa.org to download the registration form. Call 417-2326 or email Pccs94588@yahoo.com.

Pleasanton Library Adult Summer Reading Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents the first summer reading program for adults from June 14 to July 26. Win prizes by reading books, listening to audiobooks and attending library programs. Come to the Library reference desk to sign up. Call 931-3400 ext. 7.

Second Chance for Love Tour This tour comes to the East Bay SPCA, 4651 Gleason Drive, Dublin, June 21 to encourage residents to save the lives of one million cats and dogs by the end of 2008. The adoption fee will be covered for the first 25 approved adoptions between noon and 3 p.m. A pet photographer will also take photos with adopted pets and their new owners. Call 479-9670 and visit www.HillsPet.com/secondchance.

On Stage

June Century House Poetry Reading Century House Poetry Reading presents Charlie Getter, from 2 to 4 p.m. June 15 at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. Getter is the founder of SF's 16th and Mission "micless open mic" and "Bear" Toffoli, East Bay poet and artist and the co-

founder of Word Up poetry workshops for teens and youth. An open mic segment of 40 lines or less will follow. Refreshments are served. Tickets are \$5. Call 931-5350.

Queer On Their Feet Queer On Their Feet is a stand-up and improv comedy group coming to Tommy T's, 5104 Hopyard Road, at 7:30 p.m. June 17. Cover is \$15. Visit www.myspace.com/queerontheirfeet.

Seniors

Body in Balance With a history of over 3,000 years, traditional Chinese medicine has formed a unique system to diagnose and cure illness. Learn how you can become more mindful of your body, your behavior, and your surroundings at 10 a.m. June 24 at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Kristine Buckley will explain the concept of chi, and how to look and feel your best. The cost is \$1.50 for residents or \$2. Call 931-5365.

Health Chat Health Chat takes place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. every Thursday at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. This group setting informs and educates seniors about various health issues. It is open forum and an interactive session. Sponsored by Amador Valley Adult School and the senior center. Call 426-4280.

Pleasanton PC Users Group The PC User Group meets monthly at 10 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. You don't need to be an expert to attend, we have all skills levels in our meetings. Call 931-5365 or email pleaseni@yahoo.com for details.

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 appli-

cations, picture editing, etc. Call 931-5365 to set up an appt.

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.

Spiritual but not Religious? A recent national survey found that 25 percent of all Americans say "yes." How does Tri-Valley Unity speak to that need? Check out the "Spiritual but not Religious?" page on our website, www.trivalleyunity.com. This Sunday's sermon topic by guest speaker Rev. Margaret Stortz, "Gifts of the Master." Service at 10 a.m. at the Radisson, 6680 Regional St.,

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

HEY KIDS! MAKE MONEY IN YOUR SPARE TIME!

There were books that, years ago (and perhaps still today), suggested ways that children could earn money in their spare time. A lemonade stand, perhaps; or walking people's dogs once a day; or babysitting neighbors' rose bushes when they're away on vacation. That sort of thing. And the books almost always delightedly extolled the virtues of the garage sale.

A few suggestions to those who answer the call: Setting up a garage sale is probably about ten times more exhausting than you expected it to be. It's a bit like moving. You'll find things you've even forgotten you were looking for. Your life will pass before your eyes and wind up in a sprawling pile of used "stuff." It is therefore, emotional, potentially depressing and/or liberating, but also one of those midterm exams for all relationships in which two people reassess their time together and debate whether certain items should be saved, sold or sent to the junkyard.

To make all of this worthwhile, you need to market your garage sale. The more people know about it, the better—it's just like selling your home. And it follows, therefore, that you'll gain immensely by calling on your real estate professional for advice on how best to get the word out to the most possible people at the least expense. Call someone who knows how to market your home if you want to sell some of the "stuff" in it. Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

Spotlight on Fashion Event

Thursday, June 26, 2008

4 pm – 8 pm

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Women's Christian 12 Step Discover how much comfort there is in the journey of recovery walking with the Good Shepherd every STEP of the way! This group meets at noon every Friday and Saturday at Shepherd's Gate, 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore. Call 443-4283.

Sports

California Spirit Elite All-Star Cheerleading CSE has recreation tumbling classes and competition cheerleading teams for girls and boys ages 5 to 18 from the Tri-Valley area. Sign ups for the 2008-09 season run through the end of July. Call 462-5877.

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.

Saturday Morning Beginner Ride This weekly no-drop ride from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturdays 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 from Cyclepath Pleasanton and will generally be 12 to 15 mph, 20 to 25 miles and no more than two hours. E-mail rides@cyclepath.com if you plan to attend.

Sunday Morning Group Ride Join cyclists of all levels from 8 to 11 a.m. Sundays for this friendly, no-drop road ride. Routes vary weekly and last approximately two to three hours. Riders warm up together and split into smaller groups based on skill level (A—60 miles, B—35 to 40 miles, C—20 to 25 miles). Bring water and a snack. Rides depart from Cyclepath, 337-B Main St. (in the Bank of America building).

Support Groups

Cancer Support Group A free sup-

port group for people with cancer and their caregivers meets at 2 p.m. every Tuesday at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Sponsored by The Wellness Community. Call 933-0107.

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.

Fibromyalgia Support Group This group meets at 6:30 the first Thursday monthly at the ValleyCare Library, 5725 West Las Positas Boulevard. Call 847-3000.

Grief Support The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. This grief support group meets at 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday monthly at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive, beginning June 12. Call Joan, 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 Episcopal Church, 678 Enos Way (Parish Hall), Livermore. Call 361-7224.

Tri-Valley Parkinson's Support Group The group meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., to provide information and support for Parkinson's patients and caregivers. Call 831-9940.

Vision Support Group Individuals with low vision, and their loved ones, are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30

a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for low vision information, speakers, resources, discussions, and day trips. No reservations are required. Nominal fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last couple of years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class, starting June 18 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Dell Valle Pkwy., is helpful to our healing process. Find hope, support and successful ways to process this significant life event. Pre-Registration required. The workbook is \$5. Call 833-9013.

Volunteering

Hats Off America Volunteers are wanted for the Red T-Shirt 10K runs/5K walks 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.

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

TV30

Conversations Joining Robin Fahr are guests Rebecca Fontaine showing how to do CPR and how to use a defibrillator machine, and Sandra Kay, founder of Mag Time Frames. On Channel 30 every day at 6 and 11:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m.

In a Word Host Kathy Cordova and TV30 Book Club guests Jennifer Hosterman and Becky Hopkins discuss "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv. Kathy's interview with NY Times bestselling author, Elizabeth Strout, author of "Olive Kitteridge," and "A Few More Words" by Judy Wheeler. Showing daily 6:30 a.m., 12:30, 3:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Let's Talk Sports TV30's George "Dr. B" Baljevich Oakland A's Special with Street, Cust, Suzuki, Young, Geran and more is on Channel 30 at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Saturday and Sunday; and every day at noon, 2:30 and 6:30 p.m.

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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, June 17, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **Public Hearing:** 2008/09 Annual assessments for Landscape and Lighting Maintenance Districts 1984-1 (Ponderosa-Del Prado); 1993-1 (Windsor); 1993-2 (Bonde Ranch); 1994-1 (Oak Tree Farm); and 1995-1 (Moller Ranch)
- Save Pleasanton's Hills & Housing Cap Initiative Petition:
 - a. Receive report analyzing the impacts and effects of the Initiative and consider implementation option
 - b. Consider options and provide direction concerning the Initiative Petition
- Concurrent City Council / Library Board of Trustees item: Consider adoption of a resolution accepting the fiscal year 2008-09 Mid-Term Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program Update
- **Public Hearing:** PAP 21, Phillip and Joanna Segundo, Appellants (PCUP-205, Janny Rocha, Applicant) – Consider an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of a conditional use permit to relocate and replace the 5,000 gallon wood tank with a new 5,000 gallon poly tank in the rear yard of the existing residence located at 481 Sycamore Road. Zoning for the property is PUD A (Planned Unit Development – Agriculture) District
- Consider approving a resolution establishing Fixed and Uniform Interim/Partial Refuse Collection and Recycling Service Rates for Residential and Commercial Customers
- **Public Hearing:** 2008-2009 annual assessments for the Geologic Hazard Abatement District (GHAD) for Oak Tree Farm, Moller Ranch, Laurel Creek Estates (The Preserve and Oak Hill Estates), and Lemoine Ranch Estates

Housing Commission

Thursday, June 19, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

- The June 19th Housing Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next scheduled regular meeting will be held on June 17, 2008.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Monday, June 16, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.

- The June 16th Housing Commission meeting has been cancelled. The next scheduled regular meeting will be held on June 17, 2008.

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

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

Police Bulletin

Chevron clerk arrested for stealing patron's purse

A woman was arrested Tuesday morning after admitting to stealing a purse from a Chevron bathroom where she worked, according to police.

Det. Larry Cox said Kathleen Nordstrom, a 44-year-old resident of Hayward, was arrested for grand theft and was booked at Santa Rita County Jail.

Police said Nordstrom was working at the Chevron gas station at 5820 Hopyard Road last Sunday when a 32-year-old woman from Elk Grove, Calif. used the station's restroom around 2 a.m.

Around 3:20 a.m. the woman realized she had left her purse in the restroom, called the station and talked to Nordstrom. Police said Nordstrom told the woman the purse was no longer there and several women had used the restroom.

The woman returned to the gas station later that day and reportedly watched a security camera which showed only Nordstrom entering the bathroom wearing a large jacket and exiting towards the parking lot, not the front desk.

A witness told police he saw Nordstrom walk to her car and put her jacket inside. He said it looked like Nordstrom was hiding something, but never saw the purse.

When interviewing with police, Nordstrom allegedly admitted to stealing the purse, which contained a Louis Vuitton wallet with credit cards, and several items of jewelry valued at \$1,500.

Nordstrom returned the jewelry, but police said she admitted to throwing the purse and wallet away. Cox said no fraudulent charges were made on the victim's credit cards.

Police Report

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

May 31

- DUI:
 - 10:17 p.m. at the intersection of Vervais Avenue and Main Street
- Use of projectile weapon:
 - 9:35 a.m. in the 3300 block of Hopyard Road

June 1

- Theft:
 - 9:22 a.m. in the 2600 block of Starling Court; petty theft
 - 11:30 a.m. in the 2700 block of Corte San Blas; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 11:15 a.m. in the 4900 block of Valley Avenue; worth over \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 5:50 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- DUI:
 - 12:02 a.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 12:43 a.m. at the intersection of Greenwood Road and Valley Avenue
- Other:
 - 12:55 p.m. in the 4300 block of Second Street; recovered vehicle
 - 7:51 p.m. in the 4100 block of Georgis Place; animal bite
 - 10:03 p.m. in the 3900 block of Stoneridge Drive; indecent exposure
- Assault with a deadly weapon:
 - 11:15 a.m. in the 4200 block of Casterson Court

June 2

- Theft:
 - 11:59 a.m. in the 5600 block of Gibraltar Drive; embezzlement, grand theft
 - 12:52 p.m. in the 3700 block of Thistle Way; petty theft
 - 8:12 p.m. in the 5800 block of Parkside Drive; petty theft
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 7:28 a.m. in the 6600 block of Via San Blas
 - 9:09 a.m. in the 3700 block of Thistle Way

June 3

- Assault:
 - 4:31 p.m. in the 7300 block of Elmwood Circle; assault, assault with a deadly weapon, false imprisonment
- Theft:
 - 5:52 a.m. in the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue; stolen vehicle
 - 6:42 a.m. in the 1000 block of Serpentine Lane; stolen vehicle, theft
 - 9:23 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; petty theft
 - 10:42 a.m. in the 3800 block of Stone Pointe Way; identity theft
 - 3:13 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft, stolen property possession
- Vandalism:
 - 5:52 a.m. in the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue
 - 6:28 a.m. in the 4000 block of Vineyard Avenue; worth less than \$400
 - 9:42 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and West Las Positas Boulevard
- Burglary:
 - 7:56 p.m. in the 3800 block of Belmont Way
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:23 p.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Gibraltar drives; public drunkenness
 - 12:37 p.m. at the intersection of South Glacier Court and North Valley Trails Drive; paraphernalia possession
 - 11:16 p.m. in the 500 block of St. John Street; public drunkenness
- Truant:
 - 10:11 a.m. in the 3700 block of Muirwood Drive

June 4

- Theft:
 - 12:19 a.m. in the 4000 block of Alvarado Street; petty theft
 - 9:16 a.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive; petty theft
 - 4:18 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft
 - 5:17 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue; grand theft
- Found property:
 - 9:35 a.m. in the 3700 block of Stoneridge Drive

- 9:12 p.m. in the 800 block of Main Street; found property

June 5

- Grand theft:
 - 2:40 a.m. in the 3500 block of Helen Drive
 - 8:17 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive
- Burglary:
 - 10:36 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; vehicular
 - 11:40 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road; vehicular
 - 11:49 a.m. in the 6100 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
 - 5:56 p.m. in the 5800 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; vehicular
- Alcohol violations:
 - 3:02 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Valley Avenue; DUI
 - 9:44 p.m. in the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
- Assault:
 - 8:47 a.m. in the 7400 block of Sundrop Court
- Truant:
 - 1:03 p.m. at the intersection of First and Abbie streets

June 6

- Theft:
 - 9:22 a.m. in the 3500 block of Helen Drive; petty theft
 - 5:16 p.m. in the 3900 block of Fairlands Drive; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 10:10 a.m. at the intersection of Laguna Creek Lane and West Lagoon Road; worth less than \$400
 - 2:25 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Sutter Gate Avenue
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 8:14 p.m. in the 5300 block of Owens Court
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 5:35 a.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
- Assault:
 - 4:59 p.m. in the 3800 block of Kamp Drive

Transitions

Obituaries

Kevin Nicholas Gourley

Kevin Nicholas Gourley, beloved son of Joe and Gina Gourley, died in his sleep on June 2, 2008, at the age of 29.



Despite the limitations of his cerebral palsy, Mr. Gourley had an ever-present smile and a determined, happy personality. He was a source of great joy to his parents as well as to his sister, Shauna, and his brother, Brian.

Mr. Gourley was raised in Pleasanton and attended special education classes here. After age 22, he attended the Cerebral Palsy Center in Oakland and most recently Dugarvin Adult Day Program in Hayward.

He was an active member of the

Catholic Community of Pleasanton at St. Augustine Catholic Church and was the inspiration for the start of SPRED (Special Religious Education) in the Tri-Valley area. During his life, he was involved with Special Olympics, Kaleidoscope Activity Center, Challenger Baseball and RADD dances. His yearly weeklong sessions at Camp Costanoan were always a highlight of his summer. He also enjoyed any exciting activity including the Exceptional Rodeo, trips to Disneyland and plane rides to New Jersey to visit relatives.

A funeral Mass was held last Saturday at St. Augustine Catholic Church. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Camp Costanoan, c/o Via, 2851 Park Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050 or East Bay Innovations, 303 West Joaquin Ave., Ste. 110, San Leandro, CA 94577.

Geraldine Marie Wipfli

Geraldine Marie Wipfli died peacefully June 3 after a long

battle with cancer. She was 80.

Mrs. Wipfli was born Jan. 22, 1928. She grew up in Livermore attended St. Michael's School, graduating from Livermore High School and Chabot College. In her early years, she worked at Concannon Vineyards, then later worked for the Pleasanton Unified School District as a teacher's aide for special education children. After retiring, she enjoyed her part-time job working summers at the Alameda County Fair. She enjoyed bus trips to Tahoe, day trips to Jackson, bowling, working in her yard, working with ceramics and spending time with family and friends.

She was a longtime member of the Saint Augustine parish, the Livermore Chapter of Sirettes and the Ladies Auxiliary Post 5298 of Pleasanton. Her husband, Joseph A. Wipfli Sr., to whom she was married to for 43 years, preceded her in death. Together in Pleasanton, they raised five children.

She is survived by her children, Kathy Byrne (Rory), Joe Wipfli, Tom Wipfli (Angie), Teresa Miller and Cheryl Wipfli; grandchildren, Erin Miller, Scott Mehl, Matthew Wipfli, Meghan Bowman, Danny Wipfli, John Mehl, Alexis Gallagher, Jeff Mehl and Tommy Wipfli; great-grandchildren, Tyler Youtsey, Ashley Youtsey, Jordyn Wipfli, Michael Wipfli, Harper Mehl, John Wipfli and Addison Mehl; her sister, Josephine Gregory of Livermore; brother, Donald Rochin of Bend, Ore.; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A Mass was held Tuesday at St. Augustine Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Cancer Society, and Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

Jerome O. Berg

Jerome O. Berg died June 6, following a battle with cancer. He was 85.

Mr. Berg was born May 19, 1923 in Grand Chute, Wis. to Leo N. and Mary Gitter Berg. He graduated from Appleton (West) High School in Appleton, Wis. in 1941. Ensign Berg bravely served as a naval aviator during World War II.

Mr. Berg married Leone DeGroot on April 19, 1947 in Little Chute, Wis. Following the war, he worked for 30 years for Ford Motor Co., initially as a pattern maker, and then as an engineer. He later retired in California.

Favorite hobbies included woodworking, fishing, photography and traveling. Places he'd traveled to includes Alaska, numerous European countries, Australia, New Zealand and China. The family traveled in their Airstream trailer all over the United States. Mr. Berg also served as president of the Minnesota Airstream Unit.

Mr. Berg is survived by his wife, Leone of Pleasanton; chil-

dren, Marilyn (Dale) Nordquist of Plymouth, Minn., Mark (Dawn) Berg of Mound, Minn., Kenneth (Beth) Berg of Phoenix, Ariz.; grandchildren, Eric, Keith and Craig Nordquist, Katie, Kyle, Megan and Grant Berg; brothers, Carlton, Vistor, Vincent (Ione), Adam (Charlotte); sisters, Joan Janz, Loretta (Gerald) Shultz, Anna (Richard) Hayes and Florence Walker; brothers-in-law, Richard DeBroux and Clayton (Jeanette) DeGroot; sisters-in-law, Mildred, Verona, Delores, Theresa and Anita Berg, Evelyn Dolan and Helen DeGroot; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Arlene; brothers, Francis, Gerald, John, Hubert, Leo, Peter and George; sisters, Margaret Maxfield and Evelyn DeBroux; in-laws, Geraldine Berg, Peter Janz, Eunice DeGroot, Laverne Berg, Paul Walker and Judy Berg.

The family expresses a special thanks to Hope Hospice, Dublin and Pleasanton Nursing & Rehab Center nurses and aids and other staff members for their compassionate care during his illness. Services will be held at 11 a.m. June 17 at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. Interment will be at Appleton Highland Memorial Cemetery in Appleton, Wis. with military honors this summer. Memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society or Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

Births

Tyler Russo

Tyler Russo was born Feb. 11 to parents Chris and Natasha Russo. At birth, he weighed in at 8 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches long. He joins siblings Bradley, Karyna and Dylan.



Kalee Samantha Franck

Kalee Samantha Franck was born May 4 at Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek to parents Chad and Becky Franck. Kalee, who was born at 7:37 a.m., weighed 9 pounds, 9 ounces. She joins big brothers Kyle and Kevin in the family.



Engagements



Sara Butler & Michael Maes

Sara Elizabeth Butler and Michael Richard Maes have announced their engagement to be married.

Sara is the daughter of Gregory and Denise Butler of Pleasanton. She graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1995 and received her bachelor's degree from Sonoma State University in 1999. She is

employed as a teacher for the New Haven Unified School District in Union City.

Michael is the son of Charles and Lynne Maes of Paradise, Calif. He graduated from Terra Nova High School in Pacifica, Calif. and received his bachelor's degree from San Francisco State University. He is employed as an IT analyst for the County of San Mateo probation department.

The couple will be married Oct. 4 at Freedom Gardens and Hall in Santa Clara, with a reception to follow. They plan to honeymoon in Europe and reside in the Bay Area.

Toni-Ann Merendino & Ryan Templeman

Toni-Ann Merendino and Ryan Templeman have announced their engagement to be married.

The groom is the son of Rick and Cathy Templeman of Pleasanton. He graduated from Amador Valley High School in 1998. He received his degree from St. Mary's College in Moraga in 2002. He is employed as a high school social studies teacher and varsity baseball coach

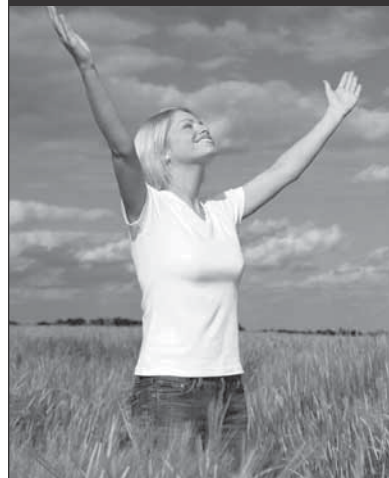


at Amador Valley High School.

The bride is the daughter of Joe and Rose Merendino of Prescott Valley, Ariz. She graduated from Royal High School in Simi Valley, Calif. in 1999 and received her college degree from Cal State East Bay in 2004. She is employed as a high school physical education teacher and head girls volleyball coach at Granada High School in Livermore.

The couple will marry at the Palm Event Center Dec. 21 in Pleasanton. They plan to honeymoon in Hawaii and reside in Livermore.

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Sports

Parent photographers

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Golf Center welcomes world long drive champ to staff

The Pleasanton Golf Center has announced that world long drive champion Eric Jones is joining its staff this month. The mental skills expert and founder of the Seaver Golf Academy will be presenting the center's programs, including the Golf Coach Program, and instructional model built around supervised practice.

Jones played college golf at Stanford University and began his teaching career there in the early 1990s with the Stanford Junior Summer camps, and he was also the junior varsity coach and men's varsity assistant coach at Stanford. In 2003, he won the Re/Max World Long Drive Championship and in 2006, he became the first golfer to win both the senior and open divisions of the Players Tour Championship. Jones is the grandson of Charlie Seaver, known as "Mr. California Golf." For more information, visit www.pleasanton-golfcenter.com.

Three golf tournaments offered for junior players

The Northern Junior Golf Tour is offering three tournaments for the first summer series. The tour is a member based organization and is dedicated to offering a comprehensive and competitive junior tour for Bay Area junior players ages 11-18.

The tournaments start July 14 at Callippe Preserve Golf Course. All tournaments are \$99 and a portion of the amount will be donated to player's school golf team. For information, visit www.tournevents.com/ncaljuniorgolftour, email ncaljuniorgolftour@hotmail.com or call 586-0221.

Seven selected to All-EBAL lacrosse teams

The following boys from Pleasanton schools were honored by being selected to 2008 All-EBAL Teams for lacrosse: High school boys All-EBAL lacrosse; First team: Midfield—Rob Andrews (Foothill High School), Defense—Austin Theobald (Amador Valley High School), Goalie—Nate Proctor (Foothill); Second team: Attack—Kyle Riddle (Amador Valley), Broc Schall (Foothill), Midfield—John-Michael Beddome (Foothill), Kyle Sensiba (Amador Valley), Defense—Evan Dutcher (Foothill).

Honorable mentions went to: Midfield—Carson Ewanich (Amador Valley) and Ryan Koelling (Foothill).

—Susan Schall

Rowney, Bodnar win Player of the Year honors

Eighth-grader Travis Rowney from Hart Middle School and eighth-grader Natalie Bodnar from Pleasanton Middle School have won Player of the Year honors by the Tri-Valley Middle School Golf League.

The league consists of 12: co-ed competitive golf teams with about a



dozen players per team. The Player of the Year for boys and girls were the two players who had the lowest scoring averages during the 12-match season.

Travis Rowney ended his season with a 6 match scoring average of 0.00 even par. Bodnar ended her season with a 6 match scoring average of +2.33 over par.

—Patti Bodnar

Panthers take first place

The Pabco Gypsum Panthers celebrated their first place win May 31 for the Pleasanton Girls Softball League (PGSL) Minor-Upper Championship.

The team was undefeated during play-off and championship games, going 3-0 during the post-season. The Panthers also placed first in the minor-upper division during the regular season.

Eight of the 12 member Panther's team will be representing Pleasanton in the competitive Phantom Summer traveling team program: Courtney Hennings, Victoria Molina, Katey Moore, Reno Moreno, Jennifer Ng, Janelle Tanis, Corinne Valdix and Nicole Yozzo. PGSL will be hosting the 18th annual PGSL Summer Classic Tournament July 11-13 in Pleasanton. For more information, visit www.pleasantonsoftball.org.

—Daisy Ng



Pictured L-R: Coaches Dave Valdix, Mark Moreno and David Beadle, (back row): Dani Taylor, Janelle Tanis, Cassidy Hager, Jennifer Ng, Courtney Hennings and Katey Moore, (front row): Jenni Beadle, Nicole Yozzo, Victoria Molina, Reno Moreno, Corinne Valdix and Meagan Brennan.



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popchips • Tri Valley Internet • Club Sport • Japonesque • Stoneridge Shopping Center
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A roundabout was part of the infrastructure installed off of Vineyard Avenue, just east of Thiessen Street, for the city's future 10th elementary school. But a judge ruled this week that the road improvements violated an agreement between the school district and developers because they weren't completed in time, violating a "time is of the essence" clause. It remains unclear whether the school will be built now that Signature Properties and Standard Pacific Homes have been removed from their obligation to construct it.

As judge rules agreement between developers and school district void, status of Neal Elementary School site in doubt

by Janet Pelletier

Calling an agreement between the school district and a developer to build Neal Elementary School "ambiguous," a judge this week delivered a sweeping blow to the district, leaving many to question what, if anything, will happen to the school, which has not been built.

Judge George C. Hernandez issued a tentative ruling on a case that has been more than five years in the making—Signature Properties and Standard Pacific Homes v. Pleasanton Unified School District and the City of Pleasanton.

The ruling, which was released Tuesday, is the culmination of a two-week trial, which was held at the Fremont Hall of Justice, and more than five years after the dispute arose. The trial was an appeal by the school district to render Signature and Standard-Pacific, which has largely deferred its legal involvement to Signature, responsible for funding the construction of Neal Elementary School in the Vineyard Corridor. The appeal was a response to an earlier ruling by a different judge, Ronald Sabraw, who ruled that the district erred in not putting the school construction project out for a public bidding process.

This week's ruling effectively makes an amended cooperative fee agreement signed seven years ago by the two feuding parties illegal and void, removing any obligation for the private developer to build what would be the city's

10th elementary school.

It was a big blow to the school district, which has been fighting to get the developers to pay for the school, spending \$2 million in litigation costs to that end.

In a statement, school Superintendent John Casey said "the obvious impact of the ruling is to put the future construction of Neal Elementary School in jeopardy."

Reached by phone Wednesday, Casey said "I can't say much right now. The school board is going to be meeting at 2:30 next Tuesday to meet with our attorney to see where we go from here. We're disappointed in the decision by the judge."

Casey said the district has 10 days to respond to the judge's tentative ruling, and the court will then have 15 days to make this ruling final.

The district can appeal the ruling to a higher court, which in this case, would be the California State Supreme Court.

In breaking down the reasons for his ruling, Hernandez said "once the court determines that there is ambiguity in

a contract, the court must engage in a three-step process to determine whether the court should consider extrinsic evidence to interpret the meaning of the contract."

If there was a conflict in the evidence, it would have been resolved in a jury trial, but that is not the case with this ruling.

"In this case, there were many witnesses but no material factual conflicts," Hernandez wrote.

Hernandez said the contract between the district and the developers was not a financial agreement, a chief claim of attorneys for the district have made, but an agreement to build a specific school. He said it was also not an agreement to cover the school district's shortfall obligations like an earlier agreement the parties had drafted, nor was it an agreement to finance a school to be built someday by the district.

Hernandez supported Signature's key argument that a secondary agreement, a construction agreement, needed to be in place to obligate the developers to build the school and for a determined amount of money—which was listed in the initial agreement as up to \$8.5 million.

"There had to be a separate written agreement to determine the 'up to \$8.5 million,'" he wrote.

Since the agreement the parties signed only said that the developer would advance that amount, Hernandez said there was no legal and enforceable obligation to fund and finance the school.



Above: An artist's rendering of Neal Elementary School from 2002 shows what the school would have looked like. Signature has said that it will try to recoup the nearly \$500,000 from the district that it spent on architectural designs. **Left:** Shown in happier times after signing the agreement are Signature Properties' Jim Ghielmetti and Jim McKeehan (front row on right) joined with other developers (front row, L-R) Bob Silva of the DeSilva Group, Phil Rowe of Delco Builders and Leonard Lechnitz of KB Home. Standing in back are 2001 school board members (L-R) Deborah Kleffman, the late Juanita Haugen, Cindy McGovern and Kris Weaver. More than six years later, it appears the longstanding rift is nearing a conclusion.

In terms of enforceability, Hernandez went on to say that if the agreement was in fact an enforceable contract, the school district violated it by delaying the targeted opening date of the school by not readying the infrastructure—installing water and sewer lines and realigning Vineyard Avenue. A press release sent out by the district in 2001 announcing that the school's opening date was to be delayed was in violation of a "time is of the essence" clause under the agreement, Hernandez wrote.

In citing this particular charge, Hernandez said "both the district and the cooperative fee developers (Signature and Standard-Pacific Homes) produced evidence that they knew when they entered into the amended cooperative fee agreement in June of 2001 that the cost of building schools increased every year."

"The term 'up to \$8.5 million' in the amended cooperative fee agreement was dependent upon Neal Elementary School being built in August of 2002 as the district and the cooperative fee developers agreed. Any delay drove up the cost of construction."

Jim McKeehan, who was the executive vice president for Signature at the time the agreement was signed, said after the judge's tentative ruling becomes final, Signature plans to file a claim for legal fees.

"The decision in favor of the homebuilders subjects the district to a claim for attorney fees and court costs that are estimated to exceed \$2.5 mil-

lion," McKeehan said.

"The district's lawsuit was based on the misguided premise that the homebuilders had agreed to build whatever school was designed by the district for whatever it cost and only get repaid \$8.5 million," he continued. "It defied logic to actually believe that anyone, let alone businessmen with substantial experience, would agree to such a blank check agreement."

Some of the costs that the developers will try to recoup include just under \$500,000 that was advanced to the district for school designs.

"This is a classic example of what happens when small-minded politicians attempt to micromanage an issue that they don't understand or comprehend and run roughshod over the people on staff who do have the experience and knowledge to properly address the issue," he said.

McKeehan said he, nor Jim Ghielmetti, Signature's CEO, plan to sue the district for slander. The district had previously filed claims against the two executives for fraud and deceit, something both men deny and say hurt their reputation.

To view a copy of the 15-page ruling by Judge Hernandez, visit www.pleasantonweekly.com.

The school board will meet in closed session at 2:30 p.m. this Tuesday to discuss the ruling at the school district offices, 4665 Bernal Ave. The public will have an opportunity to comment afterwards. ■



Superintendent John Casey answers questions on the witness stand from Signature lawyers about the amended cooperative fee agreement involving the school.

Dining Out

American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

Bridges

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

Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant

855 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-8106. Executive Chef Chris Smith offers exciting contemporary American cook-

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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.mainstreetbrewery.com for activities and specials.

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

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.

Pleasanton Hotel Catering

351-9445. The Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant has proudly provided our fine-dining restaurant, banquet and catering services in the Tri-Valley for over 25 years. We have multiple catering packages to choose from to fit any event & budget; we also tailor menus to fit client's needs. Executive Chef Chris Smith also offers an array of creative events from In-Home Personal Chef to Cooking Classes. Our commitment to provide the highest quality of food plus prompt and attentive service has given us a reputation we are very proud of. Contact Dawn Miller for more information 351-9445.

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.

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.

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 on Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood...just to name a few. We are upscale, but California casual with friendly prices.

Silver Palate Restaurant & Market

680 Main St. Downtown Pleasanton, 417-5900 The ambiance of this restaurant evokes the light-filled expanse of a European marketplace, while the outdoor patio captures the best in al fresco dining. Choose from a wide selection of flavorful entrees and side accompaniments ... Just \$14.95 or less everyday! We also feature a special dinner menu. Kids eat FREE with each paying adult. Now open for breakfast! Country Brunch Buffet every Sunday. Open seven days a week.

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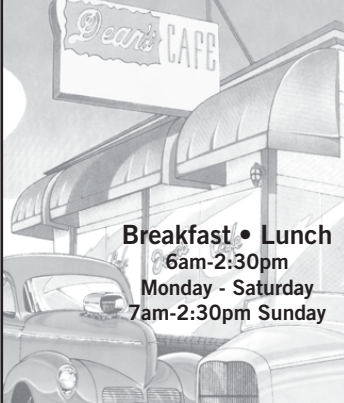
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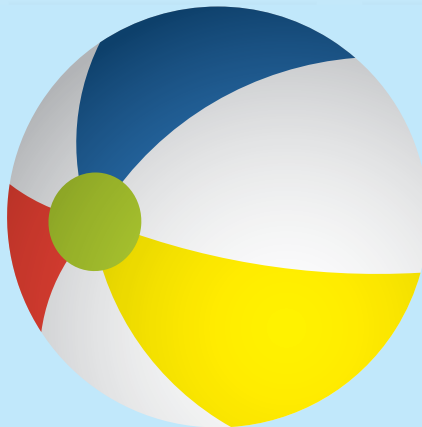
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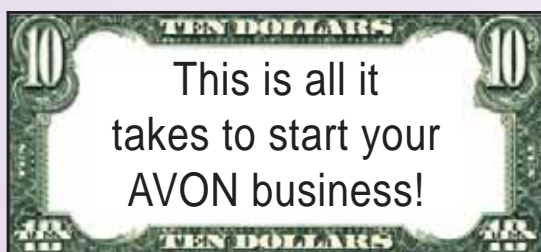
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