

Person of interest

Police investigate son of slain Castlewood couple > page 5

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Awaiting final ruling

School district seeks further counsel in court case

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To have and to hold

Couple celebrates 70th anniversary

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A crowning achievement



County fair comes to town as fairgrounds celebrates landmark 150th year of horseracing

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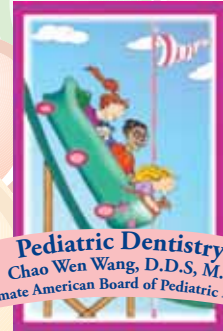
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Let's help the people we care for

Friendship Center, the Tri-Valley's only adult day care program, closed its doors Wednesday, the victim of rising costs, a shortage of available daytime meeting space and increasingly tight budget constraints by its funding sponsor, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District.

The anguish in saying goodbye to the few remaining elderly guests at the center and their families was no different than eight years ago when I joined caregivers at the Heritage Adult Day Care Services program in Pleasanton, which was closing after Easter Seals of the Bay Area cancelled its funding. At the time, also in a period of economic downturn, continuing financial losses had forced the closures of two similar programs in Fremont and San Lorenzo. The Pleasanton facility had provided respite for caregivers of elderly family members and social, cultural and physical activities for their clients since 1993. Many who used its services suffer from serious debilitating conditions, such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, or were recovering from strokes.

Fortunately for those displaced in Pleasanton, there was the option of registering at the Livermore Friendship Center, although most from here found the location too far to frequent on a regular basis. Some of the elderly had physical problems and other health issues that required family members to drop in or to pick them up. Now with the Friendship Center also closing, such inconveniences may be part of the future picture of adult care services.

The problem is that there just aren't enough people participating on a regular basis. It's a problem all agencies are facing. Funding demand for these services, according to charities such as Easter Seals, has been rising in recent years as a greater percentage of the population needs them. Not everyone can afford assisted living, nor do family members or the loved ones they're nurturing want to live apart.

LARPD is a separately funded government agency with its own tax base and other sources of revenue. It's not part of Livermore city

or Alameda county governments. Except for direct oversight of the Friendship program, however, the service's program was financed by client fees and donations. It was economically sustainable while benefiting from low rental fees (\$1 a year to the Livermore school district for the rooms it used at Sonoma Valley Charter School) as well as funds from the Tri-Valley Adult Day Care Program Board, a private nonprofit corporation, and Adult Day Services Network of Alameda County. At its peak, Friendship served 62 clients with an average daily attendance of 22, but the numbers are misleading since by offering much needed respite to family members and caregivers, it's estimated that for every client attending the program, another two or three also benefited directly.

Friendship's closing was the result of a demand by the charter school to expand into the space Friendship was using. It served notice a year ago and LARPD made numerous bids for other space, but none was available, certainly not at \$1 a year or even for modest rent. It looked at renovating the Merritt Building, where the agency had offices until moving into the new Robert Livermore Community Center Senior Center, but that would have cost \$2.7 million, money which LARPD doesn't have and the Livermore City Council declined to provide. Clearly, with a maturing population and a workforce that is aging in place more work well beyond traditional retirement years, the need for adult day care services such as Heritage and Friendship is bound to increase as more of us care for our parents and relatives who just can't be left alone while we're on the job. It's not just a Livermore or Pleasanton problem. Dublin and San Ramon, possibly Danville, should join in, possibly creating a joint powers authority to provide adult day care much the way these communities are coming together on emergency response, telecommunications, community broadcasting and even Washington, D.C. lobbying efforts. The mayors and city councils of the Tri-Valley cities will hold their quarterly meeting in August. ■

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

YOU AND YOUR BBQ

There are symbols of home ownership that do a better job of making a man's heart pump a little faster than a barbecue that stands ready to cook a meal for the family. In the American mythology, this signifies home ownership and leisure time and extremely good food. But the magical picture shatters if the barbecue grill carries dried souvenirs of meals cooked throughout its life.

What to do? Heloise has an answer. Stick the grill in a big, heavy-duty plastic garbage bag with a quarter cup of ammonia, tie it shut, and let it be overnight. In the morning, the ammonia fumes will have persuaded most of the caked-on stuff that it's time to go. Finish the job by rubbing the grill with a ball made of aluminum foil or spray the crusty stuff off with a strong power washer.

Another advisor, Linda Cobb, suggests the best job can be done when the grill is hot. Let it cool enough that you're unlikely to burn yourself, then rub it down with a ball of aluminum foil—not with a grill brush (because it often holds food debris itself). Then rub the grill down with "waterless hand cleaner" from your local hardware store. In theory, at least, your grill should shine like new, as should your reputation as the Barbecue Chef (and Chief). For real estate assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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About the Cover

When horses and their jockeys prepare for their first race of the season here, it will be a piece of history as the Alameda County Fairgrounds celebrates 150 years of horse racing. Photo courtesy of the Alameda County Fair Association. Cover by Manuel Valenzuela.

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Streetwise

Q: Will your vote for president change if Barack Obama chooses Hillary Clinton as his running mate?

Asked Downtown



Jillian Slingsby

Student

I think I'd be more inclined to vote for Obama because I'm a Hillary fan. Seeing them together would encourage me to vote for him. I have always followed politics but this is the first time I can participate. It's really exciting.

Jo Ellen Childers

Advertising Rep

No, it would not at all. I'm a McCain supporter. If he does choose her I think it would be a negative addition to his campaign. Many Democrats don't care for Hillary either.



Jeff Hansell

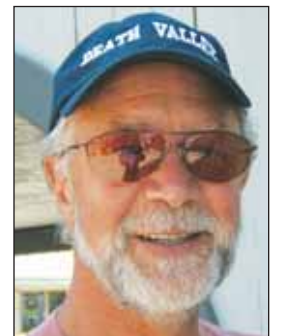
Engineer

I think the Democrats would win with that combination. I think a lot of the concern about Obama is his lack of experience and she certainly has that. I was a Ron Paul supporter. I believe in smaller government, especially at the national level.

Deane Dvoracek

Community Volunteer

No, because I wasn't going to vote for him anyway. I am a McCain supporter. If he does choose her I think it will be tougher for McCain to win but I'm hoping it won't come to that.



Paulette Salisbury

Sales Consultant

No, it would not. I'm a Hillary supporter. I am disappointed that he did not see that the campaign was about more than personal gain, but I will vote for the Democratic nominee no matter what. I wanted her to be the nominee in the first place. She is more qualified. If she is included in the ticket, she will help beat McCain.

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Ladies gather at the races June 25

All women are welcome to join in the 17th annual Kay's Ladies Day at the Races June 25 at the county fairgrounds. Horse racing is from 12:30 to 5 p.m., with the ladies posing for their annual picture at 2:30 p.m. The group will be sitting in Section F in the upper grandstand. To learn more about racing at the fairgrounds, visit www.alameda-county-fair.com.

Air District calls for grant applications

The Bay Area Quality Management District seeks grant applications for the Goods Movement Program. It provides funding to retrofit or replace engines or purchase new equipment for large trucks, trains and harbor craft. Funds are available to both public and private entities.

Workshops will be held throughout the application period to explain Goods Movement guidelines. To learn more, visit www.baaqmd.gov/goods.

Golf tournament awards scholarships

The George A. Spiliotopoulos Invitational Tournament, also known as GASIT, was turned into a college scholarship fundraiser, which this year is giving \$79,000 to graduating seniors from Pleasanton schools.

The Aug. 1 tournament and barbecue will honor the winners: Sam Correia, Amanda Lee Venema, Monique Reid, Stephanie Dunn, Anthony DeBenedetti and Kaylee Ballstadt from Foothill High; Jose Angeles, Jenni Kilroy, Stoney Glover, Travis Rinaldi, Vessna Scheff, Alyssa McSheffrey, Brett Bower, Joey Bruno and Matthew Carlucci from Amador Valley High; and Derrick Rodrigues and Kristin Wilhite from Village High.

Reading tutors honored at luncheon

The Barton Reading Program honored their volunteer reading tutors with a luncheon at the Blue Agave Club June 3. Program facilitator Christina Clark thanked the tutors for their countless hours of service to the community. Tutors work with students three hours a week throughout the school year.

To volunteer, donate or get program details, call Clark at 596-0292.

School district stands by litigation over Neal Elementary School

Two residents voice disappointment over ruling at Tuesday's special board meeting

by Emily Atwood

After meeting in closed session Tuesday afternoon regarding the judge's tentative ruling in favor of Signature Properties, the school district briefly reported on its discussion, but will wait on legal counsel before confirming further action.

Jim Ott, school board president, read the following statement at the end of the closed session:

"We ask the public and our community to understand that several legal issues are pending in this case," he said. "Because the judge's ruling is tentative, we have directed our legal counsel to respond to that ruling. After the judge's final decision, we will be better able to determine what next steps are most appropriate to take on behalf of students."

"We believe that litigating this matter was truly the appropriate

and responsible step to take," he continued. "We continue to stand by that decision."

The litigation between Signature Properties, the developer of Ruby Hill, and the school district was over a supposed agreement to build Neal Elementary School, the 10th and final elementary school in the district, in the Vineyard Corridor.

Two residents, Julie Testa and Meribeth Detweiler, spoke before the board about the litigation. Both had followed the Neal Elementary School process since the beginning and were disappointed with the ruling.

Testa said Wednesday she couldn't help but feel "a little I told you so" after the ruling, since she never supported the second contract.

"Lozano Smith (an attorney for the school district) used the term 'iron clad,'" she said of the second contract that was called into ques-

tion and then deemed by the judge to be unenforceable.

"People are looking at it today as having lost," Testa continued. "It's so important to point out that anyone who was a part of the process knew what was intended. It would have seemed negligent to have walked away."

At the meeting, Detweiler spoke specifically to trustee Pat Kernan about her disappointment in his involvement as a trustee and an attorney, saying he didn't keep his commitment to use his expertise to help the district.

Both women also voiced their disappointment in Signature Properties as well as the district's legal representation by Lozano Smith, who was involved in the initial contract process. During the court case, Stubbs & Leone represented the district.

"Honestly, I don't think it's fair to be as critical of pursuing the righteousness of that agreement because it was very clear what the intent was with that agreement," Testa said. "I think I feel justified in criticizing a good amount of incompetence that lost Neal School."

While the timing of the meeting was on a weekday afternoon, it may not have hindered public comment. Ott and Superintendent John Casey said they had not received any calls or emails on the subject before or after the meeting. Casey said the timing was simply the earliest time the board could get together.

Trustee Chris Grant was late to the meeting and missed hearing the public comment, but was present in the closed session.

Trustee Steve Brozosky was

(continued on page 8)



Run, baby run

More than 1,000 runners, walkers and children gathered in downtown Pleasanton last Sunday morning for the Rotary Club's 15th annual Spirit Run. The 10K was won by Kurt Ruegg of Yountville, Calif., a first-time participant in the Pleasanton race. The 5K winner was Sam Hyams, who just graduated last Friday night from Foothill High School where he is the record holder for the mile run. He has a track scholarship to UC Irvine this fall. Eight-year-old Taylor Santos won in the children's race.

Investigators turn to gambling website to help solve murders

Say son of slain couple found in Castlewood home is 'person of interest'

The son of a Pleasanton couple who were brutally slain at their home three months ago is a "person of interest" in the case, according to Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. Scott Dudek.

Dudek said detectives are interested in 29-year-old Ernie Scherer III in connection with the death of Ernie Scherer Jr., 60, and his wife, Charlene

Abendroth, 57.

They were found dead inside their Castlewood Country Club home on March 14. Detectives believe the couple had been dead about a week before they were found after their daughter asked the country club to check on them.

Dudek said, "We're asking anyone who is owed money by Ernie Scherer III to call us."

He said Scherer III is a professional gambler who's known to have debts, and investigators want to determine whether his debts are small or

(continued on page 8)

City buys rail corridor for \$7.5M

Land needed to start Firehouse theater construction

Alameda County has agreed to sell the long stretch of vacant land called the Railroad Corridor to the city of Pleasanton for \$7.5-million, ending years of negotiations that at times pitted County Supervisor Scott Haggerty against city officials.

The 10-acres of corridor extend from Bernal Avenue on the south to Old Stanley Boulevard on the north and have been leased by the city and some businesses for downtown parking. It will now be developed into 429 parking spaces for use by downtown business employees and customers.

The acquisition of the corridor also was essential to completing the property available for building the Firehouse Arts Center on Railroad Avenue. Bids have been received for that project, with the low bid submitted by W. A. Thomas Construction for \$8.06-million. Thomas built the Alameda County library on Bernal Avenue, which the city later acquired and is now the Pleasanton Public Library.

Over the years, Haggerty had linked sales of the corridor property to other interests in Pleasanton, including the move of the ACE train station in the Fairgrounds parking lot to the Bernal property. City planners refused and the school district also objected, saying the station would be opposite Pleasanton Middle and Hearst Elementary schools and would cause distractions for students.

More recently, in friendlier negotiations

(continued on page 7)

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PPIE gives \$57,000 in educational grants

Oracle's donation helps group dole out record amount to educators

A record amount of \$57,000 was dispersed to Pleasanton Unified School District teachers and faculty through Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE). Oracle's grant donation of \$25,000 supports programs with an emphasis in science, math and technology.

PPIE is a community-based volunteer group that raises funds to enhance the learning experiences of Pleasanton students. Executive Director Debi Covello said they received a record number of applications, which she thought was partly due to the coming school year's tight budget forecast.

"We like to see [a lot of applications]," she said. "We wish we had more funds to give."

Oracle's grant donation was also in addition to a previous \$10,000 donation made earlier this year that went towards PPIE's general grant fund.

Some of the grants included accelerated math for fourth and fifth graders at Lydiksen Elementary School, faculty training on facilitation racial enlightenment at Pleasanton Middle School, video cameras to teach Foothill High School students about making documentaries on community and social issues and a computer server to support web and podcasting of classroom instruction throughout the district.

To learn more about PPIE, visit their website at www.ppie.org.

—Emily Atwood

Genealogists to help people find their roots at the fair

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society will assist in researching a family tree

Beyond the carnival rides, pig races and cotton candy, the genealogy booth is one of the most popular features at the fair.

Staffed by the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, a booth will be set up all 17 days of the fair, until 8 p.m. each day. Those who are questioning their roots will be offered tips on how to research a family tree, how to use the Internet as a resource and utilize a pedigree chart.

The booth will be set up inside the technology building. Society members recommend that you plan for your research before coming to the fair by writing out questions, as well as what you already know. Upon arriving at the booth, participants will be asked to stick a pin in a map of California, the United

States or the world, depending on where they were born.

Kay Speaks, who is the genealogy booth coordinator for the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, has invited other genealogy societies: DAR Chapters, Family History Center docents, historical societies and library genealogy docents to help.

There will also be a genealogical education display in the hobbies area of the Gems and Minerals Building. This year the display focuses on historical documents. The complete file can be viewed at the genealogy booth.

For more information about the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, visit www.l-ags.org.

—Janet Pelletier

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Roughin' it with the Weekly

Lindsay Boal, Joi Pentin and Zoe Thiemann took the Weekly with them while on vacation to the Indian Valley Outpost in the Tahoe National Forest.



Bagging green

Pleasanton has a new eco-friendly bag for such items as groceries in an effort to cut down on the usage of paper and plastic bags. Proceeds from the bags will benefit the future Firehouse Arts Center, to be built where historic Fire Station No. 1 is located on Railroad Avenue, according to local photographer Sue Evans, the designer of the bag.

The bags are forest green with taupe images of the Pleasanton arch, an oak tree and the saying, "Paper or Plastic? No, Thanks, I have my own." They are currently available at the Berry Patch near the Farmer's Market, 63 W. Angela St., or directly through Evans, who can be reached via email at sueevansphotography@comcast.net. Other merchants and businesses are encouraged to participate.

Initiative cleared for Nov. 4 ballot

by Jeb Bing

The City Council Tuesday accepted a ballot box initiative for voters to consider on the Nov. 4 ballot that would block some steep hillside developments and reinforce the city's voter-mandated 29,000-unit housing cap.

The initiative, written and promoted by former Councilwoman Kay Ayala and her citizens' coalition—Save Pleasanton's Hills—was certified by the Alameda County Registrar's office that determined it had a sufficient number of signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Although the Ayala initiative gained council approval quickly, as expected, a companion measure that included a 41-page analysis of the Ayala initiative was tabled at the request of Councilman Matt Sullivan. He said the authors of the ballot initiative could not be at Tuesday's meeting and that he and they wanted to consider the city's analysis together at a future meeting.

Despite objections from Sullivan, consideration of the city's analysis was moved to the council's next meeting on July 1.

If approved by voters on Nov. 4, the Ayala initiative would require the city government to formulate an ordinance to add to the General Plan that would restrict future hillside developments to slopes of less than 25 percent or within 100 vertical feet of a ridgeline. Although the initiative creates an exemption for developments of 10 or fewer homes, it prohibits the subdivision of a "legal parcel," leaving open to interpretation—and possibly the courts—what that means.

Pat Costanzo of Greenbriar Homes told the council that the Ayala initiative, as written, "is vague and makes serious interpretations that could lead to litigation and be costly."

"This will have an impact of millions of dollars for the school district and the city," he said.

Sean Lemoine, whose family has

developed a residential community across from Foothill High School, also criticized the initiative, saying it penalizes those property owners who have lived on their properties for many years and now won't be able to develop it.

But for mayoral candidate Steve Brozovsky, praised the Ayala plan. He said that by enforcing the housing cap and hillside development, the city will actually save money that it would otherwise have to spend to support more growth.

"The city's response to this initiative is that if we don't build more, that means lost revenue to the city," he said. "But residents here don't want every square inch of the city developed."

It's the lengthy city staff analysis of the initiative that was tabled and, therefore, not discussed. Although distributed to the public, Sullivan said it was not made available to Ayala and others in her coalition until last weekend, leaving insufficient time to read it carefully and make comments.

He tangled verbally for nearly half an hour at the start of Tuesday's meeting with councilwoman Cheryl Cook-Kallio, who said he should have allowed the city's analytical measure and alternative proposals to be discussed, not tabled for a future meeting.

Since one of the options in the city's proposal is to place an alternative measure on the Nov. 4 ballot, the council must take action and have staff and City Attorney Michael Roush write the measure for approval by Aug. 7.

With several summertime council meetings cancelled back at the start of the year, members of the council have scheduled vacations, including Sullivan and Cook-Kallio. Coupled with a Washington, D.C. trip Cook-Kallio must make in mid-July, there were almost no Tuesdays all five on the council could assemble. Since the initiative issue is controversial, with a 3-2 vote likely on any proposal, no councilmember wants to

be absent when it is considered.

"The City Council majority decision at its meeting (Tuesday) to conduct a special meeting to discuss options related to the Save Pleasanton Hills & Housing Cap Citizens' Initiative on July 1 is nothing short of outrageous," Sullivan said in a statement sent to the Weekly after the meeting.

"Every year the council cancels its regular meetings during the 4th of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays so that important city decisions are not made when many people are out of town and unable to participate in public hearings. Despite the fact that several other viable options were discussed by the council, the majority chose the week of July 4 to hold this critical discussion."

"Not only will this limit public participation and input, but the two councilmember's who have dissented in the majority's opposition to the citizens initiative, councilmember McGovern and myself, will be unable to attend and provide our views relating to potential ballot measures," he added. "The council majority has repeatedly and publicly expressed its disdain for both the citizen's initiative, itself, and of the proponents, most notably last night with the mayor's inflammatory and inappropriate comments during council deliberations."

"It's clear that the council majority will attempt to devise a competing council-sponsored ballot measure at the July 1 meeting with the intent to confuse the voters and defeat the Citizens' Initiative without adequate public input or the deliberation of alternatives from other councilmember viewpoints," Sullivan said. "This issue is very controversial and there are strong opinions in the public on both sides. This tactic by the council majority is an affront to democracy and the long Pleasanton tradition of grassroots public participation, and should be roundly condemned." ■

was nixed by city officials seven years ago.

Fialho said the corridor is being purchased in two phases, with the first phase between Bernal and Ray streets expected to close by July 31. The purchase of the second phase will be completed within the next five years.

—Jeb Bing

Firehouse

(continued from page 5)

after Mayor Jennifer Hosterman was elected and with Nelson Fialho as city manager, Haggerty worked with the county's property division to reach what both sides have termed a fair price for the corridor.

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It's mediation for residents, senior living developer

by Janet Pelletier

Developers who want to build a senior living facility on the northwest side of town are now headed toward mediation with neighboring residents who are concerned about their views, traffic, noise and the project's ability to fit in with the local surroundings.

After a three-hour session at June 11 Planning Commission meeting, project applicants Sunrise Senior Living agreed to compromise on their plans by entering mediation, or facilitation, with residents who live near the site on Stoneridge Drive and Foothill Road. A period of 75 days will allow four representatives from each side (the developers and the opposing residents) to come together to see if they can hammer out a mutually acceptable solution.

Sunrise is proposing to build a four-story, 132-unit senior residential care facility. The land has been designated for such a use dating back to 1985. But a discrepancy over what exactly was approved 23 years ago has led to the current opposition. While some city planning documents show that the site was approved for a four-story building, other plans show it only as being two to three-stories tall. The city's new planning and community development director, Brian Dolan, has determined that

Sunrise's proposal is in conformance with the 1985 approval and doesn't require additional city approvals to proceed on construction. Instead, the city only needs to determine that the project is in substantial conformance, meaning that the plans are similar enough in nature to the 1985 plans.

But after hearing a dozen residents express their concerns for the senior care facility, the planning commission voted unanimously for the developer and concerned neighbors to meet with a facilitator to see if compromises can be reached. Sunrise, which purchased the property in 2006, initially floated a three-story facility for approval, but residents disliked those plans with many of the same concerns of the four-story proposal. At the meeting, one speaker said he opposed the three-story design mainly because the structure was too boxy looking, but added he would be open to a different three-story design.

"This huge building would be abutting us. People on the third and fourth floor will see all the things that all of us will be robbed of," said Bob Bender, who lives in a townhouse near the vacant parcel of land.

Many reiterated Bender's concerns about losing their views of the Pleasanton Ridge and said they

couldn't understand why the project doesn't require additional traffic and environmental studies, considering the neighborhood has changed dramatically over the past two decades.

Residents also were skeptical of Sunrise's plans to increase the number of employees from their previous three-story plan, which they said would increase traffic, as well as plans to house people with an Alzheimer's and dementia, which would mean a higher level of care than what was originally proposed in 1985.

"This monstrosity, I call it a mini-hospital, is on its way to approval," said Rich Partida. He and others added that they're not against senior care coming in, but wanted to ensure that it was built right.

In his vote for mediation, commission Chairman Phil Blank said he felt it was disingenuous that Sunrise could claim that it was acceptable for a senior retirement hotel while at the same time not recognizing that the neighborhood itself has changed with the addition of townhouses and homes.

The city will select the facilitator, who will be paid for by Sunrise. After the 75 days expire, there will be a 15-day appeal period. Then the project will be brought back to the Planning Commission. ■

School

(continued from page 5)

absent from the entire meeting. His home is nearby the Neal School site and he refrained from participating due to a potential conflict of interest, according to Casey.

An agenda item will be included

in the school board's final meeting of the school year at 7 p.m. June 25.

The judge's ruling will be finalized in a matter of days.

After the judge makes his final ruling, the school district can then decide to appeal and take it to the state court or to accept the ruling and not pursue further litigation. ■

Castlewood

(continued from page 5)

whether they are for large sums. In investigating the case, detectives "have eliminated a lot of people and all the other family members except for him," he added.

Scherer III has not been arrested, as he is only considered a person of interest at this point rather than a suspect. Dudek said Ernie Scherer Jr. dabbled in playing poker for small amounts of money but made his living in real estate. In contrast,

gambling was the son's sole source of income, Dudek said.

Ernie Scherer III isn't the only person of interest in the case but Dudek said "the list is getting smaller and smaller."

The case is being publicized on the website www.gambling911.com because the sheriff's department is seeking the help of gamblers in solving the case. The site, which is owned and operated by Costigan Media LLC, describes itself as "the most referenced website publisher covering the world of online gambling."

—Bay City New Service, Jeb Bing

A opportunity from The Pleasanton Police Department

Teen Citizen's Academy

Are you between the ages of 14 and 18, live in the City of Pleasanton, and have an interest in law enforcement? Join us for our 6th Annual Teen Academy and learn what a career in law enforcement is all about.

Academy students enrolled in the three-week program will learn about patrol duty, crime scene investigations, what it takes to be a member of the SWAT team, working with a K-9 partner, being a motorcycle traffic officer, animal control, and much more.

The academy takes place from July 15-29 and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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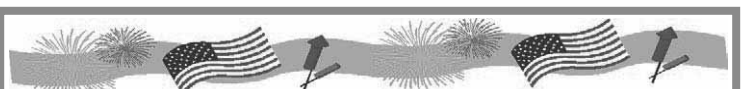
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Community Pulse



WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

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

- **PDR 693, Brad and Ann Walker**
Application for design review approval to construct an approximately 3,520 square foot two story custom home with an attached 850 square foot, two car garage on an approximately 18,285 square foot site located at 6069 Sycamore Terrace.
- **PCUP 226, Jim Roberts Company**
Application for conditional use permit to operate a landscape contracting company in the existing building located at 3942 Valley Avenue, Building C, Suite D, in the Valley Business Park.
- **PUD 74, Ponderosa Homes**
Application for Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan to construct 110 detached single-family homes for residents aged 55 years and older at the public school option/Medium Density Residential-senior housing site located at 1 Reimers Drive in the Ironwood Development.

Trails Ad-Hoc Committee

Monday, June 23, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m.
Council Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Eagle Scout Project Update
- Promotion of Trails at Farmers Market
- Discussion of potential public input survey on trails

GENERAL INFORMATION

Job Announcements

Cashiers (part-time, temporary)
\$9.57-\$10.55 per hour to start
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The City's Aquatic Center is looking for several Cashiers to conduct program registration and participant check-in, receive and record fee payments, answer program questions, and other related duties. Applicants must be able to work a flexible schedule. For more information, visit our Jobs page at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/employment/opportunities/

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

Men stabbed at downtown Shell station

David Herbert Brennan, a 23-year-old Pleasanton resident, was arrested June 12 for stabbing two men near downtown Wednesday evening, police said.

According to police, numerous witnesses identified Brennan as the suspect who stabbed two Livermore residents, ages 18 and 23, at the Shell gas station at First Street and Vineyard Avenue around 6 p.m. June 11. One was stabbed in the chest, and the other was stabbed twice in the back. The victims' injuries were

not life threatening, police said, and were transported to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley after being treated on the scene.

Sgt. Jim Knox said the stabbings were a result of a fight between six to 10 men from Pleasanton and Livermore, and police don't believe it was related to gang violence.

Police were led to find Brennan at his girlfriend's house in the 800 block of Rose Avenue. He was arrested and then booked into Santa Rita Jail on two counts of attempted homicide.



Police Report

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

June 7

- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:38 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue; DUI
 - 8:34 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springdale Avenue; marijuana possession
 - 10:48 p.m. in the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue; public drunkenness
 - 11:04 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; marijuana possession
- Assault:
 - 1:15 a.m. 5000 block of Hopyard Road
- Vehicle tampering:
 - 8:32 a.m. in the 3500 block of Kirkcaldy Street

June 8

- Theft:
 - 1:57 a.m. in the 4300 block of Saginaw Circle; petty theft
 - 2:44 a.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; grand theft
 - 7:34 a.m. in the 3500 block of Norton Way; grand theft
 - 9:53 p.m. in the 3700 block of Fairlands Drive; grand theft
 - 10:45 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; petty theft
 - 11:29 p.m. in the 3800 block of Brockton Drive; stolen vehicle
 - 4:48 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street
- Vandalism:
 - 8:46 a.m. in the 800 block of Sylvaner Drive; worth less than \$400
 - 9:46 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; worth less than \$400
 - 10:19 a.m. in the 200 block of Birch Creek Drive; worth less than \$400
 - 6:28 p.m. in the 7400 block of Palm Court; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
 - 9:53 p.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:50 a.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive; minor transporting alcohol, marijuana possession

June 9

- Grand theft:
 - 8:59 a.m. in the 1200 block of Quarry Lane
- Vandalism:
 - 9:15 a.m. in the 2600 block of Lin Gate Court; worth less than \$400
 - 10:47 a.m. in the 2700 block of Santa Rita Road; worth more than \$400
 - 11:04 a.m. at the intersection of Valley and Case avenues
 - 5:44 p.m. in the 7700 block of Canyon Meadows Circle
- Burglary:
 - 11:17 a.m. in the 2700 block of Santa Rita Road
 - 5:23 p.m. in the 4100 block of Garatti Court
- Battery:
 - 11:20 p.m. at the intersection of Santa Rita Road and Francisco Street

June 10

- Theft:
 - 1:46 p.m. in the 3300 block of Stanley Boulevard; grand theft
 - 2:34 p.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; grand theft
 - 6:17 p.m. in the 4800 block of Bernal Avenue; stolen vehicle
 - 5:38 p.m. in the 6700 block of Taffy Court
- Vandalism:
 - 3:33 p.m. in the 5600 block of San Luis Court
 - 6:53 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue
- Burglary:
 - 2:57 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive
 - 6:18 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; vehicular
 - 9:55 p.m. in the 6100 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; vehicular
- Controlled substance possession:
 - 2:29 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

June 11

- Theft:
 - 11:50 a.m. in the 3000 block of Virgin Islands Court; petty theft
 - 1:08 p.m. in the 4400 block of Hacienda Drive; grand theft
 - 4:17 p.m. in the 5300 block of Case Avenue; stolen vehicle
 - 7:11 p.m. in the 1800 block of Santa Rita Road; stolen vehicle
 - 10:04 p.m. in the 6000 block of

Johnson Drive, identity theft

- Burglary:
 - 5:40 a.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway
 - 8:30 a.m. in the 4200 block of Rosewood Drive
 - 9:54 a.m. in the 6600 block of Koll Center Parkway
- Assault:
 - 6:11 p.m. in the 4100 block of Vineyard Avenue; attempted homicide
- June 12
- Theft:
 - 9:08 a.m. in the 4300 block of Hacienda Drive; grand theft
 - 11:34 a.m. in the 2500 block of Larriquet Court; identity theft
 - 1:57 p.m. in the 3700 block of Vineyard Avenue; petty theft
 - 3:53 in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; grand theft
- Vandalism:
 - 4:31 p.m. at the intersection of National Park Road and South Valley Trails Drive; worth less than \$400
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 11:52 a.m. in the 1500 block of Oak Vista Way
- Drug violations:
 - 5:20 p.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Foothill Knolls Drive; driving with marijuana
- June 13
- Grand theft:
 - 9:04 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Vandalism:
 - 8:09 a.m. at the intersection of Foothill Road and Moller Ranch Drive; worth less than \$400
- Drug violations:
 - 2:35 a.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and First street; under the influence of a controlled substance
- Assault:
 - 12:12 p.m. at the intersection of Francisco Street and Santa Rita Road
 - 3:44 in the 7800 block of Chestnut Way
- Trespassing:
 - 3:44 p.m. in the 7800 block of Chestnut Way
- Fake ID:
 - 9:04 p.m. on the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

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Opinion

Editorial

Moving towards a better night's sleep

For hundreds of Pleasanton residents—perhaps even thousands—who live within earshot of the Union Pacific railroad trains that travel through Pleasanton every night, a better night's sleep may be on the way. The City Council agreed Tuesday to spend \$150,000 to study the financial feasibility and ongoing costs of placing full crossing barriers on the four grade crossings at the tracks, a project that could cost \$2 million for starters. These fully-protected crossings, which would bar both pedestrians and vehicles from skirting around the single gate now in position on each side of the tracks, would allow Union Pacific engineers to silence their horns when coming through town. As it is, state and railroad laws require them to toot four times as they are approaching each crossing. In the old days, when there was one, maybe two trains a night, the horns were tolerable. Today, however, with much heavier train traffic, it's almost a constant barrage of diesel horns sounding from dusk to dawn, enough to make even the soundest sleeper toss, turn and wake, train after train after train.

Manny Singh, who lives in one of the newer developments on the Bernal property at least a half mile from the tracks, said the ever-increasing freight train traffic has turned nostalgia into nightmares. With four blows of the horn at the four crossings—Santa Rita, Saint Mary, Rose and Angela—that's 12 times for each train each way, not counting the crossing at Castlewood, where the horn noise is just as loud. It's actually a bit worse because regulations require engineers to sound two long blasts of their horn, one short one and then another long blast as they approach each street crossing. These streets are fairly close together, which means horns are blaring from the time the engine rounds the bend to come into Pleasanton.

This is not a new issue, but we give Singh credit for his rallying cry, going door to door with supporters to talk about the noise problem and then motivating at least 185 families—representing a total of 756 family members—to send emails to the council asking for help. Many of them were at Tuesday night's council meeting to voice their complaints. Singh cited statistics which show that the freight rail industry is enjoying its biggest boom in nearly a century, which is good, with plans to double or triple its runs through Pleasanton, which is bad for those who live along the tracks or even a mile or two away. It won't be cheap to quiet the trains but Mayor Jennifer Hosterman likens it to other quality of life issues the city government has financed, from the restoration of Kottinger Creek to solar panels on Fire Station No. 4 to more expensive rubberized asphalt for street repaving programs. We'll await the final price tag to make a final judgment, but at this juncture, noiseless trains and safer railroad crossings sound good to us.

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Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



Vote in the Readers Choice contest early, but not often

We are two weeks into the Pleasanton Weekly's 2008 Readers Choice contest and Pleasanton is a very competitive community. Thousands of votes have been cast so far and we still have nine days of voting left.

The Weekly staff has implemented several measures to ensure the results of the contest are untainted. First, all voting was done online. No hanging chads!

Being from Chicago, where the motto on Election Day is "vote early and often," I am leery of ballot box stuffing. So only verified votes are used in the tallies. An email address can only be verified once.

We have had a few folks say they are unable to verify their votes. Most often, though, it is because

the URL breaks over two lines in the email received after voting; when the URL is clicked, only a portion shows in the address bar. So try copying the second half to the address bar. If you're still having problems, email us at editor@pleasantonweekly.com. The email address is also on the online form for your convenience.

The businesses on the drop-down boxes came from previous years' contests and new entries as submitted by staffers. And, in case we missed any, we accepted write-ins. If the same organization was written in by two or three voters, I have been including them on the drop-down list, even if they were outside of our circulation area. I figured that if two or three people took time to write a business in, there

was a good chance other folks from Pleasanton went outside our community to patronize that business.

However, if you have suggestions or notice something that needs to be changed, use the provided email address or contact me directly via email, gallen@pleasantonweekly.com.

If you have yet to do so, visit www.pleasantonweekly.com before June 29. And look for the winners in the July 25 edition.

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

Letters

Which is worse, voter or election fraud?

Dear Editor,

Recently, a letter appeared railing against voter fraud, claiming voters should exhibit valid IDs at the voting booth. In actuality, studies have shown that the amount of voter fraud that happens in each state can be counted on one hand. The real danger, particularly in view of these new electronic black box machines, is election fraud.

For instance, with the click of a key, a secret code installed in the machine could be activated to change the votes of thousands of people. A man testified before Congress that he had been hired to figure out how to do this; and, he (and numerous others) prove it can be easily done. Even though, since 2000, mostly Democrats have been victims of election fraud, this isn't a partisan issue.

And, the machines aren't the only source of election fraud. Voters are sent to non-existent voting addresses, to voting places on streets with no parking, many voting sites don't have enough machines or machines that work, and many paper ballots are just tossed in the trash, disqualified for a coffee stain, etc. In reality, the old punch card systems worked great. The defective "hanging chad" machines that caused the problems were all made by one company and were sold to just a few states. We were all sold a bill of goods when it comes to electronic machines. And, this is serious. Our democracy is at risk when thousands of votes can be changed with a flick of a finger.

Paulette Kenyon
Pleasanton

Throw support behind Abram Wilson

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday, the mayor of San Ramon, Abram Wilson, won the Republican nomination in Assembly District 15. Mayor Wilson's proven track record as a distinguished and charismatic leader won not only the Republican vote, but their hearts and minds as well.

I cannot thank you enough for your very generous support. Together we built a campaign from the ground up that included every sector of the economy in the 15th District. We raised \$400,000 and built an infrastructure second to none that I am very proud of. Although, we fell short in Contra Costa and Alameda, we posted significant wins in both Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties, carrying those areas and the Delta.

But today is a new day. I am wholeheartedly supporting Mayor Wilson and believe he will be an outstanding nominee against our Democrat opponent. When you get to know Abram Wilson, you will see what I have seen for the last year and a half—a man of character, discipline and leadership—a reformer who can solve problems in Sacramento, keep taxes low, and lead us to victory in November.

I applaud Mayor Wilson's accomplishment and have offered to help him in his quest to be our next Assembly member in District 15. I urge you to do the same - let's stick together and make Abram Wilson our next Assemblyman.

Tim, Michael, and I extend our very best wishes, and our heartfelt thanks.

Judy Lloyd

Public amenities no one can find

Dear Editor,

I live downtown and walk Main Street three to four times a week. I have been asked more than once by people walking if Pleasanton has any public restrooms. I direct them to the corner of Main Street and East Angela Street (where a sign should be), tell them to go east for about a hundred yards and the public restrooms will be on the left side of the street next to the park.

You can't see the restroom from Main Street, so along with a sign on Main Street, there should be a sign in front of the restroom that can be seen from Main, pointing to the facility. That way, walking or driving downtown, you will be able to find them.


The same goes for public parking. There are no signs on Main Street directing you to any public parking. Let's put some of our "in lieu of" parking fees the city of Pleasanton has collected over the years to good use and put up some public parking signs on Main Street.

Emil Oxsen
Pleasanton

Code of ethics

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

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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 29. 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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Transitions

Obituaries

Robert C. Greene

Robert C. Greene died June 14 at the age of 81.

Mr. Greene, a Pleasanton resident, was born in Minneapolis, Minn. to Freeman and Agnes McCourtney Greene. He was the youngest of five sons.

Settling in California in 1946 after his discharge from the Merchant Marines, Mr. Greene obtained a bachelor's degree in business

and a master's degree in education from the University of San Francisco.

He worked for many years for the Bank of America and later as an instructor at Laney College. Mr. Greene was cheerful, charming and full of fun. He and his wife Connie generously welcomed many friends and relatives as guests and visitors in their home over the years. He adored his grandchildren and was always up-to-date on their progress and success in school and in sports.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Constance Greene; children, Daniel (Eileen) and David (Melanie) Greene and Sharon (David) Merrill; grandchildren, Andrew, Lauren, Tristan and Garreth Greene of Montreal, Canada, Margaret and Brendan Greene of Albany and Rochelle (Kevin) Thorne of San Lorenzo.



He is also survived by great-grandchildren Mairin and Lucas Thorne of San Lorenzo.

He was predeceased by his four brothers and son, Russell Slowik. A service was held June 18.

Dellwood D. Brunskill

Dellwood D. Brunskill died June 10 at the age of 88.

Mr. Brunskill was born to Carrie and David Brunskill June 25, 1919 on a farm in Russell, Minn. He was the youngest of four. At 10, he started selling the produce he had grown and by 16, he began his first permanent job working at the local theater.

A Pleasanton and Livermore resident for the past 37 years, Mr. Brunskill was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force. In 1941, he was one of 10 to receive a flight training scholarship sponsored by the U.S. government. He joined the Army Air Corp. that same year. He retired in 1966 after 20 years, having served in World War II and the Korean War. He later became a flight instructor, banker and insurance salesman. He was also a Realtor in the late 1970s and '80s.

He enjoyed woodworking and refinishing antique furniture. He also liked computers and was a great handyman.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Lois Brunskill; daughters, Diane Perkins of Arizona, Anita Wintner of Hawaii, Jean Easton of Texas and Karen Lotoszynski of Pleasanton; and five grandchildren.

A service was held June 19 at Heritage Estates in Livermore. Donations may be made to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation.



Births

Christopher Matthew Seech

Christopher Matthew Seech was born at 7:55 a.m. April 23 at Kaiser Medical Center in Walnut Creek. He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches long. Parents are Mark and Sarah Seech of Pleasanton. He joins older siblings John, 5, Max, 4, Ella, 3 and Luke, 2.



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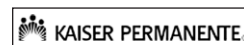
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Please include a contact name and telephone number. Not responsible for lost photos. Information how to send a photo digitally can be found on the Weekly's web site: www.PleasantonWeekly.com

The Weekly reserves the right to edit information for space and format considerations.

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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 the at 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St. "How Doctors Think" by Dr. J Gropman 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.

Clubs

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

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

Communication Arts Network The East Bay's Communications Arts Network (CommArt) meets from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Forli Ristorante in Alamo. Tickets are \$20 cash, includes lunch. Call Terry, 462-8083, or visit www.commartnet.org.

Local Writers Meet for Support and Learning The California Writers Club Tri-Valley branch meets the at 11:30 a.m. the third Saturday of each month at Oasis Grille, 780 Main St., to support experienced and aspiring writers in learning about their craft and sharing their work. Anyone who is curious about the group is invited to attend with no obligation to join. Call Kathy Urban, 296-0447 or visit www.trivalleywriters.com.

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

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

Toastmasters Pleasanton Community Toastmasters holds meetings Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 4530 Sandalwood Drive. Learn the art of public speak-

ing in a fun-filled supportive environment. Call Bobbi at 846-8654 or visit pleasantontostmasters.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.

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

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 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

Celebrate America! Celebrate America 2008: A Musical Review is from 5 to 9 p.m. June 29 at Valley Christian Center, 7500 Inspiration Drive, Dublin. Celebrate America with music and singing, armed forces recognition, baking contest, games for all ages, food, live entertainment and a laser light show. Call 560-6202 or visit www.dublinvcc.org.

First Wednesday Street Party From 6 to 9 p.m. July 2, it's "Red White and Blues," with Georgi and the Rough Week band, and the 91st Division Band marching down Main Street and giving a concert at the Veteran's Memorial Building. VFW Post 6298 members will lead tours of the renovated building in the evening.

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.

Sculptor Mackenzie Thorpe Studio 7 Fine Arts, 400 Main St., hosts artist and sculptor Mackenzie Thorpe's two-month exhibition of bronze sculptures, pastel paintings and limited editions. The exhibit will run through July 1. To attend the event, call 846-4322.

Film

Bush Crimes Commission Hearings In 2005, in NYC, an international tribunal invited government officials and others to offer testimony regarding Bush war crimes and crimes against humanity. This film screening is at 7 p.m. June 28 at the IBEW Hall, 6250 Village Pkwy., Dublin, and is open to the public, wheelchair accessible and refresh-



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ments are served. Meet and greet at 6:30 p.m. and a short discussion follows the film. Donations accepted.

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

Art Sales Benefit Boosters Local artist Gary Winter made two miniatures pertaining to Amador Valley High School. They are for sale at Worthington Gallery West, 739 Main St., to benefit the school's Booster Club. Call 485-1183.

Boys and Girls Car Campaign Now that the price of scrap metal has sharply risen, the Boys and Girls Car 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.

Health

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

Livermore Shakespeare Festival Youth Class This five-day course from July 28 to Aug. 1 at the Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore is designed to promote creativity in an ensemble setting. The cost is \$185. Visit www.ShakespearesAssociates.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.

Pleasanton Job's Daughters Club Meetings This organization is for

young ladies (minimum age 10 for full membership, ask about program for younger girls) who enjoy dances, sleepovers, parties, social events, snow trips, ice skating, camping, traveling and other fun activities. Regular Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. Call 640-4599 or visit www.bethel14.com.

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.

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.

Wente Vineyards Charity Concert Fundraiser Help human rights and enjoy live music and wine at a charity concert from 1 to 3 p.m. June 28 at Wente Vineyards, 5565 Tesla Road, Livermore. Tickets are \$25 minimum donation and comes with discounts. Proceeds go to landmark UN-partnered film. Visit <http://shop.rawpp.com>.

Miscellaneous On Stage

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.

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 audio books 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/second-chance.


Shakespeare's Grand Tale of Heroic Adventure Comes to Pleasanton Park Pericles is the story of a young man, Prince Pericles, who embarks on an epic journey that ultimately triumphs good over evil. The cast of 11 actors portray numerous roles and play live

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24 Mark Schultz	5 Los Lobos
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music throughout the show, including folk, country and bluegrass tunes. Free shows are at 7:30 p.m. at the Amador Valley Community Park, 4301 Black Ave., June 28 and 29, July 5 and 6, and July 12 and 13.

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 pleasenior@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 applications, 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" to that question. 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 Dr. Richard Southern is "Practicing the Presence: The Power of Prayer." Service is at 10 a.m. at the Radisson, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. All are welcome. Call 829-2733.

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.

Pleasanton Summer Lacrosse Programs Pleasanton Lacrosse

Club's three summer programs, for grades 1 to 12, have both PLC coaches as well as local high school coaches and players there to teach players. All summer programs below will be held at Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road. Cost is \$50 to \$75. Visit www.pleasantonlacrosse.com.

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 support 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, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays. A fee of \$40 for every eight weeks or based on a sliding scale. Call Elizabeth, 667-2799.

Fibromyalgia Support Group This group meets at 6:30 p.m. 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.

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

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

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.

Twin Valley Mothers of Twins Club General meetings are at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 7421 Amarillo Drive. and include round table discussion and dinner. Visit www.TVMOTC.com.

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

Blankets for Kids Blankets For Kids, founded by Pleasanton resident Jo Molz, makes and distributes soft

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

Hats Off America Volunteers are wanted for the Hats Off America Casino Night April 19; Muscle Car, Hot Rod, and Art Fair May 16 to 18; Red T-Shirt 10K runs/5K walks June 7, Sept. 13 and Nov. 8. HOA is a 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.tv-ar.org.

TV30

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.



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County fair comes to town as fairgrounds celebrates landmark 150th year of horse racing

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by Janet Pelletier

When jockeys and their horses line up at the starting gate this Wednesday, it will be more than just the first race of the summer season here. This year marks the 150th anniversary of horse racing at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

In that timeframe, there have been the inventions of the automobile, television, computers, simulcast and satellite horse race wagering. But even though horse racing is an aged sport, fans continue to fill the grandstand at the fairgrounds year after year, anticipating an action-packed 11 days of live thoroughbred races.

A rich history

The Pleasanton track is the oldest one-mile race track in the United States. Don Refugio Bernal built the track in 1859 on 52,000 acres of land he owned, known as Rancho del Valle de San Jose. The track soon became a popular Sunday entertainment center for local horsemen, according to an excerpt from "Celebrating Family Fun at the County Fair," a pictorial history book commemorating the 90th anniversary of the county fair, which was in 2002. And the fairgrounds stands as a testament of history today, the property bordered by Pleasanton, Bernal and Valley avenues and Rose Street. Throughout the years, the track has gone through a number of owners.

Bernal passed ownership of the track to his sons, Augustin and Antonio Bernal at a time when Pleasanton was called Alisal. After Augustin Bernal died in 1872, the property was left to his son Frederick. It was during this time that a jockey club was formed with nearly all of the local stockmen as members.

The track was eventually sold to Joseph F. Nevis around 1876, who married Augustin Bernal's widow. He made improvements to the track to meet regulation specifications and began operating it as a business.

Multi-millionaire Australian horse breeder Monroe Salisbury purchased the track in 1882 for \$25,000, operating it as the Pleasanton Stock Farm. Horses during this time were being shipped from the East Coast for early spring training here.

Over the years, barns, stables, orchards and a caretaker house became additions to the property. Currently, the caretaker house, called the Heritage House, is the office of



This 1904 postcard depicts a harness race (trotters and pacers), which were run on the inside track.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty.

A grandstand, complete with lavish quarters for guests, was completed in 1911 by incoming owner and son of a Canadian railroad tycoon Rodney G. MacKenzie. Part of the nearly quarter-million dollars he spent included stables to house 300 horses. Today, an average of 500 horses are stabled here. MacKenzie also made improvements to the race track, constructing a smaller track for trotting races in the interior.

One year later, the first fair was held in Pleasanton. The Alameda County Fair Association was formed June 29, 1912. A sale of stock at \$100 per share was used to finance the first fair and donations were

solicited to help finance buildings and the main entrance. Trotting races at this time had \$500 purses. By 1941, the Alameda County Fair Association purchased its first 100 acres of what now comprises the 268-acre fairgrounds. A new 5,000-seat grandstand was completed and so were several horse barns.

Over the years, the race track garnered praise for its rich soil, the region's mild climate and high quality of local feed. The initial races held there featured trotters and pacers in harness-style races, but by the time Salisbury took ownership, he brought stallions to race.

In the 1930s, Seabiscuit trained for a few days on the Pleasanton track. Another

championship horse, Casual Lies, trained and raced in Pleasanton before going on to finish second in the 1992 Kentucky Derby.

Changes on the horizon?

Going forward, horse racing at the fairgrounds may be entering a new era. This year, San Mateo race track Bay Meadows announced it would be closing, leaving many race fans to wonder where the horses and the races would go.

Rick Pickering, chief executive of the Alameda County Fair Association, said while the future is unclear, there is a possibility that additional horses and races will be added here.

Pleasanton has the only fair in Northern California that trains thoroughbreds year-round, Pickering said, and at a financial loss. The fair association does that for the good of the horse racing industry, he said.

Due to the looming Bay Meadows closure, the Thoroughbred Owners of California, the California Thoroughbred Trainers Association and the California Horse Racing Board have designated the Pleasanton track to be the new primary auxiliary training facility to support Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley.

"Much of that has to do with our tradition, the high quality of our barns and race track and also with our close proximity to Golden Gate Fields," Pickering said. "In other words, horses shipped back regularly between Golden Gate Fields and Bay Meadows will train at one and run at the other. So, we will be that primary auxiliary facility, which Golden Gate Fields will need."

"They have over 1,000 stalls (at Golden



Celebrating Family Fun at the County Fair

A new grandstand seating 5,000 was completed in 1941. This year, Pleasanton, called the "birthplace of horse racing" by the San Francisco Chronicle in the 1940s, celebrates 150 years of the sport.

Gate Fields) that are full but they need more than 1,000 horses to keep the race product solid," he added.

In Pleasanton, there are currently 700 stalls, and depending on the number of horses that will transfer here to train and/or race, more stalls may need to be added.

"Two hundred to 250 horses are trying to figure out where to go and some will end up here once the fair season is over," Pickering said. "We are studying adding potentially three barns which could come up with roughly 250-300 stalls. We have already set aside the space for years. In fact, in year's past we used to bring in portable barns to supplement our existing 700."

In addition to plenty of space, Pickering said, the fairgrounds also has the advantage of having its own water and solar power systems.

"To many extents, we're self-sufficient as a nonprofit," he said.

Will the Bay Meadows closure mean more racing locally as a result? Pickering said it's still undetermined. When the San Mateo race track closes all operations by November, it's anticipated that 10-12 weeks of racing there will be shifted to Golden Gate Fields. Another 10 weeks of racing could be spread to other fairs in the state.

"There may be an opportunity for additional weeks of racing to be added here, but that's down the road," Pickering said.

And if that scenario were to play out, Pickering said it could mean a three-week summer session, three- to four-week fall session and/or three- to four-week spring session. He said he doesn't expect to see more than eight total weeks of racing added here. Some improvements would need to be made to the facilities, including the construction of glass-enclosed seating areas with heating and

air conditioning and sound equipment.

But residents shouldn't be concerned about an increase in traffic, noise or any other nuisances should that happen.

"There's no intention to build anything comparable to what Bay Meadows was," Pickering said. "We are first and foremost a fairgrounds."

Pickering said average daily attendance at Bay Meadows is only 1,200 to 1,500 people, a small crowd when considering the fairgrounds here hosts a number of large-scale events including Goodguys car shows and the Scottish Games.

"And many people are used to our race event during the fair when we'll have 30,000 to 40,000 people coming to our concerts, riding the rides, the entertainment, fireworks show, etc.," he said.

In addition, if more horse racing was added here, the regular hours of operation would be from noon to 6 p.m. daily, outside the window of rush-hour traffic, he said.

County fair starts today

If horse racing is a big draw, so is the family-friendly Alameda County Fair, which opens today with more rides than the average child can handle in one visit and a children's concert by the Doodlebops. A fireworks display will begin at 9:15 p.m. Saturday's free concert will be performed by country artist Terri Clark and Sunday is sure to draw a crowd with R&B group Boyz II Men, which rose to fame in the 1990s. All concerts will be held at 6 and 8 p.m. and a full lineup is listed on the fair's website, www.alamedacountyfair.com.

The annual fair parade will roll through the downtown at 11 a.m. Saturday, expected to bring more than 10,000 spectators to the parade route on Main Street. Roughly 2,000

people will be participating in the parade, which will feature floats, marching bands and the popular oversized helium balloons.

This year's parade grand marshals will be former Oakland Raiders players Rod Woodson and John Parella.

Woodson, an 11-time Pro Bowler, is a Pleasanton resident who is an analyst for the NFL Network. Parella is also a Pleasanton resident.

Among the parade participants are Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, a 180-member marching band; American High School Band, East Bay Scouts Band, South Bay Traditional Jazz Band; oversized balloons including a jockey and horse, musical notes and patriotic star; appearances by Curious George and Strawberry Shortcake; floats by G and M Farms, Cactus Corners Youth Square Dancers and a Giant Train Locomotive; and popular local roller derby team the San Francisco Bay Bombers.

Admission to the fair is \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors (who are free on Wednesday) and \$6 for children ages 6-12. Children under 6 are free. Today through Sunday is Military Appreciation weekend and free fair admission for two people with military I.D. Parking is \$8. Horse racing is included with paid admission to the fair.

The fair, which runs through July 6, will operate from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on July 4. Carnival rides will be open from noon until closing.

Horse racing, which begins June 25, runs through July 6 with start times at 12:35 p.m. each day. It will be dark on July 1.

For more information, visit www.alamedacountyfair.com. ■



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www.facebook.com/userstudies.php?rc=5

Multi-Family Garage Sale 6/21 and 6/22

All proceeds will go to directly to a local family to help them through a difficult time. Saturday 6/21 & Sunday 6/22 from 9am to 5pm 6571 MAPLE DR. DUBLIN, CA

120 Auctions

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Grab Bag Lot - Estate Clean Out, Open Dates, Livermore, 980 Cromwell St, May 24 7-12

Pleasanton, 2424 Crestline Road, June 21 & 22 (Sat & Sun), 9-3 HUGE Garage Sale! Like new clothes, furniture, electronics, and toys. Also, duel bathroom vanity, toilets, sinks, and mirrors.

Pleasanton, 3267 Burgundy Drive, June 21, 8-4

Lots of furniture, kitchen appliances, tools, clothes, baby items, collectibles, books, children's toys, Breyer horses and knick knacks. Come early!

Pleasanton, 6744 Paseo Catalina, June 28, 8-4

Pleasanton, 6744 Paseo Catalina Sat. June 28 8:00-4:00 Multi-Family Block Garage Sale

Pleasanton, 6868 Massey Court, Saturday 9 to 2 Grage Sale Sat June 21st 9am to 2pm Gas Dryer, Dog Iglu House, Household items.

215 Collectibles & Antiques

PEZ candy dispensers - \$75.

Royal Doulton figurine - \$80

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220 Computers/ Electronics

Fax/Phone machine for Sale - \$30

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Wall Mirror - \$10

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PET OF THE WEEK



CATHERINE HANSEN RUSH

Cat days of summer

Summer officially begins today and Noble, an adult flame-point Siamese mix, is celebrating by lounging next to the pool—otherwise known as a water bowl—while awaiting adoption at the East County Animal Shelter. Given that there's sand in his litter box, Noble must really believe he's at the beach! Noble is super-friendly, and behind those shades are a pair of beautiful, light blue eyes. If you're looking for a cool cat, visit Noble and his many friends at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Drive in Dublin, open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 803-7040.

Dining Out

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

American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

Bridges

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

Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant

855 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-8106. Executive Chef Chris Smith offers exciting contemporary American cooking at lunch and dinner, featuring a wide selection of fresh fish entrees. Also offering our famous Sunday Champagne Buffet Brunch full bar and patio service. Visit us at www.pleasantonhotel.com for menus and private party and catering details.

Zorn's Restaurant

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

a.m. to 3 p.m. with breakfast and lunch specials. Dine in or take out. Catering also available.

Asian-Pacific

Mahalo Grille

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

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

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

Brewpub/Alehouse

Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub, some ales (Attaboy IPA) are brewed

with locally grown hops. We also have a rotating selection of guest brews and seasonal ales. To-go orders welcome and we're available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday, visit www.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 for Veronica, Tuscan pork and signature fresh seafood...just

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Silver Palate Restaurant & Market

680 Main St Downtown Pleasanton, 417-5900 The ambiance of this restaurant evokes the light-filled expanse of a European market-place, 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.

Japanese

Sato Japanese Cuisine

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

Mexican

Blue Agave Club

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

Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

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

seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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So go to www.pleasantonweekly.com and download your entry form. Entry must be delivered to **Roman Holiday Salon**, 4555 Hopyard Road, Suite 9, Pleasanton during regular business hours. (Mon. 9-5, Tues.-Thurs. 9-9, Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-5, closed on Sunday). Contest ends Friday, July 11th.

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Anjali Lathi
600-2024



Eileen Borton
600-2034



Marques Buck
600-2006



Denise Colvin
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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



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