

## Take Us Everywhere

Readers share our paper on their travels > **page 17**

Vol. IX, Number 24 • July 11, 2008

www.PleasantonWeekly.com

### It's filing time

Candidates for mayor, council can file Monday

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# PLEASANTON WEEKLY

### The heat is on

But how long will high temps last?

> **page 5**

## Stronger now



Gymnasts reflect on molestation by gym owner, their foundation to help other victims of abuse

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# Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

## Kernan's good news good for Pleasanton

Longtime school board member Pat Kernan has been taking it on the chin lately in both the media and at a recent school board meeting where school activist Julie Testa asked the district to seek (and pay for) a legal opinion on whether Kernan is no longer a resident of Pleasanton and thus not qualified to stay on the board. In the Weekly's Town Square forum where Testa also has repeatedly questioned Kernan's residency status, she has had several others blog with the belief that Kernan doesn't really live in Pleasanton and giving other reasons they'd like to see him go. To Testa's credit, she's the only one so far who has made her complaint public using her actual name. Others sign in to the forum with phony names and at the school board meeting, no one came forward to join Testa in what so far has been a one-woman battle to force Kernan to resign or have him kicked off the board. That's not likely to happen.

Jim Ott, this year's board president, gave Testa all the time she needed with the TV30 cameras still rolling to explain her position. With Kernan recusing himself from the meeting, Ott read out loud a number of the statements Testa made in various Town Square forums from copies he had distributed to other board members. One by one, he diplomatically defused many of her arguments. In the end, both Ott and school Superintendent John Casey pointed out how their own investigations and those by the district's legal counsel and even the Alameda County state's attorney office showed that indeed Kernan does lease an apartment on Andrews Drive, has a driver's license and voter registration card listing that as his legal address, and that he meets all of the residency requirement for serving on the Pleasanton board of education. In the end, the board voter 4-0 not to pursue Testa's complaint any further, although she can still file her own legal complaint if she chooses.

It's a shame it came to that. In fact, it's puzzling why this small group of unidentified individuals

used their blogging time so consistently to bash Kernan, who is now the longest serving school board member and is responsible for much of the progress in advanced education programs in the district as well as citywide achievements. Kernan moved to Pleasanton in 1984. He was appointed to the school board in 1996 and was first elected to a four-year term in 1997. He's been reelected by wide margins ever since. In May of 2006, Kernan and his wife Marcia, who were now empty nesters with all six children grown up and on their own, sold their home on Tanglewood Way and bought a retirement home in Camino, a small community east of Sacramento where they have vacationed frequently. At the time, Kernan was with a Sacramento-based law firm although most of his clients were in the Bay Area, including the San Jose Sharks and the San Jose Stealth, a fast-growing lacrosse organization that Kernan persuaded to make its headquarters in Pleasanton. Because he is here most of the week, he leased the Andrews Way apartment where he lives weeknights and some weekends and shares with two daughters, Kari, who works for ValleyCare Health System, and Brea, who graduated a year ago from Colorado College and just completed her internship with the Houston Astros. She is now development director for the Stealth. Kernan thought about stepping down from the school board in 2006, but friends and associates persuaded him to stay. And with good reason. Board member Gloria Fredette had recently resigned. Fellow attorney Steve Pulido announced that he would not seek reelection because of his pending appointment as a judge in the Alameda Superior Court system. Veteran board member Juanita Haugen told her colleagues that she was fighting terminal cancer and might have only a few months to live. Kernan decided to stay, but checking first with the school district's and other legal experts to make sure his apartment qualified as his legal domicile. It did and it does, giving Kernan and his passion for quality education four more years of leadership on the Pleasanton school board. ■

### About the Cover

Two local girls, Courtney Kiehl and Alexa Hernandez, have taken a negative situation and turned it positive by starting a foundation for victims of sexual abuse to come forward with their stories. ACHE, Abused Children Heard Everywhere, was started by the girls, who were abused by their gymnastics coach, and has received a lot of response.

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### Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

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Second, few of us want to participate in the purchase financing of our home...but it's worth looking into. For one thing, it may prove as advantageous to the seller as it does to the buyer to carry a small portion of the financing. Even more important, though, it will serve you to discuss with your real estate and mortgage professionals the various financing programs now available to the buyers of your home so that you better understand their options, the choices they make, and how their choices might affect the purchase negotiations. Just call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at [www.gerardastocking.com](http://www.gerardastocking.com).

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# Streetwise

**Q:** What is your favorite kind of music and why?

Asked Downtown



**Rigo Brioschi**  
Account Manager

I like the older stuff: Sinatra, Big Band and swing music. I think it's the only form of music that is genuinely American. It speaks to what our country is about, freedom of expression and having a good time. It's a social kind of music, getting people together. Many forms of dance are derived from this type music.

**Megan Collard**  
Sales

I have several favorites. But I love old time music, classics, like Frank Sinatra. It reminds me of slower times, kicking back, enjoying life. I've always been a bit nerdy, so I listened to it as a kid with my grandparents.



**Erin O'Malley**  
Student

My favorite would probably be considered alternative. Usually I like the meaning and message from the lyrics, so as much as it is about the music it's about the words too.



**Champak Venkitachalam**  
Physician

I like hard rock. It entuses me. I get energy from bands like AC/DC, Garbage. That is what music should do—energize us.



**Shiv Ramakrishnan**  
Software Engineer

I love disco. It has a great beat to dance to or exercise with. Disco gets you up and moving.



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

# Newsfront

## News Digest

### School board to meet Monday on Signature

The Pleasanton school board will hold a special meeting starting at 9 a.m. Monday to review the status of its litigation with Signature Properties over the Neal Elementary School issue. The board will take public comments on this or other matters at the opening of the meeting before moving its discussion behind closed doors for private discussions as permitted by law on legal disputes and strategy.

The meeting will be held in the school district's board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

### Author to discuss book, Pakistani culture

Moazzam Sheikh, author of "The Idol Lover and Other Stories of Pakistan," will read from his new book, present an informative slideshow and talk about the culture of Pakistan at the Pleasanton Public Library at 2 p.m. July 20. Sheikh is the author of "Stories of Intizar Husain" and has edited a collection of stories, "A Letter from India: contemporary Pakistani Short Stories." The Lahore-born Sheikh teaches at the City College of San Francisco and is a librarian at the San Francisco Public Library. The program is free and open to all. No registration required.

### Museum on Main offers programs

The Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St. is offering children's and family summer programs. The "Once Upon A Time" series for preschoolers and first-graders presents "Red, White and Blue: Our Heritage and Flag" to be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on July 19. It will focus on American heritage and the history of the flag and includes patriotic-themed crafts and games along with a snack. Fee is \$10 per child. Registration deadline is July 17.

### Openings available at academy

The Performing Arts Summer Academy in Pleasanton is accepting registrations for two sessions it is sponsoring this summer. The nonprofit group's Core Skills camp runs from July 21 to Aug. 1. Another session, called Music Man, Jr., runs from July 31 to Aug 16.

The sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and are open to pre-teens and teens from 8 to 18. For more information, visit [www.TriValleyYPA.org](http://www.TriValleyYPA.org) or call 846-0329.

## Pentin, Sullivan seek City Council seats

*Hosterman launches reelection campaign for mayor*

**M**ayor Jennifer Hosterman and Councilman Matt Sullivan have announced their plans to seek reelection to office on Nov. 4, with businessman Jerry Pentin also saying that he will file for election to the City Council in the November election.

Councilwoman Cindy McGovern is also eligible to seek reelection but has yet to announce her intentions. Like Sullivan, McGovern was first elected to the council for years ago, a position that is restricted to two four-year terms.

As mayor, Hosterman must stand for election every two years, with a four-term limit on the position.

The nomination period for council and Pleasanton school board candidates begins Monday. Those seeking office must file their

candidate's paper with City Clerk Karen Diaz by 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8. Registered voters will vote for a mayor and two members of the City Council, and to fill three seats on the school board. There, the terms of school board members Steve Brozosky, Chris Grant and Kris Weaver are expiring. The school board has no term limits so all three can seek election, although Brozosky has already said he will not run for the board.

According to the California Elections Code, if nomination papers for an incumbent who is eligible for reelection are not filed by Aug. 8, the nomination period is extended to Wednesday, August 13.

A filing fee of \$25 is required when filing nomination documents. In addition, candidates

may submit an optional statement of qualifications for a charge of \$255 that will be printed in the sample ballot and mailed to all registered voters.

In seeking reelection as mayor, Hosterman, who so far is unopposed, said that she intends to serve two more terms if voters reelect her.

"One of the opportunities I'm really excited about is that I've been asked to serve as Vice Chairwoman of the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency," Hosterman said. "If I get support from fellow council members, that would start in September. It's a two-year term which would hopefully give me an opportunity to chair the CMA during the last two years of my second term."

(continued on page 6)



Janet Pelletier

Aside from the waterslides at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, seen here, children and adults alike ventured to the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center which had extended hours during this week's heat spell.

## Sweltering heat keeps people indoors

*Slight cooldown is expected*

by Janet Pelletier

**I**f you were one of the thousands of Pleasanton residents continuously wiping the sweat of your brow this week, you're about to get a break. The hot weather is expected to be given a reprieve with forecasts showing temperatures today through early next week in the mid-to-high-80s—still hot but

more bearable.

Temperatures soared Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday into the mid-100s, with a high of 108 degrees. The heat may have encouraged some to stay at their office jobs a little longer or at least appreciate them a little more, or frequent one of the city's cooling centers, which are activated when

(continued on page 7)

## Construction starts on Firehouse center

*Reception planned Thursday to mark downtown cultural hub*

by Jeb Bing

**P**ublic ceremonies will be held starting at 3:30 p.m. Thursday to mark the start of construction of the \$15-million Firehouse Arts Center in downtown Pleasanton.

The center will make extensive use of the old historic firehouses at 4444 Railroad Ave., at the end of Division Street, as well as contemporary architecture with large expanses of windows overlooking city streetscapes and Lions Wayside Community Park. It will feature a 240-seat flexible studio theater, 2,000 square feet of high quality gallery space, two large art classrooms and a spacious grand lobby for receptions and events.

Scheduled for completion late next year, the arts center project is being managed by O'Connor Construction Management, Inc. of Irvine. The company has a northern California branch in Pleasanton and has an extensive background in public buildings, schools and other community spaces.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said the special needs and complexity of the Firehouse Arts Center warranted securing a construction management company to oversee the project. It will include portions of the historic original brick building blended with new construction space and features. The Railroad Avenue building once housed both the old Pleasanton Fire Department headquarters as well as Fire Stations No. 1 and No. 4. It's been vacant for two years ever since the Pleasanton department merged with Livermore's and built a new headquarters and Station No. 1 for the combined Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department at

Nevada Street and Bernal Avenue. Fire Station No. 4 was later relocated into a new facility on Bernal Avenue across from the fairgrounds.

The Firehouse Arts Center has been planned for years by the city and its nonprofit partner, the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation. The foundation has raised \$1.77 million to date and its long-term goal is to raise a total of \$3 million to \$5 million to support the project and the arts in Pleasanton.

The City Council last April voted to accept the low construction bid of \$8.06-million submitted by W. A. Thomas Construction to build the Arts Center. Thomas built the Alameda County Library on Bernal Avenue, which the city later acquired and is now the Pleasanton Public Library. Although the City Council indicated it was prepared to appropriate more if needed, much of the balance is expected to be funded by the foundation and individual contributors. Fialho said there are sufficient funds in the city's capital reserve fund for the project.

In addition to the efforts of the foundation, Pleasanton residents Nancy and Gary Harrington donated two 20-30-foot glass marquees, to be located at the east and west entrances to the main lobby. The marquees, designed by internationally-known British glass artist Martin Donlon are valued at \$150,000.

Although the arts center design and funding have been in place for quite some time, its actual construction was dependent on the city of Pleasanton acquiring the old transportation railroad corridor that runs through the center of downtown. Alameda County bought the corridor from Southern Pacific in 1989 and only recently agreed to sell the property to Pleasanton for \$7.5 million. ■

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## Hosterman clarifies her climate-protection action

*Supported ANWR drilling ban in 2005, anti-tar sands measure this year*

In a story online June 25 that also ran in our print edition June 27 the Pleasanton Weekly credited Mayor Jennifer Hosterman with co-sponsoring Resolution No. 55 at the U.S. Conference of Mayors last month that opposed drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife refuge.

That action was reported among resolutions and measures Hosterman has approved at the mayors' conferences.

As Hosterman pointed out in an email to the Weekly, she took that action at the mayors' conference in 2005, not at the mayors' conference last month in Miami.

At last month's meeting, Hosterman actually joined mayors in a resolution that called for new national guidelines to track the life-cycle impact of different types

of fossil fuels. They also urged their member cities to stop using unconventional sources of energy with a large carbon footprint such as liquid coal or oil shale for their own municipal operations.

"The production of tar sands oil from Canada emits approximately three times the carbon dioxide pollution per barrel as does conventional oil production and significantly damages Canada's Boreal forest ecosystem—the world's largest carbon storehouse," said the resolution.

Hosterman told the Calgary Herald that the mayors wanted to send a message that cities are taking action to stop the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere from reaching dangerous levels that could seriously disrupt the living systems on earth.

"We don't want to be . . . promoting the use of fuels which exceed the greenhouse gas emissions that are currently put into the atmosphere by (conventional) fuels," said Hosterman, in a phone interview with the Canadian newspaper.

The High Carbon Fuels Resolution was submitted by Mayor Kitty Piercy of Eugene, Ore. Mayors co-sponsoring the resolution, in addition to Hosterman, were Gavin Newsom of San Francisco; Frank Cownie, Des Moines; Marty Blum, Santa Barbara; Larry Nelson, Waukesha, Wisc.; Douglas Palmer, Trenton, N.J.; Roy Buol, Dubuque, Iowa; Christopher Cabaldon, West Sacramento; Dan Coody, Fayetteville, Ark.; Will Wynn, Austin, Texas; and Beverly Johnson of Alameda.

—Jeb Bing

## Foothill Band victorious

*Bands, color guard travel to Canada for Queen Victoria Days parade*

by Elyssa Thome

The Foothill High School Marching Band recently performed close to home in the Alameda County Fair parade, but the highlight of the season tested the students' skills, and sea-legs, much farther away. In May, the marching band, jazz band and color guard took a cruise to Canada to march in the Queen Victoria Days parade where Foothill took top honors.

"It was a great trip for the kids," said Bob Moorefield, the band director. "The whole experience was fantastic."

The band traveled to Canada on the Sapphire Princess cruise ship, but the ride was not all pleasure. Both the marching band and the jazz band performed for other patrons on the ship, including a performance with professional jazz musician Mike Bax.

Once in Canada, the bands performed at the parliament buildings in Victoria in addition to the parade. The students also had the opportunity to visit Vancouver and the Buschart Gardens.

The Queen Victoria Days Parade took place on May 19, the final day of the trip. Of the 47 bands competing, the Foothill was named top band and top color guard. Anthony DeBenedetti, who recently graduated from Foothill, took the award for best drum major.

According to Moorefield, the students enjoyed all aspects of the trip, and also gained some valuable experience.

"They had wonderful audiences," Moorefield said. "The whole thing was very educational. They really learned a lot."

While the band's schedule has slowed down for the summer, the

coming season looks just as bright, according to Moorefield. Band camp starts Aug. 13, and the first performance of the school year will be Aug. 28. Foothill will be the featured band at half time of the nationally televised Stanford v. University of Oregon football game.

On Jan. 1, Foothill will participate in the National Marching Band Championships at the Fiesta Bowl in Phoenix, Ariz. and the Fiesta Bowl Parade Competition Jan. 3. The band was champion of the parade competition in 2006, Moorefield said.

Also, while it has not been confirmed, Moorefield said that there is a chance the band will be doing the opening ceremony for the Scottish games in Pleasanton.

For more information about the Foothill Band visit [www.foothill-band.org](http://www.foothill-band.org). ■

## Candidates

(continued from page 5)

"In a leadership position at the CMA, that would elevate our visibility and our traffic issues in the Tri-Valley," she added. "My goal is to be able to fund an expansion of State Route 84 and see it completed."

Sullivan said he is seeking reelection "to complete many of the projects that I helped to initiate this term." He listed several priorities for the next four years:

- Establishment of a Citizen's Task Force to help develop priorities and an implementation strategy for our new General Plan;
- Pursue real protection from development for our Southeast Hills while maximizing public open space;
- Meet our affordable housing needs with a transit-oriented project at the Hacienda BART station;

- Continue to work with our regional partners on transportation improvements as this is the key to our local traffic problems;

- Fully implement the energy, environmental, and climate change programs started since my term began; and,

- Continue to work to bring people together to find solutions to the many challenges we face.

"But my highest priority will be to provide leadership that represents the community as a whole and to ensure the public can participate in our decision-making process in a meaningful way," he added.

"We have seen a dramatic shift in the last two years to a City Council majority that has placed business and development interests ahead of those of the larger community and has actively worked to limit public involvement in the process,"

Sullivan said. "I will work to change this direction, will continue to listen to the people of Pleasanton and will fight to ensure good government."

Pentin, who serves on the Parks and Recreation Commission and has also been its chairman, owns Spring Street Studio, an audio-visual firm that produces videos for business and organizations. A photography expert, himself, his photos are seen frequently in publications, including the Pleasanton Weekly where a photo of himself reading the Weekly underwater was a cover feature.

Pentin is active in the Chamber of Commerce and the Pleasanton Rotary North club, where he has served as president. He helps in nonprofit fundraisers, including a bicycling trip through the California desert to raise money for the Amador Valley High School competition civics team.

—Jeb Bing

## Fair attendance down, track attendance up

*Gas prices, sluggish economy, real estate market factored in*

This year, 357,904 fairgoers came out to celebrate "150 Years of Horse Racing" at the 2008 Alameda County Fair, which ended Sunday. While this number is lower than last year's attendance, officials still saw the event as a success.

"Many talented people work year-long to put together an annual fair celebration for the entire community, then we hope that Mother Nature and the economy harmonizes with our plans for 17 days," said Rick Pickering, CEO of the Alameda County Fair. "Although overall attendance was down slightly by 6 percent, the 2008 fair was a big success because of our patrons' tremendous community pride, support and involvement."

He also noted that attendance was much higher in the final seven days of the fair compared to the first 10 days, which were characterized by smoke-filled skies from the wildfires and extreme heat.

According to fair officials, a possible decrease in participation in this year's fair was predicted as events around the country experienced double-digit drops in attendance. Those in charge of planning this year's event said they had to consider the price of gas, a sluggish economy and a slump in the real estate market.

Attendance at the race track increased by 10 percent this year, as fairgoers helped celebrate "150 Years of Horse Racing" at the old-

est one-mile track in America. The "Call to Post" trumpet on July 5 rang in the third highest single-day handle, or amount wagered on racing, in fair racing history at \$4,375,828.

According to fair officials, competitive exhibits entries were up slightly up from 2007 with 17,692 and total exhibitors were up 13 percent with 6,170. The livestock auction came in at \$713,000, which is 3 percent less than 2007.

A listing of competitive entry winners will be posted on the fair's website within a week. For more information about the Alameda County Fairgrounds, visit [www.alameda-countyfair.com](http://www.alameda-countyfair.com) or call 426-7600.

—Elyssa Thome

## Zone 7 offers rebates for high-efficiency toilets

*Water agency will give discounts of up to \$150 per toilet*

Residents who install high-efficiency toilets in their homes will now be eligible for up to \$150 in rebates per toilet. The rebates are being offered by Zone 7 Water Agency, the main water wholesaler in the Tri-Valley, and take effect on Tuesday.

Zone 7 is working in cooperation with the city of Pleasanton, city of Livermore, California Water Service Company and the Dublin San Ramon Services District.

According to the water agency, high-efficiency toilets can save even more water at a time when water conservation is especially critical in light of the governor's declaration that California is officially in a

drought. In response to that declaration, Zone 7 is asking residents to cut their water usage by 10 percent.

The new rebate replaces a previous one for ultra-low-flush toilets, which after Tuesday, will no longer count for any discounts. Previously, Zone 7 had offered a rebate of up to \$75 each. Those who have bought this type of toilet before Tuesday can still qualify, but must apply by Sept. 30. Zone 7 and local water retailers implemented the discount for the ultra-low-flush toilets in 1994. The program was successful, resulting in 12,850 toilets being installed in the service area, and an average

water savings of 580-acre-feet of water—enough to serve nearly 1,200 households each year.

In addition to the newest rebate on high-efficiency toilets, Zone 7, along with PG&E, is offering a streamlined rebate process to customers who buy qualified water- and energy-efficient clothes washers. They can save 5,100 gallons of water a year, or about 3 percent of a home's average water use. Rebates of up to \$200 are available (the water portion of the rebate is up to \$125, a portion of which is being covered by the state Department of Water Resources).

—Janet Pelletier

## Heat

(continued from page 5)

there are at least two consecutive days of triple-digit weather.

The cooling centers, which are the Pleasanton Senior Center on Sunol Boulevard and the Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center on Black Avenue, are offered by the city as a way for the general public to beat the heat. Operation hours at both locations were extended this week to 10 p.m. And the response has been overwhelming at the swim center. On Tuesday night, the pools were filled with adults and children for open swimming. The city reduced the cost of admission to \$1.

"It was very crowded," said Kathleen Yurchak, who oversees the aquatic and senior centers.

Seniors gathered at the senior center to play games, watch television and stay hydrated, all while resting comfortably indoors.

Yurchak said the center provides water as well as free transportation to and from the center for seniors 60 and older and people who are

ADA-qualified.

"We get a lot of people that are just in the area and find our center and come in to cool off," she said. "(Seniors) are vulnerable. They don't have air conditioning units in their residence, so even with a fan on, it just blows the warm air around, so we encourage them to at least come out for a couple hours and receive some heat relief from their own homes."

The city has also worked with the Pleasanton Police Department to spread the word to the city's most vulnerable via telephone, Yurchak said.

"We worked with the police department and sent out a communicator message where we can identify the most vulnerable populations," she said. "It's a voice recorded message to our senior and frail populations letting them know that our cooling centers have been activated and that we are providing the free transportation to the centers and that goes out to a couple hundred residents."

Others also stayed cool by frequenting another air conditioned city center, the library.

"I had a really big turnout

for an author reading Monday night," said senior librarian Penny Johnson, who handles the library's programs. "It was really terrible weather quality and we had 60 people. They were definitely there to see (author Tom Wootton), but it helped that the library was so cool and comfortable. We also have tons of kids, people bringing their kids to enjoy the decorations for our summer reading program but also, I'm sure, because it's a place for cool and clean air."

Across town, people also gathered at popular summer recreation spot Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, which includes the Shadow Cliffs lake and the waterslides. ■

Add your 2 cents to

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

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# Stronger now



Janet Pelletier

Bracelets, similar to the Lance Armstrong "Live Strong" variety are sold on the ACHE Foundation website. The message on them is something Alexa Hernandez, 14, and Courtney Kiehl, 18, live by, "Stronger Now."

## Gymnasts reflect on molestation by gym owner, their foundation to help other victims of abuse

by Janet Pelletier

If the saying "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger" holds true, two local young women have taken that axiom and run with it.

Courtney Kiehl and Alexa Hernandez were the shy ages of 13 and 9 when they were sexually abused by someone they trusted—their gymnastics coach.

Robert Shawler, 43, now a convicted sex offender with two strikes against him, owned Cal Gymnastics in Fremont, where the girls both practiced. The abuse began in practice sessions, Kiehl said. One day, as she was performing stretching exercises, Shawler slid his hand underneath her leotard.

Shocked and bewildered, Kiehl said she froze and continued on with her practice session. But as the incident continued to bother her, she decided to make a list of stretches she said she was uncomfortable with and emailed them to Shawler because she was too afraid to tell him to his face. Shawler told her they wouldn't be doing those stretches anymore and that Kiehl needed to delete any email correspondence on that subject. But despite her attempt to quash the abuse, it continued every day for a year, Kiehl said.

As terrorizing as the incident was, Kiehl said she couldn't bring herself to tell anyone such as a teammate, let alone an adult. She was worried that if she told, the gym would shut down and it would affect other girls' future opportunities in gymnastics.

"I just felt like if it was only me, that I could handle it," she said.

"I didn't say anything because I didn't want the other girls to worry about their future at the gym," the now 18-year-old Fremont high school graduate said. "I thought I would be destroying others' dreams."

But what began as a casual conversation with teammates at a gymnastics meet became the dialogue that would bring her the courage to speak out.

"We were at a meet and we somehow brought (Shawler) up, about how weird he acts and a girl mentioned that he had touched her," she said. "Other girls then said the same thing had happened to them."

After finding out that Shawler had abused the other girls, Kiehl said she couldn't bear to be silent anymore.

"I was bawling. I told my mom that I was going to tell her something that would make her never want to go back to this gym," she said.

Kiehl's mother Joyce, who worked at the gym at the time, pulled her daughter out of any activities there and quit working there, leaving many to wonder why because it was unusual for someone as dedicated as she to just quit gymnastics.

Shawler continued to coach, her mother said.

A total of seven girls came forward about their abuse in 2004, with Kiehl leading the way. One of them was Alexa, now 14, who was 9 years old when incidents similar to Kiehl's encounters began.

After Shawler was arrested, a trial began. The case ended in 2005 in a plea deal that gave him two felony charges and a jail sentence of three years with

credit of time served. Due to

to read victim's statements.

having served a total of two

During the trial proceeding

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were becoming popular. The

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Since then, the girls have rec

"We had one woman who

she was younger and only n

website," Kiehl said.

"If we can help one chil

Jeanne Hernandez, Alexa's



Kiehl



Alexa Hernandez

I can't really stand to read other people's stories because of how painful it is to know just how common this is. I also was molested when I was about 5 years old by a neighbor. I struggle a lot with feelings of guilt and shame. Although I've come a long way I still have a lot to work through. I really really admire and encourage you two young ladies who started this site. We need so many more outlets for people like us to speak without feeling judged or afraid. We need a voice to be heard and not thrown in the back burner as though there is no lifelong struggle for people who have gone through something so traumatic. I pray for all of us who are struggling with these experiences and looking for answers. For those who feel they are to blame in some way and for those who want to be whole. I know one day I will have the courage to tell my story without being afraid of being judged. And I look forward to that day. I know it will allow someone else to begin to heal. Just like this site will help me take another step forward. Thank you and God bless you and every single person who shares their story.



—ACHE Foundation response, [www.achefoundation.com](http://www.achefoundation.com)

to the deal, the girls never testified, but were able to speak. Shawler was released from prison in June 2007, after 10 years, eight months.

After the abuse, Kiehl and Alexa began thinking of a way to turn their experience into something more positive. It was then that they saw Lance Armstrong's yellow Live Strong one and the girls decided to make one of their own that read "I survived." The leotard they made came the ACHE Foundation, which stands for "All Children Everywhere."

The girls tell of their abuse, Kiehl and Alexa, a sophomore at Pleasanton High School, knew that the foundation would be an outlet for them to come forward with their stories. And it has been since it began in 2005, the girls and ACHE have been featured on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," an ESPN special on abuse called "Surviving America." And all the way, word spread like wildfire on and its website, [www.achefoundation.com](http://www.achefoundation.com). The girls received numerous emails of support.

Shawler was 72 when she told us that she had been abused when she was 10. Now she had the courage to speak up after seeing our story.

"We've done what we set out to do," added Kiehl's mother.

Though the girls have found strength, it is still a difficult struggle. Kiehl, once a promising young gymnast, hasn't returned to gymnastics because it was too traumatic. Shawler had been her coach on and off from 6 years old.

"We were friends. We went to his wedding," she said. "He was like a second parent to me."

But she has moved on with her life in other ways. She just graduated from high school and will be attending UCLA in the fall. Instead of gymnastics, she is a successful pole vaulter.

Alexa said she too has struggled to overcome her experience but wants to move past it. She said she'd like to speak to junior high school students about her experience and let them know it's okay to tell.

And as damaging as the abuse was to the teens, it's been a rollercoaster ride for their families.

"I think about it every time I go out," Jeanne Hernandez said.

Shawler, who was a Pleasanton resident at the time of the abuse, still lives in the area, in Livermore. His wife and children still reportedly live in Pleasanton.

Alexa, who continues to perform, but is currently recovering from an injury in January, said she is afraid that she'll see him at a gym meet, but she doesn't let it consume her. His wife continues to coach at an area gym.

But despite lingering feelings, the girls say they have been empowered by their foundation and the effect it has made.

"I feel stronger now," Kiehl said. "I won't take it anymore." ■

## 38 sex offenders currently live in Pleasanton

Melody Foreman, who works in the investigations unit of the Pleasanton Police Department and registers the city's sex offenders, said police keep close tabs on them.

"In this police department, we verify address, with I.D., check where they work, we know the car they drive," she said.

There are currently 38 sex offenders living in Pleasanton, compared to 75 in Livermore. Addresses can be looked up on the Megan's Law website.

"We have one of the lowest per capita rates of sex offenders living in our community because obviously you have to have a good job to live here," Foreman said. There's now about 80,000 registered sex offenders in the state. In Alameda County, there's probably about 2,500. About half of those live in the city of Oakland.

"(Police) Chief (Mike) Fraser takes this monitoring of sex offenders very seriously," she added. "We can pay attention, we have the resources."

Sex offenders are required to update their registration, name and vehicle information within five working days of their birthday each year, according to police. All registrants are required to notify local law enforcement within five days of any relocation in or outside the jurisdiction. If they fail to comply, a warrant is sought through the Alameda County District Attorney's office and an arrest can be made.



Robert Shawler

Foreman said Robert Shawler works in Pleasanton and there is no law against working within a certain distance of child-related centers.

"We can't control him there, but we can control where he is in the off hours," she said. "The reason we encourage them to work is because how else are you going to turn your life around and get on with your life if you can't have a paycheck coming in?"

She said he lives in Livermore because he wasn't able to find a place to live in Pleasanton that met the requirements.

### Learn more...

- ACHE Foundation, [www.achefoundation.com](http://www.achefoundation.com)
- Megan's Law, [www.meganslaw.ca.gov](http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov)

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# Opinion

## Editorial

### Let's end this battle

If you haven't read through the 36-page response by the Pleasant school district to Judge George C. Hernandez's tentative ruling in favor of Signature Properties over building Neal Elementary School, you should. It's available online and makes for a good water cooler or after-work debate over where the school district should go next and how much more money should it spend to get there. Hernandez wasn't subtle in ruling that the school district never had an agreement for Signature to build the school, which back in 2002 had an estimated price tag of \$8.5 million. When John Casey was hired that year to succeed Superintendent Mary Frances Callan, he found that the cost of building Neal had risen to \$13.5 million, \$5 million more than budgeted and the district could afford. He was also told that the iron-clad construction agreement with Signature called for the developer to pay for anything over \$8.5 million. As time wore on, the relationship between the school district and Pleasanton's premier homebuilder soured, with Signature finally taking legal action to clarify just what its obligations were. Last month, Hernandez ruled on the last of two Alameda County Superior Court complaints, agreeing with Judge Ronald Sabraw's earlier ruling that even the preliminary agreement to have Signature build Neal violated the state's competitive bidding law and therefore was null and void. Even so, Hernandez then looked at the numerous other claims and counter-claims filed over the course of the four-year litigation and ruled against the school district on every single count.

In its objections to that ruling, the district appears to be setting the stage for an appeal if Hernandez's final ruling, expected at any time, discounts its objections and sticks with the tentative decision. The board has called a special meeting for 9 a.m. Monday to discuss its strategy, again behind closed doors at it's entitled to do. With several million dollars in taxpayer money at stake, the district must weigh the cost of an appeal, which could total up to a quarter-million dollars versus accepting the Superior Court ruling and ending the litigation. There's plenty of time to think this through. After the final ruling, Hernandez then will assess damages, and it's then that the district will have at least 30 days to decide on an appeal.

What's worse for taxpayers is that the Pleasanton school district's risk-sharing funding pool with other districts in the state covers specific liability and catastrophic claims, not legal disputes over construction agreements. The most Pleasanton may recover appears to be \$100,000, with any other payments to come from the district's capital improvement budget. If there was a ray of hope that the state Court of Appeal might overturn Hernandez, the \$250,000 might be worth it. But even if the district wins on appeal, it's likely the Appellate Court would send the case back to the trial court for another round, which, of course, would add more costs.

Sometimes, though, it's when bitter disputes are finally resolved in a court of law that both parties find they can talk again. After all, Signature has been an important contributor to Pleasanton, and the school district is really financed by the same people Signature serves. Surely there's a way the two sides can bury the hatchet and resolve their differences in the best interests of our community. It's worth a try. To read the tentative ruling, go to <http://apps.alameda.courts.ca.gov/domainweb/html/index.html> and click on Case Summary, entering case number RG03113375.

# Letters

## I'm not running for school board

Dear Editor,

When I was appointed to the Pleasanton school board I made a commitment that I would not run for that seat when it was up as I feel strongly that an incumbent has an advantage. I wanted to ensure that any member of the public could run for the seat without having to challenge the incumbent. I also committed to helping any member of the public understand the issues facing the school board as well as helping to understand the process of running for office.

I have enjoyed my term on the school board and feel I have made a difference especially when tackling the current budget crisis and working to get another all-weather field at Foothill High. As a board, we have been able to keep our great programs, including arts and sports. We even increased counselors while maintaining a balanced budget. I stand by my commitment and will not be running for re-election.

We have great schools in Pleasanton primarily because our community cares deeply about them, and because so many of us volunteer. What can be more important and rewarding than looking over our schools? Pleasanton has many qualified people like you who would be a great asset to our schools as a school board member. Please consider giving back by running for school board. Filing period is between July 14 and Aug. 13.

If you want to learn more about the election process or the issues the school board faces, contact

me at [steve@brozosky.com](mailto:steve@brozosky.com). Get involved.

*Steve Brozosky  
PUSD board member*

## My picks for city offices

Dear Editor,

In a few days, applications to run for city office will be available. Who will be committed to take the challenge, volunteer a great amount of time, and who will have that "positive energy" which is required for the job?

Too many folks in our town think our City Council meetings are a place to vent their dislikes for Pleasanton...so they make threats and verbal attacks towards both the city council and other commissions. Personally, I appreciate all our volunteer citizens, even when in disagreement.

I try to attend all the council meetings, as well as other commissions and have concluded that the following people have full qualifications to be our mayor:

- Jerry Thorne, city councilmember...can run from safe seat
- Cheryl Cook-Kallio, city councilmember...can run from safe seat
- Kurt Kummer, Park and Recreation commissioner...chairman
- David Stark, Housing commissioner...rotating chairman

They are good natured, speak clearly and understand positive issues. Get to know them in person or do your homework before you vote.

*Howard Neely  
Pleasanton*

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## WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

### City Council

Tuesday, July 15, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **Public Hearing:** Consider a resolution declaring that the costs for Weed Abatement, including administrative costs, are a special assessment and a lien imposed on the properties that required abatement
- Adopt a resolution placing the Save Pleasanton's Hills & Housing Cap initiative on the November 4, 2008 ballot; and approve related Election procedures
- Adopt a resolution placing an initiative measure to protect ridgelines and hillsides and to clarify growth management procedures on the November 4, 2008 ballot; and approve related election procedures
- **Continued Public Hearing:** PAP-21, Phillip and Joanna Segundo, Appellants (PCUP-205, Janny Rocha, Applicant) – Consider an appeal of the Planning Commission's approval of a conditional use permit to relocate and replace the 5,000 gallon wood tank with a new 5,000 gallon poly tank in the rear yard of the existing residence located at 481 Sycamore Road
- Review, discuss and provide direction to city staff regarding an advisory commission or committee on the environment

### Housing Commission

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

- Discussion regarding status of the General Plan Housing Element
- Discussion regarding status of the Kottinger Place Redevelopment Project

Visit the City of Pleasanton Affordable Housing Web Site at:  
<http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/housing/index.html>

### Economic Vitality Committee

- The Economic Vitality Committee meeting of July 17, 2008 has been cancelled.

### Trails Ad-Hoc Committee

- The Trails Ad-Hoc Committee meeting of July 28, 2008 has been cancelled.

### Youth Master Plan Implementation

#### Committee

- The YMPIC meetings of July 14, 2008 and August 11, 2008 have been cancelled.

### Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

- The Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory committee meeting of July 21, 2008 has been moved to July 28, 2008

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Job Announcements

The City of Pleasanton is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- Director of Parks and Community Services – Full-Time
- Intern – Water Conservation Coordinator – Part-Time, Temporary
- Junior Accountant – Full-Time
- Lifeguards – Part-Time, Temporary
- Police Dispatcher Lateral – Full-Time (Experience Required)
- Police Officer, Lateral or Academy Graduate – Full-Time, Permanent
- Tri-Valley Community Television's (TV30) Business Manager/ Executive Director - Full-Time
- Water Safety Instructor - Part-Time, Temporary

For more information, visit our employment page at [www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/employment/opportunities/](http://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](http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/community/calendar)

# Community Pulse

## Police Report

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

### June 28

- Theft:
  - 8:55 a.m. in the 4300 block of Railroad Avenue; grand theft auto
  - 8:08 p.m. in the 1700 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Vandalism:
  - 12:12 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 1:21 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
  - 1:34 p.m. in the 5500 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; public drunkenness
  - 2:06 p.m. at the intersection of Oak Vista Way and Mill Creek Place; paraphernalia possession; marijuana possession
- Prank Calls:
  - 11:27 a.m. in the 6300 block of Calle Altamira

### June 29

- Theft:
  - 5:33 a.m. in the 4100 block of Francisco Street; grand theft; petty theft
  - 7:11 a.m. in the 4100 block of Cristobal Way
  - 10:58 a.m. in the 1700 block of Peru Court
  - 12:51 p.m. in the 4000 block of Francisco Street; petty theft
  - 1:08 p.m. in the 1500 block of Mendoza Court; petty theft
  - 1:37 p.m. in the 5700 block of Belleza Drive; petty theft
  - 4:02 p.m. in the 1500 block of Mendoza Court; petty theft
  - 5:24 p.m. in the 7800 block of Canyon Meadows Circle
  - 5:37 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft auto
  - 6:16 p.m. in the 4100 block of Cid Way; petty theft
  - 7:24 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive; petty theft
- Vandalism:
  - 10:18 a.m. in the 1700 block of Baywood Court; worth less than \$400
  - 2:14 p.m. in the 300 block of Happy Valley Road; worth less than \$400
  - 7:19 p.m. in the 4800 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
  - 4:07 p.m. in the 5600 block of Belleza Drive
  - 5:35 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- Marijuana possession:
  - 11:48 p.m. in the 5800 block of Laurel Creek Drive
- Vehicle break-in:
  - 5:26 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Missing person:
  - 9:51 a.m. in the 4100 block of Francisco Street
- Public urination:
  - 5:07 p.m. in the 6300 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

### June 30

- Theft:
  - 8:01 a.m. in the 4100 block of Cristobal Way; grand theft
  - 8:05 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; grand theft
  - 11:25 a.m. in the 1900 block of Brooktree Way; identity theft
- Alcohol violations:
  - 8:34 p.m. in the 6100 of West Las Positas; public drunkenness
  - 11:35 p.m. in the 7300 block of Linwood Court; underage drinking on private property
- Battery:
  - 3:37 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue
- Vehicle break-in:
  - 5:18 p.m. at the intersection of Touriga Drive and Vineyard Avenue
- Public urination:
  - 6:35 p.m. in the 5200 block of Hopyard Road
- Loitering:
  - 5:18 p.m. at the intersection of Touriga Drive and Vineyard Avenue

### July 1

- Theft:
  - 4:23 a.m. in the 4700 block of Harrison Street; grand theft auto
  - 8:21 a.m. in the 4300 block of Fairlands Drive; identity theft
  - 4:06 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
  - 4:34 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 8:25 p.m. in the 4600 block of Sutter Gate Avenue; identity theft
- Vandalism:
  - 11:07 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; worth less than \$400
  - 11:12 a.m. in the 1500 block of East Gate Way; worth more than \$400
  - 5:59 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- Burglary:
  - 9:07 a.m. in the 3500 block of Old Santa Rita Road
- Prank calls:
  - 12:00 p.m. in the 2500 block of Santa Rita Road
- Found property:
  - 10:40 a.m. in the 5600 block of Black Avenue

### July 2

- Theft:
  - 9:39 a.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; grand theft auto
  - 1:53 p.m. in the 100 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft
  - 3:43 p.m. in the 4000 block of Page Court; identity theft
- Vandalism:
  - 7:14 a.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road; worth more than \$400
  - 11:53 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue; worth less than \$400
  - 12:41 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street; worth less than \$400
  - 6:40 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vine Street
- Burglary:
  - 6:48 a.m. in the 7700 block of Canyon Meadows Circle
  - 8:25 p.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; vehicular burglary

- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 12:04 a.m. in the 5700 block of Hidden Creek Court; underage drinking on private property
  - 12:45 a.m. at the intersection of Saint Mary and Main streets; public drunkenness
  - 1:10 a.m. in the 5400 block of Sunol Boulevard; under the influence of drugs
  - 1:39 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Valley Avenue; under the influence of controlled substances; DUI
  - 8:55 p.m. in the 500 block of Main Street; public drunkenness
  - 9:00 p.m. at the intersection of Alcosta Boulevard and Davona Drive; marijuana possession
  - 11:33 p.m. in the 1900 block of Palmer Drive; minor in possession of alcohol
- Battery:
  - 11:18 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road

### July 3

- Theft:
  - 7:29 a.m. in the 400 block of Main Street; grand theft
  - 10:18 a.m. in the 4200 block of Vervais Avenue; petty theft
  - 1:18 p.m. in the 600 block of Johnson Drive; petty theft
  - 8:36 p.m. in the 5900 block of Bryce Canyon Court; grand theft
  - 10:04 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive; petty theft
- Vandalism:
  - 9:10 a.m. in the 3800 block of Birch Creek Drive; worth less than \$400
- Burglary:
  - 1:00 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; vehicular burglary
  - 1:21 p.m. in the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
  - 3:37 p.m. in the 7900 block of Paragon Circle
- Drug/alcohol violations:
  - 12:37 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Koll Center Parkway; DUI
  - 11:28 a.m. at the intersection of Stanley Boulevard and First Street; public drunkenness
  - 1:59 p.m. at the intersection of Paseo Santa Cruz and Valley Avenue; paraphernalia possession; non-narcotic controlled substance possession

### July 4

- Theft:
  - 10:31 a.m. on Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
  - 5:51 a.m. in the 1300 block of Orloff Drive; grand theft
- Vandalism:
  - 2:27 p.m. at the intersection of Pimlico Drive and Santa Rita Road
- Burglary:
  - 8:09 a.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- Alcohol violations:
  - 12:36 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Inglewood Drive; DUI
  - 1:22 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; public drunkenness
- Fireworks:
  - 4:05 p.m. at the intersection of Crestline Road and Black Avenue

# Transitions

## Obituaries

### Clara Craig Geneva

Clara Craig Geneva died July 1 at the Pleasanton Nursing Home. She was 96 years old.



Mrs. Geneva was born Oct. 8, 1911 in San Anselmo, Calif. She later moved to Pleasanton where she

lived for 35 years.

During her life, Mrs. Geneva was a bookkeeper. Her last job was at Pleasanton Shell Service where she worked until she was 85 years old.

She is survived by two sons, Clark Maddox of Battle Creek, Mich. and Earl Maddox of Pleasanton; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Graveside services were held July 9 at Alta Mesa Memorial Cemetery in Palo Alto.

### Madeline S. Hoig

Madeline S. Hoig, a longtime Pleasanton resident, died June 29

at age 82.

In her life, Mrs. Hoig was a volunteer in her community for many years and was recognized for her work. She was a kind, giving and gracious lady.

Mrs. Hoig was a devoted wife of 38 years to Williard Hoig and a loving mother and grandmother. She was also a dedicated friend of 20 years to Verla Becker.

Mrs. Hoig is survived by two daughters, Toni and Teresa Ann; and four grandsons, Daniel, Tyler, Christopher and Kent. She was preceded in death by her husband Williard Hoig.

Services were held July 9 at St. Augustine Catholic Church.

## Births

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

### May 29

Faith and Casey McQuaid, a girl

### June 5

Hema Suresh and Suresh Rajkumar, a girl

Kristina Verdile and Sam Po'Okela Ah Yat, a girl

### June 7

Kim and James Wetzig, a boy

### June 14

Cortney Childers and Daniel Nuelle, a boy

### June 15

Sherry and Adam Wight, a boy

Aida Kuduzovic and Nathan O'Brien, a girl

### June 17

Mary and Christopher Corpora, a boy

### June 20

Adriaa Vargas and Ricardo Castro, a girl

### June 22

Vimal Nachiappan and Selvakumaran Subramanian, a girl

### June 25

Heidi and Bryan Rood, twin boys

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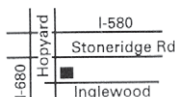
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# Sports

## Parent photographers

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### NorCal Volleyball goes for the gold at Junior Olympics

NorCal Volleyball Club, based out of Pleasanton, had two teams that earned medals at the 2008 Junior Olympics held from June 26 to July 5 in Dallas, Texas.

Junior Olympics is the highest level of junior volleyball in the U.S. This also marks the first medal in NorCal Volleyball Club's history. NorCal 18 Black took home a bronze medal in the 18-year-old American division and Betsy Sedlak was named to the all-tournament team. NorCal 16 Black took home a gold medal in the 16 National division. Nikki Baker (Pleasanton) earned MVP for the division and Rachel Eberhard (Moraga) and Devin Shaver (Livermore) earned spots on the all-tournament team.

### Stingrays sting Barracudas

July 2 provided some early fireworks at the Del Prado Pool when the Briarhill Barracudas challenged the Del Prado Stingrays. The Barracudas swam hard, but the Stingrays eventually came out on top scoring 562 points to the Barracudas 414. There were outstanding races from both teams. The Barracudas top female performers were Kristin Horillo (12), Meghan Van Lar (6), Callan Jackman (8), Haley Lukas (12) and Fiona Somerville (10). The top male swimmers were Joey Grywczynski (7), Brandon Lind (16), Andrew Voit (8), Matthew Grywczynski (9) and Brent Reed (16).

The top female Stingray swimmers were the Doi's—Megan (10), Stephanie (13) and Niki (16)—followed by Taylor Peterson (18), and Alyssa Bardakos. The top males were Cameron Kurotori (12), Jake Newman (10), Michael McMasters (6), Tommy Sabatini (10) and Eric Gates (15).

### Killer Whales edge out Sharks

For the second straight meet, the Pleasanton Meadows Sharks lost a close contest last weekend, falling to the Ruby Hill Killer Whales by 13 points, 488-475.

The Sharks made a late run in the free relay, but couldn't quite get enough points to get over the top. The Sharks lost the previous Saturday by 30 points to Briar Hill.

Despite the loss, the Sharks had some great individual and team efforts. For example, in both the 11-12 and 15-18 age categories, boys went 1-2-3 in the 50 free. The 15-18 swimmer competition was a particularly close with Joey Silva winning in 25.14, Michael Corbin right behind at 25.26 and Curtis Wong posting a 25.38. Mason Mooney of Ruby Hill finished fourth with a 25.43 time, so the top four swimmers were separated by only .29 seconds. The 11-12-age boys weren't quite so close, but Perry Cheney, Chris Azuma and Grant Miller took the top three spots just the same. In the 9-10-age boys 100 IM, the Sharks did one bet-



### Nine-and-oh!

John-Michael Beddome from Foothill High School recently competed on the Northern California Grizzlies All-Star Lacrosse team, which took first place in the Vail U-17 Lacrosse Shoot-out in Vail, Colo. The Grizzlies finished the tournament with a 9-0 record and competed against teams from Colorado, Arizona, Indiana and Maryland to take top honors.

ter, taking all the points with Nick Tucker, Jack Geasa, Noor Gill and Daniel Newman doing the honors. The 13-14 girls also stood out in the 100 IM with Kaala Cheney, Elsa Schwaninger and Katey Cloonan taking the top three spots.

Nick Tucker managed to take three 9-10 individual events, winning the Free, Fly and IM. Several Sharks took two individual events including Jessica Rhoads (U6 Free, Fly), Aaron Zheng (U6 Breast, Free), Blake Tucker (7-8 Breast, Back) and Chris Bush (11-12 IM, Breast).

### Lady Hustle takes 3rd in U16 tournament

Pleasanton's Lady Hustle 14 and under girls participated in a 16 and under tournament along with 13 other teams in Stockton at Arnaiz Fields July 5 and 6, taking third place.

Hustle played a total of five games over the weekend and gave away only five runs the entire tournament. Hustle started off the tournament playing a tough Sacramento Breeze team on Saturday morning. Niki Stark and Nicole Borchard earned the two RBI's and ended the game in a tie with a 2-2 score. Lady

Hustle then went on to score nine runs in the first inning against the Fremont Flyers. Jess McKeenan had a two-RBI double. Niki Stark went three-for-three with a double and Nicole Borchard went two-for-two. Montana Berg was winning pitcher as the Hustle won by a score of 11-1. Next, Lady Hustle shut out the Santa Cruz Extreme 2-0 behind strong pitching from Katie Mannion. Montana Berg went two-for-three and had both RBIs with two clutch singles, scoring both of Hustle's runs. Lady Hustle earned a No. 2 seed for Sunday and were matched up against the Valley Stompers of San Ramon. Katie Keller was starting pitcher and limited the Stompers to just one run and five hits. Trailing 1-0 going into the bottom of the last inning, Lady Hustle pulled out a dramatic 2-1 victory with Jess McKeenan getting a bases loaded walk and RBI for the win as Lady Hustle scored the final two runs with two outs.

In the semi-final game, Lady Hustle fell 1-0 to the Concord Bears in a very well played defensive game. Katie Keller and Katie Mannion pitched for Hustle and held the Bears to only 2 hits. The Bears would go on to win the championship against the Santa Cruz Extreme. ■

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# Dining Out

## American

### Vic's All Star Kitchen

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### Bridges

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

### 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](http://www.pleasantonhotel.com) for menus and private party and catering details.

## Barbecue

### Red Smoke Grill

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

## Brewpub/Alehouse

### Main Street Brewery

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

### The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

3015H Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 426-9600. Voted Best Watering Hole in Pleasanton, The Hop Yard offers

30 craft beers on tap as well as great food. The full-service menu includes appetizers, salads and grilled fare that will bring you back time and again. Banquet facilities available. On the web at [www.hopyard.com](http://www.hopyard.com).

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

## 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

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](http://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](http://www.pandapleasanton.com).

## Continental

### Barone's

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

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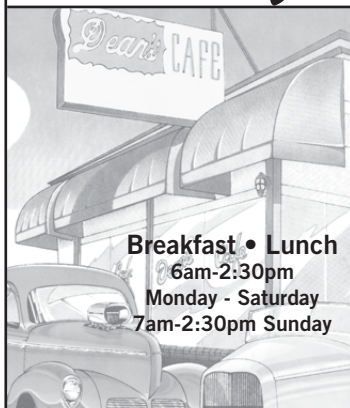
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## Dining Out

### Italian

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#### La Vite Ristorante

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

#### Girasole Grill

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

### Japanese

#### KAKI SUSHI

3120 G Santa Rita Rd in Pleasanton In the Nob Hill Shopping Center. 484-4827. Open 7 Days a week. Try our Over 100 Special rolls. Serving Great Sushi with Friendliness every-

day! "...Sushi was fantastic and the service was wonderful"... "Kaki had 4 stars and the reviews were good, so we gave it a try and I'm glad we did!"... "I've been here about 6 times for lunch in the past year and it's real consistent and a good value."

#### 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.

### 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.

### Steakhouse

#### Bighorn Grill

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

**You've got good taste**

Go to [PleasantonWeekly.com](http://PleasantonWeekly.com) and post your own rating and review of any restaurant!

**PLEASANTON WEEKLY .COM**



**Pleasanton Downtown Association presents our 8th Annual Summer**

**Wine & Stroll**  
Thursday, July 17  
6 pm - 9 pm

#### TICKETS:

**\$25 In Advance Available Now**  
(through July 16)

**sold at:**

**Clover Creek**  
670 Main Street  
**Pleasanton Downtown Association**  
830-A Main Street

**Studio 7 Fine Arts**  
400 Main Street

**Towne Center Books**  
555 Main Street

**\$30 at Event**  
if not sold out

**GET STARTED HERE:**

At the Arch in front of the Museum on Main. Redeem your tickets and pick up your wine glass, passport and event map between 5:45-7:30 pm.

**Glasses and event maps must be picked up by 7:30 pm.**

Price includes wine glass, event map and tastings

**Not responsible for lost, misplaced or stolen tickets**

**Rain or shine. No Refunds.**

**Event is not recommended for children.**

#### Participating Businesses

About Face Skin Care . . . . Winery 21  
Acc'sentials . . . . Battaion Cellars  
Aldrin Adamos, D.D.S. . . . . Livermore Valley Cellars  
Alexander's Fine Art . . . . Little Valley Winery  
All About Me . . . . Little Valley Winery  
Annie's Corner . . . . Garre Vineyard & Winery  
Apparel & Co. . . . . Retzlaff Estate Winery  
Bibiane Bakery . . . . el Sol Winery  
BICYCLES! Pleasanton . . . . Elliston Vineyards  
Cazinha Portrait Design . . . . BoaVentura de Caires Winery  
Clover Creek . . . . Eagle Ridge  
Divine Skin & Body Care . . . . Westover Winery  
Euphoria Nail & Body . . . . Battaion Cellars  
Gallery M . . . . John Christopher Cellars  
Gourmet Works . . . . Charles R Vineyards  
Gregory Frame Shoppe . . . . Livermore Valley Cellars  
It's Only Natural . . . . Murrieta's Well  
Jewelers Gallery . . . . Mfinity Wines  
Lotus Consignment Boutique . . . . Tamas Estates  
MD Spa . . . . Concannon Vineyard  
Milfleur @ Kottinger Barn . . . . Wente Vineyards  
Murphy's Paw . . . . Bodegas Aguirre Winery  
Old Republic Title Company . . . . Les Chenes Estate Vineyards  
Pans on Fire . . . . Hidden Creek Wine  
Poetry on Canvas . . . . Mitchell Katz Winery  
Residential Pacific Mortgage . . . . Ruby Hill Winery  
Retro Martini . . . . Page Mill Winery  
Salon Vivace . . . . Fenestra  
Savvy Seconds . . . . White Crane Winery  
Serenity Stoneworks . . . . Wood Family Vineyards  
Sincerely Yours Cards & Gifts . . . . Ryhan Estate Vineyards  
Studio 7 Fine Arts . . . . Tenuta Vineyards  
The Berry Patch . . . . Ryhan Estate Vineyards  
The Tree House . . . . Ruby Hill Winery  
Three Dog Bakery . . . . Fenestra  
Towne Center Books . . . . Bent Creek Winery  
U.S. Bank . . . . Eckert Estate Winery  
Valley Plumbing Home Center, Inc. . . . . Palomares Vineyards  
Worthington Gallery West . . . . McGrail Vineyards & Winery

#### Featured Wineries

About Face Skin Care . . . . Winery 21  
Acc'sentials . . . . Battaion Cellars  
Aldrin Adamos, D.D.S. . . . . Livermore Valley Cellars  
Alexander's Fine Art . . . . Little Valley Winery  
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#### Alternative Beverage Locations

Fusion 3 Salon Spa, Lani Allen Photography, Stork's Nest, The Nail Gallery

Event sponsored by

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**Experience**  
LIVERMORE VALLEY WINE COUNTRY

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For more information visit: [www.pleasantondowntown.net](http://www.pleasantondowntown.net) or contact Nickie Hoppe at [events@pleasantondowntown.net](mailto:events@pleasantondowntown.net) or PDA at (925) 484-2199

#### Savory Delights of Northern China

LUNCH SPECIALS: Monday-Friday 11:30-2:00

DINNER: Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30

Friday & Saturday 5:00-10:00 Closed Sunday

PRIVATE BANQUET ROOM TAKE-OUT

**BEST OF PLEASANTON 2006**

**2004/2005 & 2006 WINNER**

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### RED LEAF IS HERE!



Also try our **Strawberry Blonde Hefe!**

**LIVE MUSIC...Every Friday & Saturday**  
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### RED SMOKE GRILL

**BEST OF PLEASANTON 2007**

**BEST OF PLEASANTON 2006**

#### Family Meals To Go

Meals include four corn muffins and two large sides.

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

#### Sides

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



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



**SUISHA HOUSE**  
Japanese Bistro



#### Grand Opening Special

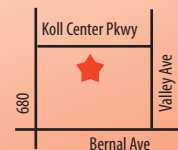
Mention this ad & receive **20% OFF** all entrees & sushi.

**HAPPY HOUR: Mon-Sat 5-7 pm**  
wine, beer & sake: \$3 (large), \$2 (small)



Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30-2:30  
Dinner: Mon-Thurs 5-9:30 pm, Fri & Sat 5-10 pm

Gift certificates • Catering for events • To go orders



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925.846.1155 • [www.suishahouse.com](http://www.suishahouse.com)