

Rooting for the home team

Local Little League team represents California > **page 5**

Vol. IX, Number 28 • August 8, 2008

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Hats in the ring

It's deadline day as candidates jockey on positions > **page 5**

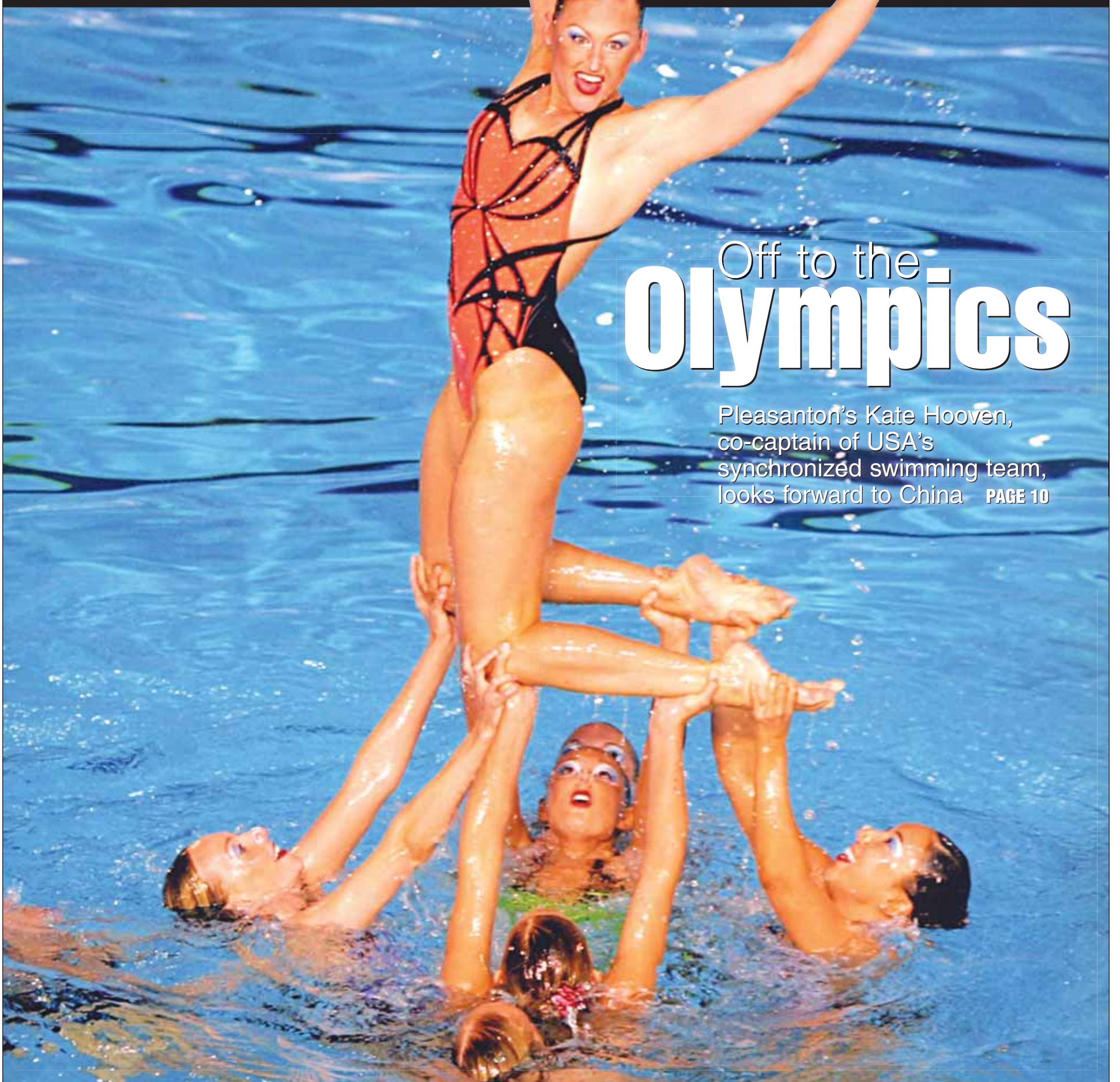
PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Mixing it up

Artists unite for inaugural 'ConvenZioNE' > **section 2**

Off to the Olympics

Pleasanton's Kate Hooven, co-captain of USA's synchronized swimming team, looks forward to China **PAGE 10**



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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Seeing the family 3,000 miles away

Trying to get in one last trip before summer slips away, my wife Jan and I just came back from a long weekend visiting our son Chris in New York City and our daughter Jenny in Montreal. With Jan heading back to work next Tuesday, we grabbed the last low fares to travel east, taking along our grandson Jordan Nally, whose eighth-grade classes at Harvest Park start later this month. We first went to New York and took some time to revisit the Soho district, walk through Central Park, visit museums and see the Broadway production of "Rent" before it closes for good next month. Then Chris drove us to Montreal, a scenic drive on Interstate 87, especially north of Albany and through the hills and lush forests of the Adirondack Mountains. Even a coffee stop at a McDonald's outside Plattsburgh was special. This fast food restaurant sits on the western banks of Lake Champlain with picnic tables that must make it one of the best situated McDonald's in all of New York State. Fellow travelers there suggested we come back in the fall when the autumn colors are spectacular all the way to Montreal.

So if you're planning a trip to the Northeast anytime soon, consider the Adirondack region, but especially travel on to Montreal. I was pleasantly surprised by how gracious the French-speaking waiters and store clerks are toward Americans who don't speak their language. In the 1990s, when my travels took me to Montreal more frequently, the attitudes were much surlier when they found that English was my only language. Today, the only problem with cross-country relations seems to be at the border crossing on I-87 where the waiting time can add as much as an hour to what would otherwise be an easy six-hour drive from New York City. Having driven through a number of countries in Europe without border patrols, it's hard to understand why long-time friendly neighbors such as the U.S. and Canada have to make border crossings so difficult.

Our daughter Jenny recently was transferred from San Francisco to Montreal by Bechtel Corp. She's

about to be transferred again to Bechtel's construction site in Kitimat, British Columbia, where she'll work with a project team that is handling Bechtel's part of the \$2.5-billion construction of an aluminum smelting plant for Rio Tinto Alcan. Debbie Look, a Canadian who lives in Pleasanton and heads the foundation that's guiding the building of the Firehouse Arts Center on Railroad Avenue, knows Kitimat, which is located about halfway between Vancouver and Juneau, Alaska. Besides several heavy mining and mineral industries, such as Alcan, Kitimat is best known for its rugged terrain, excellent fishing and hunting and "a good place to get away from it all." It's at least a 16-hour drive from Vancouver when the weather's good. There's also air service by Air Canada Jazz, Hawkair and Central Mountain Air, not carriers easy to find on any air travel schedule. Fortunately for us and Jenny, Bechtel gives its hardship teams two weeks of paid leave back home about every eight weeks or so.

So we made the most of our Montreal visit, walking many miles every day as the locals do, from the top of Mount Royal Park, the highest spot in the city, to shopping at the crowded, bustling downtown stores along Ste-Catherine Street, which seems to be the main drag for the fashion conscious and the serious trendies. We also spent time seeing a few of the thousands of shops in the air conditioned "Underground City," which includes Complex Les Ailes and the Eaton Centre. This is why you don't see many shoppers on the streets of downtown Montreal in the winter; everyone's underground. We also walked along the Rue Saint-Paul and its genuine cobblestone street in Old Montreal, stopping to see Notre-Dame Basilica, a neogothic building dating from 1829. Because it was Saturday, the colorful interior was closed for the many weddings held there each weekend, but that gave us a chance to watch brides and grooms and their very formally-dressed families and friends coming down the church steps on Place d'Armes for videos and photos. We took a few photos ourselves to help us remember a quick-but fun-trip at summer's end. ■

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

DEFINING A BUYER'S MARKET

Attorney and columnist Robert Bruss believes that a buyer's market, generally, can be defined as a "normal" market. Over the forty years that he's been a real estate investor, he insists, only about 25% of the time was the market characterized by multiple offers and rapid sales and skyrocketing appreciation rates. It's been normal, he claims, to see homes on the market for two to six months and to see the annual appreciation rate hovering slightly below 5%—or, when higher, generally a bit above the rate of appreciation.

But it's crucial to add that what is happening in one market may differ from what is happening only a zip code away. You should check each market, rather than generalizing, when deciding on the price you can afford to pay today.

The "Bruss Rule" looks like this. First, check how long it has been taking on average for the houses that come to market in a particular area to sell. If it's above 60 days, it can be characterized as buyer's market in that area. Second, check the number of homes listed for sale in the area as against the number of sales that closed, and you will gain an idea of the number of months' worth of inventory coming to market. If it's more than six months, Bruss argues the area is experiencing a buyer's market—which is a "normal" market with its own strategies and opportunities. For help call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

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For more information, visit www.pleasanton.org and click ON TO CHINA! on the home page or direct questions to Kate D'Or, 846-5858 ext. 203 or kate@pleasanton.org.

About the Cover

Pleasanton's Kate Hooen, a member of the U.S. synchronized swimming team, is already off in Beijing, China, preparing for her moment in the spotlight at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. She will be among the American faces TV viewers will see at tonight's Opening Ceremonies on NBC.

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Streetwise

Q: What electronic gadget
can you not live without?

Asked Downtown



Jenny Jiang

Teacher

My personal computer. I am a teacher and I rely on it to gather information. I really depend on it for all types of information. We read our newspapers and international news via our personal computers.

Amber Sabato

Authentication Specialist

Definitely my cell phone. Being able to communicate instantly with friends and family is so convenient. I also text a whole lot. I can't imagine what people did before cell phones.



Louanne Gagliano

Fitness Instructor

I could live without all electronic gadgets. I have a computer, cell phone, etc., but personally I don't care for them. I use them out of necessity. There are many downfalls to our society's attachment to all of these electronic devices. People don't communicate face to face anymore. They sit behind computers, cell phones and text messages.



Alex Beckman

Business Owner, Student

I would have to say my cell phone—texting, talking, being able to contact at least 200 people at any given moment. I use my phone to replace boredom as well. It has music, Internet, email. I do think it's important, when the issue is serious, to communicate in person.



Marc McLean

IT Manager

I would have to say my smartphone. It is my email, calendar and phone. It serves as my main communication device for business and my personal life.



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Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Give 'Spot' a scrub

The Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada St., hosts its Wiggle Waggle Dog Wash fundraiser from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. Putting a pup through the rinse cycle is free, but donations are appreciated. To learn more about VHS, visit www.valleyhumanesociety.org.

Chiropractor puts on backpack drive

To help East Bay children in need, Chiropractor David De Bonis hosts a backpack and school supply drive. Through Aug. 20, donations of backpacks, notebooks, folders, paper, pens, pencils, erasers, markers, crayons, etc. can be made at their office, 4625 First St., Ste. 100. They have a goal of collecting 200 backpacks. Call 223-7143.

Tickets on sale for annual Harvest Wine event

The 27th annual Livermore Valley Harvest Wine Celebration takes place Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 and includes wine tasting, a free shuttle service, live music, vendor showcases and food from area restaurants. A limited number of tickets are available and are on sale at www.lvwine.org and www.localwineevents.com, First Street Wine Company and Vino Cellars in Livermore and The Wine Steward in Pleasanton. Advanced tickets are \$50 for two days or \$45 for Monday only.

Activists to gather at LLNL to observe bombing

Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) will gather at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories Saturday to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the United States atomic bombing of Nagasaki. Starting at 10:30 a.m., participants can go through a "nuclear maze," a structure to teach about the impact of nuclear weapons; observe a moment of silence and hear a keynote address from a bombing survivor. To learn more, visit www.trivalleycares.org.

Corrections

Jamie Hinztko was incorrectly identified in "School board race could have four more candidates" (News, Aug. 1, page 5). She is the former president of the Pleasanton PTA Council.

Deadline is today to run for City Council, Pleasanton mayor

Hosterman to face opposition from anti-Oak Grove development group

by Jeb Bing

With the deadline for filing election papers set for 5 p.m. today, the mayoral and City Council races are down to the wire, with Mayor Jennifer Hosterman expected to face challenges from at least one of four candidates who share similar views on hilltop housing projects and how City Council meetings should be conducted.

The four are: former Councilman Steve Brozosky, former Planning Commissioner Mary Roberts, and current Planning Commissioners Anne Fox and Greg O'Connor. As of press time

at 5 p.m. Wednesday, none of the five, including Hosterman, had actually turned in their filing papers. Each candidate must submit signatures from 20 voters registered in Pleasanton, a statement about themselves and their candidacy, and a \$25 filing fee to City Clerk Karen Diaz. An additional \$250 fee is required if candidates want their ballot statement published in the ballot information material to be sent out by the Alameda County Registrar.

Hosterman, who is leaving today for a two-week vacation in Hawaii, said she has been too busy to put her election statement together,

although she hopes to have it ready before she leaves with the help of her campaign manager, Angela Ramirez-Holmes.

In extensive interviews with the Weekly and a statement sent by Greg O'Connor, Hosterman's challengers explained why they want her voted out of office. All agreed that a key issue in the election will be Hosterman's support of the Oak Grove project, a 51-home development in the hills above Kottinger Ranch which the council voted 4-1 to approved last fall.

(continued on page 7)



Pleasanton American pitcher and infielder Brian Hsu rounds third base during Tuesday's game against Arizona, where the team won 8-5 to reach the Little League Western Regional semifinals. Hsu is scheduled to be the starting pitcher in today's game.

Big game today for Pleasanton American Little Leaguers

Coach Ron Anderson said team is excited for opportunity, thankful for the local support

by Janet Pelletier

The 12-year-old boys who make up the Pleasanton American Little League All Stars spent Wednesday boarding rides at a San Bernardino amusement park, but don't get the wrong idea. The hard-working Little Leaguers weren't resting on their laurels after their key win Tuesday that advanced them to the semifinals. They were just taking a much-deserved break after playing a harrowing four hard-fought games at the Little League West Regionals in Southern California. The team came back from losing the first two games in pool play to winning their final

two and clinching a semifinal appearance.

Representing Northern California, Pleasanton American lost to Hawaii last Friday night, then to Nevada Sunday, but triumphed over Southern California Monday and Arizona Tuesday.

Coach Ron Anderson, whose son Ryan Anderson plays on the team, said he's confident that the team has a shot if they play to their potential.

"We've just got to focus back a little bit and just play the kind of baseball we play,"

(continued on page 26)

Pedestrian struck, killed by SUV

59-year-old Fremont woman was reportedly in Old Santa Rita Road-Rosewood Drive crosswalk when hit

by Emily West

A 59-year-old woman died Monday after she was hit by an SUV at the intersection of Rosewood Drive and Old Santa Rita Road, according to police.

Originally reported by police to be 41 years old, the victim was later identified by the coroner as Veena Chitkara, 59, of Fremont.

Police said a 71-year-old Pleasanton woman was driving northbound on Old Santa Rita Road in a 2004 Ford Excursion. A witness told police that the driver was fully stopped at a stop sign when preparing to turn right onto Rosewood Drive, according to police.

Emergency crews were notified of the accident at about 12:45 p.m. The victim was found in the middle of the intersection with life-threatening injuries. Just blocks away from ValleyCare Medical Center, she was transported there by ambulance and pronounced dead shortly after arrival.

Lt. Tom Fenner said the investigation is ongoing and that police would identify the driver at the close of the investigation. He said Chitkara was believed to be in the crosswalk at the time of impact.

"It appears [the driver] was most likely looking left at traffic and pulled forward thinking it was clear," Fenner said. "At the exact same moment, the victim had stepped off the curb, walking westbound."

Fenner said the case was one of the more "simple but tragic" incidents of this nature he has seen in years.

"[The driver] is very, very upset and feels really bad," he said, adding that she had a valid driver's license and no drugs or alcohol were believed to be involved. "She was trying to do everything right. It's easy to look one

(continued on page 6)

Of Note

Joe Rodondi awarded Firefighter of the Year

Battalion Chief Joe Rodondi was recently named the Firefighter of the Year award by Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty during the 12th annual BBQ held in late July at the county fairgrounds.

Rodondi joined the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department in 1997. His most recent labor management project include the LPFD EMS cart, a customized electronic golf cart with lights and a siren used

by emergency personnel giving medical care during special events. Rodondi is currently working on developing and implementing the Engineer and Captain Academy, alongside other LPFD members.

Pedestrian

(continued from page 5)

direction and not the other. There wasn't eye contact made [between the driver and the pedestrian] and unfortunately, in this one moment, that was critical."

This is the second pedestrian-related collision in three months. A 51-year-old woman was taken to the hospital in critical condition May 22 after she was hit by an SUV at the intersection of First and Neal streets downtown.

Fenner said the woman injured in May is still recovering from serious injuries.

In a report on Monday's incident, police said "drivers and pedestrians are reminded to remain vigilant while driving or walking in areas where they may come in conflict with each other."

Police said they recently conducted and are planning more educational and enforcement actions related to street safety. The last enforcement took place at Santa Rita Road and Francisco Street a week ago, about two miles from Monday's accident. During the enforcement, plain clothes officers act as pedestrians in crosswalks. Fenner said officers sometimes deliver citations and also talk with drivers to remind them of the laws. ■



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Candidates

(continued from page 5)

O'Connor, Brozosky, Roberts and Fox then backed a signature-gathering effort by a group called Save Pleasanton's Hills to overturn the council's action. That effort, led by former councilwoman and mayoral candidate Kay Ayala, was nullified by an Alameda County Superior Court judge, an action that the coalition is now appealing.

Next, the four Hosterman challengers also supported the coalition's successful drive to place an initiative on the Nov. 4 ballot that would ban most hilltop developments and reinforce the city's voter-mandated 29,000-unit housing band. The council last month placed a competing measure on the ballot that could accomplish the same goals, but over time. That action was approved in a 3-2 vote, again with Hosterman's support.

Roberts said she didn't take particular notice of the Save Pleasanton's Hills coalition until she saw people driving by and shouting rude comments at Ayala when she was seeking signatures on her petition.

"It was just intimidation, plain and simple," Roberts said.

Added Brozosky:

"Whether the council agreed with the citizens' initiative or not, the council members should have argued the merits of the initia-

tive and let the voters decide," Brozosky said. "But by putting their own initiative on the ballot, they've created divisiveness."

Asked if the two competing initiatives will be the focus of the campaign, Brozosky said it would be the process more than the measures that would be debated.

"I think in the mayor and council races, the debate may be less on the merit of the initiatives and more on the process of your government participating with you as opposed to working against you," he said. "It's not that easy to collect 5,000 signatures. It takes a lot of people and dedicated time to go out there and talk to people and collect signatures. The council should respect that process."

Planning Commissioner Anne Fox said she is considering challenging Hosterman for the city's top elective post to bring back slow-growth policies that would support more affordable and "reasonably-sized" homes.

"While acting as mayor, Jennifer Hosterman has morphed from a slow growth City Council member to completely caving in to the wishes of developer groups who by virtue of their money, power and campaign contributions carry far more influence right now in Pleasanton than ordinary citizens," Fox said. "So one of the things that I want to change is the pro-growth composition of the council that right now represents a real imbalance between what the people want us to do and govern-

ment's direction."

A supporter of the Save Pleasanton's Hills citizens' coalition, Fox also supports the group's initiative on the Nov. 4 ballot that would ban most development on steep hillsides and ridges. In addition, she supports the coalition's efforts to overturn a decision by the council last year that authorized the Oak Grove housing plan.

O'Connor said there are several reasons why he has considered running for mayor.

"Over the past four years, (Hosterman) has moved further away from the environmental individual I believed her to be. She has voted to place large-scale homes on the top of our ridgelines and hilltops, has failed to improve city traffic congestion as promised and has been less than respectful to the Pleasanton residents that have initiated hillside protections."

In the City Council race, four candidates have indicated their interest in the two seats that will be available on Nov. 4. The first four-year terms of council members Matt Sullivan and Cindy McGovern expire Dec. 2, when a new council will be seated. Sullivan filed for re-election this week, following businessman Jerry Pentin, who filed to seek one of the council seats a week ago. McGovern is expected to file for re-election before today's deadline along with former Parks and Recreation Commissioner Howard Neely.

Take Us Along



Wild, Wild Weekly

Marty, Tim and Carolyn Katz pose with the Weekly in Custer, South Dakota. The Katzes saw a unique rock sculpture of Chief Crazyhorse, which is being made. The project started in 1948 and won't be completed for another 100 years. Also on their Wild West-themed vacation, they stopped at Mount Rushmore; Buffalo, Wyoming; Jackson, Montana and a visit to where Wild Bill Hickock was killed during a poker game.

In prepared material for his campaign, Sullivan states:

"When first elected four years ago, my goals were to provide good government for the people of Pleasanton, to enhance our quality of life and preserve our small-town character, to address our challenges and solve problems in a collaborative way, and to join with the community to plan for a future that is environmentally and economically sustainable, with fairness and

opportunity for all our citizens.

"While I believe progress has been made and much has been accomplished under my leadership over the past four years, these goals may be more important today. I am very excited about Pleasanton's future and the opportunities before us."

For regular updates on the municipal and Pleasanton school board contests, check the Weekly's daily news pages at www.pleasantonweekly.com. ■

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Or fax: (925) 600-9559

Or e-mail:
editor@PleasantonWeekly.com
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The Weekly reserves the right to edit information for space and format considerations.

Transitions

Obituaries

William Heffelfinger

William (Bill) Edward Heffelfinger died July 21 at Abigail's Guest Home in Pleasanton at the age of 77.

Mr. Heffelfinger was born Aug. 10, 1930 in Richmond. He was a descendent of pioneer families who came to Shasta, Calif. in the 1850s.

He joined the Army Air Corps on March 7, 1946 and did his overseas tour in Alaska. He received his GED while in the service and was discharged on Jan. 10, 1949. At that time, he returned to Shasta and married his childhood sweetheart, Jacquelyn Rahl in 1950.

Mr. Heffelfinger and his family moved to Fremont in 1963 where he worked as an operating engineer until his retirement in 1986. He was an active member of the Masonic Lodge and was a past Master of Sequoia-St. Elmo Masonic Lodge No. 349 in Oakland and an active member of Pleasanton Masonic Lodge, where he was a recipient of the Hiram Award in 1998. He was also a member of Western Star Lodge No. 2 in Shasta. The I.O.O.F No. 75 in French Gulch, Calif., The Scottish Rite in Oakland and E. Clampus Vitus Chapters 10 and 13.

He is survived by his wife, Jacquelyn of Fremont; sons, Frank of Fremont, Chris and wife Patricia of Stockton; daughter, Susan Heffelfinger of Roswell, Ga.; brothers, Gerald of Stockton and Raymon Jr. of Anderson, Calif., sisters Lois Luiz of Lodi, Calif., Pat Enos of Walnut Grove, Calif., Jacky Day of Livermore, Suzann Wilson of Anderson, Calif. and Diane Hurshey of Burney, Calif.; grandchildren, Troy Spray, Sara and husband Dave Eaton, Katie and husband Robert Walker, Christine and William; and great-grandchildren, Trenton and Andrew Walker and Mylee Eaton. He was preceded in death by his parents Raymon and Dorothy Heffelfinger and his oldest son, William Daniel. A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Pleasanton Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road. Interment will be at Western Star Masonic Cemetery in Shasta at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in Mr. Heffelfinger's name to a favorite charity.

Bob Thomas

Bob Thomas, who was instrumental in launching the Pleasanton Weekly nearly nine years ago, died July 12 at his home in Burlingame after a long illness. He was 57.

Mr. Thomas, who had spent much of his career in commercial real estate, was general manager of the East Bay Express, where he had worked for six years, when he joined Embarcadero Publishing Company (EPC) in 1998 as vice president of business development.

His key contribution to EPC,

however, was the start-up of the Pleasanton Weekly in January 2000, and later the Danville Weekly in 2004. As president, he helped the newspaper become a successful and respected publication in the community. He was also part of Pleasanton from the start, frequently meeting with advertisers and newsmakers. He helped launch the highly successful Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund.

Mr. Thomas was a strong advocate of locally-focused journalism, always willing to leave regional and national stories to others while concentrating both the news and advertising columns on local readers. Despite health challenges that dogged him towards the end of his tenure in the East Bay, he was an instrumental part of the decision to open up a second paper in Danville, called the Danville Weekly.

He is survived by his wife, Candy; son, Ross; and daughter, Brin. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame, 1500 Easton Dr., Burlingame.

Nancy Eby

Nancy Vinsonhaler Eby died July 28 at the age of 72.

Mrs. Eby, a former longtime Pleasanton resident, was born Nov. 1, 1935 in Little Rock, Ark. She attended primary school in Cincinnati, Ohio and secondary school in Boston, Mass., where she graduated from The Winsor School, made her debut in 1952 and joined the Junior League.

She attended Mt. Holyoke College and The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she graduated in 1956 with a degree in physics. She started her working career with Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Co. in Hartford, Conn. In 1957, she moved to Livermore, where she was employed by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (Rad Lab) in criticality safety studies of experimental devices being prepared for tests at the Pacific Proving Grounds. After marrying Frank Eby in 1958 she retired from the lab and moved to Pleasanton, where she devoted herself to her family and home, raised three children and became active in 4-H. She started volunteer work at the Foothill High School library in 1975, volunteering there for 34 years. She also volunteered at the Amador Valley High School library from 1979 through 2001. She served on the Alameda County Library Commission for 11 years and volunteered at the Pleasanton Public Library from 1994 until it left the county system and later at the Dublin Public Library. She moved to Houston, Texas in 2007.

She is survived by two daughters, Dr. Elizabeth Ebert of Melbourne, Australia and Susan Chism of Houston, Texas; a son, Dr. Carl Eby of Beaufort, S.C.; and five grandchildren. Donations may be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 100, Dublin CA 94568.



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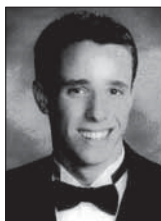
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Off to the Olympics



Pleasanton's Kate
Hooven, co-captain of
USA's synchronized
swimming team, looks
forward to China

by Elyssa Thome

Tonight, millions of people around the world will watch as each country's top athletes gather for the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. Pleasanton's own Kate Hooven will be among the proud faces of elite competitors.

"It's still kind of surreal," Hooven said. "I can't believe it's actually happening."

Hooven, 23, will be participating in this year's games in China as the co-captain of the USA synchronized swimming team. She said she is looking forward to the whole experience, and especially the opening ceremonies. She also recognizes the honor that comes with being an Olympic athlete.

"I get to go to the Olympics and say I'm an Olympian," she said.

Synchronized swimming, the sport where athletes perform dance-like moves timed to music in the deep end of the pool often looks easy due to the grace and effortless appearance the athletes work hard to achieve. But, the training and athleticism that the sport requires at any level is intense. So what made Hooven a fan?

"I love being able to do something extremely athletic and also a performance," she said. "And doing really cool things most people can't do."

During her career, she has performed with the Walnut Creek Aquanuts, Santa Clara Aquamaids, Ohio State University Buckeyes and the USA National Team. While these teams have participated (and won) in competitions around the world, her parents, Katherine and Robert Hooven, think this one will be quite a bit different.

"She's been in so many competitions throughout the world but this one is so different, unique, special," Hooven's mother said. "I think it's going to be very emotional seeing her represent her country."

Hooven was born in Newton, Mass. and lived in Germany for seven years. She moved to Pleasanton when she was 11.

The Foothill High School graduate first tried synchronized swimming at the Pleasanton Aquatic Center (now Dolores Bengtson Aquatic Center) by participating in a clinic with a friend. The class was taught by a Pleasanton resident and former member of the Walnut Creek Aquanuts. After the sessions, the instructor recommended the girls check out her former team in Walnut Creek, which they did.

Then-11-year old Hooven immediately fell in love with the sport. While she had played other sports and danced previously, none of the other endeavors captivated her like synchronized swimming.

"She loved it right from the get-go," Katherine Hooven said.

"It has a lot of the things she loves: athletics, music, being the center of attention," she said as she laughed, "having everyone watching her. It just combined all of those elements."

The same summer that Hooven's love affair started, the USA synchronized swimming team took gold at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

"The first Olympics I can remember is 1996," Hooven said. "I saw that and I knew that's what I wanted to do. So that's what I've been doing."

While she makes it sound simple, the road to the Olympics certainly has not been easy. With just days left before leaving for China, the team practiced long hours to make sure it is at its best when it matters. That meant practice in the water from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and more training on land from 3 to 5 p.m.

But even before the strenuous training expect-



Hooven family photos

Kate Hooven began her Olympic trials two years ago. She qualified for the World Cup Team and went with 11 other girls to Japan. She later went to the Olympic Trials in Indianapolis, Ind. and was named to the team to represent the United States. When she's not swimming, Hooven enjoys snowboarding, wakeboarding and surfing.

ed of Olympic athletes, Hooven and her family were making sacrifices to achieve the goal at hand.

"It's been a journey, let's put it that way," Katherine Hooven said. "It's been exciting to see Kate set a goal and work extremely hard towards that goal. And it's been really nice to see the support of her brother and sister."

As with any serious commitment to athletics, Hooven's journey has come with a large price tag. Still, her mother said the family has been able to handle the financial burden.

Katherine Hooven said the biggest sacrifice came when her daughter was younger and practicing in Walnut Creek. Because she had to drive Hooven to and from practice, she could not be around as much for her other daughter and son. Even so, her siblings have been supportive and are very proud of their sister.

But once she reached driving age, Hooven started driving and the problem resolved itself. Also, Katherine Hooven said the memories, friends and experience they have shared as a family through her daughter's commitment to synchronized swimming have been incredible.

When asked if she expected to have a daughter compete in the Olympics, Katherine Hooven said she initially never imagined it would happen, but her feelings changed as her daughter continued her commitment to the sport.

"It's always been her dream and she's been working really hard," she said. "When she was younger she always wanted to, but no, I never thought she would. As things evolved, though, it became a much more realistic possibility."

That Olympic dream has become a reality for Hooven and her eight teammates from around the United States. Eight women will compete in the team event, but all nine members of Team USA are going to Beijing.

Due to the strength of the Walnut Creek and Santa Clara club programs, the Bay Area made a strong showing on this year's Olympic team. Of the nine members of Team USA, seven trained with the Aquanauts or the Aquamaids, although they do not

all claim hometowns in the Bay Area. Five of the nine are from the area while two are from Southern California, one is from Colorado, and the only member from the East Coast (specifically Troy, N.Y.) is the other co-captain, Kim Probst.

When asked why she thought she was given the responsibility and honor of being co-captain of the team, Hooven attributed it to her chemistry with Probst.

"The coaches assigned us because we work really well together and we can lead the team together," Hooven said. "It seemed kind of natural."

As co-captains, Hooven and Probst aim to lead the team to the podium in this year's games.

"We're hoping to swim really well and hopefully get a medal," Hooven said. "There are a lot of good teams out there, so it'll be a fight."

This year's synchronized swimming competition features eight teams, including 2004 gold medalist Russia. The USA team recently beat the Russian team, making them the first team in 10 years to do so.

Her mom expressed confidence in the team, but said she supports her daughter and the team no matter what the outcome is.

"Hopefully they'll make the medal stand, but if they don't that's okay," Katherine Hooven said.

Hooven said she has already learned a lot on the road to the Olympics, but the most important lesson so far is to enjoy this unique experience.

"Mostly I've learned to live in the moment," she said. "To take it all in and enjoy it. I feel really honored to be a part of this and represent the country."

Last Sunday, Hooven's neighborhood threw their local Olympian a hometown send-off. A court nearby her parent's home was closed off and the USA-themed block party gave friends, neighbors and family a chance to wish Hooven luck before she left for China.

Check local listings for USA synchronized swimming to find Hooven representing her country, and her hometown, in the 2008 Summer Olympics. For more information about USA Synchronized Swimming visit <http://synchro.teamusa.org>. ■



Before becoming a member of the U.S. team, Hooven formerly swam for the Ohio State University and helped the Buckeyes to a USSS Collegiate National Championship in 2004.

U.S. Synchronized Swimming Team

NAME	AGE	HOMETOWN	SWIM CLUB
Brooke Abel	20	Fallbrook, Calif.	Riverside
Janet Culp	26	Littleton, Colo.	Santa Clara Aquamaids
Kate Hooven	23	Pleasanton	Santa Clara
Christina Jones	20	Fremont	Santa Clara
Becky Kim	23	Walnut Creek	Walnut Creek Aquanauts
Meghan Kinney	19	Mission Viejo, Calif.	Riverside
Andrea Nott	26	San Jose	Santa Clara
Annabelle Orme	21	Walnut Creek	Walnut Creek
Jillian Penner	20	Seattle, Wash.	Walnut Creek
Kim Probst	27	Troy, N.Y.	Walnut Creek

Head Coach: Tammy McGregor
 Head Choreographer: Stephan Miermont
 Manager: Denise Shively

WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

Planning Commission

Wednesday, August 13, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **PCUP-229, John Pfund, Tri-Valley Martial Arts Academy**

Application for a conditional use permit to allow the operation of the following at 1262 Quarry Lane, Suite A, in the Valley Business Park: (1) a martial arts/childcare facility, Monday through Friday, from 11:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.; (2) full-time childcare program camps during school breaks and holidays; and (3) evening martial arts classes, Monday through Friday, from 6:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

- **PUD-87-19-03M, Dr. William and Lydia Yee**

Application for a major modification to an approved Planned Unit Development (PUD) development plan to allow six custom lots on an approximately 29.8-acre site located at 4100 Foothill Road, custom lot design guidelines, and off-site construction on Foothill Road in the general vicinity between Puri Court and Muirwood Drive. Also consider the Negative Declaration prepared for the project.

- **PAP-123, Greg and Lisa Johnston, Appellants (PDR-715, Steven and Nicole Jeffrey)**

Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of an application for design review for rear yard improvements at the existing residence located at 927 Montevino Drive.

- **PAP-124 (PSDR-328), Craig Sjoberg**

Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of an application for sign design review for building and monument signage at 5000 Pleasanton Avenue.

Library Commission

- The August 14th meeting of the Library Commission has been cancelled. The next scheduled Commission meeting will be held on September 11, 2008

Parks & Recreation Commission

- The August 14th meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission has been cancelled. The next scheduled Commission meeting will be held on September 11, 2008

Youth Commission

- The August 13th meeting of the Youth Commission has been cancelled. The next scheduled Commission meeting will be held on September 10, 2008

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee

- The August 11th meeting of the Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee has been cancelled. The next scheduled Committee meeting will be held on September 8, 2008

GENERAL INFORMATION

General Municipal Election Nomination Period

The City of Pleasanton reports that the nomination period for Municipal Officers in the upcoming General Municipal Election begins on Monday, July 14, 2008 and closes on Friday, August 8, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. Pleasanton residents will vote for a Mayor and two members of the City Council in the election, which coincides with the Presidential Election scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2008. The full term for the Mayor is two years, while City Council members serve four year terms.

According to the California Elections Code, if nomination papers for an incumbent officer of the city are not filed by August 8, 2008, the nomination period is extended to Wednesday, August 13, 2008.

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.

For more information, prospective candidates are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the City Clerk's office by calling (925) 931-5027.

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
- Lifeguards – Part-Time, Temporary
- Permits Center Manager – Full Time, Permanent
- Police Officer, Lateral or Academy Graduate – Full-Time, Permanent
- Water Safety Instructor - Part-Time, Temporary

For more information, visit our employment 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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Abandoned house destroyed in fire

Firefighters responded to reports of a grass and fence fire at 5980 Sunol Boulevard at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Upon arrival, they found a two-story abandoned house and storage structure engulfed in flames,

according to reports.

Crews were able to get the fire out at 8:30 p.m. There were no injuries and no one was in the house. Officials said the house and storage structure were burned to the ground and the fire didn't endanger other property.

Police Report

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

July 26

- Theft:
 - 6:26 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; embezzlement
 - 10:30 p.m. in the 7000 block of Johnson Drive
- Assault with a deadly weapon:
 - 2:01 a.m. at the intersection of Calle Santiago and Golden Road
- Public drunkenness:
 - 12:57 a.m. in the 4200 block of Valley Avenue
 - 1:52 a.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road
- Drug violations:
 - 5:06 p.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road; paraphernalia possession, controlled substance possession, non-narcotic controlled substance possession

July 27

- Theft:
 - 9:04 a.m. in the 400 block of Cabonia Court; grand theft
 - 9:33 a.m. in the 400 block of Cabonia Court; grand theft
 - 9:42 a.m. in the 2100 block of Laguna Creek Lane; petty theft
 - 5:31 p.m. in the 700 block of Bonita Avenue; petty theft
 - 6:46 p.m. in the 3100 block of Bernal Avenue; petty theft
- Burglary:
 - 7:50 a.m. in the 400 block of Cabonia Court
 - 10:52 a.m. in the 1900 block of Santa Rita Road
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 7:07 a.m. at the intersection of Bernal and Vineyard Avenues; DUI

- 8:38 a.m. in the 4500 block of Rosewood Drive; marijuana possession
- 10:42 p.m. at the intersection of Owens and Rosewood drives; DUI
- 11:58 p.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Black Avenue; under the influence of a controlled substance

July 28

- Theft:
 - 10:47 a.m. in the 2500 block of Glen Isle Avenue; identity theft
 - 8:29 p.m. at the intersection of Mammoth Cave Court and Valley Trails Drive; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 8:35 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Leger Court; worth less than \$400
 - 1:02 p.m. at the intersection of Interstate 680 and Stoneridge Drive; worth over \$400
- Burglary:
 - 1:37 a.m. in the 4500 block of Hopyard Road
- Robbery:
 - 5:04 p.m. at the intersection of Vineyard Avenue and Christina Court

July 29

- Theft:
 - 5:25 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
 - 6:27 p.m. in the 3400 block of Stoneridge Drive; grand theft
 - 6:58 p.m. in the 1600 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 10:26 a.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Paseo Santa Cruz; worth less than \$400

July 30

- Theft:
 - 2:31 p.m. in the 4500 block of Pleasanton Avenue; grand theft

- 3:49 p.m. in the 200 block of Old Bernal Avenue; grand theft
- 9:05 p.m. in the 900 block of Sycamore Creek Way; grand theft

•Vandalism:

- 7:09 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge Drive and Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400
- 11:23 a.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Santa Rita Road; worth less than \$400

•Vehicular burglary:

- 6:19 a.m. in the 11900 block of Dublin Canyon Road
- 10:55 p.m. in the 5100 block of Hopyard Road

•Marijuana possession:

- 3:46 p.m. in the 4400 block of Valley Avenue

July 31

- Theft:
 - 5:25 a.m. in the 1900 block of Brooktree Way; stolen vehicle
 - 7:54 a.m. in the 1600 block of Orchard Way; grand theft
 - 9:59 a.m. in the 5000 block of Woodthrus Road; petty theft
 - 10:42 a.m. in the 1 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 3:14 p.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; stolen vehicle
 - 7:28 p.m. in the 7800 block of Driftwood Way; stolen vehicle
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 7:28 p.m. in the 5000 block of Hopyard Road
- Public drunkenness:
 - 12:39 a.m. at the intersection of Stoneridge and Denker drives
 - 7:08 a.m. at the intersection of Rennellwood Way and Kolln Street

Aug. 1

- Theft:
 - 8:28 a.m. in the 7200 block of Johnson Drive; grand theft
 - 10:04 a.m. in the 1800 block of Valley Avenue; petty theft
 - 12:14 a.m. in the 4700 block of Hopyard Road; forgery
 - 2:48 p.m. in the 5700 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 9:27 a.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive
- Battery:
 - 9:27 a.m. in the 5600 block of Stoneridge Drive
 - 5:19 p.m. in the 1 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- Marijuana possession:
 - 8:08 p.m. in the 2000 block of Palmer Drive
- Threats:
 - 8:18 a.m. in the 600 block of Palomino Drive






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President

Gina Channell-Allen, Ext. 19

Publisher

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

EDITORIAL

Editor

Jeb Bing, Ext. 18

Managing Editor

Janet Pelletier, Ext. 11

Features Editor

Emily West, Ext. 21

Intern

Elyssa Thome

Contributors

Jeri Pantages Long

Joe Ramirez

Cybele Ryan

ART & PRODUCTION

Design Director

Rick Nobles, Ext. 17

Designers

Trina Cannon, Ext. 14

Lili Cao, Ext. 25

Kristin Herman, Ext. 14

Manuel Valenzuela, Ext. 20

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BUSINESS

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Front Office Coordinator

Kathleen Martin, Ext. 0

How to reach the Weekly

5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100

Pleasanton, CA 94566

Phone: (925) 600-0840

Fax: (925) 600-9559

Editorial e-mail:

editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

calendar@PleasantonWeekly.com

Display Sales e-mail:

sales@PleasantonWeekly.com

Classifieds Sales e-mail:

ads@PleasantonWeekly.com

Circulation e-mail:

circulation@PleasantonWeekly.com

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Opinion

Editorial

Impressive choice in Pleasanton school board race

If at least three of the five candidates currently holding filing papers for this year's Pleasanton school board election actually follow through and declare their candidacy by next Wednesday's deadline, the board can finally move forward into a post-Juanita Haugen era with all of its trustees duly elected. Since Mrs. Haugen's death in March 2007, up to three of its members at a time have served in appointed positions. Jim Ott, the current board president, was appointed to replace Gloria Fredette, who resigned mid-term. Ott was elected to the board in 2006 when he ran unopposed, along with incumbent Pat Kernan. At year's end, both will be half-way through those four-year terms. Later, Chris Grant was appointed to succeed Steve Pulido, who left the board when he was appointed an Alameda County Superior Court judge. Grant has now filed for this year's board election. Most recently, Steve Brozosky was appointed to the board to succeed Mrs. Haugen. He said at the time that we would not seek election to the board in 2008. Long-time trustee Kris Weaver plans to step down from the board when her term expires this year.

That means three seats are available in the Nov. 4 election, including Grant's, enough to give the board a new majority in setting district academic and budget policies going forward. Among these challenges will be an examination of problems with continued excellence in student achievement, funding and wrapping up the master plan for completing expansions at Amador Valley, Foothill and Village high schools, and strengthening security safeguards on all school campuses.

In terms of academic achievement, Pleasanton schools are at the top or near the top in most categories of California testing requirements, which is good because the state's standard achievement tests set the benchmark with the highest standards in the country. But all is not well across the student population ranks with Caucasian and Asian students consistently scoring at the top, and African-American and Latino students coming in with lower scores. It's a trend troubling many California school districts and an issue Superintendent John Casey plans to review and discuss remedies with the school board in the coming months. It's the board that is ultimately responsible for the accountability of the district's test scores and will need to provide the motivation and resources to make sure all students have the skills needed to achieve the performance levels that keep our district among the best.

A second challenge will be for the new board to carefully look at what Casey, district administrators and the principals say they need to complete the high school master plan. This includes the expansion of the library at Foothill, increased counseling space at both Amador and Foothill, more room for special education and larger facilities for wrestling programs, weight rooms and other gymnasium needs. At Village High, more space is needed for a science classroom, a multipurpose room and the school's renowned culinary arts program. So the trick for the board will be to help the district put all these pieces together with a timeline and budget that puts these projects on a pathway to completion, and to make sure there's plenty of financial cushion to ward off teacher and academic program cuts if the state's education budget is slimmed down again.

Campus security is another growing concern in Pleasanton. Although we take pride in statistics that show our city and school campuses are safe, Casey believes that you can never be "too safe." In recent months, there have been intruders on school property, a shooting threat that caused a joint dance planned by Amador and Foothill students to be cancelled and an incident off campus involving Amador students and a gang element from Stockton. In the coming year, teachers, administrators and office personnel can be expected to have some "front line" training to quickly detect and report any incidents of bullying or more serious activity on campus. The new school board will be part of this ongoing campus alert effort.

Voters now have less than three months to study the school board candidates before making up their minds, and the Weekly will be doing the same. But on the face of it, this may be the most impressive choice Pleasanton voters have had for a very long time. ■

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Author Visits

"Fundi and the Snail" Join us for a fun event and meet former Pleasanton resident, Allison Dietz and her sisters Devon Nicholson and Daphne Pogue at the launch of their children's book, "Fundi the Snail." This delightful book is full of adventure, humor, strong family themes and beautiful illustrations. The free event will be from noon to 3 p.m. Aug. 10 at Border's Books, 4575 Rosewood Drive. For information, call 227-1412.

Class Reunions

Amador Class of 1988 Reunion
Calling all Dons: The Amador Valley High School Class of 1988 is holding its 20th reunion. Come see old friends and make new memories together. Dinner, entertainment, a photo booth, cigar bar, visual entertainment and baby pictures included. Group hotel rates available at the Radisson Hotel in Dublin. Reunion is from 6 p.m. to midnight Sept. 13 at Barone's Restaurant & Garden, 475 St. John St. Cost is \$90-97. For more information, visit <http://avhs1988.myevent.com> or call Marti Gilbert at 846-5607.

Classes

Basic Yoga Class Every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Beth Fox, certified yoga instructor, teaches a basic yoga class in Lynnwood United Methodist Church's multipurpose room, 4444 Black Ave. The class is \$12 and drop-ins are welcome. Call 846-0221 or visit www.lynnwood.org.

Free voice lessons Pride of the Pacific, a women's a cappella chorus, is offering this free program for six Wednesday evenings, starting July 16. The sessions will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Lynnwood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. Included are voice lessons, vocal education, and an oppor-

tunity to sing with the chorus. For information, call Emily Johnson at 426-0266 and visit www.prideofthepacific.org.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters Meeting
Amador Valley Quilters members will present a program about our many friendship groups within the guild. There will be a workshop on Crayola Gardens. The group meets at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. For information, visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

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@trivalley-rotary.org.

Events

Imagination Expressed The Pleasanton Art League and the Museum on Main Street present an art exhibit from Aug. 10 to Oct. 5 at the museum, 603 Main St. A variety of local artists will be showcased, with works for sale. A reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Aug. 10 includes refreshments.

Wii Experience Mature Adult Program Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents the Wii Experience for seniors at 1 p.m. Aug. 19. Teen volunteers will teach how to play tennis, bowling and golf on the new virtual video games. It's low impact exercise using a motion sensitive controller. Call 931-3411.

Fundraisers

Pleasanton/Tulancingo BBQ A tri-tip dinner with all the trimmings, full mariachi band, live auction, MC-KGO'S Gary Hanson and no-host bar are part of the festivities for the Pleasanton/Tulancingo Sister City BBQ. Celebrating 25 years this year. The event will be from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Ivy Glen area of the Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave. Membership not required to attend. Tickets are \$30 and are sold through the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce. Call 462-6723.

Kids & Teens

Model Search for Girls PartyBees is looking for volunteer girls to model clothes at a Limited Too Back-To-School Fashion Show Aug. 16 at Stoneridge Shopping Center. Tryouts to be held at PartyBees from 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 10. Girls ages 5 to 13 are eligible to model. Call 249-9233.

Lectures/ Workshops

Energy Industry Workforce Development Summit Tickets are still available for the Energy Industry Workforce Development Summit, taking place from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Aug. 13 at Las Positas College, room 2402, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore. The keynote address is by Congressman Jerry McNerney. Summit and breakfast are \$20. Visit www.trivalley.org or call 292-2308.

Free American Military Research Seminar At 8:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at the LDS Church, 950 Mocho St., Livermore, the Livermore-Amador

Genealogy Society, in association with the Livermore Family History Center, will present a free seminar to help genealogists find ancestors through online military records and the use of Footnote.com. Presenters will be Susan Goss Johnston and Trevor Hammond. Call 447-3898.

Small Business Seminars East Bay Small Business Development Center hosts seminars in Dublin Aug. 19 and Livermore Sept. 11. Seminars can help small business owners and entrepreneurs seeking the knowledge needed to grow sales, increase profits and get started in business the right way. Visit www.eastbaysbdc.org to register.

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.

Pleasanton Community Concert Band The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will be performing from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. The band will be playing a variety of musical styles including selections from patriotic songs, oldies, pops and marches. For information, call 846-9497 or visit www.pleasantonband.org.

Miscellaneous

Peace Vigil Pleasantonians 4 Peace is again sponsoring a candlelight vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St. at 7 p.m. Aug. 13. They will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed, and visualize ways of moving beyond.

Ravenswood Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social LARP and the Ravenswood Progress League present the annual ice cream social from noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Ravenswood Historic Site, 2647 Arroyo Road, Livermore. The free event includes games, music, historic demonstrations and more. Ice cream and hot dogs will be for sale. The Pleasanton Community Concert Band will play outside. Call 443-0238.

On Stage

"Godspell" A new, bold, gritty version of "Godspell," set in the real world of the disenfranchised, will be staged at the Cal State East Bay University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd. in Hayward. Book by John Michael Tebelak, music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz; directed by Darryl V. Jones. Performances are at 8 p.m. Aug. 8, 9, 15 and 16 and at 2 p.m. Aug. 17. Tickets are \$8-14. For information, call 510-885-3118.

The Cherry Orchard Las Positas College presents "The Cherry Orchard" by Anton Chekhov at 6:30 p.m. July 26, 17 and August 2, 3, 9 and 10. Directed by Wendy Wisely, the performances are held at the college, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, in building 800's outdoor patio. Tickets are \$10 or \$7 for students and seniors and may be purchased at the bookstore or at Fine Fretted Friends in downtown Livermore.

Seniors

Beginning Jazz Dance Never danced before? It's never too late to start. Feel the music and learn the steps Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26 at the Dublin Senior Center (activity #18508). Call 556-4511 for details.

Wellness Defined It is never too late to develop healthier lifestyle habits to fend off illness. Dr. Robert Walsh defines "wellness" and presents common sense, time-tested, proven advice for better health through better living from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Aug. 12 at the senior center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Spiritual

Community Bible Study Join CBS for a nondenominational, in-depth study of the book of Revelation for women, along with a children's program (infant to elementary age), for 30 weeks. The class will begin at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 11 at Centerpointe Presbyterian Church, 3410 Cornerstone Court. The women's and children's classes run concurrently. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Call 209-0242 or visit www.communitybiblestudy.org.

Tri-Valley Unity Church Tri-Valley Unity Church welcomes guest speaker Dr. Richard Southern for a three-part series on "The Spiritual Practice of Welcoming." August 10 focus is "Welcome Home." August 17: "Welcome to the Journey." And August 24 is "Welcome to our World." All are welcome. Services are at 10 a.m. at the Radisson, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Visit www.trivalleyunity.com or call 829-2733.

Sports

Fastpitch Tryouts Lady Hustle Fastpitch will be holding tryouts in August for the fall season. Tournaments begin Sept. 6. For session details, visit www.ladyhustlefastpitch.com.

Volleyball Tryouts The Renegades Volleyball Club is holding tryouts for boys aged 14 to 18 on Aug. 16 and 17 at Granada High School in Livermore. The season runs September through early February, with practices twice a week in Livermore and Pleasanton. We encourage new players to attend clinics which will be announced in early summer. For more information go to www.renegadesvolleyball.com or contact kris@renegadesvolleyball.com.

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Dining Out

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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.

Banquet facilities available. On the web at www.hopyard.com.

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.

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.ppcceastbay.com.

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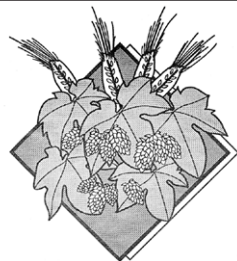
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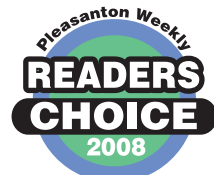


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Barbecue

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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.

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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.

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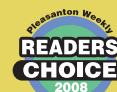
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Barone's

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

Silver Palate Restaurant & Market

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

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.

Steakhouse

Bighorn Grill

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



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Year-Round
Main St. & W. Angela St.

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- Summer Squash • Plums • Almonds • Peppers
- Fresh Herbs • Nursery Stock • Apples • Figs
- Fresh-Cut Flowers • Melons • Potatoes
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Marketplace

Pleasanton Weekly

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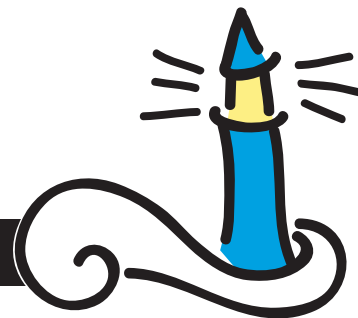
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140 Lost & Found

found Gouldian finch

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 VW 1999 Jetta GLX - \$5,990 obo

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210 Garage/Estate Sales

Danville, 348 Casablanca Street, Aug. 9th Saturday 7am-2pm

East Bay, Auction - Estate Clean Out, Open Dates

Livermore, 980 Cromwell St, May 24 7-12

Pleasanton, 159 Ray Street, AUG 9, 8-4 NEIGHBORHOOD SALE!!! FURNITURE, ETC..

Pleasanton, 4300 Del Valle Pkwy, August 8&9, 8-4
 Everything Must GO! Furniture, Dishes, Book cases, Collectables, linens, TV's, Stereo equipment, Lots Of Free Stuff!

4300 Del Valle Pkwy, Pleasanton, CA 94566 Friday 8/8/08 & Saturday 8/9/08, 8:00am to 4:00pm

Pleasanton, Monaco Ct., August 9, 8- 1 pm
 Block Garage Sale - Pleasanton Hills! Monaco Ct. Saturday, August 9th 8-1 pm. No Earlybirds. Loads of items -

Sports Mem., Furniture, Staging and Decorator Items, Books, Toys, Office Furniture, Baby Items (cribs, toddler bed, strollers, etc...) YOU name it- it is here!

San Ramon, 12601 Alcosta Blvd., August 9, 8-2

215 Collectibles & Antiques

PEZ candy dispensers - \$75.
 Royal Doulton figurine - \$60
 Wai Ming Lithograph - \$300.00
 Wai Ming Lithograph - \$1200.00

220 Computers/ Electronics

HTC Touch Cruise - \$200
 Sony TV - 36" Trinitron - \$275

240 Furnishings/ Household items

3 piece kitchen carving set - \$10
 Antique Oak Ice Box from 1900's - \$399
 Ceramic Tile Wall & Floor Paint - \$65.99
 Countertop Repair Kits - \$27.00
 Fiberglass Bathtub Repair Kits - \$30.50
 Matching Couch and Love Seat - \$150
 Non Slip Permanent Bathtub Mats - \$26.99

Sewing Machine, Viking Designer 2 - \$1,950
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245 Miscellaneous

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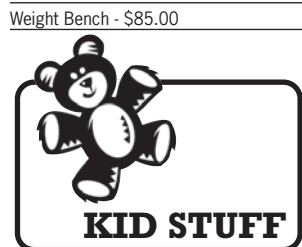
The training potty - \$8

250 Musical Instruments

Clarinet CL300 838-8878 - \$175.00
 Yamaha electronic keyboard - \$145

260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

Exercise Equipment - \$ free
Weider Crossbow Platinum System
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601 Accounting/Bookkeeping

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Nevada's 3rd Largest Lake. Approx. 2 hrs. South of Carson City. 1 ac Dockable \$149,900. 1 ac Lake Access \$49,900. 38,000 ac Walker Lake, very rare. Home sites on paved road with city water. Magnificent views, very limited supply. New to market. Call 1-877-542-6628. (Cal-SCAN)

PET OF THE WEEK



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Oh, the lazy days of summer. What a great excuse for another cat nap! Meet Lainey, a young adult Tabby who greets visitors at the East County Animal Shelter by playfully rolling on her back and practically standing on her head! Boy is she an attention getter! Lainey is a petite kitty who weighs just a pinch over 5 pounds. Visit this friendly feline 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.

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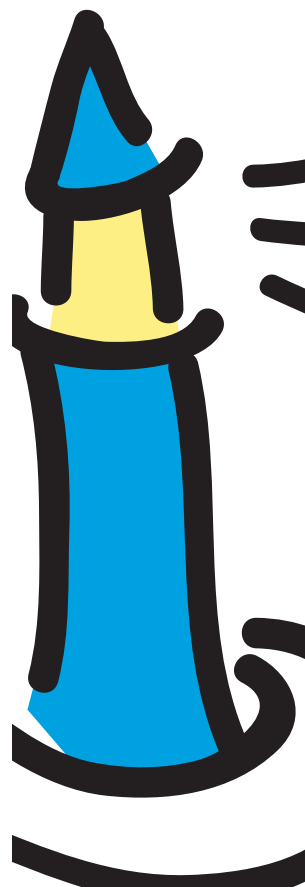
Southern Colorado Land Sale
35 Acres - Only \$36,900 or 35 Acres with Log Cabin Package - only \$74,900. Rocky Mountain Views, Bluffs and Canyons. Owner Financing! 1-877-399-9595. (Cal-SCAN)

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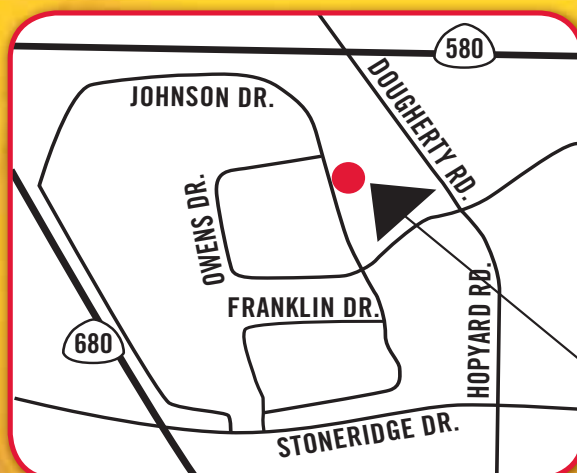
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