

Demolition begins

Firehouse Arts Center takes shape > **page 5**

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Back to black and white

Pleasanton police cars get a makeover

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PLEASANTON WEEKLY

Harvest up some fun

The popular festival returns this weekend

> **section 2**

Stepping down

Termed out, Janet Lockhart reflects on Dublin, Tri-Valley accomplishments **PAGE 10**



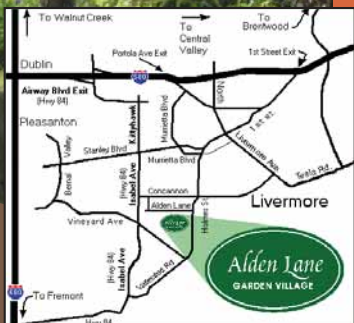
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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

It's all in the kicking

When Amador Valley's varsity kicker Dillon Mullaney kicked a 27-yard field goal last week, giving the Dons their only three-point score in a 23-3 loss against Freedom High of Oakley, fans cheered but probably not so much as Steve Jordan, Amador's kicking coach. Jordan, who still holds the field goal kicking record at the University of Southern California, including two 51-yard field goals in the 1985 Rose Bowl that helped give USC a 20-17 win over Ohio State, has been the off-campus kicking coach at Amador for the last four years. During that time, he's worked with Mullaney to perfect his kicking skills as well as others now coming through the ranks. One is freshman Heidi Johns, a 14-year-old girl kicker who suits up, plays on the boys' team and is already shattering the glass ceiling with long field goals and game-starting kickoffs.

Sports writers usually focus on quarterbacks and receivers, reporting on a good kick when it's made. Yet kicking is a third of the game and often key to a victory. Jordan points out that a great opening kick—or one that drops too fast—has a great impact on the momentum for one side or the other. Still, with players wanting to be in the game from start to finish on defense or offense, too few want to sit it out on the sidelines until called in to make their special kick.

Jordan, 45, lives with his wife Patricia and their daughter Amanda, 14, a freshman this year at Amador, in the Mohr-Martin neighborhood. Born and raised in San Francisco, where his parents still live, he attended parochial schools there, played soccer from the time he was 4 years old, and switched to varsity football at Riordan High. Like the others, he wanted to be the quarterback or play one of the other prestigious positions, but the team needed a kicker and the coach chose him. A champion kicker in soccer, it came naturally to him and by the time he was a junior, was kicking 50-yard field goals, which

was unheard of among Riordan's competitors. He remembers his dad, who was a paratrooper, telling him to concentrate and not just be good at one thing, but to be great at it, and he set that goal for himself as a football kicker. It worked. In a game against San Jose's Bellarmine Preparatory, which Riordan hadn't beaten in 16 years, Jordan, a junior, was called in with four seconds on the clock and Riordan losing 18-17. He kicked a 51-yard field goal winning the game for Riordan.

Soon after, college recruiting letters began coming in and Jordan took the full football scholarship offered by USC. He became the only player to start in every game during all four years he was at USC, capping his varsity years at the Rose Bowl. Even though acclaimed nationwide as the best college kicker, pro ball proved elusive. At the time, there were 28 pro teams and each had one kicker, which meant 28 filled positions unless one opened. When he tried out for the San Diego Chargers, he was one of 100 kickers seeking the job. The players' strike in 1987 hurt, too, leaving Jordan on the outside looking in. Then he joined an ex-pro ball player friend who had launched training camp franchises out of Reno and turned his talents toward helping youths. He also served as special team coordinator for two years for the City College of San Francisco football team, helping that school win a national championship at the junior college level. Last May, he was inducted into the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame and recently received Congressional recognition for his service to the community and honors from the State Legislature for his work on behalf of youth. Jordan also has his own kicking camp in Pleasanton for football kicker wannabes with 29 attending last summer from schools throughout Northern California. That's where he "discovered" Heidi Johns, who as one of the best young kickers he's trained may continue breaking the gender barrier as she moves toward the varsity ranks at Amador. ■

Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

GOOD NEWS IN A BAD MARKET

The financial press generally defines a "good" market as a seller's market, when buyers are bringing in offers within a week of a property going up for sale. A "bad" market, therefore, is a buyer's market, when sales are slow and home prices stop appreciating at a rapid rate (if at all).

But what's so bad—if you're an alert buyer—about a "bad" market? Let's say market conditions have trimmed 10% off of your market value. That's not much on the stock market, but it's a great deal in real estate. It rarely happens. So your \$500,000 home is now worth \$450,000. We'll say that you go on the market right at the lower asking price and sell fairly quickly.

We'll say further that you find a wonderful home—formerly \$600,000, but now reduced by market forces to \$540,000—and you buy. We'll say you come in with a 10% down payment, which is \$54,000 instead of \$60,000. Your mortgage is smaller than it would have been. Even your property taxes are most likely lower.

This is a simplified, generalized example, of course. A "bad" market often offers up bargains to those who look carefully—even better transactions than the one outlined here. The moral of this story is easy: In a "bad" market, it's time to look for a very good deal, indeed. For assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

Gerarda Stocking is the Owner/Broker of Stocking Realty.

Man stabbed at his house by uninvited guest

A 22-year-old Pleasanton man is recovering, listed in stable condition, after sustaining three stab wounds Saturday at his house party.

READ MORE/COMMENT

Town Square Forum

PLEASANTON WEEKLY .COM

About the Cover

Mayor Janet Lockhart, who moved to Dublin in 1972 to raise her four children, steps down Dec. 2 from 12 years on the City Council—the last eight as mayor—and a legacy of bringing the Valley cities of Pleasanton, Livermore, San Ramon, Danville and Dublin together to boost the economic vitality of the region and create jobs and housing for the tens of thousands who live and work here. Photo by Jeb Bing.

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Streetwise

Q: Should children have cell phones?

Asked Downtown



Avid Parsa

Novelist

Children should have cell phones after they start to drive so that parents can contact them. Texting should be controlled and monitored ideally, but how can we do that? I'd like to see cell phones banned at schools; it interferes with learning.

Inga Hale

Office Manager

Sometimes, for safety reasons, cell phones are good. By 10 or 12 years old, kids are responsible enough to have one. The idea of texting for kids is another thing; it is annoying and all consuming, so the longer you can hold out on that the better.



Lisa Sanford

Clinical Therapist

I have mixed views. My foundation and underlying value is no, absolutely not, but in today's times with natural disasters and things happening in our environment that are out of our control, I think it's helpful for kids to be able to reach parents or other helpful adults in case of an emergency.

Robby Perkins

Manager

At a certain age, I think it's appropriate. Twelve years old seems reasonable. They can stay at home alone and need to be able to contact parents at any time. There have to be rules concerning cell phone use in schools and at home. Cell phones are a part of our culture now.



Mickey Williams

Flooring Installation

Cell phones should be banned at school and in cars. For general use, kids should be 12 or older so they can respect it. It is a tool for safety, not a toy.

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Boosters ready to roast

The Amador Valley Athletic Boosters Club presents their annual Pigskin Roast at 5 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Pigskin Pavilion, near the entrance to the football stadium at the school, 1155 Santa Rita Road. Pulled pork sandwiches and barbecue hot dogs are on the menu, catered by Cabana Dave's. Tickets will be sold at 4:30 p.m. Following dinner, fan gear will be sold and the Dons will take on Mt. Eden High at 7 p.m.

Congressman headed to Cold Stone

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) plans to host the 45th Congress at Your Corner at 2 p.m. Sunday at Cold Stone Creamery, 349 Main St. His staff will also be in attendance as they will discuss issues, listen to opinions and help link residents to their federal government.

Back to School run hits Shadow Cliffs

The 13th annual Back to School Scholarship Run is coming to Shadow Cliffs Regional Park Sept. 20. The event features three races—a 10K run, 5K run and walk, and a children's mile—through the park and its trails. Funds raised goes to college scholarships offered to children of parents working in the California food industry. The first 400 entrants will be given a "monster" goody bag with grocery items provided by more than 40 sponsors. For registration information, call 209-795-7832 or visit www.onyourmarkevents.com.

Fair to teach about owning a home

The Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center, in partnership with the Bay East Association of Realtors, will host a home ownership fair from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 20 at the Realtor association's offices, 7901 Stoneridge Drive. Participants will learn about services such as one-on-one housing consultation, homebuyer education classes, city programs and credit and debt counseling. Two free orientations will be held that day, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. To register or for information, visit www.tvhoc.org or call 373-3930.

Corrections

The Weekly desires to correct all significant errors. To request a correction, call the editor at (925) 600-0840 or e-mail: editor@PleasantonWeekly.com

Documents reveal details in alleged molestation case

Henry Germain scheduled to enter plea today regarding eight counts of reported sex crimes against children

by Emily West

Castlewood Tennis Director Henry John Germain remains in custody on charges of eight counts of sex crimes against children as his hearing was continued from Wednesday to today. Currently without bail, the 62-year-old Dublin resident is expected to enter a plea and bail will be set by the judge at the next hearing.

Deputy District Attorney Ronda

Theisen said Wednesday that she expected to receive follow-up reports from detectives today.

Last Friday, the case was continued to Wednesday as Germain's lawyer, Elizabeth Grossman, told Judge Hugh Walker her client was not prepared to enter a plea.

According to court documents, three letters depicting various incidents of molestation written by three females ages 19 to 22 were submitted to management at the Castlewood Country Club in unin-

corporated Pleasanton. All three were enrolled in the club's tennis program and claimed abuse occurred between 1997 and 2001, when the victims were between 9 and 12 years old.

Sgt. J.D. Nelson of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department said several more alleged victims have come forward as of Wednesday, but declined to say how many.

Germain has no known criminal history, and reports show there were no complaints made to the country

club concerning him. Prior to his arraignment Sept. 3, people outside the courtroom shared comments of disbelief, adding that he is well-known and well-liked. Family and friends have declined to comment on the allegations and Grossman didn't respond by press time.

Germain, a father of three, has been formally charged with unlawful sexual acts with two of the three victims, as investigators have reportedly been unable to contact

(continued on page 6)



Construction crews dig into the brick of the historic Fire Station No. 1 as they prepare for the restoration of the old firehouse, to be transformed into the Firehouse Arts Center, opening late 2009.

Janet Pelletier

Construction begins on I-580 carpool lanes

Work starts on eastbound lane from Hacienda Drive to Greenville Road

by Janet Pelletier

With cows grazing in a not-so-distant hillside and big rigs whizzing by, officials broke ground last week on new carpool lanes along Interstate 580's often bottlenecked corridor through Livermore and Pleasanton.

The Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, in a joint effort with Caltrans and other local agencies, began work Sept. 5 on a fifth eastbound lane, from Hacienda Drive to Greenville Road. The project is expected to cost \$153.9 million and will be partially financed by funds from Proposition 1B, the \$20-billion bond measure voters approved in 2006 to relieve traffic congestion.

Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty warned that traffic conditions were "going to get worse before (they) get better," but said the improvements are a vital part of reducing gridlock and improving air quality in the region.

Haggerty added that a large part of the congestion is due to big rigs passing through the corridor delivering goods to the Port of Oakland. Those deliveries are expected to

triple over time, he said.

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) thanked Haggerty for his effort to bring the project to fruition.

"I know how hard it is," he said. "Parents are kept away from their families," sitting in traffic.

"This is a very important part of our national infrastructure," he added.

State Sen. Ellen Corbett, (D-San Leandro) said she and other state senators are lobbying for a budget that will fund these types of infrastructure projects.

Will Kempton, director of Caltrans, echoed that sentiment, saying if a budget doesn't get passed, there will be serious impacts.

In consecutive years, the eastbound and westbound portions of 580 from Pleasanton to Livermore have ranked in the top four most congested roadways in the Bay Area.

The project will be constructed in two parts: part one will be from Hacienda Drive to the Portola Road overcrossing and part two will be from the overcrossing to Greenville Road. The eastbound high-occupancy lane is expected to be completed in 2010. When the project is finished, there will be express bus/carpool lanes

(continued on page 8)

Digging in

As arts center renovations get under way, family-friendly fundraiser planned for Sunday

A powerful metal jaws tore away at some of the remnants of historic Fire Station No. 1 this week, the fundraising arm for the firehouse renovation project is gearing up for a family-friendly event that will help gather much-needed funds.

Renovation work got under way last week on Fire Station No. 1 on Railroad Avenue, across from the Meadowlark Dairy and bordered by Lions Wayside Park.

It's that park that will be the site of the Firehouse Fling, which will raise money for the Firehouse Arts Center, planned to

have a 240-seat theater, 2,000 square feet of art gallery space and art classrooms. The center will take shape in portions of the historic firehouse.

The fundraiser, organized by the Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation, will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at the park on First and Neal streets, and also at Delucchi Park across the street. Activities include carnival games, pie-eating contests, sack races, a bake walk, pony rides, a petting zoo, arts and crafts, live entertainment, a barbecue and snacks. Organizers say the event is expected to

(continued on page 6)

PUSD schools still on top

API shows state schools meeting standards, but missing federal targets

by Emily West

The results are in and Pleasanton continues to excel among other schools in the state, according to data recently released by the California Department of Education.

The Accountability Progress Report includes results from the STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) testing and the California High School Exit Exam from the 2007-08 school year and is shown through the Academic Performance Index, or API scores.

Districtwide, the schools continued the trend of exceeding the state's 800-point target standard, which is based out of a 1,000-point scale. Schools seeing the biggest gains this year, as compared to last year, were Village High, up 28 points, and Donlon Elementary, up 26 points. Alternately, Lydiksen Elementary fell 18 points and Valley View Elementary dropped by 10 points. Harvest Park Middle and Amador Valley and Foothill high schools were the only in the district that failed to meet some target growth standards, in relation to subgroup student scores.

While California Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said the results show progress, he called the achievement gap between white and Asian students and black, Latino and English language learners "unacceptably wide."

Pleasanton Superintendent John Casey has previously said this gap is of concern to the district and identified it as one of their goals going into the 2008-09 school year. Reports show that just over half of state schools are meeting federal standards set by No Child Left Behind, which focuses on meeting a "proficient" level. The state schools, however, are measured by improvement and give more points for growth. O'Connell attributed the drop in federal scores to the raising of the federal target by 11 points.

O'Connell also recently announced that 69 school districts, including Pleasanton, will receive \$259 million for school construction, modernization and repair. Foothill High will receive funds totaling \$1,869,491. ■

API scores

(School, 2008 score, 2007 score, difference)

PUSD:	897, 893, 4
Alisal Elementary:	907, 897, 10
Donlon Elementary:	926, 900, 26
Fairlands Elementary:	932, 915, 17
Hearst Elementary:	940, 930, 10
Lydiksen Elementary:	881, 899, -18
Mohr Elementary:	959, 961, -2
Valley View Elementary:	905, 915, -10
Vintage Hills Elementary:	925, 916, 9
Walnut Grove Elementary:	915, 922, -7
Hart Middle:	906, 895, 11
Harvest Park Middle:	922, 899, 23
Pleasanton Middle:	924, 905, 19
Amador Valley High:	967, 870, -3
Foothill High:	878, 884, -6
Village High:	612*, 584*, 28

*This API is calculated for a small school or LEA, defined as having between 11 and 99 valid STAR program test scores included. APIs based on small numbers of students are less reliable and therefore should be carefully interpreted.

Community rallies to reunite man, cat

In tragic circumstances, struggling man needs his beloved pet

by Elyssa Thome

Bob is a cat on a mission.

If all went according to plan, Bob arrived in New Jersey this morning and is purring in his owner's arms. After living at the Valley Humane Society for several weeks, Bob is finally being reunited with his owner Bud (whose last name has been omitted out of privacy for the family) thanks to the hard work and kind hearts of many people in this community.

"To think that people that didn't even know Bud have helped so much is incredible," said Mary Ellen Tully, sister of Bob's owner Bud, who lives in New Jersey.

Bud recently lost his wife Stacy to cancer. In the midst of her deteriorating health, and then her death, Bud lost the will to live. Bob was the only source of joy in his life as he fell deeper into alcohol abuse, health problems and despair.

The 15-year-old cat that had been with him and his wife for most of their marriage, and Derek Ott and Carol Ott Olson hope Bob will remind Bud of the good times when he arrives, just in time for what would have been Bud and Stacy's 17th wedding anniversary on Sunday. Ott and Olson were instrumental in getting both Bob

VHS Bob the Cat Fund

The Valley Humane Society has opened a restricted fund for Bob the cat. If you want to help VHS offset the costs of the care and transport of Bob, you can give a tax-deductible donation to the fund.

Checks should be mailed to Valley Humane Society, 3670 Nevada Street, Pleasanton, CA 94566. Please indicate that the money is meant for the Bob the Cat Fund.

Once the cost has been met, the fund will close, and it will be up to the family's discretion how any excess funds will be spent.

If you have any questions about the fund or the Valley Humane Society, please contact Dave Stegman, VHS executive director at 519-9881.

and Bud to New Jersey.

As Bud's health and mental state visibly declined, Ott got involved and sought help from Tully after finding her information on a birthday card she had sent to her brother. After Bud (and Stacy's ashes) arrived in New Jersey, Bob needed to find a temporary home. After

a short stay at Town and Country, Valley Humane Society offered Bob a free and caring stay for the time it took to get Bob's safe passage organized.

Natalie Giordano, operations manager at Valley Humane Society and Bob's handler during his time there, said Bob is a wonderful cat, and it is stories like Bob and Bud's that have shown her another side of helping animals.

"I came because of the cats and the animals, but I've realized you're helping people," she said.

Thanks to Ott, who took interest in an acquaintance and therefore saved a life, both Bob and Bud are healthier. Bud is getting treatment in New Jersey for the physical and mental problems he now faces, and the steady diet of food and love Bob received at VHS has made his eyes clearer and coat shinier.

Many people responded quickly to the call for help in getting Bob back to Bud. Olson expressed her gratitude to all of those people and was impressed by the willingness of people with their own problems to help someone else.

"[Bud] would have been dead. And Bob would have been dead," she said. "This is community here. It just ignited." ■

Germain

(continued from page 5)

club's tennis courts and in the pro shop, as well as in his home, car and pool. Investigators reported incidents with Doe 1 to have happened "on hundreds of occasions."

"She would tell him to stop but he would tell her she was pretty and deserved that," the report states. "Doe 1 did not report any of the incidents to family, friends or authorities because Germain told her that it was his word versus hers and no one would believe her. Doe felt very alone and kept her abuse quiet."

On Sept. 1, according to court documents, Doe 1 agreed to confront Germain about her sexual

abuse. Wearing a wire, she allegedly approached him during an event at the club and told him that her emotional problems were because she had been molested by him as a child.

Reports state Germain "made several admissions and apologies for sexually abusing Doe 1. His statements were very incriminating and help confirm Doe 1, 2 and 3's allegations."

When confronted by police, Germain was allegedly shocked. During an interview, detectives said he made admissions to "inappropriately touching children," but denied claims about touching genital regions.

Detectives used search warrants to recover evidence. In his Dublin apartment, detectives allegedly found his room "was filled

and decorated with children's toys, paintings, photographs, [underage pornographic] movies and memorabilia."

In addition, court documents also show detectives finding "a set of binoculars on his counter overlooking the pool." Investigators also seized "dozens" of photographs from his computer of young girls believed to be his tennis students. The report states the photos were "of young girls in bikinis, swimsuits and short tennis skirts. Some of the photos were specific shots of the children's clothed buttocks area."

Germain is scheduled to enter a plea at 9 a.m. this morning at the Pleasanton courthouse, 5672 Stoneridge Drive, Department 701.

For updates on the case, visit www.pleasantonweekly.com. ■

Firehouse

(continued from page 5)

attract more than 1,000 attendees.

"We are excited about this event, which we expect to be a fun day for the community, especially for families with preschool and elementary school-age children," said Debbie Look, campaign director and chair of the event. "We selected this location for the Firehouse Fling to showcase the art center venue and introduce the community to the

plans for this rich addition to the city."

General admission to the event is free. There is a fee to participate in the games and activities and also for food. Wristbands can be purchased for children, giving them unlimited participation in the events. For more information or to volunteer, call Debbie Look, 846-1007. Visit www.pleasantonartsfoundation.org.

The arts foundation is still selling bricks that will be permanently installed at the center. The bricks, measuring 4 x 8 inches, are \$150 each. A raffle drawing will be held

at the Firehouse Fling for those who buy a brick that day.

Work crews have completed the demolition and will now pour a concrete slab foundation, according to Look. The project, which is anticipated to be completed in late 2009, is estimated at \$12.8 million. The arts foundation has committed to raising at least \$2 million toward the cost, and has so far raised nearly \$1.8 million, Look said. The City Council has pledged to fund \$9 million.

—Janet Pelletier



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Pleasanton cars go back to black-and-white

Traditional look viewed as better for law enforcement

Pleasanton police cars are rolling out new black-and-white patrol cars.

Moving back to a time-honored, traditional style, the newly-painted cars are viewed as more effective and visible, according to Capt. David C. Spiller, patrol commander.

"In keeping with our desire to continue to provide the highest quality of customer service, department personnel began exploring new designs for our patrol vehicles," Spiller said. "The result is the product of the hard work, creativity and open-mindedness of police officers, police management and key city staff."

Studies have shown that black-and-white police cars are more recognizable on the street than all-white vehicles or blue, green and other colored vehicles. Black-and-white patrol cars also have greater visibility and a global recognition that they are law enforcement vehicles.



Pleasanton Police Department

The newly painted black-and-white patrol cars are more visible and effective, police say.

Other cities and agencies that have shifted back to black-and-white or kept with that combination include Livermore, Danville, Fremont, BART and East Bay Regional Parks.

"While Pleasanton is strategically

transitioning to the new design as replacement vehicles are ordered, it is anticipated that the conversion of the entire patrol fleet should be complete by the end of the year," Spiller said.

—Jeb Bing

Goodbye, for now

by Elyssa Thome

As I prepare to leave Pleasanton again for my final year at UC Davis, I wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank the people, and the town that have made the looming realities of adulthood a little less frightening.

Many times this summer I forgot that at 21, when I sit at a desk and wear work-appropriate attire, I present myself as an adult. So if I said "cool" or "sweet" when I interviewed you, this was not an attempt to relate to a younger generation and make them feel comfortable or come across as "hip," but a sincere and inadvertent slip into everyday language.

Between waiting tables at The Hop Yard Alehouse & Grill and interning here at the Pleasanton Weekly this summer, I feel like I spoke with at least half of Pleasanton's population on a fairly regular basis. Well, I certainly saw a lot of my hometown but probably not half of the population, as I still think "small town" is a quaint exaggeration that doesn't entirely apply outside of downtown. While occasionally something would remind me of the jokes that begin "you know you live in Pleasanton when..." (like the number of people I interviewed that know my dad, or mom, or sister, or brother, or best friend, and so on), I was more consistently reminded of the opportunities I have had because of the community I was fortunate enough to grow up in.

There are the obvious ones that most university students who went to high school in Pleasanton can tell you. I felt fully prepared for higher education thanks to a series of dedicated, challenging and mostly outstanding teachers. In my classes I learned with, and from, an exceptional group of peers—people who asked the right questions, put information in perspective and explained things in different ways. I



Elyssa Thome

Editor's note: Elyssa Thome, a 2005 graduate of Amador Valley High, worked as our editorial intern this summer between her junior and senior years at UC Davis, where she is an English and international relations major. Before she leaves today to return to college, we asked her to write a farewell story.

also remember laughing and learning going hand in hand a lot more often than the stereotypical high school experience would allow.

And as I put together the sports page, reading about youth sports and getting pictures of athletes in action, I saw familiar faces of teammates I still see around town, coaches that still remember those close games. These people taught me how to be a better person, a team player, how to follow through, push myself, push others and they genuinely cared about me. Many of those same people are still dedicating themselves to the game and the kids in a place that makes it easy to get involved.

And then there is this. I had the opportunity this summer to write about Pleasanton at a local paper where my editors had enough confidence in me to let me write stories largely on my own from the beginning. I'm still not sure why they did that, but I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity. I am also extremely grateful to Emily West, Janet Pelletier

and Jeb Bing for sharing their knowledge, industry experience and time with me all summer, as well as everyone else here at the Weekly that made this such an incredible experience and enjoyable place to be.

Not only did an internship in Pleasanton mean a short commute, free rent at my parents' house and valuable bonding time with my 10-month-old nephew (and the rest of my wonderful family), but it also allowed me to talk to people I love about a place I love. Thank you to everyone who answered my questions, went out of your way to help me and shared some of your time talking with me or reading my stories this summer.

Over the years, I have seen this community rally to support people, families, causes that need it. Just as an example, Jeb wrote about the Olson family this summer. Lori Olson is one of my best friends, someone I still talk to regularly and one of the strongest and most beautiful people I know. The fact that I am still friends with someone I met in third grade illustrates another aspect of Pleasanton I value, but that's not really the point. This family's story illustrates the strength and support of the community of Pleasanton in a way I can't really describe. I am proud to be a part of that community.

So as I leave town again, making post-college plans and excessively vague career goals, I know I will still be a part of the community whether or not I live here for a long time, likely forever. I will try to be a responsible member of whatever community I end up in just like my coaches, my teachers, my siblings, my mom, my dad and so many other role models in this town. Thank you for the many opportunities to become that person, the confidence I have gained to believe I can, and the many examples proving it's possible. ■

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Poll workers needed for Nov. 4 election

Registrar cites expected high voter turnout as reason

Alameda County officials are asking for help from registered voters willing to work as poll workers for the upcoming general election on Nov. 4.

An extremely high turnout is expected for the presidential election this year, which increases the need for workers to run the 831 polling places around the county, according to the county's Registrar of Voters office.

More than 4,000 poll workers need to be recruited to staff polling

places, as well as perform other duties such as responding to questions at voting sites and delivering ballots from polling places to the Registrar of Voters facilities in Oakland.

"It's going to be an exciting election, with the presidential race and many important state and local ballot measures," Dave Macdonald, Alameda County's Registrar of Voters said in a prepared statement. "We could really use the help of registered Alameda County voters

to help run our polling places."

Poll workers earn a stipend of \$95 to \$180 a day, and must be registered to vote in California. High school seniors more than 16 years old are also eligible to work through the county's Student Poll Worker program.

Registered voters can apply to work as poll workers online at www.acgov.org/rov/workers.htm and can call 510-272-6971 for more information.

—Bay City News

Roads

(continued from page 5)

along the 11-mile corridor. The project also includes new pavement across all lanes.

The groundbreaking was the second in as many days. On Sept. 4, officials held a ceremony for

improvements to Vasco Road, a major thoroughfare between Livermore and Brentwood.

Haggerty, joined by local, state and federal officials, lauded the \$22-million project, which includes installing median barriers, a new road alignment and grade, wider shoulders and truck and bus climbing lanes. The improvements are

expected to improve safety and better gridlock. Funding was financed through state and federal, and Prop. 1B monies, among others.

Vasco Road traffic volumes have increased more than 45 percent in the last decade to more than 25,000 vehicles per day. The thoroughfare is also dangerous, causing numerous accidents. ■

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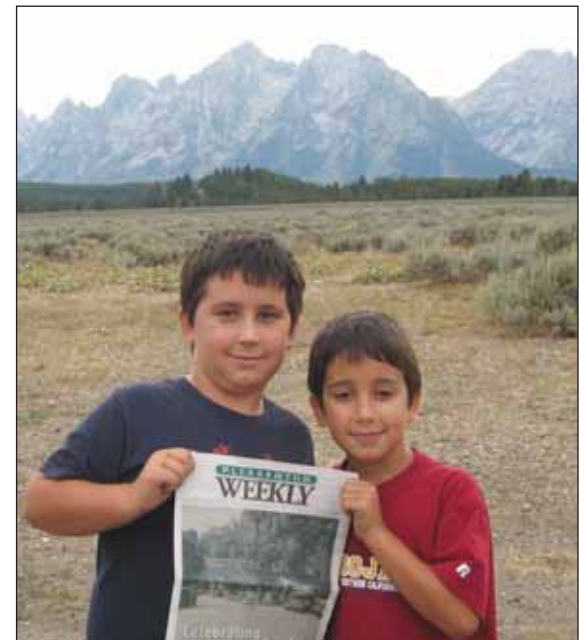
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Road trippin' Weekly

Drew and Ben Highfill brought the Weekly to Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. The Highfill family took a 10-day road trip in an RV to the Tetons, and Yellowstone.

Tower of Weekly

Frances Jensen brought the Weekly to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, a well-recognized landmark in Italy.

Transitions

Obituaries

Yutaka Takato

Yutaka "Jake" Takato died in Pleasanton Sept. 4 after a long illness. He was 85.

Mr. Takato was born Aug. 23, 1923. A veteran who resided in Mountain View for 40 years, he was a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Union Local No. 104. He loved bowling, fishing, gardening and his trips to Reno.

He is survived by his sisters, Emi Ohno and Shiz Taniguchi; nieces, Cheri Hendrickson, Jaynee Takato, Martha Ohno; and nephews, Mike Taniguchi, Victor and Martin Ohno. Private services will be held.

Eleonora Schlies

Eleonora Joy Schlies, a 40-year resident of Pleasanton, died Sept. 5 at the age of 93.

Mrs. Schlies was born Aug. 4,

1915. She loved to read and would delight if her memory was served by others reading some of her favorite books: "The Prophet," by Kahlil Gibran, "Quo Vadis," (Nero's Rome) and "With Fire and Sword," (17th century Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth) by Nobel Prize winner Henryk Sienkiewicz. She cooked wonderfully, particularly her family's cherished Polish recipes. She enjoyed listening to the opera, teaching, storytelling and extended conversation, even in her final days.

The example she set will continue to influence those who knew her. She was a loving wife and mother, and taught many students in her field of biology.

She is survived by her daughter, Tanya Fremaux, M.D.; sons, E. Allen Schlies, M.D. and Christopher P. Schlies; sister, Natalie Malachowski; grandchildren, Karine Scheuermaier, M.D., Remy Fremaux, Claire Fremaux, Benjamin Schlies, Joseph Schlies and Dominic Schlies; and eight

great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward W. Schlies, M.D.; daughter, Tamara Ann; sister, Gloria Lane; brother, Charles Kryski; and grandson, Jacob Schlies.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. today at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive.

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Births

Sebastien James Paterson

Sebastien James Paterson arrived at 12:14 p.m. Aug. 26 at ValleyCare Medical Center. He was 19 3/4 inches long and weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces. Proud parents are Angie Paterson and Chris Paterson, a former real estate account executive with the Pleasanton Weekly.



Weddings

Joy Despain & Jeffrey Carlton

Joy Kristen Despain and Jeffrey Michael Carlton joined in marriage Sept. 8, 2007.

The couple married at the Oakland Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A reception followed at the bride's parents' back yard. They honeymooned in Lake Tahoe and now live in Pleasanton.

Joy is the daughter of Clark and Suzanne Despain of Pleasanton. She attended Amador Valley High School and graduated from Brigham Young University in 2006. Jeffrey is the son of Jay and Kathi Carlton formerly of Dublin, now living in Franklin, Tenn. He graduated from Dublin High School and attended Brigham Young University. He is employed with LawRoom in Walnut Creek.



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Janet Pelletier

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In fact it was Houston who persuaded I
Measure B, which won voter approval for annexing
has occurred, includes land from Dougherty Road e

“I thought that land would be important to the future of Dublin and worked hard to assemble a citizens’ campaign to support the council’s effort to annex it,” Lockhart recalled. “That got me thinking politically and looking at other ways to support my community. The council was the next step.”

Politics and ballot-box campaigns were from the thinking of Lockhart when she and her husband Steve moved to Dublin in 1972 to raise their four children, Wendy, Brian, Karen and Jennifer. There were pitfalls ahead. Jennifer, “who would be 36 now,” Lockhart said, was diagnosed with a brain tumor when she was 12 years old and was just starting at Wells Middle School. Doctors at UC San Francisco Medical Center gave her only a short time to live, but the Lockharts prevailed, vowing not to let her die in a hospital room. They brought her home and with round-the-clock and specialized care, Jennifer came out of her coma and lived for another 1-1/2 years, “laughing and sharing time with her friends and giving us another year and a half to be with her before she passed away.”

Wendy, the oldest, who had health problems, died in January 2007 at the age of 43.

The other two are married. Brian married Cindy Brinkman, his high school sweetheart from Dublin and the two now live in Colorado and have two children. Karen, now Karen Stirling, lives with her husband Bruce, both of them employed by the sheriff’s department, and has three children.

It was the children that first introduced Janet Lockhart to civic and community affairs, taking a job as a volunteer coordinator for an elementary school, earning \$100 a month. Later

pping down

Janet Lockhart reflects on Dublin, Tri-Valley accomplishments

by Jeb Bing

Fast growing neighboring cities of Pleasanton and Livermore in the last half of the 20th century, Dublin is a housing center that is being recognized nationally for municipal leadership in the 21st century.

Janet Lockhart who leaves office Dec. 2 and to her predecessor, former Mayor and State Assemblyman Guy Lockhart toward the growth and economic success it's seeing today.

Lockhart to run for a City Council seat in 1996. She had worked hard as a community volunteer to back up an unincorporated tract of land called East Dublin. The area, where much of the city's recent growth is located, extends east to Doolan Canyon, from I-580 to the Contra Costa County line.

When she joined the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and was elected to its board of directors. One of her assignments was to serve as liaison to the City Council, which meant she attended every meeting for about four years. By the time she was elected to the council in 1996, she had a good understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the now-growing city.

"I think Dublin is a very exciting place to live and work these days," Lockhart said. "It's a wonderful feeling. The community feeling has never changed. We've been a small town forever and I don't care how big our population gets, we'll always be the smallest city in the valley."

Sandwiched between already-fixed boundaries, she expects the residential building boom to continue for a while, but then level off, leaving Dublin with a population of about 60,000, probably 20,000 less than Pleasanton at buildout and as much as 40,000 under Livermore's.

Among her accomplishments are Hacienda Crossings, a vibrant retail center at Hacienda Drive and the freeway, and hundreds of apartments and condos within walking distance of the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station, which she calls smart growth.

She has also championed the funding and development of the new West Dublin-Pleasanton BART station now under construction over the 580 freeway, near the Foothill Road-San Ramon Boulevard overpass. Along with the station, Lockhart and the council have approved a major office and retail center that will include a hotel and apartments, probably in a 10-story building near the station, with a new downtown planned from

the station north to the area where the Target store is located, with new businesses and offices in between.

She calls it a super-block, that will actually stretch for several blocks, bordered by San Ramon Valley, Amador Valley and Dublin boulevards and Village Parkway.

Two years ago, Lockhart opposed a plan for an auto service center nearby, arguing that Dublin's days of hosting those kinds of businesses in the downtown center were over. Today, a new building with offices on top and retail on the ground floor occupy that site with Starbucks anchoring another new retail center across the street.

Apartments and condos over retail stores have become familiar land use plans under Lockhart's leadership, with those kinds of structures near a new Safeway store at Tassajara and Dublin Boulevard, and under construction at the site of the former Pac 'N Save grocery to the west. Phase Three of the Emerald Glen park area will include two swimming pools in a new aquatic center and a community center, with another tall office and residential building planned over one of the pools to provide an indoor-outdoor recreational area that can be used year around.

Another commercial and retail development has been approved across from Hacienda Crossings, which Lockhart said will be the new jewel of the city's smart planning, with a major hotel, office buildings, restaurants and an open air shopping center. Whole Foods and eventually a new Kaiser Permanente Medical Center are planned nearby.

Perhaps Lockhart's greatest influence on Dublin and the



Jeb Bing

Above: Mayor Janet Lockhart at her desk in the Dublin Civic Center. Although not a full-time mayor, Lockhart spends most of every day—and then some—at City Hall or at public meetings and events. Far left: Lockhart (seated second from left) joins Pleasanton Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton), State Sen. Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro) and 3rd District Alameda County Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker at a groundbreaking ceremony for a new carpool lane on eastbound Interstate 580 last week.

Tri-Valley is her cooperative work with neighboring cities. Once involved in onerous lawsuits over land use, traffic and development, Lockhart met with Mayors Tom Pico of Pleasanton and Marshall Kamena of Livermore to form a three-city compact.

"The three of us came on board about the same time," she said. "We met and agreed the legal battles had to stop. We built a friendship that continues today with (Pleasanton Mayor) Jennifer Hosterman that has enabled our cities to work together to solve problems. I hope it continues after I leave and when their terms of office are also up."

Through Lockhart's efforts, the mayors of San Ramon and Danville, although their cities are in Contra Costa County, also participate in joint meetings. The five mayors also join together for occasional trips to Washington to discuss Tri-Valley needs with federal legislators.

Lockhart also believes that the expanding retail centers of the Tri-Valley are needed to serve an ever-growing number of commuters who pass through this area on their way to work and back again to their homes.

"If you look at Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore, none of us really look alike," she said. "Pleasanton has its historic downtown and Stoneridge Mall; Livermore has a new downtown and soon a major outlet center off the freeway; Dublin has a major movie theater and outdoor shopping centers which are quite different from what you find in the other two cities.

"I think there's something for everybody here where we all live." ■

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Opinion

Editorial

Build Stoneridge or lose Staples

There were smiles all around last week after the City Council approved in a 5-0 vote the basic terms for a ground lease for an ice rink on Staples Ranch. After two years of public hearings and negotiations, it looked as if all the marbles were finally in place for a multi-million-dollar development of the vacant 126-acre parcel that will include a new auto row planned by Hendrick Automotive, a 600-800-unit adult and senior care complex to be built and operated by Continuing Life Communities, a 16-20 store retail center and the ice rink, a proposal by a subsidiary of the San Jose Sharks. Missing in the master plan being drafted with these commercial, housing and recreational amenities, however, is an extension of Stoneridge Drive from its current eastern barrier at Trevor Road through Staples to connect to El Charro Road and Livermore. Without Stoneridge, the Pleasanton Weekly has learned, the Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) has indicated that it will not allow Pleasanton to annex Staples. The planned developments could still move forward, but with Staples either annexed into Livermore, which is waiting in the wings, or as part of Alameda County, which owns the land.

The debate over extending Stoneridge has simmered for years with a majority of the City Council still vehemently opposed to building the road as planned to El Charro Road until traffic congestion on I-580 is eased so that Stoneridge—which would link the El Charro interchange at I-580 to I-680 and Foothill Road at its western terminus—doesn't become a favored cut-through alternate by commuters. About all the current council has agreed to is a memorandum of understanding with Supervisor Scott Haggerty and the county Board of Supervisors to keep the right-of-way for a Stoneridge extension open in the event the I-580 traffic problem is solved or a future council approves the extension. Two councilmembers, Cindy McGovern and Matt Sullivan, campaigned four years ago on the promise that they would not allow Stoneridge to be extended. Both are candidates now for re-election and they have not changed their minds. Mayor Jennifer Hosterman also has resisted pressure from Haggerty and mayors Janet Lockhart of Dublin and Marshall Kamena of Livermore to include the Stoneridge extension as a part of the Staples Ranch development project.

But now the rubber is meeting the road which could bring Pleasanton's hopes of annexing Staples screeching to a halt. Not discussed publicly during last week's preliminary decision to allow the Sharks subsidiary to lease seven acres of a proposed public park for its four-rink ice skating complex is a letter sent to Robin Giffin, the city's associate planner, by Mona Palacios, LAFCo's executive officer and dated July 18. LAFCo, she wrote, identifies Stoneridge Drive as a "Route of Regional Significance" that would provide a vital link to other cities in the Tri-Valley as well as a major parallel facility to the I-580 freeway and could potentially provide congestion relief for the I-580 corridor. Because the extension is not part of the proposed project, LAFCo cannot certify the Environmental Impact Report that Pleasanton is offering as part of its annexation petition.

LAFCo's approval is needed before Staples can be annexed into Pleasanton because this is the agency established by the state to have the final say in all annexation agreements. Without Stoneridge, LAFCo Chairwoman Jocelyn Combs said, the majority of the LAFCo board, which includes Haggerty, Lockhart and Kamena, will probably turn down Pleasanton's annexation request. That could change, of course. Two councilmembers—Jerry Thorne and Cheryl Cook-Kallio—could be persuaded to approve extending Stoneridge, which Haggerty has already said the county would finance. Since the petition to LAFCo is not likely to proceed until after the mayoral election on Nov. 4, it could be up to the next mayor of Pleasanton—incumbent Mayor Jennifer Hosterman, who is seeking re-election, or her challenger Steve Brozosky—to cast the swing vote calling for Stoneridge to be built. We support building Stoneridge and making Staples part of Pleasanton. We hope voters will make that choice, too.

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Talking Points

by Gina Channell-Allen



MSNBC's gaffe puts holes in the defensive line

At least twice a month I end up in a conversation about the "media's liberal bent" with friends and family, and I staunchly defend my brethren in both print and broadcast.

Most media organizations, and all that I have been part of, don't allow their newsroom staff to back one candidate. This goes as far as not allowing signs in front yards of personal homes and memos reminding journalists that political bumper stickers are not allowed.

Repeatedly I point out these policies. Repeatedly I explain the editorial endorsement process of candidates and how measures are taken to keep personal bias out of the stance of the newspaper's endorsement. Repeatedly I defend and defend...until, that is, someone I often debate brought up MSNBC.

"That," I said sheepishly, "I can't argue."

On Monday, MSNBC removed from their posts the two anchors, Keith Olbermann and Chris Matthews, tapped to lead the election coverage on the cable station.

These two were selected for the coverage specifically because of their liberal views. Fox News and political blogs have seen much success by giving more than just straight news. The blurring of news and provocative comments seemed to be working, so it seems MSNBC wanted to try it, much to the chagrin of its more conservative parent, NBC.

The leaning to the left, and the tension it created—between the cable station, its parent company, the Republican party and even between the anchors themselves—was obvious. In August, NBC's Tom Brokaw said that MSNBC was "the official network of the Obama campaign." When Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin bemoaned media bias at the Republican National Convention, the audience started chanting "N-B-C." When an MSNBC anchor spoke on-air about a resurgence in the McCain campaign, Olbermann recommended the other anchor "get a shovel." (I can see the NBC bigwigs cringing now.)

Phil Griffin, MSNBC's president, is quoted in the New York Times denying the station has an ideology. "I think ideology means we think one way, and we don't," he said, adding that it does, however, have "passion" and "point of view."

The NBC executives have been supportive of MSNBC's strategy ... at least until Monday. It's no mystery why they were in the beginning: commentary = controversy = ratings = cash. What I am still trying to resolve is why they took the action they did Monday. At my most Pollyannaish, I want to say that the NBC honchos rethought their responsibility to provide unbiased, straight news to their viewers and allow these adults to draw their own conclusions. You know, stand up for journalism, the Fourth Estate, democracy.

More likely it was because Hillary Clinton supporters voiced their complaints about MSNBC's blatant support of Obama during the primaries and now Republicans and former Hillary-supporters everywhere are chanting NBC's call letters with disdain. With that many people unhappy, ratings fall and the \$\$ equation doesn't look as rosy.

I'm not sure why the action was taken. What I do know is that this has perpetuated the "liberal media" perception because in this case it was validated.

I also know that news anchors will be taking note of what happened in this case and I would bet that if viewers are looking for insults and snarky comments, they'll have to watch football.

Gina Channell-Allen, a 21-year journalism veteran, is the president of the East Bay division of Embarcadero Publishing Company, president of the Pleasanton Weekly and publisher of the Danville Weekly. Send questions to gallen@pleasantonweekly.com.

Letters

Trust Hosterman, not Brozosky

Dear Editor,

In the Aug. 15 article, ("It's Brozosky v. Hosterman again," News, page 5) Brozosky said he would be a more open mayor and listen to the citizens but his track record displays his hypocrisy on open representative government:

- Brozosky pushed the waterslide project along Stanley Boulevard that would have brought 200,000 additional people traveling through Pleasanton neighborhoods to get to the waterslide park (now buildings from this bankrupt project sit as a weed-covered eyesore). Many locals were opposed to the project and spent time before City Council where Brozosky ignored neighborhood concerns and rushed this project through (and made sure that it could not be repealed in a referendum).

- In 2006 he hired an outside PR firm (linked to the corrupt and anti-environmental Pombo folks) called Spinnovation Strategies (yes really, that is the name and their motto is "spin wins"). He took lots of money from outside developers/lobbyists and heavily outspent the mayor in his losing campaign.

- He posed as an environmentalist when he ran for City Council but his voting record showed his loyalty to the special interest lobbyists such as the waterslide group. Do not believe his current interest in protecting Pleasanton's hills. Follow the money and see who is providing financial backing for Brozosky and see what they want for their money.

- You mentioned the Hosterman email issue but did not discuss that Brozosky's email account mysteriously disappeared and could not be similarly examined for irregularities.

I urge citizens to re-elect Jennifer Hosterman as mayor. We can trust her.

George Reid, Pleasanton

Emails deleted not my own action

Dear Editor,

While I would not normally respond to an attack letter to the editor, I felt I needed to respond to false statements in a letter that was published last week, specifically on the city email system ("Think before voting for Brozosky," Letters, Sept. 5, page 8).

Two years ago, it was discovered that the way the city set up my email access, when I viewed an email from my home computer, the email server at the city deleted its copy of it. The email was deleted through no action of mine except for the act of reading the email. When this problem was observed, I was asked if I could release city emails that resided on my personal computer. I released the emails on my personal computer although the newspaper that asked for this information never reported that I had done so. It was unfortunate that the city did not have an email archive system at the time but they have since fixed this problem.

I ask that the Pleasanton Weekly, which is a member of the Pleasanton Community of Character Coalition, not be an accessory to personal attacks (in this case a former campaign volunteer) or spreading false information. All candidates have signed a code of ethics against this type of behavior. The Weekly should help facilitate this. While people will disagree on the issues or leadership style, the people who are in office, or running for office, are doing so to serve in the community.

Steve Brozosky, Pleasanton Unified School District board member

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, September 16, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- **Public Hearing:** PUD-62/PGPA-13, Windstar Communities – Consider an application for General Plan Amendment and Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning and development plan to construct a mixed-use high-density residential/ commercial development containing 350 apartment units and approximately 12,000 square feet of commercial/retail space at the property located at 6110 Stoneridge Mall Road (adjacent to the future West Dublin/Pleasanton BART station)

Housing Commission

Thursday, September 18, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Application by HOUSE, Inc., for HOME Funds to Acquire Housing in Pleasanton for Developmentally Disabled Adults

Economic Vitality Committee

Thursday, September 18, 2008 @ 7:30 a.m.
Operation Service Center, 3333 Busch Rd.

- Staples Ranch Project
Presentation on the Staples Ranch project
- Economic Development Strategic Plan
Discussion of key strategies and actions and reports from subcommittees

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Monday, September 15, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.
Council Chamber Conference Room, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Resident Petition requesting that the Arroyo Del Valle Trail not be paved
- Hacienda Business Park Pedestrian & Bicycle Network
 - Iron Horse Trail
 - Use of Flood Control Channels as trails
 - On street bicycle network
 - Mid block crossings
- Progress to date on Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan
- Review of street resurfacing/restriping plans and installation of bike lanes

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cities of Livermore and Pleasanton Launch Solar Cities Program With Joint Workshop for Residents

The cities of Pleasanton and Livermore will jointly host the first in a series of free workshops designed to provide the citizens of both cities with an overview of solar technology for residential use. The workshop is scheduled on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, located at 310 Main Street in Pleasanton.

The presentation will include an overview about residential solar energy—how it works, average costs, how to determine if your home is best situated for its use, and how the State and Federal incentives work. A question and answer session will follow the presentation and a number of solar installers will also be available to speak to the public and answer questions in an informal setting. Building inspectors from both Livermore and Pleasanton will also be on hand to engage with homeowners about the inspection process for solar installations.

For more information about the free Solar Cities workshop, please call (925) 931-5006 or (925) 960-4413, or visit www.solarcitiesnow.com/

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
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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

Chase ensues for getaway U-Haul truck

Police chased down a getaway U-Haul, ending with the arrest of two people suspected to have used a stolen credit card to purchase items from Home Depot, according to the Pleasanton Police Department.

The incident began at 4 p.m. Monday when Pleasanton police received a call from the home improvement store on Johnson Drive that two suspects were fleeing the shopping center in a U-Haul truck after they attempted to buy items with the fraudulent credit card, police said. Officers discovered the truck near the center and followed it on a brief pursuit on northbound Interstate 680. The truck eventually stopped at the Amador Valley Boulevard overcrossing, where the driver, 30-year-old Howard Dixon of San Francisco, got out and jumped over the railing. He fell 24 feet down where he surrendered to police.

The passenger, 23-year-old LaVonna Crossley of Oakland, was identified as the fraud suspect, police said.

Police found numerous items in the back of the moving truck that were identified by Home Depot's loss prevention department as having been fraudulently purchased at the Union City Home Depot. Crossley was booked at Santa Rita Jail on fraud and theft charges, police said. Dixon was taken to a nearby hospital to treat his injuries from the fall. Police said evading and possession of stolen property charges will be sought against him.



City to replace memorial plaque

A new bronze plaque has been ordered to replace one that was stolen in early August. The new plaque will cost nearly \$2,000, according to Stan Gibson, Pleasanton's park maintenance supervisor.

The original plaque, which was located in Kottinger Park, was dedicated to Vietnam War veteran Gary Meyer in 1969. According to Gibson, there were no written records for the memorial in the Parks and Recreation Department, but a digital photo someone took will allow the new memorial to be almost identical to the original.

"It will be shinier of course," Gibson said.

Gibson also said efforts will be made to make the new plaque more secure, but did not want to give away how. The previous plaque was secured with six heavy studs, so he speculated thieves used a crow bar to remove it.

Currently, there is no definite time when the plaque can be expected to reappear in its Kottinger Park home, but Gibson guesses it will take at least two months to replace.

Police Report

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

Sept. 1

- Theft:
 - 10:35 a.m. in the 700 block of East Angela Street
 - 12:13 p.m. in the 4600 block of Canary Drive; petty theft
 - 4:40 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall road; petty theft

•Burglary:

- 7:03 a.m. in the 4600 block of Sierrawood Lane; vehicular burglary
- 9:55 a.m. in the 4500 block of Mirador drive

•Battery:

- 11:28 a.m. in the 3900 block of Vineyard Avenue
- 10:31 p.m. in the 1000 block of Zinfandel Court

•Embezzlement:

- 4:27 a.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

Sept. 2

- Theft:
 - 9:05 a.m. in the 4000 block of Stoneridge Drive; grand theft
 - 9:07 a.m. in the 7900 block of Colonial Court
 - 2:41 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft; lock picking
 - 3:05 p.m. in the 3400 block of Vermont Place; petty theft
 - 4:36 p.m. in the 300 block of Neal Street; grand theft
 - 5:56 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

•Vandalism:

- 8:53 a.m. in the 4400 block of Black Avenue; worth less than \$400

•DUI:

- 8:13 p.m. in the 400 block of Sycamore Road

•Threats:

- 3:02 p.m. in the 5100 block of Golden Road

Sept. 3

•Petty theft:

- 3:19 p.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive
- 6:34 p.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue

•Vandalism:

- 8:05 a.m. in the 7600 block of Olive Drive; worth less than \$400
- 9:58 a.m. in the 5600 block of West Las Positas Boulevard; worth less than \$400

- 3:19 p.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive; worth more than \$400

•Drug/alcohol violations:

- 2:46 p.m. at the intersection of Valley Avenue and Northway Road; marijuana possession; driving without a license
- 11:31 p.m. on First Street; DUI

•Recovered Vehicle:

- 4:11 p.m. in the 6300 block of West Las Positas Boulevard

Sept. 4

•Petty theft:

- 4:33 p.m. in the 1900 block of West Lagoon Road
- 8:43 p.m. in the 1400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

•Shoplifting:

- 10:12 a.m. in the 2200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road

•Vandalism:

- 2:24 p.m. at the intersection of West Las Positas Boulevard and Fairlands Drive; worth less than \$400

•Drug/alcohol violations:

- 12:55 a.m. in the 4800 block of Hopyard Road; possession of a controlled substance; public drunkenness
- 2:29 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Black Avenue; DUI
- 8:25 p.m. in the 1700 block of Santa Rita Road; public drunkenness
- 9:35 p.m. in the 4300 block of Rosewood Drive; driving with marijuana; driving with an open container

Sept. 5

•Theft:

- 3:38 p.m. in the 1000 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- 6:16 p.m. in the 5600 block of Owens Drive; petty theft

•Vandalism:

- 10:26 a.m. in the 7600 block of Olive Drive; worth less than \$400

•Drug/alcohol violations:

- 1:55 a.m. at the intersection of Dennis and Huff drives; minor DUI
- 6:58 p.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; possession of marijuana for sale
- 10:58 p.m. at the intersection of Greenwood Road and Valley Avenue; DUI

Calendar

Auditions

Valley Concert Chorale Auditions for the Valley Concert Chorale's 45th season take place Sept. 15 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. The group seeks singers with sight-reading skills who enjoy classical to contemporary, and folk to jazz. Call 462-4205 to schedule an appointment.

Valley Dance Theater's 'Nutcracker' Valley Dance Theater, 2247 Second St., Ste. B, Livermore, is auditioning boys ages 6-12 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 13 for the "Nutcracker." No previous experience required. Call 243-0925.

Valley Dance Theater's 'Nutcracker' Valley Dance Theater, 2247 Second St., Ste. B, Livermore, is auditioning men for "Nutcracker" from 8 to 10 p.m. Sept. 15. Ballet experience required. Call 243-0925.

Book Clubs

Pleasanton Public Library Book Club Pleasanton Public Library's Book Club is reading "The Great Gatsby" as part of the Big Read. Discussion takes place at 7 p.m. Sept. 22 at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 931-3400 ext. 37.

Pleasanton Public Library Book Club Pleasanton Public Library Book Club will discuss "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak at 7 p.m. Sept. 25 at the library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. All are welcome and you don't have to have read the book.

Civic Meetings

City Council The Pleasanton City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Housing Commission The Pleasanton Housing Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Human Services Commission The Human Services Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Parks & Recreation Commission The Pleasanton Parks & Recreation Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

Planning Commission The Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the City Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Ave.

School Board The Pleasanton Unified School District Board meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday monthly during the school year in the district office board room, 4665 Bernal Ave.

Youth Commission The Pleasanton Youth Commission meets 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

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.

Foothill High Class of 1988 Fellow Falcons of 1988, believe it or not it's been 20 years. Join classmates and faculty at 6 p.m. Sept. 20 for an evening of entertainment, videos from the past, and great company at Faz, 5121 Hopyard Road. Tickets are \$75. A family barbecue will be held Sept. 21 at Val Vista Park. Call Michelle Munos/Threde at 997-7522 or visit www.foothillhigh1988.com.

Classes

Women's Wisdom in Midlife Midlife is a time when women have an important choice to either focus on the perils of aging or focus on the power of wisdom. In this workshop you will gain the tools necessary for physical, mental, and spiritual renewal. It meets from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 13 at Las Positas College, 3033 Collier Canyon Road in Livermore. The cost is \$69. Call 209-482-5343.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilters The September meeting of the Amador Valley Quilters will be presented by some of our own talented quilters. It meets from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Sept. 13 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave.

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

Widowed Men and Women Social The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California meets for a happy hour gathering at 5 p.m. the third Friday of the month at the Sheraton Hotel across from JC Penney's at Stoneridge Mall. Guests welcome. RSVP prior to event. Call Lorraine, 846-5695.

Widows & Widowers Happy Hour The Widowed Men and Women of Northern California will meet for happy hour at 5 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Road. Guests are welcome. Reserve a spot by Sept. 18. Call 846-3330.

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

Events

25th Anniversary Tulancingo Sister City Visit To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Tulancingo Sister City, there are several events the community can attend from Sept. 24 to 28: a welcome dinner at the Pleasanton Marriot, family picnic at the county fairgrounds, gala banquet at the Pleasanton Senior Center, and a farewell dinner at the Pleasanton Marriot. For tickets and details, email Dick at grs414@hotmail.com or Jorge at jvictoria45@comcast.net.

Indian Cultural Program East Bay Marathi Mandal will be celebrating Indian Cultural Festival, Ganeshotsava 2008, Sept. 13 at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Road. Activities include Aarti, Indian Drama in Marathi,

Melody of Indian Songs and lunch. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. Register at www.ebmm.org.

SOLD Project Film & Outreach The SOLD Project will hold an outreach session at 6 p.m. Sept. 14 at Cornerstone Church, 348 North Canyon Pkwy., Livermore. The event highlights SOLD:Thailand, the first film presented by The SOLD Project, a grassroots movement dedicated to exposing the truth behind child prostitution through multimedia and the collaborative response of individuals striving to make a change. Call 808-387-7355 or visit www.thesoldproject.com.

The Big Read Speak Easy Tour Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents a walking tour of San Francisco's historic speakeasies at 9 a.m. Sept. 20. James Smith of the San Francisco Historical Society will guide. Free bus and tour. No host lunch. Reservations required and limited. Call 931-3411.

Wag 'N Walk The two-mile, all-breed dog walk for the entire family will be held at 9 a.m. Sept. 13 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park, 2400 Stanley Blvd. Hosted by the NORCAL Golden Retriever Rescue, it will feature an "alumni parade" of dogs rescued by NGR volunteers followed by the walk (with a swim break) for all breeds and humans. Registration is \$20. Children 14 and under are free. Visit www.golden-rescue.org.

Welcome Picnic for Y-Guides, Y-Princesses The Y-Guides and Y-Princesses, for ages 5 to 11, will kick off a new season of father-daughter and father-son activities from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 28 at Bray Commons Park, 3300 Finian Way, Dublin. The whole family can enjoy BBQ, games, fellowship, program information and more. RSVP by Sept. 22 to 475-6108 or mcapser@ymcaeastbay.org.

Film

The Big Read 'The Great Gatsby' Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents the film "The Great Gatsby" at 1 p.m. Sept. 16 as part of the Big Read and the Mature Adults Program. Call 931-3411.

Fundraisers

A Starry Night Gala Pleasanton North Rotary presents A Starry Night Gala at Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 27. The evening includes food, entertainment, a hosted bar and auctions hosted by CBS 5's Brian Hackney, to support the School of Imagination in Dublin and the Wheelchair Foundation. Tickets are \$200, with \$125 being tax deductible, and raffle tickets for \$100. Call 556-2380 or visit pnr-rotary.org.

An Evening at Villa del Sole Featuring fine wines, sumptuous buffets and smooth jazz, An Evening at Villa del Sole is a fundraising event Sept. 20 for Valley Humane Society. It takes place at a historic home in the Pleasanton Hills. Tickets are \$250. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Benefit Fashion Show Luncheon The Fremont Sunrise Rotary Club hosts a fashion show benefiting LIFE ElderCare's Meals on Wheels Program and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. It takes place at 11 a.m. Sept. 20 at the Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle. Tickets are \$50. Call 510-366-6615.

Fabric Bags Benefit Firehouse Arts Center Pleasanton photographer Sue Evans is sponsoring the sale of special Pleasanton recycle grocery bags to raise money for the Firehouse Arts Project. The final day of sales,



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with all proceeds going to this project, will be Sept. 14 from 11 am to 3 pm at The Firehouse Fling, an old-fashioned family fun day. The bag is forest green with taupe colored ink and has the Pleasanton Arch along with, "Paper or Plastic? No thanks, I have my own" on it. There are no company logos on it. They are currently available at The Berry Patch on West Angela Street or directly through Evans for bulk orders. The bags sell for \$4.99 each or 5 for \$20. She may be reached at SueEvansPhotography@comcast.net or 989-4113.

Firehouse Fling: Old Fashion Family Fun Firehouse Fling: An Old Fashioned Family Fun Day, takes place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 14 at Lions Wayside Park at First and Neal streets. Benefits the Firehouse Arts Center. Games, pony rides, pie eating contest, sack races, bake walk, petting zoo, arts and crafts, food and live entertainment. Visit www.pleasantonartsfoundation.org.

Furry Faces Pet Calendar Contest Make your pet a star by submitting pet photos to the Valley Humane Society's Furry Faces Calendar Contest. Entries are a \$15 donation each, which benefits VHS, and will be accepted through Oct. 1. Call 426-8656 ext. 11, or visit www.valleyhumane.org or 3670 Nevada St.

Meat & Seafood Sale The Foothill High School Athletic Boosters will

have quality meats and seafood on sale at warehouse prices from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 13-14 at the school parking lot, 4375 Foothill Road. Meats include filet mignon, rib eyes, New York steaks, top sirloin, ground beef, sausages, thick cut applewood smoked bacon, shrimp, and scallops.

Romania Animal Rescue A wine and appetizer fundraiser for Romania Animal Rescue will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at Oasis Grill and Wine Lounge, 780 Main St. The funds will send vets to Romania. The food is vegetarian. Activities include an auction and raffle for vacation getaways and golf. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. For more information, visit www.romaniaanimal-rescue.com or call 672-5908.

Health

Gentle Yoga for 55+ Are you an active person 55+ years young? This free, gentle yoga class helps stress, flexibility, balance and overall health and is excellent for special/chronic conditions. Call Pleasanton school district at 426-4280 for times and locations.

Yoga for Multiple Sclerosis Every Tuesday through Dec. 30 from 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., Downtown Yoga, 220 B Division St., hosts a series of gentle stretching movements that can

help to reduce stress within the body. Call 462-5285.

Kids & Teens

African-American Dance at the Library At 2 p.m. Sept. 13, Dimensions Extensions Performance Ensemble, one of the finest pre-professional youth companies in the Bay Area, showcases talented dancers between ages 12-19 trained in jazz, modern, hip hop, Haitian, ballet and traditional African movement. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

Backpack Awareness Day From 2:45 to 4 p.m. Sept. 17, the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., hosts Backpack Awareness Day. More than 7,000 kids suffer injuries from backpacks and book bags. Backpacks will be weighed at the library and Ruth Loewenhardt will coordinate the "weigh in" activities. Call 931-3404.

Competition for Young Musicians The Livermore-Amador Symphony Association's 36th annual Competition for Young Musicians is open to instrumentalists and vocalists who reside or attend school in Pleasanton, Livermore, Sunol, Dublin or San Ramon. Students are eligible through grade 12, or age 17 if not enrolled in high school. Each winner will be awarded \$250. Applications are due Oct. 5 and must include a \$5 fee. Call 447-1957 or visit www.livamsymph.org.

Library Book Clubs Begin Students are invited to join either our fourth and fifth or sixth to eighth grade book clubs, which meet Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. starting in September at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Come for good books, snacks and lively conversation. Registration begins Aug. 18, and is limited to 18 per club. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

**Lectures/
Workshops**

Finding Work You Love This class and book signing with Kennette Reed Sept. 16 teaches how to find work that excites, utilizes gifts, and motivated. Class fee is \$29, plus a \$20 material fee. Call Amador Valley Adult & Community Education at 426-4280.

Free Gardening Workshops Bay-Friendly Gardening presents four free gardening workshops Saturdays in the month of September. Topics include the basics, healthy soil, year-round edible gardens and managing pests naturally. Registration for these classes is required. Call 510-444-SOIL (7645) or visit www.bayfriendly.org.

How to be a Published Author Learn to write articles, fiction, nonfiction or poems with Kennette Reed, a published and selling author, from 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 15. The class is \$29, plus a \$20 material fee. Call Amador Valley Adult & Community Education, 426-4280.

I Was a TV Horror Show Host Lecture by former KTVU-TV Creature Features host, John Stanley, will be held at 7 p.m. Sept. 18 at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. The lecture is presented by Museum On Main Street. The cost is \$5 for members or \$10 for non-members.

Solar Energy Workshop Residents of Pleasanton and Livermore are invited to learn more about the Solar Cities Program, with presentations from PG&E and city staff. It will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 310 Main St.

Live Music

Chris Bradley's Jazz Band Chris Bradley's Jazz Band plays music of the '20s, '30s, and '40s every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St. No cover.

The Jambalaya Swing Band Dance to

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- Sunday 9:30 am**
- Monday 10:00 am, 12:15 pm, 6:00 pm**
- Tuesday 10:30 am, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm**
- Wednesday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 6:30 pm**
- Thursday 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm, 5:15 pm**
- Friday 9:30 am**
- Saturday 7:00 am, 8:30 am, 10:00 am**

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Weigh-in begins 30 minutes prior to meeting time.

A Free meeting visit is available year-round. The Free meeting does not include Program materials. If you decide to join, you will get the first week's Program materials and pay the fees then in effect to join. Available in participating areas only.

© 2008 Weight Watchers International, Inc., owner of the Weight Watchers registered trademark. All rights reserved.

the oldies as performed by the 11-piece Jambalaya Swing Band on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Pleasanton Hotel, 855 Main St.

Tuesday Tunes Every Tuesday from 5 to 8 p.m. enjoy live music at either the Livermore Valley Plaza or the Flag Pole Plaza in downtown Livermore. Bring a blanket and lawn chairs. Visit www.livermoredowntown.com.

Miscellaneous

Healing Touch Therapy Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents Healing Touch Therapy seminar at 7 p.m. Sept. 15. Healing Touch is an energy therapy that encompasses a group of non-invasive techniques which utilize the hands to clear, energize and balance the human energy field. Call 931-3408.

Retirement Party for Dave Hartman Dave Hartman, a fourth grade teacher at Lydixsen Elementary School, retired this summer after 30 years of teaching. His friends, family and former students are invited to celebrate at a retirement party from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. Sept. 18 at Lydisken's multi-purpose room, 7700 Highland Oaks Drive. Refreshments will be provided. Contact Cie Probst at 989-0540 or FunCMCie@mail.com for details and to submit photos for our Wall of Dave.

VFW Auxiliary Boutique VFW Auxiliary is seeking crafters and artists to participate in its annual Holiday Boutique Oct. 17-18 at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 301 Main St. Fee is \$55 for an 8-foot table. All items must be handmade or crafted by participant or their family. Call 946-5453 or email VFWAux6298@aol.com.

On Stage

American Ballet Theater II ABTII is a small classical company of 13 young dancers of outstanding potential, handpicked from around the world. They perform at 2 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$30 to \$45, or \$12 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org.

The Great Gatsby Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., presents the Calaveras Repertory Theater production of "The Great Gatsby" as part of The Big Read at 7 p.m. Sept. 13.

Political Notes

Grand Opening of Pleasanton Democratic Campaign Office The public is invited to the grand opening of the Pleasanton TriValley United Democratic Campaign Office, 4690 Chabot Dr., from 4 to 7 p.m. Sept. 14. Meet candidates and find out how to participate in the 2008 campaign.

Seniors

Afternoon Tea Dance Join friends for a special afternoon Tea Dance at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd., from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 20. Event includes ballroom dance exhibitions, door prizes and light refreshments. Music provided by Geri Foley. Advanced registration is preferred or pay at the door. Tickets are \$5. Call 931-5372.

Brain Matters Our brains are vital organs that deserve the same attention to care and maintenance as our hearts. Engaging in active learning will help maintain brain health. This new weekly program, meeting at 10 a.m. every Friday starting Sept. 5, combines lectures and interactive workshops dedicated to improving brain health and function. The cost is \$1.50 for residents or \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

Monday Movie Madness Hey movie buffs: have you heard about Monday Movie Madness at the Pleasanton Senior Center? Every first and third

Monday of the month at 1 p.m., the classroom is converted into a virtual theater, complete with theater-style sound and large screen. Please pick up a movie schedule at the center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) SIR is an organization for retired men. The Pleasanton SIR holds a luncheon meeting at 11 a.m. the first Thursday of the month with golf, bridge, bocce, fishing and other activities and trips. Call 606-7189.

Spiritual

Bible Study Fellowship The 33-week study of The Life of Moses begins Sept. 8. Women's classes meet at 9:25 a.m. Wednesdays at Cedar Grove Church, Livermore; and 6:55 p.m. Mondays at Valley Community Church, Pleasanton. Men's class meets at 6:55 p.m. Tuesdays at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville. Call 877-273-3228.

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.

Four-Week Class on Personal Transformation Based on the book "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho, Rev. Steve Maynard will be focusing on "spiritual alchemy," transforming ideas into manifest reality. Morning classes are Tuesdays at 10 to noon, and evening classes are Wednesdays from 7 to 9. Sept. 16-17: Releasing ties that bind; Sept. 23/24: Beyond Ouch: Transforming fear to determination; Sept. 30/Oct. 1: Serving the Soul of the World. Locations vary. Call Tri-Valley Unity Church at 829-2733.

Sports

Pleasanton Lacrosse New Player Festival For girls new to the sport of lacrosse, Pleasanton Lacrosse Club is hosting a new player festival for girls in first through eighth grades at Hart Middle School, 4433 Willow Road. Registration for the event and the season is now open at www.pleasantonlacrosse.com. The cost is \$39 and includes stick and ball. Call 989-0940.

Tri-Valley Babe Ruth Skills Clinic Tri-Valley Babe Ruth will hold its annual Fall Skills Clinic Sept. 14 at Camp Parks in Dublin. Registration starts at 8 a.m. with the clinic from 9 a.m. to noon. Clinic is led by top coaches and players in the area. Open for players ages 12 to 15. The cost is \$50. Email trivalleybaberuth@sbcglobal.net.

Support Groups

Grief Support The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief. An eight-week workshop starting Sept. 18 will be held at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Drive. Pre-registration is required. A \$15 donation is requested. Call Mary, 846-5377.

Parents of Dyslexic Children Parents of dyslexic children can come together to support each other in the journey of raising children with dyslexia. The first meeting is at 7 p.m. Sept. 16 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Call 368-6138.

Vision Support Group Individuals with low vision, and their loved ones, are invited to join us on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Join us for low vision information, speakers, resources, discussions, and day trips. No reservations are required. Nominal fees may apply. Call 931-5369.

The Xav/Cz ta

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tickets and more information:

925 426-8656

www.ValleyHumane.org

Dining Out

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

American

Vic's All Star Kitchen

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

Bridges

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

Pleasanton Hotel Restaurant

855 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-8106. Executive Chef Chris Smith offers

exciting contemporary American cooking at lunch and dinner, featuring a wide selection of fresh fish entrees. Also offering our famous Sunday Champagne Buffet Brunch full bar and patio service. Visit us at www.pleasantonhotel.com for menus and private party and catering details.

Barbecue

Red Smoke Grill

4501 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 734-0307. Home of the Tri Tip and Blue, Red Smoke Grill was Voted Reader's Choice Best 2006, 2007, 2008. Dine in or take out rotisserie chicken, ribs, prawns, salads and tri tip, or pulled pork sandwiches. Relax with a beer or a bottle of wine. Visit www.redsmokegrill.com.

Brewpub/Alehouse

Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218.

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

The Hop Yard American Alehouse and Grill

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

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

California Cuisine

Stacey's Cafe

310 Main St., Pleasanton, 461-3113. Located on Main Street in downtown Pleasanton, Stacey's is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week, serving fresh California cuisine. Come as you are and enjoy our dining room, banquet room, outdoor patios and full bar. Visit www.staceyscafe.com.

Catering

Fontina's Catering

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

Girasole Grill/Pampered Palate Catering

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

Pleasanton Hotel Catering

846-8112. 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 Gerard Lek for more information 846-8112.

Chinese

Chinese Szechuan

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

Panda Mandarin Cuisine

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

Continental

Barone's

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

Fusion

Oasis Grille

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

(continued on page 19)

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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
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Dining Out

Italian

Fontina Ristorante

349 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-9299. This popular downtown restaurant gets rave reviews from both locals and visitors. Fontina offers a changing, seasonal menu and daily specials—including homemade soups, pastas, seafood, chicken and veal—served in a comfortably elegant atmosphere. We have indoor and outdoor seating. Join us for Saturday and Sunday champagne brunch.

La Vite Ristorante

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

Girasole Grill

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

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

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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.

ies. 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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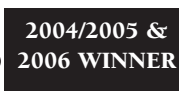
Savory Delights of Northern China

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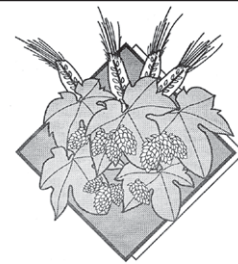
DINNER: Monday-Thursday 5:00-9:30

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

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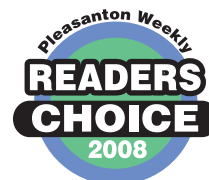
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