

Bail increases

Alleged child molester expected to bail out again > **page 5**

Vol. IX, Number 36 • October 3, 2008

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ATM OK'd

Modern bank
staple to go into
historical building

> **page 5**

PLEASANTON WEEKLY

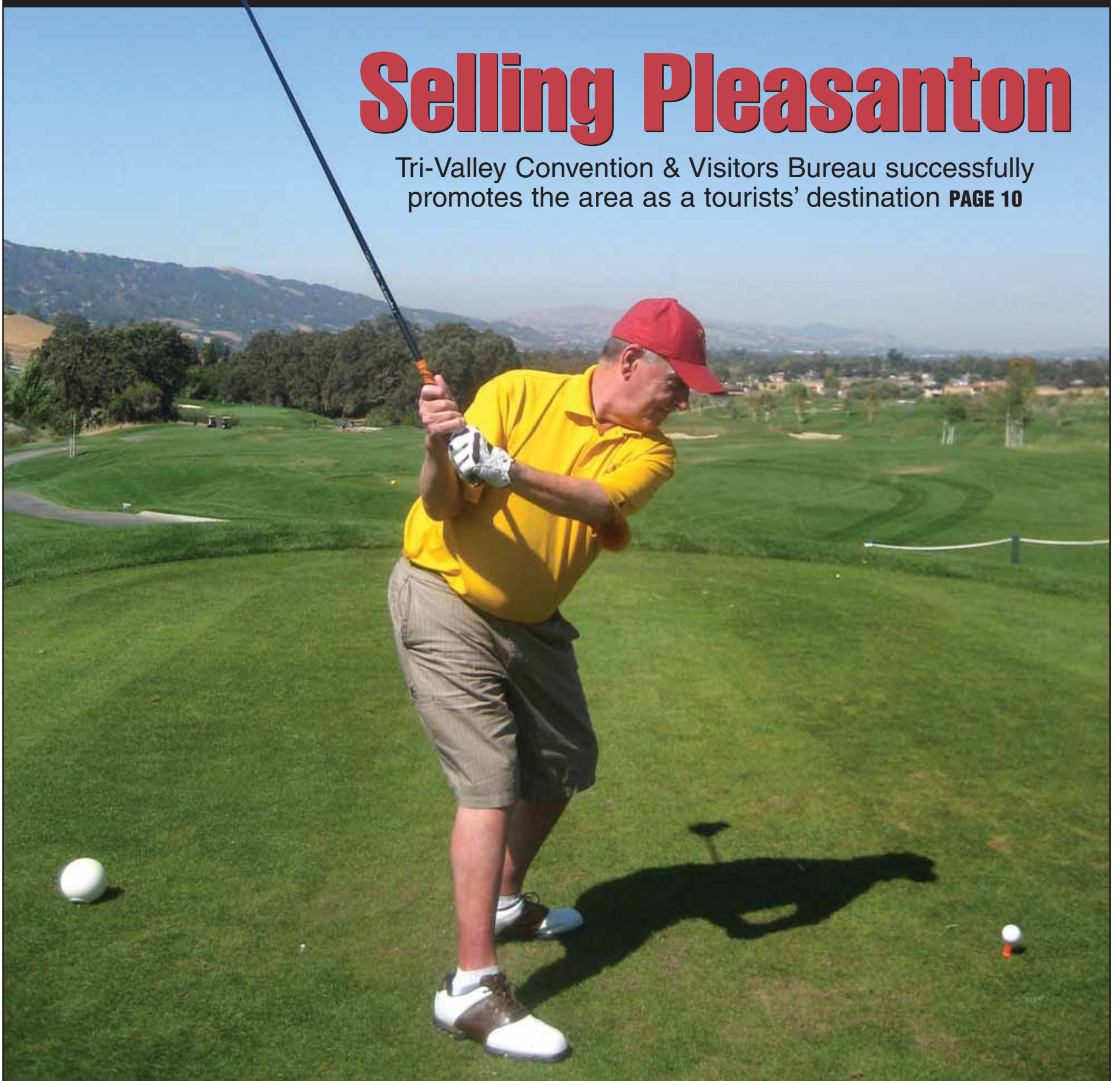
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> **section 2**

Selling Pleasanton

Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau successfully
promotes the area as a tourists' destination **PAGE 10**





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Around Pleasanton

by Jeb Bing

Front yards again a place for political signs

Political campaign signs are starting to dot the Pleasanton landscape as candidates and their supporters work the precincts, posting signs wherever they can to get the candidate's name out front in as many front yards as possible. The most visible sign I've seen is Steve Brozosky's, which has his name and "Mayor" in big bold black type against a strikingly yellow background. It's simple, you know what he's running for and you know it's his sign from a block away. And he has them all over town. I haven't seen any for Mayor Jennifer Hosterman yet, but I'm sure her campaign team will be placing them in front yards and on fence posts within the next few days.

Other impressive signs are those by school board candidate Valerie Arkin and Councilman Matt Sullivan. Arkin's is large, very large, and dominates the medical center's corner position at Mohr and Santa Rita. Sullivan is just putting his signs out with the series of signs along outbound Sunol Boulevard in front of Richert Lumber and Pleasanton Pool reminiscent of the old Burma Shave signs on country highways. Other candidate signs, such as the ones for Councilwoman Cindy McGovern and school board member Chris Grant are also clean and simple, but there aren't very many, at least not yet. Least impressive are the signs being posted for Jerry Pentin, also a council candidate. They're just too small with too many words around his name that makes it hard for a passing motorist to spot. Pentin just sent me some digital photos from a photo shoot of sharks underwater. They're awesome. If he could somehow blow those up as a background for just his name, I'm sure he'd catch the eye of many more motorists and perhaps their votes.

Of course, not everybody likes political signs on front yards, which have become a Pleasanton election tradition. Some homeown-

ers associations even have a rule against them. Most agree, however, that they add a bit of current affairs flavor to neighborhoods, and candidates find that they're important in gaining name recognition. Politicians like to think that we watch the council and school board meetings regularly, tune in the numerous candidate forums and replays at home and know the issues facing our city and schools and which candidates we'd prefer to see handling them. But the reality is that the name counts when many Pleasanton voters look at their ballots, and often it's the signs they've seen around town that play a part in their decisions.

Then, too, there are those who just don't like signs at all. An Obama sign in front of the corner house at Crellin Road and Madeira Drive in Vintage Hills has been torn, stomped on and thrown against the house numerous times since it was posted in August. Now it's gone and the homeowner has safely wedged a McNeerney sign against his front door. In another neighborhood, a reader emailed me that his McCain-Palin sign had been vandalized several times and then stolen, with eggs thrown against his house. He filed a police report but there are no suspects. Disappointed, he and his nervous wife have decided to support their candidates in less conspicuous ways.

Clarification: In last week's column, I reported that the Express Fitness workout center in the Rose Pavilion would soon turn over its space to the British grocer Fresh & Easy and move a few doors down to the corner location now occupied by Consignment Plus. But Patty Evans, who owns the Consignment Plus stores, including the one in the Rose Pavilion, said "not so fast." She said Centro Properties has given her an option to relocate, but she's fine where she is. She has a lease, the corner location is good and the store is enjoying brisk business where it is. ■

About the Cover

Tom Giusto of Pacifica tees off at Callippe Preserve Golf Course Monday, part of a foursome that makes the trip here frequently "to play at one of the best courses there is, and where there's no fog!" Promotions on the Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau's website offer golfers an easy online way to reserve their tee times from homes or offices anywhere and at anytime, part of the CVB's effort to boost tourism in Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley. Photo by Jeb Bing.

Vol. IX, Number 36

The Pleasanton Weekly is published weekly by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840. USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents. Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$40 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566. © 2008 by Embarcadero Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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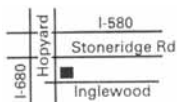
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Streetwise

Q: What do you think about the financial industry and the buyout plans in general?

Asked Downtown



Kunal Patel

Sales

I don't think it's a good idea. You are rewarding people who took advantage of the system and now taxpayers have to foot the bill. If they made bad loans, they should suffer the consequences on their own. I'm from Detroit for instance, and the auto industry doesn't get bailouts. If Wall Street gets in trouble and starts making mistakes it gets bailed out by the Bush administration. Seems like a double standard.

Larry Cobabe

Small Business Owner

I am concerned about the idea. My gut feeling is we should let business clean up their own mess and keep the government out of it. I don't like socialized industry.



Mike De Mange

Sales Engineer

It's a decision that needs to be made; we've gotten ourselves into a big mess. People always knew the government would be there to bail it out if they needed to and that is part of what caused the problem now. But this is something that has to be done. As a taxpayer, I'd rather have a part in saving the industry than see my 401K go down 20 to 30 percent more than it already has.

Nancy Schluntz

Interfaith Chaplain

I find it frightening. This is increasing the already incredible debt load on our children and grandchildren. I see that it's going to help the banks. I don't see it helping the consumer or resolving anything in the housing industry. It's a Band-Aid when what we really need is a complete overhaul of the regulatory commissions and the entire banking industry.



Marilyn Harri

Counselor

I really don't like to see things done piecemeal. I like to see an overall approach and I think this is only one piece of the economy that is in trouble and so I wish someone would look at the overall picture and try to make sense of the economy on a whole.

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

Compiled by Cybele Ryan

Newsfront

News Digest

Swim meet to draw crowds

The Junior Plus swim meet is bringing teams from the Bay Area, the Sierra Nevada region and Central California to Dolores Bengston Aquatic Center, 4455 Black Ave., from about 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The city advised that there will be traffic congestion and has developed a traffic flow system for the aquatic center. For more information, call Ian Anderson at 931-3423.

Massage school turns 28

World School of Massage and Holistic Healing Arts, 699 Peters Ave., is celebrating its 28th anniversary from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. There will be free holistic presentations, refreshments, a complimentary lunch, low cost massage sessions, 45-minute talks on various topics and free massage demonstrations. Call 461-2533 or visit www.world-schoolmassage.com for details.

Eating for education

Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) is back with its fifth annual culinary event and major fundraiser, Bon Appetit-Toasts and Tastes of Fall, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 11 at CarrAmerica Conference Center. The event has 15 teams, comprised of a corporate/community sponsor, a principal and local chef to create dishes to be scored by local celebrity judges. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased from www.ppie.org or call 846-5620.

Raise a glass to fall

Beers and wine are the highlight of the Pleasanton Downtown Association's Hops and Vine Fall Fest from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday in the parking lot behind the Cheese Factory, located at 830 Main St. Local band Word of Mouth will urge crowds to dance with top 40s hits. Receipts from downtown businesses dated Oct. 1 to 5 can earn chances to win prizes. Downtown will also be abuzz with shoppers as the Fall Sidewalk Sale and Preview will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

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

16th charge added against Germain

Former Castlewood tennis coach's bail increased, is expected to be released on property bond

by Emily West

Investigators are now looking into the past of tennis pro Henry John Germain, who is being accused of molesting his students, which is leading them to Southern California, according to the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.

Germain, a 62-year-old Dublin resident and former Castlewood Country Club tennis director, now faces an additional child molestation charge, bringing the total charges to 16 and involving six alleged victims.

Sgt. J.D. Nelson of the county sheriff's office said as the case unfolds, more people are hear-

ing about it and coming forward, including people from Southern California. More than 10 people have claimed they were abused by Germain. The alleged abuses range from 1980-2004, although not all claims may qualify as California's statute of limitations for child molestation can be from six to 10 years from the first act of contact.

Det. Rick Gonzales said he is "continually digging" in the investigation, focusing on one location at a time, one being ClubSport



Henry Germain

in Pleasanton where Germain was employed prior to Castlewood.

After Judge Hugh Walker set Germain's bail at \$1.08 million Sept. 12, Germain bailed out on a property bond Sept. 23. He then turned himself in last Friday after learning of the 16th charge.

Appearing in court Tuesday, Germain's attorney Elizabeth Grossman said her client was not prepared to enter a plea as they still had issues with the statute of limitations in some of the charges. She then

asked Walker to only raise the bail by \$60,000, adding that she found the latest count—a lewd and lascivious act on a minor—"shocking" in that it allegedly states Germain touched the stomach of an 8-year-old girl.

Deputy District Attorney Susan Torrence requested Walker raise Germain's bail to \$3 million, as two judges had previously reviewed the case and set no bail. She also mentioned "four or five" additional victims whose statute of limitations of time had run out, but could provide accounts admissible as evidence in a trial.

(continued on page 8)



After the Planning Commission's denial of an appeal for an ATM to be installed on the side of the historic Kolln Hardware building, the machine will be allowed for Comerica Bank, which will occupy the first floor.

Cashing in on Kolln

Planning Commission allows Comerica bank to install cash machine on side of historically restored building

by Janet Pelletier

A majority on the Planning Commission went into the Sept. 24th meeting convinced they wouldn't support the installation of an ATM on the historic Kolln Hardware building at Main and Division streets downtown. It's Old West elegance, complete with the distinguishing cupola that is almost as recognizable as the neon Pleasanton sign, has been restored for the past four years by owner Bud Cornett. Comerica Bank, an incoming tenant that will occupy the first floor, plans to construct an automatic teller machine on the Division Street side of the building.

The proposal wasn't received positively by many on the commission, who like some on the Pleasanton Weekly's online Town Square forum, have lamented the fact that

another bank is moving to a prime location downtown, not a retail store which would attract more foot traffic. Since the installation of the ATM was deemed a minor project by the city planning department, it was approved without going before the planning commission. That didn't sit well.

Commissioner Anne Fox appealed the city's approval, which led to the hearing Sept. 24.

But in the end, Fox was convinced after hearing from Comerica officials that they were doing their best to make the cash machine look historic and blend in with its surroundings. The commission voted unanimously to turn down the appeal and let the project move forward.

A representative from the bank said they

(continued on page 6)

Cattle call

Organizers ready for Udderly Divine Bovine event

On Saturday night, hundreds of community members with gather, all in the name of cows. Yes, that's right, bovines, who play a special role in the city.

The Udderly Divine Bovine Event will feature cuisine tastings from local restaurants, music by Tommy & the 4 Speeds, voice and silent auctions and a presentation on the Alviso Adobe Community Park.

The event began in 2000 following a cappuccino and toast at Vic's All Star Kitchen, according to the Museum On Main. The purpose was to jumpstart the museum by raising money for the downtown fixture as well as for the future Alviso Adobe, a historic site off Foothill Road that is being converted and renovated into an interpretive park complete with a replica milking barn and outdoor amphitheatre. The park will open to the public Oct. 25. Jerry Pentin of Spring Street Studios will show a video he made on the park at Saturday's event.

Pleasanton has a long history with cows, particularly with dairies. Once home to many dairies, the one that remains in most people's memories is the Meadowlark Dairy, which still offers. Each year, the bovine festivities begin with pieces of plywood cut in the shape of cows. Sponsoring groups decorate their cow, name it and race them down Main Street. The celebration culminates with Saturday's event, which will be held from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Guests can taste from local restaurants, including Girasole, Bighorn Grill, Eddie Papa's American Hangout, the Pleasanton Hotel and Taqueria El Balazo. For dessert, Dreyer's Ice Cream is donating "skinny cows," ice cream sandwiches that are low in fat.

There is also what promises to be an entertaining performance by the City Chicks, represented by former city manager Deborah McKeehan, former city councilwomen Sharell Michelotti and Becky Dennis, former planning commissioner Trish Maas and Cherie Michael.

Event chair Joanie Fields said 300 seats have already been filled, but roughly 100 are still available for those who are interested. Reservations are \$65 and can be made by calling Fields at 462-4312 or the museum, 462-2766.

—Janet Pelletier

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Cell tower proposal gets weak reception

T-Mobile's plans to install antennas on McDonald's building shot down

by Janet Pelletier

Planning Commissioners sent a clear message to T-Mobile: you may not place wireless antennas on the McDonald's building at the Bernal-Valley-Stanley intersection.

The proposal detailed plans to construct a cupola-like structure on top of a tower of the McDonald's, near the drive through window. Enclosed in the tower would be eight fourth-generation antennas that would allow T-Mobile users in that area to receive better cell phone reception. But commissioners turned down the project mainly because a city-required 300-foot buffer zone would limit what could be built on the former Home Depot site across the street.

The plans were approved by the city's planning department Sept. 2, which deemed them minor in nature and thus not required to receive the commission's approval. But Commissioner Phil Blank, who opposed the plans, appealed. The appeal was heard at the Sept. 24 commission meeting.

Jacob Reeves, a consultant hired by T-Mobile, said there is no cell phone coverage by the provider in that area of town and they would like to better serve customers.

Reeves said while many users currently receive cell signals through 3G or third-generation technology, 4G or fourth-generation is what cellular companies will start employing soon to serve the growing number of users, which is what the antennas the company was proposing to install.

He added that the antennas



City of Pleasanton

This photograph, simulated with the raised cupola on the McDonald's building, would have added approximately 9 feet of height to the current tower.

wouldn't be seen by the public since they would be enclosed into the building's stucco structure. An earlier plan to house a lesser number of antennae in a flag pole at the fast food chain was seen as unattractive because the pole would look abnormally thick and out of scale. Reeves said that plan was also less desirable because employing less antennas would mean less signal quality, which wouldn't make it viable for T-Mobile to use.

But commissioners weren't too sympathetic to the provider's plea. "This is a major entryway into the city," said Blank, who half-apologetically referred to the design as "ugly."

Commissioner Anne Fox said the projected height increase of about 9 feet would make the tower more visible from recreational areas such as Shadow Cliffs.

A city ordinance that prevents "sensitive populations" from within 300 feet of a cell tower put commissioners over the top on upholding the appeal. Across the street from McDonald's lies a 14.7-acre vacant parcel that was once planned to be a second Home Depot. That plan was roundly criticized by resi-

dents who were worried about its financial viability, traffic and other quality-of-life issues.

The city has also tried to court grocery stores to the site, which is owned by Frank auf der Mar, but has had no luck. The buffer zone would mean that a portion of the vacant property would be limited from uses such as a church, senior assisted living facility or child care center which would serve vulnerable populations—seniors and children—for long periods of time. Curiously, while notices that the project was being appealed were sent to property owners within 1,000 feet of the site, no one, including Auf der Mar, voiced their opposition.

But commissioners said they would be remiss if they allowed the cell tower, thus putting a limitation on what could be built across the street.

"I wouldn't want to limit it, especially with it being a controversial property," Fox said.

Commissioner Kathy Narum was the lone dissenting vote on the appeal. Reeves can appeal the decision to the City Council within 15 days. ■



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Kolln

(continued from page 5)

understand how important the Kolln Hardware building is to the city and its residents.

"Comerica began in 1849, so it's older than Pleasanton is," he said.

"Comerica isn't in trouble, doesn't need government assistance and didn't give out subprime mortgages," he added in reference to the recent troubles in the financial industry. "A bank without an ATM today is not competitive."

The representative added that Comerica expects to be in downtown Pleasanton for a long time, but should it ever leave, it would return the building back to its original form by removing the ATM and restoring the siding. The machine will be made of an antique-finished bronze along with a night depos-

it box and a light. A small side window, which isn't an original window to the building, will be removed to make room for both.

In her decision to support the ATM, commissioner Jennifer Pearce said: "While I do think there should be a discussion of banks being permitted uses (downtown), it's not time for that discussion tonight."

Commissioners also had some reservations about the location of the ATM on the one-way Division, which could possibly be converted to a two-way road. Commissioner Greg O'Connor said he was concerned about the ATM being so close to the sidewalk and those using the machine not feeling safe.

The Kolln Hardware building, located at 600 Main St., was purchased by Cornett in 2004. It was repaired and restored and was completed just a few weeks ago. Part of the work included an addition,

adding 3,896 square feet. Since the addition required the removal of four parking spaces, Cornett agreed to paying in-lieu parking fees that will be used by the city to construct public parking lots downtown.

Audio of Planning Commission meetings now available

Missed the Planning Commission meeting and want to hear what was said?

Audio of the meetings is now available through the city's website at the following link, http://pleasantonca.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3. Listeners have the option of either hearing the meeting in its entirety on the website or by downloading it to their computer with the advantage of fast forwarding and rewinding. The audio can also be downloaded to an mp3 device. The podcasts are posted online the day after each commission meeting. ■

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Turn in unwanted meds

DSRSD hosts 'No Drugs Down the Drain' event to keep drugs out of water system

by Janet Pelletier

After recent studies showed traces of drugs were seeping into the environment, wastewater treatment agencies have become more concerned about how people are disposing of their unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medicines.

The Dublin San Ramon Services District will hold a collection event called "No Drugs Down the Drain" on Oct. 10. The free event will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. and residents are invited to bring their medicines, no questions asked, to the service district's office, 7501 Dublin Blvd., in Dublin.

The campaign is a statewide collaborative effort between federal, state and local agencies to keep pharmaceuticals out of the sewer system and waterways and provide safe disposal options. DSRSD, which collects and treats an average of 11.9 million gallons a day of wastewater from Pleasanton, Dublin and parts of southern San Ramon, has contracted with a medical waste hauler to properly

dispose of the medicines collected at the event. The city of Dublin is providing required police oversight for the collection of controlled substances.

According to the services district, more advanced technology has detected traces of pharmaceutical compounds in the environment. Several recent studies have shown that exposure to certain pharmaceuticals results in abnormal development and reproduction in fish and other wildlife, even at very low levels.

"Pharmaceutical waste has emerged as a significant issue for the environment," said Bert Michalczyk, general manager of DSRSD. "Flushing used to be considered the safest way to get rid of unwanted medication. Now we know that flushing is not proper disposal. We are working with many partners to provide better, safer alternatives."

The city of Livermore, in partnership with the American Red Cross, is also sponsoring a free medication collection event from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Livermore Police Department,

1110 S. Livermore Ave. Ongoing disposal options for medications are listed by zip code at www.NoDrugsDownTheDrain.org. Closest to Pleasanton is the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste offices at 5584 La Ribera Ave. in Livermore. DSRSD and the City of Dublin are working on establishing a permanent collection site for unwanted drugs; its location and hours will be posted on www.dsrdsd.com.

To help reduce the amount of mercury in the local environment and the San Francisco Bay, DSRSD also will accept items containing mercury at its office during the Oct. 10 event. Residents can receive a free digital thermometer when they bring in one or more mercury thermometers. The services district also will accept fluorescent light bulbs, thermostats and mercuric oxide batteries (small button-size batteries often used in cameras, watches, and calculators). All the items must be intact and thermometers must be sealed in a protective container and plastic bag. ■

Germain

(continued from page 5)

Grossman said Torrence's mention of the additional victims was "inappropriate" and claimed that Torrence had not even seen a police report stating this information.

Walker added \$60,000 to Germain's bail for the latest charge, bringing the total to \$1.14 million.

With more equity available on

the property used in Germain's property bond, he is expected to be released after paperwork is filed to increase the value of the bond.

In addition to the bail, the conditions of his release are that he is not to leave the state, contact any minors without approved adult supervision or contact the victims. The judge did allow Germain to visit with his three children in the presence of his ex-wife, with the approval from her current hus-

band.

About a dozen people came to the hearing, but along with Germain's family, did not wish to comment. Grossman did not return calls to respond to the case.

His next appearance will be at 9 a.m. Oct. 22 with the intent to enter a plea and setting at the Alameda County Courthouse on Stoneridge Drive. Check www.PleasantonWeekly.com for updates. ■

Take Us Along



Dominican Weekly

The Chinns: Claire, Randy and daughters Marina, Justine and Analise (in descending order!) pose with the Weekly in Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.



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Valerie Arkin, Jeff Bowser, moderator Mary Ann Hannon, Chris Grant, Jamie Yee Hintzke and Prasad Rallapalli discuss issues facing the schools at the school board candidate's forum Tuesday night.

Jeff Bing

School forum puts financial crisis at forefront

Five of six candidates discuss concerns, goals of schools

by Emily West

Many educational buzz words were used during Tuesday night's school board candidates forum as hopefuls vied for votes.

Five of the six candidates were in attendance at the forum, put on by the Pleasanton PTA Council, Livermore-Amador League of Women Voters and Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin American Association of University Women. Each was allowed to make opening and closing statements, as well as address questions raised from the audience.

Even in a high achieving district that was prepared to face large budget cuts from the state, board members face the challenge of helping the students perform even better.

When asked what she might change, Valerie Arkin said she would like to see a continuation of excellence. The longtime youth advocate, former YMCA program coordinator and library commissioner added that the needs of all students should be met.

Incumbent Chris Grant agreed, saying that intervention programs are important to "catch kids" who are struggling and challenge them.

Other areas of improvement mentioned were class size reduction and moving forward with excellence study recommendations.

Jamie Yee Hintzke, former PTA Council president and excellence committee member, said she would like to chip away at the excellence study list as well and work hard to keep programs, especially language programs.

Jeff Bowser, a former teacher and school administrator, said he wouldn't change much and that the biggest challenge facing the district is the projected "fiscal nightmare."

With the budget in mind, Prasad Rallapalli, principal database architect at Yahoo, said he would encourage more parent and community volunteers to help children learn and receive a "world class education."

Most candidates thought any budget cutting should be kept as far away from the classroom as possible. Arkin thought partnerships could be made with businesses and organizations to gain more funding. Grant and Hintzke were opposed to dipping into reserves, instead saying they would want to find creative ways into finding more money.

The candidates were also asked about students' wellbeing, specifically stress related to increasing API scores, closing the achievement gap of disadvantaged groups, and concerns like poverty, emotional illness and drug abuse.

Recent issues facing the district, including the court case involving Neal Elementary School and a parcel tax were not brought up in the audience questions.

Candidate Stephen Page said he didn't attend the forum in protest, cit-

ing the "absence of a citizen-centered medium to enable any person to speak directly to the public and share one's values."

Comcast Channel 26 filmed the forum, which will air at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. ■



Debbie Lopes

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Pleasanton Real Estate News



by Gerarda Stocking

BOTTOM-FISHING IS DANGEROUS

If the market slows and house prices decline, there is a big temptation to wait on the sidelines—even if you find a bargain price and great terms on precisely the home you want—until you're certain that prices have reached their bottom for this cycle. Do not heed this temptation unless you're an inveterate gambler.

Remember two things. First, when prices turn, interest rates usually join them on the upswing. A home that had a bargain price and superb financing, therefore, can lose its price advantage nearly overnight. And once the market has truly turned, history tells us it is very unlikely to descend again.

Second, there are a lot of things other than money considerations that go into a purchase decision. If you have found the right home for your own future and the future of those in your household, it usually isn't worth risking the loss of that home over a few hundred dollars—or even a few thousand dollars—that you might have saved if you'd waited until the extraordinarily brief moment when prices and rates were the most favorable to buyers.

This isn't just a financial issue. It's an issue involving how well you live the life of your dreams. Keep those dreams in mind when the price still looks great and the terms and rates are favorable. For assistance call Gerarda Stocking at 846-4000 or visit her website at www.gerardastocking.com.

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SELLING PLEAS

Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau successfully promotes the

by Jeb Bing

The Tri-Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau has launched Northern California's newest golf consortium, dubbed Golf Tri-Valley. The golf package, available through a partnership with travel packager SilverVoyages.com, will allow anyone interested in playing golf on public courses in the area to book their trip online from anywhere in the world, right up to tee-off time at Callippe Preserve or another local course.

The golf course package was the idea of Amy Blaschka, president and CEO of the CVB, and her other seven-member team of travel planners, marketers and sales representatives.

"The Tri-Valley is recognized as premier golf country with more than 500,000 individual and tournament-play rounds annually," Blaschka said. "Working together with our member golf courses and restaurants, we decided to package trips that will give golfers the best deal for their dollars. It can all be arranged online from wherever you are and whenever you want, even in the middle of the night."

"Golf courses can always use a few more players, hotels need room guests and restaurants want more diners, so this could be a winning ticket for everyone," she added.

Even in a down economy with financial uncertainties, golfing always seems to weather the storm, especially if golfers don't have to fly to some distant resort. That's why Pleasanton, particularly, with its abundance of hotels and restaurants, offers special appeal to golfers and their families. Besides Callippe, other participants in this new Golf Tri-Valley package include The Bridges Golf Club, The Course at Wente Vineyards, Las Positas Golf Course, Poppy Ridge Golf Course, Springtown Golf Course and the Sunol Valley Golf Club.

With weather here conducive to golf during most of the winter months, local courses attract not only golfers from cold weather states but also tournament play. The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) will return for a third year during the 2008 Longs Drugs Challenge at Blackhawk Country Club starting next Thursday, playing host to 108 professional women golfers. The tournament is open to the public, and is expected to draw more than 60,000 spectators.

To promote more golfing, Blaschka and her team will host some of the western states' top golf newspaper and magazine writers and broadcasters later this month to introduce them to the local courses and golf pros.

"These will be the golf reporters and correspondents who play the game as well as cover it," Blaschka said. "We'll give them a first rate media tour and show them what this great Valley has to offer."

The Tri-Valley CVB, whose member cities include Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville, has an operating budget of just over \$1 million and is credited by cities and the business community with bringing in \$6.7 million in tourism in the fiscal year, which ended June 30. Although projections are for fewer visitors this year, hotel occupancy rates seem to be tracking what they were a year ago,



The Sunol Water Temple, designed in 1910 by famed San Francisco architect Willis Polk, is owned by the San Francisco Water District and located in the sm

"not phenomenal, but very steady, which is good," Blaschka said.

Even the sluggish economy, higher gas prices and financial credit concerns don't seem to affect local tourism.

"Our target tourist lives in the western states, not on the East Coast," Blaschka said. "We don't see too many flying here, although that's changing when we look towards the Asian market. The Japanese come to this area for golf and now the Chinese are following. We found that many Chinese, while they have plenty of money to spend, don't like to spend it on hotel rooms, so we are promoting the less expensive lodging we have in the Tri-Valley just a short distance from San Francisco, where they're usually headed."

Blaschka has also partnered at the state level to boost Tri-Valley support. With her own staff web page-savvy, she is offering the same continual updates and visuals and videos of the Tri-Valley. Go to California.com and the opening photos is Pleasanton's Callippe Preserve.



"Our target tourist lives in the western states, not the East Coast. We don't see too many flying here, although that's changing when we look towards the Asian market. The Japanese come to this area for golf, and now the Chinese are following."

—Amy Blaschka, president & CEO of the CVB

Dynamic, active and interactive websites are increasingly important in the travel industry. TriValleyCVB.com has hundreds of hits each week and the numbers are growing. Once on the site, viewers can quickly move to links for the destinations they're targeting and to a search engine that optimizes their reach and time. With favorable recognition, someone signing on to "Pleasanton" or "TriValley" usually sees the CVB's web page first. It's even accessible through Facebook and other social networking sites.

"We're finding that people are spending an average of 11-12 minutes on our site," Blaschka said. "That's incredible. We were hoping they'd stay with us for as long as five minutes. I think we're seeing so much traffic because there's so much you can view on our site, from maps to photos to detailed reports on what interests them."

The Tri-Valley CVB also makes it easy for meeting planners at major companies and organizations to plan their conferences in Pleasanton. There's an online Request for

ANTON

area as a tourists' destination



all town of Sunol, near Pleasanton.

gled with a wide range of other participants, including those from hotels, wineries and golf courses, at Tucson the crowd will all be CVB leaders and their staffs.

“This is where we talk to each other and trade techniques, talk about promotions that work and those that don’t, and, especially this year, about how to bring in more tourists for less cost, Blaschka said.

Blaschka has been the chief executive of the Tri-Valley CVB since October 2001 and is a frequent speaker at City Council meetings in all five cities. She and her husband Todd have two daughters, Alexis, 8, and Sofia, 4. A branding consultant in San Francisco for a number of years and later an advertising account executive, she was intrigued by the variety of challenges listed by the local CVB when it was searching for a new director. As it has turned out, the job and the candidate were a perfect fit and today she leads a 21-member board of directors, an organization with 300 dues-paying members from five different cities and two different counties. Danville joined the TVCVB—its popular acronym—two years ago.

For most of its years, the CVB was funded by its sponsoring cities’ general funds, based for the most part on hotel tax revenue collected in each city. Pleasanton contributed the most, about \$190,000, with Dublin having fewer hotels and chipping in \$55,000. Because general fund money is also what cities tap if they need a new police officer or are short of funds, the CVB contributions have fluctuated.

At Blaschka’s urging, the CVB’s funding was reformulated into an assessment direct where hotels now collect \$1 on each guest-room. That’s how the CVB now received just over \$1 million, revenue it can count on with every expectation that it will grow as the hotel business recovers from its current slump.

Although CVBs are in business throughout the country, more of them are changing their names to Destination Marketing Organizations, or DMOs. That’s especially appropriate if the organization is in a city with a convention center, which the Tri-Valley doesn’t. Blaschka said the area has many large meeting rooms in local hotels and wineries, which suits her local needs. She hosts meetings called “Destination Showcase,” which serve a mini-community trade shows that attract member hotels, wineries, and others. It’s at these meetings that members share their experiences and frustrations, often giving Blaschka more reasons to pay visits to the next council meetings for needed business relief.

She has also started hosting quarterly membership meetings to improve the communications network for people who work in different fields and cities, but can gain useful information in these kinds of special get-togethers.

“Our local chambers have their luncheons and mixers and members of each of these chambers talk to each other, which is good,” Blaschka said. “We’re a regional organization and many of our members never see each other except at our quarterly meetings.

The Tri-Valley CVB’s next quarterly membership meeting will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 28, at Eddie Papa’s restaurant on Hopyard Road. ■

Photos courtesy of Tri-Valley CVB



Main Street Pleasanton with its historic downtown buildings and landmark arch is a favorite for out-of-town visitors.



Pleasanton’s Mitchell Katz Winery and its adjacent Palm Event Center are among the largest in the area.



Located just a short distance from downtown Pleasanton, the Century House, with its surrounding Bicentennial Park, is a popular place for weddings and receptions.

Proposal form that they can submit which will get them price quotes and space sizes plus a host of other amenities that are available here which these planners can then take to their corporate leaders who are planning an off-site convention or retreat. Plans can be exchanged between the two sites with no one having to go farther than their computer, a major change from just a few years ago when meeting planners and CVB representatives needed to travel back and forth to firm up travel plans.

As an organization that encourages travel to Pleasanton and the Tri-Valley, the CVB also travels itself. This week Blaschka and her three-person sales team spent three days in Santa Rosa at the California Travel Industry Association’s “Beyond Gateway” conference, called that because it’s for CVBs not in San Francisco or Los Angeles.

Next week, the Pleasanton staff heads to Tucson for the annual meeting of the Western Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus. Unlike Santa Rosa, where CVB people min-

Opinion

Editorial

Vote for Measure WW to expand parks, open space

Back in 1934, when the financial crisis on Wall Street was even worse than it is now, local voters nevertheless went to the polls and agreed to form the East Bay Regional Park District and to tax themselves to finance it. It's time to do it again. Measure WW, which is on the Nov. 4 ballot, is a \$500-million bond measure that seeks to extend Measure AA that voters approved 20 years ago. That measure, which was passed in 1988 and is due to expire at the end of this year, raised \$225 million for the park district to connect trails, purchase open space, restore creeks and build recreation areas and new parks. But the district needs continued funding to meet the needs of a growing East Bay population and also to more aggressively protect open space against encroachment. Measure WW will do that by continuing to provide needed funds. It would extend but not raise the \$10 ceiling on every \$100,000 of assessed valuation on properties in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. No one would pay a higher rate than was approved 20 years ago, a rate that is actually lower than the one voters approved in the midst of the Great Depression.

Measure WW, which will need a two-thirds or 66.6 percent approval from voters to pass, would fund 67 specific items identified by the park district, including \$13.7 million that would be used to acquire park land on the Pleasanton and Sunol ridges and Devaney Canyon. The funds are also earmarked for a bicycle loop trail system, the construction of parking and staging areas, picnic, camping and visitor facilities. Another \$2 million would go to acquire and construct trail connections from Garin Park in Dublin to the Pleasanton Ridge, and another \$2.25 million would go towards completing extensions south to Pleasanton and north to Concord on a 28-mile trail.

Other nearby projects include \$5.6 million to acquire land in Doolan Canyon and Tassajara Hills north of Dublin and Pleasanton; \$4.7 million to connect the Pleasanton Ridge and Calaveras Ridge Trail to west Dublin hills; \$630,000 to complete a trail connection under the Interstate 580-680 interchange linking Dublin and Pleasanton; \$4.9 million to renovate the Sunol Regional Wilderness visitor center, campground and picnic areas and expand park land there; and \$7.6 million to extend a ridge trail connecting Fremont and Sunol through Niles Canyon.

As our reporter Janet Pelletier pointed out in her cover story on Measure WW last week, park district leaders acknowledge that this may not be the best time to ask voters for money. But East Bay Regional Parks District General Manager Pat O'Brien and park district board president Ayn Wieskamp said that even with the economic uncertainties, a survey showed that 73 percent of potential voters support the bond measure. They like what Measure AA accomplished in the past 20 and don't want the park district's efforts to preserve and protect the environment to slow down or stop. Voters in the troubling year of 1934 overwhelmingly approved setting up the East Bay Regional Park District. They approved Measure AA to add to the funds two decades ago. Now it's time to do it again by voting for Measure WW on the Nov. 4 ballot.

Your Turn

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

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

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

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

Letters

Vote 'yes' on Prop. 8

Dear Editor,

Carol DeMars' accusation that the Weekly "has caved to the politically correctness of the day" by publishing a same sex couple in the weddings section is not true. Because of the activist Supreme Court judges' decision to overturn the wishes of the people of California, same sex marriage is considered to be just like any other marriage in California. Therefore, we are going to see non-traditional wedding pictures published.

And commitment to marriage and family will be weakened. I urge you to vote "yes" to Proposition 8 on Nov. 4. A "yes" vote restores the definition of marriage, to be only between a man and a woman. Our children will also be protected from being taught in public school that "same-sex marriage" is the same as traditional marriage. Vote "yes" on Prop. 8 and restore the family and marriage in California.

Marilyn Ludt
Pleasanton

Cruel not to treat gays with same rights

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading this week's edition of Pleasanton Weekly and I must say I was disgusted by the letter from a fellow Pleasanton resident stating that she is "opposed to advertising" of same-sex marriages, ("Weekly shouldn't 'advertise' gay marriage," Letters, Sept. 19, page 13).

I do recall the issue she is speaking of which I thought was wonderful. I think it is great to see any couple who love each other confirm their love whether they are gay or not. Basically what she is saying is that it's okay to "advertise" heterosexual couples' vow their love for each other, but not homosexual couples. Is it fear? Is it ignorance? I really don't know. But what I do know is that it is cruel to treat people in the gay and lesbian community like they are not human beings with rights. Although I am a heterosexual female, I am honestly quite tired of hearing such negative remarks about this topic.

I understand that people have their own opinions, but what gets me is comments such as "advertising." If that's how it's going to be looked at, then I no longer want to see couples of the opposite sex "advertising" their relationships either. Let's make it fair. And to her comment regarding the Pleasanton Weekly "caving to the politically correctness of the day," it's not "caving," it's caring. It's treating every person in our community as equals, whether you are gay, straight, red, purple, whatever. It's

time for that reader to leave the dark ages behind.

Shanna Wentz
Pleasanton

LGBTs asking for equality, not advertising

Dear Editor,

Thank you Pleasanton Weekly for displaying the marriages of same sex couples. I am pleased to see that even a small community such as Pleasanton has opened its doors to all orientations. It saddens me to read a fellow citizen's comment about the Weekly "advertising" or following "politically correctness," ("Weekly shouldn't 'advertise' gay marriage," Letters, Sept. 19, page 13).

The issue isn't about being "correct" but realizing that people of the LGBT community do have a voice. Displaying the loving pictures of these families only shows that the Weekly isn't biased against having all types of people in our community. I am part of the LGBT community and reading Carol's comment tell me that she wants us to be ashamed or afraid of who are. Why not display wedding pictures of gay and lesbian couples (we're not ashamed)? I have yet to see a person object to displaying a heterosexual couple's wedding pictures. Carol's words re-enforce why the suicide rate amongst gay and lesbian youth are so high. Saying "The Weekly shouldn't advertise gay marriages" is basically saying "We know you are here but we don't want you to be seen or heard." Myself and others from the LGBT community aren't asking for "advertising" rights, but we are asking for respect and tolerance. The Weekly has shown me a bit more light on this difficult road to equality but with Carol's comments it will only make the LGBT community that much more stronger and determined to come out on top.

Rob Jarrett
Pleasanton

Steve Jordan story refreshing

Dear Editor,

Just a note to say how much I enjoyed your piece about Steve Jordan, ("It's all in the kicking," Column, Sept. 12, page 3). We've known Steve for a few years now, but did not realize how committed he is to sharing his talents with others.

In these hard times it was refreshing to read something with such a positive spin. Thanks for all you do for our great town and the Pleasanton Weekly,

Deb Cilk
Pleasanton

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WEEKLY

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The Pleasanton Weekly is published every Friday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100 Pleasanton, CA 94566; (925) 600-0840.

Mailed at Periodicals Postage Rate, USPS 020407. The Pleasanton Weekly is mailed free upon request to homes and apartments in Pleasanton. Voluntary subscriptions at \$30 per year (\$50 for two years) are welcome from Pleasanton residents.

Subscription rate for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pleasanton Weekly, 5506 Sunol Blvd., Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA 94566.

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Say yes to Measure PP

Dear Editor,

In 1990 a citizen's group successfully collected signatures for an initiative to protect the Pleasanton Ridge. The City Council at the time placed on the ballot a competing measure to decide the development plan for Pleasanton Ridge.

Voters passed the council-sponsored initiative. The committee appointed by the council decided their mandate was to develop a plan calling for 2,640 homes and a three-lane road running right up the face of Pleasanton Ridge! The committee's plan was defeated in 1992 with 82 percent of Pleasanton voters opposed.

Today Jennifer Hosterman, Cheryl Cook-Kallio and Jerry Thorne on the city council decided not to allow Pleasanton residents to vote on any plan they come up with and the community will not have the final say. In addition, these council members decided they would allow ridge developers to submit plans before a protection ordinance is complete, ensuring development can be approved before any protections are in place.

If big money developers have their way, luxury homes will be covering the hills to maximize their profits. Please take a stand against ridgetop development that works immediately for Pleasanton, this November vote "yes" on Measure PP (Protect

Pleasanton). Vote "no" on QQ, the city council sham initiative.

Matthew Morrison
Friends of Pleasanton

League's recommendations

Dear Editor,

The League of Women Voters California has made recommendations on several of the propositions on the Nov. 4 ballot. Because the league positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 2, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, and Proposition 12, Veterans' Bond Act of 2008, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

Prop. 1A-High-Speed Rail

Bonds: support.

Prop. 3-Children's Hospital Bond Act: support.

Prop. 4-Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy: oppose.

Prop. 5-Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation: support.

Prop. 6-Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws (Runner Initiative): oppose.

Prop. 7-Renewable Energy Generation: oppose.

Prop. 8-Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry: oppose.

Prop 9-Criminal Justice System.

Victims' Rights, Parole: oppose.

Prop 10-Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy Bonds: oppose.

Prop 11-Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST Act: support.

For a further explanation of the LWV recommendations, go to the league's website at www.smartvoter.org. Under Nov. 4, click on "Preview General Election in California." On the list of counties screen, click on "Alameda." On the Directory of Contests screen, click on "State Propositions."

Barbara E. Hempill
League of Women Voters
Livermore-Amador Valley

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

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

- Public Hearing: PUD-72, Jerome and Laura Raney – Consider an application for Planned Unit Development rezoning of two parcels totaling approximately .51 acres from the RM 1,500 (Multiple Family Residential) District to the PUD HDR (Planned Unit Development – High Density Residential) District and development plan approval to construct three new residences at 4715, 4715 B, and 4693 Augustine Street
- Public Hearing: Introduce an ordinance adding Chapter 15.44, Protection of Sanitary Sewer System from Fats, Oil, and Grease, to the Pleasanton Municipal Code
- Public Hearing: Review of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for Fiscal Year 2007 (07/08)

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, October 6, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review of draft FY 2009/10 City Grant application packet and identification of funding priorities
- FY 2008/09 City Grant Program commission's quarterly project performance
- Review and approval of selection process for Bike Rack Public Art project for Firehouse Arts Center
- Review and selection of potential temporary Public Art projects for FY 2008/09

Parks & Recreation Commission

Thursday, October 9, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Discussion of proposed operational changes for Pleasanton Pioneer Cemetery

Library Commission

Thursday, October 9, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.
Library Community Room, 400 Old Bernal Avenue

- Please visit our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us to view the agenda for this meeting

Youth Commission

- The Youth Commission meeting regularly scheduled for October 8, 2008 has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled Youth Commission meeting will be held on November 12, 2008

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Intern – Water Conservation Coordinator – Part-Time, Temporary
- Police Officer, Lateral or Academy Graduate – Full-Time, Permanent
- Senior Center Assistant – Part-Time, Temporary
- Senior Center Leader – Part-Time, Temporary

For more information, visit our employment page at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/services/employment/opportunities/

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

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

Community Pulse

Police Bulletin

Jewelry suspect arrested

Pleasanton police have identified a 36-year-old San Francisco man currently in custody as one of the three suspects in a takeover-style robbery of a jewelry store on Aug. 28.

Corey Paschall is currently being held at the San Francisco county jail on unrelated charges, and will be transferred to the Santa Rita Jail in Dublin when his San Francisco cases are finished, according to Pleasanton police.

The robbery took place on Aug. 28 at the Diamond

Creation Jewelry Store at 4000 Pimlico Drive.

According to police, two suspects entered the store, ordered victims to the floor and hit one victim on the head with a pistol before taking cash and jewelry and leaving the scene in a vehicle driven by a third suspect.

On Sept. 1, police received a lead in the investigation, and a follow-up investigation confirmed that Paschall was the suspect that hit the victim with the pistol.

Paschall was arrested on Sept. 1 on a \$790,000 arrest warrant, according to police.

Detectives are still looking for the other two suspects. Police are describing one of the suspects as a black man in his 30s who is about 5 feet 11 inches tall, 160 pounds, and was wearing a black hat and shirt.

—Bay City News

Police Report

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

Sept. 23

- Theft:
 - 7:26 a.m. in the 500 block of Rose Avenue; petty theft
 - 10:46 a.m. in the 1400 block of Kolln Street; petty theft
 - 8:45 p.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive; stolen vehicle
- Vehicular burglary:
 - 9:40 a.m. in the 4200 block of Sheldon Circle
 - 11:41 a.m. in the 8000 block of Ensenada Drive
- Vandalism:
 - 4:50 p.m. in the 5200 block of Stoneridge Drive
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 10:59 a.m. at the intersection of Main and West Angela streets; under the influence of a controlled substance, riding a bike while intoxicated
 - 5:35 p.m. in the 2100 block of Arroyo Court; marijuana possession
- Lost property:
 - 4:03 p.m. at the intersection of Owens Court and Chabot Drive

Sept. 24

- Theft:
 - 2:46 p.m. in the 5500 block of Springhouse Drive; grand theft
 - 4:02 p.m. in the 4000 block of Cristobal Way; stolen vehicle
 - 5:19 p.m. in the 6400 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
- Drug/alcohol violations:
 - 12:07 a.m. at the intersection of Owens and Andrews drives; driving with marijuana
 - 12:46 a.m. at the intersection of Hopyard Road and Hansen Drive; underage DUI
 - 12:48 a.m. in the 5500 block of Calico Lane; public drunkenness
 - 1:01 p.m. at the intersection of Main and St. Mary streets; DUI
- Prank calls:
 - 12:23 a.m. in the 5600 block of Springhouse Drive

Sept. 25

- Theft:
 - 5:17 a.m. in the 7400 block of Alder Court; petty theft
 - 9:38 a.m. in the 9200 block of Klemeston Drive; grand theft
 - 11:12 a.m. in the 6100 block of Via de los Cerros; petty theft
 - 11:49 a.m. in the 1100 block of Happy Valley Road; stolen vehicle
 - 2:50 p.m. in the 500 block of

- Main Street; grand theft
- 7:45 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- DUI:
 - 7:52 p.m. at the intersection of Owens and Hacienda drives
- Recovered vehicle:
 - 10:52 p.m. in the 2300 block of Santa Rita Road
- Vehicle tampering:
 - 9:54 a.m. in the 8000 block of Oak Creek Drive
 - 6:03 p.m. in the 3400 block of Andrews Drive

Sept. 26

- Theft:
 - 11:31 a.m. in the 2700 block of Willowren Way; grand theft
 - 12:39 p.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; grand theft
 - 3:40 p.m. in the 1500 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft
- Vandalism:
 - 10:21 a.m. in the 4300 block of Fairlands Drive; worth less than \$400
- Alcohol violations:
 - 12:59 a.m. in the 3800 block of Vineyard Avenue; public drunkenness
 - 1:45 a.m. at the intersection of Owens and Hacienda drives; DUI

Obituaries

Jerry Condito Sbragia

Jerry Condito Sbragia died Feb. 13 at Kaiser Permanente Acute Care Facility at the age of 80.

Mr. Sbragia was born April 13, 1927, one of two children and the only son of Genovina Ranieri and Gino Sbragia. His mother, Genovina, at the age of 17 brought her younger siblings to America from Massa Macinaia, Italy.

A gregarious man who loved to dance and excelled in sales, Mr. Sbragia served his country in the Navy during World War II. He then met and married Patricia Palos and had four children. He worked for Harry F. Rathjen, McKesson Wine and Spirits, and then the California Lottery

before retiring in Pleasanton. He continued to dance and even sang in a chorus.

Mr. Sbragia is survived by his sons, Dean Gino Sbragia and Matthew Samuel Sbragia; daughters, Geraldine Linda Tyler and Virginia Genevieve Sbragia; nephew, Nicolas Dean Sbragia; nieces and grandniece, Kaitra Celine Sbragia, Sophia Avery Jayne Sbragia and Tatum Elise Ibanez. He is also survived by cousins, Robert Galindo, son of Adeline (Ranieri) Baccetti, Vince Gianni, son of Olga (Ranieri) Gianni, Sandra Ladd, daughter of Marie (Ranieri) Jones, Paula Collopy and Marsha Gouig, daughters of Louis Ranieri; and many second cousins including Jeannett Makres and Joanie Meza who continued to stay in contact with him.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Oct. 11 at Holy Cross in Colma, Calif.

Births



Damian Jiovanni Lee

Damian Jiovanni Lee was born at 10:15 a.m. Sept. 1 to Christina M. Lee. Baby Damian weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. He is the grandson of Ron and Sandy Lee, who works in the advertising services department for the Pleasanton and Danville Weekly newspapers. He is also grandson of Gina Lee and nephew to Dylan and Marshall Lee.

Calendar

Author Visits

Empty Nester Author Reading

Julie Reynolds, Joan Taylor Cehn and Risa Nye will be at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6 to talk about their book "Writin' on Empty," a collection of essays written by parents about the experience of children leaving home. Call 846-8826 or visit www.townecenterbooks.com.

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 1978 Reunion

The 30th class reunion weekend is Oct. 10-12. Activities include wine tasting, a homecoming football game, golf tournament, dinner and dancing at the Pleasanton Hotel, and a picnic. Tickets are \$150 per couple. Call 484-3851 or visit www.amador78.org.

Classes

Basic Yoga Class Beth Fox instructs this basic yoga class that meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave. No previous yoga experience necessary. Limited class supplies available. Fees are \$12 for drop-in or \$10 for pre-paid series. Inquire about seniors or students rates. Call 200-4060.

Divorce Care Recovery Seminar DivorceCare divorce recovery seminar and support group meets at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy., Thursdays at 7 p.m. starting Oct. 9 for 13 weeks. Free child care is provided through fifth grade. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. The cost is \$25. Call 846-6622 or visit www.valleycommunitychurch.org.

Free Voice Lessons Pride of the Pacific, a women's a cappella chorus, is offering a program for four Wednesday evenings, starting Oct. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Aahmes Event Center, 170 Lindbergh Ave., Livermore. Included are vocal education and an

opportunity to sing with the chorus in our Christmas Show. Some singing experience is needed. Call 980-0311 or visit www.prideofthepacific.org.

The Story of The Native

Californians At 9 a.m. Oct. 18 at Village High School, Room 702, 4645 Bernal Ave., Amador Valley Adult Education will present a PowerPoint program on California's first people. The session includes tasting native foods, handling Indian materials, and a 30 minute DVD of California Indian music and story. Instructor is Patricia Belding. Fee is \$25. Call 426-4280.

Clubs

Amador Valley Quilt Meeting The Oct. 11 meeting, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave., will feature a lecture called "Humor, Meaning, Metaphor in Quilts" by Mike McNamara. On Oct. 12 he will present a workshop titled "Quilts with a Message." Visit amadorvalleyquilters.org.

Livermore Amador Valley Garden

Club The next meeting of the Livermore Amador Valley Garden Club at 7 p.m. Oct. 9 at 1454 Santa Rita Road, will feature Bob Case who is on staff at the California Invasive Plant Council. He will speak on the identification and problems of invasive plants and will touch upon biologically sound pest management. Call 417-8809.

Concerts

Concert Pianist Daniel Glover

to Perform Concert Pianist Daniel Glover will perform a piano recital to benefit the Valley Concert Chorale at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 4 at First Presbyterian Church, 4th and L streets, Livermore. It features the music of Liszt and Rachmaninoff. Tickets are \$25. Call 866-4003 or visit www.valleyconcertchorale.org.

Pacific Chamber Symphony

The Pacific Chamber Symphony will be in concert at 8 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Bankhead Theater, 2100 First St.,

Livermore. This program is a collection of works by Mozart and Beethoven to the Suite for Winds by Strauss and the Serenade by Dvorzak. Tickets range from \$26-\$38, or \$7 for students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingsarts.org.

Percussion Group Cincinnati

The Percussion Group Cincinnati comes to the Bankhead Theater, 2100 First St., Livermore at 8 p.m. Oct. 4. They awake audiences to the dynamic and visual delights as they make music on amplified cactus needles, newspapers and garbage cans, drums, bells and cymbals. Tickets are \$19-\$29, or free for high school students. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingsarts.org.

Events

ArtWalk Livermore The seventh annual ArtWalk Livermore takes place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 11 in downtown Livermore. The day is full of art, music, wine and shopping. Call 447-2787 or visit www.artwalklivermore.org.

Downtown Sidewalk Sale The annual Downtown Sidewalk Sale takes place Oct. 4-5 on Main Street. The event is sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association and runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Call 484-2199 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Hops and Vine Fall Fest The Hops and Vine Fall Fest is from 1 to 5 p.m. Oct. 5 in the parking lot behind the Cheese Factory building, 830 Main St. The free event includes live music, dancing, food, and beverages derived from hops and picked from the vine. Visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

Meet The Maasai From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Masonic Center, 3370 Hopyard Road, families can experience an interactive Maasai cultural event with Warrior Sabore Ole Ojye and tribeswoman and teacher Hellen Nkuryai. Storytelling, face-painting, dancing, singing and bow and arrow lessons will take place. Tickets are \$25 for children, \$35 for adults or \$100 for a family four-pack. Call 998-3869 or visit www.asanteafrica.org.

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Pleasantonians 4 Peace

Pleasantonians 4 Peace sponsors a candlelight vigil in front of the Museum on Main, 603 Main St., the second Wednesday of the month. They will reflect on the human and monetary costs of the war, honor veterans who have sacrificed and visualize ways of moving beyond this conflict to a more peaceful world. Following the vigil is a peaceful march to City Hall. Contact Cathe Norman, 462-7495; Matt Sullivan, mjs7882@gmail.com; or kdowding@pacbell.net.

Exhibits

Imagination Expressed The Pleasanton Art League has an exhibit, "Imagination Expressed," in the Phoebe Hearst room of the Museum

On Main Street, 603 Main St., which runs through Oct. 5. It features paintings, wood, ceramics, jewelry and textile artworks. Open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$2.

Fundraisers

Blessing of the Animals Valley Humane Society's annual Blessing of the Animals is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 11 at 3670 Nevada St. All animals are welcome on a leash or in a carrier. Blessings are free, with donations greatly appreciated. All animals receive a St. Francis medallion. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

Hope Starts Here The Pleasanton Discovery Shop, 1987 A Santa Rita

Road, is supporting Making Strides Against Breast Cancer by offering a savings certificate in appreciation of your \$25 donation that entitles you to 25 percent off all purchases of regular priced merchandise for one month from the date of donation starting Oct. 1. Call 462-7374.

Sisters in Service Walk-A-Thon The East Bay chapter of Sisters in Service hosts a walk-a-thon fundraiser family event Oct. 5 at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park to support destitute and oppressed women and children in India. Come any time between 12:30 and 3 p.m. Lunch is included in registration fee, plus there will be games and music. Visit www.sistersinservice.org or call Gloria Gregory, 998-3785.

That's Amore Tri-Valley Animal Rescue's biggest fundraiser of the year

will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Dublin Senior Center, 7600 Amador Valley Road. There will be live and silent auctions and Girasole Restaurant catering. Tickets are \$60. To purchase, visit www.tvr.org and click on Pay Pal. Call 803-7044.

Health

Fall Immunization Clinics for Children Clinics are from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 4, Nov. 8 and Dec. 6 at Axis Community Health, 4361 Railroad Ave. They are open to all Tri-Valley families who are low income or uninsured, including those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care. Bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance. There is a fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755.

Free Seminar on Colon Health Jeffrey Mark, M.D., gastroenterologist will present the seminar on colon health from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 9 at the Dougherty Station Community Center, Front Row Theater, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road in San Ramon. Please make a reservation. Space is limited. Call 275-8230.

World School Celebrates 28th Anniversary The World School of Massage and Holistic Healing, 699 Peters Ave., will celebrate its 28th anniversary from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 4 and 5 with two days of free presentations on topics such as aromatherapy, foot self care and improving health one breath at a time. Event also includes free lunch and refreshments and free massage demonstrations. Call 461-2533 or visit www.worldschoolmassage.com.

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.

Holiday

Halloween Happening Wonderful Halloween costumes, decorations and paper products for children and adults at The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, 1987 A Santa Rita Road. A huge assortment at low prices will benefit our programs to fight cancer. Call 462-7374.

Non-Religious Yom Kippur Observance Tri-Valley Cultural Jews sponsors an hour-long program of music and readings focusing on a non-religious examination of our lives and our places in the world at 2 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Bothwell Center, 2466 8th St., Livermore. There will be opportunities to donate to international, national and local charities. Tickets are \$10 for adult non-members and kids are free. Call 485-1049.

Kids & Teens

Professional Readers Theatre At 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Word for Word Performing Arts Company presents "Dave At Night," Gail Carson Levine's award-winning tale of a boy's confusing, exciting life in both a strict orphanage and the dazzling world of New York's jazz-era Harlem. For ages 10 and older. Call 931-3400 ext. 8.

Lectures/ Workshops

'Property Rehab' & 'Long Term Care Planning' Two seminars are held at 6 p.m. Oct. 15 at Radisson Hotel Dublin-Pleasanton, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Seminars are free, but registration is required. Call 831-4831.

Local Author to Unravel Mystery of Writing At the next meeting of the California Writers Club Tri-Valley Branch, at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 18, Penny Warner, author of over 50 books, will share the secrets of her success, including using suspenseful cliffhangers and developing a compelling plot. Cost is \$21 for members or \$27 for non-members, which includes lunch. For reservations, call 462-7495.

Nutrition and Cancer Treatment Learn what to eat (even when you don't feel like it) and ways to hydrate effectively at this free event at 6 p.m. Oct. 16 at ValleyCare Medical Plaza, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd. Find out how to establish nutritional goals during and after cancer treatment, and how foods play a role in maintaining and regaining health. Call 933-0107 or visit www.twcba.org.

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All About Colon Health

A Free Educational Seminar

San Ramon Regional Medical Center, your neighborhood hospital, is offering a free seminar on colon health. How can you decrease your risk of colon diseases, including cancer? What are probiotics and colon cleaning? Are they healthy and safe? What about diet? Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States, and is usually treatable if caught early. Learn important facts about colorectal cancer, and the importance of early screening and detection. Dr. Jeffrey Mark will answer your questions about colon health in your neighborhood at the Dougherty Station Community Center in Windemere.

Speaker:

Jeffrey Mark, M.D.
Gastroenterologist

Free Educational Seminars
Thursday, October 9, 2008
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Seminar Location

Dougherty Station Community Center
Front Row Theater
17011 Bollinger Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA
Located in the Windemere neighborhood

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Organizing Your Office, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 11 at Las Positas College, 3303 Collier Canyon Road. The cost is a \$79 class fee (plus a \$25 book fee). Call 510-528-4950.

Political Leadership Among Filipino Americans: Theories and Practices Internationally recognized scholar Ron Takaki addresses, "America in a Different Mirror: Studying the Past for the Sake of the Future" at 2 p.m. Oct. 13 at California State East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. Call 510-885-3118 or visit www.csueastbay.edu.

Startups/VCS SIG: The Elevator Statement and Executive Summary At 6:30 p.m. Oct. 13 at the University of Phoenix, 7901 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 100, learn the Elevator Statement and Executive Summary —Two Key Elements of Companies' Fund-Raising Kit. Free for eBig members, \$15 if pre-registered, or \$20 at the door. Email rhliger@ebig.org.

Teen Parenting Conference "Understanding Your Teenager" with nationally known speaker Duffy Robbins is from 7 to 9 p.m. followed by Q&A from 9 to 10 p.m. Oct. 7 at Valley Community Church, 4455 Del Valle Pkwy. Call 846-6622 or visit www.valleycommunitychurch.org.

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.

Jesse Hendricks Spanish Guitar Jesse Hendricks will perform a Spanish Guitar Recital at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., at 2 p.m. Oct. 12. His repertoire includes music from the renaissance, baroque and romantic periods. Call 931-3405.

The Jambalaya Swing Band Dance to 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

Donlon Elementary Holiday Boutique Donlon Elementary School is looking for vendors for the Holiday Boutique from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 8. Special pricing is available for non-profit organizations. Email Patty at DonlonAHB@comcast.net.

On Stage

An Evening with the Smothers Brothers Masters of timing and practitioners of timeless comedy, the Smothers Brothers career surpasses all other comedy teams. They perform at 8 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Bankhead Theater, 2400 First St., Livermore. Tickets are \$95 to \$125. Call 373-6800 or visit www.livermoreperformingarts.org. The fundraiser for LVPAC will feature complimentary wine, sumptuous desserts and coffee.

Seniors

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, 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.

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.

Compline with Taize Music End the day with candlelight, choral song and contemplation at St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 3350 Hopyard Road, at 5:15 p.m. Oct. 12. Afterward, stay for the fellowship of a potluck supper. All are welcome. Call 462-4802 or visit www.stclarespleasanton.org.

Faith Chapel Assembly of God Faith Chapel Assembly of God, 6656 Alisal St., has Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 10:30 a.m., with nursery for both services. Children's church, ages 3-12, meets at 11:15 a.m. Women's Bible study meets at 10 a.m. Wednesdays. A prayer at 6 p.m. is held the first and third Monday of the month. Call 846-8650 for more programs.

Let Us Learn Our Lessons Well Let Us Learn Our Lessons Well is the topic of Rev. Steve Maynard's lesson at 10 a.m. Oct. 5 at Tri-Valley Unity Church, meeting at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. Ongoing groups and classes, as well. All are welcome. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Returning Catholics Program Inactive & Returning Catholics: Consider this an invitation to take another look at the Catholic church. We provide discussion of important issues in today's church, education on current belief and practice. Tell your story and renew your faith in a supportive and non-judgmental environment. Meetings are from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 4001 Stoneridge Dr. Call 474-2760.

Sports

Callippe Niners Callippe Niners is a fun group of nine-hole women golfers. We are currently welcoming new members into our group. Our play days are Tuesday mornings. Call Joan, 462-1054.

Lacrosse Spring Registration Open Pleasanton Lacrosse Club Boys and Girls 2009 spring registration is open at www.pleasantonlacrosse.com for boys U9 to U15 (grades 2 to 8) and girls U11 to U15 (grades 3 to 8). Availability is limited. Late fees will be assessed after Nov. 1 for boys and Nov. 20 for girls.

Saturday Morning Beginner Ride This weekly no-drop ride from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturdays is for those new to cycling, who haven't been on their bike for a while or just want to ride at a slower pace. Rides depart from Cyclepath Pleasanton and will generally be 12 to 15 mph, 20 to 25 miles and no more than two hours. E-mail rides@cyclepath.com if you plan to attend.

Weekend Preview



Dollar movie night at the library

The Pleasanton Downtown Association with the Pleasanton Library and the Big Read event present academy award winning movie "The Untouchables" at 7 p.m. Oct. 8 at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 310 Main St. Admission is \$1, with only 200 tickets available, and refreshments will be on sale. Tickets can be purchased at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., or at the PDA office, 830 Main St.

Team In Training Information Meeting Complete a full or half marathon, triathlon, cross country ski marathon, or cycle century ride (100 miles) with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training. Attend the informational meeting at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 11 at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Call 800-78-TRAIN or visit www.teamintraining.org/sf.

Support Groups

Crohns and Ulcerative Colitis Support Group This support group meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the ValleyCare Health Library, 5725 W. Las Positas Blvd., Ste. 270. Walk-ins are welcome. Feel free to bring a guest. Call 462-6764 or 846-4653.

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

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

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

New Tutor Training Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., needs adult volunteers to provide free tutoring to adults who want to improve reading, writing, and English speaking skills. Tutors have flexible hours, volunteer once a week and we supply all the materials. The volunteer training is at 10 a.m. Oct. 4. Call 931-3411.

Volunteering

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

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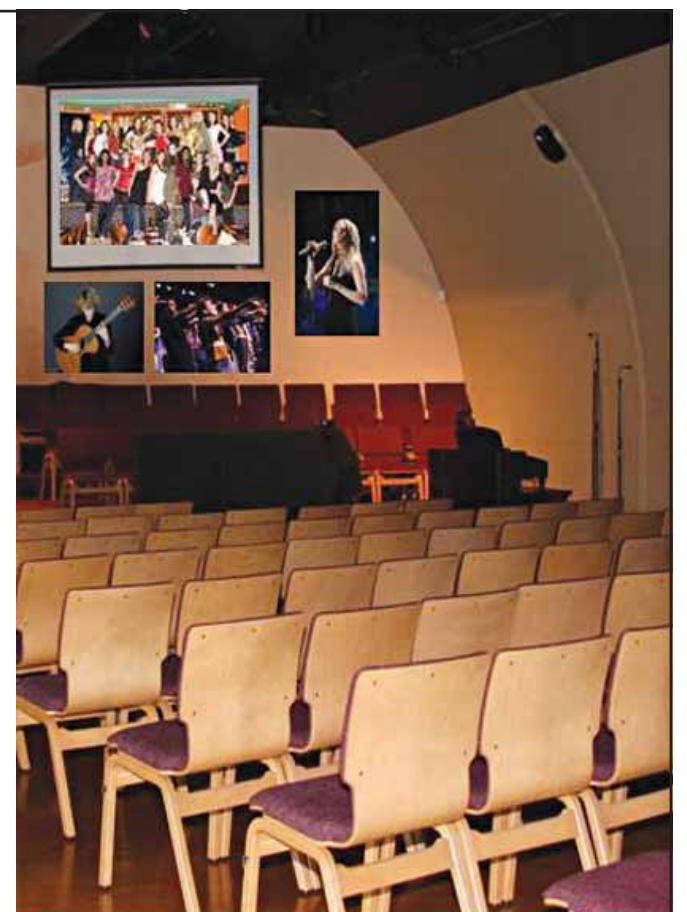
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Dining Out

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

American

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.

Eddie Papa's American Hangout
4889 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, 469-6266. Winner of The Pleasanton Weekly's Reader Choice Awards for "Best American Food Restaurant" and "Best Meal under \$20", Eddie Papa's American Hangout celebrates the regional food and beverage cultures of America. Bring the whole family to enjoy iconic dishes from across the United States, Old World Hospitality, and hand crafted artisan

cocktails. www.eddiepapas.com

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.

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.

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.

and we're available for parties up to 100. Live music every Friday and Saturday, visit www.mainstbrewery.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.

Brewpub/Alehouse

Main Street Brewery

830 Main St., Pleasanton, 462-8218. Pleasanton's only BrewPub, some ales (Attabay IPA) are brewed with locally grown hops. We also have a rotating selection of guest brews and seasonal ales. To-go orders welcome

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. Now accepting reservations for holiday parties.

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

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2008

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Dining Out

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Pleasanton Hotel Catering

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

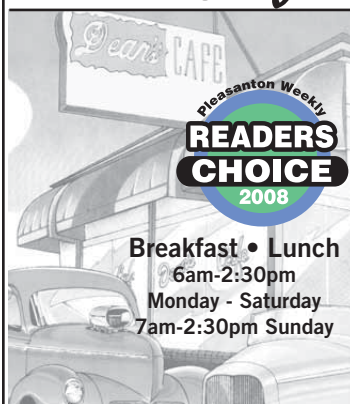
475 St. John St., Pleasanton, 426-0987. Pleasanton's most romantic continental cuisine restaurant features innovative pasta, seafood and meat entrees, outdoor dining, and a full bar. Barone's is open for dinner seven nights and lunch Monday through Friday, with live music on Friday and Saturday evenings.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

House of Omelettes
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READERS CHOICE 2008

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7am-2:30pm Sunday

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846-4222

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.

Japanese

Kokoro Sushi Japanese Restaurant

Now open for lunch and dinner daily. Take out orders and catering available. Serving a variety of regular sushi rolls and Nigiri Sushi daily. Full Japanese dining menu items including: Teriyaki Dishes, Bento Boxes Yakisoba, Udon Soup, Salads and Appetizers. Business Hours: Monday-Friday 11AM - 9:30PM; Saturday 12PM - 9:30PM; Sunday 5PM - 9:30PM Phone: 417-2206 Located in the remodeled Vintage Hills Shopping Center at 3550 Bernal Ave #130 in Pleasanton.

Sato Japanese Cuisine

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

Mexican

Blue Agave Club

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

Pizza

Gay Nineties Pizza Co.

288 Main St., Pleasanton, 846-2520. Gay Nineties is family-oriented with an extensive menu, including our renowned pizza, Italian dishes, salads and sandwiches. We also have wine, beer, patio dining and games for kids. Come for groups, take out and call-ahead lunch orders. We're open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Steakhouse

Bighorn Grill

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



- Catering Service
- Take Out Menu

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