

Pleasanton Weekly

Facing 15 years: Former tennis pro is charged with three counts of molestation **PAGE 5**

Sustaining a village: Foothill grad joins Peace Corps to help end cycle of poverty **SECTION 2**

INSIDE

VOL. X, NUMBER 16 • MAY 1, 2009

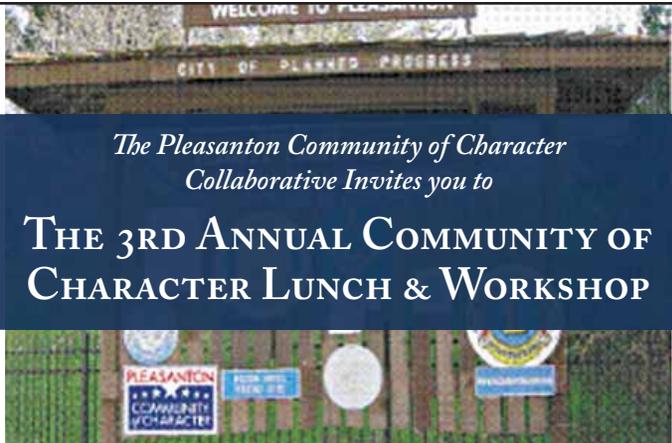
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Sentinel of freedom

Wounded warrior gains community's help in recovering from Iraq war injuries **PAGE 12**

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AROUND PLEASANTON



By JEB BING

New Bernal bridge opens, one more to go

A new section of the Bernal Avenue bridge over the Arroyo Del Valle opened earlier this month without fanfare or even without the City Council riding in the first cars to cross the \$7-million-plus, two-lane span, and probably with good reason. The span has been in the planning, engineering, environmental permitting and construction phases for more than 10 years. Since early in the decade, I'd been asking former City Engineer Phil Grubstick for a start date on the bridge, which was part of the 1996 General Plan and long a priority of the City Council. Grubstick retired several years ago, not because of my persistent questions, I hope, but still without answers. He was as baffled as city planners over the large numbers of environmental agencies that had to give permission for Pleasanton to build the bridge and by the constantly escalating costs of construction at a time when steel and cement prices were soaring. Even the water truck owner, whose name slips my mind, who lived with his extended family in an old house and several outbuildings at the northeast corner of Vineyard and Bernal wondered years later why the city had rushed through a check for about \$1.2 million for his home and property. He used the money to expand his business on acreage purchased off Tassajara as bulldozers rushed in to tear down the house and much of the adjacent fence protecting the Vineyard Villa mobile home park. Then nothing, with the barren land serving as an unseemly sight for motorists passing through that edge of Pleasanton.

A review of the permitting process Grubstick and others endured all these years helps account for several million dollars of the cost of building the new span, which now gives motorists two lanes in each direction on this busy roadway. Storm water detention basins, wetlands protection, hydrologic analyses, endangered species habitat, "soil substrate at the bottom of the mitigation feature" are colorful if not bewildering terms used throughout hundreds of pages of scores of reports by outside

consultants hired by the city to obtain permits from federal, regional, state and water agencies, all because bridge pylons would be placed at several places on both sides of the arroyo to support the bridge. To meet the demands of some of these agencies, Pleasanton built a holding pond that is now part of a beautifully landscaped area on Laguna Creek Lane just south of the Valley Avenue traffic circle at the Union Pacific Railroad underpass. That's at least three miles from the new Bernal Bridge, but it satisfied the agencies that wanted to have a safe habitat for Arroyo Del Valle critters and other endangered species and plants that could be disturbed by bridge adjustments and possibly more overhead traffic.

With the new Bernal bridge offering better access from Stanley Boulevard to the residential areas of Vintage Hills and the Vineyard Corridor, including fire trucks from Station 1 next to the bridge, we can turn our attention to Bernal Bridge No. 2. This new span has been on the planning books even longer with increased automobile, pedestrian and bicycle traffic from mainline Pleasanton to the Foothill Road side of the Arroyo De la Laguna increasing so fast that a wider bridge was deemed necessary in the early 1990s. Many look at the artistic forged steel support cover of the bridge as worth duplicating, which the City Council authorized five years ago. At one time it was planned as a four-lane bridge, two lanes on each span. But when costs soared past the \$5-million mark, everyone backed off and now a simpler, one-lane design has been approved. Somewhat like the Division Street bridge that was built in the 1940s, the Arroyo De la Laguna structure will be "artsy," but no architectural match for the old bridge residents rave about. With the design and environmental permits in hand, here's a bridge that is shovel ready except that the city has only \$1 million of the \$5 million it needs. Unless federal stimulus dollars head our way, here's a new much-needed bridge now facing an economic downturn and a City Council decision last Tuesday to lower its priority as a public project necessity. The good news is that when finally constructed, this will be the last bridge Pleasanton will ever have to build. ■

About the Cover

Standing in front of large American flag at Veterans Memorial Building celebration, wounded veteran and Purple Heart recipient Army Staff Sergeant Jay Wilkerson accepts plaque officially naming him as Pleasanton's first member of its Sentinels of Freedom program, a privately-funded organization that helps injured veterans re-start their lives in local communities. Cover photo by Sherry Wiggins. Design by Rick Nobles.

Vol. X, Number 16

Town Square
Discuss community issues, review a restaurant, and more!
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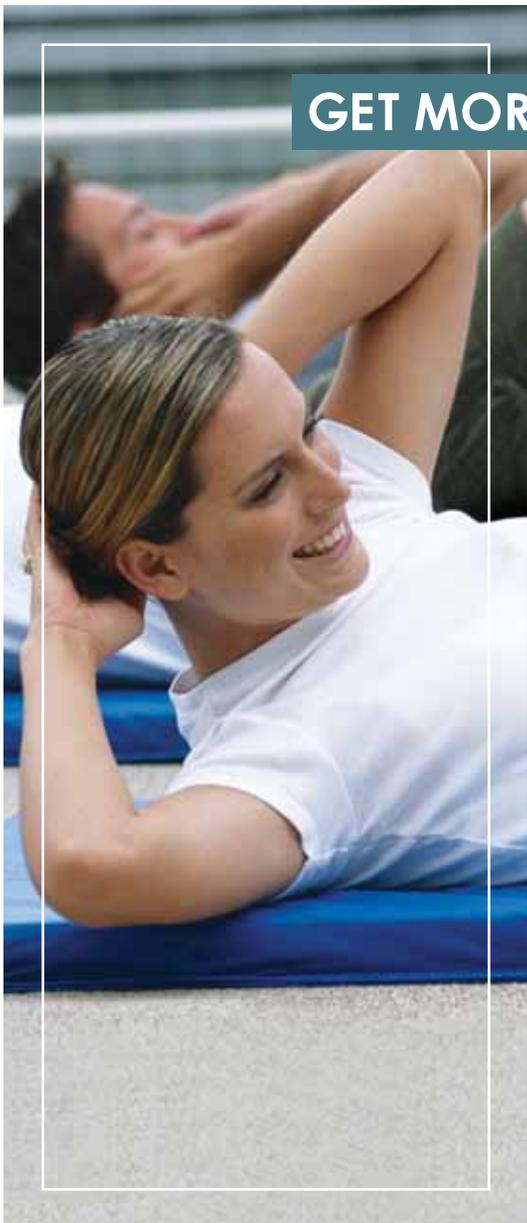
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Streetwise

ASKED AROUND TOWN

What is your favorite movie and why?



Ed Keeley

My favorite movie is "El Mariachi," directed by Robert Rodriguez. He made the movie on an extraordinarily low budget of about \$7,000 and the action sequences are amazing. It's one of those movies that you have to watch to really appreciate. I highly recommend it.

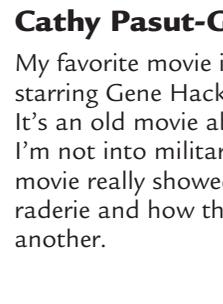
Mike Byrne

I loved "Quigley Down Under" starring Tom Selleck and Laura San Giacomo. It was Tom Selleck's best role and I liked it because I'm an old cowboy. It was exciting, and the story had a good beginning, middle and end. It was very entertaining.



Felicia Goldhawk

My favorite movie is "An Affair to Remember" starring Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr. It's my favorite because it was filmed in the '50s and it proves that a powerful storyline doesn't have to involve sex and profanity like most of the movies feature nowadays. It has one of the best endings I've ever seen in a movie.



Cathy Pasut-Graham

My favorite movie is "Uncommon Valor" starring Gene Hackman and Robert Stack. It's an old movie about the Vietnam War. I'm not into military movies per se, but this movie really showed the power of camaraderie and how they took care of one another.



Tamara Bohlen

I liked "Big Fish" starring Albert Finney, Billy Crudup and Ewan McGregor. I liked it because it was creative and innovative in the way the story was told. It's a really good movie to watch and have in your life because it's also heartwarming.

—Compiled by Hillary Bessiere

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

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Woman hijacks highway patrol car

“ A woman hijacked a California Highway Patrol car in Sunol at 3:40 this afternoon, leading sheriff's deputies on a high speed chase on northbound Interstate 680... ”

[READ MORE/COMMENT](#)

Town Square Forum

Pleasanton Weekly
PRINT & ONLINE

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DIGEST

'Fore' the youth

The Tri-Valley YMCA is hosting its second annual golf tournament Monday, May 4 at the Ruby Hill Golf Club. The cost is \$250 for an individual player, which includes lunch, dinner and refreshments, or a "corporate foursome" is \$1,200 and includes a hole sponsorship. All proceeds benefit the Tri-Valley YMCA. Non-golfing ladies are invited to an afternoon makeover event which includes a \$100 gift back for \$75, which includes a pass to the dinner. To learn more, call 475-6108 or visit www.trivalleyymcaeastbay.org.

Thanking teachers

High school students from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Pleasanton and Dublin will host the sixth annual Crystal Apple Awards ceremony at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Pleasanton Stake Center, at Valley Avenue and Paseo Santa Cruz. The award recognizes teachers and administrators who have a particularly strong influence on students in the development of positive moral values and character traits. Teachers are chosen by students. This year's recipients are Jill Battilega and Anne Johnson from Amador Valley High School, Darren Tippit and Mark Wainwright from Dublin High School, JoAnn Koobatian and Scott Gorsuch from Foothill High School, and Liz Paz-Ru-more from Quarry Lane School.

Donate home items

Starting today, the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Pleasanton is requesting donations of home and garden items, such as gently used lawn furniture and garden décor. Items will be sold during the shop's "Home and Garden" event. To learn more, call Monda Wiseman at 462-7374. All proceeds from the shop benefit the society's programs.

Vote by mail

Registered voters can request vote by mail ballots for the June 2 special election until May 26. The application is on the back of the sample ballot, or voters can send a written request to the Registrar of Voters by completing an online application at www.acgov.org/rov. The vote by mail period for this election is from May 4 to 26. For more information, call 510-272-6933.

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

City Attorney Roush to retire in September

By JEB BING

Pleasanton City Attorney Michael Roush announced that he will retire at the end of September after 32 years in the municipal attorney profession, including the last 21 years here.

Roush was named city attorney for Pleasanton in 1988, succeeding Peter MacDonald, who held the office for six years and left to open his own private practice. Prior to taking the Pleasanton post, Roush was in the city attorney's office in Vallejo for 11 years.

City Manager Nelson Fialho said an executive search firm has been retained to find a successor to Roush, whose salary currently is \$187,000 a year.

Although all city staff and department heads report to the city manager, the city attorney is the only other top city executive who reports directly

Helped Pleasanton through legal hurdles in acquiring Bernal property, golf course

to the City Council. Roush said he deliberately planned his retirement this September in a non-election year so that a new city attorney would have the opportunity to work with the current council well ahead of any changes that might come in November 2010, when the mayor's position and two council seats will be on the ballot.

Roush and his three-person office, including one full-time assistant city attorney and two who work part time, handle numerous lawsuits involving the city although their primary role is

to draft agreements, ordinances, resolutions and other legal documents as well as to provide legal advice to the city staff.

Roush participates in all City Council meetings, including workshops and closed door sessions that involve personnel, property negotiations and litigation issues that California's Brown Act specifically excludes from public disclosure. In that regard, he is also the public's watchdog in making sure that only issues excluded by the Brown Act are discussed in these private sessions.

Roush took the city attorney's post here just as negotiations were wrapping up over the annexation of Ruby Hill. The planned community development had been approved by Alameda County after Pleasanton officials balked at ap-

See **ROUSH** on Page 9



SARAH HERSH

Amador Valley High "We the People" team meets with Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) after winning third place among 51 high schools in this week's competition in Washington, D.C. Standing with McNerney (left) and, next to him, Amador civics teacher and team coach Keldon Clegg, are team members Ian Pendleton, Chris Wolfinger, Anisha Mocherla, James Wu, Felicia Dana, Alex Manaa, Aisha Sleiman, Carol Hu, Tracy Yin, Hanna Pitz, Ashley Salustri, Sean Ketner, Daniel Nato, Nicole Recuperero, Josh Miller, Patrick Stueve, Claire Kennedy, Steven Johnson, Tony Perazzo, Odele Bet-Yonan, Uggi Lee, Kaeli Doxey, Amrita Kulkarni, Stephen Rakowski, Aletheia Orphanidys, Alyssa Hanou, Jay Ryoo and Vinny Stefani.

McNerney congratulates Amador 'We the People' civics team

Meets group after its 3rd-place finish in annual competition

By JEB BING

Congressman Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) congratulated Amador Valley High School teacher Keldon Clegg and his advanced civics class of seniors who finished third this week among 51 of the country's top high schools in the annual "We the People" competition in Washington, D.C.

McNerney met with the group Tuesday in his office on Capitol Hill.

"I'd like to congratulate the students of Amador Valley High School for taking third place in the national 'We the People' competition," McNerney said. "Amador students have done a tremendous job representing their school and our region. I am incredibly proud

of their hard work and join the entire community in congratulating them on this achievement."

Amador Valley High School finished third, trailing the first place winner East High School of Denver and runner-up Vestavia Hills (Ala.) High School.

East High also won the special Lincoln Award for having the highest score on questions about President Abraham Lincoln's Constitutional legacy.

The winners were announced at a banquet Monday night at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington.

After three days of simulated congressional hearings, during which students were required to apply constitutional principles and historical facts to contempo-

rary situations, the class from East High School received the most votes of judges in the 22nd annual competition on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The national finals marked the end of months of study and hard-won victories at the congressional district and state levels for more than 1,100 high school students representing 50 states and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The announcement of the top three classes as well as the 19 winners in other categories was made at the awards banquet before an audience of 1,500 students, teachers, coordinators, judges and other program participants. The winning class from Colorado was presented

See **CIVICS** on Page 7

Germain pleads no contest to molestation

Former Castlewood tennis pro faces 15 years in state prison

By EMILY WEST

Henry Germain, the 62-year-old former Castlewood Country Club tennis pro, entered a no contest plea Tuesday to three charges of sexually abusing children under the age of 14.

Germain originally pled not guilty Jan. 9 to 16 charges of sex crimes against six female victims.

According to Deputy District Attorney Susan Torrance, the District Attorney's office

dropped the 13 molestation charges against him in the deal. With the agreement, he would be sentenced to 15 years in state prison—out of a maximum of 32 years—and be eligible for parole after serving 85 percent of the sentence. Once he's completed his jail time, the Dublin resident would be on parole for 10 years and must register as a sex offender, pay restitution to the six victims and stay away from the victims.

According to court documents, three victims claim Germain behaved lewdly with them as children, with one charge stating continual sexual abuse, in incidents between 1998 and 2004. The victims wrote the allegations in letters to officials at Castlewood, which led investigators to arrest the coach at the country club Sept. 2.

Three more victims claimed abuse and brought charges against him. His bail was set at \$1.08 million and he

See **GERMAIN** on Page 8



Henry Germain

Federal funds haven't trickled down to school district

Teachers, management and staff agree to furlough days

By EMILY WEST

Even though the state has received funds from the federal stimulus plan, it has yet to trickle down to the Pleasanton Unified School District.

At the regular school board meeting Tuesday night, assistant superintendent of business services Luz Cazares provided an update on the budget situation. As with the last updates, there is still a degree of uncertainty as to how the state will handle the money.

What is known is that PUSD is said to be receiving \$2.1 million from the federal government to support special education. Cazares said the one-time funds, to be used over two years, would be divided in two: half of that would help offset the current shortfall and the other half to support cost increases in special education programming. PUSD has also applied to receive the federal dollars to the state. With applications due May 4, Cazares said she should know the status of the funds by mid-May.

Looking to the state, Cazares projected a grim picture from the Legislative Analysts office, which predicts being \$8 billion short of their previous budget assumption and that deficit could increase to \$14 billion come mid-June. This latest shortfall would be in addition to the \$41-billion deficit announced earlier in the year.

When it comes to handling the federal dollars, Cazares said the state may keep

the federal dollars to offset the current cuts and will not be available to help for future cuts to funding.

School board member Pat Kernan called the federal aid "boomerang dollars."

"Not only are they going to take that money given away, but we're going to take more cuts," he said.

Responding to claims of mismanaged money, Kernan said they have had to dip into reserves in order to meet increasing state standards that come without funding. He also challenged people to be patient and come to the board meetings.

Until state funding is confirmed, Superintendent John Casey said that employee givebacks have resulted in \$1.04 million in reductions. The management team has agreed to three furlough days, and classified employees and teachers both agreed to two. These concessions, however, are dependent on the Measure G passing.

"If [the parcel tax] doesn't pass, we're going to come back to see what we need to do," Casey said. "We'll see what the scenarios are and may give more or the same, or we may give less days."

One confirmed reduction the district made was with cell phones. By reducing the number of people with district-supplied cell phones and reworking the plan agreements, they were able to save about \$75,000 from this year to next year. ■

Kidango to move into district preschool facility

Former daycare provider Adventure Time closes for financial reasons

The school board approved a contract with childcare provider Kidango Tuesday night to move into the preschool facility at the school district offices. Adventure Time had previously occupied the space, but closed its operations Thursday due to financial reasons.

Several parents, many who are school district employees, are upset at the timing of the closure as there are still several weeks left in the school year. PUSD director of purchasing LeeAnn Pomplun said Kidango would hope to open as quickly as licensing requirements would allow. Enrollment is said to be open to the public in early May, with priority given to children of school district employees.

In late March, the Pleasanton Unified School District solicited bids for new childcare providers. Two providers attended a mandatory pre-proposal conference April 6, with only Kidango submitting a proposal April 13.

Pomplun said Kidango serves 2,500 children in preschools throughout the Bay Area, including Livermore, Dublin and Fremont. They would only provide preschool service, children 3 to 5 years old, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. starting no later than July 1.

Adventure Time had previously served children 18 months to 5 years old.

Adventure Time director Susan Sung confirmed the closure and said that parents and the school district were given two months notice. As to the reason for the closure, Sung declined to comment.

Myla Grasso, district spokeswoman, said Ad-

venture Time had notified the district that it was experiencing "financial issues."

"They had a loan for building in another city and the loan was called in, so they weren't able to run the program here any longer," she said.

The private, nonprofit child care provider moved into the location at 4667 Bernal Ave. after it was vacated in December 2007 by the Tri-Valley YMCA program, which served children 6 months to 5 years old.

Alma Avalos, a teacher at Valley View Elementary School, is struggling to find a place to take her children.

"They could have waited until the end of the school year," she said.

Having paid in full through the end of April, Avalos said she was upset to see that the school's walls are bare, that it has minimal activities and very little furniture. She said there are a lot of complaints from parents who had offered to bring children their own food instead of the daycare providing a meal service, in an effort to cut back on costs.

"They were losing money on the preschool, but their enrollment is full and they had a wait list," she said, adding that her daughter was on the wait list for full-time care.

According to the Adventure Time website, www.adventure-time.com, it still appears to be providing daycare service through elementary schools in Castro Valley, Fremont, Oakland, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Hayward and Napa.

—Emily West

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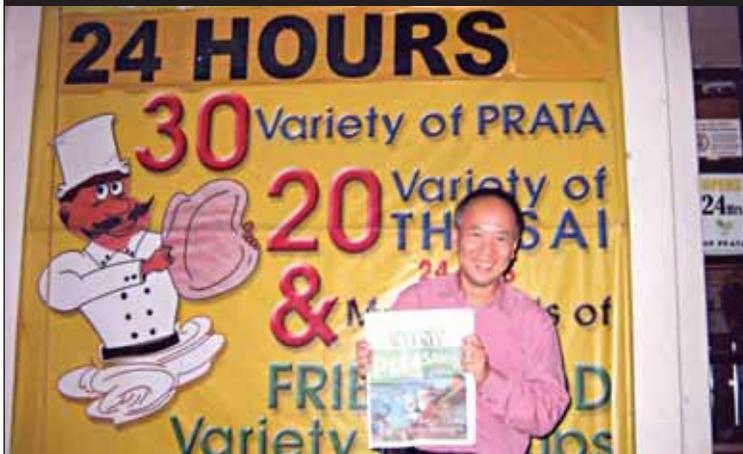


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Weekly business: Clement Yu brought his copy of the Weekly with him on a business trip to Singapore. Looks like he enjoyed sampling the local delicacies!

Heightened concern as swine flu cases rise

Tri-Valley health care officials say they remain prepared should county get its first case

By JANET PELLETIER

A strain of influenza originating from Mexico has over the past week extended its reach to the Bay Area, putting the local community on a heightened sense of alert.

Schools in San Jose and Pittsburg were closed Tuesday as a result of the swine flu, but as of press time, there were no reports of anyone from Alameda County with the illness.

Kevin Johnson, senior director of pupil services for the Pleasanton Unified School District, said at Tuesday night's board meeting that the district is working closely with local health officials.

"If students have the flu, students should be free of fever for 24 hours without help of medication to come back to school," he said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency Tuesday morning.

The first United States swine flu death was reported Wednesday morning—a toddler in Texas died of the illness after traveling to the state from Mexico City to visit relatives. The boy, nearly 2 years old, had "underlying health issues" when he came to Brownsville, a Texas border town, on April 4 and developed flu symptoms four days later, the Texas Department of State Health Services said.

Though not airborne, the virus can spread through germs. Residents are advised to cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, wash hands often with soap and water, and avoid touching their eyes, noses and mouths.

Jelissa Walker, an infectious diseases nurse at San Ramon Regional Medical Center, said she's notified her staff to be on the lookout for anyone with flu-like symptoms.

The regular flu season goes from October to the end of April and this year has been relatively minor in the number of cases, which means San Ramon Regional has a healthy stock of Tamiflu, which has effectively been treating swine flu cases, she said.

"We're one of I'd say three or four

hospitals in the state that keeps a small stockpile of that," Walker said.

Bernie Revak, manager of ValleyCare Health System's Department of Infection Control and Prevention, said the hospital is "constantly monitoring the CDC website, participating in CDC conference calls and receiving up-to-the-minute alerts from the local and state Departments of Public Health."

Signs have been posted asking patients and/or visitors to cover their mouths when they cough, maintain careful hygiene and ask for a mask if an individual has a cough or flu-like symptoms, Revak said. ValleyCare, like San Ramon Regional, also has a supply of Tamiflu, Revak said, and it is working with vendors to increase stock levels. The CDC has said it is releasing one-quarter of its antiviral drugs, personal protective equipment and respiratory protection devices to help states with confirmed cases.

Axis Health, a nonprofit which operates clinics in Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin to serve low-income residents, is being advised by the county on what measures to take.

"We have the protocol which is given to us by the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency's public health department," Meena Rijhwani, medical director for Axis, said Monday. "They just want us to be alert, vigilant and see if anybody has a respiratory illness or fever coming from San Diego County; Imperial County; and San Antonio, Texas, who have lived over there or traveled over there or been in contact with anybody with the swine flu to do the testing."

Patients with flu-like illnesses will be given masks to wear as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread, she said.

For more information continue to check the Pleasanton Weekly's website for updates to this story, www.pleasantonweekly.com.

Bay City News contributed to this report.

CIVICS

Continued from Page 5

with an engraved plaque of the Constitution and each student received a gold medallion.

Vestavia Hills and Amador Valley classes were presented with plaques of the Bill of Rights and students were awarded medals, silver for the Alabama students and bronze for the Dons. The fourth- through 10th-place classes received engraved plaques.

Awards were also presented to the class with the highest non-finalist score in each of the six units of the text and in each of five geographic regions in the country. Certificates of appreciation were presented to each of the teachers of the 51 classes for their accomplishments in engaging their students in the study of the Constitution.

The first rounds of the competition took place over the weekend, Saturday and Sunday.

Tam Taylor and Karen Whitaker, "We the People" program coordinators, said that the top 10 schools met on Capitol Hill yesterday where students demonstrated their knowledge of the Constitution before simulated congressional committees made up of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists and public officials.

Besides East High, Vestavia Hills and Amador, the other high schools in the top 10 are: Greenwich High School, Greenwich, Conn., Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Miami, Fl., Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers, Ind., East Grand Rapids High School, Grand Rapids, Mich., East Brunswick High School, East Brunswick, N.J., Grant High School, Portland, Ore., and the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies, Richmond, Va.

Amador has now represented California in the "We the People" nationals eight times. The school won the national championship in 1995.

The Dons had hoped to take the top position after months of after-school and late night preparations under Keldon Clegg's guidance, who was teaching the special class and coaching the "We the People" team for the first time. ■

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GERMAIN

Continued from Page 5

bailed out on a property bond. Afterwards, a 16th charge was added. He turned himself in and his bail was raised to \$1.4 million before he bailed out again on the same property bond.

In early court hearings, Elizabeth Grossman, Germain's attorney, said she believed some of the charges to be illegitimate due to California's statute of limitations, which currently allows victims 10 years to come forward.

According to Sgt. Ray Kelly of the Alameda County Sheriff's Department, which handled the investigation into the case, said about a half dozen alleged victims claim they were sexually abused by Germain in the early 1980s, when he worked as a tennis pro at the now-closed Desert Club of La Quinta in Palm Desert, Calif.

Germain remains out on bail and is scheduled to be formally sentenced May 27 at the Alameda Superior Courthouse in Hayward. If he does not appear, applies for a passport or flees the country, he would face the maximum sentence. ■

Downtown association gears up for First Wednesday party

BY JANET PELLETIER

First Wednesday is back for the spring and summer season, with the first party kicking off this Wednesday at 6 p.m. downtown.

Sponsored by the Pleasanton Downtown Association, the monthly street party will usher in more than 150 vendors selling products and marketing their services, a performance by popular local Latin group La Ventana and a reworked version of the beer and wine garden. May's street party theme is Cinco de Mayo, since the Mexican holiday will be the day before.

"We have revamped the beer and wine garden," said Alisha Perdue, events coordinator for the PDA. "It is now larger and includes an area for families."

Still located in the Round Table Pizza parking lot, the garden will

now take up two-thirds of the space as opposed to half.

The changes were made after some criticized how last year's beer garden was operated. After it was reported that minors were discovered in the area drinking alcohol, Pleasanton police said they would stop allowing anyone under 21 in the enclosed area to prevent underage drinking. That angered some who argued that First Wednesday is a family-oriented event and that families should be allowed to congregate in that area, which is located close to the live entertainment. The family section will be located at the front of the parking lot while the drinking section will be towards the back. Wristbands will be handed out to people 21 and over.

In addition to the music and shopping opportunities, P-town Push Rods will display classic cars at the Coast Gas station at Main and Saint Mary streets and the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department will have an engine on display at Division Street.

First Wednesday street parties draw 10,000 to 20,000 people and will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month through September. Main Street will be closed from Saint John Street to Old Bernal Avenue

from 5 to 10 p.m. Parking is available just off Main Street.

School district art show

While First Wednesday is going on, the Pleasanton Unified School District will be holding its second annual district art show from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Veterans Hall, 301 Main St. The show will continue from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday.

On display will be over 500 works of visual art in both 2-D and 3-D formats with exhibits from every school in the district. Alongside the visual arts exhibitions will be an exciting program of performing arts. On Wednesday evening, performances will include Latin American dances from Valley View Elementary School's Dual Immersion Program, the Foothill High School orchestra, and the chamber choir from Amador Valley High School. Thursday night will feature the Hart Beat Singers from Hart Middle School and the Harvest Park Middle School choir with poetry readings from Pleasanton's Teen Poet Laureates Sarah York and Athena Lathos.

This year's event is being sponsored by Pleasanton Partnerships in Education and Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation. ■

Castlewood suspect hearing continued

Ernest Scherer III could face death penalty

BY JANET PELLETIER

A plea hearing for accused murderer Ernest Scherer III was continued last week to May 26.

Scherer III, wearing red jail clothes and shackles at the Renee C. Davidson Courthouse in Oakland April 20, has been held on a no-bail warrant at Santa Rita Jail since he was arrested in February.

The 30-year-old faces two counts of homicide with special circumstances for the deaths of his parents, Ernest Scherer Jr., 60, and Charlene Abendroth, 57, and could face the death penalty.

The couple were found brutally beaten to death with a sharp instrument March 14, 2008 in their Castlewood Country Club home. Police believe they had been dead for a week.

Scherer is alleged by Alameda County Sheriff's investigators to have killed for financial gain. Investigators have said he stood to collect \$1.5 million in inheritance he would have received upon turning 30 if his parents were deceased. Scherer III turned 30 years old July 3, nearly three months after his parents' deaths. ■

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ROUSH

Continued from Page 5

proving development plans within the city, but then voted to annex the development rather than have it developed as a stand-alone community in the county or possibly to be annexed into Livermore.

In 2000, Roush was a key player in arranging the sale of the Bernal property to a developer consortium led by Greenbriar Homes, which paid San Francisco \$126 million for the land. In the deal negotiated by Roush, Greenbriar and others received city permits to build the homes and apartments now on Bernal with the city receiving 370 acres free of charge to develop for public uses.

Roush also was instrumental in handling the legal aspects of acquiring unincorporated land that is now the Callippe open space preserve and public golf course in the southwest corner of the city. At first, the effort was to annex all of Happy Valley, but property owners there rejected that bid. Roush worked to acquire the golf course and open space acreage instead and then successfully defended the city in a lawsuit by the Alisal Improvement organization, a Happy Valley homeowners' group, aimed at blocking the golf course development.

Also, shortly after Roush became city attorney, he represented the city's interests in 1989 and 1990 when Hacienda Business Park went through its metamorphosis during the last major recession. At the time, half the business park was vacant. Working with Hacienda's major investor, Prudential Insurance Company, Roush negotiated changes in the park's complex rules of approval with the city council agreeing to rezone much of the land for townhomes and apartments.

"We worked closely with Prudential to come up with a new development agreement that would really allow the property to be developed as it now looks today," Roush said. "I think anyone who drives through that business park now has to be impressed with the way it looks."

Two recent lawsuits against Pleasanton are just now working their way through preliminary court hearings and probably won't be resolved before Roush leaves office. One is by Urban Habitat which is contest-

ing the city's 29,000-unit housing cap. The other, filed several months ago by environmental groups and Safe Streets Pleasanton, seeks a court order to throw out an Environmental Impact Report that supports the development of Staples Ranch and construction of a Stoneridge Drive extension to Livermore.

Roush believes a third major lawsuit that is now before the state Court of Appeal in San Francisco could be decided before he leaves office. That suit involves a local citizens' group opposed to the Oak Grove development atop Kottinger Ranch and the development's proponents, the Lin family. The city of Pleasanton, although named as a defendant in the suit, does not have an active role in the appeal.

Once he leaves office as city attorney, Roush plans to work part-time for a private law firm that specializes in public sector work.

"I want to still practice law but probably more in a part-time situation," he said. "I also plan to do some volunteer legal work. That's something I've long wanted to do but you can't do that when you are working full-time as a city attorney."

Married for 35 years, Roush also plans to spend more time with his wife Vicky in their Pleasanton home and to visit more often with their three children, all graduates of Amador Valley High School. Son Nathaniel, 31, works in the Information Technology department for the city of Fremont; daughter Megan Charrin, 28, is a French language translator of medical and other technical journals for a San Francisco company, and daughter Erin Roush, 23, is an actress who performed in a number of stage plays at the Amador Theater. She just completed a nine-month tour as a performer on the cruise ship Disney Wonder.

"It's been a great run as Pleasanton's city attorney," Roush said. "I've had the opportunity to work with various councils and they've all been very good to me. It's my family, so to speak. Leaving here is going to be a big change."

"In September, I will have served 32 years with city governments," he added. "It's time for someone else to take over day-to-day affairs and it will give me an opportunity to do some of the things that I have wanted to do." ■



Michael Roush

Letter to the Community

The Committee to Save Pleasanton Schools would like to respond to some statements made by the opposition to Measure G in recent newspaper articles. Over 2,200 community members have endorsed the measure and many have generously donated funds to help educate voters about the critical need for Measure G. The school district must cut \$9.7 million to balance its budget as a result of the severe loss in revenue from the state. Measure G will provide stable and reliable local funding for the programs our community values most.

Steve Brozosky has stated that he cannot support Measure G because the school district hasn't done enough to curtail expenses before asking our local community to support Measure G. PUSD already cut \$2 million from the budget earlier this school year. In addition, many managers have voluntarily given up pay this year, and the pay cuts will be mandatory for next year. Mileage stipends have been cut by 72%, cell phone usage curtailed and reevaluated, and our teachers have overwhelmingly voted to contribute to the budget solution by taking 2 furlough days if Measure G passes. In combination, these measures will save the district an additional \$1 million.

Mr. Brozosky apparently felt our administrators were due a pay raise back in October 2007 because he voted for it! And that raise was to make our "PUSD salaries competitive with surrounding districts" as Mr. Brozosky states. Until the current financial crisis hit and in light of the Board's goal to be competitive, there was no basis for the management team to give back salary in that after the raises were given, the Board (including Brozosky) adopted balanced budgets for both 2008/09 and 2009/10. Now that the financial crisis is upon us, the management team has agreed to give back a total equivalent to 1.58% for next year, in addition to 0.5% this year.

As for raises over the 4 year term of Measure G, Mr. Brozosky, a school board trustee at the time, actually approved the current teachers' contract in May 2007. This contract, which expires next year, includes a salary schedule commonly referred to as "step and column." That contract will have to be renegotiated for the succeeding term. Within the education profession, teachers move along a "step and column" salary schedule based on years that they have worked in a school district and the number of college units they have earned as a part of continuing education, which they pay for themselves. This type of salary schedule is used throughout the profession as both a retention and incentive program to keep good teachers within a district and to encourage teachers to continue improving their teaching skills. However, neither step nor column is unlimited; both top out beyond which a teacher is no longer eligible for increases. Unlike in business, there are no "bonuses" nor "promotions" for teachers; this salary schedule

is the only career path available. Our teachers are not even the highest paid among our surrounding districts with similar benefit structures!

Pleasanton's school district management and employees have all been working hard to be part of the solution to this budget crisis. The severity of the current economic downturn in California was not foreseen by anyone, least not by Mr. Brozosky, who voted for raises for administrators and teachers and approved balanced budgets for each year during his tenure on the school board.

Mr. Brozosky stated in his ballot argument that PUSD receives \$717 more per student than San Ramon when, in fact, he knew at the time that this was incorrect. He had an opportunity to publish the accurate data but chose not to. PUSD does receive \$182 per student more from the state than San Ramon, but it is our understanding that San Ramon also receives over \$12 million per year in private funding that Pleasanton does not enjoy. Yet our API scores are nearly the same. We can take pride in the fact that PUSD does do more with less!

PUSD will be receiving some funds from the federal stimulus package, which will be in two parts. The first is about \$2.1 million in support of special education costs. We will receive half this year and the other half this summer. Half of the \$2.1 million can cover money we already spend out of the General Fund for special education, and the other half needs to support *new student program costs*. The second part is the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. The application for these dollars is due May 4, and at this time, we are not able to get a clear indication as to how much we will receive or what strings will be attached. However, these federal dollars, whatever amount they will be, are welcome since the projected revenue from the state of California for our school district assumes passage of the statewide May 19th election initiatives. It is estimated that since the state budget is already \$8 billion more in the hole, and will be worse by another \$6 billion if the initiatives don't pass, we are likely to see further cuts to our local budget from the state. Measure G will be needed even more to provide some stability and local control for our school district.

Even with the passage of Measure G, the school district will need to cover the remaining \$5 million shortfall with cuts to other areas further away from the classroom, including nearly one third of administration positions. But Measure G is not about jobs. Measure G is about the *future* of our children's education and preserving the most critical educational programs and services. We encourage voters to read the ballot, and look at the list of your neighbors and civic leaders who have endorsed Measure G at www.SavePleasantonSchools.org. **Consider the facts**, and vote Yes on Measure G on the June 2nd ballot.

OUR SCHOOLS

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EDITORIAL

THE OPINION OF THE WEEKLY

Economy-focused priorities bode well for city government

For a city that has spent millions of dollars in the last several years on major projects, such as the Callippe Preserve Golf Course and open space, rebuilding and restoring the historic Alviso Adobe and Veterans Memorial Building, and now lighted baseball fields on the Bernal property and a downtown Firehouse Arts Center, the City Council's focus Tuesday night on less capital intensive priorities was welcome relief given the current state of the economy. Although Pleasanton was one of only two cities in Alameda County last year that didn't experience any decrease in assessed property valuations (the other was the city of Alameda), it's anticipated that won't be the case in the current fiscal year. The city's share of sales tax revenue was down 10 percent in 2008 over the previous year and is projected to be down by 13 percent this year. Tax revenue to the city from automobile sales is down 25 percent and still falling. Even with a diverse economy that includes a wide range of businesses, the only bright spot appears to be Wal-Mart, where sales are buoyed by an increasing number of out-of-town shoppers.

At last Tuesday night's workshop aimed at establishing municipal priorities for the next two years, City Manager Nelson Fialho cautiously led councilmembers through a list of 12 goals and objectives that concentrate on planning and environmental objectives with a vigilant look at economic issues affecting the city government. Key among these will be ongoing, community-wide discussions on what the region's rapidly changing economy may mean for projects, personnel and public benefits. Tuesday, councilmembers decided to postpone or delay costly projects that had been prioritized earlier such as building a bypass road to the Callippe golf course (\$15 million) or building a second bridge over the Arroyo De la Laguna for Bernal Avenue near Foothill Road (\$5 million).

Most significant in Tuesday's discussion was the camaraderie among our elected officials who don't necessarily see eye-to-eye on all issues. Credit may go to time and tenure, since these same five councilmembers have been together for several years and have been through Fialho's carefully researched priority discussions before. They may disagree at times, but they know how to have a civil discussion and prioritize for the greater good not only of the community but also for city staff that can devote its time to serious issues that the council will address. Where previous priority-setting sessions had ended with scores of proposed projects and services mostly out-of-reach of implementation in the two-year planning period, the council this time approved just 12 goals for consideration. They are:

- Develop Bernal Community Park;
- Complete a comprehensive General Plan update;
- Maintain fiscal stability;
- Address affordable housing needs;
- Implement improved traffic circulation measures;
- Preserve the character of Happy Valley and surrounding open space.
- Foster economic prosperity, pursue and expand "Green Economy" opportunities;
- Strengthen youth programs, services and activities;
- Assure a safe secure community;
- Protest and enhance Pleasanton's quality of life;
- Pursue environmental awareness, health, and use and preservation issues; and
- Operate an effective and cost-efficient government.

This visioning, economy-focused perspective bodes well as our local officials, like the rest of us, deal with fiscal uncertainties while still keeping quality of life as a top priority.

GUEST OPINION

Lawsuit a blatant attempt to delay Stoneridge Drive

We are among the nearly 100 current residents of Pleasanton who made deposits to secure a unit in the planned retirement community of Stoneridge Creek located on the former Staples Ranch property at I-580 and El Charro Road.

We were delighted to see this project, and the entire Staples Ranch development, finally move forward with City Council approval in March. However, we are now extremely disappointed to learn that The Center for Biological Diversity, the Alameda Creek Alliance and a handful of residents who call themselves Safe Streets Pleasanton have filed a lawsuit challenging the adequacy of the environmental review.

The lawsuit could result in more delays and ultimately put this important senior housing project at risk. We are upset because this is nothing more than a blatant attempt to postpone and/or prevent the completion of Stoneridge Drive to El Charro Road, a road that has been planned for more than 20 years; a road that every homebuyer in that area learned about before purchasing their home.

It's a shame these obstructionists can't appreciate that more than four years of planning and study went into the Staples Ranch development, and that our City Council and staff, as well as Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty and county staff, find the environmental work satisfactory.

Unfortunately, they don't appreciate that, as seniors, our biological clocks are ticking louder each day, and for every day, we face a greater risk of not qualifying for residency at Stoneridge Creek.

We urge the citizens of Pleasanton to reject the arguments of these obstructionists and not support their lawsuit. Support your City Council and the senior citizens who live here in Pleasanton and want to continue to be a part of this great community. If you are asked to financially support the lawsuit, say no. Urge the city to proceed as rapidly as possible.

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LETTERS

Mercury coverage of TEA Party laughable

Dear Editor,

Easily the largest protest in all of human history with millions upon millions of proud though desperate, patriotic though persecuted, conservative Americans waved signs and shouted with unified voice their loud cry for freedom from coast to coast and border to border and even blog to blog, with in thousands of American towns and cities, hundreds and thousands of every tax paying gender, age, and every conceivable shade from beige to pink (and even a couple of our brown brothers, though one in Pleasanton was wearing a Ronald Reagan mask for safety).

This great TEA Party protest was merely reported in the San Jose Mercury News April 16 not on the front page, not even in section 'A', but buried at the bottom

of the first page of the business section—I kid you not.

Topping the TEA Party, and introduced on the front page, the Democrat worshipping, idolizing, slurpy Democrat love struck San Jose Mercury News put an article about Obama's taxes.

I say they should immediately alter their name to the far more accurate: San Jose Liberty Noose.

Douglas Kendall

We need to cut expenses, raise funds through Measure G

Dear Editor,

I am deeply concerned about the cuts being made to our schools. Most would agree that children are our future. They require an excellent education in order to become strong contributors to our community and state.

Code of ethics

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

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I am concerned that further cuts will result in a decline in education and our students will not be able to compete with students in other states. California schools continue to lose ground in per pupil spending, now ranking 47th in the nation, well below the national average. After these further cuts in school funding are made we will rank 49th.

Our high ranking schools have made Pleasanton a desirable place to live and have been a critical factor in maintaining the strong property values we have all enjoyed. Our local schools have maintained high API scores and we need this to continue if we expect new families to find Pleasanton a preferred residential community in which to raise their children. This important attribute impacts all our citizens, whether they have kids or not.

PUSD students face loss of small class sizes in K-3 and ninth-grade English and math; loss of reading specialists and math support programs; school counselors; elementary music programs, technology instruction services; school library hours; and services to keep our campuses clean and safe. These losses will have negative impact on the future performance of our school district and its students.

We need a solution which is a combination of cutting expenses as well as raising funds through Measure G. We need to pass Measure G.

Laura Friedman

Brozosky opinion piece through-provoking

Dear Editor,

Steve Brozosky's editorial about the parcel tax ("Wrong tax, wrong time," Guest Opinion, April 24, page 11) was the talk of the Sports Park at Saturday baseball.

Most of us who are for the parcel tax thought he made great arguments. Any chance the school board or the Measure G campaign can answer some of those specifically? (My apologies if they have already.)

Betsy Belleville

2,000 attended local TEA Party

Dear Editor,

I attended and participated in the Pleasanton TEA Party. The crowd

numbered approximately 2,000 fantastic concerned citizens. All of the people, from the very young children to the seniors, Republicans and Democrats alike are extremely disturbed by the attitude of our tax and take government.

A 6 p.m., as we collected our two tables and chairs, we were extremely impressed by the immaculate condition of the park. Unlike the mess at the National Mall in Washington D.C. when the "rent a mob" left after the inauguration, we left the park in pristine condition.

Alicia Watson
Alamo

Recycling changes good lesson for kids

Dear Editor,

I welcome the decision by Pleasanton Garbage Service to change the recycling program by providing bins to the residents for sorting the recycling material.

It is much easier that way and is a good lesson to the children. I think most residents will follow this except people like Yolanda Gann who seems to be living in a different world ("Recycling plan isn't going to work," Letters, April 17, page 14).

Ajay Dhillon

Cut back to keep schools in sync

Dear Editor,

I agree with Steve Brozosky's comments about the parcel tax ("Wrong tax, wrong time," Guest Opinion, April 24, page 11).

It's time to cut back on wage increases and travel expenses to keep our schools in sync.

Lesley Anne Buehler

Support Measure G; it is an investment not a tax

Dear Editor,

In a perfect world, we should be able to depend on our elected representatives in Sacramento to spend our tax money wisely, especially when it comes to education. Unfortunately, they have failed miserably.

So as concerned citizens of Pleasanton, we have two options, do nothing or pass Measure G. The passage of Measure G, as well as prudent fiscal decisions by the

school board, will ensure that Pleasanton maintains its top-ranked school system. And as we all know, good schools equate to high property values. If the passage of Measure G adds only one-quarter of 1 percent to our property values it will pay for itself five times over.

Measure G guarantees that class sizes will remain at 20 students for K-3. Having spent some time in my daughter's kindergarten class, I have seen how easy it is for the teacher to interact with 20 kids, and can only imagine how chaotic it would be with 32. I know the kids are getting a better education with the reduced class size.

Measure G is a chance for the residents of Pleasanton to lessen our dependence from the bureaucrats in Sacramento, and to make an investment in our community. If we fail to act, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

Scott McNerney
(no relation to
Congressman Jerry McNerney)

Without Measure G, we'll lose best and brightest teachers

Dear Editor:

Please pass Measure G on June 2. As a teacher at Foothill High School, I see first-hand the damage that will be caused if the current layoffs go through. We will lose the best and brightest of our new teachers. These are the ones who inject enthusiasm, fresh thinking and the latest teaching methods into our schools. These are the ones who will form the backbone of the teacher corps in future years. If we lose them now, we may never re-build the quality team that has been so carefully assembled.

I have been a teacher in this district for 10 years, and I have seen the generosity and support that the community has given the schools. It makes it a pleasure to work with the students of families who value education so highly. I know that the community will continue to provide the best support that it can, even in these tough economic times.

On June 2, we need your help. Vote "yes" on Measure G.

Bob Loew
(math teacher,
Foothill High School)



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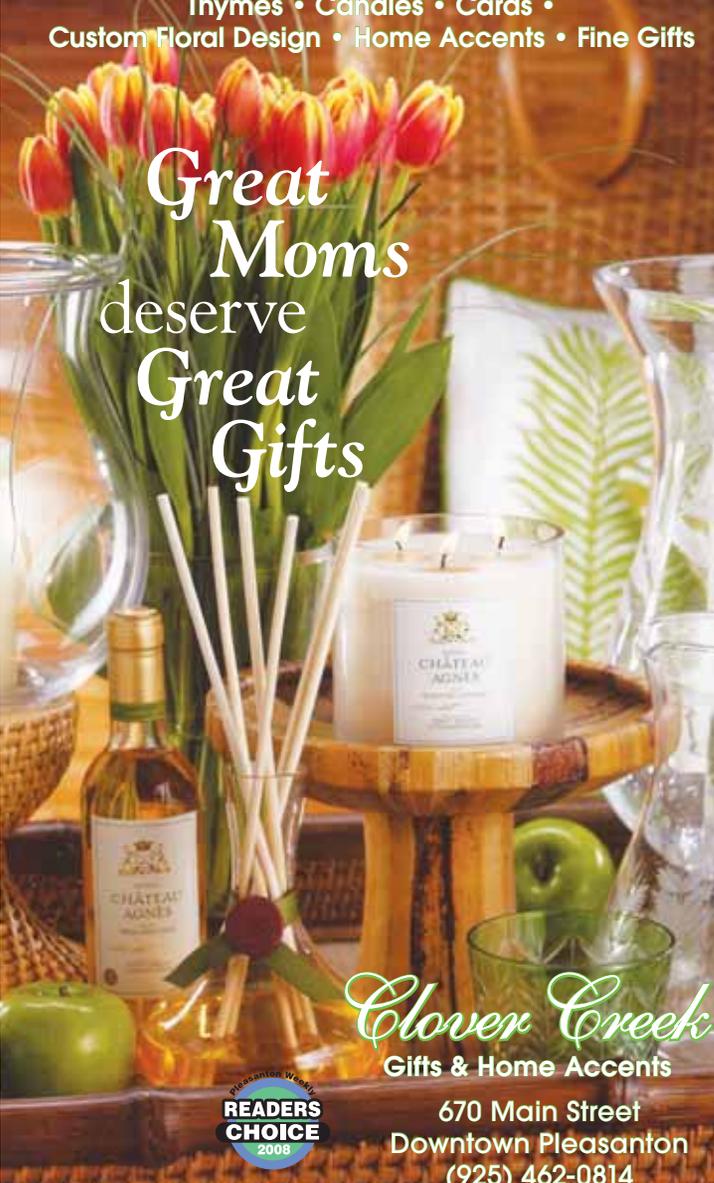
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Sentinel o

Wounded warrior gains community's h

By JEB BING

Wounded veteran and Purple Heart recipient Staff Sergeant Jay Wilkerson has started a new life in Pleasanton as the city's first Sentinels of Freedom scholarship winner.

Severely wounded in Iraq by two rocket propelled grenades, Wilkerson returned to the U.S. unable to walk or speak. Now, thanks to a program designed for severely wounded veterans like Wilkerson, supporters of the Pleasanton Sentinels have given Wilkerson a four-year "life scholarship," which is bridging the gap of funds and services that the government cannot provide.

"The Sentinels founders saw the need and answered the call," said Tom Daggett, who heads the Pleasanton Sentinels team. "They knew that with the war in Iraq and now Afghanistan, our country would unfortunately see many more men and women return with injuries that would be sustainable but life altering. They also determined that the government could not pay for all the necessary medical and local support that the veterans would need to become self-sufficient."

The Sentinels' Pleasanton team, which includes members of the Pleasanton Military Families and local business leaders, has already helped to furnish Wilkerson's apartment in the Promenade on Case Avenue. He also has help from experts in a wide range of services, including finances and legal issues and making sure his 2008 taxes were correctly tabulated and paid on time. The Sentinels found him a car and the city has provided him with a temporary job in its sign-making department until he is able to find permanent employment, again through the Sentinels. Later this year, Wilkerson hopes to resume his college education that service in Iraq interrupted, attending classes at Las Positas College as part of the Sentinels' scholarship.

Several hundred turned out for a "Welcome to Pleasanton" ceremony March 4 at the Veterans Memorial Building. More stood outside the Case Avenue Promenade apartments when Wilkerson arrived with a special motorcycle escort to move into his apartment. And the City Council honored him with a resolution honoring his move to Pleasanton. Knowing of Wilkerson's passion for professional football, the Sentinels even arranged for an autographed football from NFL legend and Pleasanton resident John Madden.

Wilkerson was wounded March 28, 2006 in a blast that killed his buddy sitting next to him and left him almost brain-dead and in a coma for the next 39 days. Flown to the Army's main hospital in Germany and then to Walter Reed in Washington, Wilkerson was startled when he first awoke, unable to speak, talk, walk or to recognize most friends and family. He had a nurse post an American flag by his bed so he would be reassured he was actually back in the States.

He credits the Army's skilled medical teams and their strenuous physical and mental therapies for starting him on the road to recovery. In some injuries, brains cells rebuild and reconnect, and Wilkerson found his own responding to the treatments. As he recovered, he was transferred to a veterans clinic in Palo Alto, one of four special treatment centers for brain damaged soldiers with a high success rate for nearly full recoveries. Once he'd crossed that threshold, he became a candidate for the Sentinels of Freedom for the life-changing opportunities the organization provides.

To date, the Sentinels of Freedom organization has placed 32 wounded veterans within communities across the U.S., communities like Pleasanton and Danville that when asked if they would help, responded, "How can we not?"

The Sentinels of Freedom is a young organization. It was founded five years ago by Mike Conklin, a Realtor with RE/MAX, who learned of a bleak future faced by Jake Brown, who was run over by a tank in Germany in 2003 while serving in the U.S. Army. In a story in the Danville Weekly, writer Michelle Olson reported



Members of the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle escort group

that after 26 surgeries, Brown faced returning home to Danville with no one to lend a hand.

When Conklin, who at the time had three sons serving in the Armed Forces, heard about it, he felt he needed to help. He gathered business associates from Danville and San Ramon in a room and asked who was going to join him. Every single one of them raised their hand.

That was the birth of the Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation, Olson reported, and the cycle of helping wounded soldiers with a four-year "life" scholarship continues.

"Jake Brown was my first inspiration," Conklin said. "We wanted to show businesses this was not a charity offering, but an investment."

The head office for Sentinels of Freedom is in a RE/MAX office in San Ramon, where Conklin works full time as program director and president of the foundation. It has helped wounded soldiers start new lives in areas around the nation using a one-by-one focused approach. Seven are arriving soon in their new communities, and 25 more are in the pipeline.

"They go through a severe vetting process," explained Conklin. "We talk to their commanders, their doctors, their families. We interview them intensely."

They must work at least 20 hours per week and go to school to earn their degree. The group has a partnership with Jones International University so they can take classes online."



AL WIGGINS

Wounded veteran and Purple Heart recipient Staff Sergeant Jay Wilkerson accepts Sentinels of Freedom plaque from Sherry Wiggins at Veterans Memorial Building celebration.



JEB BING

Nearly 100 well-wishers welcome Army Staff Sergeant Jay Wilkerson to his new home at the Promenade apartments in Pleasanton.



JEB BING

Colorguard from the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post join in celebration for Jay Wilkerson, who now lives here as city's first member of its Sentinels of Freedom program.

f freedom

elp in recovering from Iraq war injuries



SHERRY WIGGINS

p and others surround Army Staff Sergeant Jay Wilkerson (center) in Welcome-to-Pleasanton celebration.

The organization has new teams stepping up all over the nation, including Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Illinois, Washington, D.C., Colorado, Arizona and Nevada.

They work with severely wounded war veterans who started service on or after Sept. 11, 2001. These soldiers, through medical advances, are still able to work and attend school despite permanent physical disabilities.

"There is no shortage of candidates, but there is a shortage of communities standing up," Conklin said.

To receive a scholarship, a candidate must have been injured in combat and be deaf, blind, severely burned, a paraplegic, an amputee or severely brain damaged but recovering. Also, the veteran must have a positive outlook on his or her future as a civilian.

"We shall never leave you, we shall never forsake you" is the creed and foundation of the program. Found in the Bible, it means once we help someone we will not leave them, said Conklin.

"It's a case-by-case basis but our goal is to get the soldier learning, earning a paycheck and getting advice from the professional individuals around," explained Conklin.

"We have great corporate sponsors," he added, naming AT&T, Chevron, Cisco, Quest, Verizon, UPS, American Airlines and Sun Microsystems. The large corporations have training programs plus can offer employment.

Any community can start a Sentinels of Freedom team but it has to understand its obligation and commitment to the soldier for four years, Conklin explained. It also

has to understand the process and must raise funds and gather the necessary resources of housing, transportation, employment, education and a mentoring team.

Championed by Tom Daggett and City Councilman Jerry Thorne, the Pleasanton group began by supporting Wilkerson. Pleasanton mentors in the Sentinels organization include David Cooper, Doug Miller and Judy Lloyd who will be working with Wilkerson, introducing him around town to help him assimilate into the community.

Wilkerson stopped by the Pleasanton Weekly recently to thank this newspaper and the community for making him feel welcome. He even joked about a few of his lingering problems stemming from the bomb blast in Iraq three years ago.

Short-term memory is still a problem, he said, although it's improving. Still, he writes down everything he needs when grocery shopping so that he doesn't go back to his apartment with stacks of his favorite cereal and canned foods that one small section of his brain still tells him he needs to keep buying.

Thorne said the success of the Sentinels' program with Wilkerson has some, including him, thinking that the group may recruit another candidate shortly.

"Here's something we can all do to for those who have served our country and now need our help," Thorne said. "This program provides that resource."

To join the Pleasanton Sentinels of Freedom effort, contact the organization at info@sentinelsoffreedom.org. ■

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WEEKLY MEETING NOTICES

City Council

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Continued from April 7, 2009 – Public Hearing: PAP-133/PMCC-2, Gilchrist & Rutter, Vineyard Villa – Consider an appeal of the Planning Commission's denial of an application for a Vesting Tentative Map converting a 208 unit mobile home park located at 3263 Vineyard Avenue into residential condominium units
- Consideration of a resolution establishing an irrevocable trust for the purpose of pre-funding retiree medical benefits, an investment policy, appoint the Director of Finance as trustee of the irrevocable trust, and approve a transfer of funds from existing Retiree Medical Reserve funds to partially pre-fund an irrevocable trust for payment of retiree medical benefits
- Adopt a resolution requesting Pleasanton Water Customers voluntarily reduce their water demand by 20% during the calendar year 2009
- Consideration of a Resolution amending compensation and other benefits for the City Attorney

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Review and Provide Comment on Policy Options for Child Care Uses
- Review of Commission Meeting Schedule for June, July August and September 2009

Civic Arts Commission

Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 200 Old Bernal Avenue

- Preliminary Review of Proposed Public Art Project, "Vision 3"
- Appointment of Selection Committee for City of Pleasanton Award for Artistic Excellence
- Construction Progress Report and Tour of Firehouse Arts Center
- Site Visit and Approval for Seward Johnson Temporary Sculpture Project

GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of Pleasanton invites you to apply for vacancies on the following commissions and committees:

- Civic Arts Commission — 1 member, 1 alternate
- Housing Commission — No current vacancies
- Human Services Commission — 1 alternate
- Library Commission — 1 alternate
- Parks & Recreation Commission — 1 member, 1 alternate
- Planning Commission — No current vacancies
- Youth Commission — 3 youth members, 2 youth alternates
- Committee on Energy & the Environment — 1 youth member
- Economic Vitality Committee — 1 representative from each of the following categories:
Business At-large
Commercial Real Estate Development
Commercial Services Firm
Environmental Industry
Infrastructure
Medical Services
Medical Technology
Residential Real Estate Broker
- Alameda County Paratransit Advisory Committee — 1 member

Youth Master Plan Implementation Committee (YMPIC)

Adult Seats

Senior Citizen Representative

Youth Seats

Five seats open to any high school or middle school student

Young Adult Seats

One seat is open to represent young adults ages 18-22

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office, 123 Main Street, or on the City's web site at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us. For additional information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 22, 2009. Postmarks are not accepted.

If you are interested in serving on a commission or committee that has no current vacancies listed, you may register your interest in future vacancies by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at (925) 931-5027 or by completing an interest card on our website at www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us.

**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 & LOG

POLICE BULLETIN

Livermore man arrested for lewd online behavior

The Livermore Police Department is asking the public for assistance in identifying juveniles who may have had contact with a 62-year-old man who was arrested April 19.

Thomas Browning, a Livermore resident, was arrested and booked into Santa Rita Jail for allegedly communicating with a minor on the Internet for the purpose of engaging in lewd and lascivious behavior, according to police. Detectives learned from a Pennsylvania law enforcement agency that Browning allegedly engaged in sexually explicit conversations with an undercover officer who had assumed the identity of a 13-year-old girl in an online chat room.



Thomas Browning

Police also say Browning alluded to committing lewd acts with a girl in Livermore. Anyone who believes a child has been a victim of a lewd act is asked to call Lt. Matthew Sarsfield at 371-4730.

Teens injured in crash

Two 19-year-old Pleasanton men were injured April 15 when their 1994 Chevrolet S-10 pickup truck slid out of control and hit a tree, according to police.

Drugs nor alcohol were said not to be involved with the crash, but excessive speed and unfamiliarity with the road appeared to be a factor, Sgt. Michael Collins said.

Around 4:40 a.m., the driver allegedly turned onto Grapevine Drive in the Shadow Cliff neighborhood from Vineyard Avenue. Reports state the truck began to slide sideways and out of control before crashing into a large tree on the passenger side.

The passenger was in stable condition hours after the crash, having suffered "traumatic head and chest injuries," according to police, and was taken by ambulance to Eden Medical Center in Castro Valley. The driver reportedly suffered minor injuries to his forehead and nose and was expected to be released from ValleyCare Medical Center the same day.

POLICE REPORT

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

April 21

Vehicular burglary:

- 10:40 p.m. at the intersection of Muirwood Drive and West Las Positas Boulevard

Vandalism:

- 6:17 a.m. in the 3100 block of Santa Rita Road
- 6:52 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Del Valle Parkway

DUI:

- 12:36 a.m. in the 4300 block of Valley Avenue

April 22

Theft:

- 10:05 a.m. in the 1100 block of Santa Rita Road; grand theft
- 10:54 a.m. in the 4500 block of Del Valle Parkway; identity theft
- 12:50 p.m. in the 4300 block of Black Avenue; petty theft
- 2:36 p.m. in the 6700 block of Menlo Court; identity theft

Vehicular burglary:

- 9:35 a.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road

Vandalism:

- 8:04 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road
- 9:35 a.m. in the 3900 block of Santa Rita Road
- 2:23 p.m. at the intersection of Omega Circle and Parkside Drive

Public drunkenness:

- 9:12 p.m. in the 3200 block of Vineyard Avenue

April 23

Theft:

- 12:58 a.m. in the 7600 block of Glenbrook Court; petty theft
- 7:20 a.m. in the 2100 block of Raven Road; stolen vehicle
- 11:20 a.m. in the 4400 block of Muirwood Drive; identity theft
- 1:57 p.m. in the 4800 block of Drywood Street; petty theft
- 2:03 p.m. in the 1300 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; petty theft

Vehicular burglary:

- 3:25 a.m. in the 5000 block of Forest Hill Drive
- 7:49 a.m. in the 5100 block of Mount Tam Circle
- 8:03 a.m. in the 4600 block of Sandalwood Drive
- 10:20 a.m. in the 7800 block of Perry Lane
- 12:52 p.m. in the 1000 block of

Stoneridge Mall Road

- 3:43 p.m. in the 7800 block of Flagstone Drive
- 4:19 p.m. in the 7500 block of Flagstone Drive

Drug/alcohol violations:

- 7:05 a.m. in the 6200 block of Stoneridge Mall Road; driving with marijuana
- 5:16 p.m. in the 4200 block of First Street; public drunkenness, disturbing the peace

April 24

Drug/alcohol violations:

- 5:58 p.m. in the 4300 block of First Street; DUI
- 11:04 p.m. at the intersection of Canyon Way and Foothill Road; DUI
- 11:18 p.m. at the intersection of Birch Creek Drive and Vine Street; marijuana possession, controlled substance possession, possession of controlled substance for sale

Battery:

- 8:57 a.m. in the 1400 block of Santa Rita Road

Loitering:

- 11:34 a.m. in the 5700 block of Owens Drive

Robbery:

- 6:23 p.m. in the 5300 block of Springdale Avenue

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Transitions

OBITUARIES

Howard Harrod McCaslin

Howard Harrod McCaslin died April 9 at the age of 81.

Mr. McCaslin, born June 7, 1927, was a loving husband, a model father and mentor, and a generous and loyal friend. He taught everyone much and will be missed dearly. A World War II veteran, he retired early from NCR to pursue a second career in antiques with his wife Eileen, which they enjoyed together immensely.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Eileen; parents, Clifford and Della; and sister, Barbara. He's survived by children, Mark (Jessica) McCaslin, Marcy (Sam) Hawkins, Mindy (Steve) Gregory, Marty (Peggy) McCaslin; grandchildren, Matthew, Andy, Ashley, Allie and Rachel; great-granddaughter, Giada; and sister, Pamela Brown.

A memorial service was scheduled to be held April 20 at Crosswinds Church in Dublin.

Satoshi Evan Takami

Satoshi Evan Takami died April 13 at the age of 20. He ended his life in Truckee, Calif. after a long struggle with depression.

He was born June 9, 1988 in Santa Cruz, Calif. and lived in Pleasanton for 19 years. He was a 2006 graduate of Amador Valley High School.

Mr. Takami is survived by parents, Akio and Debra Takami and sisters, Caitlin Pettit and Sayaka Takami. His life was celebrated April 18 by an overwhelming crowd of friends and family on a beautiful sunny day at FGO Skate Park in Pleasanton. Stories, pictures and memories were shared. An exhilarating and passionate skate session in his memory followed. He is remembered for his infectious smile, sweet and thoughtful nature and his ability to make people laugh. To quote a friend, "If you knew Satoshi, you liked him. If you knew him well, you loved him."

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to The Homeless Services Center in Santa Cruz (www.scshtelter.org), a cause Mr. Takami cared about.

Jeanne L. Deagen

Jeanne L. Deagen died April 22 in Pleasanton at the age of 83. Mrs. Deagen was born Jeanne Laurienne McDevitt on July 16, 1925 in Seattle, Wash. and has kept a special affinity for that area throughout her life's journeys.

She resided in California since 1960. She was not only a devoted mother of six, but also enjoyed many years in the sales of electronic equipment during the early development of the Silicon Valley.

Mrs. Deagen touched many lives

with her gentle nature and great humor. Her good nature allowed her to acknowledge the frailties in people while embracing their better qualities. She enjoyed sports passionately and also loved to dance. Her joking and fun nature will be missed, yet she leaves us with enough great memories to carry us through.

She is survived by her six children, Kathy (Willie), Tom (Eva), Patti Good, Jim (Terry), Bob (Cindy), and John (Karen). She was also the proud grandmother of Chelsea, Courtney, Allison, Michael, Heather, Christina, Matthew and Evan.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at Graham Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First St. A memorial gathering will follow at the Century House, 2401 Santa Rita Road. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to Boys Town (www.boystown.org) or a charity of your choice.



Bill Kenny

Bill Kenny died April 22 at the

age of 96.

Mr. Kenny was born July 3, 1912. He was a native Californian who lived in Pleasanton for the past 22 years.

A professional Boy Scout executive for 35 years, he was involved in scouting for a total of 83 years. He touched many lives with his gentle spirit that was shared through his many stories. The twinkle in his eyes will forever be remembered.

Mr. Kenny was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Sue; his sister, Ruth; and his parents.

He is survived by his three daughters, Barbara Payne (Doyle), Pahrump, Nev., Shirley Smith (Charlie), Minden, Nev., and Mary Ellen Baker of Pleasanton. He will forever be a part of his grandchildren's lives, Leann, Paul, Jolene, Patrice, Michelle and Ken. He had three wonderful great grand-daughters, Emily, Christine, and Katie, who will also miss him.

Mr. Kenny spent the last two years at Independence Home Care in Pleasanton enjoying the loving care of their staff. According to his wishes, no service will be held. The family wishes to thank the dedicated staff from Hope Hospice for their superior care and outstanding support. Donations in his name may be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd, Ste. 100, Dublin, CA 94568-3150.

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- You must agree to stop using all current acne medications while you are in the study.
- You will be paid \$25 for the first screening visit, and \$50 for each evaluation visit for your time and travel. Including the bonus, you may receive up to \$475.
- Minors need to get permission of a parent or guardian to participate in the study.

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Expository Writing—focuses on preparing prose forms used in school assignments and on writing mechanics.

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HOURS: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (care available 8:00 - 6:00)
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Parent photographers

Send a jpeg to Editor@PleasantonWeekly.com of the best action shot from our child's game for consideration for our Sports page. Remember to include caption information: who, what, when, where—and the score.

Amador girls lacrosse get big win at LCC

During spring break, the Amador Valley Girls Lacrosse team traveled to San Diego to play two games. The first game was played against La Costa Canyon, which Amador won 10-8, and the second game against Poway, and ended 8-7 for a win for Amador in overtime. Last year during the same trip, the girls team lost one of the only two games in their entire season, and one was to La Costa Canyon. Last year's team went undefeated in league, so this year's team had a change in the coaching staff and with nine senior players who left for college. So this tournament was a huge win for this team.



SPORTS DIGEST

Amador's boys JV swimming results

James Cheney and Eric Hildebrand had an excellent meet for the Amador Valley JV Swimming team in their 101-69 loss to Monte Vista on April 24. Both swimmers took a pair of individual firsts, Cheney in the 200 and 500 free, Hildebrand in the 100 free and the backstroke, and participated in the winning 400 free relay team along with Alec Grotegut and Alec Psinakis.

Seahawks sizzle at San Ramon meet

The Seahawks blazed through the water at the San Ramon CBA+ Swim Meet April 18-19. Many new swim records and best times were reported including new Pacific Reportable Times (PRT) for Eva Chung—400IM, Rachel Knowles—50 free/100 back/50 fly/400 IM, Tony Shen—50 free/200 free/400 free/100 breast/200 IM. Additional Far Western records were achieved by Eva Chung—50/100 breast/100 fly/200 IM and Katie Woods—50/100 fly. Team Records were accomplished as Rachel Knowles blazed through the 50 fly/100 fly. Lifetime Best Times were swum by: Eva Chung, Maggie Kauffeld, Cate

MacGregor, Katie Woods, Jon Ong, Maxime Rooney, Rachel Knowles, Lillian Sun, Tony Shen, Bridget Booe, Bernadine Martin, Brian Lee, and Kevin McLaughlin. Alex Wang and Regis Lachance swam well.

PNLL Cardinals club Cubs 11-7

The Pleasanton National Little League AAA Division Cardinals played the Cubs last weekend, winning 11-7. The Cubs scored quickly on the Cardinals by putting up three runs in the first inning, with the Cardinals quickly rallying for five runs in the same inning. The game ball went to Nick McGuire for his strong hitting, base running and tremendous throw from center field to home for the putout to stop a Cubs rally.

BearLax Lacrosse to hold team placements

BearLax lacrosse will have team placements in late May with practices start in early June. There will be several tournaments on the calendar as well. To be eligible for BearLax's PLC middle school team, girls must be currently be in fifth to seventh grades and must be currently playing for PLC this 2009 spring lacrosse season. BearLax also has a high school team for players currently in 8th grade and older.



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Mother's Day Brunch

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MAY 19, 2009 6:00 PM

Healthy Heart for Seniors

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MAY 30, 2009 2:00 PM

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Mother's Day

Champagne Brunch Buffet

at

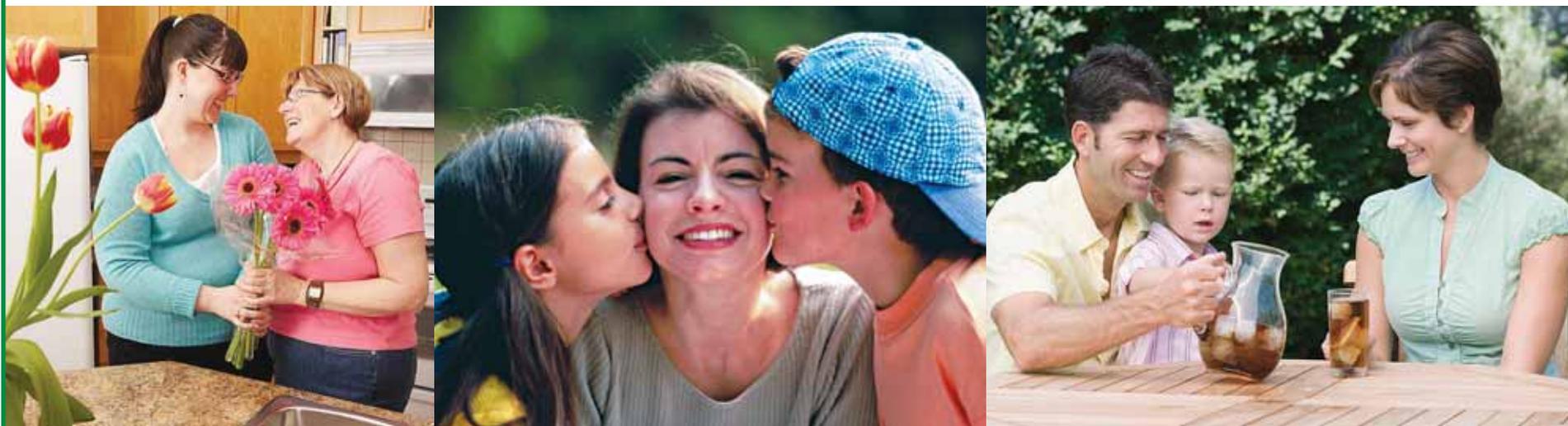


8am — 1:30pm

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ON THE TOWN



AMERICAN

Bridges

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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

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.

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

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

CATERING

Pampered Palate Catering/ Girasole Grill

3180 Santa Rita Road, Pleasanton. 925.484.1001. Pleasanton's premier restaurant and catering company for the last 15 years. Family owned. Signature pastas, seafood and steaks. Full bar. Private banquet room. Reservations accepted. www.girasolegrill.com

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.

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Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10th

Champagne Brunch 10 am - 2 pm
• Adults \$24.95 • Children (5-11 yrs.) \$14.95
Children (4 & under) Free

Full Breakfast • Omelettes & Waffles to Order • Cheese Blintzes
Prime Rib • Chilled Shrimp • Smoked Salmon • Sushi
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MEDITERRANEAN

Oasis Grille

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

ITALIAN

Amarone Ristorante

680 Main St, Downtown Pleasanton, 270-0500. Cucina Italiana! Freshly prepared authentic Italian specials on a full-course menu that changes often! A special Vegetarian and Vegan menu also. Owner Matteo Pasotto is from Verona and he wanted to name his restaurant after the famous Amarone wines from the Valpolicella region. Amarone is a very peculiar wine, not easy to produce. The final result is a very ripe, big-bodied wine with very little acid. Come and experience unique dining at Amarone Ristorante. Buon Appetito! www.amaronepleasanton.com

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La Vite Ristorante

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

JAPANESE

Sato Japanese Cuisine

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

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



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Sides

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

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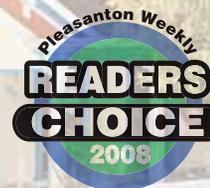


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 Adults \$15 Children half price
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www.LaViteRestaurant.com

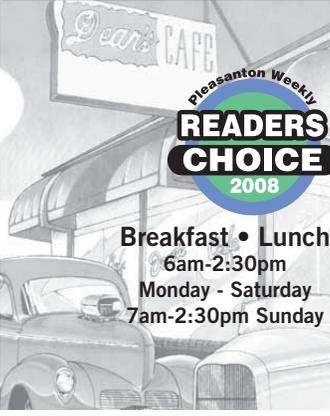


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Calendar

Book Clubs

BRAIN BOOK CLUB The Brain Book Club meets from 7-8:30 p.m., on the first Wednesday of every month, at Towne Center Books, 555 Main St., Pleasanton. Steven Johnson will speak on May 6 discussing "Mind Wide Open." If you'd like to order the book, it's available at Towne Center Books. Call 846-8826.

Reunions

FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL 30 YEAR CLASS REUNION The Class of 1979 from Foothill High School will host its 30 year class reunion on Saturday, Nov. 7. For information, visit www.foothill79.com.

Classes

BASIC YOGA CLASS Beth Fox instructs this 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.

Clubs

AMADOR VALLEY QUILTERS MEETING

There will be a silent auction of quilt related items from 1:30-3 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Proceeds benefit the guild.

BUSINESS BUILDER NETWORKING A breakfast meeting is held at 7 a.m., on the first and third Wednesday of every month, at the Radisson Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin. This group of business persons are dedicated to enhancing careers through exchange of social/professional contacts. Each occupation is represented once. The First two meetings free. Call 829-5620.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION This group meets on the second Saturday of every month in Pleasanton. Members are descended from patriots of the Revolutionary War. Prospective members are welcome. For information, call Susan at 699-4147.

LIVERMORE LIONESSE CLUB The Livermore Lioness Club welcomes new members at their regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday monthly. The Lioness Club is a service club, sponsored by the Livermore Lions Club, that helps many worthy causes in our community. Lioness main focus areas are women, children and family issues, in addition to helping the blind. Call 443-4543 for more information.

SOCRATES CAFE This club has an

open discussion group following a Socratic format meeting from 7-9 p.m., on the first and third Tuesday of every month, at Peets Coffee, 5765 Valley Ave. Bring any subject, but do not bring agendas or causes. Visit www.digiassist.com/main/SocratesCafePleasanton.

Concerts

'MOVIE AND MUSICAL FAVORITES' Valley Concert Chorale presents "Movie and Musical Favorites" with an audience sing-a-long at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Rd. Tickets are \$18 if purchased in advance; \$20 at the door; students ages 18 and under are free. Advance tickets may be ordered by calling 866-4003.

Events

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Mother's Day Brunch
Sunday, May 10, 2009
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"It's a Spring Fling" event from 5-9 p.m., Friday, May 8, in downtown Pleasanton. Admission is free. Rain or shine. Shops, restaurants and businesses will celebrate spring with appetizers, drinks and live entertainment. Call 600-8295 or visit www.pleasantondowntown.net.

'KIDS STUFF' SALE AT FAIRLANDS ELEMENTARY Come provide a new home for gently used kids things from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at Fairlands Elementary School, 4151 W. Las Positas Blvd. Proceeds will benefit the school's Technology Fund. Donation are needed; drop-off is on the day before the sale; no car seats, mattresses, blankets or bedding. Call 918-1823.

ADOPTION EVENT Tri-Valley Animal Rescue is hosting an Adoption Event from noon-3 p.m., Sunday, May 3, at the East County Animal Shelter, 4595 Gleason Dr., Dublin. Dog adopters will receive three free private sessions with a professional dog trainer (\$180 Value), leash, collar, bed and dog food. Cat adopters will receive a free cat blanket, toys and more. Visit www.tvar.org.

ART, PAPERIE AND PLEASANTRIES An extraordinary arts and crafts fair featuring all handmade arts and crafts, art supplies, and vintage antiques will be held from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, March 2-3, at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Admission is \$3. There will be live music, book signings and hourly make and take classes. Call 202-9293 or visit www.artandpaperie.com.

DISCOVER HERITAGE HOMES Discover Heritage Homes will be held from 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 9, on the front lawn of the Museum On Main Street, 603 Main St. The museum will focus on one to two structures in the valley and provide pictures and fact sheets. The museum is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m., Sunday. Call 462-2766 or visit www.museumonmain.org.

FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT FAIR Meet fire department recruiters and find out if you've got what it takes from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 2, at Livermore CPAT Center, 526 Commerce Way. The event is open to women and men interested in a future in the fire service. Call (916) 648-1717 or visit www.becomingafirefighter.org.

HIDDEN GARDENS OF THE VALLEY TOUR The Hidden Gardens of the Valley Tour will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, May 17, at 11 different gardens in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$35. Proceeds benefit Valley Humane Society. Buzz Bertolero, the "Dirt Gardener" from KRON4 will be available at one garden for questions. Call 426-8656 or visit www.valleyhumane.org.

HISTORIC HOME STROLL A self-guided tour of eight historic homes will be held from 1-4 p.m., Saturday, May 9 at homes in Pleasanton. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 on the day of. Ticket holders will receive maps to guide them to each home. Tickets will be available at Farmers Market on May 2 and at

the First Wednesday event on May 6. Call 786-8866.

MIRAMONT WINERY RELEASE Tesla Vintners will release its Miramont Estate Vineyards 2007 Zinfandel and the winemaker will be on site from 1-6 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at Tesla Vintners, 5143 Tesla Rd., Livermore. Enjoy cheese and fruit with samples of wine. This event is free. Call 606-9463.

PUBLIC INPUT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING East Bay Regional Park District will host a Public Input and Environmental Scoping Meeting from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Monday, May 4, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Residents are invited to help plan the future of Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area. Visit www.friendsofshadowcliffs.com.

ROTARY'S NILES CANYON WINE TRAIN Livermore Rotary will host the 11th annual Niles Canyon Wine Train from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Saturday, May 9, meeting at Niles Canyon Railroad, 6 Kilkare Rd., Sunol. Tickets are \$20 and are available at The Travel Bug, 2269 Third St., Livermore or at the station shortly before departure. Call 606-7564.

WISER GARAGE SALE A garage sale will be held from 7 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 2, at Foothill High School, 4375 Foothill Rd. Proceeds will benefit the Foothill's partner school in Muhuru Bay, Kenya. Gently-used items are needed to be donated. Call Linda Gullick at 461-6600.

Film

CLASSIC FILM SERIES Las Positas College and Pleasanton Public Library present "Great Performances: A Classic Film Series" at 7 p.m., on the first Thursday of every month, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. The films include: "Kitty Foyle" May 7; and "Sullivan's Travels" June 4. These events are free. Call 931-3405.

Fundraisers

'THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT' GALA Pleasanton Cultural Arts Foundation will sponsor "That's Entertainment: A Gala Benefiting the Firehouse Arts Center" from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, May 16, at the Castlewood Country Club, 707 Country Club Circle. Tickets are \$140. Proceeds benefit the Pleasanton Arts Foundation. The night will include dining, live entertainment, and an art sale and live auction. Call 846-1007 or visit www.pleasantonartsfoundation.org.

20TH ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE The Valley Pregnancy Center sponsors a walkathon every spring with a goal of raising \$100,000 to support its services and the next one will be from 8:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 2, at Amador Community Park (Behind Aquatic Center), 4455 Black Ave. This event is free and will include a BBQ, live bluegrass band, raffle prizes, games and prizes for kids and great fellowship. Call 828-4458 or visit www.valleypregnancycenter.org.

BRAS FOR THE CAUSE BREAST CANCER WALK A 10K (six miles) fundraising walk through Pleasanton will be complete with a bra-decorating contest from 7-11 p.m., Saturday, May 9. Cost is \$39 before March 31; \$50 thereafter. Proceeds benefit Axis Health and Komen for the Cure. Visit www.trivalleysocks.org.

GARAGE SALE FOR THE ANIMALS Valley Humane Society will hold a fundraising garage sale from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at a private residence, 3229 Curtis Circle. Proceeds will benefit VHS animal care and adoption services. The sale will feature a wide variety of donated items including collectibles, household items, home decor, books, toys, jewelry and

gently-used clothing. Visit www.valleyhumane.org.

HART BEAT DINNER Hart Middle Schools annual band fundraiser will start at 7 p.m., Friday, May 8, at the Veterans Memorial Building, 30 Main St. Cost is \$20, including a pasta dinner including salad, bread and dessert; a wine bar will be available. Proceeds benefit Hart Middle School activities. Visit www.hartmiddleschool.org.

OPD FALLEN HEROES FUNDRAISER O.P.D. Fallen Heroes Fundraising Committee will host a BBQ, raffle and auction fundraiser from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at The Warehouse Bar and Grill, 402 Webster St., Oakland. Raffle tickets are \$100 each. Proceeds benefit the foundation. Call 200-2005 or visit www.opdfallenheroes.com.

ROMAN HOLIDAY SALON CUT-A-THON Roman Holiday Salon is hosting a Cut-a-Thon from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday, May 6, at the salon, 4555 Hopyard Rd., Suite 9. Proceeds will benefit Valley Bible Church's Arizona Mission Trip. Hair cuts for women will be \$25; \$20 for men. Call 463-5650.

TEAM IN TRAINING INFORMATION MEETING Find a more active, healthier you by walking, running, cycling or hiking with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team In Training. A meeting is scheduled at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 5, at Pleasanton Middle School, 5001 Case Ave. Visit www.teamintraining.org/sf. Free

THE SCOTTISH PUB QUIZ St. Andrews Society is hosting a Scottish Pub Quiz from 5-9 p.m., Sunday, May 3 at Redcoats Restaurant and Pub, 336 St. Mary's St. Tickets are \$20 per person, including dinner. Visit www.standrewssocietyofokland.org.

Health

AXIS HEALTH RAFFLE Tickets go on sale March 27 for a drawing on May 6 for a community fundraising raffle to help fill the funding gap left by county and state government cutbacks for Axis Health. Tickets are \$20 each or \$100 for six. Visit www.axishealth.org.

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Exhibits

'THE ESSENTIAL NUDE' LAA ART SHOW An opening reception for figurative art by local artists will be from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 30, at the Bothwell Art Center, 2466 Eighth St., Livermore. Show hours are from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., May 1-3. Call 449-9927 or visit www.livermoreartassociation.org.

CELEBRATING ART MADE EASY A community reception will take place from 7-9 p.m., Monday, May 4, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. The art exhibit will be open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday, May 5-7; and from 9 a.m.-noon, Friday, May 8. Call 931-5340.

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ing those enrolled in Medi-Cal and Medi-Cal Managed Care, will be offered from 9-11 a.m., May 2 and June 6, at Axis Community Health Clinic, 4361 Railroad Ave. Parents should bring child's immunization records and information about family income and medical insurance; fee for some immunizations. Call 462-1755.

Kids & Teens

COMMUNITY CHINESE SCHOOL CARNIVAL The public is invited to attend Pleasanton Community Chinese School's Carnival from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 9, at Mohr Elementary School, 3300 Dennis Dr. Admission is free, but there is a fee for games and food. Call 828-9577 or visit www.pccs-usa.org.

NAVIGATING LIFE'S CHANGES A free teen workshop on navigating life's changes such as economic and family changes, parental divorce, changing schools and going to college will be held from teens from 2-4 p.m., Saturday, May 2, at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave. Snacks and Jamba Juice gift cards will be given for attendance. Call 600-9762, ext. 7.

OLD FASHIONED STORY TIME Story time is back at Golden Apple Learning Store starting at 4:30 p.m., every Wednesday, at Golden Apple Learning Store, 4807 Hopyard Rd. Each session will include a "Tell a Story" where kids will create their own story on the spot. These events are free. Visit www.goldenapplels.com.

Lectures/ Workshops

KEEPING AND PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT Tri-Valley Housing Opportunity Center (TVHOC) will host a free workshop from 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, at the Pleasanton Tennis and Recreation Center, 5801 Valley Ave. Participants will learn how the center and its real estate and banking partners can assist with mortgage delinquency and foreclosure. Participants will also be able to schedule a housing consultation with a certified housing counselor. Space is limited. Register online at www.tvhoc.org or call 373-3930.

Miscellaneous

BLOOD DRIVE American Red Cross will host a blood drive from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 20, at the Safeway Corporate offices, Employee Gym, 5858 Stoneridge Mall Rd. Call (800) GIVE-LIFE (800-448-3543) or visit www.HelpSaveALife.org.

Political Notes

TRI-VALLEY REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEETING Tri-Valley Republican Women Federated will host guest speaker Steve Giraud of the NorCal Minutemen Defense Corps at a dinner meeting from 6:30-9 p.m.,

Thursday, May 14, at Cattlemen's Restaurant, 2882 Kitty Hawk Rd., Livermore. Cost is \$26 for members; \$30 for non-members; advance reservations required by May 9. Call 846-5944.

Scholarships

AAUW LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS The AAUW Scholarship Foundation is now accepting applications from Tri-Valley women who are college undergraduates achieving junior or senior standing by Fall 2009. Applicants must be planning to attend a 4 year college or university. For an application, call 484-0602. Deadline is May 15.

Seniors

CAMP 55—ALVISO ADOBE COMMUNITY PARK A week-long educational program for seniors ages 55 and older will be held from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, May 18-22, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Lectures on Pleasanton history, Ohlone period, Spanish era, Dairy Farm era, cheese-making and crafts. Cost per day is \$25 for residents, \$28 for non-residents; for the week it is \$110 for residents, \$121 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

LAUGHTER YOGA Contribute to your well-being with Laughter Yoga which combines unconditional laughter with yogic breathing from 9:30-11 a.m., Monday, May 4 and

May 18, at the Pleasanton Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd. Cost is \$1.50 for residents; \$2 for non-residents. Call 931-5365.

SENIOR CENTER VIP CLUB This club is offering three trips during the spring including a trip to the Ironstone Vineyards and Murphy's from 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Wednesday, May 13 (cost is \$79 for members; \$81 for non-members). Reservations are required for all; call 931-5365 or visit the Travel Desk at the Senior Center, 5353 Sunol Blvd.

Spiritual

'DO YOU REMEMBER?' Tri-Valley Unity Church will host guest speaker Dr. Richard Southern who will speak on "Do You Remember?" at 10 a.m., Sunday, May 3, at the church's new meeting location, 2260 Camino Ramon, San Ramon. All are welcome. Ongoing classes and small groups are available. Call 829-2733 or visit www.trivalleyunity.com.

Volunteering

ONGOING VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED Senior Support Program of the Tri-Valley is looking for Volunteer Drivers to transport seniors to their medical appointments. The Senior Transportation Program supplements existing public and paratransit services by providing rides via volunteer driv-

ers. For information, call Jennifer at 931-5387.

TV30

TRI-VALLEY SPORTS FINAL Don't miss up to the minute sports reporting on local high school

sports. Hosts Ian Bartholomew, George "Dr. B" Baljevich and Dennis Miller will provide commentary and footage covering baseball, softball, lacrosse and volleyball at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily and at 10 p.m., Monday and Friday-Sunday.

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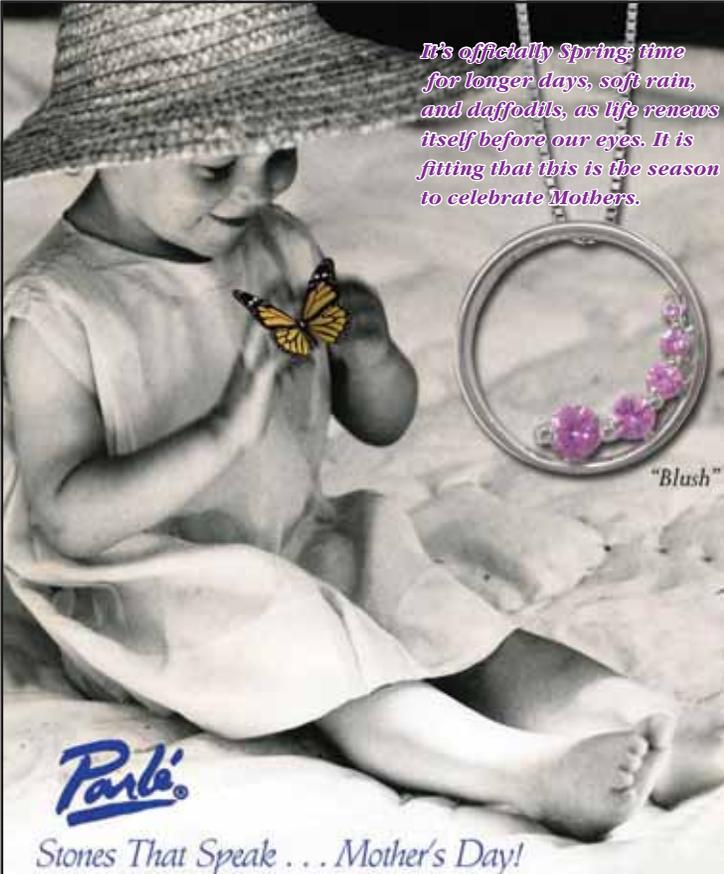
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